

The Bay Beacon

16 Pages, 2 Sections, 3 Inserts

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

50c

COMING UP

Saturday, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.



Parkway Veterinary Hospital, 1101 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, plans a **yard sale and lunch to go**. Hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken will be served from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Monday, 6 p.m.



The **Niceville-Valparaiso Tea Party** (a non-partisan, non-profit group of concerned citizens) will meet at **Niceville City Hall**. The Tea Party is a local group of concerned citizens with a goal of holding local and national politicians accountable and advocating for the U.S. Constitution at all levels of government.

For more information call 729-2874 or visit emeraldcoastpatriots.org.

Saturday, 10:30 a.m.



The **Bluewater Bay Sailing Club** will hold its annual **"Double-Handed Regatta."**

The race will use a Bermuda start, with the first racer starting at approximately 10:30 a.m..

Info: Neville Edenborough at 279-6050.

Calendar, B-6.

Oil health risk called minimal

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Although people should take common sense precautions to avoid direct contact with oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the oil appears to pose no serious health hazards to most people who may come in casual contact with it, said Dr. Karen Chapman, director of the Okaloosa Health Department, during a briefing to local emergency officials Thursday.

Chapman addressed a luncheon meeting of the Okaloosa County Emergency Management Committee, an informal group of

health, police, fire, utility, and other emergency response agencies from throughout the county. The group holds monthly meetings, sponsored by the Okaloosa Department of Public Safety, to discuss disaster preparedness, response, and other public safety issues.

Oil from the spill, said Chapman, "has had minimal impact on Okaloosa beaches for the last couple of weeks," mainly because winds have pushed the oil away from the county.

The oil slick as a whole, she said, is now more compact than at any time in several weeks, and



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith
Okaloosa Public health director Dr. Karen Chapman briefed on health issues related to the BP oil spill.

much of the oil has drifted out to sea, but Chapman cautioned that the situation could change rapidly when the wind changes direction.

Late Thursday afternoon, British Petroleum (BP) announced that the oil leak had been stopped by a new capping device, although it was unknown at that time whether the cap would continue to stop the oil flow despite the intense pressure it had to contain. BP and U.S. government spokespersons said they were waiting to see how well the new cap would perform.

The oil itself, Chapman said, ranges in consistency from light, volatile oil with a noticeable odor, to thicker, more decayed oil. It depends on how long the oil has been exposed to the sea and the weather, as well as on daily and nightly changes in temperature. Warm oil is more liquid than cool oil. It is slowly being digested by microorganisms, she said.

Once the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico is permanently stopped, added Okaloosa Public Safety Director Dino Villani,

Please see RISK, page A-6

Plane and simple fun



Youngsters watch as the plane approaches to perform the candy drop, unloading five pounds of candy, approaches, right, during Saturday's Eglin Aero Modellers fundraiser at the Mullet Festival site for the Wounded Warrior project. Above, club members carry a \$12,000 model jet after it made a demonstration flight.

Beacon photos by Sarah Clauson



Chickens get stay for now

Planners to take on the issue

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Some Niceville chickens dodged a date with dumplings during the July 13 Niceville city commission meeting—at least for now. Niceville City Council members avoided a decision on pet chickens during last Tuesday's meeting by asking Niceville resident Anne Hinze to take her



Anne Hinze

Please see CHICKENS, page A-7

Bridge revenue up; traffic down

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Higher tolls on the Mid-Bay Bridge raised monthly revenues more than 15 percent during June, the first month in which tolls were raised an extra 50 cents.

Even so, the number of vehicles crossing the 3.6-mile toll bridge between Niceville and Destin dropped by more than 7 percent, compared with the same month a year ago.

On June 1 cash tolls on the Mid-Bay Bridge rose from \$2.50 to \$3 each way, while SunPass tolls rose from \$1.50 to \$2.

Unaudited revenue figures from the bridge authority for June 2010 indicate \$1,537,647 in revenue was generated, compared with \$1,332,695 collected in the same month in 2009, when tolls were 50 cents lower. At the same time an average of 20,875 vehicles

crossed the bridge each day in June this year, compared with a daily average of 22,533 vehicles bridge trips last year.

Traffic analysts for the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA) are trying to figure out how much of the drop in toll traffic was due to the higher toll, and how much was caused by spilled oil causing vacationers to avoid the Gulf, Jim Vest, executive director of the MBBA, told the board

Thursday. Vest said there's no easy way to tell how much either oil or higher tolls affected the decline in traffic.

The answer to the question however affects the MBBA two ways.

First, the MBBA's traffic and toll contractors are set to issue a new forecast of future traffic using the bridge. Those figures are important since by the end of the year the MBBA expects to borrow

millions of dollars through a bond issue to pay for phases 2 and 3 of a 10.9-mile connector road. The estimated future toll revenues are the primary security that the MBBA will pledge against the borrowing. Future traffic projections on the bridge, and the toll road, could affect the interest rates the MBBA would have to pay to sell those bonds.

Please see BRIDGE, page A-6

School tax bite liable to be less

By Thomas Monigan
Bay Beacon Staff

When the Okaloosa County School Board meets in Crestview Monday night, it will be seeking preliminary approval for a millage rate of 7.534.

That's down from the current rate of 7.639 mills.

A mill is a tax of \$1 for every \$1,000 of taxable property, either residential or commercial.

What will this mean to a homeowner? If you own a home that has a taxable value of \$150,000 after all homestead and other exemptions are taken, you'll pay about \$1,130, compared with \$1,146 this year.

And, of course, your annual tax bill still has other county and municipal rates attached to it as well.

Overall, the projected 2010-11

budget for county schools totals \$359 million, according to Rita Scallan, Chief Financial Officer for the school district.

Okaloosa's school millage rate is a combination of three numbers:

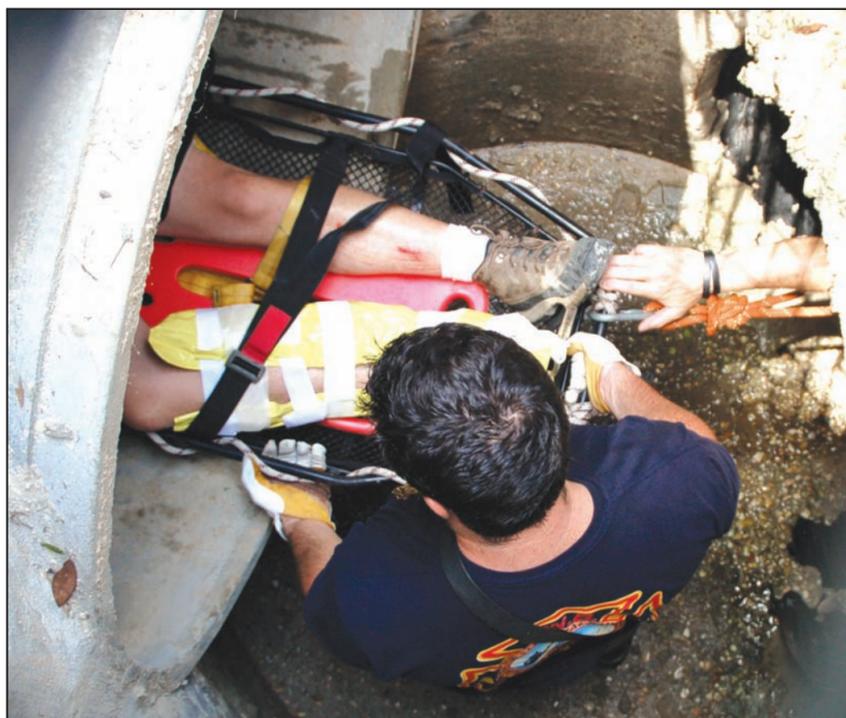
—The "Required Local Effort" set by the state. This year that number dropped from 5.391 to 5.2860.

—A "Discretionary Basic" figure of 0.748, which remains unchanged.

—A "Capital Outlay Discretionary" figure of 1.5, which remains unchanged since it is capped by the state.

Scallan said she was "a little surprised" that the proposed overall millage rate would decrease slightly.

Please see TAX, page A-7



Firefighters rescue worker

Construction worker Keenan Parker, 37, of Crestview, was preparing to install a metal grate on a stormwater project at the north end of Palmetto Avenue, Niceville, Monday when he fell approximately 20 feet and broke his ankle at the bottom. Firefighters with Okaloosa County's Special Operations attempted to raise the victim vertically with ropes, but ended up pulling the injured man about 83 feet through a 48-inch diameter pipe to the planned stormwater outfall, about 30 feet below street level.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard

6 cameras now watch Niceville drivers

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

With the recent addition of another county-operated video camera on the traffic light mast at John Sims Parkway and Bullock Boulevard, there are now six pan, tilt and zoom cameras keeping an eye on Niceville motorists.

The cameras cost as much as \$10,000 each to install. Okaloosa County currently operates cameras at 21 locations.

The state-funded cameras allow county employees to monitor congestion on state highways and make remote adjustments to signals to keep traffic moving smoothly.

Al Poudrier, traffic operations supervisor with Okaloosa County, said that the cameras are not capable of being converted to red-light cameras that can flag violators for fines.

None of the 21 such cameras now in operation throughout Okaloosa County records images to tape or hard disk, said Poudrier, a fact that he has relayed to police officers who had asked for help finding suspect vehicles. So, unless a coun-

ty employee happens to be watching a particular camera's video monitor, the image will go unnoticed.

Randy Showers, Okaloosa County's traffic engineer who has a doctorate in civil engineering, said the county doesn't have the resources to have someone monitor the cameras full time. On average, the half dozen personnel from his office may be looking at camera monitors no more than 10 percent of the time, he said. The cameras are primarily used to trouble shoot reported signaling problems, as well as for use in traffic studies, he said.

Installing a traffic monitoring camera costs between \$2,000 and \$10,000, depending on the camera and location, according to Showers. Future installations are dependent on available funding, he said.

Showers said that traffic viewed by the monitoring cameras can be viewed from a traffic office at the Shalimar courthouse annex, from the county's public works office in Fort Walton Beach and at the Florida Department of Transportation District 3 office in Chipley.



Beacon photo by Del Lessard
Cameras in Niceville are located along State Road 20 at SR 85 South, SR 85 North, Palm Boulevard, Bullock Boulevard, Bay Drive and SR 293 (White Point Road).

Where the cameras are

According to officials, Okaloosa County operates traffic cameras at the following locations:

Niceville area

SR 20 at SR 85 S/Government Avenue
SR 20 at SR 85 N/Crestview Avenue
SR 20 at Palm Boulevard
SR 20 at Bullock Boulevard
SR 20 at Bay Drive
SR 20 at SR 293 / White Point Road

Crestview area

SR 85 at PJ Adams Parkway
SR 85 at I-10
SR 85 at Walmart
SR 85 at Redstone
SR 85 at US 90

Fort Walton Beach area

SR 85 at SR 189 (Lewis Turner Boulevard)
US 98 at Perry Avenue
US 98 at Santa Rosa Boulevard
US 98 at Pier Road
SR 393/Mary Esther at Page Bacon
SR 189 at SR 393/Mary Esther

Destin

US 98 at Gulf Shore Drive
US 98 at SR 293
US 98 at Crystal Beach
US 98 at Triumph Way

The Bay Beacon & Beacon Express



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Niceville's Newspaper

North Bay Fire Commissioner quits

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

North Bay Fire District Commissioner Barry Reed resigned his seat on the five-member board of commissioners, effective July 29.

North Bay Fire District Commissioners also set a date for their first budget meeting where the preliminary property tax rate will be set for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

Reed, who won election to the non-partisan post two years ago, announced his resignation at the board's July 13 meeting. He is moving to a new Niceville home

that is outside the district boundaries, making him ineligible to remain a fire commissioner.

North Bay Fire Chief Joe Miller said the commission will advertise to encourage qualified residents of the fire district to volunteer to serve on the board and finish out the last two years of Reed's four-year term. The remaining four members of the North Bay Fire Commissioners will appoint a replacement at their August meeting.

In other business at the July 13 meeting, North Bay Fire Commissioners:

—Authorized firefighters to

make water rescues. Chief Miller explained that in 2004, when the department had an expensive-to-maintain Zodiac boat, a previous board voted to drop water rescues and limit firefighters to the high tide line. The department subsequently sold its boat and didn't replace it, he said. However, in the past year North Bay firefighters were twice called to situations involving persons in Choctawhatchee Bay, and in both incidents, firefighters felt their hands were tied.

No one was injured in either incident. In the first, a search was undertaken for three men seen jumping from the Mid-Bay Bridge. In the other, a resident got in trouble when she went into the bay to rescue a pet dog, but was eventually able to self-rescue.

Miller said the new authority

does not mean North Bay will get a rescue boat. What it does is authorize the on-scene firefighter in charge to determine the safety of potential rescue methods, such as wading out to a victim, throwing rescue floats or extending poles.

—Scheduled a special meeting of the fire commission at 6 p.m., July 29, at the fire station, 1024 White Point Road. The fire chief will present a proposed budget and the fire commission will be asked to set a preliminary millage rate that will be used by the Okaloosa County Property Appraiser to send out Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notices next month.

North Bay's current fiscal year budget is approximately \$1,965,210. The current millage rate is 2.05 mills.

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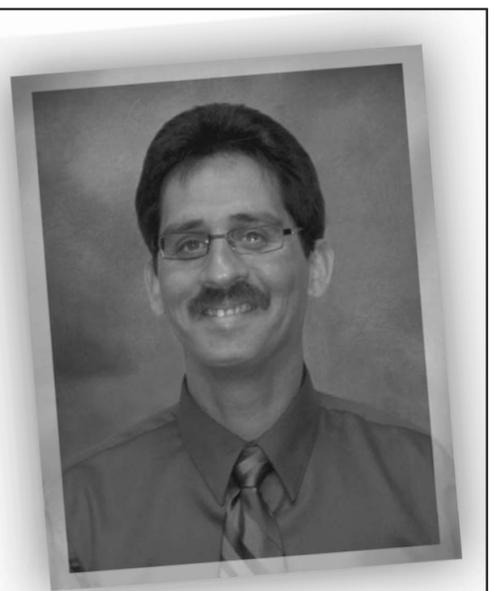
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Dr. Gomez completed residency training in internal medicine at Capital Health System in Trenton, NJ. Board certified in internal medicine, he earned his medical degree at the Higher Institute of Medical Sciences in Havana, Cuba. He has special interests in preventive care and chronic disease management. Dr. Gomez also speaks Spanish fluently.

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Investments decline for college foundation

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Northwest Florida State College Foundation is in sound financial shape, although its funds are not growing as fast as members might wish, according to reports presented at the July 19 meeting of the foundation's board of directors.

Members also planned to review recommendations for a new executive director at their next meeting, scheduled for 7:30 a.m., Sept. 20, in Building K of the Niceville campus. The NWFSC Foundation is the semi-official fundraising organization of the college.

Financial officer Donna Utley briefed the board members on recent financial statements of the foundation, saying that while the number of donors to the college is up, the total amount of donated dollars is slightly down, probably as a result of the decline in the national economy. She said the total fund balance of the foundation was \$33,815,318 as of June 30 of this year, about 5.8 percent more than at the same time last year.

The foundation's investment portfolio of various stocks and bonds, however, has lost \$75,577 so far during the current fiscal year, which will end Sept. 30, Utley said, but the expected loss

for the complete year is much less than the \$367,659 loss during the previous fiscal year. While this fiscal year "has not been kind to us," Utley said, it is far better than last year, which she described as "a disaster."

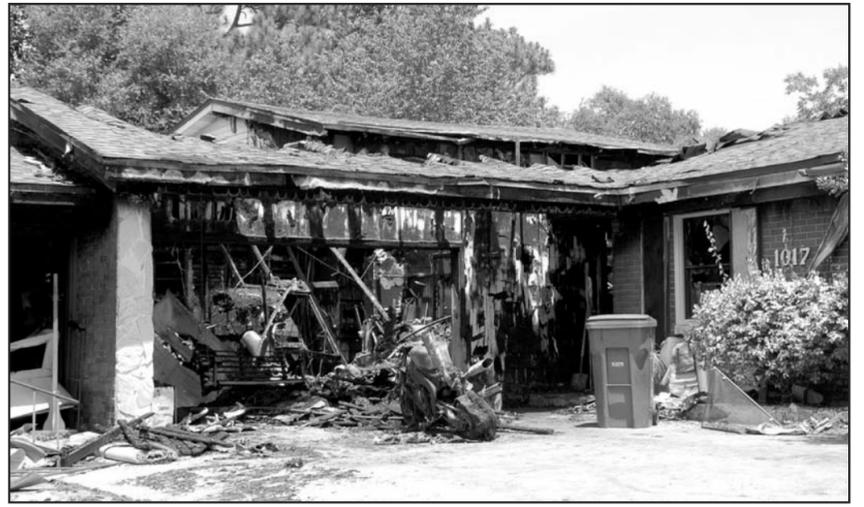
Shane O'Dell, an investment adviser to the foundation from the McGovern Group of the Merrill Lynch investment management firm, said May and June were "extremely challenging" for the foundation. But, he said, that although the foundation's investment portfolio has lost money, it has still outperformed the Standard & Poor's 500, indicating that the foundation is doing better than most other investors around the nation. O'Dell also said the foundation's total asset value has grown slightly, despite the losses in the value of its stocks and bonds. He said the figures paralleled national trends of sluggish economic growth, but with little or no inflation so far.

Utley also said the college is not receiving any state matching funds in the foreseeable future. That makes it more difficult to fund some endowed scholarships established by donors to be jointly funded by their donations and by matching funds from the state. Dr. Ty Handy, NWFSC's new President, said that in some cases, such scholarships may still be

granted to students, if the foundation or the college itself has money of their own to match the donor endowments.

Handy also told the foundation board that he has reviewed about 70 applications for the position of executive director of the NWFSC Foundation. He said he plans to present a list of about a half dozen top candidates to the board at its Sept. 20 meeting. Handy said many of the candidates have experience and formal training in fundraising, but that he is most interested in those who have local professional and personal connections that will enable them to effectively reach out to the Northwest Florida community.

Also during their July 19 meeting, the foundation board members agreed to "underwrite" or financially back up, the college's expenses in producing its annual series of shows at the Mattie Kelley Fine & Performing Arts Center. Since the college itself is not allowed to incur debt, the foundation's backing of the show costs allows the college to put on such shows despite the risk that some may not break even financially. Total cost of the 2010-2011 show season is expected to be a little more than \$326,450, according to Arts Center Director Cliff Herron.



Beacon photo by Del Lessard
Fire destroyed a house on Julia Street, Niceville, early Sunday morning.

Fire razes \$300K home

No one was injured in a Niceville house fire that caused an estimated \$300,000 damage to the structure and contents early Sunday morning.

Niceville firefighters received the alarm at 5:15 a.m., July 18, and were on scene four minutes later to see flames already venting through the roof of a fully-involved house fire at 1017 Julia Ave., according to Niceville Assistant Fire Chief Tony Lohrman. The residents

were not home at the time of the fire, which was called in by a passerby, Lohrman said. The living room ceiling had already collapsed by the time firefighters arrived, he said.

The fire was declared out at 6 a.m., Lohrman said. Four motorcycles that were in the garage were destroyed by the flames. Lohrman said the home was considered a total loss, and estimated damages to the structure at \$200,000, and damage to the contents at \$100,000.

The State Fire Marshal's Office determined that faulty wiring was the cause of the blaze, Lohrman said. Brian D. Howard owned the 3,300 square-foot home, he said.

Approximately 30 firefighters and five engines from Niceville, East Niceville, North Bay and Eglin fire departments responded to the fire, Lohrman said, while a crew from the Ocean City-Wright Fire Department "back-filled" the Niceville station, he said.

Fire district millage to hold fast

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

East Niceville fire commissioners July 19 set a tentative Fiscal Year 2010/2011 millage rate of 2.35, unchanged from the current property tax millage. They also discussed the possibility of paying themselves salaries of as much as \$500 per month. They also briefly reviewed a proposed budget of \$781,530 for the 2010/2011 fiscal year, which will begin on Oct. 1.

Neither the millage rate, the proposed budget, nor the proposed salary is final. All three will be discussed at public budget meetings Sept. 8 and 22.

They may also be discussed earlier, at the Aug. 9 meeting, when the fire commissioners expect to hear an annual financial audit report from the accounting firm of Carr, Riggs & Ingram.

At a millage rate of 2.35, a typical property owner in the East Niceville Independent Fire District would pay \$2.35 in ad valorem property tax for each \$1,000 of taxable value of his property. For example, the owner of a home appraised at \$200,000 for tax purposes, after the Florida homestead exemption and other deductions, would pay \$470 in property tax to the fire district, in addition to other property taxes such as Okaloosa County and Okaloosa School District taxes.

By voting for the 2.35 millage rate at the July 19 meeting, the commissioners virtually guaranteed that the coming fiscal year's millage will be at that rate or lower. They still have the option of lowering the millage rate during any of the upcoming meetings, until they set the final millage and budget at the Sept. 22 budget hearing.

Because property values within the East Niceville Fire District have fallen during the past year, property tax revenue is expected to be only \$637,030, slightly less than the \$637,171 collected this year.

The FY 2010/11 tax revenue, along with \$135,000 in carry-over funds plus \$9,500 in interest and other miscellaneous revenue, will fund a proposed FY 2010/11 budget of \$781,530—less than the current budget of \$784,623. Commission chairman Mike Marcolongo said the fire district can afford a smaller budget in FY 2010/11 than in the current year, because the district recently paid off its newest fire truck, eliminating more than \$30,000 in annual payments.

Marcolongo also said it may be time to consider paying fire commissioners a monthly salary, or "honorarium," to compensate them for the time and

effort needed to set policy for the fire district. He said state law allows elected fire commissioners, who currently serve as unpaid volunteers, to be paid a maximum of \$500 per month per commissioner.

"I've been doing this for more than 30 years," said Marcolongo, "and each year Tallahassee requires more and more information, and more and more of my time to meet their requirements."

He said it may be time for commissioners, at least "those who go out of our way to do stuff," to be paid for their time and effort. No decision was made about fire commissioner pay during the July 19 meeting, but the commissioners authorized Marcolongo to advertise in local newspapers that the issue will be discussed in one or more upcoming fire commission meetings.

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- Environmental Restoration
- Health and Safety
- Wildlife

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Searching For And Cleaning Up The Oil

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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twitter.com/bp_america
youtube.com/bp

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To make spill-related claims: (800) 440-0858
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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

Carl Lee Nichols, unemployed, 49, of 1206 Finck Road, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 9 on the misdemeanor charge of trespassing.

Jerriel Kasai Drones, unemployed, 29, of 304 Reeves St., Lot B-7, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 8 on charges of aggravated battery on a pregnant victim, domestic violence, and tampering with a victim.

Stacey Lov Rightman, 34, of 86 Live Oak St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies, subsequent to a traffic stop, July 7, for giving a false name to a law enforcement officer. Rightman, a passenger in the stopped vehicle, did not have any ID and gave the officer the name of her sister. After checking records, the deputy found an active warrant for Rightman's sister and arrested Rightman under the name she had given the officer. At the Okaloosa County Jail, Rightman's true identity was discovered and she was charged with giving a false name. Rightman was subsequently arrested at the jail on active warrants in her own name, July 8 on misdemeanor charges of worthless checks, 13 counts.

Richard Gregory Weeks, 39, of 505 Johnson St., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 8 on the charge of violation of probation on the original charge of domestic violence by strangulation.

Leonard Lamar Rich Jr., 49, of 1529 Pine St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 7 on the charge of failure to appear on the original charges of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of cocaine.

Frank Thomas McNamara, 39, of 214 Madison St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 7 on a misdemeanor probation violation on the original charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Benjamin Hadley Davis, 23, of 1538 Meadowbrook Court, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on a misdemeanor probation violation on the original charge of DUI.

Alex Julian Porter, a construction worker, 21, of 118 Friar Tuck Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 2 on a violation of probation charge on original charge of burglary with assault or battery.

Anthony Ranie Braden, 47, of 309 Magnolia Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 12 on a misdemeanor probation violation charge.

Jean Louise Guthrie, unemployed, 46, of 304 Reeves St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 8 on a charge of violation of probation on the original misdemeanor charges of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and driving while license suspended or revoked.

DUI arrests

Elizabeth A. Young, a waitress, 52, of 201 E. College Blvd., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police on a charge of DUI on Highway 20 at Palm Boulevard, July 9 at 8:43 p.m. Young was also cited for driving without headlights and failure to exhibit a driver's license upon demand.

Please see BLOTTER, page A-6

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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

Name: William Shane Allen
Wanted for: burglary, theft and criminal mischief. Allen's last known address was in Niceville.
Height: 5-feet, 9-inches
Weight: 165 pounds
Age: 33
Date of birth: 11-02-76
Hair: blond
Eyes: hazel



Name: Devin Martin Leavelle
Wanted for: violation of probation on the original charges of battery and theft. Leavelle's last known address was on Florosa Court in Mary Esther.
Height: 5-feet, 11-inches
Weight: 150 pounds
Age: 43
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)

Niceville man dies in Alabama crash

Memorial services were held Sunday for Chad William Averitte, 22, of Niceville.

Averitte died in a traffic crash in Alabama July 12 as he and his friends were returning from an out-of-state concert.

Averitte was born in the Niceville area and attended Valparaiso Elementary, Ruckel Middle School and was a 2006 graduate of Niceville High School, where he wrestled and played soccer. His hobbies included surfing, skateboarding, playing his guitar and he was an accomplished martial artist. He enjoyed working for a local beach service company in recent years and loved traveling to the Caribbean, concerts and sharing his adventures with his brother, Troy, his family said.



Chad William Averitte

Chad's father, Bryce Averitte, of Valparaiso, said his son "enjoyed very physical activities," and "lived every day he could to the fullest. I would say that all who knew Chad

enjoyed his very genuine smile." "(Chad) was comfortable around all that he came in contact with," his father said.

Averitte is survived by his brother, Troy Averitte of Fort Walton Beach; his mother, Mary Ann Troiano Averitte of Niceville; his father, Bryce Averitte of Valparaiso; maternal grandmother, Gloria Troiano of Shalimar; paternal grandparents, Bill and Mary Ann Averitte of Cantonment; aunt and uncle, Allison and Alex McCrory of Cantonment; cousins, Mary Kendall and Stephen McCrory of Cantonment. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Frank "PaPa" Troiano.

Averitte was killed in a single-vehicle, early morning traffic crash in southern Alabama July 12, according to a statement from the Alabama Highway Patrol.

Averitte was driving south on Alabama Highway 55, about one mile south of Red Level, in Covington County, when his 2002 Isuzu Rodeo left the roadway and overturned, partially ejecting Averitte, according to the AHP. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Three passengers in Averitte's vehicle were injured and taken to Andalusia Memorial Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, the AHP said, including: Grace Reese, 20, of Niceville; Jarred Robinson, 22, also of Niceville, and Shana Clark, 23, of Atlanta.

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from July 12 through July 18.

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Structure Fire | 17 Emergency Medical Calls |
| 0 Vehicle Fire | 0 Vehicle Crash |
| 0 Other Fire | 0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication |
| 1 Illegal Burn | 4 Other Emergency Calls |
| 0 False Alarms | 0 Hazardous Conditions |

| Street | Situation | Date | Time |
|--------------------|------------------|---------|-------|
| Judith Avenue | Medical | 7/12/10 | 19:01 |
| E. John Sims Pkwy. | Medical | 7/12/10 | 22:27 |
| Boyd Circle | Medical | 7/13/10 | 04:20 |
| N. Partin Drive | Medical | 7/13/10 | 09:05 |
| E. John Sims Pkwy. | Medical | 7/13/10 | 14:40 |
| Lincolnshire Drive | Medical | 7/13/10 | 22:06 |
| Carr Drive | Medical | 7/14/10 | 07:07 |
| W. John Sims Pkwy. | Medical | 7/14/10 | 10:27 |
| Beverly Drive | Medical | 7/14/10 | 12:15 |
| Government Avenue | Service Call | 7/14/10 | 13:53 |
| W. John Sims Pkwy. | Medical | 7/14/10 | 14:24 |
| E. John Sims Pkwy. | Alarm Activation | 7/14/10 | 18:16 |
| E. John Sims Pkwy. | Alarm Activation | 7/15/10 | 00:51 |
| Spencer Place | Medical | 7/16/10 | 14:37 |
| Kelly Road | Medical | 7/16/10 | 21:20 |
| Nathey Street | Medical | 7/17/10 | 12:54 |
| N. Partin Drive | Medical | 7/17/10 | 21:53 |
| Julia Avenue | Structure Fire | 7/18/10 | 05:10 |
| E. John Sims Pkwy. | Medical | 7/18/10 | 06:36 |
| 22nd Street | Medical | 7/18/10 | 10:47 |
| Everglade Drive | Alarm Activation | 7/18/10 | 11:01 |
| Vincent Circle | Medical | 7/18/10 | 17:33 |
| Springwood Way | Illegal Burning | 7/18/10 | 20:43 |

Weekly Safety Tip: Dispose of old newspapers, magazines and rags properly. If possible, have them recycled. Do not store them near gasoline, cleaning fluid, or kerosene. Keep all flammable materials in a cool, vented place away from your main living area. Web Page: <http://www.cityofniceville.org/fire.html>

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls July 11 through July 19.

| Location | Situation | Date | Time |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-------|
| Parkwood Place | EMS excluding vehicle | 7/11/10 | 04:44 |
| Bluewater Point Road | EMS excluding vehicle | 7/12/10 | 04:47 |
| Hickory Street | Medical assist EMS | 7/12/10 | 07:59 |
| Highway 20 East | Dispatched cancelled | 7/12/10 | 17:10 |
| Merchants Way | EMS excluding vehicle | 7/13/10 | 12:26 |
| East John Sims Parkway | Medical assist EMS | 7/13/10 | 14:42 |
| Travers Court | EMS excluding vehicle | 7/13/10 | 20:37 |
| Oakmont Circle | Medical assist EMS | 7/14/10 | 04:40 |
| Parkwood Lane | EMS excluding vehicle | 7/14/10 | 11:59 |
| Windward lane | EMS excluding vehicle | 7/15/10 | 20:19 |
| East Highway 20 | EMS excluding vehicle | 7/16/10 | 13:00 |
| Capri Cove | Alarm system activation | 7/17/10 | 18:46 |
| Julia Avenue | Building fire | 7/18/10 | 05:12 |
| Range Road | EMS excluding vehicle | 7/18/10 | 14:52 |

Visit northbayfd.org for greater detail of incidents.

Bluewater woman dies from accident injuries

A Bluewater Bay pedestrian who was injured in a July 6 parking lot accident in Bluewater Bay died last week.

Deanna Banning, 72, of Bluewater Bay, died July 14 at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, where she'd been listed in critical condition since being struck by a truck in the parking lot of Winn-Dixie, 4512 E. Highway 20, July 6.

A memorial service for Banning is planned at St. Judes Episcopal Church, Niceville, Aug. 9, at 10 a.m. Jonathan D. Ball, 35, of Niceville, was driving a 2006 Ford truck west in the supermarket parking lot when he attempted to make a left turn, according to the Florida Highway Patrol. Banning walked in front of the truck, according to the FHP.

The accident reportedly occurred during a rainstorm. Alcohol was not a factor, according to the FHP. Charges are pending a traffic homicide investigation, according to the FHP.

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The Inquiring Photographer —Mike Griffith

What do you think about allowing Niceville city residents to keep egg-laying hens in their backyards?

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"Your property is your property, unless you create a major nuisance."

Amy Adams, 40, Crestview, volunteer



"As long as the chickens stay in their yard and don't bother anyone, I don't see a problem."

Trey Bailey, 37, Pensacola, Food Depot manager



"As long as they're kept at a reasonable number and don't bother anyone, it should be OK."

Michael Dampier, 29, Crestview, Food Depot manager



"As long as it's just a few pets, and not a whole chicken farm, it should be allowed."

Jim Maturo, 79, Bluewater Bay, retired military



"I don't see a problem with it."

Elise Heald, 25, Valparaiso, office worker



"I think it's a great idea. The city as a whole needs to look at more green alternatives. I support it a hundred percent."

Grace Nuffer, 51, Niceville, church staff member

RISK

From page A-1

"Mother nature will eventually take care of it," but that may take a long time.

Meanwhile, much of the oil has sunk toward the bottom of the Gulf, where it may harm marine life, although little is yet known about the long-term effect such submerged oil may have on fish, other life forms, and the overall

environment. The good news, Villani said, is that such effects are likely to eventually subside as the oil biodegrades, although no one knows how long that will take.

Chapman said her department has been monitoring the situation, and has posted health advisories at local beaches, warning people to avoid direct contact with any oil they encounter. She said local oil has had little odor, and is unlikely to cause breathing prob-

lems for most people, although people with lung problems or compromised immune systems should avoid the oil as a precaution.

Parents should supervise children at the beach, and not allow children to handle or play with tar balls or other oil. If oil gets on skin, she said, it is most easily and safely removed with grease-cutting dish detergent. Chapman said people should not try to use such chemicals as kerosene to remove

oil, as such substances may pose health problems of their own.

Chapman also said that her department is currently working with the University of West Florida to monitor water quality in the Gulf, especially to detect and measure the amounts of dissolved petroleum in the water, with samples taken regularly at James Lee Park, Destin Pass, Henderson Beach State Park, and Wayside Park. No significant amounts of dissolved petroleum

have been detected so far, she said.

Overall, Chapman said, the oil has presented few if any health problems for anyone in Okaloosa County. Villani told the Beacon that oil is a common substance that people work with every day, and the crude oil in the Gulf is much like what people handle whenever they change the oil in a car, posing the same health issues, but nothing more dangerous. He said that in the event of a hurri-

cane, collection of debris will probably be "a mess," as those collecting such debris would have to take precautions against the oil as well as the ordinary work of debris removal.

Villani also said, however, that even debris contaminated with oil need not be treated as special hazardous waste, but may be put into landfills like hurricane debris from previous hurricanes and tropical storms that have struck the area.

BRIDGE

From page A-1

Secondly, the impact the oil spill in the Gulf had on reducing traffic to Destin and other Gulf-vacation destinations, could aid the MBBA justify any toll losses the bridge authority might claim against British Petroleum, Vest said. Analysis of the traffic declines probably won't be completed until the end of the

tourism season, he said.

In other business at the July 15 MBBA meeting in Niceville:

—HDR, the engineering company overseeing construction of a 10.9-mile bridge connector road, announced completion of the design of phases 2 and 3, the final two phases of the connector road project. Vest said once those plans are put out for bid by construction contractors in October, the MBBA will get a better idea of how much the

road construction project will need to borrow. Phase 1 of the construction project, which is currently under way and will connect the north end of the bridge to Range Road, is expected to be completed by April 2011.

Planning documents on the 10.9-mile toll road estimate that Phases 2 and 3 will cost in excess of \$136 million. Although there will be one toll booth on the connector road,

bridge tolls are expected to repay most of the connector road construction costs.

—HDR also announced that starting next month traffic on Highway 20 where an overpass is being constructed for Phase 1 of the bridge connector road will be detoured to the south side of the highway while beams for the overpass are installed. Construction on the overpass is expected to take about three months to complete.

BLOTTER

From page A-5

Thefts

A Niceville resident from the 200 block of Madison Street reported that unknown person(s) stole \$281 worth of medications from the top drawer of a bedroom chest July 7.

A Niceville residence in the 700 block of Tarpon Lane was burglarized sometime July 2-3 and a 42-inch flat screen television and \$900 watch were reported stolen. Entry appeared to have been gained by prying open a kitchen door through the garage.

At a construction site for the Niceville Walmart unknown person(s) cut the lock off a construction trailer and stole an

\$1,100 portable saw, two metal gas cans valued at \$30 each and approximately \$100 in other miscellaneous materials, sometime July 4-6. Also missing was a \$14,000 "Gator" utility vehicle that had been parked next to the construction trailer. The "Gator" was subsequently located stuck in the mud on the northwest corner of the construction site. The headlights and a rotator light on top of the vehicle had been broken, the ignition had been removed and the vehicle apparently "hot wired" and the transmission appeared to be damaged when the vehicle was pulled out of the hole it was stuck in.

Sometime June 21-22 unknown person(s) stole 28 sod pallets from an address in the first block of Norwich Circle, Niceville. The pallets were valued at \$168.

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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.)

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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.

| Age Group | Birthdates |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 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.
1. U6 and VIP teams are co-ed. Separate girls' and boys' teams in U8, U10, U12, U14 and U19.
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MSBU seeks new board members

Deputy warns that summer is vandalism season, suggests defenses

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Bluewater Bay Municipal Services Benefits Unit (MSBU) is still looking for a few good board members, as no one has qualified as a candidate for the two MSBU governing board seats.

Such seats are normally filled by election, said board members during their July 13 meeting, but must now be filled through appointment by the current board, if volunteers can be found to help run the MSBU.

During a board meeting June 8, the five-member board said the seats currently held by Gayle Hughes and Bart Bredenkamp would be open during the general election this November, and neither plan to run for re-election. However, no candidates filed paperwork with the Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections to run for the open seats, making it necessary to fill the openings by appointment.

The MSBU is a unit of county government, in charge of managing landscaping, street lighting, street signs, and other beautification and maintenance of through streets and common areas in the unincorporated Bluewater Bay community. Board members are unpaid volunteers, elected to their positions for staggered terms, with Hughes' and Bredenkamp's seats open this fall.

According to a "News Flash" posted on the MSBU's web page last month, the director positions are open to people living within



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Okaloosa County Sheriff's Deputy Frank Taylor discusses the prevalence of summer vandalism as, from left, MSBU management consultant Archie Jernigan and board members Doug Burgess, Bart Bredenkamp and Gayle Hughes follow along with his report.

the MSBU property boundaries. Information about the director positions may be obtained by phoning 897-0092, or by visiting the MSBU website at bluewater-bay.org. E-mails may also be sent to the MSBU board through the website.

During the July 13 meeting, board member Gayle Hughes said the MSBU has still received less revenue than usual from the Okaloosa Tax Collector's Office—about \$3,200 less than the revenue expected. She said this may be because local home-

owners have been delaying making their property tax payments because of the national economic recession.

The MSBU is financed by an annual flat tax on property owners in Bluewater Bay—currently \$61 per property unit. The funds are collected by the Okaloosa County Tax Collector along with other taxes for county government and for such other taxing authorities as independent fire districts. According to the county ordinance that established Bluewater Bay's MSBU, the

MSBU taxes may be used only for the purposes of maintaining street lights, signs, and landscape beautification along roads and in common areas of the community. The MSBU is managed by the elected (or if necessary, appointed) board of directors.

As the county tax collector collects the funds, the money is distributed to the MSBU throughout the fiscal year rather than all at once. During a recent interview with the Beacon, Okaloosa Tax Collector Chris Hughes said he also thinks many

property owners have delayed tax payments due to the lagging economy.

Unfortunately, this can mean taxpayers miss out on discounts available to those who pay early or on time. Also, delinquent property owners, who do not pay their taxes at all, may eventually find that the county has sold "tax certificates" on their property, allowing the certificate owners first liens on their property until the taxes are paid.

Also during Tuesday's meeting, MSBU management consultant Archie Jernigan said projects have recently been completed to install stack block, grass, and

increase during the summer, when youngsters are out of school and sometimes become bored and get into mischief. He reminded local residents to "lock up your houses, your cars, and your liquor," in order to not tempt youngsters, including one's own, to get into trouble.

Taylor said a woman had been critically injured recently when she was struck by a vehicle in the parking lot near the Winn-Dixie supermarket. The woman subsequently died from her injuries. He said he and other deputies have been enforcing speed limits and other traffic rules throughout the summer, but not all accidents can

"Lock up your houses, your cars, and your liquor."

—Deputy Sheriff Frank Taylor

shrubby at several intersections along Woodlands Drive. Board members also approved a \$1,200 project to install stack block at the intersection of Southwind, Dominica and Muirfield.

Jernigan also said he is concerned about vandalism, saying that letters have been removed from some signs belonging to the MSBU.

Okaloosa County Sheriff's Deputy Frank Taylor, the Sheriff's Office community policing officer for Bluewater Bay and other nearby neighborhoods, was present at the MSBU meeting, and said vandalism often tends to

be prevented through enforcement alone.

He said he and fellow deputies are "extremely appreciative" of the support they get from Bluewater Bay residents. He said local residents often greet deputies, provide information, and encourage them in other ways. During the Fourth of July weekend, Taylor said, some local residents gave homemade cookies to deputies who had to work the holiday weekend. "It's a wonderful thing," Taylor said, to experience such an unusual level of support. "This is a very special community," he said.

CHICKENS

From page A-1

proposal for a new city chicken ordinance to the city planning commission before bringing it back to the council.

Also during its July 13 meeting, the council decided to apply for additional community development block grants (CDBG) to help local homeowners rebuild or repair their residences.

Anne Hinze, 310 McEwen Drive, came before the Niceville City Council Tuesday, as she had done at the council's June meeting, seeking approval to keep three hens, which she has had for about 18 months. A neighbor had complained that the chickens were a nuisance. Hinze said that was a misunderstanding caused by a sewer leak in her back yard, which has since been repaired.

However, Lavon Mason, a Niceville code enforcement officer who visited the Hinze residence in response to the complaint, told the council Tuesday that he smelled an odor during his visit that appeared to come from the chickens. (A Beacon reporter who also visited the home recently detected no odor during that visit.)

City attorney Dixie Dan Powell, who had reviewed Hinze's proposal and done some research on the issue since the June council meeting, suggested the council choose from three alternatives: It could amend the city zoning ordinance to permit as many as three chickens in a designated hen house, stay enforcement

for 60 or 90 days to permit further investigation by city officials and feedback from residents and other cities, or require strict enforcement of the ordinance, telling Hinze to remove the chickens from her property.

The trio of chickens provides the Hinze family with eggs, and the two Hinze children, ages 3 and 5, "are very attached to the chickens," Anne Hinze told the Beacon.

In June, she had submitted a sample ordinance to the city council that would permit ownership of a limited amount of poultry within the city limits. She purposely left the number of birds blank in the proposed ordinance, she said, because she knew council members would want to come up with their own number. She recommended a limit of five or six birds. During Tuesday's meeting, Hinze answered questions from council members, and offered some additional information in response to comments council members made during their discussion of alternatives.

During the discussion, councilwoman Judith Boudreaux favored allowing Hinze to have an exception to the current city ordinance. "In Niceville," she said, "every citizen is important. We should allow the chickens if there has been no harm to any of the neighbors." Boudreaux said she had spoken with five of Hinze's neighbors, and none objected to having the chickens in the neighborhood.

Several of Hinze's neighbors attended the July 13 meeting, telling the council that they favor letting the chickens stay.

"I totally support the chick-

ens," said one neighbor. "I fell in love with the chickens when I met them. They ran up to me like little puppies. Please let the woman have them."

"I'd trade those chickens for my neighbor's dogs any day," said another neighbor.

"The chickens are clean and friendly," said a third neighbor. "They are pets for Ms. Hinze's children, and she's being part of the green movement, helping her cope with the economy and feed her family."

Other city council members, however, said they fear that if they let one person have chickens, other city residents will want to keep farm animals as well.

"I think it would be a grave mistake," said councilman Bill Smith of the proposed ordinance change. "It would open a can of worms, and could become a code enforcement nightmare. If we allow this, what will we do when someone else wants to keep small horses?"

Councilman Dan Henkel said he was concerned about what would happen if neighbors complained about the chickens in the future.

Hinze said there is ample precedent for cities to allow small numbers of chickens at people's homes. She said such large cities as Los Angeles and New York City already grant permits for domestic chickens within their cities.

After some discussion, the council told Hinze to present her proposal to the city planning commission, which will consider it at public hearings, allowing more

opportunities for citizen input, and make a recommendation to the city council at a later meeting. No action was taken to force Hinze to remove the chickens in the meantime.

In other business during the July 13 meeting, the council heard a report on the city's community development block grant (CDBG) home renovation program, which has repaired or rebuilt 11 homes of low-income residents during the past year. Brian Boone, a resident whose home was recently renovated through the federally-funded grant program, appeared with his 6-year-old son, Ryley, and thanked the council for their help.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart," said Boone. "This has changed our lives, and helped my son's health." The council decided to continue applying for such grants for future years.

Council members were also

presented with a plaque and with decorative mock fireworks by Martha C. Miller, who helped organize the city's fireworks trust fund and to raise funds for the recent Independence Day fireworks display over Boggy Bayou,

an annual tradition that resumed this year after a year without fireworks due to a lack of funding. Miller thanked the council for their support of the fireworks program and said this year's show was a big success.

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TAX

From page A-1

"That's from the standpoint that the certified tax roll is down 6.5 percent from what it was estimated to be earlier this year," she said.

"It makes me cautious that they're going to have to come back and adjust," she added. "(When there's a shortfall) you either have to generate more revenue at the state level or look at ways to reduce the state budget, which could reduce the district budget."

Okaloosa's total millage number had been greater than 8 mills from 1991-92 through 2005-06, with the exception of 1999-2000. That school year it was 7.972.

The highest it reached during that period was 8.723 mills in 1998-99.

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Destin cheerleaders are champs

With coach Kim Berry at the helm, the Destin Middle School cheerleaders recently took first-place awards as Camp Cheer champions, Extreme Routine Champions and Home Routine champions at the UCA Cheer Camp in Panama City Beach. It also won the Banana Spirit award, and the team's eighth-graders were all selected as All-Americans and were invited to participate in the New York Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The members of the 2010-2011 squad are, from left: Bailee Giana, Kate Blanchard, Kaylee Battiste, Sydney Moses, Ashton Bedsole, Courtney Holland, Alexa Gaddis, Ashley Wheeler, Lauren Rigdon, Callie Peterman (co-captain), Alexa Allen (captain), Sidney Freeman, Ashli Buffkin (co-captain), Emily Balint, Cassidy Raven, Morgan Rooney, Bailey Jenrich, Jesi Harrell, Lauren Hunter, Savannah Bartleson and Payton Patterson.

Who's News

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Lauren Vucovich, senior psychology major and mathematics minor at Millsaps College, was recently awarded the Kappa Delta Founder's Scholarship and Corne Anding Stegall Leadership Award at Kappa Delta's National Leadership Conference in Williamsburg, Va. The Founder's Scholarship is awarded annually to only four Kappa Deltas in the nation. The Corne Anding Stegall Leadership Award is Kappa Delta's most prestigious award given to only 10 members in the nation. It recognizes collegians who have demonstrated high academic performance, exemplary leadership within the chapter, on campus and in the community. Lauren is a 2007 graduate of Niceville High School.

Tyler M. Lampert, Niceville High School class of 2005, has graduated from Southwestern College in Winfield Kansas. He has earned a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Performance and Sports Studies with a minor in Business Administration. Tyler played football as a linebacker for the Moundbuilders. He was the recipient of the Bradshaw/Harris Award. This award was established to honor two young players that died in a house fire. The award is given to the player that shows the inspiration and dedication that is needed to play the great game of football at Southwestern College and demonstrates what it takes to be successful off the field and in the classroom. Tyler has enrolled in Southwestern's MBA program and taken a position as a graduate assistant.

Tyler Lampert

Tyler is the son of Todd and Angie Lampert of Niceville.

Faculty and students from CD Williamson Karate and Kickboxing, Niceville, recently visited Washington, D.C., to participate in a karate Master's Camp, which featured several high-

ranking martial artists from Okinawa, including World Champion Gold Medalist Sayori Iha. Local participants were **Williamson, Paige Hudson, Merilee and Bill Kennedy, Daniel Kennedy and Sean Gabany.**



Merilee Kennedy



Bill Kennedy



Daniel Kennedy



Sean Gabany



RBCS mission to Belize

Members of the Missions Club of Rocky Bayou Christian School recently returned from a 12-day mission to Belize. There, they performed a skit for Belizean students, left, and had a great time with children in the Central American country. Above, Lauren Wright, right, and Esther Alldredge spend some time with the youngsters. Participating in the mission were: Esther Alldredge, Sean Brown, Cooper Eaves, Justin Emerick, Elizabeth Gadzinski, Josh Jarrell, Emily Kent, Wendy Kent, Laura Pate, Benjamin Phillips, Stephanie Serban, Corrie Sober, Emily Wilson, Lauren Wright and Christian Yun.

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Church sets Fifty-Plus summer bash

Niceville United Methodist Church plans a Fifty-Plus Summer Bash, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, July 29, in the



Community Life Center. Included in the \$17 cost is a gourmet dinner, door prizes and entertainment by "Cool Change," featuring gospel, pop and country music. Tickets are available online at fumniceville.org/seniors/index.html and in the Adult & Family Ministry Office, 678-4411, ext. 127 and 123. The deadline to buy tickets is Sunday, July 25.

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Check for USO

Information International Associates, Inc., a contractor at Eglin Air Force Base that manages Education and Training for the base, presented a check for \$1,000 to the new USO center at Northwest Florida Regional Airport. From left: Steve Gardner, IIA project manager, Diane Freeman, USO Northwest Florida Regional Airport Center Manager, and Heidi Blair, Director, USO Northwest Florida.



\$250 to Sharing and Caring

Bill Ellison of the American Legion Post 221 of Niceville, presents a \$250 check to Nancy Kirk, center, and Delle Diamond of Sharing and Caring for the Tools for Schools drive.



Legion, auxiliary install officers

American Legion Post 221 of Niceville held its installation of new officers on Sunday July 11. At left, outgoing commander Ben Meredith, left, passes the gavel to new commander Bill Ellison. At right, Ethel Knese, left, new auxiliary president, receives the gavel from Bessie Moore Bradshaw, district commander.



Opera seeks singers

Pensacola Opera, Northwest Florida's only professional opera company, will hold auditions for the Pensacola Opera Chorus from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at the Pensacola Opera Center, 75 S. Tarragona St, Pensacola.

The Opera Chorus is a group of 50 volunteers which performs in the Opera's mainstage productions.

Interested singers should call the Opera Center office at 850-433-6737 beginning Aug. 2 to schedule an audition time. Singers should prepare an aria, verse of a hymn, or an extended opera choral selection, and should bring prepared sheet music. Prior choral experience and the ability to read music are preferred.

For more information on the Opera Chorus and programs, call 850-433-6737 or visit pensacolaopera.com.



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622 Bayshore Drive 678-4621 www.fbcniceville.org

Guild raffling off \$3,800 quilt

The Flying Needles Quilt Guild is offering tickets for their 2010 Opportunity Quilt. The tickets are available for a donation of one for \$1 or six for \$5 until the drawing in December. The winner needs not be present to win. The quilt will be FedExed to any out-of-area winner.

The quilt can be viewed at flyingneedlesquiltguild.org/photos, and will be on display at the annual Okaloosa County Fair in October. The quilt won the "Best Innovation" award at the Greater Jackson Quilt Celebration 2009 in Jackson, Miss. It has been professionally appraised and is insured for \$3,800.

There will be two additional quilts for second and third prizes, consisting of crazy quilt and embroidered blocks turned in by Guild members.

Proceeds from the quilt drawing will go to help fund charitable donations made by Guild members throughout the year, including VA Hospital, wheelchair lap quilts; wounded soldiers, quilts of valor; Alzheimer patients, lap quilts and adult bibs; and children in shelters, filled Christmas stock-

ings, storage and cosmetic totes

The Flying Needles Quilt Guild began when approximately 19 quilters started meeting in the Fellowship Hall of the Niceville Presbyterian Church. Prior to that time, a small group of like-minded ladies gathered regularly in a private home, deciding among themselves what they wanted to teach each other. They chose the name "Southern Comforters." One member threatened to leave that very moment if that name was adopted, complaining the inference to a brand of alcoholic beverage was not suitable to the art of quilting.

The members found a new name, which then suited the majority of those present. Thus, "Flying Needles" came into existence.

Guild membership currently consists of around 95 members and meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Niceville Church of Christ, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome.

Contact sjc32nd@cox.net for current quilt location or more information.



This quilt, insured for \$3,800, is being raffled off by the Flying Needles Quilt Guild. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

Obituary

Teresa R. Koechel

1950—2010

Teresa Rose Koechel was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., on September 17, 1950. She passed away peacefully in her sleep on Saturday, July 10, 2010, at Crystal Bay in Sandestin in Miramar Beach, Florida, with family at her side.

She fought the good fight after being diagnosed with a brain tumor in June 2009, undergoing surgery, chemotherapy and radiation treatments before the disease finally took her.



Teresa R. Koechel

Teresa was a beloved daughter, sister, aunt and friend. She is survived by her parents Grace and Paul Koechel of Bluewater Bay, sister Maryann (husband Colonel Greg Muntzner USAF Ret), also of Bluewater Bay and sister Carol of Flower Mound, Texas. She was preceded in death by brothers Paul and Jerry. She is also survived by nieces Holly (husband Jacob), Tricia (husband Tre), Katie and Emily as well as a nephew,

Chad. She was also a great aunt to Bella and Logan.

Teresa was an adventurer and loved to visit new places and try new things. She traveled extensively within the U.S., Europe, South America and Africa, but decided to make the Emerald Coast home. One of the highlights of her adventuring was taking Mexican cooking classes in Mexico.

She earned both a BA degree and an MBA in Finance from the University of Pittsburgh. She was an assistant vice president at Equibank before joining the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a 25-year career. She rose through the FDIC ranks where most recently she was in charge of protecting depositor funds. She was also a mentor and literacy volunteer.

Teresa was truly a bright star and shining light to those who had the pleasure to know her.

We love her and will always miss her.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in her memory to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and Covenant Hospice.

A celebration of a life well lived took place at Christ Our Redeemer Catholic Church on White Point Road in Niceville on Thursday, July 15, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.

You may express condolence to the family and sign the guestbook at www.heritagegardensfuneralhome.com.

Heritage Gardens Funeral Home of Niceville is entrusted with the arrangements.

Registration for college under way

Registration for fall term at Northwest Florida State College is now in progress. Returning students may enroll by web. Military students may enroll in person at the college's centers at Eglin and Hurlburt. New students may enroll by web starting July 26. In-person registration at all seven college locations is Aug. 2 to 30.

More than 1,000 day, evening, weekend, fast-track and e-cam-

pus courses begin Aug. 23 and Oct. 15. For a complete course listing, see nwfsc.edu/schedule. In addition to college classes, NWF State College offers free courses for adults who do not have a high school diploma, including adult basic education, preparation for the GED high school equivalency test, and English as a second language. Individuals may enroll in adult

education courses at any time throughout the year and enroll at the first class session they attend. For GED and ESOL class information, call 729-5387.

A series of non-credit personal enrichment classes through the college's PRIME Time program will be held in September and October at the Niceville campus and South Walton Center. Registration for PRIME Time

will begin Sept. 8. For PRIME Time information, call 729-6084.

NWF State College has an open door admissions policy and there is no fee to apply for admission. Free academic advising is available. NWF State offers the lowest tuition in Florida, as well as financial aid, and an installment fee-payment plan. For information, call 729-6922 or see the college's website.

Fair set to inform of health studies



The Nursing and Allied Health programs at Northwest Florida State College will host a Health Programs Information Fair on Monday, Aug. 2, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Niceville Campus for those interested in learning more about admissions to the NWF State College associate degree (RN) and bachelor's degree (RN to BSN) programs in nursing as well as programs in dental assisting, paramedic, EMT, radiography, Emergency Medical Services, medical coding/billing and health services management.

on the Niceville campus. For more information, call the NWF State College Nursing office at 729-6400 or see nwfsc.edu/AlliedHealth.

At the session, potential students will learn about the various health career training options available at NWF State College and how to prepare a more competitive admission application. Certain programs award points toward meeting admissions criteria for those who attend the information session. All health degree and certificate programs at the college are either now accepting applications for new students or will soon open their annual admissions process. Each program has a limited number of admissions slots and generally will use a competitive point system to determine admissions. Individuals may apply for admission to more than one program.



BEACONS SPORTS

B-4

Wednesday, July 21, 2010



The 9U Niceville Traveling Eagles, from left: front row, Christopher McGaughey, Adam Mistretta, Owen Williams, Derek Vogel and Brandon Cromwell; middle row, Chandler Plourde, Jake Holland, Rece Hinds, Trent Walker and Connor Walsh; top row, coach Brian Cromwell, coach Robbie Williams, manager Marcus Holland, coach Brian Walsh and coach Kriengsak Vogel.

9U Traveling Eagles among the elite clubs in America

The 9U Niceville Traveling Eagles captured two championships this summer, the Super NIT in Tallahassee on May 8 and 9, and the Grandslam World Series in Panama City Beach June 28 through July 4.

Traveling Eagles outscored opponents by 58-5, while in the Grandslam World Series, they scored 58 runs to their opponents' five.

By winning the Super NIT in Tallahassee, the 9U Niceville Traveling Eagles

earned an invitation to participate in the Elite 32 World Series that will be played at ESPN's Wide World of Sports in Orlando the first week of August. The Elite 32 World Series will host the top 9U teams in the nation.



Beacon photo by Kenneth Books

New Bluewater Barracudas swim team coach Brad Kale looks over the pool at Parkwood Estates.

New Barracudas coach is excited to be here

By Kenneth Books
Beacon Staff Writer

When Brad Kale learned that Pam Braseth was stepping down as head coach of the Bluewater Barracudas swim team, he wasted little time in putting his name into the candidates hopper.

His dream was realized when he got the nod to take the reins.

"I'm so excited about the opportunity here," said Kale, 41, who came from Nashville and has been here about six weeks. "Being in an area so tied to aquatic life has been great. I'm just looking forward to (living here). The people here are amazing—they're so friendly."

He said he and his wife, Deana, love the area, as do his daughter, Sydney, 8, and son, Carson, 5. "The kids are really excited about moving down here," Kale said.

Kale has always been involved in swimming. He first got his feet wet at age 5, swam in high school and in his senior year was a national-level swimmer, according to John Morse, the head coach with whom he worked at the Nashville Aquatic Club. At the University of Kentucky in Lexington, he continued to compete. "I've been a swimmer my whole life," he said.

When he got done with college, he got into coaching a little bit and then moved on to be the head coach of a YMCA in Missouri," Morse said.

"He came back to Nashville and was working with the Y and another club team in the area. I eventually talked him into coming and working with us. He coached with me for at least four or five years."

In 2000, Kale was voted Southeastern Swimming Age Group Coach of the Year by the local swim committee, which includes Tennessee, Alabama and the Florida panhandle. Member coaches vote on the candidates for the award.

"He's wonderful with kids of all ability levels and all interest levels and that's somewhat of a unique ability,"

Morse said. "Most people are either really into the very talented and fast kids to the detriment of the other kids or just into the social aspect of it. Brad has the ability to motivate kids of all levels. I think he's going to be great. The community's fortunate to have someone as enthusiastic as Brad is."

The Barracudas swim team is open to all ages from any community. The team practices at pools in Bluewater Bay, Eglon and Hurlburt Field. Team competes in meets throughout the region. Youngsters may join the team at any time: bwbswimteam.com. About 120 swimmers currently compete.

Kale has had a close look at the Bluewater Barracudas and likes what he sees.

"We've got a lot of potential," he said. "(But) the expectation level is fairly low. A lot of kids down here get involved later than I'm used to. The first thing we have to do is guide expectations. We're raising our expectations."

At the same time, he said, the team has some excellent swimmers.

"We've got some who will be able to compete nationally and several who can go to Division 1 colleges," he said.

"We have tons of potential," Kale said. "I want us to be a place where people want to come. If someone wants to achieve something in sport swimming, we can offer that."



Brad Kale

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Golf

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Rocky Bayou Country Club Ladies Golf Association Best 9 Holes Weekly Play: July 13 1st Flight: 1st—Barbara Hamilton, 2nd—Brenda Meeboer, 3rd—Elizabeth Sabo 2nd Flight: 1st—Wanda Liphard, 2nd—Sue Belli 3rd Flight: 1st—Lilli Keller, 2nd—Darlene Anderson 4th Flight: 1st—Beth Franz, 2nd—Sally Aberth, 3rd—Pat McNeil 5th Flight: 1st—Vicki Wilson, 2nd—Rae Grimmig, 2nd—Orean McCord Chip-ins—Hole #8—Sarah Breckenridge; Hole #16—Rosemary Monahan; Holes # 3, 11 & 17—Janet Kouris

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11U All-Stars take title, batting .500 in 3 games

The 11U Niceville Little League American All-Stars required just three games to win

the District 1 championship. In those three games, the All-Stars stroked 33 hits in 66 official at-bats, with home runs by Brady Smith, Christian Huff, Jacob Jenkins and Nick Hazama—two of which, Smith's and Huff's, were grand slams—resulting in a combined score of 46-0.

Their three pitchers, Huff, Logan Taylor and Brady Smith, allowed only two hits, with Taylor throwing a perfect four-inning game.

Members of the team were: Evan Etheridge, Brady Smith, Nick Hazama, Nathan Smith, Logan Taylor, Christian Huff, Cole Wilbourne, Will West III, Tyler Russell and Jacob Jenkins. The coaches were David Smith and Chandler Huff and manager was Bill West.



The Band of Oz will entertain at a charity event Aug. 14 to benefit the Children's Volunteer Health Network, Children in Crisis and the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation.

Band, buffet, auction to benefit 3 charities

The Band of Oz is coming to town. The Band of Oz is one of the most successful groups in the Southeast, and continues to receive top reviews from those in the entertainment business.

This dynamic eight-member group, known for its southern beach music, will headline the Endless Summer Fling on Saturday, Aug. 14, from 6-11 p.m. in the Magnolia Ballroom at the Village of Baytowne Wharf.

Tickets are \$75 and include entrance to the event, a buffet dinner and an opportunity to bid on items through both a silent and live auction.

Items include fresh water

pearls, Aveda spa packages, wine baskets, Sinfonia season tickets, original art work from celebrated local artists, trips and more.

All proceeds will benefit Children's Volunteer Health Network, Children in Crisis and the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation.

The Children's Volunteer Health Network facilitates the delivery of comprehensive, direct medical, dental and mental health services to schoolchildren whose family income falls below certain measures throughout Walton and Okaloosa counties and surrounding communities.

The Children in Crisis organization provides homes to abused,

neglected and abandoned children. Its Children's Neighborhood provides an emergency shelter for young children, and group foster homes help with the severe shortage of foster homes in our community.

The Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation provides residents and visitors to Destin with a permanent centralized location to participate in a variety of arts education and cultural opportunities for exhibits and performances by national, regional and local artists.

For more information or to make a reservation, call: 864-4242.

AmeriCorps seeks member volunteers

Conservation work needed by college

Northwest Florida State College AmeriCorps is recruiting member volunteers for two programs to begin Aug. 1. Both involve up to a one-year commitment, with quarter-time, half-time and full-time service hours available.

Member volunteers have the opportunity to earn a service allowance equal to minimum wage, along with benefits such as living allowance, health insurance, subsidized child care, loan deferment and an education award of as much as \$5,350.

NWF State College, in collaboration with, Tri-County Community Council, Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative (CHELCO) and Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of NWFSC (CBA) will implement two Green Teams. Green team 1 will address water conservation of the Choctawhatchee Bay. Green team 2 will target low-income families to begin energy efficiency programs. The project mission is to protect and improve the quality of life for families through education and training.

The emphasis will be on managing natural resources and protecting the natural



environment, with direct training in energy efficiency and water conservation measures. Green team 1 will primarily work with the CBA in its mission to sustain and provide optimum utilization of the Choctawhatchee Basin watershed. The CBA provides opportunities for citizens, educators, and technical experts to promote the health of the Choctawhatchee watershed. This program will require four full-time, 14 half-time and two quarter-time members.

The project will serve a two-district area. The larger district, Okaloosa County, has 22 elementary schools, 13 of which will host an AmeriCorps member to participate in the program. Walton

county School District has seven elementary schools, two of which have agreed to host an AmeriCorps member.

The program will address the school districts' Response to Instruction/Intervention Plan (RtI), with the goal of contributing to the improvement of instruction for students with disabilities and to the prevention of inappropriate identification of specific learning disabilities. RtI is defined as the change in behavior or performance as a function of an intervention (Gresham, 1991). The RtI model is a multi-tiered approach to providing high quality instruction and intervention matched to student needs, and using learning rate over time and level of performance to inform instructional decisions. RtI involves the systematic use of assessment data to most efficiently allocate resources in order to improve learning for all students. This program will require nine full-time and six half-time members.

Interested applicants may contact Laurie Von Kaenel at 729-6037 or pick up an application from any NWF State campus or JobsPlus One-Stop Center.

Senior League All-Stars to vie for berth in the World Series

The Senior League All-Star team has advanced to the 2010 Florida State Championship, to be played in Melbourne July 29 to Aug. 2, and is looking for a berth in the World Series to be held in Bangor, Me., in mid-August. If it wins the state championship, the team will move on to the Southeast Regional

Tournament the weekend of Aug. 6 in Viera, Fla., with the winner moving to the World Series in Maine the week of Aug. 15.

The goal of the organization is to provide an outlet of healthful activity and training under good leadership in the atmosphere of wholesome community participation and provide the opportunity for

young baseball and softball players to compete at the various levels of Little League baseball and softball. This is accomplished by teaching the value of teamwork, good sportsmanship and community involvement; emphasizing education and citizenship; and by providing fair instruction and competition.

Niceville-Valparaiso Little League has announced the coaching staff and players for the 2010 Senior League All-Star Team.

Charles Cawthon will manage and Fred Tarpley and Mike McDorman will coach the 16U Senior League All-Star team. The players are Mike Andrews, Brandon Bubel, Drew Cawthon, Cory Eller, Greg Friedman, Avery Hanchett, Derrick Lovelace, John McDorman, Kameron

Miller, Ryan Sheekley, Colt Tarpley, Taylor Woodard and Nick Wells.

Players will be out in the community seeking monetary donations to help defray the expenses of travel, hotels and meals.

To make a tax-deductible donation, send your check made payable to NVLL (Niceville-Valparaiso Little

League) to PO Box 764, Niceville, FL 32588. Mark Senior League All-Stars in the memo section of the check. To donate via credit card, go to NVLLB.net and click on the donate link on the right side of the home page.

For more information about NVLL Senior League All-Stars, call Joe Friedman, 865-2876.

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Museum seeks donations

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Ave., Old Valparaiso, is accepting donations for their Yard Sale Spectacular. This year's sale, scheduled for Aug. 28, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., will include furniture and antiques as well.

Eat for Little League

The Niceville Little League will receive 10 percent of all proceeds from Beef O Brady's restaurant Wednesday, July 21, to raise funds for state-bound all-star teams.

Info: Angela Marshall, catmag ic3@cox.net.

History Rocks programs

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida announces History Rocks programs.

Gadget Gurus (grades 1-5): Do you like to tinker with machines that clink and clank, levers that pull, bells that ring, cogs that grind, switches that turn on and off, wires that vibrate, dials that spin? Date: Wednesday, July 21, 9 a.m.-noon.



Cracker Shack (grades 1-5): Learn about different homes from Florida's past in this hands-on lesson in Panhandle architectural history, then build your own pioneer house the way Florida settlers did in the 1800s. Thursday, July 22, 1-3 p.m.

Time Travelers (grades 1-5): Decide what year and what place you would love to visit as a time traveler. Friday, July 23, 9 a.m.-noon.

The cost for each program is \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Space is limited. Pre-registration is

required. For reservations, call 678-2615.

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.

School donations needed

Opening day for Okaloosa County schools is Aug. 5. Sharing and Caring will collect school supplies during June and July for children whose families are challenged more than ever by the economy and job loss. Sharing and Caring seeks donations of supplies or cash for the Tools for School drive.

Donations can be brought to the Sharing and Caring Office at 104 Bullock Blvd., (across from Gulf



Power) Niceville, or pickup can be arranged. The office is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through

Thursday and 9 a.m. to noon Friday. The drive will end July 20, and supplies will be distributed to the students Saturday, July 31.

For more information, call Freida Spence or Susan Magerman at 678-8459.

TPO plans project meeting

The Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization will hold a public input meeting regarding Transportation Project Priorities at the Valparaiso City Commission Chambers, 465 Valparaiso Parkway, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 22.

Yard sale, lunch to go set

Parkway Veterinary Hospital, 1101 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, plans a yard sale and lunch to go Saturday, July 24, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken will be served from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

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. The Tea Party is a local group of



Yard sale, lunch for relay

Parkway Veterinary Hospital, 1101 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, plans a yard sale and lunch to go Saturday, July 24, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken will be served from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

concerned citizens with a goal of holding local and national politicians accountable and advocating for the U.S. Constitution at all levels of government. The next meeting will be held Monday, July 26, at Niceville City Hall. For more information call 729-2874 or visit emeraldcoastpatrols.org.

Double-handed regatta

The Bluewater Bay Sailing Club will hold its annual "Double-Handed Regatta" Saturday, July 24. There will be three fleets: Single Sex (Male), Single Sex (Female) and Mixed. At least three boats are required to establish a fleet.



Registration will be Friday, July 23, 6-7 p.m. with the captain's meeting at 7 p.m. Late registration will be 9-10 a.m. Saturday. The race will use a Bermuda start, with the first racer starting at approximately 10:30 a.m. Info: Neville Edenborough at 279-6050.

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: fbc-niceville.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 guide-

lines or special need criteria.

Fitness regime offered

If you're looking for a challenging workout or just want to become more physically fit, join the ROTC students at Northwest Florida State College for physical training this summer, and get into shape free of charge as the program opens its workout routine to the public. Youth and adults of any athletic ability, who are at least 16 years of age, are invited to join the students in the college's ROTC program for circuit training, upper body and abdominal training, cardio training, stretching, running and team sports every Monday through Aug. 19, 6-7 a.m. at the Niceville campus. Participants meet by the ROTC building at the west end of campus by the ball fields.

Info: Capt. David Avallone, 729-6022 or avallond@nwfsc.edu.

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.

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 Holzhauser 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

Please see CALENDAR, page B-7

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CALENDAR

From page B-6

Tree, an 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 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.



Grant writing instruction

The Niceville Public Library will host an "Introduction to Grant Writing," presented by Dr. Anne Holt on Saturday, July 24 in the Niceville Community Center, 204 N. Partin Drive, next door to the library, from 9 a.m.-noon.

The program will cover: Grant writing guidelines, model narrative budget, Florida funders list, writing dos and don'ts and tips on finding matching funds.

The cost is \$30 per person, payable at the door. Registration is required. Register at the Niceville Library Reference Desk or call 729-4090 or call Holt at 977-5110 or e-mail her at

ahholt@ahholt.com.

Trail Association to meet

The monthly meeting of the Florida Trail Association will take place Tuesday, July 27, 6 p.m., at Bayou Blues Restaurant, Niceville. Visitors welcome. Details: 682-6098 or choctaw.floridatrail.org.

Summer book discussion

The Friends of the Niceville Library will hold their third annual Summer Book Discussion Wednesday, July 28, 10 a.m. in the



library, discussing "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" by Jamie Ford. A limited supply of books will be available. Holds can be placed online, by e-mail or call the library at 729-4090.

Tai Chi events

Tai Chi Certification will take place Friday, July 30, 10 a.m., at the Emerald Coast Conference Center.

At 3 p.m., an AMAI spear seminar will be held.

On Saturday, July 31, an AMAI tournament will begin at 9 a.m., followed by an invitational tournament at 12:30 and black belt testing at 6.

Info: 862-5558.

Charity run/walk planned

Run for the Panhandle 5K Charity Run/Walk will be held Saturday, July 31, 7:30 a.m., with a kids fun run at 8:15 at the Fort Walton Beach Landing off Brooks Street. The event will benefit the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge's efforts to rescue, rehabilitate and release native wildlife. Register in person at TGI Fridays in Destin or download a registration form at runforthehandle.com. Entry fee is \$20 with a \$5 discount for students, military and service industry workers. Awards ceremony will be at 9 am at Helen Back on Okaloosa Island with a meet/greet with animal ambassadors from the wildlife refuge.

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Homes for Sale

Homes for Sale

BAYWALK REAL ESTATE, INC.
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SHORT SALE - 4/2.5, wraparound porch, large Separate Bonus Room-MUST SEE! Totally renovated with exception of bathrooms, Hardwood floors, Custom Cherry Cabinets in Kitchen, Granite, Double Oven. New Doors throughout. Home sits on 1/3 acre. Pool was installed 2007 featuring Endless Exercise Pool. Home located in BWB Gated Southwind Community. Sold AS IS with Right to Inspect. \$395,000

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 home, 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! \$169,000

EXQUISITE CUSTOM BUILT HOME in Magnolia Plantation Mediterranean Village with Crown Molding, Central Vacuum, Can Lighting, 14' Ceilings, Granite, Solid Wood Floors in Family and Dining Room with visqueen windows, Patio area and Fenced Back Yard, Beautifully landscaped, 3/2, Asking \$279,900.

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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Homes for Rent

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BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONER
The North Bay Fire Control District is currently accepting Letters of Intent for the position of Fire Commissioner. The requirements are: (1) be a Florida registered voter and (2) live within the jurisdiction of the North Bay Fire Control District. The North Bay Fire Control District is a Drug Free Workplace and an Equal Opportunity Employer. For more information, contact the Administration Office at (850) 897-3689. Please submit your Letter of Intent to the North Bay Fire Control District, 1024 White Point Road, Niceville, Florida 32578 by Monday, August 9, 2010.
All applicants must be present for consideration at the next Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 10, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., at the North Bay Fire Control District.

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- 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

RENTAL PROPERTIES
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- Unfurn., Condo, 2/2, FL Club, Pool\$950
- Unfurn., Condo, 2/2, Lakeside, renovated. \$1,100
- Waterfront Townhome, 3/2.5, Garage\$1,700

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| 385 Jasmine Avenue MLS#537250 \$449,900 2963 square feet | 620 Carr Drive MLS#527491 \$459,000 4135 square feet | 1107 Bayshore Drive MLS#536751 \$499,900 2750 square feet |
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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.)

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In the Service

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Michael Tyler Fails, a 2009 Niceville High School graduate, graduated from Great Lakes Naval Training Center July 1. He was a member of the 933 Division, which included a drill team, chorus and band. As a



Michael Tyler Fails

member of the drill team, he performed during the graduation ceremony. He will spend the next six months at Defense Language

Institute West Coast, Monterey, Calif., after which he will be stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

Fails is the son of Belinda and Bill McMillan of DeFuniak Springs and John Fails of Fort Walton Beach.

Steven W. Roberts, son of William and Gail Roberts of Niceville, enlisted in the Marine Corps Dec. 1 and completed

basic training at Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., Feb. 26.

Steven then completed a month of Military Combat



Steven W. Roberts

Training (MCT) at Camp Geiger, N.C., on April 6, with a follow-on for his Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) training at the Marine/Navy Intelligence School at Dam Neck, Va., graduating July 8. He now is assigned to the 3rd Force Recon, 4th Marine Division in Mobile, Ala.



Craftsmen sought

The 16th annual Oktoberfest and Arts & Crafts Festival at Winn-Dixie Plaza in Bluewater Bay is looking for artists and craftsmen interested in selling their work. The festival, sponsored by the Mid-Bay Rotary Club, will be held Friday, Sept. 24, from 5 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 25, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Cost for the two-day event is \$75.

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Dr. Thaddaeus Castaneda of Emerald Coast Family Medicine is a family physician providing peace of mind to a broad patient base of people on numerous medical issues. Finding the best family physician for your individual needs can be difficult, but Emerald Coast Family Medicine alleviates this challenge.

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sions. Family doctors like Dr. Castaneda are trained in all areas of medicine.

"Dr. C" offers diagnosis and treatment for a full range of conditions including, but not limited to, diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity, heart disease, asthma/emphysema/COPD, thyroid disorders, skin ailments, and mental health issues related to depression, anxiety or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Additionally, Dr. Castaneda offers school physicals, sports physicals, and immunizations for your children. Dr. Castaneda has practiced medicine for over 10 years and is well prepared to treat most common health concerns, and, when necessary, knows when to bring in another specialist you can trust.

According to Dr. Castaneda, "Even if you enjoy excellent health, you still need a family doctor. Family doctors are specially trained in preventive medicine. Preventing a health problem is better than having

to overcome one. We're here to help you make the right health choices necessary to keep you and your family healthy."

Dr. Castaneda is board certified to care for you through all the stages of your life. From newborn throughout the senior years, Dr. Castaneda thrives on old-fashioned family care: men or women, infants and children, to adolescents, adults and seniors.

Emerald Coast Family Medicine accepts most forms of insurance, including Tri-Care, and they will process the paperwork for you. Same-day appointments are available for acute care issues one might otherwise take to an emergency room. Dr. Castaneda makes house calls for "home-bound" seniors who can't make it to the office unassisted.

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