

The Bay Beacon

16 Pages, 2 Sections, 4 Inserts

Wednesday, August 4, 2010

50c

COMING UP

Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Join the **Choctawhatchee Audubon Society** for "Red Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) Ecology and Monitoring, Working to Recover an Endangered Species," with Kristina Witter, wildlife biologist, at **Northwest Florida State College Learning Resource Center**, Room 128. It's free.

Info: Gary Parsons 678-1461

Saturday, noon-2 p.m.

Niceville High School graduate **Blane Bachelor** will sign copies of her book, "On

Being a Bachelor; Thoughts on Dating, Mating and Relating," at Bayou Book Co., Oak Creek Shopping Center.



Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Niceville Curves, 1049 John Sims Pkwy E., Suite 2, Palm Plaza, will hold a **dog wash** for donations to benefit Making Strides against Breast Cancer.

Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon



The **Sand Dunes Chapter of Embroiderers' Guild of America's** annual August membership coffee at First United Methodist Church, Niceville, will include the 2010-11 program will be presented and snacks will be served. Visitors are welcome; park in lot A and enter near the playground.

Calendar, B-4.

Schools, students set for early start

Okaloosa schools open Aug. 5; Walton, Rocky Bayou Aug. 12

By **Thomas Monigan**
Beacon Staff Writer

Almost any youngster will tell you straight out: summer vacation simply ends too soon. But this year, many kids in Okaloosa County can make a better argument.

That's because



Mike Fantaski

the Okaloosa School District decided on Aug. 5 as opening day for the 2010-2011 academic year. That's Thursday.

"It's a madhouse," principal Mike Fantaski said at Lewis School as the final days of July melted away last week.

Although Okaloosa's public schools start their fall term Aug. 5, Walton

County's schools (which include Freeport) begin a week later on Aug. 12. Rocky Bayou Christian School in Niceville starts Aug. 12. Meanwhile, the Collegiate High School at Northwest Florida State College in Niceville starts Aug. 18.

Early starts are nothing new for Okaloosa schools. In 2004 the first day of classes was Aug. 5.

Please see **SCHOOLS**, page A-10



For the third consecutive year **Niceville High School**, costumed "teams" of rising sophomores, juniors and seniors welcomed incoming freshmen to three days of orientation.

Beacon photo by Thomas Monigan

Saddle up for a cause

By **Del Lessard**
Beacon Staff Writer

Mallory Hasty's smile could light up even the darkest heart as the 21-year-old Silver Sands student rode tall in the saddle while three volunteers trotted alongside her horse in the arena of Oak Heaven stables in Seminole.

Grace Rides, a therapeutic riding center for children with special needs, is located at Oak Heaven, a 2-acre site on Hickory Street.

"When Mallory first started she was unable to touch or look at the horse," said Bonnie Blackmon, a Choctaw Beach resident and certified NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Association) at Grace Rides. "It was overwhelming at first (to Mallory, who is autistic)," said the trainer. She started by having Mallory lead smaller horses around the arena like a dog, then gradually introduced her to riding, Blackmon said.

Please see **SADDLE**, page A-4



Beacon photos by Del Lessard
Autistic Mallory Hasty was unable to touch or even look at the horse the first time she visited **Grace Rides** stable, says trainer **Bonnie Blackmon**. Today Mallory laughs when she is rewarded with a trot for following vocal riding instructions.



Nine-year-old Bluewater Elementary fourth-grader Ali Turner grooms and cares for "Gambit," one of nine horses used in the animal-based therapy provided at **Grace Rides**.

Early voting starts Monday

By **Del Lessard**
Beacon Staff Writer

On Monday all Okaloosa County registered voters will be able to cast ballots as early voting on the Aug. 24 primary begins at three locations.

All registered voters will have the opportunity to vote on a referendum on a 10-year, half-cent sales tax surcharge proposed by the school board to finance renovation and remodeling and to improve facilities at aging district schools. Every registered voter in the county will also be able to cast ballots to fill three non-partisan jobs—the district 3 and 5 seats on the Okaloosa School Board and a new circuit judgeship to fill a newly created position in the 1st Judicial Circuit.

With only two candidates in each of the school board races,

whichever candidate gets a majority at the end of the Aug. 24 voting period will win the office. In the judgeship race, there are six candidates and it is highly probable that none will achieve the required 50 percent plus one vote to win the office outright. In that case, the top two vote-getters will appear on the Nov. 2 General Election ballot, according to Paul Lux, Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections.

For registered Republican and Democratic voters, the Aug. 24 primary ballot provides the opportunity to pick their party's nominee in a number of national, state and county races. In each of those partisan races, the winner of the primary will appear on the Nov. 2 General Election ballot as

Please see **VOTING**, page A-9

Commissioners hold line on tax

By **Mike Griffith**
Beacon Correspondent

The Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) July 27 agreed to tentatively set Fiscal Year 2011 property tax rates at the same level as this year.

Because lower state revenues are expected this year, the county could be looking to trim as many as two dozen employees.

Okaloosa County's 2011 millage rate is set, tentatively, at 3.2899, the same rate as this year. The fiscal year for 2011 runs from Oct. 1, 2010, through Sept. 30, 2011.

At the current millage rate, property owners pay almost \$3.29 in ad valorem property tax for every \$1,000 of appraised, taxable value of their property.

For example, the owner of a home appraised at \$200,000 after Florida homestead exemption and other discounts would pay \$657.98 in property tax to the county, in addition to other property taxes for the Okaloosa School District, independent fire districts, municipal services benefit units, and other property taxes collected by the county on behalf of such special districts.

Okaloosa County will continue to charge residents who live outside the boundaries of a city an additional property tax of 0.18 mills to pay for county parks and recreation facilities.

In addition to county property taxes, county residents may also pay property taxes to the

Please see **TAX**, page A-9

Air Force limits Eglin AFB to 59 F-35s



Maj. Gen. Charles Davis discusses the Air Force's decision to base only 59 Joint Strike Fighters at Eglin.

By **Del Lessard**
Staff Writer

Eglin will get 59 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters—but no more.

That was part of the message Maj. Gen. Charles Davis had for local officials, then media, last week. He said the Air Force's preferred alternative (Alt. 1A) for basing the 59 F-35 aircraft at Eglin AFB main base has been approved by Air Force leaders. About half of flight operations from Eglin will be conducted at Duke and Choctaw fields.

"The Air Force has completed its initial analysis of a full range of alternatives and determined that basing 59 F-35s at Eglin main base is the preferred alternative," said Kathleen Ferguson, Air Force deputy assistant secretary for installations. "This is not a final basing decision; it is the alternative we believe will fulfill our mission responsibilities while considering economic, environ-

mental, and technical factors. The community will be invited to comment on the alternatives presented in the SEIS."

This decision, approved by the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force, supports the recommendation of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure commission to establish the F-35 Initial Joint Training Center at Eglin.

In February 2009 Ferguson signed an initial Record of Decision (ROD) to assign 59 F-35 JSF aircraft and the Initial Joint Training Center for the aircraft, at Eglin. Last year's ROD also stated that the Air Force would conduct a supplemental environmental study before deciding where to beddown the additional 48 JSF aircraft authorized by BRAC, and would study additional ways to minimize the serious impact of jet noise on Eglin and the surrounding com-



The **F-35 Joint Strike Fighter**.

munity.

Davis said that the remainder of the potential 107 aircraft that Eglin might have received under the 2005 Base Realignment and Consolidation decision will go to another base.

On July 29 the Department of the Air Force announced that

Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., was the preferred alternative for additional Air Force F-35 training, while Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and Burlington Air Guard Station, Vt., were preferred alternatives for F-35 operations. The current

Please see **F-35s**, page A-6



Beacon photo by Del Lessard
Firemen, wearing breathing apparatus, approach the door of the burning mobile home on Reeves Street Friday.

Fire does \$30k damage; destroys mobile home

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

An elderly Niceville couple lost their home Friday to fire caused by smoking in bed. Niceville firefighters received the alarm at 10:37 a.m. July 30 and were on scene four minutes later to a partially involved trailer home, 304 Reeves St., Lot B-19, Niceville, according to Fire Chief Tommy Mayville. Ten minutes later firefighters from Niceville and East

Niceville fire departments had the flames in a bedroom of the home knocked down, he said. The owner/occupants of the home, Vance L. Ervin, 77, and his wife, Sandra, were exiting the home as firefighters arrived, he said. Mr. Ervin had first-degree burns to his face while his wife suffered from smoke inhalation, Mayville said. They were treated on scene for their injuries, he said. The home, which suffered an

estimated \$30,000 damage, was destroyed, Mayville said. The Red Cross was helping the couple find another home, he said. Smoking in bed caused an oxygen line in the bedroom to ignite the bed, Mayville said. Because of the extreme heat—it was 107 degrees in the shade, according to Mayville—firefighters from Niceville, East Niceville, North Bay, Eglin Air Force Base and Valparaiso were called to the scene.

Sheriff candidates make their pitches

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Candidates at a Niceville forum July 20 for Okaloosa County Sheriff seemed divided into two camps; two who already serve in the Sheriff's Office, and four who do not.

Each of those who do not—Steve Menchel, Ron Livingston, Bill Patterson, and Tony Taylor—stressed the need for integrity and new leadership to sweep away the last traces of corruption that may linger after the administration of disgraced Sheriff Charlie Morris.

Morris was convicted on federal corruption charges related to a scheme to give thousands of tax dollars in fake performance bonuses to selected cronies within the Sheriff's Office. He then took kickbacks from them, which he allegedly spent on Las Vegas gambling trips and other personal uses.

The two current OCSO employees—Larry Ashley, the major who originally informed the FBI about Morris' activities and who is now chief deputy under Interim Sheriff Ed Spooner, and Rick Hord, a patrol sergeant who has also previously served as the OCSO public affairs spokesman—emphasized their efforts to bring modern and efficient methods to the Sheriff's Office, while emphasizing that they were not personally involved in any of Morris' illegal acts.

Each candidate cited his past experience, as each has served in senior leadership positions in law enforcement agencies. The candidates also agreed that with declining revenue expected in the coming year, budgets will have to be tightened.

Ashley emphasized the progress he has already made in earning accreditation for the OCSO, and his efforts to ensure sound management and integrity in the sheriff's office.

Hord said he wants to be a role model for other deputies and to



Larry Ashley Rick Hord Ron Livingston Steven Menchel

“help people on the worst days of their lives.”

Livingston, a former Florida Highway Patrol supervisor, said he plans to streamline management of the OCSO and eliminate waste in such areas as vehicles and performance bonuses for OCSO personnel.

Menchel, a former senior manager in the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Customs, and the Department of Homeland Security, stressed his management and budgeting experience.

Patterson, a former Air Force member and Fort Walton Beach police officer, promised to “end the legacy of Charlie Morris” by bringing “trust, openness and transparency” to the OCSO.

Taylor stressed his 30 years experience with the Fort Walton police department.

Menchel said he was disturbed by recently released depositions of high ranking Sheriff's Office officials. “In 38 years I've never seen such mismanagement,” he said.

Patterson also promised a housecleaning of Sheriff's Office ranks, saying, “I'm going to bring in a new staff, I'll tell you right now.”

Livingston implied that he thinks corruption may still be in the Sheriff's Office.

“Why are there still people working at the Sheriff's Office that took bonuses and made kickbacks?” he said.

Patterson said recent news articles about as-yet-uncharged employees who may have taken bonuses or given kickbacks “opened my eyes.”

“We have to do better,”

“Things inside the Sheriff's Office still need to be taken care of.”

The one new candidate who did not vow to continue searching for corruption within the OCSO was Tony Taylor, although he did promise to make the budgeting process “more transparent,” and said he had gone out of his way to ensure that as a Fort Walton Beach police captain, he is not restricted by the Hatch Act, a federal law that regulates government officials participation in elective politics.

“We would not be having this special election today if it had not been for the people of the Sheriff's Office who stepped forward, and took personal risks and did what they had to do,” Ashley said.

Ashley said he was only one of several majors within the OCSO when he reported his concerns about Morris to the FBI, and has since been promoted to chief deputy by Spooner. He also cited his successes in earning accreditation for the OCSO.

Hord said one reason he now works as a patrol sergeant rather than as public spokesman may have been that Morris feared having an honest, knowledgeable officer that close to his inner circle.

Patterson said. “Things inside the Sheriff's Office still need to be taken care of.”

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“We would not be having this special election today if it had not been for the people of the Sheriff's Office who stepped forward, and took personal risks and did what they had to do,” Ashley said.



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Gaetzes denounce Tallahassee bureaucracy

Rip many legislative bills as 'stupid'

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Fighting against bureaucracy and over-regulation by an ever-growing government are top priorities for Sen. Don and Rep. Matt Gaetz, said the Republican father-and-son members of Northwest Florida's state legislative delegation Monday night, as they spoke to the Silver Sands Republican Women, Federated, at the Bluewater Bay golf clubhouse.

As an example of typical governmental excess, Rep. Matt Gaetz of Fort Walton Beach described what happens to a bird covered with oil from the BP

disaster if it is found along a Northwest Florida beach.

"You would think that the bird would be taken to a local wildlife refuge and washed," said Matt, "but that's not what happens under the current system. First, the bird must be reported to the 'oiled bird hotline,' operated by a government-approved contractor. Then, a 'capture team' of other government contractors locates and captures the bird, but they're not allowed to move it. That must be done by a 'transport team'—more contractors—who take it to a processing center in Pensacola, where it is 'stabilized' by another team who prepare it to be washed. Then, they turn it over to a 'wash team' that actually washes the bird, and then the whole process is repeated as the bird is taken to a clean beach to be released."

At any given time, said Matt, "Dozens of birds are being driven back and forth on Interstate 10, at your expense, to comply with the bureaucracy's rules." Many such birds, he added, die of hypothermia along the way. He said he and his father have tried to persuade state and federal officials to handle the birds in a simpler, more efficient manner, but thus far to no avail.

Sen. Don Gaetz described some of the work he and Matt have been doing in the Florida Legislature.

"About 3,000 bills are presented to the Senate each year, of which only about 260 actually pass, and a similar number

are presented to the House," he said. "Frankly, most of them are terribly stupid ideas."

As a committee chairman, said the senator, an important part of his job is to kill the stupidest bills before they reach the senate floor for a vote.

"For example, I recently got a bill to levy a tax on 'live births' that occur anywhere in the State of Florida," Don said. "Why in the world should we tax babies for being born? I buried that bill as deeply as I could."

There was also a proposal to tax drinking water, and another to tax bottled water, he said. The rationale for that one, he said, was that since plastic water bottles are made from oil, taxing them would discourage people from buying bottled water and reduce dependence on foreign oil.

Some good bills fail to become law, Don Gaetz said, such as a recent attempt to repeal the state's recent doubling of driver's license and vehicle registration fees. He added, however, that he expects that bill to be re-introduced during the next legislative session.

Another bad bill, said Matt Gaetz, was a proposal to raise the cost of electricity by 25 cents per kilowatt hour, in order to raise revenue to subsidize



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Don, left, and Matt Gaetz speak informally with the members of the Silver Sands Republican Women Monday.

development of solar and wind energy. Alternative energy, he said, should be promoted by "cutting red tape and offering tax credits to alternative energy producers."

A good bill that passed, said Matt, was HB-105/SB 1096—the "Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Education Act," which requires all Florida middle school students to complete a semester of civics education, to help them understand the

American system of government.

Both men said they support the proposed "Right Size" amendment to the Florida Constitution's class size amendment, which would allow

schools to use their average class size to determine how many teachers and classrooms they need, rather than having to split a class every time a new student is admitted who pushes that class over current limits.

Valp. loses legal battle over rep

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

An Okaloosa County judge last week had harsh words for the city of Valparaiso, saying its attempt to replace a member of the Okaloosa Gas Board with a sitting city commissioner undermines the public's trust.

Okaloosa Gas Board Chairman Charles Reid and Valparaiso filed counter motions in court about a month ago over who was the city's legal representative on the Gas Board. Reid has been the city's representative on the Okaloosa Gas Board since 2003, but was notified in May that he had been fired by the city commission and would be replaced by City Commissioner Heyward Strong. Reid, who was twice appointed by the commission, refused to step down until his current four-year term ended in March 2011.

Okaloosa County Judge Patricia S. Grinsted handed down an order dated July 26: "Reid is temporarily and immediately reinstated as the City's legal representative to the Gas District Board, and the City of Valparaiso is temporarily enjoined from removing or replacing Reid as its representative to the District Gas Board prior to the end of his present term in March, 2011."

Grinsted also denied the city's request for temporary injunctive relief.

The judge called passage of city ordinance 599 "an illegal attempt on the part of the city to circumvent the requirements of state law, common-law and public policy." The May 2010 ordinance said the city's appointed representative to the gas board had to be an elected city commissioner.

The judge in the 17-page order also said the city's attempt to remove Reid from the gas board did not follow due process.

On Monday the city commission voted 4-0 to drop its lawsuit and settle with Reid.

The Okaloosa Gas Board is set to meet Aug. 4, at 5:30 p.m. At the previous board meeting, June 23, both Reid and Strong sat at the table, each claiming he was the legal board member representing Valparaiso.

The Bay Beacon & Beacon Express

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SADDLE

From page A-1

"She's responding a little more to instruction when riding," said Mallory's mother, Julieene. "She likes the motion. It's good for her physically too, helping her stand up. She loves coming here."

Grace Rides was started by Sherry Hall, a Bluewater Bay mother who gave up her career as an attorney to set up and run the 501-C-3 charity. Hall said many autistic individuals respond positively to instruction when experiencing the motion of large animals. She and her husband, Steve, bought the 2-acre riding stables in 2003, and last year re-missioned the stable to helping handicapped children. The idea originated with volunteers who ran a similar program in Baker between 1996-2006, Sherry said.

The Niceville couple opened Grace Rides in May 2009, and already have 25 special needs children as regular riders and a wait-

ing list of more than 200. Now, Hall is seeking a \$50,000 grant from Pepsi to expand the program. The grant is being distributed based on a community-votes type online contest running through Aug. 31, and Hall hopes to enlist local support.

"Go to refresheverything.com every day through Aug. 31 and vote for the kids at GRACE to receive a \$50,000 grant. The program with the most votes wins," said Sherry Hall. The contest allow everyone to vote once each day.

Click on the Gulf Project "browse and vote" icon and type "Grace" in the search field.

"Riding opens up a new world of experiences to people of all ages," Sherry Hall says on her website, gracerides.com, where more information on the Niceville program is available. "It is a great vehicle for encouraging otherwise boring things like exercise and rehab 'work' because we all have such a great time together around

the horses. Our 'equine volunteers' are the unique facilitators of this therapy, and our volunteers help each person feel special, important and valued."

Although Grace-full rider Alexis Welsh, 12, has a genetic disability—CHARGE syndrome—that has caused her a number of physical problems, she seemed at ease atop a horse last week.

"It's been great for her, both mentally and physically," says her Air Force dad, Lt. Col. Sean Welsh, of Eglin. His daughter, he said, got "a sense of accomplishment maneuvering these large animals around," and also "improved her physical core strength and balance."

Alexis finished at Edge Elementary earlier this year and will enter sixth grade at Ruckel Middle School this week. "She's really smart," said her dad.

Blackmon said that many special needs children respond to the trot and are able to come out and

control the large animals.

"We call it 'driving' around here," she said about her clients riding horses. "One girl is working on her 'learning permit,'" she said about the pre-ride introduction to horses that special needs children go through before they finally win the right to "drive" a horse. "You never know what that might instill," she said. Riders are also taught to care for the animals' grooming.

Ensuring each child gets an individual lesson plan before they begin, Laura Howell, an occupational therapist at Eglin Hospital, has been working with Grace Rides for slightly more than a year. As a consultant she suggests compensations, adaptive equipment or positioning to assist each rider achieve specific goals.

While Sherry Hall would like to use the Pepsi grant money to lease an additional 2-acre plot down the street, expansion of

Please see CAUSE, page A-6



Beacon photo by Del Lessard Although Grace-full Rider Alexis Welsh, 12, has a number of physical problems, she seemed at ease atop a horse last week.

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The Inquiring Photographer —Mike Griffith

What do you think about the Air Force's decision to base 59 F-35 fighters at Eglin Air Force Base, rather than 107 planes as originally planned?

Location:
Lincoln Park



"Forget the noise! We need the economic stimulus."

Joe Natale, 33, Miramar, sales



"I think it's good. Bring them all."

Jompord Kosidsuriyadhakul, 48, Pensacola, restaurant worker



"Anything that boosts the local or national economy is a contribution."

Travis Wilburn, 21, Freeport, golf cart attendant



"It looks like a compromise was reached between the economy, the environment, and the needs of the military."

Lisa Somerville, 38, Dothan, Alabama, registered nurse



"If people really want to complain about jet noise, they should visit Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia."

Matthew Malone, 30, Niceville, U.S. Navy



"I'm very glad to see the 59 planes, but we really won't know the impact until they're here. I don't know how to compare the economic or environmental impact of 59 versus 107 planes. I strongly support the Air Force's decision to bring the aircraft here in the first place."

Frank Meader, 47, Niceville, office manager

F-35s

From page A-1

scope of the basing actions includes 250 to 300 F-35 aircraft, the Air Force announcement said.

Davis said the primary reason for the decision to limit the number of F-35s to 59 was not noise but lack of airspace to do the JSF training mission and others. There's a growing need for airspace use by other Eglin-based units, he said, including the Air

Force Special Operations Command, the Army's 7th Special Forces Group, the 46th Test Wing and 53rd Wing, and commercial aviation. Air Force leaders have become increasingly aware of other mission demands on airspace ever since the 2005 BRAC announcement that as many as 107 F-35 would operate at Eglin's initial joint training center. In fact an airspace working group known as Gulf Regional Airspace Strategic Initiative (GRASI)—has been

working the issue since BRAC 2005.

All 59 of the F-35s will be based at the Eglin main base but will fly many of their missions at other military airfields, Davis said, including Duke Field, Choctaw Field, on the Eglin reservation, but also Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City and Pensacola Naval Air Station in Pensacola.

"Further, this alternative minimizes operations, to the maximum extent practicable, to

reduce noise impacts on the surrounding communities," Ferguson said.

Temporary restrictions limiting F-35 use of Eglin's north-south runway 1/9, are just that, temporary, Davis said. The limitations were announced in the Feb. 5, 2009, ROD to minimize high levels of noise F-35 operations were projected to unleash on surrounding communities, especially Valparaiso, and to a smaller extent, Niceville. However, Davis said realistic-

ly, F-35 pilot training could not be effective without using the base north-south runway, including for pilot instrument training.

Davis said last week's briefing to community leaders and the media was part of a multi-step process leading up to the SEIS and the full beddown of the F-35s. Eglin will be home to three squadrons of F-35s, one each from the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps. Each service will use a different variant of the plane. The general added that the

maintenance training for all three services, and foreign allies, will take place at Eglin.

The first F-35s assigned to Eglin won't be here before November, Davis said. The aircraft are built, he said, but are being used in testing to "expand the envelope" for use in pilot training here at Eglin.

The second ROD on the F-35 beddown is anticipated to be announced in spring 2011 following the completion of the final SEIS, Ferguson said.

CAUSE

From page A-4

Grace Rides is also dependent on suitable horses and volunteers—lots of volunteers. Each handicapped rider has three or more volunteers walking alongside the horse, Hall said.

Taylor Adams, 18, a Niceville High School senior, shares her love of horses by volunteering at Grace Rides since March. As she led riders and horses around obstacles in the arena Taylor

showed a patience and love for special needs riders that most people expect only with more mature adults. Even younger volunteers like Howell's 10-year-old daughter Ashleigh help out with such non-riding tasks as mucking the stalls and taking care of the equipment.

"Three of the Grace-full Riders are in wheelchairs," said Steve Hall as he pointed to a special mounting ramp that accommodates wheelchairs and younger riders. All the special needs riders get to participate in horse shows in

Baker two to four times a year, said Hall, and everyone gets to win a ribbon or other prize. He says he'd like to eventually expand the horse-based therapy to disabled veterans through a VA program known as "Horses for Heroes."

Although Sherry Hall gave up practicing law to found and run Grace Rides, where she draws no salary, she says, "This is much more fulfilling. There's no financial benefit but a much higher benefit when you see the kids."

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Fire Department Reports Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from July 26 through August 1.

1 Structure Fire	12 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	3 Vehicle Crash
1 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	3 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	1 Hazardous Conditions

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Coral Drive	Medical	7/26/10	10:29
Bayshore Drive	False Call	7/26/10	16:04
Azalea Drive	Medical	7/26/10	17:15
SR285 at MM#6	Brush Fire	7/27/10	13:17
Yacht Club Drive	Dispatch/Canceled	7/27/10	15:45
S. Palm Boulevard	Vehicle Crash	7/27/10	16:55
Reeves Street	Medical	7/27/10	18:47
N. Partin Drive	Medical	7/27/10	21:29
Scott St/Finck Road	Vehicle Crash	7/28/10	02:19
N. Partin Drive	Medical	7/29/10	20:45
N. Partin Drive	Medical	7/29/10	22:58
SR85N at MM#17	Vehicle Crash	7/30/10	03:39
Reeves Street	Structure Fire	7/30/10	10:35
Kildare Circle	Natural Gas Leak	7/30/10	17:20
Coral Drive	Medical	7/31/10	04:28
Teresa Court	Medical	7/31/10	08:16
SR285 at MM #2	Dispatch/Canceled	7/31/10	12:56
Kelly Road	Medical	7/31/10	17:43
Parker Drive	Medical	8/01/10	00:49
Reeves Street	Medical	8/01/10	07:11
Reeves Street	Medical	8/01/10	15:57

Weekly Safety Tip: Never put synthetic fabrics, plastic, rubber or foam in the dryer because they can retain heat. Clean the lint screen before and after use. Dryers must be vented to the outside and plugged into its own outlet. Never leave home with the dryer running. Web Page: <http://www.cityofniceville.org/fire.html>

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls July 26 through August 2.

Location	Situation	Date	Time
Chantilly Circle	Assist invalid	7/26/10	00:44
Chantilly Circle	Public service assistance	7/26/10	10:50
Nassau Drive	EMS excluding vehicle	7/26/10	11:05
Chantilly Circle	Medical assist EMS	7/26/10	12:00
East Highway 20	Person in distress	7/26/10	14:43
Bayshore Drive	Dispatched canceled	7/26/10	16:06
Chantilly Circle	EMS excluding vehicle	7/26/10	17:03
White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	7/27/10	02:00
North White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	7/27/10	09:54
North White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	7/27/10	16:45
North White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	7/28/10	11:15
North White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	7/28/10	12:14
Ridgewood Way	Alarm activation	7/28/10	14:02
Brookhaven Way and White Point	Motor vehicle/pedestrian	7/28/10	22:18
North White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	7/29/10	00:14
Westlake Court	CO detector activation	7/29/10	01:42
Muirfield Way	EMS excluding vehicle	7/29/10	13:30
White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	7/29/10	15:01
Reeves Street	Building fire	7/30/10	10:35
Live Oak Street	EMS excluding vehicle	7/30/10	15:13
Scenic Highway 98	Dispatched canceled	7/31/10	19:56
Bluewater Boulevard	Motor vehicle accident	8/1/10	05:51
Blue Pine Lane	EMS excluding vehicle	8/1/10	16:32
Marina Cove Drive	EMS excluding vehicle	8/2/10	06:05

Visit northbayfd.org for greater detail of incidents.

Valparaiso

The Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department responded to the following calls during the month of July.

Location	Situation	Date	Time
Washington Avenue	Fire Alarm	7/03/10	03:11
Government Avenue	Fire Alarm	7/03/10	16:44
Edwards Circle	Fall	7/05/10	19:33
South Bayshore Drive	Fall	7/06/10	03:15
Okaloosa Avenue	Fall	7/08/10	20:28
Okaloosa Avenue	Law Enforcement Matter	7/10/10	21:37
South John Sims Parkway	Fire Alarm	7/11/10	00:40
Glendale Avenue	Breathing Problem	7/11/10	21:14
Johnson Street	Chest Pain	7/11/10	22:29
North John Sims Parkway	Assault	7/13/10	18:56
Glen Avenue	Overdose/Poisoning	7/13/10	22:41
West College Boulevard	Motor Vehicle Accident	7/14/10	13:10
Hidden Cove Circle	Chest Pain	7/17/10	13:26
Glenview Avenue	Structure Fire	7/19/10	12:11
North John Sims Parkway	Unconscious	7/20/10	08:57
Chicago Avenue	Unconscious	7/20/10	14:12
Columbus Avenue	Assault	7/21/10	05:31
Safe Harbor	Unconscious	7/21/10	14:18
Chicago Avenue	Exterior HazMat	7/23/10	09:37
Valparaiso Parkway	Fire Alarm	7/23/10	16:25
Highland Street	Fire Alarm	7/24/10	00:04
Edge Avenue	CVA/Stroke	7/25/10	23:39
Andrew Avenue	Unknown Problem	7/26/10	18:13
West John Sims Parkway	Sick Call	7/27/10	13:03
Washington Avenue	Breathing Problem	7/28/10	02:32
Washington Avenue	Childbirth	7/30/10	08:51
Reeves Street	Mutual Aid Structure Fire	7/30/10	10:35
North Bayshore Drive	Boating Accident	7/31/10	18:06
Saint Charles Avenue	Chest Pain	7/31/10	20:36

If medical oxygen is used in your home or business certain safety precautions are advised. Compressed oxygen accelerates fire! Exclude any spark or flame producing devices from the immediate area. Matches and lighters can become extremely dangerous and will burn with greater intensity. A cigarette will burn completely in just seconds given an oxygen enriched atmosphere. Call your Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department at 729-5410 if you have questions or concerns.

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

Bryan Lansing Burr, a boat technician, 31, of 495 Green Oak Lane, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 21 on a Louisiana warrant for violation of probation on the original charges of possession of Valium by fraud.

Carl Robert Newberry, 22, of 613 Bullock Blvd., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 22 on a petit theft charge. On March 26 Newberry allegedly admitted that while employed at Kmart he stole items over several months. The stolen items were valued in total at \$384.

Dennis Brennen Stubblefield, a carpet installer, 46, of 626 W. John Sims Parkway, Apt. 122, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 23 on charges of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Heather Michaelle Riedel, unemployed, 27, of 284 Montana Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by Niceville police July 22 on a petit theft charge. On June 4 Riedel allegedly snatched \$125 off the console of the victim's van and fled in her own vehicle at a high rate of speed.

Leroy Figures, 58, of 434 Valparaiso Parkway, Apt. 6, Valparaiso, was arrested by Valparaiso police July 22 on a misdemeanor charge of criminal mischief. On July 17 Figures is alleged to have punctured a vehicle tire of another motel resident.

Harley White IV, a screen printer, 28, of 1 Carolina Ave., Apt. 15, Valparaiso, was arrested by Valparaiso police July 27 on

the charge of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana.

Staci Marie Kucginski, a waitress, 30, of 1201 N. Bayshore Drive, Valparaiso, was arrested by Valparaiso police July 27 on a Walton County warrant for violation of probation charge on the original offense of grand theft.

Raymond Olivarez III, 26, of 46 Windfield St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 21 on a probation violation on the original charge of battery, three counts.

Stacey Rae Dent, 35, of 1405 Date Palm Circle, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 24 for failure to appear on the original charge of worthless check.

Joshua Paul Gifford Jr., 49, of 1100 Lake Way Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 26 on a probation violation on the original charges of altering a license plate or validation sticker, DUI and no valid driver's license.

April Diana Suchan, 35, of 150 John Sims Parkway, Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 28 on a charge of failure to appear on the original charge of grand theft.

Nicholas Adam Paschel, unemployed, 26, of 242 S. Hillside Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 27 on charges of petit theft and uttering a forged instrument.

Jamal Antwan Baez, 26, of

Please see BLOTTER, page A-8

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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

Name: Daniel Lee Carrigg
Wanted for: violation of probation on original charges of DUI, driving while license suspended or revoked, resisting without violence and possession of a controlled substance.
Height: 5-feet, 10-inches
Weight: 155 pounds
Age: 27
Date of birth: 09-03-82
Hair: brown
Eyes: hazel



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



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)

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BLOTTER

From page A-7

403 Niceville Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 26 on a probation violation on the original charge of tampering with evidence.

James Gregory Poddubny, a student, 18, of 133 Mulry Drive, Niceville, and Aaren Jeffrey Moore, 18, of 540 Wildflower Court, Niceville, were arrested by sheriff's deputies July 22 each charged with one count of possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana and three counts of possession of drug paraphernalia. Subsequent to a traffic stop for driving with no headlights, police allegedly saw a plastic baggie with a green leafy substance and a glass smoking device inside the pickup truck that Poddubny was driving with Moore as a passenger. Police found 23 grams of marijuana, a felony amount, and numerous items of paraphernalia inside the vehicle.

Angie Marie Fannine, 35, of 325 Parkwood Place, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 20 on a violation of probation charge on the original offense of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud, three counts.

Billy H. Dunn, 40, of 1341 Als Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on worthless check charges related to bad checks of \$180 and \$35.

Aric John Eckart, 30, of 4600 Range Road, Apt. 129, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 3 on a charge of child neglect without great harm.

DUI arrests

Alan Nathan Bear, 32, of 210 Pelham Road, Apt. 117-B, Fort Walton Beach, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI on John

Sims Parkway, July 20 at 2:36 a.m. Bear was also cited for speeding, 61 mph in a 35 mph zone.

Thefts

A Niceville resident reported that an unknown person used her credit card number to make an online purchase of \$157 July 12. Police advised the victim to report the fraud to the credit card company and cancel the card to prevent it from being used again.

A Niceville resident from the 200 block of Cedar Ridge Way reported July 23 that unknown person(s) stole a DVD from her unlocked car.

A Valparaiso business, 125 S. John Sims Parkway, reported that unknown person(s) stole a \$225 "no parking" sign from the rear of the business sometime July 19-21.

A cell phone owner reported the \$140 cell phone was stolen when someone inadvertently left it for about 30 minutes in a bathroom at a Valparaiso night club July 25.

A Niceville resident July 4 reported numerous fraudulent uses of her credit card between March 26 and June 17. The thefts, which occurred at multiple locations in Okaloosa County, amounted to about \$2,500.

An Alabama man reported that sometime July 21-22 someone stole a \$125 GPS unit from his vehicle while it was parked in the driveway of a relative's home in the 100 block of Bermuda Way, Niceville. There were no signs of forced entry.

A Niceville resident from the 800 block of Bay Drive, Niceville, reported that sometime July 21-22 unknown person(s) entered his unlocked pickup truck and stole a \$275 amplifier, a \$200 iPod, a \$150 speaker box, two

Niceville man injured in motorcycle crash

By Del Lessard
 Beacon Staff Writer

A Niceville man was injured in Bluewater Bay Sunday morning when he failed to negotiate a curve and was thrown from the motorcycle he was driving, according to a report from the Florida Highway Patrol.

Patrick R. McElhinney, 23, of Niceville, was flown to a Pensacola hospital with serious injuries, according to the FHP.

A report from the FHP gave the following account:

McElhinney was driving a 1997 Kawasaki motorcycle northbound on Bluewater Boulevard, near Parkwood Court, when he failed to negotiate a level curve to the right about 5:53 a.m., Aug. 1. The left side of the motor-

cycle collided with a curb on the median side of the roadway, and the vehicle traveled about 65 feet along the curb until its left side hit a tree that was approximately three feet west of the roadway. McElhinney was ejected from the bike and came to rest by the tree, while the motorcycle continued north in the median then came to rest on its right side facing west. Damage to the motorcycle was estimated at \$6,000.

McElhinney was wearing a helmet, according to the FHP, and alcohol was not a factor in the crash.

As of Monday Court, when he failed to negotiate a level curve to the right about 5:53 a.m., Aug. 1, a hospital spokesman said.

\$100 woofers and a \$30 iPod charger.

A Niceville resident from the 600 block of Caribbean Way reported that sometime July 21-22 unknown person(s) entered his vehicle and stole a \$35 phone charger. A neighbor, also in the 600 block of Caribbean Way, reported that during the same time period unknown person(s) stole a \$650 speaker box and a \$175 pair of sunglasses from his unlocked vehicle.

A Niceville woman who left her wallet in a shopping cart at Winn-Dixie July 5 in order to help a stranger who requested assistance finding dog food got a fraud notification from one of her credit card companies that an unsuccessful attempt had been made to use one of her credit cards in Pensacola. The woman, who thought she had misplaced her wallet at home, lost \$30 cash in the wallet plus at least eight credit cards that she had to cancel and get new accounts issued.

An out-of-state man vacationing at a residence in the 4400 block of Turnberry Place, Niceville, reported that after the residence was left vacant three days he returned July 3 and found the rear door kicked in, a room rummaged through, but nothing missing. Damage to the door and door frame was estimated at \$250.

A man who left his wallet in a golf cart July 3, called the golf course the next day and learned that an employee had found the wallet, that it contained \$800 and was placed in a safe at the clubhouse, 600 Golf Course Drive, Niceville. When the owner went to pick up his property July 4 there was only \$200 left in the wallet.

Criminal Mischief

The manager of an apartment complex, 500 Kelly Mill Road,

Valparaiso, reported June 18 that tenants evicted from one of the units caused an estimated \$2,800 damage to the apartment.

On July 19 a window on a classroom door was found broken at Rocky Bayou Christian School, 2101 N. Partin Drive.

A Niceville resident from the 1100 block of Muirfield Drive reported that sometime July 5-6 vandals damaged his mailbox by placing a bag containing animal waste inside and lighting the bag on fire. Damage was estimated at \$30.

A Niceville resident from the 4200 block of Shadow Lane reported that sometime July 5-6 unknown person(s) removed a cover from his 2004 Corvette and tried to pry open the driver's door, prying the front of the driver's door away from the frame and breaking the outside rear view mirror. The front of the fiberglass shell also broke loose from the frame where it had been pried. The owner entered from the passenger side but nothing appeared to be missing from inside the vehicle. It is not clear whether the burglar(s) were able to gain entry. Damage was estimated at \$3,000.

A Niceville resident from the 1600 block of Raccoon Trail reported that unknown person(s) blew up his mail box sometime July 4-5. Remnants of a large rocket, the cardboard tube, plastic cap and some of the wrapping paper was found inside the remains of the mailbox. Damage was estimated at \$50.

A Niceville resident from the 400 block of North Palm Boulevard reported someone keyed her vehicle and cut a tire, sometime June 23-24. The victim later signed a "drop charges" form, stating she believed the perpetrator would pay the damages.

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VOTING

From page A-1

his party's nominee. Republicans will cast ballots to help choose their party's nominee for: —U.S. Senate. —Governor. —Florida State Attorney. —Okaloosa County Sheriff. —Two Okaloosa County Commissioner seats; districts 2 and 4. In selected precincts, Republicans will also choose their

party candidates for U.S. Congress, District 2, and for State Senate District 2 and State District 1. Registered Democratic voters will get to help decide their party's choice for: —U.S. Senate. —Governor. —Florida Attorney General. All registered voters in Okaloosa County can begin voting early from Monday, Aug. 9, through Saturday, Aug. 21. The three early voting sites are: —University of Florida

Research & Engineering Education Facility (REEF), 1350 N. Poquito Road, Shalimar. —Robert L.F. Sikes— Crestview Public Library, 1445 Commerce Drive, Crestview. —Supervisor of Elections office, 302 Wilson St. North, Ste. 102, Crestview. Early voting hours at all three locations are: —Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.—6 p.m. —Wednesday and Saturday, 7 a.m.—3 p.m. Voters can also request absen-

tee ballots by telephone, mail, website/e-mail, fax or by visiting the Supervisor of Elections office in person. Absentee ballots are available for pickup at the Supervisor of Elections offices in Fort Walton Beach and Crestview. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Supervisor of Elections office by 7 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted. Precinct polling places will be open Aug. 24, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., to those voters who do not cast early or absentee ballots.

TAX

From page A-1

Okaloosa School District, independent fire districts, and other government entities. Although the millage rate may stay the same, it will produce less revenue than in the current year, according to an initial budget proposal given to the BCC by County Administrator Jim Curry earlier this year. Property values throughout the county have declined during the past year, as they have throughout the United States during the current economic recession.

along with some other budget cuts, thus saving about \$300,000. Construction of the new judicial center at the Northwest Florida Fairgrounds in Fort Walton Beach will continue, as that project is already under way. The BCC also plans to cut funding for the Okaloosa County Library Cooperative, Bridgeway Center, Shelter House, the Okaloosa Island Fire District, and the county's Head Start program, among other cuts. Commissioner John Jannazo told the Beacon that he thinks the

budget process is going well. Despite cuts, he said, the county will still be able to provide essential services in the coming year, and, "We have the lowest millage rate in Florida." Jannazo does not plan to run for reelection in this year's general election. However, some other commissioners expressed concern during the meeting about what will happen in future years if the national recession continues, along with low property values and reduced state revenue. "I don't know what Fiscal Year

2012 revenues will be," said Curry, but warned commissioners that if current trends continue, next year could mean "the elimination of services we've historically provided," unless taxes are increased. Commissioner James Campbell, of Niceville, suggested that it may become necessary to enact a county-wide "bed tax" on hotels and motels. Such a tax is now imposed only at hotels, motels, and rental units near the Gulf of Mexico, and used mainly to fund tourist development.

Other sources of county revenue, such as state aid and gasoline and sales taxes, are also in decline as tourism and other economic activity has declined, due to the recession and such other events as the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster which has fouled some county beaches and reduced tourism and commercial fishing. As a result, Curry told commissioners, the county is facing serious budget cuts in the coming year. The proposed cuts include eliminating 24 county employees from the county staff. Those personnel cuts, said Curry, will be made by offering early separation payments to the employees who volunteer for early retirement or separation from county service.

While the county commission cannot require Constitutional officers to furlough their employees, the BCC plans to cut an equivalent amount of money from constitutional office budgets, leaving it up to the constitutional officers to decide whether to furlough staff or make other cuts within their offices. Although commissioners had discussed the furlough plan during previous budget workshops, a last-minute plea from county personnel human resources director Kay Godwin changed their minds. County employees, Godwin said, "are the people who risk their lives driving ambulances, who stand hip deep in sewage taking care of our sewers, and perform other difficult and sometimes dangerous tasks. Cutting their income could impose hardships on them and their families, she said, especially those employees in lower-ranking positions whose incomes are just above the federal poverty level.

During the workshop, commissioners rejected an earlier plan to require all county employees who do not work for a constitutional office, such as the Sheriff's Office or the County Tax Collector's Office, to take at least a five-day furlough during the coming fiscal year. While the county commission cannot require Constitutional officers to furlough their employees, the BCC plans to cut an equivalent amount of money from constitutional office budgets, leaving it up to the constitutional officers to decide whether to furlough staff or make other cuts within their offices.

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Take care now that school's in

By Thomas Monigan
Beacon Staff Writer

Capt. David Bruckelmeyer of the Valparaiso Police Department stresses that Valparaiso Elementary has not been closed, and children will attend classes there.

"So slow down and watch for the kids," Bruckelmeyer said. "It's a matter of getting used to the traffic pattern and being aware of what times people are coming and going."

Niceville's Police Department will have officers in local school zones Thursday, mainly as a reminder, according to Lt. Randy Sallee.

SCHOOLS

From page A-1

In 2005 it was Aug. 4 and in 2006 it was Aug. 3.

Thirty years as an educator have taught Fantaski to remain calm in this situation, but this year he's handling something new.

Despite the main sign outside and the big mascot logo painted in the hallway, Lewis School is no longer Lewis Middle School. In recent years its students attended fifth through eighth grade there.

But with the partial closing of Valparaiso Elementary at the end of the last academic year, Lewis School now officially involves second through the eighth grade. Valparaiso Elementary is now limited to pre-K, kindergarten and first-grade students.

"We really don't know what to expect ... but we're going to make it work," said Fantaski, who was the principal at Valparaiso Elementary for the past two years.

At Niceville High School, where Linda Smith has been principal since 2007, the incoming

class officially lists 501 freshmen.

For three days last week, the high school welcomed about 335 of those fledglings to its NEST orientation. NEST stands for "Niceville Eagles Soaring Together."

With Lynn Prevatte as the adult coordinator, this program, now in its third year, was presented by a combination of about 70 rising sophomores, juniors and seniors.

All those "mentors" came up with team-themed costumes for the final day of NEST. The attire ranged from "The Wizard of Oz" to "Hippies of the Sixties" to "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" to "Barbie and Ken" to "Jersey Shore."

But much of the information presented during the three days was truly serious, ranging from peer pressure to diversity to public displays of affection.

"I wish we had it," said senior Lauren Yockey. "First day can be scary."

Parent Karin Frisbee has daughter Rebekah starting at Niceville High as a freshman this

year. Three of her siblings are Eagle graduates: Matthew (2004), Mary (2007) and Scott (2010).

"Neither he nor I knew anything when Matthew started here, and it was a little intimidating," Karin Frisbee recalled. "This (NEST) gives kids a little slice of what school's about. I think it's really great."

Over at Plew Elementary in Niceville, David Larrimore is entering his eighth year as principal and his 23rd as an administrator. His message to parents with children attending school for the first time: "Trust us, we know what we're doing."

Earlier this week, Plew held a "parents only" orientation for kindergarten parents, and today the school has orientation time "in blocks" so parents with more than one child can attend as many sessions as necessary.

Parents can eat lunch at Plew with their children, but Larrimore recommends they wait a few weeks before starting that.

"Usually the parent cries more than the child on the first few days," Larrimore said.

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Advertising Feature

Red Ginger, Niceville's newest restaurant, offers a wide variety of authentic Chinese and Japanese dishes. From traditional dishes such as happy family, Mongolian beef, hibachi and sashimi to new style dishes like tempura salmon. Also available are several Asian and American beers and wines, including sake the drink of the Samurai warriors.

"I grew up in the restaurant business," said Emily Chen, owner of Red Ginger, the new Asian restaurant in Bluewater Bay. "For a while, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do as an adult, but I finally decided for myself that this really is what I want to do."

With a new restaurant of her

own, Emily now offers the Niceville area the sort of dining experience people previously had to go to Destin to enjoy.

"Red Ginger's signature item, is sushi, made from thinly sliced raw fish wrapped around rice and other special ingredients, giving each type of sushi a unique flavor and texture. Each dish is artistically prepared and served by Simon Lin, Red Ginger's professional chef. Other dishes are also prepared with care and artistry, and always with the freshest of everything."

"There is an art to serving the best sushi. The key to making sushi is freshness, both in the fish itself and in the other ingredients that combine to give each type of sushi a distinctive flavor."

"The rice must be fresh, fresh-



Red ginger offers authentic Chinese and Japanese dishes.

ly cooked rice begins losing its texture within 30 minutes after being cooked, and while customers may not know such facts, they do notice the taste difference between really fresh sushi and something that has been sitting on a buffet table for hours."

That, said Emily, is one reason why Red Ginger does not have a buffet table like many other Asian restaurants. Buffets cannot ensure freshness.

For customers who want to choose from a variety of foods, Chen said, she offers combination plates and daily "lunch boxes," which can be ordered for take-out during busy lunch breaks. This provides variety

while ensuring the freshness that sets Red Ginger above the ordinary.

"We want our customers to keep coming back," Emily said. "Try our food and service today. Whether one of our delicious lunch specials or an evening dinner, you won't be disappointed with the freshness or quality you will find at the Red Ginger."

Red Ginger is located in the Bluewater Bay shopping center, (right behind Whataburger) and can be reached at 897-0888. Advance orders can also be e-mailed to chunchen3344@hotmail.com, faxed to 897-0555, or placed on the restaurant's website at www.redgingerasian.com.



Freshness and artistic presentation are important to serving really good sushi, said Emily Chen at Red Ginger Asian restaurant.

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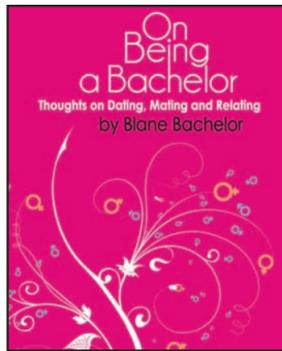
By Thomas Monigan
Beacon Staff Writer

Blane Bachelor is living the American Dream, and then some. Being a successful freelance



Blane Bachelor

writer means this 1993 graduate of Niceville High School is not tied to any sort of corporate structure. And in this pursuit, she's



also managed to visit 18 other countries around the globe.

And now she's turned a compilation of her columns into a book. It's entitled "On Being a Bachelor: Thoughts on Dating, Mating and Relating," and it is self-published through Virgil

Please see NHS GRAD, page B-3

New college president foresees bright future

Early challenge is replacing retiring staff

By Thomas Monigan
Bay Beacon Staff

It's well before 8 a.m. on a Thursday morning, an hour the business world usually reserves for local community leaders to do some serious meeting and greeting.

Which is just what Ty Handy was doing last week on his new home turf at Northwest Florida State College. This episode involved a breakfast meeting of the Niceville-Valparaiso Kiwanis Club.

"It seemed like good, positive energy," was how Kiwanian Michelle Severino summarized it.

Severino runs the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida in Valparaiso. She was among those who lingered briefly after the meeting to chat with the guest speaker.

"He knows he has his work cut out for him," said Severino. "He's going to make every effort to be engaged in the community. I mean, he has to."

Earlier this year, Handy was chosen from a pool of 76 candidates who came from 30 states to be Northwest Florida State's president. He started in late June.

"The right person at the right time," is what David Goetsch calls him. Goetsch is vice president for Community Relations and Workforce Development at Northwest Florida State. It's his face the local business community sees most often.

In the past six weeks, Handy's average workday has been running about 12 hours.

"I

believe this community expects its college president to be very visible and very engaging," he said later in his office, "and if that isn't stated overtly, I certainly sense it. And I recognize that my success, in part, will hinge on my ability to relate with community organizations."

Handy is compact and sturdy, someone who likes to lift weights, jump in his kayak or hike considerable distances to unwind and relax.

'I've got to step back, even though I have some ideas and things of that sort, I need to listen and learn.'

—Ty Handy



Ty Handy took over as the new Northwest Florida State College president on June 21.

"My biggest surprise has been how difficult it has been shifting my exercise/workout regimen from evening to 5:30 a.m.," he wrote in a recent e-mail. "I knew I would be busy evenings at events and meeting people so I've forced myself to work out every morning."

"On top of the early wake-up call and the shock it has been to my system is that I had forgotten how the Florida humidity takes its toll. It took me several weeks to build back up to the routines I was following in a cooler climate—but I made it!"

Meanwhile, the new president

of Northwest Florida State has jumped right into home ownership here, landing in Bluewater Bay.

"It's not directly on the water, but if you stand just so, you can see it," Handy wrote in a recent e-mail.

Handy's new job means he is following Bob Richburg as the school's third president.

Please see PRESIDENT, page B-2

Who's News

E-mail items to
info@baybeacon.com.

Brianna Bikker of Niceville is a recipient of a \$1,500 college scholarship awarded at Eglin Air Force Base. The daughter of Luv and David Bikker plans to enroll at Texas A&M University.



Brianna Bikker

Jordan Dwain Mathers of Niceville was among the 250 graduates who received diplomas at Troy University's summer commencement exercises.



Brooke Jones of Niceville is pursuing a juris doctorate from Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson. She is the daughter of David Jones and Linda Boone of Niceville and a graduate of Florida State University.

Stephen Michael Bagwell, an honor roll student from Niceville, was among the 283 graduates of Oklahoma Christian University April 30.

Natalie Brooke Fleming, Niceville, was among the 2,700 Baylor University students named to the Dean's Academic Honor List for the 2010 spring semester. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be an undergraduate with a minimum grade-point average of 3.7, while enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Kyle Jordan Eller of Niceville has graduated from Huntingdon College in Montgomery with a bachelor of science degree in cell biology and a minor in mathematics.

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He is the brother of Melissa Phillips of Pine St., Niceville.



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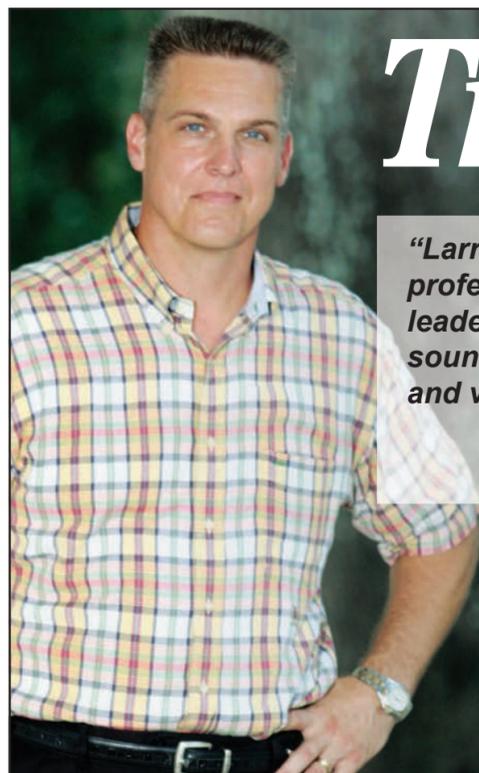
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Essay winners

The Knights of Columbus Father Howard Lesch Assembly 1564 recently held an awards ceremony for the winners of its annual Great American Patriots contest. From left: front, Hope Kennedy, third place; Taylor Glatke, first place; and Anne Struck, second place; back, Tim Stapleton, president of Assembly 1564, and Ray Schlitt, district deputy in the Okaloosa County area.



PRESIDENT

From page B-1

Richburg served from 1987 to 2009, and left something of mixed legacy. Handy has spoken only once, briefly, to Richburg when the former president telephoned the new man to offer congratulations.

After two decades of accomplishments, Richburg wound up leaving something of a mixed legacy.

During his tenure the college's growth included more than \$100 million in state-funded capital construction. There was also an increase of 58 percent in the college's full-time equivalent enrollment.

But Richburg was fired because of alleged legal entanglements.

No. 1 on the question list: Has recent history added to the challenges already included in starting a new job?

"I've come into a great position and the college is super strong," he replied without a moment's hesitation.

"And so while the circumstances ... are unfortunate, looking ahead, which is what I need to be doing, the college is well positioned to continue its growth."

And how will he make the present more memorable than the past?

"My exposure to the community and my behavior in terms of being engaged in the community ... are going to take care of that," Handy said. "There's nothing I can say, a month on the job, that changes a perception that anybody may have formed."

"But over time, my behavior can change perceptions," he said. "I need to make sure that I'm as engaged as I can be, so people see that my value systems are aligned well with the college's value systems and I will be sensitive to people's perceptions. But time will tell and I think I'll be successful because the core soundness of the college is unquestioned."

"I really don't feel like I'm inheriting a terribly challenging

situation," he said.

"The advancement that the community and a board of trustees would expect a college to be making, they're there, so I'm not feeling a sense of urgency—this is not a turnaround," he added, "and I feel I can afford to take my time and do it right."

So what would be considered benchmarks of progress in the months to come?

"You know, I haven't set those yet," Handy said. "This is my third presidency, and one of the things I've learned is that if a new president comes in and just immediately starts putting their own vision in place, that's exactly what it is—their own vision and not the college's."

"So I've got to step back, even though I have some ideas and things of that sort, I need to listen and learn, and that's really the mode I'm in right now," he added. "And it's a luxury I can afford, because the college is doing so well."

Still, there are some things not too far down the road that Handy already has identified as possible challenges.

"First, internally, is the number of people who are at or are approaching retirement," he said. "So some key positions are either open now or will be open soon. And we've got to find the right people to replace those."

Those include, but are not limited to:

—The executive director's position with the college's foundation program.

—Jill White, the senior vice president for instruction, recently retired. White also served as interim college president after Richburg was officially dismissed.

—Charla Cotton, director of the Collegiate High School, is retiring.

Then there's the "external" issue of funding that comes from Florida's state government. Students at Northwest Florida State pay \$85 per credit hour, verified as the lowest tuition in the Sunshine State.

Ty Handy in brief

Roots: Born Ty Julian Handy Nov. 10, 1962, in Winter Park.

Family ties: Married to the former Kimberly Reynolds for the past 25-plus years. Son Jon, 22, is a graduate student at the University of Alabama. Son Beau, 20, is a rising senior at Western Kentucky University.

Education: Bachelor's degree in finance from Western Kentucky University 1984; MBA from Drexel University 1986; doctorate in education from University of Memphis 1991.

Pay package: Base salary, \$196,000 annually, use of a college-owned car and cell phone, and an annual contribution to an annuity plan. One-time relocation benefit of \$20,000.

Hobbies: Lifting weights, hiking, kayaking and generally staying in shape by remaining active.

Role models: "My father, Don Handy. In addition to being a great role model, he is wise in the ways of the world. When I face a challenge, I can bounce it off him and he gives me a new perspective from which to approach the issue."

Words to live by: "If it is worth doing, it is worth doing well."

"Now the state's going to come under pressure, and they're going to have to make tough choices," Handy said. "And I worry about the impact that has, on both the quality of our instruction, if we're not getting the state funding, and the cost that students pay to come."

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Valp. student studies arts in Germany

Thirteen University of Mobile theatre students made an expedition to Kiefersfelden, Germany, this summer to intensively study in musical theater and opera at the International Performing Arts Institute (IPAI).

Among the participating students is Kristopher Kuss, Valparaiso.

This is the first learning experience of its kind for UMobile musical theatre students.

Each IPAI student participates in two private voice, acting, and repertoire coaching lessons each week as well as daily German language and dance classes. The classes are taught by artists known around the world and the experience offers opportunities for artistic employment in Europe. The program lasts three weeks. It includes a Musical Theatre Intensive held in Hamburg and an Opera Intensive held in Munich with industry leaders currently active in their field.

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Champs as well as all-stars

The Niceville-Valparaiso Little League-Senior League All-Stars were both Florida District 1 and Section 1 champions. From left: back, manager, Charles Cawthon, coaches Mike McDorman and Fred Tarpley; middle, Brandon Bubel, John McDorman, Drew Cawthon and Colt Tarpley; front, Ryan Sheekley, Cory Eller, Nick Wells and Kameron Miller.

NHS GRAD

From page B-1
Press Inc.

Bachelor, 34, lists on her resume being published in the likes of USA Today, Women's Health, and the Christian Science Monitor. In recent years she has been writing columns for the Sunday Paper, a weekly in Atlanta, where she lives.

In high school, the daughter of Bob and Charlotte Bachelor was seriously considering a career in medicine, but all that changed while at the University of Florida.

"I was pre-med for a year and a half before I took a class for English credit called MMC 2100," she recalled. "I think it was writing for mass communications. I was hooked."

And apparently undaunted by her loss of earning potential.

"I remember talking to a counselor in the journalism school who told me, as he was entering the information into the system, that he was slashing my starting salary with his very keystrokes," she recalled in a recent e-mail.

And then there was that afternoon back in 2002, when she attended a reception for Cassandra King, who was signing copies of her new book, "Sunday Wife."

"I remember thinking, 'I really

want to be where she is one day," Bachelor recalled.

It was Carolyn Chesser who hosted that event for King in the same Bayou Book Co. store in Oak Creek Plaza where Bachelor will appear Saturday.

"It's kind of one of the reasons you have a bookstore to begin with," Chesser said recently, "to help support your community and celebrate those who make it big."

And since a writer's life is never complete without some element of irony, it must be reported here that Blaine Bachelor was recently married to a young man by the name of Chris Tilton.

But she's still a Bachelor in at least one way, and that's not about to change.

"Absolutely not," Blane replied without hesitation when asked if she ever considered changing to a "married name."

"For me that was non-negotiable," she added, "because I was a feminist before I became a writer."

And for those who might believe that revered Southern author Thomas Wolfe was right when he entitled one of his books "You Can't Go Home Again," well, not in this case.

"I absolutely love my home, and my home is Valparaiso and Niceville," Bachelor said. "This is almost like a dream come true.

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2010
CALENDAR
E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com before 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Pensacola hike slated
Join the Florida Trail Association Wednesday, Aug. 4, at 6 p.m., for a hike in downtown Pensacola with dinner following. Info: 207-7390 or

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Audubon on woodpecker
Choctawhatchee Audubon Society plans a program Aug. 5, "Red Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) Ecology and Monitoring, Working to Recover an Endangered Species." Kristina Witter, Wildlife Biologist, will speak about an Eglin project to band RCW chicks then relocate them to suitable habitat in neighboring states. The program is free and open to the public at Northwest Florida State College Learning Resource Center, Room 128. Socializing, refreshments and conservation topics begin at 6:30 p.m. prior to the featured speaker at 7 p.m.
Info: Gary Parsons (850) 678-1461



Jehovah's Witness retreat

The region's 25 Jehovah's Witnesses congregations will take part in the 2010 "Remain Close to Jehovah!" District Convention at the Mobile Civic Center, beginning Friday, Aug. 6, 9:30 a.m. Admission is free and no collections will be taken.
Info: Perry Dortch, 496-3835.

Writer to sign books

Columnist Blane Bachelor, an internationally published author and 1993 graduate of Niceville High School, will sign copies of her first book, "On Being a Bachelor: Thoughts on Dating, Mating and Relating," at Bayou Book Company, Oak Creek Shopping Center, noon-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7.
Info: 678-1593 or visit bayou



bookcompany.com.

Curves sets dog wash

Niceville Curves, 1049 John Sims Pkwy E., Suite 2, Palm Plaza, will hold a dog wash for donations Saturday, Aug. 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. All proceeds go to benefit Making Strides against Breast Cancer.

Pinewood Derby slated

Niceville Assembly of God will hold its fifth annual Pinewood Derby Aug. 7 at 9 a.m., followed by the unveiling of KidzTown, a facility for the younger set. The public is invited.

Embroiderers to meet

The Sand Dunes Chapter of Embroiderers' Guild of America celebrates various forms of hand embroidery. Its annual August membership coffee will be Saturday, Aug. 7, 10 a.m.-noon, at the First United Methodist Church of Niceville. The 2010-11 program will be presented and snacks will be served. Visitors are welcome; park in lot A and enter near the playground.

Learn quilting basics

Martha Zimmerman will teach the basics of quilting Tuesday, Aug. 10, 6 p.m., in the Niceville Library. Students will use their new talents to create a simple beginner's project. The class covers tools used, hands-on practice, useful tips and hints to help you get hooked on this fabulous art form. The program is free for ages 13-adult and all the tools and materials will be provided. Class size is limited so call the library at 729-4090 to reserve a seat.

Democrats to meet

Democrats will hold their regular meeting Tuesday, Aug. 10, at Headquarters, 60 S. Street, unit 305, Shalimar. There will be a social hour with refreshments at 6 p.m., followed by the business meeting at 6:30 p.m. Business to be discussed will be primary and general election issues. Info: Jerry Mallory 897-5246 or DEC Headquarters 609-3367

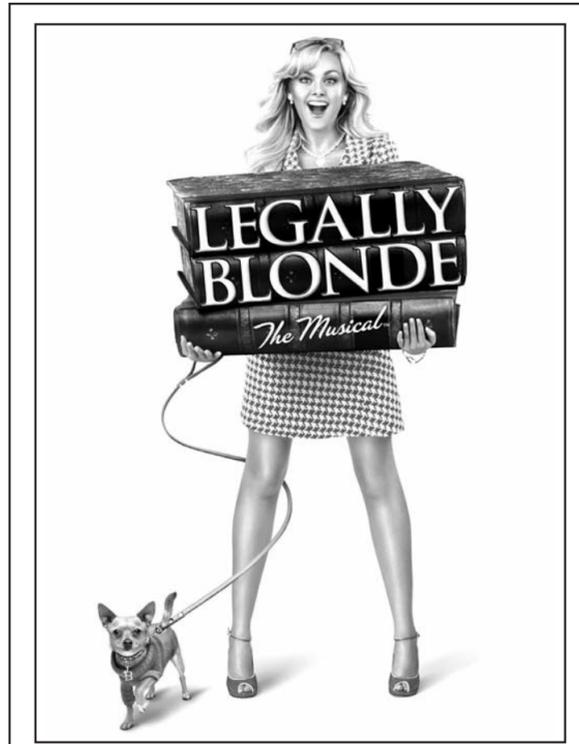
Genealogists to meet

The members of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County will hold their monthly meeting Saturday, Aug. 10, 10 a.m., at the Heritage Museum, 115 Westview Drive, Valparaiso.

The speaker will be GSOC member Hilma Jenus, whose topic is "We Are So Connected."

Following the meeting, those interested will gather at a local restaurant for a Dutch treat lunch.

Info: Pat Pruet, Publicity Chairperson, 678-2023



Mattie Kelly ticket sale

Tickets for the Mattie Kelly Arts Center 2010-2011 season, dubbed "New York in Niceville," go on sale Aug. 23. Among the scheduled shows are "Legally Blonde," "The Color Purple" the Dance Theater of Harlem and more. Call 729-6000.

Chamber sets breakfast

The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce will hold its Second Wednesday Breakfast Aug. 11 at the Niceville Community Center, 204 N Partin Drive. The breakfast will begin at 7:15 a.m. with coffee and conversation, followed by food at 7:30 a.m. This month's sponsor is Rocky Bayou Christian School. Chamber members, their guests, and prospective members are invited to attend.

Hike Pensacola

Join the Florida Trail Association Wednesday, Aug. 11, 6 p.m. for a hike in downtown Pensacola with dinner following.

Info: 207-7390 or choctaw.floridatrail.org.

Party for foundation

An Emerald Coast Poker Run Party is planned for Saturday, Aug. 14, 6:30 p.m.-midnight. Proceeds benefit the Emerald Coast Foundation.

Info: Florida Powerboat Club fpcvents@gmail.com.

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.

Host families sought

Rocky Bayou Christian School in Niceville is looking for Christian families living in Okaloosa County to host an international student. Students male and female are coming from China, Germany, South Korea, Please see CALENDAR, page B-6

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The Beacon's Job Market

Help Wanted

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.

HAIR STYLIST

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Specialty Building Maintenance is now hiring full and part time day porters, evening and day shifts available. Duties include monitoring and servicing restrooms, trash removal, and common area cleaning. House keeping experience preferred. apply in person at 4400 Hwy 20 E., Niceville, FL.

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2008 Black Ford Fusion SEL V6. 36,600 miles, fully loaded, \$19,000.00. 209-552-5953.

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Townhouse, 3/2.5, bonus room, all appliances, no pets, \$1,100/month. 678-5433

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Items for Sale

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CALENDAR

From page B-4

Tunisia and Austria.

Students stay with their host family for 10 months, and there is a monthly stipend that will help with expenses. Info: 729-7227, ext. 375, or e-mail williamsd@rbcsc.org

Oktoberfest artist call

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, 5-10 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 25, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Cost for the two-day event is \$75. Info: Bert, 897-3190.

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 concerned citizens with a goal of holding local and national politicians accountable and advocating for the U.S. Constitution at all levels of government. Info: 729-2874 or visit emeraldcoastpatriots.org.

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: fbcniceville.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 chil-

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

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.

Local artists display work

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



Wildlife rehabilitation program

The Department of Environmental Protection's Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park will have a wildlife presentation Saturday, Aug. 14, 11-11:30 a.m. The Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge will present its rehabilitated wildlife. The events are free to the public with paid park entrance fee.



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That's what you can expect at Niceville Family Practice, where Doctor Anthony V. LaNasa and Doctor Mehul Patel offer same-day appointments for new as well as established patients.

"We make a special effort to treat each of our patients as we would want to be treated," said Dr. LaNasa. "What I like best about practicing medicine is getting to know each patient, to grow up and grow old with them and their family, and being a part of their lives." With more than 28 years as a family physician, Dr. LaNasa came to the Niceville area when he and his family evacuated from New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina, and decided to remain permanently.



Doctors Anthony V. LaNasa and Mehul Patel work together to keep their patients well.

"I'm in my first independent practice after completing my residency in Tallahassee," Dr. Patel said modestly, although he is board certified in family practice and handles many of the most

serious acute illnesses seen at Niceville Family Practice, as well as managing hospitalizations, when necessary, at nearby Twin Cities Hospital.

Dr. Patel and Dr. LaNasa focus on chronic conditions like heart health, diabetes, and such long-term wellness issues as weight control.

Both doctors handle such routine health care as school, sports, and job related physical exams, treating colds and respiratory illnesses, and outpatient surgery and injury treatment.

Asked what advice he would offer to someone choosing a fami-

ly doctor, Dr. LaNasa said, "Look for a doctor who takes the time to answer your questions clearly, performs the proper diagnostic tests, and explains the results and best course of treatment."

Dr. Patel added, "Choose a doctor who is willing to see you whenever you need help or advice, who keeps you informed, emphasizes prevention, and who genuinely cares about keeping you well."

Niceville Family Practice is located at 4400 State Road 20, Suite 203, in Merchants Walk in Bluewater Bay. For appointments or information, call 897-3678.

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Let Kiwanis Raise Old Glory At Your House

There are seven times a year when flying our flag is the perfect way to show your family's patriotic spirit. Kiwanis can make it easy for you to do this!

For just \$35 a year, we will install a permanent inground base for your flag. Then, just before LABOR DAY and 9/11, VETERANS DAY, PRESIDENTS DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, FLAG DAY, INDEPENDENCE DAY and MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY, we will install a 3x5 foot sewn flag (not printed) on a metal pole in front of your home. And take it down afterwards. Kiwanis does it all, you do nothing but look proud! The modest \$35 a year supports Niceville-Valparaiso Kiwanis Club's numerous children's programs throughout our community.

Time's a wastin'. Act now!
Call Bill at 897-4396 or Jim at 897-3068 and order a flag. Serving the Children of the World

Niceville/Valparaiso Kiwanis Club

FREE No Obligation 2nd Opinion!*

...on any air conditioning, heating and plumbing service repair, duct cleaning AND new system estimate!

Residential and Commercial

PEADEN.com
Air Conditioning, Heating & Plumbing
25 hours a day, 8 days a week

362-6646

We solve **Comfort Creature** problems!

NVAC list of services - maintenance, service plans, service & repair, installation, high-efficiency systems (up to 23 SEER2), dehumidification, duct testing, cleaning, repair & sealing, IAQ monitoring, heat pumps, air purifying & cleaning equipment, whole-house performance testing, insulation, thermal imaging, heat pump pool heaters.

Plumbing list of services - maintenance, service plans, service & repair, installation, backflow prevention devices, bathroom remodeling, drainage systems, leak detection, drain & sewer cleaning, water filters & purifiers, water heaters, tankless water heaters, solar water heaters, gas piping.

*Regular business hours only

2009 Better Business Bureau® Award for Marketplace Ethics
Professionals You Can Trust