

The Bay Beacon

16 Pages, 2 Sections, 4 Inserts

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

50¢

COMING UP

Wednesday, 6-8 p.m.

College Night, a free event which features representatives from more than 80 colleges and universities from across the nation, will be held in the College Mall (building K) of the **Northwest Florida State College**.

For information, call NWF State College at 729-5379.

Saturday, 7 a.m.



The Ladies Auxiliary of Amvets Post 78 plans a **garage and bake sale**, 910 Valastics Ave., Valparaiso.

Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.



Book sale at the Niceville Community Center, 204 N. Partin Drive (next door to the library).

Proceeds benefit the Niceville Public Library.



Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

The **March of Dimes Harvest Wine Festival** and Silent Auction at **Sunset Beach Clubhouse**, Bluewater Bay, will feature wines to taste and food catered by Dewey Destin's Restaurant and Winn-Dixie. Tickets are \$15 and can be found at Uniquely Chic in Bluewater Bay, Bayou Books in Niceville, the Bluewater Bay Tennis Center or by calling 543-9197.

Calendar, B-2.

More people, fewer jobs seen for county

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

The aging population and shrinking number of jobs will slow economic growth in the state, an economist said. Slower growth itself will result in fewer workers immigrating to Florida.

Like the slow-motion oil-spill disaster finally coming ashore, another long-predicted wave—retiring baby boomers—will soon create a sea change of another kind.

The number of jobs in Okaloosa County is forecast to shrink steadily after 2016, even as the population climbs, according to Rick Harper, director of the University of West Florida's

Haas Business Center.

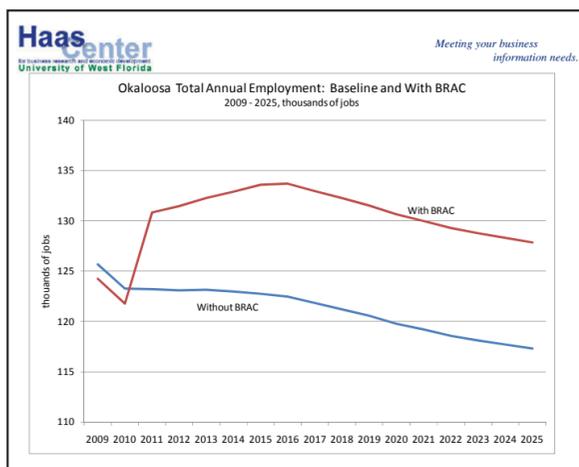
Between 2016 and 2025 the number of jobs in Okaloosa County is forecast to shrink nearly 4 percent, from a high of about 133,000 to approximately 128,000 jobs by 2025, according to business modeling done by Haas Business Center. During the same time frame, Harper says that the county's population will grow by nearly 6 percent, from about 203,000 to about 215,000.

Indeed, Harper says if it weren't for the thousands of military personnel scheduled to begin arriving at Eglin in large numbers over the next 12 months, the number of jobs in

Okaloosa County would already be on a steady decline through 2025. He presented those conclusions at a forum of business, military and civic officials gathered earlier this summer to assess the economic impact of BRAC.

Demographics are behind the long-term trend of shrinking jobs in Okaloosa as well as Escambia counties, Harper told the Beacon. As the so-called "baby boomer" generation—those born between 1946 and 1964—begin retiring in large numbers, many will not be replaced by younger workers, he said. A combination of increased productivity due to

Please see JOBS, page A-4



College to unveil unique sundial

Northwest Florida State College geology professor Jon Bryan demonstrates the workings of the new sundial on campus. He'll discuss the interactive sundial in a Science Friday lecture at the college Oct. 1.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard



Human shadows to tell the time

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Ask an engineer what time it is, he'll tell you how to build a clock. Ask a scientist, he'll tell you the clock is wrong, that you have to know how the heavens and the Earth move in order to really know what time it is.

"It took me a year of thinking about this," said Northwest Florida State College geology and oceanography professor Jon Bryan about the task of building an accurate, interactive sundial on the school's Niceville campus.

Oct. 1 has been set for a "grand opening" of the sundial, and the date of a science

lecture about the sundial by Bryan.

Artist Elizabeth Indians of Tarpon Springs was contracted by NWFSC to construct a scientifically accurate, interactive sundial to be located next to the college's Robert E. Greene Jr. Science Building on NWFSC's Niceville campus. The project was made possible by a gift from Valparaiso benefactor Doty Blacker. Bryan, with help from a committee of college scholars, was responsible for the scientific accuracy of the sundial.

What will make the sundial interactive, is that instead of using a fixed post to cast a shadow on the dial, the new

sundial will rely on the shadow of each person who comes to view it. By standing in a position marked according to the month and day of the month, people will be able to tell time by their own personal shadows.

It's also a teachable moment.

Bryan is working on a presentation that will explain the principles behind the sundial, and particularly the sundial the college has built on its Niceville campus. He'll present a lecture on the interactive, analemmatic sundial during a Science Friday presentation at the college Oct. 1.

Please see SUNDIAL, page A-3

Mid-Bay Bridge road to cost more than the original bridge

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

When construction of the next eight miles of the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector Road is finished in January 2014, the bridge authority will have spent more than twice as much money building the 11-mile connector road than was spent originally to construct the 3.6-mile toll bridge.

The Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA) will also be responsible for about 10 more bridges or overpasses that form part of the connector.

The two-lane toll bridge that spans Choctawhatchee Bay between Niceville and Destin opened in mid-1993, after being built with mostly private money borrowed through an \$81,740,000 bond issue in 1991. (The construction cost of the bridge itself was about \$51.5 million.)

The bridge connector road between the northern tip of the Mid-Bay Bridge and Highway 85 north of Niceville is expected to cost an estimated \$180 million. A single toll facility on the connector road won't by itself pay for

construction of the road, MBBA officials have stated. Bridge tolls will be used to help pay off the cost of building the road.

The MBBA last month issued an invitation to bid construction of phases 2 and 3 of the connector road, which will complete the nearly 11-mile road project that began construction in April 2009. The bridge authority will open bid responses Oct. 14 but won't award the project until January, or whenever the authority has the money in hand.

According to the MBBA's 2009 Capital Improvement Plan, Phase 2 was estimated to cost about \$74.3 million while phase 3 will cost about \$62.3 million, bringing the total cost of the connector to about \$180 million.

Jim Vest, executive director of the MBBA, said the bridge authority won't have the money to award the construction bid for phases 2 and 3 of the connector road until after bids are received and opened next month. Then, he said, the authority will know how much money it needs to borrow through a bond issue in order to

Please see ROAD, page A-2

Valparaiso mulls cuts in legal, insurance cost

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

No members of the public attended the first of two public hearings on Valparaiso's fiscal year 2011 budget and millage rate.

Commissioners made no changes to the budget or the tentative property tax rate during the

Sept. 7 budget hearing but did discuss rising legal expenses and spiraling health insurance costs.

Valparaiso's proposed budget of \$6,558,605 will go into effect Oct. 1 as is unless changes are made at the city's final budget hearing Sept. 20.

Also unchanged and awaiting

Please see VALP, page A-8

Walmart traffic light, median work to begin

Expected to take about a month

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Starting tomorrow be prepared to encounter highway construction work on John Sims Parkway near the Walmart construction site in Niceville.

The Florida Department of Transportation last week announced that it had approved roadway improvements along John Sims Parkway (State Road 20) between the Oak Creek shopping center and Redwood Avenue.

The highway modifications were generated to accommodate the Walmart Superstore now under construction on the north side of SR 20, just east of Oak Creek shopping center. The Walmart is part of a shopping complex being developed

by Valparaiso Realty. Walmart is expected to open its store near the end of the year. Valparaiso Realty's shopping center development, including the Walmart store includes a new, signal-controlled entryway on SR 20, between Wise and Pine avenues.

Starting Thursday, the median opening at Wise Avenue will be closed and the Pine Avenue median opening converted to a westbound directional left turn only, according to DOT. A new median opening, westbound left turn only, will be constructed just west of Wise Avenue.

A new signal will be installed just east of Wise Avenue with eastbound dual left turn lanes. An eastbound turn lane will also be con-

structed at the intersection of Redwood Avenue and SR 20, a second entryway to the shopping complex.

The highway modification work is being done by Gulf Asphalt, a Panama City contractor, according to a spokesman for Valparaiso Realty.

The developer is paying the cost of the highway modification work, not taxpayers.

Weather permitting, the work is expected to take just over a month to complete, the DOT said. Motorists should not encounter any daytime lane restrictions, according to DOT, which reminded drivers to use caution, obey the posted speed limit and watch out for construction equipment and workers entering and exiting the highway.



Beacon photo by Kenneth Books

Bridge to Walmart

The pylons have been erected to construct a bridge from Revell Drive, at the intersection of John Sims Parkway and Redwood Avenue, to the site of the Walmart Superstore now under construction. The bridge is expected to be complete this week.

ROAD

From page A-1

fund construction of the last two phases of the connector road.

The first 2.8 miles of the 11-mile connector, phase 1, began construction April 2009 and is on schedule to be completed next May.

Phase 2 of the connector road will extend north and west from Range Road to a north extension of Forest Road, a total of about 4.75 miles. It will be built as a two-lane road, but is designed to eventually expand to four lanes. Phase 2 also includes construction of a toll facility just north of Rocky Creek. An overpass at Range Road will be constructed and two bridges built—a 1,728-foot span over Rocky Creek and a 245-foot bridge over East Turkey Creek. Forest Road will be

extended to connect to the bridge connector road and intersection improvements will be made at the College Boulevard intersection

The request for bids also includes resurfacing and addition of paved shoulders on a one-mile stretch of Range Road, between Highway 20 and the connector road interchange.

Concurrently, Phase 3 of the connector will begin just west of the Forest Road Extension and continue west through leased Eglin property to Highway 85 north of Niceville's Mullet Festival site. Phase 3 is just over 3.5 miles long and includes construction of interchanges and bridge overpasses at Highway 285 (186 feet) and Highway 85 (210 feet.) Other bridges will be built to cross Swift Creek (340 feet), Fox Head Branch (300 feet) and Mill Creek (240 feet.)

No one injured in fire

No one was injured in a fire that caused an estimated \$60,000 damage Friday afternoon at a waterfront home in unincorporated Niceville.

Firefighters received an alarm at 5:52 p.m. and were on scene three minutes later at 100 Bahia Vista Drive where the garage was fully involved, said Capt. Jason Holcomb of the East

Niceville Fire Department.

Firefighters had the fire under control within five to 10 minutes, he said. They were able to contain the flames to the garage, he said, leaving the two-story waterfront home undamaged.

The owners of the home are listed as Tony and Gretchen Gilligan.

Valparaiso raises cable TV rates

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Customers of Valparaiso's cable service will have to dig deeper in their pockets.

City commissioners Monday approved across-the-board rate hikes for cable TV programming but postponed similar increases for Internet data services after the mayor expressed concern.

"I was sort of shocked to see this proposal," said Mayor Bruce Arnold about proposed 15 percent increases for cable television and 10 percent rate hikes for data services, primarily Internet services.

The city-owned cable system is an "enterprise" fund, meaning it is supported by user fees rather than taxes and must balance expenditures with revenues in its annual budget.

The cost of programming and the cost of doing business were both cited as the reasons for the rate increases by Burt Bennett, head of the city's cable communications section.

Increased rates for the cable television packages include a 15 percent increase to the most popular cable television offering, called the Basic package, as well

as 5 percent increases in the costs of enhanced program packages, including Digital Gateway, Expanded Basic, Basic Plus and Full Service.

Monthly rates for the Basic video package (channels 3-78) jumped up \$3.85, from \$25.65 to \$29.50, not counting the 10 percent administrative charge the city tacks on all utility bills. Enhanced programming packages went up an average of 5 percent, ranging from an additional \$1.63 for Digital Gateway to \$3.94 more for the Full Service package. Commercial rates for television programming were also raised by similar percentages.

Although Bennett originally asked commissioners to also raise the rates for Internet services, he offered to defer those rate hikes until the end of the year. What had been proposed was a 10 percent increase in the cost for Basic Internet service that would have added \$3 to customer's monthly bills plus another \$4 or \$5 for enhanced data service packages.

"We missed our targets for Internet phones and increased speed," Bennett said. Valparaiso completed an expensive, major upgrade to the cable system in

2009, he told commissioners. However, the city overestimated the number of people who would pay extra for premium data services such as higher speed Internet services or Internet-based phone service, he said. He suggested delaying the proposed rate hikes for data services until the end of 2010, giving city cable customers a little more time to choose the more expensive data service packages.

City commissioners unanimously approved the new cable television rates while deferring any rate increases for Internet services for at least three months.

The new cable fees come on top of new or higher fees already approved by commissioners:

—In June city commissioners raised water and sewer rates by nearly 15 percent. The new rates add an additional \$6.47 to residential customers that use 7,000 gallons per month.

—In August city commissioners added a new levy, a monthly stormwater fee of \$1.75 per month. Aimed at improving drainage systems in Valparaiso, 220 residential and six commercial property owners (out of a total of 1,625 residential and 142 commercial properties) were exempted from paying the fee. Other property owners will have to hire a professional engineer to certify that stormwater from their property does not contribute stormwater to city drains.

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SUNDIAL

From page A-1

Telling time by the sun is "simple but complicated" says Bryan, who holds a Ph.D. in geology.

For starters, get over the idea that your watch is giving you the correct time, "it's the other way around," said Bryan. "We really tell time by the sun. Even the atomic clock in Boulder, Colo., which broadcast standard time to an accuracy measured in millionths of a second, is essentially approximating solar time, he explains.

Since time immemorial, mankind has been able to live by the simple, daily observations of sunrise, noon and sunset.

"Noon is when the sun 'souths' or appears to be due south in the sky—that technically is our real time" for noon, he says. But because the Earth rotates, noon is constantly moving across the globe. Solar noon in Niceville, for example, is slightly different than noon in New Orleans, or for that matter Valparaiso.

Timewise, New Orleans is important because we live in the Central Time Zone, and Central Time is based on noon in the middle of the Central Time Zone, which is approximately at the longitude of New Orleans. "Because the band of Central Time is geographically wide and the time is averaged across the zone, this affects any precise local reading of time by the sun when compared to a watch," said Bryan.

When setting up the sundial in Niceville, Bryan had to account for the fact that solar noon in Niceville is different (by about 14 minutes, on average) from solar noon in New Orleans—the time your wristwatch is probably set to.

At solar noon, the sun will cast a shadow to the north. Bryan explained that the dial must also be precisely oriented to True North (toward the North Pole), not magnetic north (where the compass points). You can use a standard compass to find magnetic north then calculate the declination (or the degrees difference to true north). Bryan tried using a compass, but metal pipes and lines underground severely deflected the compass needle. Instead, he used the noon shadow to find true north.

There are also variations between solar and clock time because Earth's orbit around the sun is elliptical rather than circular, meaning that some days we're closer to the sun and farther away



The sundial at NWFSO will tell you what the local "solar-time" is here in Niceville. You'll need to consult a chart to "correct" solar-time to the time shown on your watch.

on others. The Earth moves faster when closer to the sun, slower when farther away. So the actual length of a day varies through out the year.

Bryan used GPS to establish as accurately as possible the latitude and longitude of the point on campus where the sundial is located. Knowing the exact longitude, you can do mathematical calculations to account for the variation in solar and clock time (the longitudinal/time zone prob-

lem)—or you can refer to a sundial website (solar-noon.com) that has a table with the variations each day.

The exact latitude must be known to calculate the dimensions of the dial.

The NWFSO sundial includes special markers with information about the seasons of the year and other factors relating to how sundials work. The 12 signs of the Zodiac, for example, aren't simply an artistic touch, they're a

reminder that at night each of the 12 constellations of the Zodiac are visible at different times of the year as the earth spins and orbits the Sun.

All the variations in Sun time, of course, make it impractical in terms of commerce and other facets of modern life. So next time you ask someone for the correct time, you might save yourself some time and find out if you're asking a scientist or merely another clock-watcher.

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JOBS

From page A-1

technology and continued outsourcing of jobs offshore means employers won't be replacing many retiring boomers, Harper said.

As boomers retire, the long-term trend is for a shrinking ratio of tax-paying job holders to retirees, says Amy Baker, head of Florida Legislature's Office of Economic & Demographic Research (EDR.) EDR is a research arm of the Legislature principally concerned with forecasting economic and social trends that affect policy making, revenues, and appropriations.

Baby boomers have long been a statistical "bubble" that is building toward 2012, she said, the first year that boomers (about 76 million people born between 1946-1964) will be eligible for full retirement benefits. Having entered the workforce in the 1967-1985 time frame, the same group will be entering retirement in large numbers between 2012 and 2029,

according to EDR estimates.

In Florida, long a haven for retirees, it's helpful to look at the ratio of taxpaying workers to retirees, Baker said. Today in the U.S., the ratio is about 4:1, four tax-paying workers to each retiree, she said. In Florida, it's currently more like three tax-paying workers to each retiree. Projections in the state are that by 2030, there will be a 2:1 ratio as the working age population shrinks relative to retirees, she said.

EDR says the aging population is a function of the baby boom group, falling fertility rates and rising life expectancy.

While each age group in the raw population numbers continues to grow, it's the retirement-age segment that's growing faster due to the baby boomers, Baker said, swamping the population gains in other age segments. She also says that retirees immigrating to Florida will increase with the baby boomer generation.

Baker referred to a recent EDR presentation that lists some of the ramifications for Florida

because of this demographic shift:

—Worker shortages will become the norm, especially among highly educated and skilled workers.

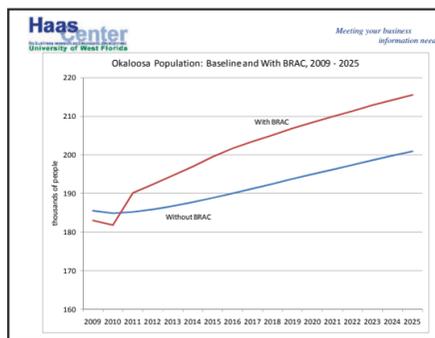
—Labor force contraction could significantly depress economic output and boost inflation as wages increase to attract workers from other areas.

—Labor-intensive jobs (fire-fighters, police, construction) will be harder to fill.

—Decline in consumer spending and changes in investment patterns as seniors spend down their savings.

—Lower standard of living could become the norm for some, especially seniors living on fixed incomes for 20 or more years.

—Seniors may also affect



sales and property tax revenues, since retirees tend to spend less and tend to oppose property taxes more than other age groups.

—Older people will affect health care needs and funding.

Among strategies EDR suggested for Florida:

—Attract younger workers from other states and countries.

—Design incentives to keep workers in the workforce longer.

—Foster development and application of age-sensitive technologies and productivity-enhancing skills and technology.

Fire board votes itself a salary

By Mike Griffith

Beacon Correspondent

During their public budget meeting Sept. 8, East Niceville fire commissioners set a tentative Fiscal Year 2010/2011 millage rate of 2.35, set a tentative budget of \$781,530, and voted to pay themselves salaries of \$500 per month per commissioner in the coming fiscal year, which will begin on Oct. 1, 2010.

The five fire commissioners approved paying themselves a monthly salary, or "honorarium," of \$500 each, to compensate themselves for the time and effort needed to set policy for the fire district. During previous commission meetings, Marcolongo said state law allows elected fire commissioners, who currently serve as unpaid volunteers in East Niceville, to be paid up to a maximum of \$500 per month

per commissioner.

The other commissioners agreed with Marcolongo's recommendation, saying that in recent years, it has become more difficult to get volunteers to serve on the fire commission. In approving the monthly salaries, however, the commissioners left open the option for each commissioner to accept or return all or part of their own pay if they choose.

Neither the millage rate, the proposed budget, nor the proposed salary is final as of yet. All three proposals will be discussed at the final public fire commission budget meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 22 in the conference room of the East Niceville fire station, about a block east of Redwood and a block south of State Road 20.

At a millage rate of 2.35, a

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 their 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, the fire 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 the Sept. 22 final budget hearing.

Because property values within the East Niceville Fire

District have fallen during the past year along with the declining U.S. economy, property tax revenue from the property tax is expected to be only \$637,030, slightly less than the \$637,171 collected in FY 2009/10 or the \$640,273 collected in FY 2008/09 with the same millage rate.

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 FY 2009/10 budget of \$784,623 but more than the FY 2008/09 budget of \$764,623. Fire 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 has recently paid off its newest fire truck, eliminating more than \$30,000 in annual payments.

The largest increases in the new budget are for the employees' personnel account, which will go from \$443,538 to \$450,000; equipment reserve, going from zero to \$20,000 as payments cease for the new fire truck and the fire district begins saving for future equipment needs; and for insurance, going from \$76,000 to \$80,000. If each of the five fire commissioner accepts his or her \$500 monthly salary, that will cost the fire district \$30,000 annually.

Other parts of the budget will decrease, including operations and office supplies, dropping from \$20,437.57 to \$19,000, retirement from \$23,500 to \$17,500, loan payments for recent station remodeling from \$12,111 to \$11,700 and lease/purchase payments from \$30,040 to zero for the new Engine 23 which has recently been paid off.

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Dennis Dallmen	Rod Debs	Sharon Conley
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Commissioners hold the line on county tax millage rate

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

During a public hearing held Thursday, Sept. 9, in Fort Walton Beach, the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) tentatively set the county budget for Fiscal Year 2011, as well as the proposed property tax millage rate for the coming year. The millage rate is currently set, tentatively, at 3.2899, the same rate as for the current fiscal year. The 2011 fiscal year begins Oct. 1, 2010, and continues through the end of September 2011.

At a millage rate of 3.2899, property owners in Okaloosa County pay \$3.2899 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.

For Okaloosa County residents who live outside the boundaries of a city, the county will continue to charge an additional property tax of 0.18 mills to pay for county parks and recreation facilities. That tax also remains the same as in the previous year. In addition to county property taxes, county residents may also pay property taxes to the Okaloosa School District, independent fire districts, and other government entities depending on where each property owner lives and other factors.

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 downturn. Other sources of county revenue, such as state aid, 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 rig disaster in April, which briefly fouled some Okaloosa County beaches.

In a brief review of the budget during the hearing, Curry said that although, "Everybody is always concerned about property taxes," such taxes account for only a portion of the total county budget, providing \$45,386,520 of the total \$280,536,430 budget proposed for FY 2011.

At Thursday's hearing, commissioners also heard from some county residents who expressed their own questions and ideas about county budgeting and taxation.

David Lambert, who said he lives on Falling Waters Drive near U.S. Highway 98, reminded commissioners that, "We're all going through hard times," with many



David Lambert

people's incomes and investment values reduced, and many people out of work or working minimum wage jobs, without the

benefits usually provided to county government employees. He particularly questioned the wisdom of providing vehicles to county officials, including take-home police cars to deputy sheriffs.

Curry and County Commission Chairman Wayne Harris defended the take-home police car policy, saying the presence of police cars visibly parked in deputies' neighborhoods is a deterrent to crime, as well as allowing rapid response by deputies during emergencies. He also said such personally assigned vehicles tend to be better cared for, at less expense to the county, than if deputies simply checked vehicles out of a common motor pool each duty day.

Henry Kelly, of Fort Walton Beach, thanked the commissioners for holding the county millage rate steady despite declining revenue. He also praised county staff members, whom he said have been very helpful in providing him information about county government throughout the year.

County commissioners also congratulated one another on their budgeting efforts throughout the spring and summer.

"I think you have all done a great job of being responsible for other people's money," Harris told his fellow commissioners and county staff members.

"Okaloosa County has the lowest ad valorem taxes in Florida, and yet we still provide some of the best services of any county in the state," said Commissioner James Campbell of Niceville.

"Unlike some county commissions, we're not opposed to the tea party movement," said Harris.



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

The audience at the Sept. 9 Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners listens to explanations of the Fiscal Year 2011 budget.



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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —Mike Griffith

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Children's Park*

What do you most look forward to in this year's football season?



"I look forward to watching the Forty-Niners, and playing Fantasy Football."

Fletcher Watson, 33, Fort Walton Beach, subcontractor



"I'd like to see the Niceville Eagles win every game in the whole season."

Kiana Celestine, 17, Niceville, Niceville High School student



"I'm looking forward to the Gators winning the national championship, and to the Cowboys winning the Super Bowl."

Tyler Sankey, 14, Niceville, Ruckel Middle School student



"I look forward to seeing FSU make a big comeback."

Jean Van Bergen, 78, Niceville, retired



"I look forward to time at home with my family."

Jessica Watson, 23, Fort Walton Beach, hairdresser



"I look for FSU to come back."

Walter Smith, 81, Niceville, retired U.S. Air Force Major

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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

Aaron Reid Huff, 29, of 1001 Judith Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 29 on misdemeanor charges of criminal mischief and trespassing. Huff was alleged to have kicked the front and back door of a Niceville residence on 26th Street, gained entry to a rear storage room but was unable to make entry into the residence. Huff also allegedly broke a window frame on the home, striking the window with his fist.

Teresa Ellis, 21, of 304 Reeves St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 30 on a contempt of court charge.

Francis Lloyd Gilbert Jr., a maintenance worker, 39, of 304 Reeves St., Lot A-16B, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Sept. 7 on a charge of felony battery, domestic violence.

Dale Aaron Glover, an electrician, 36, of 626 W. John Sims Parkway, Room #63, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Sept. 5 on a domestic violence battery charge.

Scott Eason Bacheller, 53, with an at large address, was arrested by Niceville police Sept. 4 on the charge of disorderly intoxication.

Mari Beth Carol Wilson, 21, of 330 Caswell Drive, DeFuniak Springs, was arrested by Niceville police Aug. 26 on charges of possession of a controlled substance, crack cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia and operating without a valid driver's license.

Daniel Charles Kelly, 32, of 177 Wright Circle, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 1 on charges of petit theft, one count, passing a forged check three counts, failure to appear, one count, and a misdemeanor worthless check charge. Subsequent to serving the outstanding warrants at a residence in Fort Walton Beach, Kelly was also arrested and charged with possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana.

Bradley Martin Vanboxtel, a waiter, 22, of 218 Seminole Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 27 on charges of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

John Bruce Tillett, a cable technician, 48, of 985 Alabama St., Titusville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies at an address on Vine Avenue, Niceville, Aug. 20 on an outstanding Brevard County warrant for a misdemeanor charge.

Jennifer Renee Guerette, 30, of 83 Live Oak, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 17 on a violation of probation charge on the original charge of leaving the scene of an accident with property damage, no financial responsibility liability, no vehicle registration, and retail theft.

Mike Eron Mandel, self employed, 34, of 116 Alan A Dale St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Sept. 8 on a Walton County warrant on the charge of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud. Mandel was arrested subsequent to a two-vehicle traffic crash that injured another man, on John Sims Parkway, near Niceville High School, about 3:57 a.m. Sept. 8.

DUI arrests

Steven Lynn Nicholson, 26, of 1501 N. Partin Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies for DUI on Highway 98 in Destin, Aug. 28 at 11:27 p.m.

Jessica Lynn Parsons, a student, 21, of 28 Garden Lane, Apt. 20, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI on Highway 85 and College Boulevard, Sept. 6 at 3:40 a.m. Parsons was also cited for speeding, 50 mph in a 35 mph zone.

Thefts

A Niceville resident from the 1100 block of South Cedar Avenue reported that sometime overnight Sept. 3-4, unknown person(s) burglarized his vehicle and stole about \$3 in change stored in the ashtray.

A Mary Esther resident reported that sometime overnight Sept. 4-5 unknown person(s) burglarized his vehicle and stole a .38 caliber handgun from the locked glovebox while the vehicle was in the Twin Cities Hospital parking lot. Police found no force was used to enter the vehicle.

A Niceville resident from the 400 block of Nathey Street reported that sometime Sept. 1-2 unknown person(s) attempted to burglarize a vehicle but nothing was stolen.

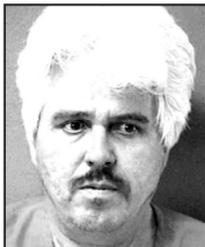
Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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

Name: Kashandria Jones Quarles
Wanted for: failure to appear on the original charge of fraud. Quarles' last known address was on Lake Silver Road in Crestview.
Height: 5-feet, 2-inches
Weight: 125 pounds
Age: 26
Date of birth: 05-22-84
Hair: black
Eyes: brown



Name: Ralph Walter Whitman
Wanted for: violation of probation on the original charge of grand theft and fraud.
Height: 6-feet, 4-inches
Weight: 220 pounds
Age: 54
Date of birth: 05-24-56
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)

A Niceville resident from the 1600 block of 23rd Street reported Aug. 26 that someone stole a \$250 toolbox containing irrigation equipment from the rear of his pickup truck while it was in the driveway in front of his home. About 11 p.m. the victim said he saw a male step into the back of his pickup truck, at which time he called sheriff's deputies. The victim described the suspect as a white male, about 16 or 17 years old, with bushy blond hair and no shirt.

A Niceville resident reported unknown persons(s) stole \$1,100 from his wallet that he had left for several hours on the floorboard of his locked SUV parked at 3500 Scenic Highway 98, Destin, Aug. 23. The victim said that when he returned to his vehicle he drove home and took the wallet inside, not noticing the cash was missing until he went shopping the next day. The victim then saw that the driver's side door handle to his vehicle had been damaged due to being forced.

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from September 3 through September 12.

3 Structure Fire	20 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	2 Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	4 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	0 Hazardous Conditions

Location	Situation	Date	Time
Green Oak/Bayshore	Medical	09/03/10	09:23
S. Palm Blvd	Medical	09/04/10	01:09
Mid Bay Bridge	Cancelled En Route	09/04/10	18:16
N. Partin Drive	Medical	09/06/10	11:21
Eglin AFB	Station Coverage	09/06/10	15:22
Linden Avenue	Medical	09/06/10	22:44
Reeves Street	Medical	09/06/10	23:39
Madison Street	Structure Fire	09/07/10	01:25
Crestview Avenue	Medical	09/07/10	03:18
E. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	09/07/10	16:52
Duke Drive	Medical	09/07/10	19:07
E. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	09/07/10	19:28
N. Partin Drive	Medical	09/07/10	21:12
E. John Sims Pkwy	Vehicle Crash	09/08/10	05:11
Valparaiso Blvd	Lock Out/In	09/08/10	14:42
E. John Sims Pkwy	Vehicle Crash	09/08/10	15:47
W. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	09/09/10	02:39
Seminole Circle	Medical	09/09/10	07:48
Valparaiso Blvd	Medical	09/09/10	14:33
Tee Street	Structure Fire	09/09/10	16:16
Chip Lane	Medical	09/09/10	22:51
N. Partin Drive	Alarm Activation	09/10/10	13:00
Bahia Vista Drive	Structure Fire	09/10/10	17:51
E. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	09/10/10	23:49
Duke Drive	Medical	09/11/10	02:55
Linden Avenue	Medical	09/11/10	15:47
Azalea Drive	Medical	09/11/10	23:35
29th Street	Medical	09/12/10	13:09
N. Partin Drive	Medical	09/12/10	16:21

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls September 6 through September 13.

Location	Situation	Date	Time
Cougar Circle	Dispatched canceled	9/6/10	16:47
Bolton Village Lane	Medical assist EMS	9/6/10	18:34
Madison	Building fire	9/7/10	01:27
Oakmont Drive	EMS excluding vehicle	9/7/10	07:05
E. Highway 20	No incident found	9/7/10	12:11
S. Whitewood Way	Medical assist EMS	9/7/10	15:11
E. Highway 20	False alarm	9/6/10	16:05
E. Highway 20	Medical assist EMS	9/8/10	13:16
W. Parkwood Lane	Assist invalid	9/8/10	04:37
E. Highway 20	Dispatched canceled	9/9/10	12:13
N. White point Road	Medical Assist EMS	9/9/10	14:37
Tee Street	Building fire	9/9/10	16:16
Partin Drive	EMS call, no vehicle	9/9/10	16:35
E. Highway 20	Medical assist EMS	9/10/10	15:07
Bahia Vista Drive	Building fire	9/10/10	17:52
E. Highway 20	Dispatched canceled	9/12/10	13:33
White Point Road	EMS call, no vehicle	9/13/10	02:14

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VALP

From page A-1

final approval Sept. 20 is the tentative property tax rate of \$3,933 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation. The tentative millage rate is less than the current year "rolled back" rate of \$4,4688 per \$1,000 of valuation.

The "rolled back" rate is the property tax rate that would generate the same amount of revenue as the current fiscal year.

Mayor Bruce Arnold raised two issues of concern on the budget—rising employee health insurance costs, and uncontrolled legal costs.

Arnold said the city was seeing a 27.5 percent increase in costs for health insurance for city employees. While Valparaiso has sufficient reserves to handle the cost increase, he asked Commissioner Heyward Strong and City Administrator Carl Scott to look into possible ways to reduce the

costs. He mentioned the two should possibly consider reducing benefits and or increasing employees share of health care expenses.

Arnold also presented a draft professional services agreement for legal services which he drafted himself without consulting the city's attorney. "Our legal costs kind of skyrocketed," the mayor said, adding that he was concerned that city officials had no control over the rising costs. Last

year Valparaiso received bills of \$89,443 from City Attorney Doug Wyckoff, the mayor said, and no one person has oversight over legal expenditures.

Wyckoff said he only performed legal services "as directed." A part of that direction apparently comes from city department heads, including the police, utilities and public works director.

"Anything beyond a baseline budget we (commissioners) need to appropriate," Strong comment-

ed about legal expenses on city business.

Wyckoff, who has been Valparaiso's attorney for six years, said the mayor's draft agreement was unacceptable, that it would cut his fees by two-thirds, from approximately \$80,000 per year to \$36,000, "to do the same thing." Instead, he suggested that the city review his hours of work billed over the past four or five years as a starting point for negotiations. He currently charges the

city \$170 per hour.

Commissioner Diane Kelly said Destin's city attorney charges \$150 per hour. Perhaps, she said, it would be appropriate for Valparaiso to seek offers from other attorneys.

Arnold directed City Clerk Tammy Johnson to provide commissioners with a summary of the attorney's billing hours and said the city commission would take up the issue again at its Sept. 20 budget hearing.



Palm Eye Care in Niceville

The contact lens specialists

Advertising Feature

Palm Eye Care prides itself on serving all patients. The doctors and technicians there enjoy the challenge of helping their patients achieve their best vision and maintaining optimal visual health.

Just one of Palm Eye Care's specialties is the fitting of contact lenses. While growing up, Dr. Tom and Sharon visited many optometrists in search of good vision in contact lenses. It took a few tries before they were able to achieve good comfort and vision in contacts. They may have heard the label of "difficult patient" at least once. Those frustrations motivated them to become optometrists and strive for the best contact lens fit for their patients.

The contact lens market has exploded with new technology over the last few years. The biggest innovation is increased oxygen flow in soft and "hard" lens materials.

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out.

In addition, many more companies have produced great multifocal contacts to provide good vision both near and far. These lenses are available in many materials, and can provide most patients with comfort and a dramatically reduced dependence on reading glasses. Although finding the perfect

lens takes some trial and error, many patients have enjoyed this new technology.

Palm Eye Care's patients with high astigmatism or keratoconus have shown great success with gas-permeable lenses, or the new Synergeyes lens. This specialty lens combines the improved clarity of a gas permeable lens with the

immediate comfort of a soft lens. This latest technology has allowed many patients who have been unable to wear contact lenses to again appreciate better vision in contacts.

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The staff is patient with patients of all ages, and they welcome first-time patients to contact lenses. Age is not a limitation; it simply takes a motivated and educated patient to succeed in contacts. Their personal goal is that you leave the office educated about your eyes and vision, and thinking about your visit to them again next year.

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Who's News

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Mary Kay Independent Sales Director **Elisa Rowland** of Niceville earned the use of a new Chevy Malibu sedan as a result of her outstanding achievement in operating her independent Mary Kay business. This is the fifth career car she has earned in her 10 years in business.



Elisa Rowland

Bailey Reese, 14, of Niceville was selected from hundreds of children across the nation nominated for their good deeds in the Nestlé® Drumstick® Heroes Contest. Bailey is one of 50 winners to be honored throughout the summer.



Bailey Reese

Bailey will receive enough Nestlé Drumstick sundaes and a party package to host an event for as many as 50 family and friends. According to her mother, Diana Reese, Bailey hopes to throw the party for Eglin service members.

L.A. Woodall of the Horizons board of directors has been selected as "Chairman's Choice for September" by Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board Philippe Miceli. Woodall regularly attends membership events, has a positive outlook and always offers a cheerful greeting.



L.A. Woodall

Debbie Lewis, Realtor of ERA American Realty of Northwest Florida, Inc., Niceville, attended Florida Realtor's 94th Annual Convention & Trade Expo Aug. 25-29 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando. Each year, the Expo brings Realtors from around the state together to discuss and vote on key issues that shape their profession and state association.



Debbie Lewis



Beacon photos by Kenneth Books

Rocky Bayou royalty

Rocky Bayou Christian School Sept. 8 had elections for the school's Homecoming Court. The king and queen will be introduced at the Oct. 9 Homecoming football game against Alabama School for the Deaf. Above, juniors and seniors from left: rear, Elizabeth Sober; Esther Alldredge; Ryan Burns and Joseph Sung; front, Grace Stoner, James Waldron, Jared Porrata and Adam Downing. Below, freshmen and sophomores, from left: rear Christy Allen, Kat Koster, Elizabeth Gadzinski and Kristin Maxwell; front, Time Sung, Tyler Paskell, Drew Kirkpatrick and Josh Jarrell. Not present were Katie Kaim and Julia Denney.



Record catch is no fish tale

By Thomas Monigan
Beacon Staff Writer

Did you hear the one about Dr. Phil and the big fish? Well, OK, not the TV Dr. Phil. This fish story belongs to Niceville's own Philip Block, and it involves a record-setting pink salmon he caught while on a recent trip to Alaska.

Turns out it wasn't pink salmon he was after. It was trout. "I was using my fly rod as I always do, and I hooked into something I knew was big, but I couldn't see it," Block he told the Peninsula Clarion, the local paper in Alaska where he caught the fish on Aug. 26.

Brooklyn-born Block, a physician, retired as a colonel from the Air Force in 1991. He's lived in Bluewater Bay for the past 23 years with his wife, Lila.

But once upon a time Block was stationed in Alaska, and for the past six summers he's made a fishing trip back to the Kenai Peninsula. He usually stays at Tower Rock Lodge, where Mike Tuhy is the owner and fishing guide.

Alaskans apparently refer to pink salmon as "humpies" and these fish are known for powerful, gnarly teeth. Block hooked his out on the Kenai River, using bait known as "beads," which he described as simulated salmon eggs.

It took 10 minutes of intense struggle to bring his fish into the boat. After the weigh-in, the measurements were: 10.92 pounds, 29 1/8 inches long and 21 5/8 inches in girth.

Which turns out to be a world record by the standards of the International Game Fish Association for the largest fish ever caught on the type of line Block was using.



Dr. Philip Block with his record-breaking pink salmon.

For he record, it was a 6-kilogram, or 13-pound, tippet. Tippet is a uniform-diameter nylon or fluorocarbon used to extend the leader on a fishing line, according to the website belonging to Leland's Fly Fishing Outfitters.

Back home last week, Block said he didn't bother with having the fish mounted, and he wasn't about to get all hung up with trying to do better on any future trips.

"Look, I never expected it at all," he said. "It's kind of like going to Las Vegas and dropping a coin in a slot machine. It's no big deal, but when that jackpot hits it's pretty darn exciting."

Student prayer rally to fund retreats

'See You at the Pole' rally seeks at least \$2,500

By Thomas Monigan
Beacon Staff Writer

A senior at Northwest Florida State College's Collegiate High School, Kevin Pabst has come up with something for his senior "Capstone Project" that is designed to involve people throughout the Twin Cities.

"I've been considering the ministry as a possible career," Pabst said recently, "and I want my Capstone Project to be something I was passionate

about -- and that's my faith."

So Pabst became involved with this year's local "See You at the Pole" events, scheduled for 6:30 to 8 p.m. Sept. 21 in the Niceville High School auditorium. And since reaching out and affecting the lives of others is one of four main focus points, he's taking things a bit further.

"See You at the Pole" is an annual event in which students assemble at their school's flagpole for a brief episode of com-

Please see RALLY, page B-4



Kevin Pabst and young Ben Baltz recently spent part of an afternoon together tossing the pigskin in Valparaiso's Florida Park.

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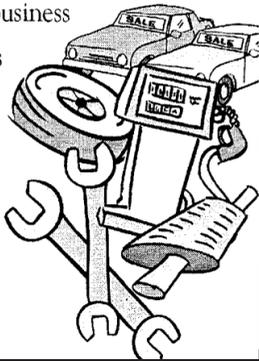
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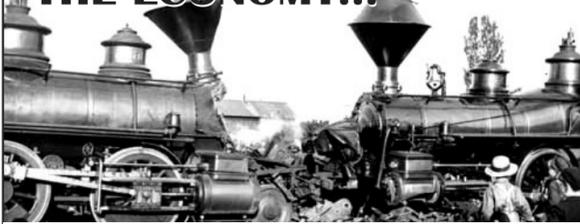


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2010 CALENDAR

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

Museum seeks volunteers

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida is seeking volunteers to assist with greeting, reception and in the gift shop. Flexible days and times are available for one- to three-hour shifts. Interested individuals may stop by the museum during regular business hours, Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: 678-2615.

ESL classes being held

English as a Second Language and Citizenship Classes Tuesdays, 6:30-8:45 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Haigler Center, 622 Bayshore Drive, Niceville, 678-4621. New students should come at 6 p.m. to register for classes. For more information call Glenda Marcus at 678-7568.

Braille transcription class

The Northwest Florida Visionnaires, Inc. presents a free Library of Congress Braille Transcription Certification Class to teach the skills to transcribe textbooks for the blind children of Florida Sept. 13 through April, Mondays 10 a.m.-noon (except holidays), Room 912, First United Methodist Church Community Life Center, Niceville. No experience with Braille or the blind is necessary. Some computer skills and access to your own home computer are necessary to participate. Contact: Bettie Downing, 897-3383.

College night at NWFSC

College Night, a free annual event which features representatives from more than 80 colleges and universities from across the nation, will be held Wednesday, Sept. 15, 6-8 p.m. in the College Mall (building K) of the Northwest Florida State College Niceville campus.

Sponsored jointly by NWF State College and the Okaloosa and Walton County public school districts, College Night provides high school students, their parents, and others the opportunity to gather information, ask questions and plan for college. Representatives from NWF State College's baccalaureate and associate degree programs, as well as student services and financial aid, will be on hand to provide information.

For information, call NWF State College at 729-5379.

Auxiliary jewelry sale

The Auxiliary of the Twin Cities Hospital will host a Masquerade \$5 Jewelry Sale in the Hospital Wellness Center Thursday and Friday, Sept. 16 and 17, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Health Care Field Related Scholarship Fund. Call Wanda, 897-7786.

Library book sale

Book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Niceville Library, Niceville Community Center, 204 N. Partin Drive (next door to the library), Friday, Sept. 17. Friends only pre-sale, 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, open to the public 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the Niceville Public Library.

Hearts Apart golf tourney

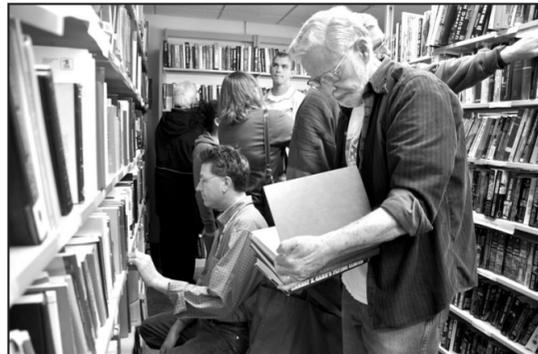
The public is invited to participate in the first Hearts Apart golf tournament at Eglin Golf Course in Niceville on Friday, Sept. 17. The format is a 4-man scramble, with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Entry fee is \$200 per team and includes green fees, cart, and a cookout following the tournament. Proceeds will benefit the families of deployed airmen. Call Master Sgt. Baucom at 882-4287, Eglin Airman & Family Readiness Center, to participate.

Starship, Loverboy slated

Starship, starring Mickey Thomas, and Loverboy will headline the 32nd Annual Destin Seafood Festival Sept. 17-19 at the Destin Fishing Fleet Marina, City of Destin Royal Melvin Heritage Park, and Fisherman's Wharf.

Starship performs the multi-platinum hits of Jefferson Airplane, Jefferson Starship, and Starship, including "We Built this City," "Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now," "Sara," and "It's Not Over Till It's Over."

Since its self-titled debut album in 1980, Loverboy has released four multi-platinum albums and many international gold albums. Hits include "Working for the Weekend,"



Book sale planned

A book sale is scheduled at the Niceville Community Center, 204 N. Partin Drive (next door to the library), Saturday, Sept. 18, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Niceville Public Library.

"Turn Me Loose," "The Kid is Hot Tonight," "Lucky Ones," and "Hot Girls in Love."

The festival will also feature regional musical acts, seafood from local restaurants, arts and crafts vendors and a kids' play area.

Info on sponsorships, arts and crafts vendor requirements, food vendor requirements and volunteer opportunities: Risa Garner, 837-2711 ext. 2 or rgarner@DestinChamber.com.

Amvets sets garage sale

The Ladies Auxiliary of Amvets Post 78 plans a garage and bake sale Saturday, Sept. 18, 7 a.m.-3 p.m., 910 Valastics Ave., Valparaiso.

Race for Relay slated

The fourth annual Twin-Cities Relay for Life 5K/Mile Fun Run will be held on Sept. 18, 8 a.m. at Lewis School, Valparaiso. Early registration is \$15/Fun Run \$5. Student price is \$5 for either race. NWFTC members receive a \$2 discount. Special rate for groups of 10 or more. Late fee add \$5 the day of the race. T-shirts for the first 250 entries. Register online at active.com. E-mail samacd@valp.net for any questions. Proceeds benefit The American Cancer Society. Runners and walkers are welcome.

Barbershop singers from around the Panhandle will perform a one-time evening show at the Niceville High School Auditorium on Saturday, Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m. The show will feature barbershop singers from all four geographic areas and a number of quartets competing for the Timpooshee trophies awarded each year at this event.

Tickets are \$10 and are available from any barbershopper or at the door. Additional information can be obtained at emeraldcoastchorus.com or by calling Allan Stearns at 496-1769.

Via Colori art festival set

The Via Colori Street Painting Art Festival will transform Grand Boulevard's Town Center at Sandestin Sept. 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. This event brings together artists, volunteers, and businesses. Most of Grand Boulevard's main street will be closed for this pedestrian-friendly event which is free and open to the public. Info: 654-5929.

Wine festival, auction set

The March of Dimes of the Emerald Coast will host the second annual Harvest Wine Festival and Silent Auction Saturday, Sept. 18, 7-10 p.m., at Sunset Beach Clubhouse in Bluewater Bay featuring numerous wines for tasting and food catered by Dewey Destin's Restaurant and Winn Dixie of

Bluewater Bay. Desserts will be provided by the Melting Pot Restaurant. Silent auction items will include gift baskets, destination packages including the Beau Rivage Biloxi and Treasure Bay Biloxi casinos, gift cards, jewelry and golf packages. Tickets are \$15 and are available for purchase at Uniquely Chic in Bluewater Bay, Bayou Books in Niceville, the Bluewater Bay Tennis Center or by calling 543-9197. Proceeds remain local and go directly to the March of Dimes of the Emerald Coast.

Garden seminar planned

The Okaloosa County Master Gardeners along with the UF/IFAS Extension will hold an education seminar Saturday, Sept. 18, featuring Buddy Lee, plant breeder and developer of encore azaleas, at the Northwest Florida Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration at the door is \$12 and pre-registration is \$10. To pre-register, call 650-2804 or 269-2170. Selected encore azaleas and new varieties of Southern living plants will also be featured and available for purchase in a silent auction.

Free Disney movie

Uptown Station in Fort Walton Beach will show the Disney feature "Up!" at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18.

The public may bring coolers and lawn chairs, but leave pets and glass containers at home.

Woman's Club year opens

Twin Cities Woman's Club in Niceville will begin its 2010-11 club year Wednesday, Sept. 22, with a general membership meeting and luncheon at the Bluewater Bay Clubhouse. Social hour begins at 11 a.m., with lunch at 11:30. The business meeting will immediately follow. Lunch is \$12 per person and reservations must be made in advance by calling Vicki Rudolph at 678-5501, no later than Sept. 18.

This month's program will be a discussion of the club's direction for this year, upcoming programs, fundraisers and committees. New members are welcome.

Spaghetti dinner slated

The Choctaw Beach Community Center will be having a spaghetti dinner Sept. 18, 4-7 p.m. Dinners cost \$6 and to go dinners will be available. Choctaw Beach is located five miles east of Bluewater Bay and 13 miles west of Freeport. The community center is located on Water Oak street off of highway 20. Info: 897-5590.

Day of Caring

The United Way of Okaloosa and Walton Counties Day of Caring in Niceville-Valparaiso will be held Wednesday, Sept. 22. The day will begin at 8 a.m. with a kickoff break-

fast at Turkey Creek under the leadership of Day of Caring Chairs Carrie Ely of Gulf Power Co. and Connie Phillips. Following breakfast, volunteers will report to their assigned projects, including yard work, painting and other tasks, throughout Niceville-Valparaiso. When work ends around 11:30, volunteers will gather back at Turkey Creek where lunch will be sponsored by the Niceville Kiwanis Organization. Info: 243-0315 or e-mail RondaD@united-way.org.

WWII aviator to speak

On Wednesday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m., the Heritage Museum will host James Croke, World War II aviator, prisoner of war and author, for a discussion and signing of his new book, "Berlin to the Gulf of Mexico." Croke's memoir blends his days as a POW in Luft Stalag I with flashbacks to his youth growing up on the shores of Florida's panhandle.

This military history program is one of a series presented by the Heritage Museum this year in honor of Eglin's 75th Anniversary.

Bring a sack lunch. This lecture is free and open to the public.

To reserve a seat, call: 678-2615. Info: heritage-museum.org.

Oktoberfest coming

Come enjoy the 26th annual Oktoberfest in Bluewater Bay. Live music, entertainment for adults and children, arts and crafts, soft drinks, bratwurst, smoked chicken quarters and beer. Friday, Sept. 24, 5-10 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 25, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. at Market Place near Winn-Dixie on Highway 20, Bluewater Bay, Niceville. Sponsored by the Mid-Bay Rotary Club. All proceeds go to local charities. Free admission.

Beach cleanup planned

Volunteers are needed for the semiannual Florida coastal beach cleanup, Saturday, Sept. 25, 8 a.m.

Locations: Beasley Park, east of Brooks Bridge, Okaloosa Island; Beach Park, Santa Rosa Boulevard, Okaloosa Island; Henderson Beach, Highway 98, east of Destin or Niceville High School Breezeway on John Sims Parkway.

Volunteers will receive a free T-shirt and free bottled water. Info: 651-7131.

Dog walk/run for PAWS

The Panhandle Animal Welfare Society's "New Leash on Life" Dog Walk/Run in conjunction with Dog Daze will be held Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Fort Walton Landing in beautiful downtown Fort Walton Beach. Late registration for the walk will begin at 8 a.m. and the walk/run will begin at 9 a.m. The walk/run will be 1.25 miles.

Individuals, families and "packs" of five walkers or more can participate. Prizes will be awarded for top fundraisers in various categories.

PAWS will also offer \$5 rabies vaccinations and \$15 microchips at Dog Daze from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Registration forms and info: paws-shelter.org or call Tricia Bryant, 243-1525 or e-mail tricia.bryant@embarqmail.com

PUTToberfest scheduled

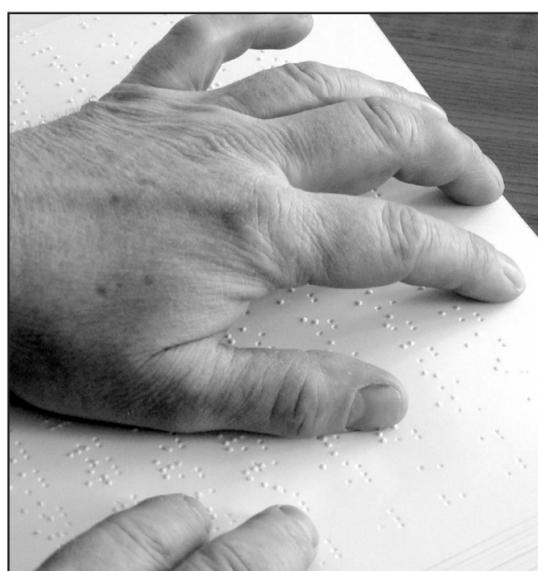
Putt your way through 18 holes and a beer tasting during the area's first ever PUTToberfest, 5 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 30, presented by the Destin Area Sports Commission. Players will enjoy a round of miniature golf at the Golf Garden with beer sampling stations set up all along the way. The event also features additional contests, including longest drive and closest to the pin, and prizes will be awarded. Entry for a single player is \$25. For more information or to reserve your spot, please contact Risa Garner at 837-2711 x2 or rgarner@DestinChamber.com. Sponsorships are available.

'Christmas Child' review

Livia Satterfield will present her experience with "Operation Christmas Child" at First United Methodist Church at the corner of John Sims Parkway and Partin Drive in Niceville, 6-8 p.m. Oct. 3. Satterfield received a shoebox as a child while living in a Romanian orphanage. Adopted by an American family, she now packs shoeboxes to send throughout the world. National Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child is scheduled for Nov. 15-22.

Oil spill program planned

Randy McDaniel, Chief of Emergency Management, Okaloosa County will speak about our area's response to the 2010 oil spill Wednesday, Oct. 6, 1 p.m., at Northwest Florida State College's K-Gallery. He will offer information specific to the catastrophe and field questions related to general emergency management in the county as part of the Florida: Then and Now series. Admission is free.



Transcribe Braille

The Northwest Florida Visionnaires, Inc. presents a free Library of Congress Braille Transcription Certification Class at First United Methodist Church, Niceville, to teach the skills to transcribe textbooks for the blind children Sept. 13 through April, Mondays. Call 897-3383.

Weddings

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.



Rachel Christine and Benjamin Nelson

Sambenedetto-Nelson

Rachel Christine Sambenedetto and Joel Benjamin Nelson were united in marriage in a double ring ceremony by Pastor Arthur Schneider on Sept. 4, 2010.

The wedding took place in Swift Creek Park surrounded by family and friends.

The bride is the daughter of Daniel and Kim Sambenedetto of Niceville. The groom is the son of Samuel and Barbara Nelson of Valparaiso.

The bride was given away by her father. Nuptial music was provided by pianist David Haynes. The Maid of Honor was Laurie Sambenedetto, the bride's sister.

The Best Man was Si Nelson, the groom's brother. The reception was held at the Swift Creek Club House.

The couple took a honeymoon trip to St. Joseph Peninsula.

The bride and groom are both graduates of NWFSC. The bride will attend Aveda Institute and the couple will live in Tallahassee.

Local Relay among Florida's top 25

Exceeded goal by \$18K

The Niceville-Valparaiso Relay For Life was recently recognized as a top 25 event in Florida by the American Cancer Society.

The local Relay was 23rd in the state. No. 1 was Naples.

Top 25 events average more than twice the number of participants with more than 28 percent being survivors, and have committees that were twice as large as under \$40,000 events, with an average of 26 members

Top 25 events accounted for only 7 percent of all the events in Florida, but raised almost one-fourth of all team dollars statewide, with an average of \$1,500 per team. Niceville had a team average of \$3,333.

Niceville's final numbers for

2010:

—\$148,136 total net—
\$18,136 over goal

—44 Teams

—4.1 percent of gross for expense, well below the allowed 10 percent

—\$3,867 in sponsorships

Next year will be Niceville-Valparaiso's 14th year to participate in Relay. Thirty teams have already signed up for the 2011 Niceville/Valparaiso event, which will take place April 15 and 16, 2011.

To participate, attend a meeting from 6 to 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church Tuesday, Sept. 21. Contact Dee Hayhurst, American Cancer Society Staff Partner, dee.hayhurst@cancer.org or 244-3813 ext. 3555



Niceville residents whoop it up during the 2010 Destin Relay for Life after heavy rains washed out the Niceville-Valparaiso event. In spite of the weather, the local Relay was 23rd in the state in terms of funds raised.

Library sets book sale

Book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Niceville Library, Niceville Community Center, 204 N. Partin Drive (next door to the library), Friday, Sept. 17. Friends only pre-sale, 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, open to the public 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the Niceville Public Library.

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RALLY

From page B-1

Money collected at the rally will be donated to Lighthouse Family Retreats, a faith-based charity with direct connections to the Emerald Coast.

"They'll get all of what we collect," Pabst said. "It takes \$2,500 to send one family on a retreat, and with 600 people there we think we can accomplish that. We're also looking for corporate donations."

For the past 11 years, Lighthouse has held 70 retreats

in this region for families living through childhood cancer. The weeklong retreats are held in rented or donated homes between Destin and Panama City Beach in the beach communities along 30-A and are scheduled from April to October.

Around 120 people attend each retreat, which is composed of 10 to 12 families and 30 volunteers who serve them by cooking, cleaning and taking care of

daily responsibilities so the families can focus on having fun together.

Young Ben Baltz of Valparaiso and his family have been able to make a Lighthouse retreat in each of the past two years. Ben, who is 9 years old and who attends Lewis School, lost his lower right leg to bone cancer after being diagnosed in 2008.

The Baltz family also

includes mother and father Kim and JC, and children Jacob, 17, and Rachel, 15. The teenagers attend Collegiate High School.

The Baltzes spent each retreat in the Watercolor community on 30-A in Walton County, which Kim summarized as "incredible."

"When you're going through childhood cancer, no one can understand what you're going through," she said. "But with something like this you can bring

together 13 to 15 families, and the parents can attend counseling while the children are enjoying their activities. And there are family events, which include singing and devotionals on the beach."

Since 1991, "See You at the Pole™" has grown to involve more than 2 million students from all 50 states, according to the official website. Students in more than 20 countries take part.

50th Anniversary Celebration

On September 18th and 19th 2010, Valparaiso First Assembly of God Church, located at 571 Valparaiso Blvd, will celebrate 50 years of ministry in the community.

The church began on Sunday, June 26, 1960 with thirty six people. Since its inception the church has undergone three building phases and was remodeled last year.

Besides ministering to the local community and Air Force personnel, the congregation has hosted family fun fairs, Easter-egg dashes, participated in community Christmas parades and hosted a Live Nativity scene. In honor of our armed forces, the church holds an annual military appreciation day. From its beginning the church has sought to point people to Christ.

For over twenty years Noah's Ark Daycare and Pre-school, sponsored by the church, serves the community with quality Christian education and child care. The church, through the years, has been actively helping those in need.

The vision of the church is not only to minister locally, but through mission emphasis, the congregation commits annually to support missionary ministries around the world.

The church has sent out missionaries, pastors and youth pastors. Pastor Gueary Clendening states, "We are very grateful for what God has accomplished through Valparaiso First Assembly of God and we are very excited about the future."

On Saturday, September 18th, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., a reception will be held for members and former members to get reacquainted. Sunday, September 19th, coffee and donuts will be served from 9:15 to 10 a.m. with the celebration service following. A brief history of the church will be presented and past accomplishments recognized. Rev. Larry Perry, former member who is now a pastor in Tallahassee, will be the guest speaker. Dinner will be served following the service. Everyone is invited. For more information please call the church at 678-4030.

Valparaiso First Assembly of God
571 Valparaiso Pkwy. • Valparaiso
850-678-4030
www.valparaiso-ag.org

Quilters to display wares at fair

Raffling off quilt valued at \$3,400

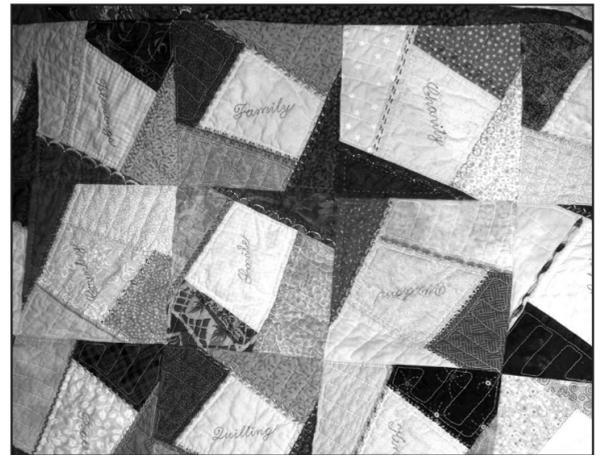
Visit the Flying Needles Quilt Guild booth at the Okaloosa County Fair Oct. 26 to 30, to purchase a raffle ticket to win a the award-winning 2010 Opportunity Quilt made by guild members, and a crazy-quilt. View the other quilts, including the Quilts of Valor, created by the Guild.

Raffle tickets, \$1 each or six for \$5, will be available, and Guild members will gladly show their work.

Both quilts are part of the Guild's biannual raffle drawing, in which funds are raised to support supply costs for charitable items the Guild makes and donates to local organizations. Also displayed will be the Quilts of Valor that will be sent to recovering wounded military personnel in November. These Quilts of Valor will be sent to appropriate recipients through the national Quilts of Valor Foundation. The Guild's annual goal is to make 12 Quilts of Valor in addition to the dozens of charitable quilts and hundreds of Christmas stockings.

The Flying Needles Quilt Guild, a 503 c (3) organization, sews for many charitable events throughout the year. The items, all made by the 100-plus members, are quilts, drawstring tote bags, smaller zippered cosmetic/school supply bags and filled Christmas stockings, which are given to shelters throughout the area for distribution to children; wheelchair lap quilts, given to the VA Hospital or nursing homes and adult-size easy on/off bibs for Alzheimer's seniors in nursing homes.

The 2010 Opportunity Quilt, measuring 75 by 90 inches, is composed of 12 different stars blocks, built on foundation-paper, in hand-dyed fabrics of rich gem shades on black. A wide black border has bias-stem swirls appliquéd with shaped blooms and "buds" in the same rich, eye-catching hues. This quilt was given a "Best Innovation" ribbon award at the Greater Jackson (Miss.) Quilt Celebration 2009, and was magnificently quilted by Guild member Patty Butcher of Niceville. Professional appraiser Alma Moates gave this quilt an appraisal of \$3,400, and the rich combination of reds, greens, yellows, golds, blues and purples



The 2010 Opportunity Quilt will be raffled off by the Flying Needles Quilt Guild.

make this a true feast for the eyes.

The Crazy Quilt, measuring 54 by 67 inches, is a wonderful combination of 7-inch square blocks sewn with five colors (beige/whites, yellow/golds, blues, light blue/greens and reds), with four blocks meeting together as the red points create a star. Machine quilting, hand-quilting, embroidery, beads, and machine-guided written words in the center of most blocks (Love, Hope, Faith, Charity, Church, Country, etc.) make this quilt look more

than 50 years old, although it was created in spring 2010. Members will eagerly "hunt up and show you" the blocks that they made when you come to visit the Guild booth.

The Guild has a website at flyingneedlesquiltguild.org, and Guild members meet every second Thursday at 9:30 at the Niceville Church of Christ, directly across the street from Niceville High School.

Call Sandra Congleton, 862-8588, for more information.

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Discipleship • 5:00pm
Wednesdays
Adults, Youth, & Children • 6:00pm

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Eagles shut out Choctaw, 28-0

By Sarah Clauson
Beacon Correspondent

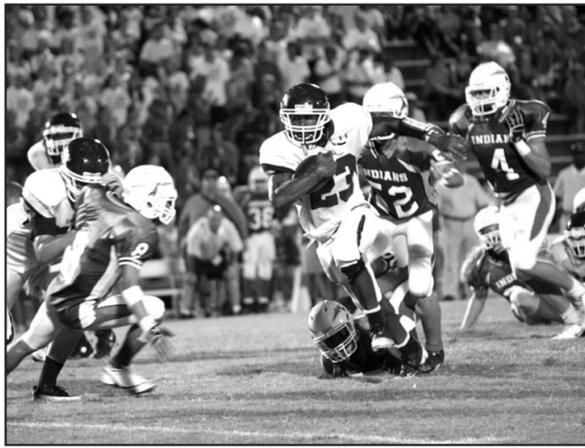
The Niceville Eagles, along with enough fans to fill the visitors' side of Etheridge Stadium, took to the road Friday night to face off against the Choctaw Indians in their second game of the season. They brought home another victory, shutting out the Indians, 28-0.

Defensively, the Eagles proved to be a powerhouse, while offensively they demonstrated their ability to adapt and correct. Their ground game proved to be steady and effective, while their passing game took a bit longer to hit its stride.

The game had somewhat of a slow start. Both teams had used a time out within the first minute and a half of the game.

The Eagles spent a lot of time with the ball on their second possession, working their way down the field. Late in the quarter, they began to gain momentum. After several first downs, running back Spencer Pullen managed the ball down to the 1-yard line as the buzzer sounded. Quarterback Kyle McDorman carried the ball—something he did throughout the night—into the end zone to put the first six points on the board within the first few seconds of the second quarter. A good kick by Andrew Mitchell brought the score to 7-0.

Choctaw received the kick-off and looked to make a huge play as



Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

Niceville senior running back Marquis Pratt eludes a bevy of Choctawhatchee defender for a big gain and a first down.

their receiver zipped through a hole in the middle of the field, until he fumbled the ball, which gave defensive back Kevin Chasteen the opportunity to shine with a fumble recovery that gave possession back to the Eagles.

McDorman and his receivers still hadn't hit their stride, and after two incompletions and a run for a loss of yards, the Eagles tried one more pass on a fourth and 11, but couldn't get the first down.

Although they couldn't make the most of the fumble recovery, the defense certainly did their part to get the ball back in Eagle hands. They kept the Indians from a first down, and forced them to

line, and the second put Burke in the end zone to widen the gap to 21-0 just before halftime.

Niceville had possession of the ball for most of the third quarter, thanks in part to an interception by Chasteen during Choctaw's first possession. The interception and previous fumble recovery, along with several key tackles, kept Chasteen busy.

"I've been working all summer," Chasteen said about his big plays. "It's just what I have to do. I just want to win."

The drive, and the quarter, proved scoreless. Mitchell entered the fourth quarter as quarterback along with running back Jon Hudson. Both were able to get first downs carrying the ball, and a completion from Mitchell to wide receiver Hayden Meyer brought the score to 28-0.

"I thought we played really well on both sides of the football," said head coach John Hicks. "We made a couple mistakes here and there offensively, but played really well." As for future preparations, "We need to keep getting better. The teams get tougher, and when we get into district play we want to be playing the best we can," he said.

How will Chasteen prepare? "Practice hard every day and listen to what the coaches say," he said.

The Eagles get another chance to showcase their hard work and determination when they host Pine Forest Friday at 7 p.m.

GO EAGLES!

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
SEPT. 10	CHOCTAW	AWAY	7:00 PM
SEPT. 17	PINE FOREST	HOME	7:00 PM
SEPT. 24	GODBY	HOME	7:00 PM
OCT. 1	PACE	HOME	7:00 PM
OCT. 8	MOSLEY*	AWAY	7:00 PM
OCT. 15	OPEN		
OCT. 22	FORT WALTON BEACH*	HOME	7:00 PM
OCT. 29	AUBURN	AWAY	7:00 PM
NOV. 5	CRESTVIEW*	AWAY	7:00 PM
NOV. 12	OPEN		

*Game on shaded line indicates it is a District Game

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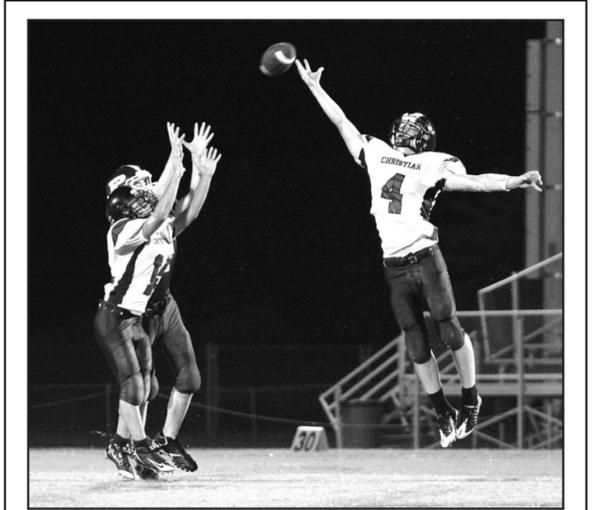
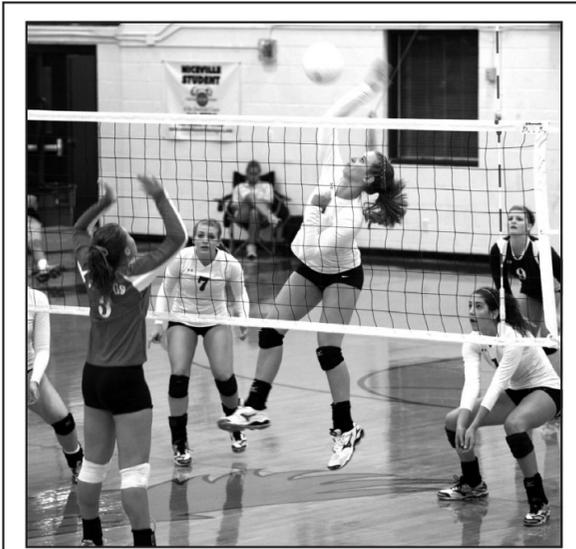


Photo by Scott Schaeffler

Knights win

Eighth-grader wide receiver Josh Preston leaps for the ball during Rocky Bayou Christian School's first football victory since 2008 Friday, 35-0, over Peniel Baptist Academy. Also going for the ball was sophomore Austin Bearinger and another Knight.



Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

Niceville spikes for win

Niceville junior Shelby Russell scores against Fort Walton Beach Thursday. The Eagle volleyball team swept the Vikings, 25-15, 25-15 and 15-9.

Sports capsules

Freshman football

Tuesday, Sept. 7
NHS (2-0) 21 Choctaw (0-2) 14

Niceville highlights

Tyre McCants, 12 rushes, 121 yards, 3 XPs
Brandon Kucera, 17 rushes, 109 yards, TD
Trent Edwards, 6 rushes, 45 yards
Ashton Hooker, 2 rushes, 3 yards, TD, 0 - 2 passing
Dylan Estep, 2-2 Passing 75 yards, TD
Jalen Douglas, 2 Receptions, 75 yards, TD

RBCS swimming

MVP goes to Audrey Stevens, a three-day-old RBCS swimmer, who completed the 200 individual medley. Audrey captured the entire crowd, cheering her on to the finish.

John Stevenson took a first-place finish in his heat and Steven Wills was right behind him in second.

Suzi Sober and Elizabeth Sober placed second in their heat.

Doug Linder and Colin Frazier each had personal best times against Choctaw, Niceville and Fort Walton Beach Swimmers.

This week in sports

Wednesday, Sept. 15

—Destin vs. Baker, Volleyball, 4
—Lewis@Pryor, volleyball, 3:30
—Ruckel@St. Mary, volleyball, 3:30
—Lewis@Ruckel, cross country, 3
—Destin@St. Mary, cross country, 4
—NHS@Choctaw, ladies golf, 8

Thursday, Sept. 16

—Lewis@Davidson, football, 6:30
—Destin-Pryor, football, 6:30
—NHS-FWB, JV football, 4
—NHS-Choctaw, 4:30, cross country
—NHS-Choctaw, volleyball 4:30/5:30
—RBCS-Pensacola Christian, volleyball, 5/6
—NHS@Choctaw, boys golf, 7:30

Friday, Sept. 17

—NHS-Pine Forest, football, 7
—RBCS@Franklin County, football, 6

Friday-Saturday, Sept. 17-18

—NHS@Lovett Block Party Invitational, Atlanta, volleyball, 4

Saturday, Sept. 18

—RBCS@Pensacola Wildcat Invitational, cross country

Monday, Sept. 20

—Lewis@Baker, volleyball, 3:30
—Ruckel@Shoal River, volleyball, 3:30

Tuesday, Sept. 21

—RBCS@Laurel Hill, volleyball, 5/6
—NHS@FWB, ladies golf, 3
—NHS@Crestview, boys golf, 3

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16TH ANNUAL

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September 24th & 25th

EINS - Friday Evening, September 24th, 5 - 10 pm
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ZWEI - Saturday, Sept. 25th, 11 am - 10 pm
Live music, entertainment, Arts & Crafts, Sodas, Brats & Beer.

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Volunteers spruce up Niceville YMCA

By Thomas Monigan
Beacon Staff Writer

More than two dozen volunteers each donated a fair share of hard work Labor Day weekend in the first major step toward renovating the Niceville Family YMCA.

"You wouldn't even recognize the place ... it looks completely different," said Richard Kimmons, who became operations and membership director for the Niceville Y back in January.

Nineteen YMCA members and seven members of the Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso worked on repainting the main workout room and cleaning the floors. Great White Carpet Cleaning of Niceville also donated time and work on

the project.

"I came to work with them Monday, and my first impression was, 'Wow,'" said Joe Casal, president and CEO of the YMCA of Florida's Emerald Coast.

"I was really impressed with the passion and commitment of the volunteers," Casal added. "It really means a lot to have that type of community support."

But as unofficial project coordinator Phil Hooper can tell you, there's still plenty of work remaining.

Hooper recently appeared before the Niceville City Council to request \$2,200 from a fund that the city uses to help non-profits.

Last week the Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso was scheduled to



Phil Hooper

donate \$500 to the project.

Hooper estimates it would take \$11,000 to replace a hot tub, and replacing the carpet would take another \$6,000 to \$7,000.

The hot tub is working, but in a letter to potential donors, Hooper states that the city has given the YMCA a year to bring the tub up to code, otherwise it must be shut down.

Estimates on repairing or replacing broken exercise equipment approach another \$2,000.



The Niceville Family YMCA looks as good as new after a Labor Day facelift performed by 19 volunteers, including seven members of the Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso.



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Kiwanis helps students

The Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso donated \$1,100 in cash and school supplies to the Niceville Sharing and Caring "Tools for School" Program. From left: Howard Hill, Bob Mayhall and Frieda Spence (Sharing and Caring), Ed Dunbar and Judy Boudreaux.



Yard of the month awarded

The September 2010 Yard of the Month for the city of Niceville was awarded to Pamela and Charles Humes, 302 Branch Hill Park.

Ruckel recalls a dark day

Students from Ruckel Middle School's art department, under the direction of art teacher Kendra Peloquin, commemorated Sept. 11, 2001, last Thursday by hanging multi-media replicas of five American flags around the campus. This was the second year Ruckel students have honored those who died in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in such a way. "The students and I find it important to share our art with the community and to involve them with the art experience," Peloquin said.

Beacon photo by Thomas Monigan



RMS lauds FCAT scholars

Ruckel Middle School recently honored 34 students who scored a perfect 500 on either the reading or the math segment of their FCAT tests. Plus one student, eighth-grader Liam Schmidt, went perfect on both segments for a score of 1,000.

Those with 500 scores in reading included sixth-graders Sydney Dawson, Aaron Delatorre, Alicia Mishaw and Alexandria Tolbert. Seventh-graders included Georgia Carrico, Mara Riley, Carly Ritterband, Ronald Russell, Cari Sands,

Maryn Smith and Brice Tingle. Eighth-graders included Brody Blow, Hayden Boilini, Rhianna Dalton, Austin Leibach, Sydney Love, Taylor Maderazo, Cristina Metral, Carol Mitchell, Erica Mitchell, and Liam Schmidt.

Those with 500 scores in math included seventh-graders Greyson Brothers, Laura Harber, Patrick Shaw and Williams West. Eighth-graders included Madelin Hsiang, Matthew Nelson, Matthew Ohair, Chase Schoener, Kelly Stukbauer and William West.

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- Iris Cross, BP Community Outreach

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No oil has flowed into the Gulf for weeks. But we know this is just the beginning of our work. BP has taken full responsibility for the cleanup in the Gulf and that includes keeping you informed.

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We can't undo this tragedy. But we can help people get back on their feet. We have been working with impacted communities since day one.

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BP is here in Gulf communities with shrimpers, fishermen, hotel and restaurant owners, helping to make them whole.

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BP has also given grants of \$87 million to the states to help tourism recover and bring people back to the Gulf beaches.

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We're going to keep looking for oil and cleaning it up if we find it. Teams will remain in place for as long as it takes to restore the Gulf Coast.

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