

The Bay Beacon

16 Pages, 2 Sections, 3 Inserts

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

50¢

Higher local noise levels seen in F-35 flights

Air Force plan would end north-south runway restriction

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

In a report issued last week, the Air Force has sided with a proposed F-35 warplane training plan at Eglin Air Force Base that would increase jet noise in much of Valparaiso and parts of western Niceville.

The Air Force released a draft environmental impact study on the planned beddown of 59 F-35 fighter aircraft at Eglin, including its preferred alternative of 19 evaluated.

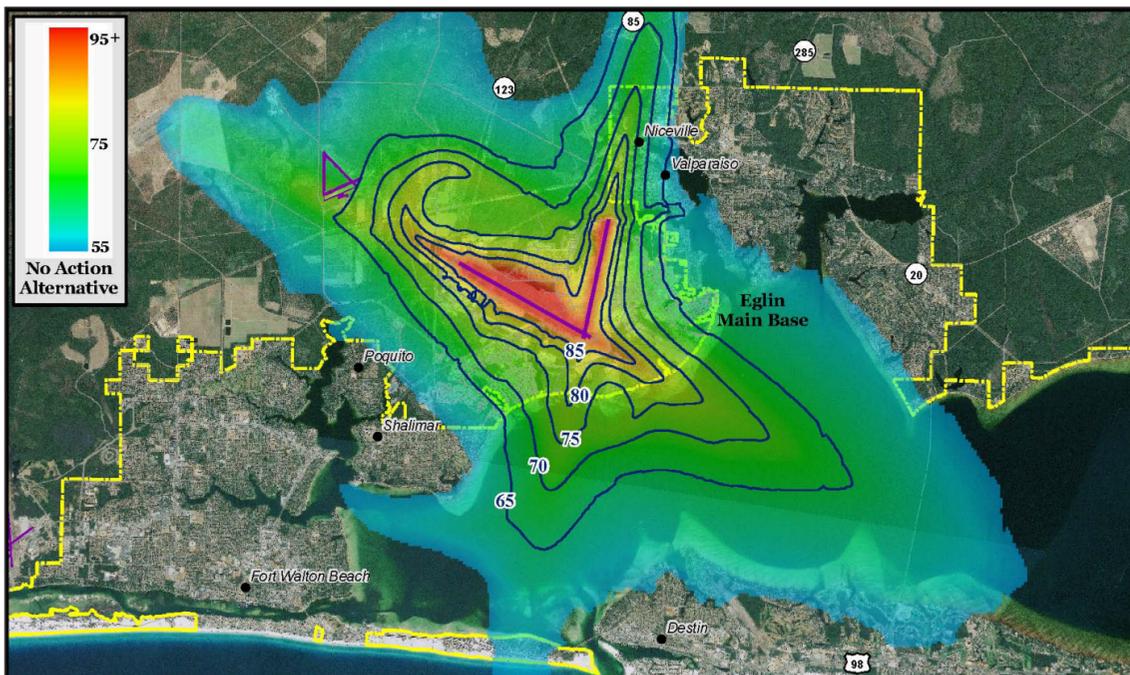
The service's preferred alterna-

tive, called 1A, is the noisiest option for those living close to Eglin's Main Base, according to the draft Eglin Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), released last week. On an average flying day, which includes most weekdays, about 34 F-35s would fly over Valparaiso, blanketing much of the city with engine

Please see F-35, page A-9

Noise map for the Air Force's "preferred alternative" in operating an F-35 warplane training wing at Eglin Air Force Base. Line contours mark decibel levels, with 65 decibels deemed "incompatible" with residential development, according to the service. Colored contours mark noise levels residents could expect if Eglin limits flights from its north-south runway, a restriction which the preferred alternative would end. At left, an F-35.

Air Force



COMING UP

Saturday, 1-4 p.m.

It's time to audition for the **Boggy Bayou Mullet Festival Singing Showdown** at the Niceville Community Center. A registration fee of \$25 is due upon the audition.

Registration forms are available online at cityofniceville.org/mullet.html. Info: 279-6436, ext. 1001, or 729-4070.

Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

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. National Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child is scheduled for Nov. 15-22.

Sunday, 3-4 p.m.
Holy Name of Jesus Church, 1200 Valparaiso Blvd., Niceville will have a Rosary for Life on **Respect Life Sunday**. Info: 678-9672.

Monday, 6-8 p.m.
The next **Creative Gardener Series** program will be on "Forcing Bulbs for the Holidays." The series is cosponsored by the Valparaiso Garden Club and Valparaiso Library, where it is held. Info: 729-5406.

Calendar, A-8 & B-4.

Celebrating—no strings attached



Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

Niceville High School fans fire off a volley of Silly String during the third period of Friday's Homecoming football game against Godby. The Eagles won the game, 7-0. More photos, A-5. Story, B-3.

N. Bay OK's millage hike

No action on layoff option

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

After vigorous debate among fire commissioners and some of their constituents at a final budget hearing Sept. 22, the North Bay fire commission agreed to a millage rate of 2.25 and a budget of \$2,117,407 for the 2010-11 fiscal year, which begins Friday.

Fire commissioners also discussed—but took no action on—a suggestion by the fire chief that the district could lay off three firefighters to cut costs.

The new millage rate is higher than the current millage rate of

2.05, and higher than the "rolled back" rate of 2.1599 mills, which would have produced the same amount of property tax revenue as was collected in the fiscal year just ending.

The new rate is lower, however, than the 2.46 originally proposed for the coming year, but which was reduced during a previous budget meeting.

At a rate of 2.25, property owners in the North Bay Fire District will pay \$2.25 in property tax for every \$1,000 of taxable

Please see MILLAGE, page A-8

College boosts parking fines

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

At their Sept. 21 meeting, the Board of Trustees of Northwest Florida State College more than doubled the fines charged for parking violations on campus, discussed funding problems and student test scores at the college-sponsored Collegiate High School, and also approved a variety of items related to college operations and construction.

Two days later, the trustees got together again, for a training workshop on how to comply with Florida's "Sunshine Law."

During the Sept. 21 meeting, the trustees changed the college's parking fine fee structure to increase fines from \$10 to \$25,

effective January 2011.

The college wrote 850 parking tickets during the semester that began Jan. 4 and ended May 14, according to spokeswoman Sylvia Bryan. Penalties are enforced administratively through the college rather than through the courts.

The Sept. 21 meeting also included a briefing from Charla Cotton, director of the Collegiate High School, a public charter school operated by NWFSC at the Niceville campus.

Cotton reviewed a previous briefing she had given in August, in which she had told the trustees that the Collegiate High School

Please see PARKING, page A-9

'He went back inside' WWII aviator speaks on new book

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Local author and WWII aviator James Crooke told a story about war, survival and personal resilience at the Okaloosa Heritage Museum in Valparaiso last week, as he discussed what it was like to fly bombers over Nazi Germany at the height of the war, and to endure life in a German prisoner-of-war camp.

Crooke has recently authored a book about his experiences during the war, in which he was a navigator and radio operator

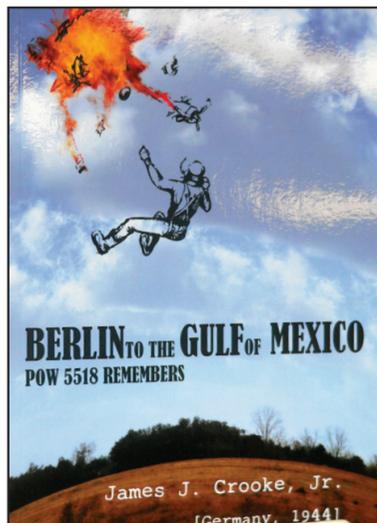


James Crooke

aboard a U.S. Army Air Forces B-17 bomber. The book contains many of the cartoons and drawings Crooke made during the war, which illustrated, often humorously, the life and hardships faced by Crooke and his fellow airmen.

As a lieutenant in the 303rd Bomb Group based at Molesworth, England, Crooke flew aboard a B-17 called the "Lonesome Polecat." Flying such missions was extremely dangerous, with

Please see WWII, page A-3



James Crooke of Baker spoke in Valparaiso about his experiences as a B-17 bomber navigator during WWII, the subject of his recent book.

Fire millage OK'd

By Kenneth Books
Beacon Staff Writer

The East Niceville Fire District set a millage rate of 2.35 mills Wednesday, Sept. 22, on a budget of \$781,530.

The millage rate, which goes into effect Oct. 1, is the same as the current rate.

Under the rate, the owner of a home appraised at \$150,000 after homestead and all other exemptions are subtracted, would pay an annual property tax of \$352.50 to the district. Taxpayers would have to pay additional property tax to other taxing authorities such as the county and school district.

The tax revenue from retaining the current millage

rate will likely decrease, as property values have declined. But commission chairman Mark Marcolongo held that the decrease would be affordable as the district recently paid off a note on a new fire engine, saving the district more than \$30,000 in fiscal year 2011.

Commissioner Ed Dunbar suggested that board members establish in advance how much each commissioner would be paid of the \$500 per month salary the board authorized for each member Sept. 8.

Dunbar and Marcolongo discussed the suggestion for several minutes, but no action was taken.



Oktoberfest is a hit

Friday and Saturday brought the annual "Oktoberfest" celebration to Bluewater Bay. The event, sponsored by the Mid-Bay Rotary Club, is a local version of the traditional Oktoberfest held each year in Bavaria, a southern state of Germany. German businessmen were among the original developers of the Bluewater Bay community. This year's event included arts and crafts booths, music, dancing, children's attractions, and other activities. Pictured serving in the Rotary food booth are Shelly Normand, left, and Linda Snider.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

More sidewalks eyed for Valp. schoolchildren

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Valparaiso City Commissioners will review proposed designs for new sidewalks near Lewis School during a meeting to be held at 5:30 p.m., Oct. 11.

The commission reviewed some preliminary plans for the sidewalks during a special meeting held Sept. 20, during which engineer Mark Siner showed slides of proposed locations of the sidewalks, which are to be built along streets near Lewis School south of Toms Bayou Bridge.

During the Sep. 20 meeting, Valparaiso resident Diane Miller suggested that the proposed sidewalk locations be modified to provide safer street crossing locations for schoolchildren, especially near Mississippi and Grandview avenues.

Police Chief Joseph Hart

asked Siner to provide copies of proposed signs to be placed near pedestrian crossings, and said the final design should accommodate recent changes in the routes children take when walking to school, especially since Lewis School has recently changed from a middle school to a combined middle and elementary school, now educating many former Valparaiso Elementary School students.

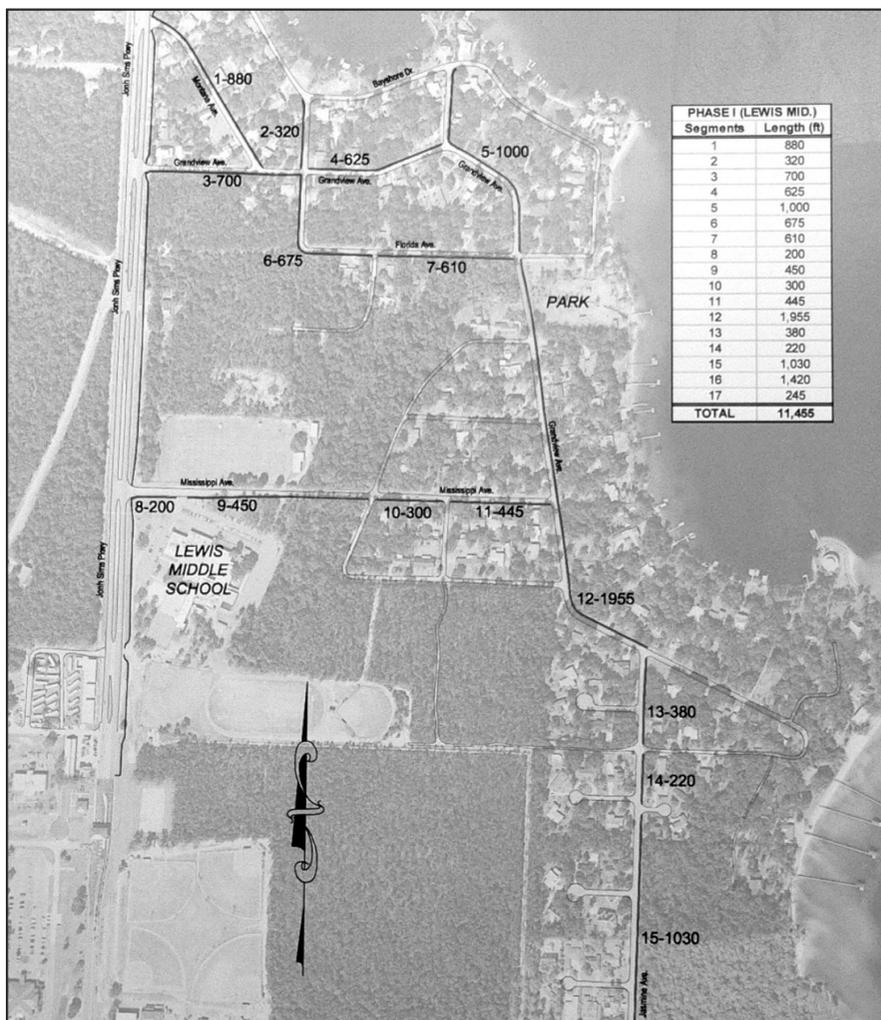
This, Hart said, has changed the patterns of pedestrian traffic and vehicle traffic near Lewis School, as new, younger students arrive and some parents opt to drive their children to school rather than allow them to walk or ride school buses.

Diane Miller also said local population patterns are changing, as some neighborhoods that used to have many school children have aged, while other neighborhoods now have more

young children than in the past.

Following Siner's briefing, commissioners asked him to prepare a more detailed design for the sidewalks, which the commissioners will review at their Oct. 11 meeting.

Lines on map indicate proposed sidewalks in Valparaiso. Sidewalks on John Sims Parkway (north-south lines on left side of map) already exist.



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PUBLIC HEARINGS

You Are Invited!

The United States Air Force, through Eglin Air Force Base, has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement that analyzes the potential environmental consequences associated with the implementation of the Eglin AFB Base Realignment and Closure Joint Strike Fighter F-35 program.

Three public hearings are scheduled to provide information about the Draft SEIS and ensure the public has a fair and equal opportunity to consider and comment on the document. An Air Force presentation will occur at 6 p.m. All interested members of the community and organizations are encouraged to attend.

Public Hearing Schedule:
 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. - Open House
 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. - Air Force Presentation
 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Public Hearing

Tuesday October 12, 2010	First Baptist Church of Valparaiso ~ Sanctuary 444 Valparaiso Parkway Valparaiso, Florida 32580
Wednesday October 13, 2010	Northwest Florida State College ~ Niceville Campus, Gallery Room 100 College Blvd. E Niceville, Florida 32578
Thursday October 14, 2010	Shoal River Middle School ~ Multi-Purpose Room 3200 Redstone Avenue East Crestview, Florida 32536

Please submit written comments before November 8, 2010 to the address listed below.

For more information, please contact:
 Eglin AFB Environmental Public Affairs
 ATTN: Mike Spaits
 501 DeLeon St., Ste. 101
 Eglin AFB, Florida 32542
 mike.spaits@eglin.af.mil

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County leaves millage rate unchanged

Budget to grow \$17 million

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Meeting in Crestview Sept. 21, the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) set the county budget for Fiscal Year 2011, as well as the proposed property tax millage rate for the coming year. The millage rate will be 3.2899, the same rate as for the current fiscal year.

The fiscal year for 2011 begins Oct. 1, 2010. According to county public affairs officer Kathy Newby, no changes were made to the millage or budget tentatively approved at previous meetings.

At a millage rate of 3.2899, property owners in Okaloosa County will pay \$3,289.99 in ad valorem property tax for every \$1,000 of appraised, taxable value of their property. For example, the owner of a home with a taxable value of \$150,000 after homestead exemptions and other discounts would pay \$493 in

property tax to the county, in addition to other property taxes for the school district, independent fire districts, municipal services benefit units, cities, and other jurisdictions.

For Okaloosa County residents who live outside the boundaries of a city, the county will also 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.

Although the millage rate stays the same, it will produce less property tax revenue than in the current year, although the county budget will increase from \$263,569,236 in FY 2010 to \$280,421,796 in FY 2011. Property values throughout the county have declined during the past year, as they have throughout the United States during the current economic recession.

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

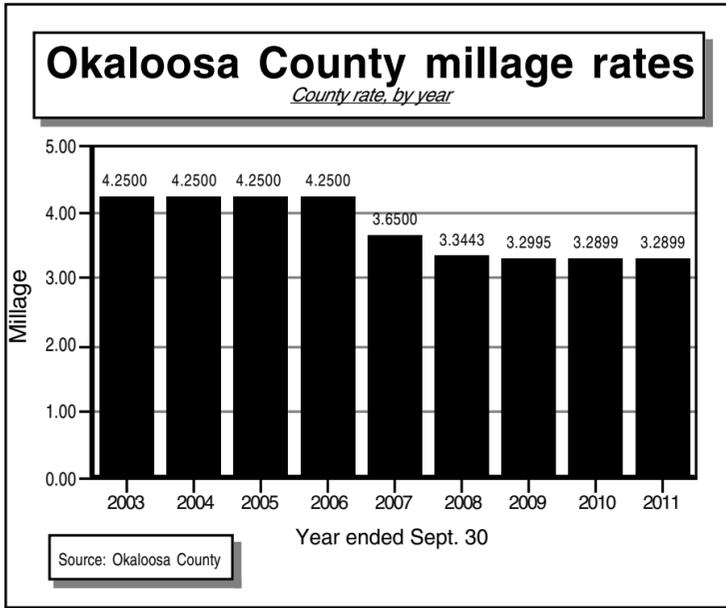
to the recession and such other events as the Deepwater Horizon oil rig disaster in April of 2010, which briefly fouled some

Okaloosa County beaches and reduced tourism and commercial fishing throughout the spring and summer. To pay for the increased

budget despite falling revenue, the county will use \$102,216,823 of "cash carried forward" from FY 2010.

The Sept. 21 final budget hearing was the last of a long series of briefings, workshops, and public hearings that began in April 2010, during which commissioners heard from county department heads and constitutional officers who explained each item in their respective departmental budgets, and heard from county residents who asked questions and offered their views on county finances. Locations and times of such meetings alternated between the county commission chambers in Fort Walton Beach and Crestview, and between morning and evening sessions, in order to give as many citizens as possible the opportunity to attend at least one such meeting regardless of their personal residences and schedules.

Copies of the final budget are posted on the county commission website at okaloosafl.com.



WWII

From page A-1

about one of every three bombers that flew such missions being shot down by enemy fighter planes or anti-aircraft artillery. Crooke's plane was one of those shot down.

On his third mission over Germany, Crooke's aircraft was hit by enemy fire and rendered inoperable. The crew attempted to bail out, but only half of the eight-man crew made it out of the plane. Some were killed by the initial hit, and one man, the engineer, froze in a hatchway, unable to face the terror of jumping out of the plane. "He went back inside," said Crooke. "That's where he died."

Another crewman was set to jump right after Crooke, but as Crooke fell from the plane, his body turned in the wind so that he found himself facing his comrade, who stood in the hatch, about to

jump, just as the plane exploded in midair. There was nothing Crooke could do, except to record the event in one of his drawings.

Crooke and the other survivors were captured and sent to a POW camp in Barth, Germany. Conditions there were harsh, with little food. One night, one prisoner managed to escape, and the same night, the remaining prisoners managed to steal some salami and bread from a guard's lunch—a special treat for the starving Americans. Because of the escape, the Germans assumed the missing food had been taken by the escapee, thus sparing the remaining prisoners from punishment for the theft.

The prisoners learned that the war was over when, one night, the electric lights went out at the camp and the prisoners discovered that the entire guard force had fled, leaving them behind. For the next

day or two, until liberation forces arrived, the ex-prisoners visited nearby towns to find food and supplies. German citizens who had proudly taunted the prisoners when they were marched into camp were now "humbleized," said Crooke, as they feared what might become of them in the hands of the approaching Allied forces.

Such fears proved justified, said Crooke, in the case of some German women who fell into the hands of some Russian ex-prisoners. "They met an unknown fate," he said.

After liberation, Crooke and his fellow G.I.s were transported

through France to England, and then returned to the United States, where he met and married Theresa.

Today at 89, Crooke often has difficulty speaking audibly, and his wife, Theresa, helped interpret and clarify parts of his briefing at the Heritage Museum. At the conclusion of his talk, however, Crooke demonstrated his other special talent besides drawing, when he sang "How Great Thou Art." As he sang the hymn, Crooke's previously feeble voice was transformed into a strong baritone that seemed to belong to a much younger man, as he filled the room with music.

Water service interruption

Due to a utility repair, water service will be interrupted from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, in Niceville from Judith Avenue along Bayshore Drive to Valparaiso Boulevard, to Palm Boulevard to 21st Street, including Finck Road, according to city officials.

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- Mullins Auto Body
- Niceville Assembly of God
- Niceville City Council
- Niceville Family Dental
- Niceville Mini Storage
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- Twin Cities Softball
- Twin Cities Transmission and General Repair
- Valparaiso Realty
- Waste Management of NW Florida
- The Pat Hemby Trust Fund
- Every individual who has donated aluminum cans to the recycling dumpster at the City Halls.
- Edge Elementary Staff, Students, and Parents who helped in the Competition.
- Plew Elementary Staff, Students, and Parents who helped in the Competition.
- Valparaiso Elementary Staff, Students, and Parents who helped in the Competition.
- Every individual who made a donation to the Fireworks Fund.
- Every individual who bought a Fireworks T-shirt.

Thank you to each of you for helping to, not only make July 4th, 2010, Fireworks successful, but to making the 2011 Fireworks Celebration a reality!

—The Twin Cities Fireworks Trust Fund Committee
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• Brenda Franco • Lavon Mason • Martha Miller • Carl Scott • Paul Tauscher

The Bay Beacon & Beacon Express

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I was born in New Orleans. My family still lives here. We have to restore the Gulf communities for the shrimpers, fishermen, hotel and restaurant owners who live and work here.

- Iris Cross, BP Community Outreach

Making This Right

Beaches

Claims

Cleanup

**Economic Investment
Environmental
Restoration**

Health and Safety

Wildlife

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.

Restoring Gulf Communities

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.

Partnering with local governments and community organizations, my job is to listen to people's needs and frustrations and find ways to help. We have 19 community centers and teams in four states, listening and helping.

Restoring The Economy

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

More than 120,000 claim payments totaling over \$375 million have already gone to people affected by the spill. We have committed a \$20 billion independent fund to pay all legitimate claims, including lost incomes until people impacted can go back to work. And none of this will be paid by taxpayers.

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

Restoring The Environment

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.

And we've dedicated \$500 million to work with local and national scientific experts on the impact of the spill and to restore environmental damage.

Thousands of BP employees have their roots in the Gulf. We support over 10,000 jobs in the region and people here are our neighbors. We know we haven't always been perfect, but we will be here until the oil is gone and the people and businesses are back to normal. We will do everything we can to make this right.

For general information visit: bp.com

For help or information: (866) 448-5816

restorethegulf.gov

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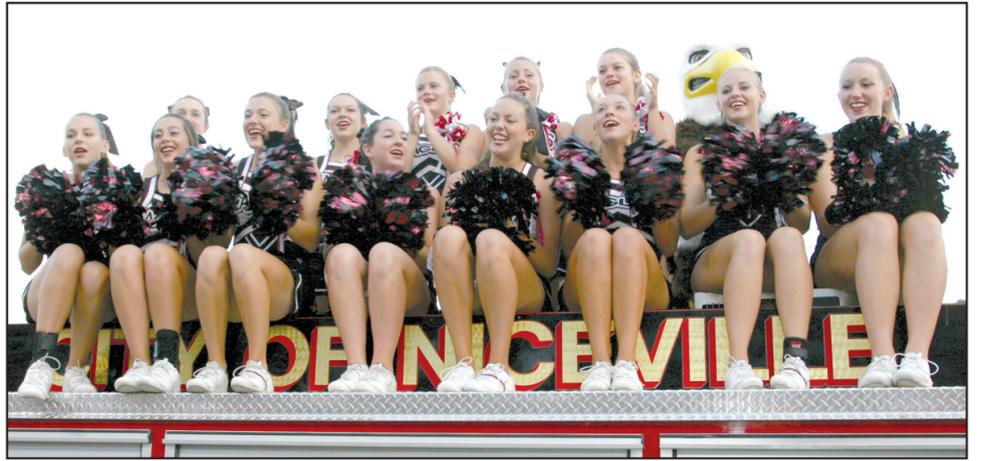


NHS celebrates homecoming with parade, royalty



Beacon photos by Sarah Clauson

Homecoming Queen Molly Everitt and King Taylor Nixon get a salute from the Niceville High School ROTC as they proceed to their seats after their crowning. Behind them is Principal Linda Smith.



The Eagle cheerleaders, accompanied by Screech, the school mascot, arrive as part of Friday's Niceville High School Homecoming parade.



The Niceville High School freshman class was 'a-whoopin' and a-hollerin'' as it arrived with a Western flair.



Darth Vader didn't stand a chance as the Class of 2012's own Luke Skywalker eagle (with Chewbacca, Princess Leia, C3PO and Yoda) showed him how to use a light saber.

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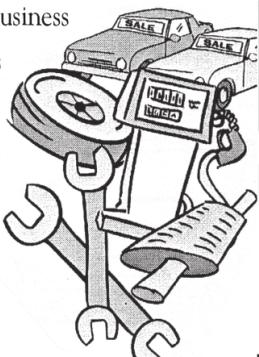
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Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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

Name: Amy Lee Nelson
Wanted for: failure to redeliver hired property, battery on a law enforcement officer, DUI and theft. Nelson's last known address was in Fort Walton Beach.
Height: 5-feet, 7-inches
Weight: 120 pounds
Age: 24
Date of birth: 06-21-86
Hair: brown, **Eyes:** brown



Name: Nicole Marie Riola
Wanted for: violation of probation on the original charges of fleeing and eluding law enforcement, resisting arrest without violence, driving with a suspended or revoked license and DUI. Riola's last known address was in Valparaiso.
Height: 5-feet, 6-inches
Weight: 160 pounds
Age: 31
Date of birth: 07-01-79
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)

Fire Department Reports

Niceville
 The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from September 20 through September 26.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Regatta Drive	Medical	9/20/10	15:56
Deer Street	Medical	9/20/10	16:01
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	9/20/10	16:29
Dana Point Drive	Medical	9/20/10	20:21
N. Partin Drive	Vehicle Crash	9/21/10	15:17
Redwood/John Sims	Vehicle Crash	9/21/10	16:42
W. John Sims Pkwy.	False Call	9/21/10	20:08
Kazmire Court	Medical	9/23/10	08:43
Eglin Range 213	Vehicle Fire	9/23/10	16:30
Reeves Street	Medical	9/23/10	18:27
S. Partin Drive	Medical	9/23/10	20:37
Powell Drive	Medical	9/24/10	05:01
Linden Avenue	Medical	9/25/10	00:54
Cape Lane	Cancelled	9/25/10	04:44
SR285 @ MM# 7	Vehicle Crash	9/25/10	14:54
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	9/25/10	21:11
Bay Circle	Illegal Burning	9/26/10	09:27
N. Partin Drive	Alarm Activation	9/26/10	10:06
Duke Drive	Medical	9/26/10	11:28
Little John Court	Medical	9/26/10	18:54
SR85N/SR123	Vehicle Crash	9/26/10	18:55
Government Avenue	Vehicle Crash	9/26/10	19:49
Reeves Street	Medical	9/26/10	21:04
Fir Avenue	Medical	9/26/10	21:45
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Shorted Electrical	9/26/10	23:51

Weekly Safety Tip: Have your stove top checked annually to be sure they are working properly. Be careful when using things that get hot such as curling irons, ovens, irons, lamps and heaters. Web Page: <http://www.cityofniceville.org/fire.html>.

North Bay
 The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls September 19 through September 27.

Location	Situation	Date	Time
North White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	9/19/10	23:01
Ingrid Court	Rescue, EMS incident	9/20/10	08:22
Range Road & Highway 20	Motor vehicle accident	9/20/10	12:39
Greenwood Lane	EMS excluding vehicle	9/20/10	14:26
W. John Sims Parkway	Building fire	9/21/10	20:09
White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	9/22/10	22:48
Parkside Circle	Medical assist EMS	9/23/10	04:42
Eglin Range Road 218 Site	Service call	9/23/10	16:37
Mid Bay Bridge North	Motor vehicle accident	9/23/10	17:31
Merchants Way	EMS excluding vehicle	9/25/10	11:27
East Highway 20	EMS excluding vehicle	9/25/10	12:49
Whitewood Way	Medical assist EMS	9/26/10	01:19
North White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	9/26/10	11:16
Range Road	Motor vehicle accident	9/26/10	23:02
East John Sims Parkway	Good intent call	9/26/10	23:52
Cat Mar Road	EMS excluding vehicle	9/27/10	04:45

Visit northbayfd.org for greater detail of incidents.

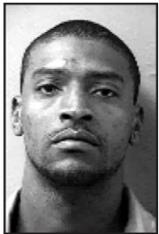
Police Blotter

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

Reco Jermaine Williams, a lawn care worker, 28, of 400 Davenport Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 17 on the charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Deputies detained Williams after several witnesses reported Williams was seen in possession of a shotgun or rifle style firearm yelling that he was going to shoot someone while in a Fort Walton Beach mobile home park, 441 Northwest Racetrack Road. Investigators later obtained a warrant and found a rifle that Williams allegedly hid in the laundry room of a residence, 933 Ashley St., Fort Walton Beach.

 Jimmie L. Crockett, 31, of 1110 Cedar Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Sept. 15 on charges of robbery with a weapon and aggravated battery.



Jimmie L. Crockett

Crockett is alleged to have pulled a knife on the victim and forced him into a Niceville motel room where the victim was forced to give Crockett \$40.

 Charles Douglas Cuchens, 21, of 113 Teresa Court, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 15 on a felony violation of probation charge on original charges of possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Cuchens was also charged with failure to appear on the prior drug charges.

 Michael L. Crump, 53, of 745 Arkadelphia Road, Jasper, Ala., was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 20 on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, firing a weapon into an occupied dwelling, burglary with assault or battery, felony criminal mischief and violation of a domestic injunction.

Crump allegedly fired a shotgun to break into his ex-wife's Niceville residence. Seeing her ex-husband holding the shotgun and

fearing she would be shot, the woman called 911, ran upstairs, climbed out of her bedroom window onto the garage roof, and sought refuge at a neighbor's house.

Responding to the 911 call, a deputy with his weapon drawn ordered Crump to stop, but he ignored the deputy and fled in a car. After apprehending Crump in Walton County, investigators located a shotgun he allegedly threw in



Michael L. Crump

Choctawhatchee Bay before he was apprehended.

 Aaron Reid Huff, 29, of 1001 Judith Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 15 on a misdemeanor violation of probation charge on original charges of criminal mischief and domestic violence battery.

 Nicholas Adam Coleman, unemployed, 25, of 216 Marquette St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 18 on a felony violation of probation charge on the original charge of arson.

 Wendell Joseph Wright, a construction worker, 28, with an at-large Niceville address, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 21 on a misdemeanor violation of probation charge on the original charge of petit theft.

 Heather Marie Sutton, a dancer, 21, of 1305 S. Cedar Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 22 on a contempt of court charge.

 Christopher Lynn Dahn, a cook, 43, of 304 Reeves St., Lot G-10, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Sept. 20 on charges of possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and violation of probation.

Other

Dirk Leo Dunbar, a college employee, 56, of 631 Caribbean Way, Niceville, and Ulrike M. Dunbar, also a college employee, 50, of the same address, were each issued a notice to appear by sheriff's deputies Sept. 18 on charges they held an open house party at their residence where several juveniles were seen coming and going and consuming alcohol.

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

What do you think about the Florida Board of Education banning chocolate milk from school cafeterias? — Mike Griffith

Location: Niceville Public Library



"It should be up to the personal preference of each student. They shouldn't be told what to drink or not drink."

Mary McDowell, 22, Destin, caregiver for an autistic child



"Don't ban it! It's delicious!"

Ainsley Porterfield, 11, Niceville, Ruckel Middle School



"The chocolate milk at my school tastes nasty, so I usually get juice."

Brandon Rogers, 13, Niceville, Ruckel Middle School



"It's ludicrous. No one drinks plain milk with the hamburger or pizza entrees at school. Chocolate milk is still milk."

Kaelan Johnson, 17, Niceville, Niceville High School



"The sugar in chocolate milk may make some kids more hyper and harder for teachers to control, but I don't think it should be banned. It's a good, tasty drink."

Jon Blixt, 14, Niceville, Niceville High School student



"If they want to improve nutrition in schools, they should make sure cafeteria food isn't burnt or undercooked, and doesn't have mold growing on it. They should fix that before they worry about chocolate milk."

Lauren Higdon, 13, Niceville, Ruckel Middle School

Letters to the Editor

Generous pay, benefits fuel North Bay tax hikes

Ray Hathorn
Niceville

Editor:

The Sept. 22 issue of the Bay Beacon printed a Letter to the Editor by Lt. Nathaniel J. Ark about the North Bay Fire District budget ("North Bay Fire District: A budgetary clarification") I have attended several meetings of the fire commission and spent hours with the fire chief and assistant chief reviewing the fire department's budget and union contract. Several of the comments by Lt. Ark were incorrect or misleading. The more facts the people learn the more upset they would be about the fire department's finances. I strongly urge everyone to read a copy of the fire department's union contract and budget to learn the facts on how our taxpayers' money is being spent.

Fact: Each firefighter is given an "annual" bonus up to several thousand dollars for achieving advanced degrees. I agree with a one-time bonus but not year after year for the same degree.

Fact: The firefighter's retirement system is the best system that I have ever seen. Many think that the military retirement system, which provides for 2.5 percent per year of base pay, is very good. However the fire department's system is much better, providing 3 percent per year.

Fact: The firefighter's retirement fund can "never" lose money. We, the taxpayer, are

responsible annually to make up for any losses incurred by their investments. In 2008 alone the taxpayers contributed over \$100,000 to their retirement system to make up for investment losses. That equates to over \$5,000 per firefighter. Plus, once the investment recovers taxpayers are not reimbursed.

Fact: In 2004 the then fire chief told me he wanted one EMT per shift, i.e. a total of four. But that fire chief unfortunately died and the current fire chief and fire district board has made it a goal of having 19 firefighters qualify as EMTs at an additional \$6,000 per year, i.e. \$114,000 per year. Yes, we taxpayers did approve funding of EMTs, but not 19 EMTs.

Fact: The firefighters union did approve no pay increases for two years in the current contract (2009-2011). But their only other option was the loss of two firefighter positions. The taxpayers would have been better served financially by eliminating the two positions.

The new firefighters contract is due for renewal next year. I encourage taxpayers to contact the fire board chairman, Mr. James Miller, tel. 897-3894, about the need for future cuts in the fire department's budget and contract. I have been repeatedly told that few taxpayers have complained of increases in taxes and therefore most must be happy with paying more. I for one am not.

City should tighten belt, not raise rates

Mary McCann
Niceville

Editor:

After attending the public council meeting in Niceville regarding the 6 percent hike on the water rates, I am just literally amazed at the lack of consideration the elected officials gave about this situation.

It boils down to: They let you speak; they do not listen, and have already made up their minds.

Financial consultant Bill Fray gave his report to the council and public as a matter of courtesy and assured everyone that to keep a "comfort level" the city would need 6 percent more money in water rates. This comfort zone is supposed to pay for bonds already issued. Was our money mismanaged years ago and citizens now are having to pick up the impact it is having now? (i.e. 6 percent) This would also affect our grade "A" credit rating.

Citizens have to live with a changing credit rating all the time. Some citizens have been "out" of their comfort zone for a while and the economy is not helping anyone get back into their comfort zone anytime soon. With unemployment rate in the 9-10 percent range, how does Niceville main-

tain their employment rate?

Several people spoke in opposition to the rate hike. It seems the city of Niceville has borrowed more money than they can pay back and now are expecting the citizens to 'bail' them out. One example given by one of the council members was: It's like comparing it to your mortgage. Let's see: if I had a mortgage due and couldn't pay it, would the city 'bail' me out? Not in my lifetime.

I would need to find a way to tighten my budget and deal with it. Another citizen even offered a way to cut back—maybe just have garbage pick-up once a week and use the money saved there to help pay the bond issue. But, no, the council wouldn't even consider 'tightening their belts.' When so many people are out of work and the economy doesn't seem to be getting any better, it hardly seems the thing to do—raise taxes and rates on utilities.

The city needs to learn to tighten their belts and remember they are elected to those jobs and someone needs balance the budget a little better. There is absolutely no use to attend a city council meeting. They have their minds made up and cannot hear the citizens.

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THANK YOU!

I would like to thank Niceville and the entire Fort Walton Beach area for the support you have given to me during the past 20+ years. I am retiring from private practice on September 27, 2010, but my heart will forever belong to the Emerald Coast. Copies of your medical records may be obtained by calling 850 729-2727.

Sincerely,
Mark S. Calkins, MD

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Sharing and Caring

As a volunteer at Sharing and Caring, I am constantly experiencing the results of a depressed economy in our area. Many of our clients are here for the very first time. They are embarrassed and perplexed because they have never been in this situation before and never anticipated that this could ever happen to them.

What do you do when you lose your job and are not able to provide food for your family? How do you keep your electricity and water in operation, having depleted all of your savings? Where do you get money to pay your rent or mortgage to avoid eviction or foreclosure?

Sharing and Caring volunteers are not able to solve all problems, but we can usually alleviate an

immediate emergency by providing food and assisting with utilities and rent or mortgage. Additionally, we listen intently to clients vent their frustration; we provide a tissue to wipe their tears; and we encourage them to face the future with a positive attitude.

With the increase in the number of families needing assistance, Sharing and Caring finds itself in need of additional volunteers. If you consider yourself to be an empathetic, caring, non-judgmental individual and feel S&C is the place for you, please come by our office, fill out a brief application, and join us.

We are located at 104 Bullock Blvd., Niceville; our hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. We look forward to seeing you.

2010 Calendar

Charitable golf tourney

Preparations are in their final stages as the Eglin Air Force Association Scholarship Foundation will welcome Champions Tour veteran and former U.S. Open Champion Jerry Pate, who will highlight the 39th annual Doolittle Scholarship Open golf tournament Oct. 7 at the Eglin Golf Course, Niceville. Proceeds will go toward college scholarships, resources for the Engineers for America program at the Air Force Armament Museum, CHOICE Aviation Institutes, plus other math and science fairs in the county.

The event is open to the public and will be played on both courses at the Eglin Golf Course. Cost is \$50 for active duty military, \$75 for Eglin Golf Course members, and \$100 for all others and includes green fee and cart, range balls, lunch, refreshments on the course, and the awards party following play. Interested players can go to meetingspots.net/ndia/2010afagolfreg.pdf, or can call Grady Jordan at 850-651-1316.

Outdoors Festival slated

Walton Outdoors and the Walton County 4-H Program announce a free Explore The Outdoors Festival at Camp Timpochee 4-H Center Saturday, Oct. 9, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. This day of outdoor activities are geared to introducing children and adults to all the wonders of the outdoors in Northwest Florida. Activities will include kayaking, fishing, natural trail walks, YOLO boarding, archery, wildlife presentations, forest ecology, geo caching and nature-based games. Hot dogs,

hamburgers and drinks will be available. Donations will be accepted at the door. Download the registration form at waltonoutdoors.com.

Info: Lori Ceier, event coordinator, info@waltonoutdoors.com or 267-2064 or Suzanne Wilson, 4-H Youth Development Agent, 892-8172.

Haunted house to open

Uptown Station in Fort Walton Beach will host the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge's Annual Haunted House, known as "The Dark," beginning at 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 8, in the former Riviera Fitness Store. "The Dark" will also be open Oct. 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, and 31. Admission is \$7.

Volunteers 16 or older are needed to build/design and later serve as monsters, security, makeup, costumes and more. Volunteer time is eligible for community service/scholarship hours. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Debbie at mknbnk4u@cox.net or 685-9014 for more info or to volunteer.

Blue Jean Ball tickets

Don your favorite denim outfit for a casually elegant evening to benefit Covenant Hospice. The event will be held at the Crestview Community Center Oct. 9, 6 p.m. Tickets (\$40 each or \$70 for a couple) are available at Covenant Hospice in Crestview, 370 W. Redstone Ave., or covenanthospice.org.

Proceeds benefit Covenant Hospice's unfunded programs in North Okaloosa and North Walton counties.

For event tickets, corporate sponsorships or to donate auction items, call Jenni Perkins, 598-5003, or visit covenanthospice.org.

Basketball tryouts slated

Faithfulness, Discipline, Diligence, Inc. (FDD) traveling basketball tryouts. The AAU Season for FDD will start March 2011. Try out Oct. 9, at the Niceville High School Gym.

9U-10 U boys and girls tryouts: 12:30-1:45 p.m.
11U-12U boys and girls tryouts: 1:45-3 p.m.
13U-14U boys and girls tryouts: 3-4:30 p.m.
15U girls tryouts: 4:30-5:45 p.m.

15U and 16U boys tryouts: 5:45-7 p.m.

This will be the last tryout for the 2011 season. Tryout fee is \$25 nonrefundable. Info: fddbball.com.

Seniors to meet

Twin Cities Senior Citizens will hold their monthly meeting Oct. 14 at 2 p.m. Hobo Stew & Potluck, Halloween Dress with Prizes, Entertainment by Harmony Plus. 50-plus welcome. Call, Jo at 678-8645 or Ruth at 678-4346.

Holly Fair arts and crafts

The Holly Fair arts and crafts show will be hosted for the 14th year by Shalimar United Methodist Church on Saturday, Oct. 16, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

This event features a variety of treasures created by more than 80 exhibitors. Also, the always popular Holly Berry Bakery will be stuffed with homemade goodies and the Holly Fair Galleria filled with handmade items. You can also participate in a silent auction for a beautiful hand-stitched quilt and crocheted afghan.

All proceeds will be donated to local missions and church projects. Info: 651-0721 or visit shalimar-umc.org.

Relay spaghetti dinner

The Twin Cities Woman's Club will hold a gourmet spaghetti dinner at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 1200 Valparaiso Blvd., Niceville, Tuesday, Oct. 19. Proceeds will benefit Relay for Life.

Social hour begins at 5 p.m.; dinner is at 6. The cost is \$20 per person.

For tickets, call Gail, 897-0460 or Annie, 897-6566. Reservations are required by Oct. 15. Make checks payable to the American Cancer Society.

Winery Festival set

Chautauqua Vineyards and Winery Harvest Festival will be held Oct. 23, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at 364 Hugh Adams Road, DeFuniak Springs. Entertainment will be Smokin' Rodeo Band in the morning (10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) and local favorite Jones and Company in the afternoon (2-6 p.m.). This year will include the first backyard barbecue cook-off. More than \$600 in cash

and prizes will be awarded for best barbecue. Also scheduled is a cruise-in. Cruise-in prizes will be a 4-foot trophy and \$100 to Viewers Choice Best of Show and many other special awards.

Info: 892-5887 chautauquawinery.com.

Auction, wine tasting

The 11th Annual Buy the Bayou Auction & Wine Tasting, presented by the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, Friday, Oct. 29 will include a silent auction, a live auction, wine tasting, food, and plenty of networking at the Fine Art Gallery at The Arts Center - NWFSC beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are available at the Chamber office for \$25.

Auction items include condominium packages, dinner and gift certificates, golf packages, gift baskets, art objects and gift items. Info: 678-2323.

Nature program slated

Dr. Dirk Dunbar, professor, philosophy, will speak on "Renewing the Balance," offering snapshots of cross-cultural expressions of nature's polarities in three chronological paradigms Nov. 3, 12:30 p.m., at Tyler Auditorium, Northwest Florida State College, as part of the Florida: Then and Now series. Admission is free.

Charity shopping event

The Junior League of the Emerald Coast will host a charitable shopping event Nov. 5-6 at the Emerald Coast Conference Center on Okaloosa Island in Fort Walton Beach.

The league's largest fundraiser, Mistletoe Market, is a charitable shopping event featuring many specialty merchants from across the country offering unique gift items. Mistletoe Market includes merchants selling everything from clothing, jewelry and handbags to food, art and children's items.

General admission: Nov. 5 -6, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., \$5, adults, \$2 children 6-12, free for children 5 and under. Info: jlec.org or 862-2665.

Festa Italiana planned

The Sons of Italy Lodge 2422, Fort Walton Beach, plan a Festa Italiana Friday, Nov. 5, 5-9 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 6, 11 a.m.-8

p.m. at the lodge, 808 South Drive, Fort Walton Beach, directly behind Big Lots, across from Choctawhatchee High School.

Admission is free. Info: 862-2758.

Popular musical slated

Stage Crafters presents "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," Nov. 5-7 and 11-13. The musical, with almost no spoken dialogue, is about the dreamer, Joseph, and his multi-colored coat, and how he becomes the second-in-command to a pharaoh.

Evening performances begin at 7:30 and weekend matinees are 2 p.m. Tickets (\$15) go on sale two weeks before opening night and can be purchased at: Bayou Books, Niceville; Dowd Title Group, LLC, Destin; Connect With Flowers, Shalimar; PS Gifts, Fort Walton Beach; and at all Century 21 offices in Navarre and Okaloosa and Walton counties. Performances are held at the Municipal Auditorium, 106 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach. For Info, e-mail: executiveboard@stagecrafters.com or visit Web site stagecrafters.net.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" is directed by Denis Milonas.

Wedding vendors needed

"Brides, Grooms and Honeymoons: A Wedding & Travel Affair" is looking for vendors to participate in a wedding fair Sunday, Nov. 7, 2-4 p.m. aboard the Solaris Yacht anchored at Baytowne Marina at the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort. The event is open to the public and sponsored by Eglin Information, Tickets & Travel and the Solaris. Interested vendors should contact Lisa McMahan at Eglin ITT, 882-4161, or eglinitt@gmail.com by Oct. 2.

Fall Art Festival

The Northwest Florida Arts Association 2010 Fall Festival of the Arts is scheduled for Nov. 13 and 14, at Uptown Station, Fort Walton Beach.

Festival hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Nov. 13, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 14. Admission is free. Artists wishing to participate can download an application from nwflaa.com. Info: 598-997.

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MILLAGE

From page A-1

value of their property, after homestead exemptions and other discounts. For example, the owner of a home with a taxable value of \$200,000 would pay \$450 in property taxes to the fire district, in addition to county, school district, and other taxes collected by Okaloosa County.

At the Sept. 22 meeting, fire commission Chairman Jim Miller defended the millage hike, saying it is needed to fund necessary repairs to the fire station and to save funds for future equipment purchases. He also discussed a proposal to lay off three of North Bay's 15 professional firefighters as a way of cutting costs. "People cost money," he said. "We must reduce the force or reduce our reserves to zero."

Commissioner Janet Santner argued against an alternative put forward by Fire Chief Joe Miller that the board could economize by laying off three firefighters. Miller said he could keep the positions by pulling \$130,000 from reserve funds.

"I'd rather use the reserve fund than lay off firefighters," Santner said. "We need to show loyalty to our firefighters, who have been living with a pay freeze."



Former North Bay Fire Commissioner Treasurer Brett Hinley said the millage hike was unnecessary.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Otherwise, Santner said, North Bay will end up "training new firefighters for other fire districts" as North Bay firefighters take better-paying positions elsewhere, after gaining training and experience at North Bay's expense.

Speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting, former fire commissioner and commission treasurer Brett Hinley said that by using some of the district's \$450,000 reserve fund, the commission could reduce the FY 2010/11 millage rate to 2.05, while maintaining its current manpower and still have enough money for repairs and

equipment, and that the reserve fund would be replenished when tax revenues for the coming year are received.

Raintree Estates resident Norm Schultz called for a cut to the current 2.05 rate or lower, saying that even at that rate, he and fellow North Bay residents will pay higher taxes during an economic recession.

Bluewater Bay resident Johnnie Prichard said, "This board has lost credibility with the community." The current board, he said, appears to follow a philosophy of "Give me what I want, not what I need," at taxpayer

expense.

Bluewater Bay resident Cynthia Turner, however, supported the higher millage rate. "I chose to live in Bluewater because of the level of quality, and to live in a place that is truly a community. I'm thankful to have a high-quality fire department that can save lives."

"Please tax me," she said, "if it means raising the level of service and keeping my family safe."

Commissioners approved both the millage rate and new budget by 4-1 votes, with Chairman James Miller in the minority on both votes.

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F-35

From page A-1

noise which the service has said is "incompatible" with development of homes, churches and schools.

The Air Force plans to hold public hearings on the draft SEIS Oct. 12-14 in Valparaiso, Niceville and Crestview. A final decision would follow next spring.

Annually, the SEIS states that under the Air Force preferred alternative, 55,605 F-35 flight operations would take place at Eglin's main base, with an additional 34,347 F-35 operations at Duke Field north of Niceville, and 20,104 at Choctaw Field north of Navarre. A flight operation is a takeoff, a landing, or a touch-and-go landing.

Eglin F-35s will ultimately fly about 232 days a year, according to the draft report.

The first F-35s for the planned training wing at Eglin are scheduled to arrive late this year. Four of the tactical fighters, the nation's newest warplane, are to show up in 2010, 22 more in 2011, seven in 2012, 16 in 2013 and a final 10 in 2014.

The city commission of Valparaiso, the community affected most by the planned training flights, was scheduled last night to consider hiring the Tallahassee law firm it used to sue the Air Force in 2009 in an attempt to block the F-35 deployment until noise and safety issues could be more thoroughly investigated. The lawsuit was settled early this year, clearing the way for the Air Force to proceed with basing the F-35 training wing at Eglin.

Copies of the draft SEIS are available for review and download from Eglin's website at www.eglin.af.mil. Hard copies can be found at public libraries in Niceville, Valparaiso, Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, Navarre and in Monroe, Ala.

Citizens have until Nov. 8 to comment on the proposed F-35 bed-down plan.

In 2005 the Base Realignment and Consolidation decision authorized up to 107 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters be assigned to Eglin where a joint training center would train pilots and aircraft maintainers from the U.S. Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy, as well as from some U.S. allies such as the United Kingdom.

Valparaiso sued the Air Force in 2009 after the initial Environmental Impact Statement based on 107 F-35s at Eglin showed very high levels of jet noise incompatible with the mostly residential development in the city. The lawsuit alleged that the Air Force had failed to consider all reasonable alternatives.

Valparaiso dropped the suit after the Air Force agreed to limit F-35 flights from its north-south runway, at least temporarily, and to rely chiefly on its east-west runway. Flights to and from the north-south runway are more likely to overly Valparaiso.

But it appears the runway restriction would be dropped

Table ES-17. Summary of Off-Installation Population Exposed to Noise

Alternative	Off-Installation Population					
	Eglin Main		Duke Field		Choctaw Field	
	65-75 dB DNL	>75 dB DNL	65-75 dB DNL	>75 dB DNL	65-75 dB DNL	>75 dB DNL
2006 AICUZ	2,243	164	0	0	0	0
No Action	1,809	270	444	0	0	0
1A	2,289	1,444	444	0	0	0
1I	1,786	332	450	0	0	0
2A	1,801	194	414	0	0	0
2B	1,976	497	414	0	0	0
2C	1,876	362	409	0	0	0
2D	1,963	508	747	60	0	0
2E	1,797	194	781	141	0	0

dB = decibels; DNL = day-night average sound level; AICUZ = Air Installation Compatible Use Zone Study

This table summarizes the noise impact on civilian populations of various alternatives considered in the beddown of 59 F-35s, including the Air Force's "preferred" alternative, 1A. The "No Action" alternative would continue runway restrictions announced in 2009, but which the Air Force says are not practical over the long term.

under the Air Force's SEIS preferred alternative only months after it would take effect.

In February 2009, the Air Force issued a Record of Decision to base 59 of an initially planned 107 training F-35s at Eglin and agreed to conduct another environmental study considering all reasonable options for the bed-down.

Earlier this year, the Air Force announced that Eglin would receive no more than the initial 59 training aircraft, the remainder going to other bases. The service said the limit of 59 was due to air-space congestion in the Florida Panhandle, not the jet-noise objections voiced by civilians living near Eglin.

Valparaiso Mayor Bruce Arnold said Monday that he was studying details in the voluminous draft SEIS and the small maps that detail the jet noise impact on communities around Eglin. He plans to

ask Eglin for more detailed noise profiles so that Valparaiso residents can better judge the impacts from high level jet noise from the base.

Arnold said that Alternative 1L, construction of a new north-south runway west of an existing runway at Eglin's main base, appears to be the only alternative that would spare Valparaiso from high jet noise levels. However, building a new runway would more than double the cost of the preferred alternative, from \$359 million for Alternative 1A to \$735 million for Alternative 1L, according to the SEIS Appendix L, "Cost Estimates." If that alternative is chosen, it is not clear where the money would come from as the Pentagon in recent months has redoubled efforts to restrain defense spending.

The draft SEIS released last week compares the preferred alternative to the "No Action

development.

An estimated 2,289 people around Eglin's main base would be subjected to noise above 65 dB DNL—including 1,414 who would endure noise levels in excess of 75 dB DNL—under Alternative 1A compared with 1,809 and 270 people, respectively, under the "No Action" (runway restriction) Alternative.

The preferred option would also subject 444 Crestview residents near Duke Field to 65 dB DNL under either Alternative 1A or the "No Action" alternatives; no one around Duke Field would be subjected to jet sound levels equal

to or exceeding 75 dB DNL at Duke Field under either alternative.

The area of Niceville that would be affected by jet noise in excess of 65 dB DNL would shrink and mainly affect the western parts of the city north of Boggy Bayou.

The Air Force will hold three public hearings next month to get input from the public:

—Tuesday, Oct. 12, sanctuary of Valparaiso First Baptist Church, 444 Valparaiso Parkway, Valparaiso.

—Wednesday, Oct. 13, Gallery room at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville campus.

—Thursday, Oct. 14, multi-purpose room at Shoal River Middle School, 3200 Redstone Ave. East., Crestview.

All three meetings are scheduled from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., with an open house the first half-hour followed by an Air Force presentation from 6 to 6:30 p.m., then a public comment session from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The draft SEIS will be finalized late this year or early next year, according to an Eglin spokesman. After a 30-day waiting period, a second Record of Decision on operation of the F-35s at Eglin will be issued during the spring of 2011.

PARKING

From page A-1

may not be getting the amount of state funding it should, because of a provision in either state rules or local school district procedures governing the allocation of funds between "district" high schools like Niceville High School, and "charter" schools like the Collegiate High School, for students who take some of their high school courses at both a district and a charter school.

Cotton said that high schools are state-funded according to how many minutes of instruction per week they provide each student, up to a maximum of 1,500 classroom minutes per week per student. Current district procedure gives funding priority to high-school-level courses taught at regular district schools over college-level courses taught at NWFSC, whenever the total number of classroom minutes for that student exceeds 1,500 per week. Such excess classroom time often happens for advanced, college-bound charter Collegiate High School students who also enroll in elective classes like band and forensics at their local district schools.

For example, when a dual-enrolled student takes college-level classes at CHS for such primary academic courses as math, English, and science, but takes elective music and forensics classes at a district school such as Niceville High School, the band and forensics classes are counted as part of the 1,500 minutes of state-funded class time, leaving some of the academic courses taught at the charter Collegiate High School unfunded. Such funding rules, Cotton said, currently cost the Collegiate High School about \$14,000 per year.

Trustees replied that they are concerned about the funding problem, but are reluctant to protest the policy to district or state officials at this time.

"We should pick our fights carefully," said trustee Brian Pennington. He said it might be unwise to antagonize district or state officials over less than \$15,000—a relatively small amount of money compared to the entire college budget.

NWFSC President Ty Handy said a better time to address the funding issue with state officials may come later, after other community colleges are confronted by the same problem. Currently, he said, state officials are aware of the issue and "sympathize" with NWFSC's concern, "but lack the courage to say so," for fear of antagonizing public school districts. That may change, however.

"This will become a state issue," Handy said, "as more districts realize they can take money from charter schools by requiring extracurricular students to take a course," such as a physical educa-



Collegiate High School Director Charla Cotton briefed Northwest Florida State College trustees on issues facing her school.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

tion or music course, in order to participate in sports or band.

As such practices affect more charter schools, Handy suggested, "A band of charter schools will arise," to join NWFSC in lobbying for a change in state policy.

Cotton also briefed the trustees on the "Collegiate High School Enhancement Plan," a set of goals for improving the Collegiate High School in the coming year. The trustees approved the enhancement plan for submittal to the state.

Cotton also told the trustees that ACT scores of CHS students are well above average scores at other schools in Okaloosa County, Florida, or the United States.

In other business during the Sept. 21 meeting, the trustees:

—Approved an amendment to the construction management agreement with Ajax Building Corporation that authorizes the firm to begin site and infrastructure work on the new \$25 million Student Services building on the Niceville campus. Authorization was requested to immediately begin up to \$4 million of site work and infrastructure for the 75,000 square foot new construction portion of the total 102,000-square-foot project so that the firm could begin an aggressive completion schedule which projects completion by December 2011. The balance of the project—remodeling the existing "K" student union building—would then follow, taking about one year to complete. The trustees will host a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Student Services building project on Oct. 19 at 3:30 p.m. at the construction site.

—Revised dual enrollment agreements with the Okaloosa and Walton County school districts which will govern student participation in the state-wide program which allows qualified students to earn both high school and college credit simultaneously by enrolling free of charge in college classes offered by NWF State at any of the college's seven area locations. More than 400 students participate each semester in the program.

During a special workshop held Thursday, Sept. 23, the trustees received training from attorney William Mullowney, vice president for policy and general counsel for Valencia Community College in Orlando. Mullowney briefed the trustees on how to operate within the "Government

in the Sunshine" provisions of the Florida Constitution. Key provisions of the law, he said, are requirements that all trustees meetings be conducted in public, with prior notice to the public and written minutes kept of such meetings.

Mullowney also told the trustees that meetings should be held at places and times reasonably available to the public. For example, he said, holding a

trustees meeting inside a private club in a faraway city like Tallahassee, as the board of trustees did March 24, 2008, during the administration of NWFSC then-president Bob Richburg, could be interpreted as an attempt to evade the intent of the Sunshine Law. The board of trustees drew a rebuke from Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum after details of the secretive Tallahassee meeting came to light.

In addition, Mullowney noted, documents generated by trustees, such as e-mails regarding college business, are public documents and must be made available to the public.

The board's next business meeting is scheduled for Oct. 19 at 4:30 p.m. in the College Mall Gallery, Building K on the Niceville Campus. Board meetings are open to the public.

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Boys join Lewis dance team

The Lewis School Dance team includes two boys for the first time in school history. The team performs at pep rallies, basketball and football games, and community events. Pictured are Mindi Dennis, Akiya Mason, Kayla Deal, Kelsey Morton, Ken Angell, Donell Wells, Brandee Burke, Alyssa Schlipp, Faith Schwartz, Kaijah Bell, Victoria Miller and Mariah Perkins, manager Haleigh Dybal, Caitlin McKendrick, Taylor Thorne, Tiara Lewis and Michaela Mitchell.



Ruckel cheers for Heart Walk

The Ruckel Middle School cheerleaders cheered and supported the American Heart Walk participants at their event at Northwest Florida State College Saturday, Sept. 25.



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Who's News

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Alisa "Paige" Mason graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Miami Law School, Coral Gables, May 16. While at UM, Paige was selected to be a Florida

Supreme Court Intern and spent one semester in Tallahassee.

Paige is also a 2007 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Tulane University in New Orleans with a B.S. in management from the A.B. Freeman School of Business. Paige graduated in 2003 from Niceville High School.

After spending August traveling throughout Africa, Paige is now an associate with the law firm of Berger Singerman, LLC in their Miami office, specializing in corporate bankruptcy and litigation.

Cathy Alley received the Branch Agent of the Month award from ERA American Realty in Niceville for her superior performance in August. Alley is a Top Ten Agent and has been in the top 10 in the company for the last 12 years. She specializes in both residential & commercial properties. She has been a long time resident of Niceville.

Joe Morgan is Top Listing Agent and **Janice Busovne** is Top Sales Agent for August at Carriage Hills Realty, Inc.

Rocky musician to tour Europe

By **Kenneth Books**
Beacon Staff Writer

When Grace Stoner first picked up the clarinet as a fifth-grader, she never dreamed it would take her to Europe.

But the Rocky Bayou Christian School junior is bound for a lengthy tour of the continent as part of the Sound of America Honor Band & Chorus 2011 European Concert Tour.

"I was very excited and a little shocked," said Grace, 16, when she learned she had been chosen to be part of the prestigious band. "I'm just very excited to be able to go and meet new people and use the talents God has given me to glorify him."

Grace, daughter of Charles and Lori Stoner, Bluewater Bay, serves as Rocky Bayou band chaplain and has been named to the Southeastern United States Honor Band, Florida's All-State Band and the Okaloosa County Honors Band. But there's more to her than music. She's part of the school soccer and cross country teams and is a straight-A student at Rocky Bayou.

Although Grace may have been shocked to be selected as one of between 60 and 85 members of the Sound of America, those around her weren't.

"She's an excellent student, musically and academically," said her private clarinet teacher, Nancy Saleeby. "She excels in just about everything she does. She's just an all-around top person. I can't say

enough wonderful things about her."

The European tour will visit Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Luxembourg and Switzerland, with nine concert performances and two cathedral performances scheduled. Along the way, the musicians will get to see some of the most famous sites in the world, such as the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre.

While musical expertise is critical for Sound of America musicians, "A lot of it is about character," said Terri Barr, personnel director for the organization. "I'm always amazed at their attitudes and maturity and how they come together musically."

The first step for Grace was to be accepted in the band. Now, it's important to raise money for the trip. The 2009 tour cost \$5,129 per person.

To help the youngsters cover the expense of the trip to Europe, Sound of America provides a fundraising packet, stocked with ideas for ways to raise money. Grace has already received hers. She says she'll do some kind of fundraising, although she's not sure exactly what.

The band will begin rehearsals at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania July 1.

Grace is no stranger to central Pennsylvania or, for that matter, to Europe. Her family is from that part of the country and she spent a couple of years in Germany when her father, Charles Stoner, was in



Grace Stoner enjoys some time on the beach with her clarinet. She'll tour Europe this fall with Sound of America Honor Band.

the Air Force, leaving the country when she was 7.

"I don't remember much about it," Grace said. Nor, it turns out, does she speak any of the languages of the natives of the countries where she'll visit. But she has a solution to that.

"We have a German exchange student who's teaching me some stuff," she said.

Lori Stoner, Grace's mother, said Grace has learned a few German words, such as numbers, but not enough to hold a conversation.

Terri Barr said Grace's instrument, the clarinet, is one of the most difficult to play during the auditions for Sound of America.

Please see **MUSICIAN**, page B-5

NHS trio National Scholars

Niceville High School's William Kortbein, Zachary Hefner and Alicia Valenti were recently named semifinalists in the 56th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,400 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$36 million, that will be offered in the spring.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition. About 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and approximately half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title. The National Merit Scholarship Program was established in 1955 to honor the nation's scholastic champions and encourage the pursuit of academic excellence.

Zachary Hefner is a member of the Eagle track and field and cross country teams. He is enrolled in three Advanced Placement courses and one AICE course in addition to his regular studies. As a sophomore, he was a writer and editor of the school newspaper, the Eagle Echo, and he played multiple minor and major parts in a school theatrical production



Zachary Hefner

when he was a junior. He is currently interning at a regional writer's association hoping to one day become an author. He has volunteered at a local library and at local kids soccer tournaments.

William Kortbein is a member of Opus One as well as the Niceville Singers. He is a member of the Academic Team and also qualified for the All-County Academic team. William represented Niceville High

School as the Hugh O'Brian Leadership winner and is the senior representative to the School Advisory Council. He

is a member of the National Honor Society and an active musician at Niceville United Methodist Church. This past summer, William traveled to Kampala, Uganda, to work with Refuge and Hope International, a Christian mission organization.

Alicia Valenti is the French horn section leader and an assistant librarian for the Eagle Pride Marching Band. When she's not marching, Alicia performs with the Wind Ensemble. As a member of Entre Nous, Alicia tutors students at Plew



Alicia Valenti

Elementary School. She is also an active participant in Christ Our Redeemer Catholic Church's youth ministry program. Alicia also enjoys expressing her creativity in her Photoshop class in NHS's CHOICE word. She has Microsoft Word 2007, Microsoft PowerPoint 2007, Adobe Photoshop CS3, and Internet and Computing Core Certifications.

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A check for children

Twin Cities Woman's Club president Dale Fuqua, left, and recording secretary Patty Mixon presented a check to Jen Floro and Julie Hurst at the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center.



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HOMEROOM



Lewis runs against cancer

Runner Rob Crist leads the kids in the 1-Mile Fun Run at the Lewis School Relay For Life Team annual 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run Saturday, Sept. 18. The community event had more than 225 participants and raised more than \$4,000 for the American Cancer Society.

168 NHS students listed as AP scholars

One hundred and sixty-eight students at Niceville High School have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program exams. NHS students took AP Exams in May 2010 after completing challenging college-level courses. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on the student's performance on AP exams.

Seven students from NHS qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an

average grade of 4 or higher on a 5-point scale on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. These students are Heather Caulkins, Washington University, St. Louis; Chase Cloutier, St. Francis University, Steubenville, Ohio; Jacob A. Davis, University of Central Florida; Kathryn Dawson, University of Florida; Logan McDonald, Florida Gulf Coast University; Amelia Shermer, University of Central Florida; and Mark Stiles, North Georgia State University.

Fifty-one students qualified

for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Thirty-two students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Eighty-five students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams, with grades of 3 or higher.

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Walmart rewards 10 teachers

Ten lucky teachers from Destin Middle School were randomly selected Friday morning, Sept. 17, to receive 10 \$100 gift cards from Destin Wal-Mart Supercenter. Each Wal-Mart selects one local public K-eighth school per year to receive 10 \$100 gift cards for teachers. Research shows that teachers spend an average of \$500 of their own funds for classroom supplies. From left: rear, Sage Mallory, Paige Hudson, Chris Davison, Dee Fisher, Mary Lynn Bettingerth and Cheryl Noah; front, Chelly Wong, Melody Gill and Amy Pendleton. Not pictured is Alvin Smith.

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Defense rules as Eagles shut out Godsby, 7-0

Spencer Pullen's 4th-quarter TD spells difference

By Sarah Clauson
Beacon Correspondent

The Niceville Eagles continued their winning record Friday night after a hard-fought battle against the Godby Cougars. The 7-0 Homecoming victory didn't come without a fight as the two defenses ground it out.

The Eagles may have underestimated Godby, but they still came out on top and demonstrated their determination and discipline. It was a reminder, as coach John Hicks put it, that "We have to prepare every week."

Godby started the game with a four-minute possession that couldn't get it past mid-field before it had to punt.

The Eagles took over and their reliable running game was quickly tested as after less than two minutes they were forced to punt.

Neither team could gain momentum offensively, but the Eagles hung in there, and began to make progress. They were able to burn almost five minutes in a second-quarter drive that opened up their passing game.

Quarterback Kyle McDorman connected with Hayden Meyer on a third-and-8 to give the Eagles a first down. The two matched up again on the very next play, which led to another first down pulled off by Spencer Pullen. The drive showed promise, but couldn't produce a score. A failed fourth down conversion gave possession back to the Cougars with 4:26 left in the half.

The Cougars made their way into field goal range, but weren't able to score the three. The Eagles took over with less than a minute remaining in the half. A quick completion to Brandon Burke, and a first down by Pullen got things moving, but the half ended before the Eagles could get into the end zone.

The mood lifted during halftime as the Homecoming festivities commenced, including the results of the parade contests and the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen.

Late in the third quarter, the Eagles' momentum started to grow with a few critical plays led

by McDorman. On a third-and-5 he hit Brandon Burke to put his team into Cougar territory. Marquis Pratt gained a first down after an impressive run by McDorman. The senior quarterback kept at it, with another keeper that landed the ball just two yards outside of the end zone at the end of the third quarter.

The Eagles clinched the only seven-pointer of the game with a run by Pullen and the point after by Andrew Mitchell with 11:17 left in the game.

Although they didn't score again, the Eagles burned valuable clock time with a five-minute long drive, thanks in part to a 41-yard catch by Burke to keep the possession alive.

"I try to do my best to get the yards," Burke said of his role on the team.

With 2:45 left in the game, the Cougars took possession and began to make their way down the field. They managed their way to first and goal, and with just three seconds left on the clock, they put their chance at tying the game in



Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

An excited Eagles squad surrounds Spencer Pullen (34) after his game-winning touchdown. From left: Nick Gregoire (77), Dean Maraman, Michael Belcher, Pullen and Jimmy Bush.

the hands of running play. The Eagle defense stood strong, as it did throughout the game, and shut the cougars out.

The shutout was the team's second of the season and although the game was closer than anticipated, it allowed the defense to once again exhibit its intensity and ability. The offense wasn't afraid to persist, and kept grind-

ing it out until it could put points on the board.

As for the Godby team?

"We've got to give them a lot of credit," Hicks said. "They came ready to play." He gave credit to the defense for playing well, and acknowledged the offense's ability to get back into the game.

How do the Eagles prepare for

their next foe, Pace?

"We've got to get back to playing the way we're capable of playing," said Hicks. Burke's strategy is to "get more focused, come together as a team, and practice hard."

Whatever the tactic, the Eagles look to extend their record to 5-0 at 7 p.m. at Eagle Stadium this Friday.

Sports capsules

Lewis wins tourney

On Saturday, Sept. 11, the Lewis volleyball team won first place at the Queen of the Court Tournament at Destin Middle School. Eight teams competed from Okaloosa and Walton County.

NHS girls win meet

The Niceville High School girls swim team edged Navarre and Pace Sept. 18 in Gulf Breeze to win the second freestyle meet in a row by eight points, while the boys team finished fourth out of eight teams.

Notable finishes included:
—Girls 200 freestyle, 3rd place, Haley McWilliams; 4th, Alexa Birmingham
—Girls 100 free, 4th, Rachel Gold
—Girls 500 free, 4th, Haley

McWilliams
—Boys 50 free, 3rd, Dallas Montgomery
—Boys 100 free, 2nd, Dallas Montgomery

Falcons edge ECMS

The Lewis Falcon football team defeated Emerald Coast Middle School, 8-6, Thursday, Sept. 23, at the South Walton High School Stadium.

Golf to benefit CIC

Tommy Bahama will host the third annual Tommy Bahama White Sand Classic Monday, Oct. 11, at Raven Golf Course, Sandestin. Tee time is noon. Proceeds will benefit Children in Crisis.
Entry fees are \$300 per player. To register, call 654-1734.

The week ahead

Wednesday, Sept. 29

—Destin-Shoal River, volleyball, 4
—Lewis-St. Mary, volleyball, 3:30
—Ruckel-Meigs, volleyball, 3:30
—Lewis-Davidson, cross country, 3
—Destin-Ruckel, cross country, 4

Thursday, Sept. 30

—Ruckel@Shoal River, football, 6:30
—Lewis-Destin, football, 6:30
—NHS@Pace, 9th grade football, 7
—NHS@Pace, JV football, 5
—RBCS-Bethlehem, volleyball, 5/6
—NHS@FWB, ladies golf, 3

Friday, Oct. 1

—NHS-Pace, football, 7
—RBCS@John Paul II, football, 6:30

Saturday, Oct. 2

—RBCS@Bay County Invitational, cross country

Monday, Oct. 4

—Ruckel-Baker, volleyball, 3:30
—Destin@Meigs, volleyball, 4
—Lewis@Liza Jackson, volleyball, 3:30

Tuesday, Oct. 5

—NHS@Choctaw, 9th grade football, 6
—NHS@Mosley, cross country, 4:30
—RBCS-Laurel Hill, volleyball, 5/6
—NHS@FWB, ladies golf, 3
—NHS@Mosley, volleyball, 4:30/5:30
NHS@Crestview, men's golf, 3



Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

NHS golfers top Vikings

Niceville High School sophomore Rachel Butterfield tees off on the first tee Thursday as the Eagles edged Fort Walton Beach, 178-178.

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

11-by-14 inches and include the theme of "Love on the Island," incorporating some version of Cupid sporting a Mardi Gras mask. It must contain the words "Mardi Gras on the Island 2011, Fort Walton Beach, FL." All submissions should be in a camera-ready medium and unsigned.

Deadline is Oct. 15. Submit your poster to the Chamber office, 34 S.E. Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach.

Info: Eppi Azzaretto at 244-8191.

Trail association meeting

The monthly meeting of the Florida Trail Association will take place Tuesday, Sept. 29, 6 p.m., at Ed's Hometown Seafood & Steaks, Niceville. Visitors welcome.

Info: 682-6098 or choctaw.floridatrail.org.

PUTTtoberfest scheduled

Putt your way through 18 holes and a beer tasting during the area's first ever PUTTtoberfest, 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.

Poster artists sought

The Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce's Mardi Gras Committee has announced its annual poster contest for the 2011 "Mardi Gras on the Island." Winning artwork will be prominently displayed in all event advertising. The winner will receive \$200.

Poster submissions should be

Grief support group set

Emerald Coast Hospice announces its six-week grief support group for bereaved families in the Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties, led by Jennifer Gilbert, MSW, social worker for Emerald Coast Hospice, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 403 NW Racetrack Road, Fort Walton Beach. The group will meet every Thursday, Sept. 30-Nov. 4, noon-1:30 p.m.

Info or to register, call Gilbert at 862-1069.

Audubon Eventure set

Discover the sights and sounds of nature at night with Audubon Eventures. Nonie of Nonie's Ark Animal Encounters will guide Night Walks for Choctawhatchee Audubon Society on the first Friday of October, November, March, April and May. Programs will last approximately 90 minutes and begin just before sunset. All are invited but the focus will be on ages 4 to 10. The cost is \$1 per person; members and immediate family, free. Eventure in Mary Esther 6 p.m. RSVP to Nonie Maines, 862-9588.

Softball players sought

High Intensity 12U fastpitch softball is looking for girls born in 1998 and 1999 to practice and play in a few fall tournaments. Contact Kevin Watts for more information,



99 minutes in Greece

Tyler Corbin, Niceville, as Hermes, and Nicholas Martin of Fort Walton Beach, as Hector, will be part of Northwest Florida State College's Fine & Performing Arts Division will present "The Iliad, The Odyssey, and All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less" Oct. 6 to 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the college's Sprint Theater at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center on the Niceville campus.

642-1231, watskt@cox.net.

Mullet Festival auditions

It's time to audition for the Boggy Bayou Mullet Festival Singing Showdown, Saturday, Oct. 2, 1-4 p.m., at the Niceville Community Center.

The audition will be a live performance of one song in front of a panel of judges unless other arrangements are made. A registration fee of \$25 is due upon the audition. Registration forms are available online at cityofniceville.org/mullet.html.

The Final Four will perform Oct. 15 at the Mullet Festival to determine a winner. The winner will receive a \$500 cash prize and will be part of the entertainment lineup

on Saturday, Oct. 16.

Info: 279-6436, ext. 1001, or 729-4070.

Audubon bird walk

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society plans a bird walk Oct. 2 at Destin Pass Beach and Bay parks with Lenny Fenimore. Meet at Uptown Station 7:30 a.m. Info: 862-6582

Fall harvest festival

A fall harvest festival will take place at Central Baptist Church, 951 S. Ferdon Blvd., Crestview, Saturday, Oct. 2, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Vendor booths and estate sale items will be available.

Call Nancy Bunnice, 687-0437.

'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.

Respect Life Sunday

Holy Name of Jesus Church, 1200 Valparaiso Blvd., Niceville will have a Rosary for Life Oct. 3, Respect Life Sunday, from 3 to 4 p.m.

Info: 678-9672.

Forcing bulbs program set

The next Creative Gardener Series program will be on Monday, Oct. 4, 6-8 p.m. at the Valparaiso Library. The topic is "Forcing Bulbs for the Holidays."

Marie Harrison will demonstrate the correct way to force bulbs for an indoor splash of color during the dreary winter months. She will cover a variety of bulbs that can be successfully forced to give as a gift for a friend or yourself during the holidays. This program is free and open to the public, however, bulbs and containers will be available for sale. The series is cosponsored by the Valparaiso Garden Club and Valparaiso Library.

FWC to meet at college

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will hold its third public workshop for input on a draft plan Tuesday, Oct. 5, 6 p.m., in the Bldg. 8 auditorium of the Fort Walton Beach Campus of Northwest Florida State College, 1170 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. There will be several more meetings this fall.

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.

Tea with author

The Friends of the Niceville Library plan a tea with guest speaker and author Deborah Brodie Wednesday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m. in the Niceville Community Center next door to the library.

Brodie will feature her latest national release, "In His Love." This Christian romance novel explores the journey of a young woman pursuing her calling, her dream, and the love of her life.

Info: 729-4090.

Book signing will follow the program.

GOP women to meet

The Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated will meet Wednesday, Oct. 6, at the Holiday Inn Resort on Okaloosa Island. Socializing will begin at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. To accommodate working women, and those who can only stay for a limited time, there will be a "Dine and Dash" table.

Dr. Ty Handy, president of Northwest Florida State College, will be the guest speaker.

In support of Fisher House, which supports military members by providing housing for their loved ones during their care and rehabilitation at the Eglin Air Force Base hospital, luncheon attendees are asked to bring paper plates or napkins to help with paper supplies for the facility.

To make a reservation, contact Donna Pattison at 651-5416 or donnapattison@cox.net by noon Friday, Oct. 1. Cost of the lunch is \$16 for members and \$18 for guests. Info: rwof.org.



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MUSICIAN

From page B-1

"The music we use is 'Stars and Stripes Forever,'" she said. "It's one of the hardest for the clarinet. It weeds them out."

Leading the band in the tour—the 35th in a row—will be Clyde Barr, Terri's father. "He is really very detail-oriented," Terri Barr said. "He knows what he's looking for."

Grace first came to Sound of America's attention when her former band director, Christy Dubuisson, nominated her.

"There are a few students I encouraged to audition," Dubuisson said. "Grace is one of those students who sets a goal and works until they get there."

She's very dedicated, hard working and doesn't let anything get in her way."

Grace said that was a pretty accurate description.

"When I want to do something, I really want to put my mind to it because it just motivates me," she said. "I have a lot of self-motivation."

Her current band director, Dee Reynolds, has the same high opinion of Grace that everyone else seems to have.

"What a great kid," Reynolds said. "Just a wonderful spirit. She's got a servant's heart and she's very dependable."

Terri Barr said the tour is a wonderful experience, but its effects linger long after it ends on July 23.

"It's a wonderful opportuni-

ty," she said. "The kids grow tremendously. They really become like a big family. They love the friendships they make and the connections with kids who are like themselves."

Grace said she is considering keeping music as part of her professional life after high school and college.

"I am considering playing in college and also maybe doing something like music therapy," she said. "But I have lots of time to decide."

In the meantime, Grace will have an experience the likes of which few high school juniors can dream.

"People come up and give them kisses on their cheeks," Terri Barr said. "They're really, really appreciative."



Beacon photo by Kenneth Books

Helping pets breathe

Members of the Niceville Fire Department received two pet resuscitators from Parkway Veterinary Hospital, Niceville, Friday, suitable for large and small pets. From left: Terry Stone, Fire Chief Tommy Mayville, Dr. Jeff Waits of Parkway, Mike James, Ken Revel and Mike Valenzuela. The pet resuscitator program is in honor of the late Trish Kreh, who was Parkway's receptionist.

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<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>ADVERTISING SALES</p> <p>The Beacon Newspapers (The Bay Beacon, The Eglin Flyer, and The Hurlburt Patriot) have an opening for a career-minded, full-time person to sell newspaper advertising outside the office, calling on new and existing customers. Candidates should be upbeat, energetic, organized, self-starting and detail-oriented. Competitive salary plus commission plan. IRA plan and paid vacation. Candidates must be available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. We will train the right person. Send resume and cover letter to hr@baybeacon.com and/or apply in person at the Bay Beacon, 1181 John Sims Parkway (Parkway East Shopping Center), Niceville. No phone calls.</p>	<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>Security Officers</p> <p>G4S</p> <p>Military or Law Enforcement experience? Earn \$900 per week</p> <p>- NOW HIRING FOR OFFICERS 7 DAYS PER WEEK -</p> <p>Custom Protection Officers Part-time, temporary positions in the Panama City & Pensacola areas.</p> <p>Call 850-857-0076 for information 7 days per week.</p> <p>Must be at least 18 yrs of age and be able to pass an extensive background check and drug screen. For a complete listing of the basic qualifications for this position, visit:</p> <p>www.g4s.us/en-us/Careers</p> <p>EOE • MFDV • DFWP</p>	<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>NEWSPAPER DELIVERY</p> <p>Earn extra cash of \$45 to \$140 or more each week in your spare time! The Bay Beacon seeks a reliable independent contractor to insert, bag, and deliver newspapers Tuesday night. You must be over 21 and have a reliable vehicle, a good driving record, a Florida driver's license, and proof of current liability insurance. No collecting duties. Earnings vary according to route and work load. Stop by the Bay Beacon for an information sheet and to fill out an application. The Beacon 1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville • 678-1080 (Parkway East Shopping Center across from PoFolks)</p>	<p>Homes for Rent</p> <p>3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, new carpet/paint, fenced, pet negotiable, \$1300, 729-3886</p> <p>FWB, 4BDR, 2BATH, \$1200mo, no pets, 5 Brighton Court, 678-3711</p> <p>Homes for Sale</p> <p>ON WATER WITH FREE BOAT SLIP</p> <p>New kitchen, garage, 3 BR, 2.5 BA townhome, Niceville, \$178,900 MLS #539894, 496-9496. www.NicevilleHomeOnWater.com</p> <p>Items for Sale</p> <p>Now Open, This and That Flea Market, 1419 N. 29th St., Niceville. Wed.-Sat. 10AM-6PM, Vendor Space Available. 729-3801</p>	<p>Motorcycles</p> <p>01 Kawasaki Ninja ZX9. Like new, red/purple, \$3000, adult owned, 516-5958</p> <p>Opportunities</p> <p>Interested in improving your health and possibly starting a fun & profitable home-based business (with lots of local assistance)? Call 803-8769 or Email me at healthandwealth@afo.net without delay to get started now.</p> <p>The more you tell, the more you sell!</p> <p>Call the Beacon Newspapers at 678-1080 to place your ad today!</p>	<p>Public Notices</p> <p>Dr. Terry Payne will be retiring from the practice of medicine effective October 29, 2010. Your medical records will remain at White Wilson and be available for other White Wilson physicians or you may request copies of your records for physicians outside of White Wilson. Requests for copies should be made to the Medical Records Departments at White Wilson, 850-863-8262.</p> <p>Services</p> <p>Frank's Auto Shop, dependable service. 75 D Mansfield Ave., Valparaiso, 850-678-AUTO. 10% Military Government Discount. Pickups, Vans, Cars.</p> <p>See news happening? Call the Beacon at 678-1080.</p>	<p>RV's for Sale</p> <p>Dixie RV SuperStores</p> <p>FL's Newest RV Dealer NOW OPEN!!!</p> <p>Store Hours Monday-Saturday 8:00am-6:00pm 21 Acres / 30 Brands New and Used Units 7 Manufacturers Newmar Keystone Heartland Jayco Fleetwood Forest River Prime Time</p> <p>Service Department Located off I-10 Exit 70 / SR285 328 Green Acres Dr. DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435 Sales 850-951-1000 Service 850-951-0321 www.dixievr.com</p>
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Participating in the dedication of 'Ron's Pantry' were: Barbara Dermott, Ramsey Chaplin, Gini Simpson, Jim Cloutier, Carolyn Cox, Joan Cloutier, Dorris Arrington-Holloway, Karla Pedritz, Jean Smith, Judy Andrie, Mary Ferris and Marlyss Hernandez.



Food pantry named for volunteer

The St. Vincent de Paul Society at Holy Name Catholic Church held a dedication and reception in honor of Ronald "Ron" Joyce, who died in December.

Joyce and his wife, Regina, volunteered for more than 20 years with the society, setting up the first food pantry for the organization and ordering and picking up food to stock the pantry.

The food pantry was dedicated to Joyce and is now referred to as "Ron's Pantry."

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Marriage sermons set

Immanuel Anglican Church will offer an eight-week sermon series on "Marriage as God Sees it," beginning Sunday, Sept. 26.

The Rev. Dr. Forrest Mobley, director of the nationally acclaimed Marriage Retreat ministry, will speak at the 9 and 11:01 a.m. services. In the weeks to come, Mobley and other speakers, including the

Rev. Mike Hesse, will cover topics including Faithfulness, Male and Female Roles, Forgiveness, Finances, Sex, Spiritual Warfare and Divorce and Remarriage.

Immanuel Anglican Church is located at 250 Indian Bayou Trail in Destin.

For more information, call 837-6324.

In the Service

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Capt. **Mark V. Ross**, Commander, G Company, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, and his troops have deployed for a year to Afghanistan. The unit's home base is Rose Barracks, Vilseck, Germany, where his wife, the

former Jill Pedretti, of Verona, Wisc., and baby daughter, Kristin, await his return.

Mark is a 1995 graduate of Niceville High School and the son of Mark and Vickie Ross of Niceville. He has an associate degree from Northwest Florida State College and received his BA from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.



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Sunset Cafe

Opens at sunrise in Valparaiso

Advertising Feature

Melt-in-your-mouth blueberry pancakes, fresh baked biscuits, wholesome French toast, breakfast burritos, loaded hash browns. Bacon, eggs, grits and tasty omelets, and don't forget, this is the home of the monster omelet.

These are just a few of the many nutritious items Sunset Café offers all hours of the day.

Want to be the office hero on Fridays? In the morning from 7 to 8 Sunset Café offers sausage biscuits for \$1.

Lunchtime delights include tangy sweet raspberry barbecue wings, (among other flavors), flatbread Philly's down-home chicken salad sandwiches, poboyos, salads, soups and the best burgers in town.

Try the daily specials made from scratch by Sunset Café's chefs such as chicken pot pie, meatloaf, stroganoff, spaghetti and chicken and dumplings.

With a wide variety of side items such as coleslaw, cucumber salad, tater tots, hush puppies, French fries, and their homemade old-fashioned beer batter onion rings, you can't go wrong. They also have a children's menu that offers everything from chocolate chip pancakes to peanut butter fluff.



A warm and friendly atmosphere great for watching the news and connecting to the Internet, as they are an Internet cafe.

Bring the kids in on Saturday for a special—one child under 12 eats free with one paying adult.

Sunset Café welcomes everyone to come on in and relax for a warm and friendly meal. Watch the news or bring your laptop, as they are an Internet café. Dine in or carry

out. Call your order in for quick pickup.

The current hours are Monday to Sunday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Visit the café's new location at 177 S. John Sims Pkwy.

Valparaiso, just past the Tom Thumb on the right hand side of the road as you're driving towards the base from Niceville. Call 678-2127.

Coming soon: Sunset Café will be open for dinner.



Sunset Cafe is open for breakfast and lunch at 177 S. John Sims Pkwy. in Valparaiso.

Come and cool off with us at **Sunset Cafe**

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Mon.-Fri. (7 a.m. - 9 a.m.)

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