

The Bay Beacon

12 Pages, 2 Sections, 2 Inserts

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

50¢

**UP
COMING**

Saturday, 6 p.m.

Lookout

Lookout! an original musical comedy for the whole family, will be performed by Okaloosa County students at the **Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium.**

Tickets are \$6.50 and available at Bayou Book Company in Niceville.

Monday, 5:30 p.m.



The **Silver Sands Republican Women Federated**

will hold its monthly meeting at the Bluewater Bay Clubhouse.

The **speaker** will be **Paul Lux**, supervisor of elections for Okaloosa County.

RSVP: Libby Hill, ehilly@cox.net.

Tuesday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.



The **Niceville City Council runoff election** between Debbie Lewis and William "Bill" Schaetzle will be held at the **Niceville City Council Chambers.**

Calendar, B-4.

Niceville eyes unchanged tax rate

Public hearings to determine final levy slated

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Niceville City Council Thursday gave tentative approval to a property tax millage rate of 3.65, the same as the current rate. Council members also said, however, that by setting the rate at 3.65

initially, they retain the option of lowering it during later public hearings before the rate becomes final for the 2011-12 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

At a millage rate of 3.65, Niceville property owners pay \$3.65 in property tax for every \$1,000 of appraised, taxable

value of their property within the city, after homestead exemptions and other discounts are applied. For example, the owner of a home appraised at \$200,000 taxable value would pay \$730 in property

Please see NICEVILLE, page A-3

Casting a wide net



With his 13-foot cast net, Greg McClure, 25, of Niceville, had his eye on Boggy Bayou's most famous denizens, mullet, Friday at Valparaiso's T-Pier.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard

Storm shelter now pet friendly

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The hurricane shelter at Northwest Florida State College is now pet friendly, according to an agreement recently completed by the college board of trustees and Okaloosa County public safety officials.

According to a recent press release from the college, following the July 20 meeting of the trustees, "Up to 250 pets such as domesticated dogs and cats will have a place to shelter in

case of a hurricane under a new agreement between Northwest Florida State College and Okaloosa County for a classroom building on the Niceville campus to be used as a pet friendly shelter.

"The governing board of trustees at NWFSC approved a memorandum of agreement with the county at the board's July 20 business meeting, which provides for Okaloosa County Emergency Management to operate a pet shelter on the col-

lege's Niceville campus with Okaloosa County Animal Control oversight of shelter operations."

The college's Niceville campus is also home to the county's newest emergency shelter for the public—as the college's recently opened basketball arena was built to serve double duty as a public emergency shelter, able to withstand 190 mile per hour winds.

The pet shelter agreement calls for the county to cover

classroom space with plastic sheeting, construct a temporary dog run, and provide training for shelter staff, as well as animal kennels, animal food, water and American Humane Society oversight of shelter operations.

"This idea originally started with NWFSC faculty member Jack Gill who brought the need for a pet shelter to our attention," said Ty Handy, NWFSC president. "Jack made the

Please see SHELTER, page A-5

Voters oust incumbent; runoff set

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Niceville voters filled one of two seats on the city council during balloting last week but will need to vote again in a runoff election next Tuesday to fill the remaining open seat.

Niceville's newest city councilman, Heath Rominger, was sworn in to office July 19 after besting four-term incumbent councilwoman Judy Boudreaux in the city's July 19 municipal election. Also sworn in during a brief ceremony following ballot counting was Mayor Randall Wise and City Councilman William Thomas, both incumbents who ran unopposed for reelection.

Rominger, 40, bested incumbent Judy Boudreaux for the Group 5 seat by a vote of 511 to 428.

"I plan to continue to be here for my city,"

said Boudreaux, adding that "in the future I'd be very willing to serve." She said she plans to remain active with the Chamber of Commerce and the July Fourth fireworks committee. "I love this city and I consider it home."

Also on the ballot last week was the Group 3 Niceville City Council seat

Please see VOTERS, page A-5



Heath Rominger



Judy Boudreaux



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

High five

During his birthday party Saturday afternoon at Lincoln Park, Niceville resident Aiden Blow proudly held up the candle from his birthday cake for all to see. He wanted the world to know that he had just turned 5 years old.

Valp. to add firefighters' hours Sets millage rate at 'rolled-back' 4.0644

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Valparaiso city commissioners have tentatively agreed to fund additional hours for part-time paid firefighters and added two part-time workers to the library so it can begin service on Saturdays.

At their final budget workshop July 18, city commissioners also agreed to dip into the city's reserve funds to the tune of about \$92,000 next fiscal year to avoid raising the ad valorem property tax rate by an additional half mill. Commissioners set the tentative millage rate for the upcoming fiscal year at the "rolled-back" rate, the property tax rate that will generate the same number of dollars in property tax revenue as the current city budget.

On the other hand, Valparaiso cable customers are facing a \$2 per month rate hike on their monthly cable television bill and a \$1.25 per month increase for Internet service.

City workers can look forward

to a 2 percent cost-of-living increase, under the tentative budget hammered out by commissioners at the workshop.

The tentative budget for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 includes nearly \$40,000 in additional funding to allow the city's volunteer fire department to extend its use of paid part-time firefighters from eight hours a day, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, to 12 hours a day, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., over the same five-day work week.

Fire Chief Mark Norris said that most of the city's volunteer firefighters work during the week, some in Navarre or Destin, others for 12-hour shifts during the day. That makes it difficult for volunteer firefighters to respond in a timely fashion to emergencies such as medical calls, accidents or fires that occur between 4:30 and 8 p.m., he said.

The city began responding to medical calls in the 2005-2006 time frame, when the fire department had a full-time chief and

assistant chief who were both qualified Emergency Medical Technicians. Previously only county EMS ambulances responded to medical emergencies in Valparaiso. Today's volunteer firefighters are also trained as EMTs, Norris said. Medical calls typically make up the majority of emergency responses by firefighters. During the month of June, for example, Valparaiso firefighters responded to 21 emergency calls including five fire-related calls, 12 medicals, one motor vehicle accident, two assaults and one unknown problem.

The problem of volunteers' availability during workweek daytime hours already led the city to hire three part-time firefighters from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., allowing a minimum of four firefighters, including the fire chief, to respond to a fire during the daytime work week. Extending the hours of the three part-time firefighters to cover that evening

Please see HOURS, page A-2

Bridge traffic, revenue up

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

"Traffic is looking up," said Jim Vest, executive director of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority.

June traffic over the Mid-Bay Bridge was up 2 percent and revenue up 5 percent, compared to June a year ago, Vest told board members at the MBBA's monthly meeting in Niceville Thursday.

The average unaudited daily traffic last month was 21,239 vehicles, compared to 20,875 in June a year ago, according to a report released by the bridge authority. Revenue last month was \$1,615,640, compared to \$1,539,005 in June last year. Reflecting, perhaps a healthier tourist season compared to last year's BP oil spill-marred summer, a higher percentage of last month's bridge travelers paid in cash, 40.0 percent, compared to 36.4 percent of toll payers in June 2010.

June is the first month the MBBA has been able to compare "apples to apples," Vest said. On June 1, 2010, the MBBA raised the toll over the 3.6-mile bridge between Niceville and Destin by 50 cents, upping the cash toll to \$3 and Sunpass prepaid tolls to \$2. For the past 12 months, traffic

and toll year-to-date comparisons were skewed because of the different toll rates.

And so far, July figures may be even better, Vest said, with traffic figures reaching about 29,000 per day on the Saturdays of the first two weekends in July, with about 27,000 on the Saturday of the third weekend. Saturday typically sees the most rental condo turnovers, meaning last week's guests are heading home north over the bridge while new vacationers are streaming south toward Destin and the beaches.

Nonetheless, traffic and revenue figures remain well below similar figures which peaked in 2006 and declined each subsequent fiscal year over the next four years.

MBBA Chairman Gordon Fornell suggested that the MBBA look at additional permanent signage on Highway 20 directing tourist to the bypass road intersection east of Seminole. Not all motorists read the large electronic signs that direct them to avoid turning on White Point Road, he said. Three Highway 293 "trail-blazer" signs with arrows directing motorists to the bridge have been added, Vest said.

2nd bridge road link to open Aug. 12

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Construction manager James Van Steenburg updated Mid-Bay Bridge Authority members on the progress of the 11-mile, MBBA connector bypass road Thursday.

—Phase 2, a 2.8-mile segment of the bypass from the toll plaza of the bridge to Range Road should be opened to traffic Aug. 12, he said. On May 12 the first 1.5 miles of the Phase 1 connector road opened to traffic between the toll plaza and Highway 20, while the former bridge access via White Point Road was blocked.

—Widening of Highway 20 to four lanes from White Point Road to the bypass interchange was substantially completed July 8, he said.

—Also under way is resurfacing of Range Road between Highway 20 and the connector road intersection, Van Steenburg said. Included in the Range Road improvements is construction of 5-foot-wide, paved shoulders along either side of Range Road and a segment of sidewalk



Beacon photo by Del Lessard
Cap walls are already in place for the MBBA connector road overpass at Range Road. The connector road is expected to be open to Range Road Aug. 12. The Range Road overpass is also the beginning of Phase 2 of the 11-mile bypass which will connect to Highway 85 in Niceville in 2014.

extending south from Bluewater Elementary to the entrance of Merchants Walk.

—Roadbed earth-moving work, drainage pond excavation and bridge piling activity at several creek and highway crossings is under way on Phases 2

and 3 of the bypass road, Van Steenburg said. Piling work for bridges at Rocky Creek and Swift Creek have begun, he said, while a temporary bridge is being constructed at Rocky Creek. Piling for an overpass across Highway 285 are also

complete, Van Steenburg said, while the pilings and cap wall are in place for the overpass at Range Road, the starting point for Phase 2.

Phase 3 construction is still on track for completion by Jan. 8, 2014, he said.

HOURS

From page A-1
period, plus the fire chief, will allow the volunteer fire department to send a minimum of four people to weekday evening fires, he said.

Commissioners also included \$10,000 in the proposed budget to pay two part-time employees for working at the library on Saturdays. Currently the Valparaiso library is only open Monday-Friday.

The city's police department will get a new patrol car under its annual rotation plan but city commissioners left one full-time police officer slot unfunded next year.

While there will be no rate hikes for water and sewer, sanitation and stormwater customers next year, cable television customers can expect a \$2 a month increase and Internet customers a \$1.25 monthly increase.

Commissioners reviewed a general fund budget that totaled

\$3.1 million, about \$251,000 more than expected revenues.

With state sales tax and revenue sharing revenues projected to be about \$70,000 less than the current fiscal year revenues, the draft budget was based on raising the city's property tax millage rate to 4.6 mills, from the current 3.933 millage rate.

After cutting several proposed expenditures from next year's budget, commissioners decided they would set next year's millage rate at the "rolled-back" rate of 4.0644 mills. That's the rate that will generate the same amount of property revenue as the current budget, about \$698,000. To generate enough revenue to fund the tentative budget, commissioners agreed they would dip into the city's reserve funds to make up the difference of about \$90,000.

Commissioners set two public hearing dates to finalize both the budget and the ad valorem millage rate: Sept. 6 and Sept. 19, both at 6 p.m. in the city commission chambers.

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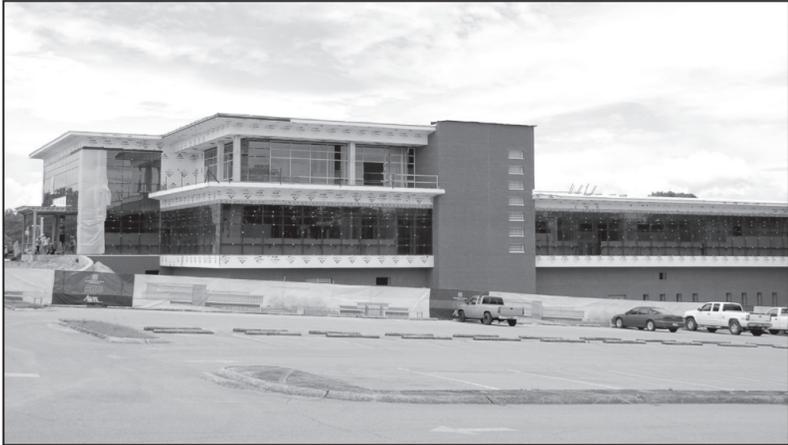


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College building on schedule

Construction of Northwest Florida State College's three-story, 75,000 square-foot Student Services building is scheduled to be completed in time for a November opening. When completed, construction will shift to renovation of the adjacent K-building, which, when completed in 2012, will become part of the student services complex. Construction cost for the entire project is nearly \$22.2 million.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard



School board backs tax hike

Blames state for increase; public hearing Sept. 12

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Okaloosa County School Board members say they are not to blame for a planned increase in property taxes, which they endorsed during a public hearing Monday. The increase, they said, was mandated by the state of Florida.

At a meeting held at the Okaloosa County Courthouse in Crestview, the school board set a tentative millage rate of 7.769 for the 2011-12 fiscal year.



Rodney Walker

slightly higher than the previous year, remains tentative until it is given final approval by the board at a public hearing scheduled for Sept. 12.

In addition to the millage rate, the school board tentatively approved the school district's \$339,822,956 budget for the new fiscal year, which is about \$19 million less than that of the previous year. The budget is partly funded by local property taxes, with the rest coming from state taxes and other sources, such as grants.



Cathy Thigpen

property owners within Okaloosa County would pay \$7.769 for every \$1,000 of appraised, taxable value of their property, after homestead exemptions and other deductions. For example, the owner of a home appraised at \$200,000 taxable value would pay \$1,553, in addition to other taxes paid to Okaloosa County and other local taxing authorities.

The fiscal year for the school district began July 1. The total millage rate to be levied is 1.14 percent less than the "roll-back" rate, the rate at which the same



Rita Scallan

amount of property tax revenue would be generated as during the previous year, according to a statement accompanying the resolution to set the millage rate.

The school district's property taxes and millage rate come in three parts. These include the "Required Local Effort" tax mandated by the state of Florida, which is 5.521 mills for the 2011-12 school year, as well as the locally-determined Capital Outlay portion of the millage rate (1.500) and the Discretionary Operating portion of the tax (0.7480).

The entire increase in the local millage rate is the result of the "Local Effort" tax required by the state, said school board member Cindy Frakes. Okaloosa School District Chief Financial Officer Rita Scallan agreed, telling board

Please see TAX, page A-6

ital improvements, without increasing current payments. Powell told the council that if the sales tax-funded bonds are increased, they must not exceed 1.35 times the current loan amount, for a total of \$1.1 million. The city also has bonds financed by the city's gas tax, totaling \$1.55 million, which cannot be increased, Powell said.

If refinanced, said Corbin, the bonds will be paid off by the end of 2018.

Second and third readings of the ordinances to refinance the bonds must be approved in special meetings scheduled for 6 p.m. Aug. 4, and at 7 p.m. Aug. 9, said Doucet. The current interest rate on the city's bonds, he said, is 3.75, and the city hopes to obtain new rates somewhere between 2.5 percent and the current rate, although the exact rate to be obtained may vary as bond markets fluctuate.

Thursday's meeting was the first full meeting for newly elected city councilman Heath Rominger, who defeated incumbent Judy Boudreaux during the city's recent election.

Rominger, a lieutenant in the Navy Reserve and a local businessman, told the Beacon following the meeting, "I'm glad to be here."

Rominger, who was sworn in during a previous council meeting on Tuesday, July 19, said he now intends to "dive in with the city's issues and anything else that pops up." He said he does not plan to push for any big changes in city government, and

that the city already "has a great team in place." He said he hopes to apply his military and business experience to city government.

As for why he chose to run for local office, Rominger said, "Everyone wants to work for a successful business," and that he considers the Niceville city government to be such an enterprise.

Prior to being elected to the city council, Rominger had been

among the leaders of opposition to a proposed zoning change that would have permitted a new commercial facility to be built in Rominger's residential neighborhood. Boudreaux had supported the zoning change.

Rominger said his role in the recent zoning dispute was an example of democracy in action. "I was excited to win that," he said, adding that "a couple of council members had not been listening to city residents."

NICEVILLE

From page A-1

tax to the city, in addition to any other county, state, or federal taxes owed.

Following Thursday's meeting, Niceville City Clerk Dan Doucet told the Beacon that before the new tax rate, along with the city's FY 2011-12 budget, becomes final, it will again be discussed at council hearings scheduled for 6 p.m. Sept. 15, 20 and 22, and may also be discussed during a regular city council meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 13.

Also during their July 21 meeting, the city council approved the first of three readings of proposed city ordinances to refinance city bonds. At a previous council meeting, financial consultant Bill McCartney of the Baskerville-Donovan consulting firm advised the city council to refinance the city's capital improvement bonds, since current interest rates are at historic lows.

"When in my lifetime have interest rates ever been this low?" said Councilman Bill Smith on Thursday. "Not in my lifetime."

During the July 21 meeting, City Attorney Dixie Powell and City Manager Lannie Corbin said refinancing the bonds will reduce what the city must pay in debt service, or in the case of those bonds to be repaid with funds from the city's sales tax, to possibly issue additional bonds to finance additional cap-

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Police Blotter

The following accounts of the activities of police are according to records of the Niceville and Valparaiso police departments, the Okaloosa County and Walton County sheriff's offices, other law-enforcement agencies, and the Okaloosa County and Walton County jails.

Arrests

Kitikorn Kalmongnoi, 40, of 105 Linda Court, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 10 on a Walton County warrant on the original charge of worthless checks, four counts.

Shain O'Dey Morgan, 32, of 106 Dominica Way, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 8 on a charge of violation of probation on the original charges of burglary, theft of a firearm and dealing in stolen property.

Alexandria Grace Farstad, 19, with an at-large Niceville address, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 6 on a violation of probation charge.

Jason Wayne Daniels, a store stocker, 22, of 304 Reeves St., Lot G-10, Niceville, and Eillen Margaret Hogan, a store stocker, 33, of the same address, were arrested by sheriff's deputies July 8 each charged with Workers' Compensation fraud, a 3rd degree felony, less than \$20,000.

On May 14, while employed as a night stocker at Walmart, 1300 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, Daniels is alleged to have faked a fall on a wet spot. Hogan, a co-worker, allegedly claimed to have witnessed the slip and fall by Daniels. Walmart spent \$1,717 on worker's compensation medical costs. The alleged faked fall was recorded on a surveillance video.

Catharina Maria Barrentine, 22, of 610 Crestview Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 25 on a violation of probation charge on the original misdemeanor offense of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Adriana Dolly Dean, a motel employee, 25, of 315 23rd St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 13 on an Escambia County warrant for a violation of probation charge.

Beverly Hannah Bryant, 22, of 1437 Cat-Mar Road, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 19 for violation of probation on the original charges of uttering a forged instrument, possession/distribution of chemicals to manufacture, possession of

controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Troy Evan Hockaday, unemployed, 25, of 106 Beverly Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 19 on a charge of failure to appear on the original charge of no valid driver's license.

John Fountain Williams, 50, of 4216 Cougar Circle, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 16 on charges of domestic violence battery, two counts, and aggravated assault, domestic violence, one count.

Douglas Matthew Casciegna, a lube tech, 32, of 209 Honeysuckle Way, Niceville, was arrested by Valparaiso police July 8 on a charge of battery by strangulation, domestic violence.

Mark Wade Triplett, unemployed, 29, of 203 Minger St., Apt. 2, Niceville, was arrested by Valparaiso police July 13 on a charge of theft. Triplett allegedly drove away from a Valparaiso convenience store, 159 S. John Sims Parkway, without paying for \$57 worth of gas.

Robert Cole Fuller, a cook, 28, of 1032 Christy Lane, Niceville, was arrested by Valparaiso police July 15 on a charge of petit retail theft. Fuller allegedly took a 12-pack of beer from a Valparaiso convenience store, 159 S. John Sims Parkway, without paying.

Adrian Rey Peralta, 30, of 1101 Hickory Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 16 on charges of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of listed chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine.

During first a consensual search of Peralta's residence and subsequent execution of a search warrant police found three canisters of Coleman fuel, a pill grinder containing a white powder residue believed to be ephedrine, numerous coffee filters containing white powder residue believed to be methamphetamine, lithium batteries, numerous syringes, cut straws, aluminum foil with burn marks,

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from July 18, 2011, through July 24, 2011.

Location	Situation	Date	Time
Kelly Road	Medical	07/19/11	02:33
Valparaiso Blvd.	Medical	07/19/11	06:43
Osprey Cove/BWB	Canceled	07/19/11	06:56
Darlington Oak Drive	Medical	07/19/11	07:43
N. Partin/John Sims	Vehicle crash	07/19/11	13:24
3rd Street	Medical	07/19/11	16:00
2nd Street	Medical	07/19/11	16:50
Bayberry Drive	Medical	07/19/11	20:47
Deer Street	Medical	07/19/11	21:33
Paradise Road	Medical	07/20/11	00:39
Paradise Road	Medical	07/20/11	06:53
Tamara Cove	Medical	07/20/11	12:09
E. College Blvd.	Medical	07/21/11	10:37
N. Partin Drive	Medical	07/21/11	14:40
27th Street	Service call	07/21/11	15:22
Oseola Court	Canceled	07/21/11	16:40
Powell Drive	Illegal burning	07/21/11	22:15
Corbin Court	Medical	07/22/11	16:32
Summerwood Court	Medical	07/23/11	10:28
Linden Avenue	Medical	07/23/11	11:58
29th Street	Medical	07/23/11	15:47
Hart Street	Medical	07/23/11	16:17
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	07/24/11	02:51
Redwood/John Sims	Vehicle crash	07/24/11	08:54
John Sims/Cedar Ave.	Vehicle crash	07/24/11	15:33
Benton Avenue	Medical	07/24/11	23:16

Weekly Safety Tip: Regularly vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarm following manufacturer's instructions can help keep it working properly. Replace smoke alarms once every 10 years.

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls July 17, 2011, through July 25, 2011.

Location	Situation	Date	Time
Beach Drive	Fire, other	07/17/11	11:16
Wright Drive	Medical assist EMS	07/17/11	13:59
E. Highway 20	Good intent call	07/17/11	14:59
Bluewater Blvd.	Medical assist EMS	07/17/11	18:44
Oakmont Place	EMS excluding vehicle	07/18/11	12:29
E. Highway 20	Medical assist EMS	07/18/11	14:06
E. Highway 20	Dispatched, canceled	07/18/11	17:37
Pine Street	EMS excluding vehicle	07/19/11	06:41
Osprey Cove	Building fire	07/19/11	06:56
Glen Eagles Drive	Dispatched, canceled	07/19/11	11:41
E. Highway 20	Medical assist EMS	07/19/11	12:27
Ida Coon Circle	Medical assist EMS	07/20/11	09:33
Range Road	Mischievous false alarm	07/20/11	09:54
White Point Road	Swimmer in distress	07/20/11	18:52
N. White Point Rd.	Medical assist EMS	07/21/11	12:27
Cedar Street	EMS excluding vehicle	07/21/11	13:08
Pine Street	Good intent call	07/21/11	17:20
Marina Cove Drive	False alarm	07/21/11	17:27
White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	07/21/11	21:33
Lake Drive	EMS excluding vehicle	07/21/11	23:40
Shadow Lane	Good intent call	07/22/11	05:49
E. Hwy 20 & Bluewater Blvd.	Dispatched, canceled	07/22/11	13:46
Cougar Circle	Medical assist EMS	07/23/11	04:18
Wren Way	Medical assist EMS	07/23/11	06:42
South of Mid-Bay Bridge	Motor vehicle accident	07/23/11	15:46
Yacht Club Drive	Dispatched, canceled	07/24/11	7:00
White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	07/24/11	16:11
Merchants Way	EMS excluding vehicle	07/24/11	16:27

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

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razor blade, rolling papers, digital scale, numerous small jewelers bags, loaded syringes containing suspected liquid methamphetamine, a Mason jar with a coffee filter shoved around the rim and Red Devil lye.

William Allen Littleton, 27, of 401 King Street, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 9 on charges of burglary, petit theft and criminal mischief. A drop of blood found in a vehicle burglarized in October 2009 was matched by DNA analysis to Littleton. In

March 2010 Littleton admitted being in the vehicle but told police he was too intoxicated to remember much.

Johnathan Ronald Hoover, 23, of 208 Casper Drive, Fort Walton Beach, was arrested by Niceville police July 15 on charges of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while license suspended or revoked.

Joshua Aaron McDowell, 28, of 304 Reeves St., Lot C-3, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 13 on a charge of disorderly intoxication.

Gail Tolbert Poland, unemployed, 40, of 590 Hill Lane, Apt. 6, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 17 on charges of knowingly driving while license suspended or revoked, habitual offender, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Joshua Heath Gentry, 26, of 126 Duke Drive, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 13 on a charge of possession of cocaine. Police found nine pieces of crack cocaine on the passenger side seat where Gentry was sitting following a traffic stop for an extinguished tail light. The driver, who continued driving three blocks after police activated emergency lights and siren, allegedly told police that Gentry told her to

Please see BLOTTER, page A-5

The Bay Beacon & Beacon Express

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info@baybeacon.com



Stephen W. Kent
Editor and Publisher



Sara Kent
Advertising Director

Ignacio Macasaet
Graphic Artist

Candice Legge
Graphic Artist

Mike Lewis
Graphic Artist

Bunni Farnham
Advertising Representative

Dan Ewbank
Advertising Representative

Molly Mosher
Editorial Assistant

Karon Dey
Bookkeeper

Deborah Tipton
Receptionist

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The INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER — by Mike Griffith

Location: Lincoln Park



What do you think about the arrival of the first F-35 to be stationed at Eglin Air Force Base?



"I think it's a good thing. It will help the economic environment in this area. It's the future. The only drawback is that it's loud."

Randy Cook, 50, Valdosta, Ga., retired Air Force



"It's a natural logical progression for this area. We always get the best."

Warren Russell, 71, Niceville, retired electronics technician



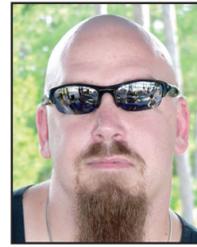
"I'm very excited upon its arrival, and a new all-around training facility for Eglin."

Nikki O'Malley, 30, Niceville, airline employee



"I think it's great. It's one of the best fighter planes the Air Force has."

Dean Snell, 52, Niceville, landscaper



"I think it's great. It's a really good fighter plane, and I think it's awesome that they're training people to use it. The more we can help the military, the better."

James Pepper, 32, Niceville, unemployed



"It will bring more base personnel to the area. We'll have more people to meet, and possibly more jobs for the locals."

Cathy Gallagher, 55, Niceville, grandma

What should we ask next week? Email your suggested question to: info@baybeacon.com Include "Suggested IP question" in the "subject" field.

VOTERS

From page A-1

being vacated by seven-term city councilman Al Swihart, an incumbent who did not seek reelection. Four citizens of the city qualified as candidates for the Group 3 seat: Debbie Lewis, Barry Reed, Vickie Ritchson and Bill Schaeztle. No candidate in the four-way race was able to capture the necessary majority of voted ballots to win the seat outright, necessitating a runoff election Aug. 2 between the two highest vote-getters, Lewis and

Schaeztle. Niceville City Clerk Dan Doucet, who also serves as the city's election chief, released the following tabulation of votes from the July 19 election:

Group 3 City Council:

Lewis, 303.
Reed, 119.
Ritchson, 228.
Schaeztle, 300.

Group 5 City Council:

Boudreaux, 428.
Rominger, 511.

A runoff election is now scheduled for next Tuesday to determine the winner of the

Group 3 race between Lewis and Schaeztle.

With 9,414 registered voters eligible to vote, according to Doucet, turnout was 10.1 percent, with a total of 947 ballots being cast in Niceville's municipal election, including 47 absentee ballots.

Turnout in last week's election was nearly double voter



Debbie Lewis

turnout in recent past regular biennial elections. Niceville holds staggered elections every two years in July, with the mayor and three city council seats up for grabs in one election and two city council seats up for election during the other.

Niceville held no regular elections in 2009, nor in 2007, because no one challenged the incumbents, the mayor and city council members, in either election.

Voter turnout in Niceville's city election in 2005 was just 5.2 percent, with only one of two

city council seats contested.

In 2003, turnout was 5.3 percent, with only one seat being contested, while two other city council members and the mayor were unopposed.

In 2001 voter turnout was 5.2 percent, with one city council seat on the ballot while the other city councilman was unopposed.



Bill Schaeztle

The city also held a special election Jan. 3, 2008, to fill the remaining term of the late Terry Tislow. Five candidates were on the ballot but none garnered a majority, forcing a runoff election Jan. 17, won by Dan Henkel over Roger Noel, 303 to 282. Henkel later won a four-year term on his own right when he was unopposed in the 2009 city election.

The runoff election Aug. 2 will be held at Niceville City Council Chambers, 208 N. Partin Drive, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

SHELTER

From page A-1

original presentation to our faculty assembly and everyone was on board with the idea. We're proud to work with the county to provide space for this new option for area residents."

News of the shelter's pet-friendly status was confirmed July 21 during a meeting of the Okaloosa County Emergency Management Committee (EMC), an informal group of fire, police, medical and other public safety representatives from throughout the county. During that meeting, Okaloosa Public Safety Director Dino Villani and Emergency Manager Randy McDaniel said the agreement with the college is now in effect, and distributed copies of the memorandum of understanding between the college and the county regarding shelter operations during emergencies.

McDaniel said there are eight emergency shelters in the county— Antioch Elementary, Baker School, Choctawhatchee High (but only for use by first responders), Davidson Middle, Kenwood Elementary, NWFSC Arena, Riverside Elementary and Shoal River Middle. Three of the shelters are pet-friendly, Antioch Elementary, Davidson Middle and NWFSC Raider Arena. All shelters will accept service animals, he said.

In other business during the EMC meeting, McDaniel said the county and the state of Florida are still struggling to get federal bureaucrats to modify new federal rules that McDaniel said could make it nearly impossible for county emergency shelters to operate legally in an actual emergency. He said the U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Emergency Management Agency have issued regulations requiring all community shelters to provide

complete care for "special needs" shelterees, such as those with physical or mental handicaps, who may require various special accommodations.

Currently, said McDaniel, Okaloosa County operates some special needs shelters especially for such persons, but cannot provide everything a disabled shelteree may need at every county shelter. Attempting to do so, he said, would actually reduce the overall shelter capacity of the county significantly, and would create similar problems throughout Florida. He said state officials are negotiating with Washington to try to resolve the disagreement before an actual hurricane strikes Florida.

McDaniel also announced that the county will offer a training session for people interested in joining a neighborhood Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Such teams are neighborhood-based, and consist of volun-

teers trained to provide first-response help, such as search and rescue and medical first aid, to their neighbors in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, when professional firefighters, medical personnel or other regular emergency responders may be unable to get to all areas hit by a hurricane, tornado, or similar event. The training will be given July 30 and 31 at the county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on the Niceville campus of NWFSC. For further information, call 651-7150.

In other action at the NWFSC Trustees meeting, the college's board approved:

—Changes to the admissions process for the college's degree program in radiography to include the Health Education Systems Inc. admission test as part of the application for the program. The test will assist staff with the applicant selection process which is based on a competitive weighted point system.

—Annual submittal to the state of the college's Capital Improvement Plan through fiscal 2015-17 for any campus renovation, remodeling or construction.

—A recommendation to award a contract to the auditing firm of Mauldin and Jenkins to conduct the annual audit of the college's Collegiate High School and the

NWFSC Foundation.

Trustees also approved various other items related to the governance of the college and the college's Collegiate High School.

Board meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is Aug. 17 at 4:30 p.m. in the College Mall Gallery, building K, on the Niceville campus.

BLOTTER

From page A-4

continue driving while he was "crumbling" up narcotics. Police also seized \$1,301 found in five different rolls in different denominations in Gentry's left and right front pant pockets.

Demmy Jon Pitts, 32, of 8710 John Hamm Road, Milton, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 12 on charges of a fraudulent or false statement and dealing in stolen property. Pitts was allegedly one of two men who sold 96 pounds of copper pipe that was purchased for \$784 from a Niceville business, 500 Niceville Ave., May 13, using a check from a closed account.

DUI arrests

John Houston Whiddon, 23, of 481 Ruckel Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies for DUI on Highway 285 at Roaring Creek Way, July 16 at 4:57 a.m.

Thefts

A Niceville resident out walking July 17 found three wallets along the roadway, one near the intersection of 28th Street and Bailey Avenue, two more on the roadway near the intersection of Redwood Avenue and 27th Street.

The pedestrian contacted the owner of the first wallet who reported the only thing missing was as much as \$50 currency. Police contacted the owners of the next two found wallets and one victim reported approximately \$35 was missing while the other wallet was an old wallet that contained nothing of value and that the victim kept in the glove compartment of his vehicle.

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TAX

From page A-3

members. "The increase is due to state requirements. The school board has absolutely no discretion."

Scallan added that the total

value of property to be taxed in the Okaloosa district is less for 2011-12 than for the previous year, having dropped from \$15.6 billion to \$14.8 billion due to continued general declines in property values.

In addition to requiring proper-

ty tax increases at the local level, said Scallan, the state legislature has required a quarter mill of property tax to be moved from local school district capital outlay budgets to general fund budgets throughout the state in each of the past two years.

"This is a problem for us," she said, because about 40 percent of the schools in the Okaloosa district are more than 40 years old, and some are more than 50 years old, and therefore are in need of renovation, repair or replacement. Scallan said there are other

ways to raise more money for the school district, by increasing other types of local taxes.

"We are one of the few school districts in Florida without a sales tax or additional millage levy," she said. The school district, she said, can levy a sales tax or an addition-

al mill property tax, but such a measure failed last year in a referendum.

In other business during Monday's meeting, the school board approved the appointment of Jason McClellan as assistant principal of Destin Middle School.



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Advertising Feature

Superior Residences has been making a name for itself in Niceville for specializing in the care for those that have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Although the assisted living facility is fairly new to the area, it has already begun to gain acclaim for its "memory care" services.

Superior Residences of Niceville is owned and operated by Superior Residences, Inc., which manages five other assisted living communities in Florida. The company's mission is to create living environments, in which their residents can remain as independent as possible with the help of specialized care.

"One thing that sets this specialized assisted living community apart from others is that it provides 24-hour care by licensed nurses," said Elizabeth Rambow, who has served as the director of community relations for the past year. "We have highly trained personnel who have experience with caring for those with all forms of memory loss."

Since 2009, the Niceville



The entrance to Superior Residences presents a modern, welcoming attitude.

assisted living community has been gaining attention from area local medical professionals for their excellence in senior health care.

The community features specialized apartments that meet the needs of their residents, along with dining rooms, activity and living rooms, television rooms and two secured outdoor patios. The community has 60 suites,

which can accommodate up to 80 residents.

The number of residents has been steadily growing for this relatively new facility. So much so, that management will soon break ground on a new three-story regular assisted living community that will feature 90 apartments, ranging in size from studios to two-bedroom dwellings.

The staff provides plenty of activities to keep residents active throughout the day. Some of these activities are dedicated to stimulating their minds and memories.

Not only does Superior Residences care for each of its residents, but also their families. On the last Thursday of every

month, Superior Residences hosts a Memory Care Support Group for anyone coping with the effects of Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. These support group meetings are open to public and feature guest speakers who have experience in treating those with dementia.

Superior Residences is also active in the community. Volunteers and local church groups come in and entertain residents with events such as sing-alongs, pet therapy and special group presentations. Superior Residences also hosts several events in the area to help raise awareness for those struggling with memory loss.

Superior Residences is a standard assisted living community with extended Limited Nursing Services along with Extended Congregate Care licensure. It offers three different programs: regular residential stays, respite stays and day stays.

For more information on upcoming events, or more on Superior Residences of Niceville, visit superioralf.com. To schedule a lunch and a tour of the community, please call 897-2244, or e-mail erambow@superioralf.com. Superior Residences is located at 2300 Partin Drive, Niceville.

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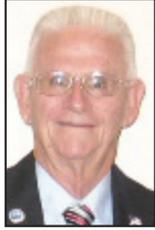
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Who's News

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Tyler Michael Lampert of Niceville graduated from Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan., with an MBA in Business Administration.

The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) presented Okaloosa County Commissioner **Dave Parisot** with the Marlene Young Presidential Advocacy Award during the 2011 FAC Annual Conference & Exposition in Orange County. Commissioner Parisot was honored for his efforts to save taxpayer dollars to save Florida's pretrial release programs.



Dave Parisot

Carl Mignacca of Niceville, a financial adviser at Edward Jones, received the Jack Phelan Award. The award, named for the financial firm's former national sales manager, recognizes financial advisers for outstanding service efforts.

Montana Hobbs of Valparaiso was named to the spring 2011 Dean's List at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Katie's House of Flowers owner and manager **Jennifer Rostorfer** was honored by Teleflora, the world's leading flower wire service, as a Top 2000 florist for the year 2010.

Please see WHO'S, page B-2

Niceville actor up-and-comer

By Molly Mosher
Beacon Staff Writer

For Nicholas Ward, the world, quite literally, is a stage.

Since Ward, a 1997 graduate of Niceville High School, started acting, he has delighted audiences from across the United States to Paris, Hong Kong and throughout the Mediterranean.

Although he has traveled the globe, Ward comes from more modest roots—right along the shores of Boggy Bayou.

His upbringing has made Ward a positive and humble person, earning him the approval of his peers. But, as well-liked as he is, when he won the title of Homecoming King in high school, he couldn't quite believe it.

"I forgot my name. When they said 'Nicholas Ward,' I asked my date, 'Who's Nicholas Ward?' It was a big shocker."

After high school, Ward



Nicholas Ward

attended then-Okaloosa Walton Community College, making great strides as a budding actor with the help of his longtime

mentor, the late Frances Smith Herron, who died in 2006.

"She's the reason why I'm a performer," he said.

Herron, who was head of the dance program at OWCC, introduced him to the theater when he was 9 years old, in his first performance, "The King and I."

She took Nicholas under her wing, making sure he was taking the right steps to secure a good future for himself.

"She would call me every morning and make sure I was awake and going to class," he said, laughing.

Along with Herron, Ward

credits his mother and grandmother for their support.

"They're my little angels. I've really been blessed. Everything I've done, people really supported me," he said.

After Ward left Niceville in 1999, he traveled around the country in a production of "Show Boat."

He wasn't away long, however, before he and the rest of the "Show Boat" cast came to Niceville, christening the newly built Mattie Kelly Arts Center in 2001.

The next move for Nicholas was Orlando, where he took advantage of Disney World as a platform to hone his dancing and singing skills. Not one to be idle, he also became dance team captain for the Orlando Miracle women's basketball team, the WNBA counterpart to the Magic.

But after three years, he was bitten by the travel bug.

"I realized I wanted to travel in my twenties," he



Photos by Diane Sobolewski, Courtesy Goodspeed Musicals
Nicholas Ward in Goodspeed Musicals' "Show Boat," which will be performed through September in East Haddam, Conn.

said, and took on the myriad opportunities offered, including a role in "The Lion King," which took him to Paris for eight months and a year and a half in Hong

Kong, and another role in "Porgy and Bess" which allowed him to live aboard a cruise ship sailing the Mediterranean Sea.

Please see NICEVILLE, page B-3

UF student studies benevolence first-hand

By Molly Mosher
Beacon Staff Writer

When pre-med student Stephanie Igtiben completed her sophomore year at the University of Florida, she didn't come home to sit idly, lazing in the sun. She decided to give new life to the adage "charity starts at home."

Stephanie, who has lived in Niceville since she was 5, when her father was stationed at Eglin, has taken an active role in making the community a better place, by volunteering at Sharing and Caring in Niceville.

With her time split between an internship at Dr. Deborah Simkin's adolescent psychiatry office and the volunteering, it isn't like she has a great load of time. But she makes it count.

"I first heard about it from my mom," she said. "When I came, they were so welcoming."

With her bubbly personality and willingness to help in any way she can, of course they are thrilled to have her.

Part of her responsibility is to help with the food pantry, where she aids in the distribution of food to needy area families.

"The local grocery stores donate a lot, with nice cakes and cookies," she said.

One of her favorite parts is helping with the "extra items" given to local families, making sure each receives a basket

which not only meets their needs, but also has been personalized for their specific families.

"With a family with young kids, you might give them ravioli, rather than 'healthy stuff,'" she said, smiling.

Stephanie has also been applying her efforts toward another worthy cause at Sharing & Caring—their Tools for School drive, which will collect supplies to ensure 350 needy students have just what they need to succeed in school.

She has been sorting the school supplies which come in, putting the supplies in boxes marked "rulers" or "high-lighters" or "washable markers," to help the distribution process go smoothly—and so Sharing and Caring knows what it really has to give.

In a final push of collection, United Way will assist Sharing & Caring in the "Cram the Van" drive July 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A United Way van will be parked in front of the Niceville Walmart as the designated receptacle for donations of school supplies. Whether or not supplies are purchased at Walmart, they can be donated to the effort.

But, to make philanthropy all the more simple, one can pick up the supplies in the store and drop them off right in front. All school supplies contributed will go to Sharing & Caring in Niceville.



Stephanie Igtiben, a volunteer at Niceville Sharing & Caring, counts and sorts donations to the "Tools for School" supply drive, which will give around 350 students the "tools" they need to excel in the upcoming school year.

Beacon photo by Molly Mosher

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WHO'S

From page B-1

Katie's House of Flowers, Niceville, has been serving the community for 50 years.

Jeffery Adamson, Broker of Keller Williams Realty Emerald Coast, announced the award winners for June. Top Associate awards were presented to **Janice Busovne** for Closed Volume, **Lisa Snuggs** for Written Volume and **Pam Weeks** for Listing Volume. Awards for Top Teams were presented to the Pitts Team, **Jim and Wanda Pitts**, for Closed Volume, and to the Collins/Rood Team, **Debbie Collins and Susan Rood**, for Written Volume. Awards for Top Groups were presented to **Dave's Realty Team**, headed by David Smith, for Closed and Written Volume, and to the **Kelly Group**, headed by Mike and Susan Kelly, for Listing Volume.

Pediatrician **Dr. Lynn Keefe** of Pediatrics of Okaloosa in Niceville was selected to receive a scholarship to attend the "Be Our Voice Obesity Advocacy Training," to be held in Chicago. Keefe was awarded this scholarship due to her interest in childhood obesity prevention advocacy and working in the community for sustainable policy change. She has been practicing pediatrics for 20 years.



Lynn Keefe

Colt Tarpley, a senior at Niceville High School, received a baseball scholarship to Enterprise State Community College in Enterprise, Ala. He was a left-handed pitcher for the high school and will be joining his older brother Cutter who also plays at Enterprise State as a starting short stop.



Colt Tarpley

School bells to ring for F-35 crews



Inside the 33rd FW's training center is a mock up of the F-35 cockpit area which contains a simulator to train personnel on ejector seat maintenance. Another ejection seat training aid sits on wheels nearby.

Photo by Del Lessard

Training Center to welcome students next month

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

What's new at Eglin and big enough to contain five-and-a-half football fields?

That would be the 33rd Fighter Wing's Academic Training Center—aka the F-35 school house. It's a 260,000-square-foot, U-shaped building off Nomad Way in the 33rd's area of Eglin, where some 2,200 pilots and maintenance personnel will be trained each year.

The ATC's purpose came to the fore with the arrival of the 33rd FW's first F-35A July 14—and the second July 20.

The F-35 school house contains several highly computerized classrooms, each with a dozen student workstations plus one for the instructor, flight simulators to train pilots and maintenance simulators where military personnel from three services will learn and practice tasks such as jet engine maintenance, bomb-loading skills and F-35 ejector seat maintenance, among other subjects.

Nearby, one of four student barracks, capable of housing 275 airmen, has been completed, as has one of two dining hall facilities that will feed the estimated

900 or so maximum of maintenance and flight training students who are expected to train at Eglin at any one time.

Students on TDY to the Eglin training center will come from the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps. Maintenance courses will be anywhere from one to three months long, depending on skill level. Pilot trainees coming through the Eglin Test Center will enroll in courses ranging up to seven months. About 100 pilots a year will come to Eglin to learn how to fly the F-35.

Since the 33rd Fighter Wing stood up as a training wing in 2009, the 33rd's personnel have been "building tomorrow," said 33rd FW commander Col. Andrew Toth. About 700 of the wing's 1,600 permanent party personnel are now in place. Assigned personnel represent all three services, plus contractor personnel.

For the past two years, as new equipment was received, training preparations began with a demonstration and validation phase, writing guidance, turning on any equipment that could be turned on and operating it as far as possible. Next, small groups of students and staff went over those procedures

and improved or modified them as needed, before the real students arrive. In August, for example, a small trial group of students will go through fuels maintenance training on the F-35, Toth said.

Each of the 33rd FW groups also looked at their portions of the training center operations and simulated a 24-hour period in the future, including nominal day events and off-nominal day events (severe weather or mishap, for example) both notionally and with actual hardware, processes and procedures.

The arrival of the first two aircraft now kicks the training center into high gear. The first students are scheduled to arrive in October, according to the wing, although a specific date has not been set, nor has it identified which maintenance course will be the first.

Also in October, Eglin's first F-35As are expected to begin flying in the Eglin area. Too, the first F-35B, the Marine Corps short take off and vertical landing version, is expected to arrive at Eglin in October.

Meanwhile, a "roll-out ceremony"—a sort of grand opening—is set for the 33rd's ATC Aug. 26.

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Scholarships bestowed upon military children

The honorees of the Scholarships for Military Children Program were recently announced.

Brianna Bikker, daughter of Luv and David Bikker of Niceville, was honored with a \$1,500 scholarship at Eglin Air Force Base. Brianna is a university scholar and participates in Intermural soccer at Texas A&M University.

Lauren Foy, daughter of Mary and David Foy of

Niceville, earned a \$1,500 scholarship at Hurlburt Field. Lauren is enrolled at the University of Florida.

She is the captain of UF intermural volleyball and soccer, and participates in Small satellite design club.

Gabrielle Bikker, daughter of Luv and David Bikker of Niceville, was honored with a \$1,500 scholarship at Eglin. Gabrielle is a student at Florida State University. She

has been involved with Habitat for Humanity and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Lauren Dempsey, daughter of Leslie and William

Dempsey, was a recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship at Eglin. Lauren is enrolled at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. She is involved in Bible Study, Church Praise team, Flute choir, Fellowship of Christian

Athletes and as an elementary school volunteer.

Each recipient was one of 670 students nationally to earn the award.

The scholarship program honors those who maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average, participate in voluntary school and community activities, demonstrate leadership qualities, and write an essay on the topic of goals of health and wellness in America.



Lauren Foy



Gabrielle Bikker



Lauren Dempsey



The Ensemble, from left, Nicholas Ward, David Aron Damane, Richard Waits and Kyle Baird belt it out in "Show Boat."

NICEVILLE

From page B-1

"It was seeing Europe in 'Cliff's Notes,'" he said of living on the cruise ship. "We would arrive (at a destination) in the morning and leave in the evening."

Ward's latest adventure has brought him full circle, as he is again acting in "Show Boat," this time put on by Goodspeed Musicals in East Haddam, Conn. He performs as part of

the Ensemble and is also the "Joe" understudy. Joe and the ensemble sing "Old Man River," one of the most recognizable songs in musical theater.

He considers himself blessed to be involved with Goodspeed. "This is the real deal. They give you the tools to go on stage and enjoy yourself," he said.

"Some days it feels like work," he said, but added, "I'm lucky to do what I love to do."

Although his schedule is

packed, with performances Wednesday through Sunday until September, he does not stay idle on his days off. Ward, who now lives in New York City, will travel home, a two-and-a-half-hour trip, to audition.

"My mom will ask me, 'What are you going to do next?' But you can't be a control freak in this business. I don't know what's going to be next," Ward said.

Although he may not know

his next move, his aspirations are clear.

"Broadway is the goal, it's what I'm pushing for, and the opportunities are getting closer," he said.

But even as Ward gets nearer fame, he remembers his roots, citing Niceville as his hometown for a press release.

"Somebody asked me if I was joking," he recalled.

"I'm proud of Niceville. Niceville did a lot of good things for me," he said.

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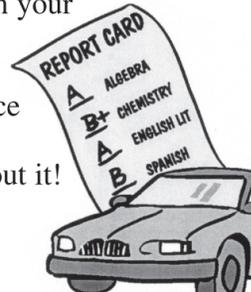
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Friends for Fun senior club

All singles 60 and older, come join Friends for Fun for laughter and friendly conversation each Wednesday, 3-6 p.m., at the Bluewater Bay Clubhouse. This is an opportunity to make new friends and find joy and companionship. Info: 897-4434.

RBCS seeks host families

Rocky Bayou Christian School is looking for families living in Okaloosa County to host an international student. Male and female students will come from China, S. Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.

Your family will not only gain a new family member, you will also learn about a different culture, and its values and traditions. Students stay with a host family for 10 months. There is a monthly stipend that will help with expenses for each international student.

If you are interested or would like more information, call RBCS, 729-7227, ext. 375, or email williamsd@rbc.org.

Hospice vehicle donations

Covenant Hospice adds another way you can help their mission—through vehicle, RV and boat donations.

Vehicles, whether running or not, are picked up, then sold at auction. The price a vehicle takes at auction becomes a tax deduction for you, and indigent care, bereavement services, or support and care for kids coping with loss.

If you would like more information on how you can support Covenant Hospice by donating your vehicle, boat or RV through the easy donation process, call Jenni Perkins at 598-5003.

Sales tax holiday

Florida's back-to-school sales tax holiday will begin at 12:01 a.m., Friday, August 12, through midnight, Sunday, August 14. During this period, no sales tax will be collected on sales of clothing, wallets, handbags, backpacks, footwear, and certain accessories selling for \$75 or less, or on certain school supplies at \$15 or less.

To see a list of clothing and accessory items and their taxable (T) or exempt (E) status, visit dor.myflorida.com/dor/tips/pdf/tip11a01-03_list.pdf.

Summer art classes

The Arts and Design Society (ADSO), 17 First St. SE, Fort Walton Beach, will hold these classes for the remainder of this summer.

Clay & Pottery—Monday, Wednesday, 9 a.m.—noon, or Monday evening, 6:30-9.; Oil Painting—

Wednesday, 9 a.m.—noon.; Life Drawing—1st and 3rd Thursday, 6-9 p.m.; Open Studio—Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.

These classes are held in ADSO's Art Center Studios. For costs and other information about these classes, call 244-1271 or visit artsdesignsociety.org.

Community yard sale

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, will hold its community yard sale with the Niceville-Valparaiso Kiwanis on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 7 a.m. to noon.

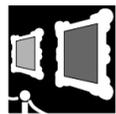
Clean out your garage, closets and shed, and help preserve the past by donating whatever you are past needing. Donations (no clothes please) will be accepted during regular museum hours, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Limited 10-by-10-foot spaces are available for sellers for \$10. Visit the museum and reserve your spot today.

Info: 678-2615 or heritage-museum.org.

Art exhibit at library

The Local Color Artists Club will exhibit works at the Niceville Library through Aug. 27. The show features 14 artists and includes wood-turned pieces during July.



Pastels, wooden flutes, and photography, as well as paintings created using watercolors, oils and acrylics will be on display and will periodically change.

The club meets monthly and welcomes interested parties. Info: Amy Jo Rosati, 678-4813.

Modern day self-defense

Come take nontraditional, modern day martial arts class at the Niceville YMCA. Classes are for age 15 and older.

Class times: Tuesday and Wednesday 7-8 p.m.; Friday 6-7 p.m.; Saturday 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$50/month for non-YMCA members, \$30 for members.

Head Start enrollment

Applications are being accepted for children ages birth-5 years old at Okaloosa Head Start, a comprehensive early childhood care provider which aims to better prepare children for kindergarten. The program is free for those who qualify. Info: 678-6893



Emergency response training

Okaloosa County Emergency Management will hold Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training July 30 and 31, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at the new 911 Emergency Operations Center, on the Niceville campus of Northwest Florida State College. Info: call 651-7150, email kwolfe@co.okaloosa.fl.us or visit okaloosafcert.samariteam.com. Pictured, community responders aid in an emergency.

or okaloosaheadstart.org.

Volunteers sought

The Twin Cities Hospital Auxiliary is seeking volunteers. For more information, call 729-9481, or stop by the hospital, 2190 Highway 85 N., Niceville, and speak to a volunteer at the front desk.

Senior care kits available

The local Home Instead Senior Care office is offering a no-cost senior emergency kit that includes items such as a checklist of important contact names and information and health tracker worksheets. The file also allows for the storage of important documents in an emergency. Materials can be downloaded at senioremrgencykit.com. To get a specialized senior kit, call the senior care office at 243-6464.

TOPS evening meetings

TOPS club 0111 is a weight-loss support group which meets every Thursday evening at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Education Building, Room 4. Weigh-in will be at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting will start at 7 p.m. Info: Michele, 678-2863, or Cindy, 279-4847.

Free museum admission

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida announces the

launch of Blue Star Museums, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and more than 1,300 museums across America to offer free admission to all active-duty military personnel and their families through Labor Day. Leadership support has been provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families.

Adult coed softball

The Niceville Recreation Department is now accepting teams for the 2011 Adult Coed Softball League. Entry fee is \$275 plus a \$10 resident or \$30 nonresident fee per player. Games will be held Monday nights starting August 8. Info: Jim Baughman at 729-4062 or visit cityofniceville.org.

Men's over 40 softball

The Niceville Recreation Department is now accepting teams for the 2011 Men's Over 40 Softball League. Entry fee is \$300 plus a \$10 resident or \$30 nonresident fee per player. Games will be held Wednesday nights starting August 10. For more info call Jim Baughman at 729-4062 or visit the city's website at cityofniceville.org.



School supplies donations

Donations of school supplies are now being collected at Niceville's Sharing & Caring, 104 Bullock Blvd. Supplies will be distributed Aug. 13 to approximately 350 students in our community. Parents/guardians may sign up their children until Aug. 5. Lists of supplies needed may be obtained at Sharing & Caring. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Info: 729-3600.

Volleyball clinic

A volleyball clinic will be held at Niceville High School this summer.

July 27-28. The clinic will be run by former SEC coaches Wade Benson and Jozsef Forman, along with the Niceville High School coaches. There will be two age group sessions: ninth-12th grade, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., and fifth-eighth grade, 3:30-6 p.m. The cost is \$130 per player, and includes a T-shirt. The clinic is open to players from all areas, and of all skills levels.

Info: Wade Benson, 303-763-0713, or bensonfour4@aol.com.

Referee training course

The USSF Entry Level Referee Course will be held in Niceville for those interested in refereeing. The class consists of online education modules and 12 hours of classroom training and participation. After training, you will have the basic knowledge to begin refereeing.

The 2011 course will be held at Niceville City Hall Aug. 22, 6-8:30 p.m.; Aug. 24, 6-8 p.m.; Aug. 27, 9 a.m.—noon; and Aug. 31, 6-9 p.m. Info: fsr-inc.com under the "Become a Referee" tab.

The cost is \$100. Register by Aug. 8. To register or for more information: Al Haberbusch, haberp64@cox.net or 678-9084; Howard Hill, howard_hill@cox.net or 678-2182; or Bernie Busovne, busovnefamily@cox.net or 897-9497.

Call to artists

The 17th annual Oktoberfest and Arts & Crafts Festival at Winn Dixie Plaza in Bluewater Bay is looking for artists and craftsmen interested in selling their work.

The festival, sponsored by the Mid-Bay Rotary Club, will be held on Friday, Sept. 23, 5-10 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Cost to exhibit at the two-day event is \$75. Info: Bert, 897-3190.

Creative writing group

The Valparaiso Community Library will offer a writing workshop Thursdays at 1 p.m. All ages are welcome to come and explore their creativity, with a focus on self-expression, creative writing and improvisation.

This program is not necessarily a formal writing course; however group discussions and friendly critique will help individuals develop their written and/or vocal narrative style. Call the library for info, 729-5406.

Alzheimer's support group

Alzheimer's Family Services provides monthly support groups for family members or friends coping with a loved one with Alzheimer's disease. A support group will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 27, at the Chandler Center at the First United Methodist Church, Niceville. The support group is free but registration is required to attend, and respite care is available in most locations.

Jellyfish program

Henderson Beach State Park, off Highway 98 in Destin, is celebrating National Parks and Recreation Month with a special program on jellyfish to take place July 28, 10-11 a.m. There's more to jellyfish than a nasty sting. Come learn about the different jellyfish living in the Gulf of Mexico and their importance in the food chain. Program included in the park admission fee. Info: 837-7550.

Adventure club events

July 28, 9 a.m. Bike ride in the old section of Fort Walton Beach. Meet at the Fort Walton Landing Park on Brooks St. Lunch after the ride at a nearby restaurant. Info: Bruce, 301-9452, and Pat, 974-9591.

Panhandle Patriots rally

The Florida Panhandle Patriots and tea parties across the panhandle will hold a "Reviving America Rally" July 30 from 2-5 p.m. at Liza Jackson Park's west pavilion, 318 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach. The public is welcome to come listen to speakers from across the southeast. The event is free.

Bring your signs, chairs, coolers allowed.

Please see CALENDAR, page B-5

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CALENDAR

From page B-4

Info: PanhandlePatriots.com, events@panhandlepatriots.com or 865-8777.

Emergency response training

Okaloosa County Emergency Management will hold a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training sessions on July 30 and 31. Classes will be held daily from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at the new 911 Emergency Operations Center (EOC), on the Niceville Campus of the Northwest Florida State College. In order to register for training individuals must live in Okaloosa County, and can sign up by calling 651-7150 or email Ken Wolfe at kwolfe@co.okaloosa.fl.us.

For information visit:

okaloosaflcert.samariteam.com.

Lookout! a musical comedy

Lookout! An original musical comedy performed by Okaloosa County students for the entire family will take place at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium at 6 p.m. July 30. Tickets are \$6.50 and available at Youth Village, 312 Pelham Road, Fort Walton Beach; P.S. Gifts, 29 N.E. Walter Martin Road; and Bayou Books, 1118 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville.

All proceeds will be used for scholarship assistance for low-income children in the community.

Photography exhibition

The Arts and Design Society (ADSO) seeks works for their 12th

Annual Photography and Digital Arts Exhibition to be held Aug. 3-Sept. 3. This judged show is open to all photographers. Dates for submission are July 30, 1-4 p.m. and Aug. 1, 9 a.m.-noon. Categories for photos are: nature/landscape, people, architecture, still life and digital arts. Visit artsdesignsociety.org or call 244-1271 for more information.

Blood drive

The Niceville United Methodist Church, 214 South Partin Drive, will hold a blood drive Sunday, July 31, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Republican women meeting

Silver Sands Republican Women Federated will hold its next meeting 5:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 1, at the Bluewater Bay Clubhouse.

The speaker will be Paul Lux, Supervisor of Elections for Okaloosa County. Contact Libby Hill,

chilly@cox.net, for reservations.

Blood drives

Following are upcoming area blood drives:

Aug. 3, 1-5 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1407 E. John Sims Pkwy.

Aug. 10, 5-8 p.m., First Baptist Church of Niceville, 622 Bayshore Drive

Aug. 24, 2-8 p.m., Niceville United Methodist Church, 214 Partin Drive

Aug. 28, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Christ Our Redeemer Church, 1028 White Point Road

Bass tourney for CAC

The fourth annual American General Life and Insurance Company Bass Tournament is set for Aug. 6 at the Marina Village in Freeport. Proceeds will benefit the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center. A \$3,000 payout is at stake for the win-

ners of this tournament in memory of local angler Bob Zdenek. There will be a free Family Fun Day while the anglers are out fishing, including a car show, arts & crafts booths, food, a giant waterslide for the kids and live entertainment. Stay for the weigh in and see who brings in the biggest fish.



Angler entry fees are \$110 per boat. Interested angler should visit: aglabass2011.eventbrite.com. Arts and Crafts vendor spaces are available for \$25 each. Call Joy Hudson at 833-9237, ext. 256.

PAL Soccer registration

Niceville PAL Soccer League registration will take place Saturday, Aug. 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Niceville City Hall. Late fee will not be charged. There will be a waiting list after August 6. Info: 678-2182 or

nicevillepalsoccer.org.

Pancake breakfast

The Niceville High School Volleyball Team will hold two all you can eat breakfasts, including pancakes, bacon, sausage, coffee, juice and milk for only \$6. The breakfasts will be held Aug. 6 and 13, 8-10 a.m., at Ed's Seafood and Steaks in Niceville.

Pine needle basketry

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, will hold a two-part pine needle basketry class Aug. 6 and 20. On both days, the class will run 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The cost of the class is \$75 and \$60 for museum members. Join instructor Joe Stoy and learn the original Seminole techniques using modern materials and local pine needles. Space is limited. Call 678-2615 to register.

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Warehouse space available. 700 SqFt Warehouse, \$500 per month. For more information, call 897-4149. 419 Adams Ave., Valparaiso

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Burns earns scholarship

Rocky Bayou Christian School's Ryan Burns won the James Benjamin Strutchen Sr. Memorial Scholarship, given to a senior who was a member of Faith, Diligence, Discipline Inc. and demonstrated not only basketball ability, but also classroom and community productiveness. The scholarship was presented by FDD director Jerome Strutchen. Surrounding Burns and Strutchen are the FDD 11th grade girls basketball team, as they prepared for AAU Nationals. From left: Amanda Demma, Ashley Levesque, Mercedes Clayborne, Burns, Marianna Pride, Alexis Cheeks, Strutchen, Lauren Day, Katie O'neal and Malaya Evans.



FDD cage team finishes fifth

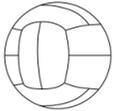
The Faithfulness, Discipline, Diligence Inc. 11th grade girls basketball team won fifth place out of 58 teams at the AAU Girls Nationals Division II, finishing 6-2 overall. The team consisted of four players from Niceville High School, two players from Choctaw High School, three players from Fort Walton Beach High School and one player from Ruckel Middle School. From left: back, coach Jerome Strutchen, Lauren Day, Marianna Pride, Malaya Evans, Alexis Cheeks and coach Ramoane Jordan; front, Ashley Levesque, Amanda Demma, Katie O'neal, Brittany Brown, Brittany West and Mercedes Clayborne.

Sports Briefs

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Volleyball clinic

A volleyball clinic will be held at Niceville High School this summer, July 27-28. The clinic will be



run by former SEC coaches Wade Benson and Jozsef Forman, along with the Niceville High School coaches. There will be two age group sessions: ninth-12th grade, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., and fifth-eighth grade, 3:30-6 p.m. The cost is \$130 per player, and includes a T-shirt. The clinic is open to players from all areas, and of all skills levels.

Info: Wade Benson, 303-763-0713, or benensonfour4@aol.com.

Youth baseball camp

Niceville Amateur Youth Baseball will host its annual Summer Baseball Camp Aug. 6 at Niceville High School. The camp is open to 7U to 14U players and will run 9 a.m. to noon, with registration and warm ups at 8:30 a.m. The cost of the camp is \$60.



The instructors will include former MLB veterans Dennis Rasmussen, Chuck Cary, Rick Walker and Mel Stocker; along with college coaches from the University of Alabama, Troy University and Northwest Florida State College and coaches Joe Nedorosick, Kevin Berry, Gary Drouin, Greg Dunning and Gerry McDermott.

Register online at travelingeagles.com

Fishing tournament

Grab your luckiest pole and most reliable lure—the 2011 AGLA Bass Tournament is set for Aug. 6 at Marina Village in Freeport. A \$3,000 payout is at stake for the winners of this annual tournament in memory of local angler Bob Zdenek.

Attendees will each have two

anglers per boat and will depart at first light. There will be plenty of family fun planned while the anglers are out fishing. The day will feature a car show, arts and crafts booths, delicious food, demonstration boat rides, a giant waterslide for the kids and live entertainment. The Family Fun Day is free and open to the public. Come for the fun, stay for the weigh-in and see who brings in the biggest fish and takes home the cash.

Angler entry fees are \$110 per boat. Interested anglers should visit: aglabass2011.eventbrite.com. Arts and Crafts vendor spaces are available for \$25 each and may be secured by calling Joy

Hudson at 850-833-9237 x256. The tournament is presented by WTKE 100.3 The Ticket Sports Radio. Businesses interested in sponsoring this event should contact WTKE 100.3 at 244-1400.

Raffle prizes, door prizes and a silent auction will all help to raise funds for child abuse and neglect victims served at the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center.

Current sponsors of the event include: American General Life Insurance Company, WTKE 100.3 The Ticket, Marina Village, Yamaha, Skeeter Boats, Quality Toyota, The Walton County Sheriff's Office, American Residential Services, Gulf Coast Immediate Care, One Hour Heating & A/C, Wise Equipment, Ritz Foods, and Harbor Docks.



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