

The Bay Beacon

12 Pages, 2 Sections, 2 Inserts

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

50¢

**UP
COMING**

Wednesday, noon



The History Sandwiched-In presentation at the Heritage Museum, 115 Westview Ave., will be "Bring a Vietnam POW home."

Col. Leroy Thornal, Ret. USAF, will tell of one man's promise to bring POWs from Vietnam back to their families in the U.S.

Bring a lunch and enjoy this free lecture. Call 678-2615 to reserve a seat.

Wednesday, 6-8 p.m.



The Niceville Assembly of God, 108 Highway 85 N., will hold a **block party** and **hot rod show**.

All are welcome to enjoy the festivities, including face painting, hamburgers and hot dogs, obstacle course and more.

Info: 678-2023.

Tuesday, 6 p.m.



The Friends of the Niceville Library will hold its next **book discussion** at the library.

The book to be discussed is Tracy Chevalier's "Remarkable Creatures." Limited copies are available at the library.

Info: 678-4411.

Calendar, B-2.

Measure would curb automatic tax hikes

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

With Okaloosa County property values declining for the fourth straight year, some homeowners might be surprised to read their Truth in Millage (TRIM) notices later this week and learn that their assessed taxable value went up anyway.

The culprit is the so-called "recapture rule," says Pete Smith, Okaloosa

County Property Appraiser.

The good news, says Florida House Rep. Matt Gaetz, a Republican who represents the Twin Cities area, is that state voters will get a chance to authorize the Legislature to repeal the unpopular rule next year.

Smith said that the recapture rule was implemented by the Florida Cabinet following the state constitutional amendment known as the Save



Matt Gaetz

TRIM notices due, A-3.

Our Homes (SOH) passed by state voters in 1992.

The SOH amendment limits increases in the assessed value of homes covered by the homestead exemption—the primary home of Florida residents who claim the exemption—to no more than 3 per-

cent each year. The amendment was approved by voters during one of Florida's housing booms, when housing values skyrocketed and some elderly homeowners, it was said, were forced out of their long-time dwellings because they could no longer pay the taxes on the rapidly increasing assessed value, espe-

Please see TAX, page A-3

Influx of students



Beacon photo by Del Lessard

Okaloosa County students and their parents are finishing preparations for the impending school year. Above, incoming Niceville High School freshman Brianna Ellis, 14, of Crestview, and her mom, Tech. Sgt. Carol Ellis, selected a pair of T-shirts during orientation last week.

Schools scheduled to open Monday as enrollment rises, programs are added

By Molly Mosher
Beacon Staff Writer

Twin Cities schools are reporting healthy enrollment increases for the school year that will start Monday.

After several years of decline, student numbers are growing, partly as a result of the move of three Army battalions to Okaloosa County, according to school administrators.

"We're bulging at the seams," said Carolyn McAllister, who will begin her first year as principal of Plew Elementary.

The growth is echoed by Ruckel Middle School Principal Debra Collins Goolsby, who has had to hire teachers to handle the new students. "We had 860 kids last year, and already 920 this year, with the possibility of 17 more," said Goolsby.

Lewis School is growing in numbers as well as in grades. With the recent completion of five classrooms, Lewis is ready to finalize its transition from a middle school to a K-8 school.

Last year, Lewis started incorporating students in grades 2 through 5 from now-closed Valparaiso Elementary. The merger

Please see STUDENTS, page A-2

Niceville to be added as site for early voters

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Twin Cities residents who vote early will be able to cast their ballots closer to home next year.

Niceville City Hall will be added as Okaloosa County's fourth early voting location, according to county Supervisor of Elections Paul Lux.



Paul Lux

Okaloosa County registered voters who wanted to vote early in past elections had to travel to one of three sites outside the Niceville-Valparaiso area: the University of Florida REEF in Shalimar, Bob Sikes Public Library in Crestview or the Supervisor of Elections main office in Crestview.

The Legislature allowed early voting starting in 2002. In November 2008, the most recent presidential election, fully 35.6 percent of Okaloosa County ballots were cast in early voting, according to elections officials. During the 2010 general election early voting accounted for 21.8 percent of ballots.

Niceville will be the only 2012 addition to the original three early voting locations in the county. It was added after analyzing the demographics of those who

Please see VOTERS, page A-4

Citing error, city of Niceville switches lender

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Niceville City Council has switched providers for up to \$2.65 million in bank loans, after learning that the bank originally chosen had inadvertently understated its interest rate, and was therefore not the lowest bidder.

During a meeting Aug. 9, the council was briefed by financial advisor Bill Fray, of Fray Municipal Securities, who said that a closer examination of figures from Branch Banking and Trust Co. (BB&T), which had been chosen from among eight banks bidding on the city's \$2.65 million in new loans, revealed that it had not been the lowest bidder after all.

Fray said that BB&T had mistakenly provided inaccurate figures for the "true interest cost" of their loans, making it actually the second lowest bidder, after Hancock Bank.

Fray said the error by BB&T was not intentional.

Please see LENDER, page A-4



Bill Fray

Alleged crime victim charged

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

A 15-year-old Niceville girl has been charged in connection with two sexual encounters in which authorities previously alleged she was the victim, according to reports by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

The girl, a student, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 3 and charged with one count of being principal to lewd and lascivious battery that allegedly occurred in March, according to sheriff's reports.

When two 18-year-old men were arrested in connection with the incidents earlier this year, the

girl, then 14 years old, was listed in sheriff's reports as their victim.

The girl allegedly caught a school bus to meet the two men in a Fort Walton Beach apartment March 10, where she engaged in sexual intercourse with one then, the next day, with the other, according to sheriff's reports.

According to Michele Nicholson, spokeswoman for the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, the situation came to the attention of authorities when one of the girl's family members went to her school looking for her March 11 because she hadn't come home.

Please see CHARGED, page A-4



New police chief takes oath of office

Niceville Mayor Randall Wise administered the oath of office to David Popwell, the city's new chief of police, at the Aug. 9 city council meeting. He succeeds Brian Cruttenden, who retired after 32 years with the department, 14 as chief. After a career in the Air Force Security Forces, Popwell started as a part-time Niceville police officer in 2002, then went full time two years later.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

STUDENTS

From page A-1

will be completed next week with 75 kindergarten and first-grade students, who will use the new wing, which is apart from the "big kids," said Lewis Principal Mike Fantaski.

Bluewater Elementary increased its numbers this year to 804 students, from 763 in fall 2010, according to the Okaloosa County School District.

Area high schools also report increased enrollment, evident at

Niceville and Collegiate high schools, and the secondary-school division of Rocky Bayou Christian School.

So many students applied to Collegiate High that it had to hold an admissions lottery.

Last year at this time, Niceville High School had 1,883 students enrolled, while this year it has 1,897, and officials expect even more by opening day. Principal Marcus Chambers said numbers have exceeded projections, partly because of the arrival of new residents. "We have enrolled a num-

ber of new students," he said.

Michael Mosley, superintendent of Rocky Bayou Christian School, reports 6 percent enrollment growth, necessitating an increase in school staff, including two new administrators who are spouses of 7th Special Forces Group members.

By no means are all new students in area schools from families of the 7th SFG, a 2,200-member Army unit that has transferred from Fort Bragg, N.C.

"There's a lot of variety, with the Navy, Army and Air Force,"

said McAllister.

Goolsby said, "Three are from the Army, but most are from the Air Force."

Meantime, schools are changing curriculum and adding programs.

One addition to the Plew Elementary School curriculum this year is an infusion of the arts into each subject.

"We are working with the University of Central Florida for arts integration across content," said McAllister.

That is, art will be tied in to les-

sons in every subject, whether students will create artistic interpretations of literature or view historic renderings of battles to tie in with social studies.

Rocky Bayou, which began classes Aug. 11, will introduce a career-oriented innovation.

"We are starting a 'Jan. term' for high school students the first two weeks back in January," said Mosley.

"This break-out session will give kids an idea of what they want to do" after high school through internships, college and

science trips, and an interesting array of classes, from conventional to offbeat, Mosley said.

For Ruckel, the focus is on maintaining academic excellence. The middle school last year took top scores in Okaloosa County for FCAT reading, math, writing and science.

Even so, there is always room for improvement.

"We are adding three classes of intensive math," said Goolsby, "so all kids are on grade level." Last year, 84 percent of sixth graders were on grade level for math, a number trumped by 89 percent in seventh grade and 97 percent in eighth. But Goolsby will not be satisfied until that number is 100 percent.

In order to better reach the students who are struggling in math, Ruckel has implemented Kid's College, an interactive website which uses a sports-themed video game to teach children about math, science and reading.

Real world and Academic Meet is a program unique to Ruckel. Now in its fourth year, RAM gives students the opportunity to connect science and math to the real world.

For instance, this year, the "RAM plan includes grade-wide activities such as sixth graders participating in Challenger simulations," said a letter from Goolsby to the parents of Ruckel students.

Edge Elementary, led by Principal Shelly Arneson, is yet another area school giving kids opportunities to get real world-applicable learning.

It is no surprise that a woman who wrote a book about school leadership would expound on the idea by bringing it to the student level.

"On early release days, we will have 'Leadership Clubs,'" said Arneson. Each staff member gets involved to host or co-host a leadership club, which can range from a sign language club and chess club to Edge Idol, based on American Idol, and LEAD club, where students experience a day in the life of an administrative assistant.

"The schedule on early release days are chopped off, so we decided to maximize the day and use it as something unique—a learning and leading opportunity," said Arneson.

The faculty members choose a club and then become the mentors for the students who sign up for the club they would like to attend throughout the year.

"This builds community among students," said Arneson. "The older students see how the younger kids can shine."

Niceville High School has come under new leadership, with Principal Marcus Chambers taking the helm from Linda Smith, who retired.

Officials of two other schools serving the Twin Cities area, Bluewater Elementary and Destin Middle, did not return phone calls seeking comment before press time.

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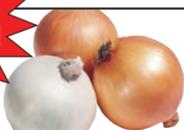
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Niceville's Newspaper

TRIM notices soon in the mail

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Okaloosa County Property Appraiser Pete Smith's office will begin sending Truth in Millage (TRIM) notices Friday to people who own taxable property.

TRIM notices, mailed annually to taxpayers, are not bills, but are notices to taxpayers of proposed property taxes on each property by each applicable taxing authority.

TRIM notices include, for home and other property owners, the assessed value of their property, as determined by the property appraiser's office, as well as any exemptions granted and the final taxable value.

In Okaloosa County there are 19 taxing authorities that levy ad valorem property taxes: county government, the school board, nine cities, six independent fire districts, water management and county parks. Each of those taxing authorities annually sets a tax rate in mills, called the millage rate. Tax bills can be calculated by multiplying a property's taxable value by the millage rate set by each applicable tax district in which the property is located.

Each taxing district is required to set a tentative, or proposed, millage rate and provide that to the property appraiser's office no later than

Taxing jurisdiction	Proposed millage 2011	Final millage 2010	Percent change
Okaloosa County	3.2899	3.2899	0.0%
Okaloosa Co. Schools	7.7690	7.5340	3.1%
NWF Water Dist.	0.0400	0.0450	-11.1%
Mstu- Parks	0.1800	0.1800	0.0%
Cinco Bayou	2.3000	2.1000	9.5%
Crestview	5.8466	5.8466	0.0%
Destin	1.4550	1.4550	0.0%
Fort Walton Beach	4.5383	4.5383	0.0%
Laurel Hill	3.5000	3.5000	0.0%
Mary Esther	3.0000	2.6435	13.5%
Niceville	3.6500	3.6301	0.5%
Shalimar	2.0000	2.0000	0.0%
Valparaiso	4.0644	3.9330	3.3%
Destin Fire Dist.	1.0000	1.0000	0.0%
E. Niceville Fire Dist.	2.3700	2.3500	0.9%
Florosa Fire Dist.	1.0000	1.0000	0.0%
North Bay Fire Dist.	2.3500	2.2500	4.4%
Ocean City Fire Dist.	2.0000	2.0000	0.0%
Ok. Island Fire Dist.	3.0655	2.7949	9.7%

Source: Okaloosa County Appraiser

Aug. 4. The proposed millage rates generally can stay the same or be reduced during public hearings by each taxing authority at which each entity will give final approval to its own budget and the final millage rate.

The new millage rates go into effect at the beginning of the new fiscal year, which is Oct. 1 for most taxing authorities, except the school board, whose fiscal year starts July 1.

The TRIM notice will give each property owner the time, date and location of budget hearings where final millage rates will be set.

Property owners who believe the market value appearing on the TRIM notice exceeds the fair market value of their property as of Jan. 1, 2011, are encouraged to contact the property appraiser's office to speak with an appraiser. If after discussing the facts

with an appraiser, property owners still believe the market value assessment is excessive, they can petition the County Value Adjustment Board for a hearing before a special magistrate. Petition forms are available at the property appraiser's office or from the clerk of court. There is a \$15 refundable filing fee for petitions addressing value or exemptions. The filing deadline is Sept. 13.

TAX

From page A-1

cially for homes on or near the water.

The recapture rule requires county property appraisers to annually increase assessed values on homesteaded properties, which have previously been shielded by SOH and whose market values are greater than last year's assessed values, by 3 percent, or the Consumer Price Index, whichever is less.

"Therefore, if you have previously accrued SOH benefits, your 2011 assessed value will be increased by 1.5 percent (this year's CPI increase)," said Smith.

Because of the many vari-

ables that affect the value of Okaloosa County's 45,100 homesteaded properties (out of

a total of 104,553 parcels county-wide), Smith said his office does not track how many property owners may actually see their property assessments go up this year because of the recapture rule.

Rep. Gaetz called the recapture rule "an insidious tax of the Lawton Chiles era," referring to the late governor under whose

administration the rule was implemented.

Gaetz continued, "The good news is that the Legislature this year passed a proposed constitutional amendment that will give voters the chance to abolish the recapture rule." If passed by a 60 percent majority in a referendum, the measure would, among other things, authorize the Legislature to repeal the rule.

The proposed Florida constitutional amendment would also limit the property tax increase on non-homesteaded properties to 5 percent a year, Gaetz said, half the current 10 percent limit.

Extending SOH-like protections to non-homesteaded properties will help the state attract more business capital, the law-

maker said. Businesses and investors hate uncertainty, he said, including the uncertainty that rapidly rising property values could result in huge tax increases.

The Legislature's proposed constitutional amendment corrects the unintended tax shift—from homesteaded property owners to businesses and other property owners—created by the original SOH amendment, Gaetz said.

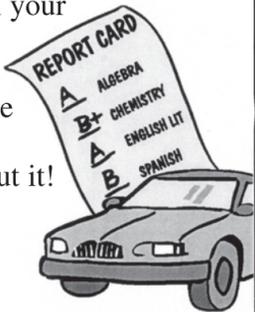
The proposed amendment will be on the ballot either during the Presidential Preference Primary—whose date has not been finalized but is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 31, 2012—or the Nov. 6, 2012, general election.



Pete Smith

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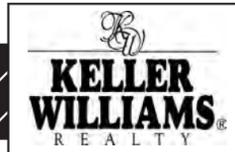
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1597 Pine Street	1,296	3/2	\$ 97,500
1856 Bayshore Drive	1,706	3/2	\$169,000
102 Poplar Place	1,513	3/2	\$196,000
1098 Forest L	2,000	3/2	\$234,000
806 St. Joseph Cove	2,612	5/2.5	\$275,000
101 Jasmine Place	2,159	4/3	\$280,000
1395 Windward Way	2,646	4/3	\$349,900
1332 Windward Way	3,348	4/2.5	\$520,000

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The INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER — by Mike Griffith



Should the federal government balance its budget, and if so, when and how?

Location: Wal-Mart



"Yes, they should, but I don't know how to go about it. It's not the direction they've been taking—that's for sure."

Pat Evans, 66, Freeport, housewife



"The budget needs to be decided by the end of the year—before it's too late."

Adella Gilbert, 15, Niceville, Lewis School student



"I think they should balance it, but I'm not an authority on how."

Michelle Thomas, 41, Niceville, teacher



"They shouldn't do it on the backs of the middle class, or cut Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security. The rich should pay their fair share."

Larry McGee, 55, Valparaiso, Destin Wal-Mart employee



"They should balance the budget. As for how—Beats me! As for when—Soon!"

Ricky Brown, 47, Crestview, military



"They should balance the budget, but over a long period of time, like ten years, to reduce economic hardship."

Michael Low, 43, Niceville, forestry technician

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

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CHARGED

From page A-1

The girl allegedly admitted to deputies that she had sexual intercourse with the two men. One of the men, unemployed, was arrested June 27. The other, a student, was arrested July 19.

Both men were charged with lewd and lascivious battery on someone between 12 and 16 years old, according to sheriff's reports.

Deputies subsequently obtained a statement from a Niceville police detective stating that on March 4, the girl was allegedly involved in another

incident in which she had sexual relations with "older boys." The detective stated that she warned the girl that if she continued to have a sexual relationship with any male, she would be prosecuted.

On Aug. 9, the man arrested July 19 pleaded no contest to a lesser charge of felony battery in

return for dismissal of the original charge, according to court records. He was sentenced to probation and ordered to undergo counseling, according to authorities.

The disposition of the second man's case had not been concluded as of press time, according to authorities.

LENDER

From page A-1

and that bank officials "couldn't have been nicer" about disclosing the error and apologizing for the mistake in their original figures.

Fray said that Jacksonville-based BB&T had originally submitted true interest cost figures that did not take into account all the legal fees associ-

ated with closing the loan agreement with the city. When selected as the city's loan provider during the previous city council meeting held July 28, BB&T had offered the city the lowest true interest costs of 2.09013 percent for refinancing the city's sales tax bonds, and 2.072718 percent for refinancing the city's gas tax bonds.

When the extra legal costs were included, said Fray,

Branch's true interest cost climbed to slightly less than 2.23 percent for refinancing the city's sales tax bonds, and to just over 2.17 percent for refinancing the city's gas tax bonds.

This left Mississippi-based Hancock Bank, with a branch in Niceville, as the new lowest bidder, with a true interest cost of just over 2.15 percent for the sales tax bond refinancing and

just under 2.13 percent for the gas tax bonds.

After hearing from Fray, the city council voted to select Hancock Bank as the loan provider. The new bank loans will refinance bonds previously issued by the city at interest rates of 3.75 percent, thus lowering the interest to be paid.

The city plans to borrow up to \$2.65 million to refinance other debt.

VOTERS

From page A-1

voted early, Lux said. The analysis showed that other than those who live near early voting sites, the greatest number came from the Niceville area, he said.

Early voting allows registered

voters to cast ballots at any of a few central sites in an eight-day period before election day. Those who don't vote early may vote by absentee ballot, or may cast their vote in the traditional manner on election day in the polling place in their home precinct. The county is divided into 52 voting precincts.

Florida House Bill 1355 signed by Gov. Rick Scott May 19, changed several state election laws, including reducing early voting from a two-week period to an eight-day period, beginning the 10th day before the election, according to Tiffany Rivera, spokeswoman for the county elections office. The change requires early voting at each site to be open for six to 12 hours a day. The Legislature explained the change as a cost-saving measure, according to Rivera.

Because 2012 is a presidential election year, there'll be an extra date to vote next year.

First is the Presidential Preference Primary, tentatively scheduled for Jan. 31, 2012. Early voting schedules haven't been set because the primary date is subject to change.

Next is the primary election, set for Aug. 14, 2012. Early vot-

ing for the August primary will take place Aug. 4-11, Lux said. Hours are yet to be determined, though they likely will be eight hours each day, except Sunday, which will likely be six hours.

The general election is Nov. 6, 2012. Early voting for the general election is scheduled Oct. 27-Nov. 3. Hours will be 7 a.m.-7 p.m. each day, except Sunday, which will likely be eight hours, Lux said.

The Niceville City Council Chambers, 208 N. Partin Drive, has previously only been used as the sole polling place for the city's own mid-July municipal elections held every second year. The council chambers are not a regular precinct polling place on Election Day, but are being added as an early voting site for the convenience of any Okaloosa County registered voter who wishes to vote early, according to Lux.

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Stronger, faster Knights may surprise

By Kenneth Books
Beacon Staff Writer

The Rocky Bayou Christian School football team, loser of eight of 10 games in 2010, is likely to surprise some opponents this year who expect a pushover.

With only 22 players at first practice, the team will have to play several of them on both offense and defense. Anticipating that outcome, they have been working hard on conditioning since the end of last season. Where before there were boys, now there are men and some are brutes.

Head Coach Josh Childers is optimistic.

"I think we'll have a pretty good year," he said, crediting "senior leadership" for the obvi-



Beacon photos by Kenneth Books
Rocky Bayou Christian School football players practice handoffs.

ous improvement in the team.

"One thing we're working on is overall team unity," Childers said. "Last year, we established the work ethic."

Childers cites the apostle Paul, who said believers are one body in Christ, as a basis for his unity theme.

"If your job is to sit on the sideline and cheer, you're just as important as the quarterback," he said.

This year's quarterback, Caleb McCullough, is new to the position. The difference, he said, is there is "more pressure—doing the right thing."

In practices, McCullough displayed a strong, accurate arm and foot speed that could enable him to scramble out of trouble in games.

The whole theme of the 2011 Knights is speed and power.

"We've got some seniors who have been with us for four years,"

said Assistant Coach David Williams. "We've gotten stronger and faster and we're doing a lot of conditioning."

And this year, for the first time, the varsity will have a feeder system in the works with the initial junior varsity Rocky Bayou football team, composed of seventh, eighth and ninth graders. Childers said some of the ninth graders are likely to be called up to the varsity before the end of the season.

Brandon Mallawong, offensive and defensive line coach, was as optimistic as his peers about this season.

"We're a little bigger and I'm seeing some really good aggression," he said.

Childers said several of the



Knights head coach Josh Childers watches pass practice.

players are deep squatting 400 pounds or more and are making great strides in bench pressing and power lifting.

Kenny Wells, a freshman,

watched a recent practice while he recovered from an injured wrist. This is his first year playing football, as his family moved from Clovis, N.M., where the school had no football program. He's a home-schooled student who wants to play for the Knights when he heals.

"I want to play defense," he said. "I like hitting people."

The key to the season for the Knights will be playing as a cohesive unit and using the new strength and agility the players are displaying in practice.

"This year, we're really strong," said senior Cooper Eaves, a linebacker and offensive and defensive lineman. "We're going to put some Ws on the board."

NHS grad named all-Academic

Kaitlin Davis, a 2009 Niceville High graduate and member of the University of Florida track and field throws team, has been selected for the 2011 U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Division I All-Academic Track & Field team for her sophomore year. Kaitlin finished eighth in the discus at the 2009 FHSAA Class 4A Track and Field State Championships. She is a pre-med student, majoring in microbiology and cell science and was selected last October as the 2009-2010 UF Track and Field Freshman Scholar-Athlete.



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Freshman designated rising star

Sophia Bergmann of Niceville participated in the AAU National Club Championships/ESPN Rise Games at the ESPN Wide World of Sports at Disney in July, competing in the girls Youth division and silver medaled in discus, shot-put and a new sport for her, javelin, earning the ESPN Rising Star awards in all three events. She will be a freshman this year at Niceville High School, where she is on the swim team and will compete in track and field.

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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

Andrew Jay Demboske, a mechanic, 42, of 208 Hawthorne Circle, Fort Walton Beach, was arrested by Valparaiso police Aug. 1 on a charge of driving while license suspended or revoked, habitual traffic offender. Subsequent to a traffic stop for speeding, 84 mph in a 55 mph zone, police discovered that Demboske was driving on a license that had been revoked in March 2010 for being a habitual traffic offender.

Shawn Matthew Plemmons, a cook, 28, of 107-B Kelly Road, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 5 on a violation of probation charge on the original charge of domestic violence battery.

Janet R. Clampitt, 42, of 304 Reeves St., Lot F-9, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 1 on a charge of battery. Clampitt allegedly punched a man in the face with a fist following a verbal altercation.

Amanda Jill Davis, 33, of 571 S. Wilson St., Crestview, was arrested by Niceville police Aug. 2 on a charge of retail theft. Davis allegedly concealed an MP3 player, a camcorder and 14 items of clothing in a black bag then left the store, 1140 E. John Sims Parkway, paying for four items worth \$9.80 but not the \$198 cost of the items concealed in her bag.

Joshua Lee Lopez, 32, of 8 Japonica Lane, Shalimar, was arrested by Niceville police Aug. 9 on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill. A Niceville resident reported that he and Lopez had an argument in regards to Lopez being

on his property. Lopez then allegedly pulled out a handgun, cocked it, pointed it at the resident and threatened to kill him.

Austin Colby Orbeck, 26, of 4208 Shadow Lane, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 3 on charges of dealing in stolen property and fraudulently giving a false statement regarding ownership.

On April 29 Orbeck allegedly sold two loads of brass hand railing to a Fort Walton Beach scrap yard, 41 NW Hollywood Blvd., receiving \$96 for the first load of 48 pounds and \$370 on the second load of 185 pounds. On May 2 Orbeck sold a third load of brass hand railings which weighed 490 pounds for \$996, fraudulently telling the recycler that the scrap came from remodeling jobs he was doing for a national restaurant chain.

Benjamin Edward Keicher, a beach service employee, 21, of 954 Rue De Palms, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 9 on a charge of violation of probation on original charges of burglary, grand theft auto and theft of a firearm.

Luan Bass Diaz, 56, of 304 Juniper Drive, Freeport, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 25 on charges of obtaining controlled substance by fraud and possession of an opiate derivative more than 4 grams but under 30 kilograms. On July 25 Diaz allegedly used a false name to pick up a phoned-in prescription order for 90 tablets of hydrocodone, 7.5 mg, at the Walgreens pharmacy, 4582 E. Highway 20, Niceville.

Diaz was subsequently

Please see BLOTTER, page A-7

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls August 8, 2011, through August 14, 2011.

- 0 Structure Fire
- 0 Vehicle Fire
- 0 Other Fire
- 0 Illegal Burn
- 0 False Alarms
- 20 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Vehicle Crash
- 0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
- 8 Other Emergency Calls
- 6 Hazardous Conditions

Location	Situation	Date	Time
N. Palm Boulevard	Medical	08/08/11	09:45
SR85N	Medical	08/08/11	13:42
N. Partin Drive	Medical	08/09/11	10:46
Alderwood Way	Medical	08/09/11	11:32
Sparkleberry Cove	Lock in	08/09/11	17:27
E. John Sims Parkway	Vehicle crash	08/09/11	17:34
N. Partin Drive	Medical	08/09/11	19:52
SR85N	Smoke scare	08/09/11	20:49
Crooked Creek Cove	Medical	08/10/11	11:39
Tala Way	Alarm activation	08/10/11	11:19
Alderwood Way	Medical	08/10/11	11:42
23rd Street	Medical	08/10/11	13:35
Coldwater Creek Circle	Lightning strike	08/10/11	19:47
Lanman Road	Medical	08/10/11	19:59
Linden Avenue	Lightning strike	08/10/11	20:03
Red Maple Way	Lightning strike	08/10/11	20:21
Biscayne Lane	Lightning strike	08/10/11	20:25
Pine Avenue	Alarm activation	08/10/11	20:54
E. John Sims Parkway	Alarm activation	08/10/11	21:21
McEwen Drive	Lightning strike	08/10/11	21:32
Pine Court	Medical	08/11/11	10:32
E. John Sims Parkway	Medical	08/11/11	16:02
Bayshore Drive	Canceled	08/11/11	20:10
26th Street	Medical	08/12/11	05:31
Kildare Circle	Medical	08/12/11	07:15
E. College Boulevard	Fuel spill	08/12/11	07:32
N. Partin Drive	Medical	08/12/11	17:00
E. John Sims Parkway	Medical	08/13/11	03:19
Linden Avenue	Medical	08/13/11	07:22
N. Partin Drive	Medical	08/13/11	12:26
Everglade Drive	Medical	08/13/11	12:51
Davis Drive	Medical	08/14/11	02:09
Rocky Bayou Bridge	False call	08/14/11	10:56
E. John Sims Parkway	Vehicle crash	08/14/11	11:21
N. Partin Drive	Medical	08/14/11	20:35
Linden Avenue	Medical	08/14/11	21:32

Weekly Safety Tip: Football season will be starting soon. There will be large crowds in and around the stadium and a lot of traffic after the game. Be sure to use the pedestrian crosswalks when crossing streets. The Niceville Fire Department is there for your safety and protection.

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls August 8, 2011, through August 14, 2011.

Location	Situation	Date	Time
Parkside Circle	Dispatched, canceled	08/08/11	12:40
White Point Road	Smoke scare	08/08/11	14:16
N. White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	08/09/11	04:26
E. Hwy. 20 & White Point Road	Motor vehicle accident	08/10/11	08:06
E. Highway 20	EMS excluding vehicle	08/10/11	12:43
Bay Drive & Hwy. 20	Motor vehicle accident	08/10/11	13:56
Lancaster Drive & Hwy. 20	Motor vehicle accident	08/10/11	14:20
Coldwater Creek Circle	Building fire	08/10/11	19:49
Linden Avenue	Building fire	08/10/11	20:03
Baywind Drive	Building fire	08/10/11	20:06
Ridgewood Cove West	Lightning strike	08/10/11	20:25
Biscayne Lane	Building fire	08/10/11	20:25
Lake Drive	Medical assist EMS	08/11/11	05:31
Chacato Cove	False alarm	08/11/11	14:48
Ernest Hemingway Drive	EMS excluding vehicle	08/11/11	18:20
N. White Point Road	Alarm system	08/12/11	09:09
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	08/12/11	09:19
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	08/12/11	19:31
Merchants Way	EMS excluding vehicle	08/12/11	23:16
Merchants Way	Medical assist EMS	08/13/11	11:18
White Point Road & Olde Post Road	No incident found	08/13/11	11:45
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	08/14/11	03:50
E. Highway 20	Steam, vapor, fog or dust	08/14/11	10:59
Merchants Way	EMS excluding vehicle	08/14/11	22:25

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BLOTTER

From page A-6

arrested by deputies on an Okaloosa County warrant on another charge of obtaining controlled substance by fraud. Diaz allegedly went to the CVS pharmacy, 4562 E. Highway 20, April 27, and picked up a prescription for 60 Lortab 7.5 mg tablets that had been called in by phone the day before. The prescribing doctor said that he did not know Diaz. The doctor also advised he did not know how the defendant had obtained his DEA number, nor did he authorize its use.

Hure Cobb III, a cook, 33, of 4600 Range Road, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 9 on a charge of domestic violence battery by strangulation.

Jamie Bass Cavender Pope, 34, of 304 Juniper Drive, Freeport, was arrested by sheriff's deputies in Bluewater Bay Aug. 9 on a charge of driving without a license.

Thefts

Valparaiso residents from the 200 block of Chicago Avenue returned from a day of house hunting Aug. 6 to discover an unknown thief or thieves had broken into their apartment and left it in "shambles," with several items of electronics and jewelry stolen.

The front window of the locked apartment had been broken and a flat screen television, two laptops, a video game system and five games, a Blu-Ray player, jewelry, numerous CDs and DVDs, and a 12-string acoustic guitar were among the items missing.

The couple's pickup truck was also burglarized with entry gained through an unlocked rear slide window. The stolen items were valued at nearly \$6,000.

A man reported to Niceville police that he was in the beer aisle at the Destin Walmart July 31 when he placed his \$900 phone on a case of beer to free his hands so he could grab a different case of beer. Ten minutes later when the man realized he had left his phone and returned to the store, the phone was gone. A store employee informed the victim that surveillance video showed someone taking the phone.

A Niceville resident from the 1600 block of Valparaiso Boulevard reported Aug. 7 that someone stole his wallet that he left on his bed while he went out to do a job.

A Niceville resident from the 1700 block of Union Avenue reported that sometime Aug. 3 unknown person(s) entered his residence through the back door and removed a safe and two firearms.

A Niceville resident from the 200 block of Capri Cove West reported that unknown person(s) stole her golf cart from outside a restaurant on Yacht Club Drive while the victim was inside the restaurant July 31. The key to the older model, four-seat golf cart was left in the ignition while the victim was inside.

A Niceville resident from the 4100 block of Whitetail Circle reported receiving notice that three of his checks were cashed at convenience

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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

Name: Michael Fields Poore
Wanted for: grand theft and violation of probation on the original charges of battery, fleeing and eluding, and resisting arrest without violence. Griggy's last known address was on Second Avenue in Crestview.
Height: 6 feet, 3 inches
Weight: 180 pounds
Age: 46, Date of birth: 03-19-1965
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)

stores in Fort Walton Beach and Destin on July 3. The victim stated his checkbook may have been taken from his vehicle, but did not know when it might have occurred. The three checks totaled nearly \$84.

A Niceville resident from the 4200 block of Lancaster Drive reported being woken at about 2:35 a.m. Aug. 6 to a loud noise coming from his front door area. Arming himself with a handgun and a flashlight, the resident noticed no damage to the front door

and checked outside without seeing anyone. Later that morning the resident woke up and noticed that his front door had been forced open and had sustained an estimated \$2,500 damage.

A contractor who left his pickup truck unlocked with the windows down at a job site in the first block of Bluewater Bay Point Road, Niceville, Aug. 3, reported that when the work in the back yard was done around 7 p.m. he discovered that a GPS device, two

cell phones and the vehicle keys had been stolen from the vehicle. The items were valued at about \$345.

Unknown person(s) stole a three-and-a-half-foot long skateboard that had been left against the garage of a home in the first block of Lanman Road, Niceville, while the victim was visiting for approximately 30 minutes Aug. 6, around 10 p.m.

Criminal Mischief

Vandals caused an estimated \$2,000 to the paint on a vehicle that was "egged" July 30 in the 700 block of Providence Way, Niceville, the victim reported.

Other

Justin Lee Chase, 22, of 626 W. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, was issued a notice to appear by Niceville police Aug. 3 on charges of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia

On July 27 an out-of-state driver struck and killed a black bear while traveling northbound on College Boulevard, near the Valparaiso water tower. The driver, who was not charged, stated he attempted to avoid the bear when the animal ran out in front of his vehicle, and was struck by the front right bumper. Florida Fish and

Wildlife officials were called to remove the juvenile male bear.

Stan Kirkland, spokesman for Florida Fish and Wildlife, said the juvenile bear was one of six bears, two sows and four cubs, captured on Hurlburt

Field in December, 2010, and removed about 15 miles to the west on the Eglin reservation. The tagged bear killed was likely born in January 2010, and weighed about 150 pounds by the time it was killed, he said.

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Sacred Heart Medical Group is pleased to welcome Dr. Steven Clark, a board-certified family medicine physician. Dr. Clark earned his medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., and completed residency training in family medicine at Eglin Air Force Base. Prior to joining Sacred Heart, he served as a family medicine physician and flight surgeon in the Air Force. Dr. Clark has special medical interests in disease prevention, diabetes, hypertension, and tropical and wilderness medicine.

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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Bluewater seeks county aid on sidewalks

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Bluewater Bay Municipal Services Benefit Unit governing board discussed a draft letter to the Okaloosa County Commission requesting the county provide labor to construct some new sidewalks in Bluewater Bay, while the MSBU would cover the cost of materials to build the new sidewalks.

At a meeting Aug. 9, the MSBU board also approved replacing storm-damaged trees.

During the Aug. 9 meeting, MSBU community services chairman Doug Burgess said he has been working with county public works officials to plan the sidewalk project, and the plans are now at the stage of "dotting the I's and crossing the T's."

Before any actual construction can happen, however, the MSBU must allocate funds to buy the materials, and the county commission must approve providing county employees to actually install the sidewalks.

Burgess said the proposed sidewalks would be located in four places:

—Bay Drive from the Chacato Landing entrance to the Marina Cove entrance.

—Winged Foot Drive from Oakmont to the entrance of the Winged Foot subdivision.

—Woodlands from Southwind Drive to White Point Road.

—Southwind Drive from the traffic circle on Bluewater Boulevard to the entrance to Southwind subdivision.

Burgess said material costs of the sidewalk projects will depend on whether asphalt or concrete is used.

After some discussion, the MSBU members agreed to have Burgess continue to study the sidewalk proposal, and report his findings at the next MSBU meeting, before actually sending a formal request to the county commission.

The MSBU board also discussed recent storm damage to trees along Bluewater Bay roadways. In particular, they discussed

the loss of four Bradford pear trees along Bluewater Boulevard during storms the weekend prior to the Aug. 9 meeting. Burgess said the recent losses bring total Bradford pear losses to 11 trees in the last three years.

He recommended replacing the lost Bradfords with Cleveland Pears, more durable than Bradfords but with a similar appearance, to include flowering each spring. The board agreed unanimously to do the replacement.



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impressive and add depth and challenge to your round. Whether you are an ace or a beginner, young or old, you are sure to enjoy your round at Rocky Bayou Country Club.

Tee time availability and pace of play are excellent at Rocky Bayou. Dues and fees are very reasonable, with many different membership categories to suit just about anyone. Most memberships include the entire family, so Rocky Bayou is a great place to enjoy time with your children. Ladies Golf Night and the Corporate Challenge Golf League are two new programs that are creating a buzz at the club.

If golf is not your game, there



Whether you are an ace or a beginner, young or old, you are sure to enjoy your round at Rocky Bayou Country Club.



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apotter@rockybayoucc.com
www.rockybayoucc.com

*This offer may be discontinued at any time. Other restrictions may apply. See club manager for full details.

are plenty of other activities always going on at Rocky Bayou. Regularly scheduled dinners and parties, happy hours, bridge groups, a swimming pool and even lake fishing are some of the many activities on the Rocky Bayou calendar. With their current trial membership options, there has never been a better time to join Rocky Bayou Country Club.

For a limited time, Rocky Bayou is offering a three-month trial membership that includes unlimited golf (cart rental not included) for only \$189 per month. A second option allows

golfers to apply for a free 10-play card that allows them to play up to 10 times per month for three months at only \$35 per round, including cart. With no up-front fees, this pay-as-you-go plan has no risk and no catch.

If you have ever considered membership at Rocky Bayou Country Club, now is the time to try it out. For course and club photos and other information visit www.rockybayoucc.com. For membership information contact Andy Potter at (850) 678-3270 x4 or apotter@rockybayoucc.com.

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Who's News

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.



Niceville High School Choral Director **Michael Dye** was honored for his term on the FVA executive committee including his time as president from 2007-09. He was presented with a plaque by Mary Catherine Salo, Florida Vocal Association president.

Michael Dye

Amanda Braget, daughter of Jeffery and Sandra Braget of Niceville, graduated from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy on Aug. 6, with a master's degree in forensic science.



Amanda Braget

Amanda received her bachelor's degree in anthropology in May 2010 from the University of Florida and is a 2006 graduate of Niceville High School.

Guerdia Pierre of Niceville was awarded a bachelor's degree in management from Kaplan University Aug. 6 at a ceremony held in Chicago.

Maynard Pierre of Niceville was awarded an Associate of Applied Science degree in business administration from Kaplan University Aug. 6 at a ceremony held in Chicago.

The Niceville Valparaiso Rotary Club welcomed **Jeannie Quave**, the 2011-12 Rotary

Please see WHO'S, page B-2

Sheriff's office shares school commuting tips

With Okaloosa County students starting the new school year Aug. 22, the county sheriff's office would like to share these trips to ensure students commute to school safely, whether by walking, riding bikes, riding buses or driving their own cars.

All drivers need to be extra cautious and give extra time for the commute. Slow down and be especially alert in school zones and residential neighborhoods and remember, speeding fines are doubled in a school or construction zone.

If driving on a divided highway with an unpaved space of at least five feet, a

raised median or a physical barrier, drivers don't have to stop only if they are traveling in the opposite direction of a stopped school bus. Otherwise, stopping is necessary.

Put down the cell phone. Don't text and drive.

Remind children to always cross the street only at corners, using traffic signals or the crosswalk, and to always cross the street with an adult until they're at least ten years old.

And if your child rides a bus, make sure you stress that it's critical to always walk out in front of the bus where the driver can easily see them!



Museum volunteers thanked

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida honored its volunteers at a lunchtime smorgasbord recently, with contributions from Woody's Hog Heaven, Beef O'Brady's, Food World, Say Cake and Po Folks. Volunteers were given special recognition and awards for their exceptional volunteering efforts. Pictured: Betty Severino, volunteer; Gina Marini, museum manager; Mike Holt, volunteer; and Cynthia Reichert, volunteer.

In the Service

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.



Alexander Van Vliet

Alexander M. Van Vliet, son of Glenn and Liz Van Vliet of Niceville, graduated from the United States Coast Guard Basic Training Course on July 29 at Cape May, N.J. He is currently stationed at Apra Harbor, Guam, in the South Pacific on the USCG Cutter Washington. Van Vliet is a 2010 graduate of Niceville High School.

Opportunities to sing out Auditions to be held for two choral groups

With the opening of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center 2011-12 performance season comes an opportunity for local residents to get involved further than as spectators. Two regional singing groups, Schola Cantorum and Northwest Florida Symphony Chorale, will hold open auditions in the latter part of August.

The Northwest Florida State College Schola Cantorum, or School of Singing, will conduct auditions for additional singers on the last two Mondays in August in room J-312 of the music building, Niceville campus, Aug. 22 and 29, between 6 and 7:30 p.m. Singers interested in auditioning should be able to read music and have previous experience singing in choral groups.

The NWFSC Schola Cantorum is made up of a diverse group of singers from throughout the Okaloosa-Walton area who perform music from across the ages, much of it being unaccompanied by instruments.

The group is directed by John Leatherwood and is comprised of full-time students, Air Force personnel, full-time workers and retirees. The group will prepare a concert of Christmas pieces to be performed in local venues in early December. For further information about the group, or to arrange an audition time, contact the director at 830-2062.

The New Northwest Florida Symphony Chorale, a freshly established choral group by Northwest Florida State College and the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, will audition singers for its inaugural season.

This select choral group will perform with the NFSO as well as at independent concerts.

"We're re-inventing the current Symphony Chorus with a new name and focus to be more in keeping with similar groups from across the nation," noted NWFSC music professor Lois Van Dam, who will direct the new choral group. "The Northwest Florida Symphony Chorale will perform with the orchestra for select concerts during the season, but we'll also prepare our own concerts and perform choral literature apart from the orchestra."

Vocalists from throughout the region are invited to audition for the group's 2011-12 season Aug. 23 and 24, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Tyler Recital Hall at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville.

Those interested in setting up an audition should contact choral assistant Phyllis Lake at lakepa@cox.net. Music will be provided prior to the audition dates. For further information, contact Lois Van Dam at 729-6009 or vandaml@nwfsc.edu.



Lois Van Dam



Beacon photo by Del Lessard

Swihart commended

The Niceville, Valparaiso, Okaloosa County Regional Sewer Board presented a plaque of appreciation to former Niceville City councilman Al Swihart for 28 years of service on the board. Making the presentation at the board's Aug. 3 monthly meeting was board President Jeff Littrell.

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Rocky to offer college classes

Rocky Bayou Christian School has entered into a dual-enrollment agreement with Palm Beach Atlantic University of West Palm Beach, beginning with the 2011-12 school year.

The program will allow eligible juniors and seniors at Rocky Bayou Christian Academy, the secondary-school division of RBCS, to enroll in selected Palm Beach Atlantic courses on the RBCS Niceville campus.

The credits earned will be counted toward high school graduation and are transferable credits toward earning a bachelor's degree at all accredited colleges and universities. Grades and credits earned under this dual enrollment program will become part of the student's permanent transcripts at RBCS and Palm Beach Atlantic.

Three RBCS high school teachers—Dr. Robert Grete, Dr. Archie Jones, and Professor Carla Alldredge—will teach microeconomics, macroeconomics, American Federal Government,



Robert Grete

Bayou Christian School campus during normal school operating hours.

Dr. Michael L. Mosley, RBCS superintendent, commented concerning the agreement: "We are excited to partner with this outstanding Christian university. Our hope is for an exceptional educational experience for our older students."

Rocky Bayou Christian Academy is a college preparatory school, starting in seventh grade training students for the rigor of college coursework. The school offers more than 30 honors level courses for grades nine through 12 in addition to 12 College Board Advanced Placement courses.



Carla Alldredge

Dental assistants graduate

Northwest Florida State College recently recognized students who completed the vocational certificate program in dental assisting during 2010-11 academic year. Graduates include: Laura Anglin of Baker; Kayla Brown of Crestview; Jenni Taylor, Natalie McAllister, Melissa Noel, Jacquelyn Sheriff and Amanda Wiley of Fort Walton Beach; Kristen Hester of Navarre; and Danielle Skinner of Niceville.



Plew student shines at FCAT



Outstanding Achievement



Brandon High's score on the 2010-11 FCAT earned him commendation from Senator Don Gaetz, State Representative Matt Gaetz and Superintendent Alexis Tibbetts.

Brandon High, a rising fourth grader at Plew Elementary, scored 1818 out of 2225 on the 2011 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test in mathematics. The average score for Florida third graders was 1470.

For this achievement, he received letters and awards from Okaloosa County Superintendent Alexis Tibbetts, Senator Don Gaetz and State Representative Matt Gaetz.

Along with the letter of congratulations, Brandon was presented with the Florida Scholar Award from Rep. Gaetz and a certificate of Outstanding Achievement from Tibbetts. Brandon was in Mrs. Jackson's third grade class last year.

WHO'S

From page B-1

District 6940 governor, as its guest speaker Aug. 4. Quave briefed the club on her history with Rotary International and her home club of Panama City Beach. During her visit she emphasized Rotary's commitment to putting an end to Polio. Each Rotary club contributes money that is a vital part of carrying on the efforts to see an end to Polio in the near future.



Jeannie Quave

2011 CALENDAR

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

Lunchtime history lecture

"Bring a Vietnam POW Home" will be the free lunchtime history lecture presented at the Heritage Museum, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, by Colonel Leroy "Leak" Thornal, Ret. USAF, Aug. 17 at noon. Hear the real-life story of one man's involvement with POW/MIA families, his promise and the recovery efforts to bring home U.S. POW's from North Vietnam.

Bring a sandwich and take your lunch break for History Sandwiched-In, an informal lunchtime education program. Space is limited. Call to reserve a seat, 678-2615.

Saltwater Seminar

This month's Emerald Coast Saltwater Seminar Series presented by Half Hitch Tackle and The Ships Chandler will give anglers all the insight they need to target red drum. The program will be held Aug. 17 at Northlight Marina, at 7 p.m. There is free food starting at 6:30 so come early, get a seat, learn and enjoy.

Info: Sonny 850-384-7737, Joe 850-516-0709, or visit saltwater-events.com.

Assembly of God block party

The Niceville Assembly of God, 108 Highway 85 North, will hold a block party and hot rod show Wednesday, Aug. 17, 6-8 p.m.

Visit your favorite connecting point booth, get your motor runnin' with a free hamburger or hot dog, challenge yourself at the Pulse obstacle course, check out the awesome hot rods, and register to win some fabulous prizes. All are welcome.

Democratic women's dinner

Loranne Ausley will be the keynote speaker at the Democratic Women's Club's annual dinner Aug. 18. The date was chosen to commemorate the ratification of the XIX Amendment to the U.S.

Constitution giving women the right to vote.

Ausley's speech is entitled "Changing Florida's Political Landscape," which will highlight her perspectives on the present and future concerns for the Democratic Party and the state of Florida.

The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Resort on Okaloosa Island. Cocktails will start at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30. Tickets are \$55.

Call 864-3148 or 678-1561.

Lewis School orientation

Lewis School, 281 Mississippi Ave., Valparaiso, will hold a back-to-school orientation Thursday, Aug. 18. Parents and their kindergarten through fifth-grade students are invited to visit the school between 9 and 10:30 a.m. to receive teacher assignments and visit their classrooms. Middle school students and their parents should attend between noon and 1:30 p.m. to receive schedules and visit classrooms. Agenda books and lockers assignments will be available. School supply lists can be found at local stores and at lewisschoolk8.com.

Teachers honor event

HarborWalk Village and the community will recognize Okaloosa teachers for their service at the Village's Red, White & Blue Celebration on Aug. 18 at 7 p.m.

All Okaloosa teachers are invited, and those who attend will have a chance to win exciting prizes. Superintendent Alexis Tibbetts will

Please see CALENDAR, page B-4

Engagement

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Peacock-Rommerdahl

Robin and Kathy Peacock of Niceville announce the engagement of their daughter, Leigh Kathryn, to U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Kjell Christian Rommerdahl, son of Master Chief Petty Officer (USCG, retired) Kurt and Petty Officer First Class (USCGR, retired) Linda Rommerdahl of Niceville.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Niceville High School and Auburn University, where she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in studio art. She also recently graduated from Georgia State University with a Master of Fine Arts degree in studio art.

The prospective groom is a graduate of Niceville High School and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy where he received a Bachelor of Science degree



Kjell Christian Rommerdahl and Leigh Kathryn Peacock

in government and a commission in the Coast Guard. He has been forward deployed on a one-year assignment to the Northern Arabian Gulf as Operations Officer on USCGC Aquidneck in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and is currently stationed at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., as an instructor.

The wedding will take place Oct. 22, 2011, at Sharks Tooth Golf Club, Lake Powell, Fla.

WESTERN HOE DOWN

THEME PARTY!

AUG 20 7PM

-Featuring DJ Chris Saylor
-Poker game in saloon
-Prizes will be given out

FREE POTATO SKINS w/ purchase of an entree. Not valid with any other offer.

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Adults, Youth, & Children • 6:00pm

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Worship Schedule
8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Rally Day, August 28, 9:30 a.m.
Catechism Orientation
August 31, 7:00 p.m.
www.stpaulniceville.com



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 The Beacon Newspapers (The Bay Beacon, The Eglin Flyer, and The Hurlburt Patriot, and The Green Beret) have an opening for a career-minded, full-time person to sell newspaper advertising in an established territory. Calling on new customers and collecting also required. Candidates should be upbeat, energetic, organized, self-starting and detail-oriented. Salary plus commission. Benefits include IRA plan and paid vacation. Candidates must be available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. We will train the right person. Apply in person at The Bay Beacon, 1181 John Sims Parkway (Parkway East Shopping Center), Niceville.

Help Wanted
Newspaper Delivery
 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)

Items for Sale
 Roof top luggage carrier cross bars. Fits Dodge Nitro, \$175. Call 678-6595.

Opportunities
 Seeking work from home distributors for new organic health food company that launches in October 2011. Great opportunity to get in on ground floor with unlimited earning potential from home, and wholesale prices on healthy food delivered right to the customer's door. Call (850) 974-2952 for more information.

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

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MAINTENANCE/CARE TAKER Live-in full time 32K salary with benefits. For home in Destin. Experience and references. Background checks required. Send resumes to: PO Box 7097, Destin, FL 32540

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 Yellow flies? Mosquitos? Use Swamp Gator head to toe. Child safe. Niceville Cash and Carry, (850) 678-5186.

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News Correspondent
 The Eglin Flyer, Hurlburt Patriot and Green Beret seek a freelance reporter to write human interest features or cover events. You must be available most nights, most days, or both (your choice). We pay \$25 a story and \$5 a photo, when published. Writing experience is essential, as is access to a home computer. Some reporting and photo experience is helpful, but not required. This a great chance to learn more about your community and the military. Call Ken Books, 678-1080.

Newspaper Copy Editor
 Beacon Newspapers (The Bay Beacon, The Eglin Flyer, The Hurlburt Patriot, and The Green Beret) has an opening for a full-time or part-time copy editor to help compile, write, and edit news items, select photos, assist the editors in preparing newspapers for publication, and perform other editorial duties. Applicants must be able to work quickly and accurately on deadline, and possess strong proofreading and editing skills. Must be detail-oriented and able to adapt to a fast-paced newspaper environment. Nonsmokers. Competitive pay, commensurate with experience and aptitude. Full-time benefits include paid vacation and holidays, and IRA plan. Room for advancement. Apply in person at The Bay Beacon.

Looking for a job? Check the classified section every Wednesday in the Bay Beacon.

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 Call 678-1080 to Place Your Ad Today!
 The Beacon Newspapers

CALENDAR

From page B-2

be the master of ceremonies. The event, which is free and open to the public, will include live entertainment, kid's activities, a WWII airplane flyover and fireworks over Destin Harbor.

HarborWalk Village is located at the foot of the Destin Bridge on Highway 98 in Destin. Info: emeraldgrande.com/event.aspx or 424-0600.

Art Guild luncheon
The Women's Art Guild supporting the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation will host "Falling for the Arts," a women's luncheon 11:30 a.m. Aug. 24, at Embassy Suites in Miramar Beach. Featured guest artists include author Tony Mennillo of Arturo's Studio and jeweler Mary Kay Samouce of ADORN by Samouce.

The luncheon is \$25 for MKAF members and \$35 for not-yet members. For reservations, contact the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation at 650-2226, by Aug. 18.

Thai dinner at Rosemont
Come and have dinner with Nida from "Nida's Thai and More" at Rosemont Baptist Church Aug. 26, 6-8 p.m. Reservations are needed by Aug. 19. The suggested donation is \$8. All proceeds go to Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes.

Info: RBCNiceville.org. Call the church office, 678-1611, to make reservations.

Sports physicals offered
Lewis School will offer sports physicals for \$20 Aug. 19, 4-7 p.m., at the Lewis School Gymnasium, 281 Mississippi Ave., Valparaiso.

All students needing a sports physical for the upcoming school year are welcome to come for a walk-in appointment. Dr. Neil Nipper has volunteered to assist the volleyball program in raising funds for their upcoming season. Physical forms will be provided.

Parenting conference
Paul David Tripp will be the speaker at the "Getting to the Heart of Parenting" conference, for parents with children of all ages. The conference will be held at Rocky Bayou Baptist Church Aug. 19, 7-9:15 p.m., and 20, 9 a.m.-noon. The cost is \$10, and child care for ages 0-12 will be available for a \$5 per child.

For more information or to register, RockyBayouBaptist.org or 678-6062.

Glass fusing class
The Arts and Design Society will offer a basic glass fusing class Aug. 20, 9:30-11:30 a.m. The cost is \$35. Participants will make two jewelry pieces with fused glass. Most materials are provided. The class will be held at the Art Center, 17 First St. SE, Fort Walton Beach. Info: 244-1271.

YMCA membership special
The Niceville YMCA will hold a back to school membership special through Aug. 21. The joiner fee will be waived for all new memberships. Info: NicevilleYMCA 897-9622.

Tea Party meeting
The Niceville-Valparaiso Tea Party will hold its next meeting Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. at Niceville City Hall, 208 N. Partin Drive. The meeting's speaker will be Representative Matt Gaetz, who will discuss proposed Florida legislation

for 2012. There will be time for Q/A. Info: 729-2874 or emeraldcoast patriots.org.

AARP Driver Safety Class
An AARP Driver Safety Class, a two-day, six-hour course, will be held Aug. 22 and 23, 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Niceville Community Center. Preregistration is required. Call the Niceville Public Library, 279-4863, ext. 1504, or sign up at the library's reference desk. The cost is \$12 for AARP members or \$14 for nonmembers. Space is limited.

Republican Club dinner
The Okaloosa Republican Club will host a presentation by Mark Bellinger, executive director of Okaloosa County Tourist Development Council Aug. 25 at the American Legion Hall, 105 Holly wood Blvd., Fort Walton Beach. A social hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:55. Reservations will be accepted through Monday, Aug. 22, by calling Ginny Mills at 609-1179 or Jane Dale at 651-5049. The price of the dinner is \$10.

Summer book discussion
Friends of the Niceville Library's next book discussion will be held Aug. 23. The group will discuss the novel "Remarkable Creatures" by Tracy Chevalier in the Library at 6 p.m.

Limited copies are available through the Okaloosa County Public Library Cooperative libraries. Holds can be placed through the online card catalog at readokaloosa.org.

Relationship fellowship
Soul Care, Equipped For Relationships, an eight-week journey with the Holy Spirit, will be held Wednesdays, beginning Aug. 24, 5:45-7:15 p.m., in the First Baptist Church of Niceville sanctuary. Soul Care explores cultural perspectives in the context of Christian living. This is a relational study for all adults, whether you're single, single again, married, parent with children, grandparent, great grandparent, it's for you. Activities for ages birth through high school. Info: 678-4621.

Blood drives
Following are upcoming area blood drives:
Aug. 24, 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

Paper cloth class
The Arts and Design Society, 17 First St. SE, Fort Walton Beach, will offer a "Paper Cloth-Road to Adventure" workshop Aug. 25, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This class will teach you to make basic paper cloth that you can then use for other projects.

Cost: \$30/ADSO members, \$35/nonmembers. Also, \$5 supply fee for supplies. This class will be held at the ADSO Art Center. Info: 244-1271 or artsdesignsociety.org.

Science Friday seminar
The Science Friday seminar series hosted by the Sciences Division at Northwest Florida State College will begin Friday, Aug. 26 at 11 a.m. in the Robert E. Greene Jr. Science building on the Niceville

campus, in the main lecture hall, room S-110. The seminars will be held monthly and are free and open to the public. Dr. Richard Hough who will discuss "The C.S.I. Effect: What We Can & Cannot Do with Crime Scene Technology."

Groups should call ahead to ensure seating. For more information about this or future seminars, contact the NWF State College Sciences Division at 729-5376.

Business seminar
The Business and Computer Technology Division and the Leadership Institute at Northwest Florida State College will host a "Talking Business" Seminar Aug. 26 titled "Economic Development 101" presented by Dr. David Goetsch at 1:30 p.m. in room 128 of the Learning Resource Center on the Niceville Campus.

The seminar is free and open to the public. For more information on the "Talking Business" seminars, contact the NWFSC Business and Computer Science Division at 729-5369.

Scout fishing rodeo
The Cub Scouts will hold a Fishing Rodeo at Spanish Trail Scout Reservation, 315 Pat Covell Road, DeFuniak Springs, Aug. 27, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The cost to participate is \$5 per person. Bring a lunch, folding chair and your own bait.

Info: Jeff Bryant, bryant461@cox.net or 217-3013.

BWB Sailing Club race
The Bluewater Bay Sailing Club will hold a "Pick Your Poison" sail Aug. 27. Registration for the race will begin at 10 a.m. at the Bluewater Bay Marina, with a Skippers meeting at 11 and the race beginning at noon. The entry fee is \$20, in two classes, spinnaker or nonspinnaker. This race will consist of three or more courses. Participating boats may pick the race course they feel gives them the most advantage. Specific sailing instructions will be available at registration.

Info: Mickey Duvall, 897-6806, 218-2962 or mpduvall@gmail.com.

Healthy Living Expo
The 2011 Emerald Coast Healthy Living Expo will be held Aug. 27 at the Saint Mary Parish Life Center, 110 Saint Mary Ave., Fort Walton Beach. The expo is free, and the public is invited. Event hours will be 9 a.m. to noon.

There will be more than 60 vendors with valuable information, free health screenings, giveaways, and lots of fun for the kids, including inflatables, a strolling magician and face painting.

Info: fwbchamber.com/health or Patti Bohnsack, 244-8191.



Okaloosa teachers tribute

HarborWalk Village will recognize all Okaloosa teachers for their service at the Village's Red, White & Blue Celebration Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. All are invited to this free event which will include live entertainment, activities for kids, a WWII airplane flyover and fireworks over Destin Harbor. Info: 424-0600.

Florida Safe Boater ID Card. It may entitle boat owners to a discount on boat insurance. The course is free, but there is a \$35 charge for materials, which can be shared with other family members.

Info: Wil Hugli, 863-0874, or visit fwsps.com.

Community yard sale
The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, will hold its community yard sale with Niceville-Valparaiso Kiwanis Saturday, Aug. 27, 7 a.m.-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 \$10. Sellers, visit the museum to reserve your spot.

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

Biophilia Center speaker
The E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center, 4956 Highway 20 E., Freeport, will host speaker Jim Fowler, who will present "New messages for the 21st century," Aug. 27, at 11 a.m. The young and young at heart will enjoy the special animal encounter. The center will also be open for its regular Saturday hours, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Info: 835-1824.

Boating safety course

"America's Boating Course," a one day seminar, will be conducted Aug. 27, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Anchorage building, 404 Green Acres Road, Fort Walton Beach. Ownership of a boat is not required to attend.

The course will cover safety topics and meets the requirements for the



Representative Matt Gaetz, who will discuss proposed Florida legislation

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING NOTICE
S.R. 20 (John Sims Parkway) Resurfacing Project from Roberts Drive to the Walton County Line Okaloosa County, Florida
FPID: 424623-1-52-01

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will hold a public information meeting concerning the resurfacing of State Road (S.R.) 20 (John Sims Parkway) Thursday, September 1, 2011, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at the Niceville Community Center, located at 204 North Partin Drive, Niceville, Florida 32578. The meeting will be conducted in an open house format (no formal presentation is scheduled). Maps, drawings and other project information will be on display.

The purpose of the meeting is to afford interested persons an opportunity to preview the proposed design, ask questions, and/or submit comments concerning the upcoming project. FDOT representatives will be available to explain the proposed improvements, answer questions, and receive comments.

The project begins at Roberts Drive and extends to the Walton County Line in Okaloosa County, Florida. Improvements include resurfacing the existing travel lanes, as well as pedestrian safety and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility improvements. A portion of S.R. 20 is exempted out of the project limits where the new Mid-Bay Bridge Connector interchange has been completed. The project is approximately three miles in length.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. People who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Department's general consultant project manager, Sandra Lamb, P.E., Atkins, at (850) 638-2288 or e-mail at Sandra.Lamb@atkinsglobal.com at least seven days prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions about this project or the scheduled meeting, please contact Sandra Lamb at the number above or email at Sandra.Lamb@atkinsglobal.com. You may also contact Tommie Speights, FDOT District 3 Public Information Director, toll free at (888) 638-0250 ext. 208 or via email at Tommie.Speights@dot.state.fl.us.

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