

The Bay Beacon

14 Pages, 2 Sections, 3 Inserts

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

50¢

UP
COMING

Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Nature photographer **Murray Cragin** will showcase his photos at the **Choctawhatchee Audubon Society** meeting to be held at the Learning Resources Center, Room 128, at Northwest Florida State College.



Socializing and announcements will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the program at 7. The meeting is free and open to all.

Info: 582-7064.

Sunday, 7 p.m.

The Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation will present a **Farewell to Summer Concert** with "The Return," a **Beatles tribute band**, on the Village Green, 4323 Commons Drive West, Destin.



Admission is \$10 per adult, kids younger than 12 are free. Bring your lawn chair and picnic or purchase dinner prepared by Carrabba's Italian Grill.

Info: 650-2226.

Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

The Friends of the Niceville Library will hold a **tea and book discussion** with author **Nancy M. Kenaston** at the Niceville Community Center, 204 Partin Drive.



Kenaston is the author of several history books, including "From Cabin to Campus," a story of the Okaloosa School System.

To reserve a seat for this free program, call the Niceville Library, 729-4090.

Calendar, B-4.

Niceville mulls drainage tax hike

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

During the second of eight planned budget meetings, Niceville city commissioners heard requests for funding from 11 nonprofit organizations, and also discussed the proposed budgets for city government activities that fall outside the city's General Fund budget.

Increases in stormwater taxes and

Budget proposed, A-3.

garbage bills were proposed.

No decisions were made during the Aug. 25 workshop, but council members and other city officials discussed proposed funding for the nonprofit groups, and for the city's water and sewer and sanitation departments, as well as the city's

stormwater utility.

The proposed FY 2012 budget for the water and sewer department is \$11,365,300, down from last year's budget of \$12,711,800. The water and sewer department, like the sanitation department and the stormwater management utility, is not funded by the city's general fund, but derives revenue from charges for services as well as from miscellaneous sources.

The proposed sanitation budget is \$2,768,250, slightly above this year's level of \$2,721,050. Also, according to a city budget summary, Okaloosa County plans to increase its "tipping fee" for garbage disposal by 2 percent, which will lead the city to raise its residential tipping fees from \$13.11 to \$13.37 per month, and to

Please see TAX, page A-3

Eglin F-35 is feted



Beacon photo by Del Lessard

More than 500 dignitaries and invited guests in an Eglin hangar Friday got an up-close look at the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter during a "roll out" ceremony. Above, in front of one of two F-35s that arrived in July, Gen. Edward Rice, commander of the Air Education and Training Command, credited the program's success to "some truly amazing people behind the scenes." Fifty-seven more planes are expected at Eglin, equipping a new school for pilots and maintainers.

Long-awaited warplane makes a (stationary) debut

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

The Air Force held an impressive ceremony for more than 500 dignitaries and guests Friday, officially debuting the F-35 Lightning II fighter-bomber in a hangar at its new home at Eglin Air Force Base.

In July the base already welcomed the first two F-35As, the version of the triservice aircraft that will be flown

by the Air Force.

Two more F-35As could be released to arrive at Eglin within a week, said Col. Andrew Toth, commander of the 33rd Fighter Wing, and that by the end of the year at least one more Air Force version F-35A could be at Eglin, giving the 33rd FW five Air Force model aircraft.

Toth added that "potentially" by year's end the wing may

receive between one and three short takeoff and vertical landing versions of the plane—the F-35B, to be flown by the Marine Corps.

Eglin is slated to get a total of 59 of the fifth-generation fighter planes over the next few years in versions for the Air Force, Marines and Navy. Under the 2005 Base

Realignment and Closure decision, Eglin Air Force Base was

also directed to establish a joint training school for F-35 pilots and maintainers. In 2009 the Air Force changed the 33rd FW from an air-superiority mission flying the F-15s to a training job for the new F-35.

Toth said that by 2012 a couple hundred pilots and maintainers will come to Eglin for training.

Please see F-35, page A-4

Postal overhaul takes effect

Valp. carriers based in Niceville

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

On Saturday, mail carriers who serve Valparaiso began using facilities at the Niceville post office to pick up and sort mail destined for Valparaiso addresses, according to the U.S. Postal Service, which described the action as a cost-cutting move.

Valparaiso postal customers should notice no changes as a result of the new home base for their carriers, said USPS spokesman Stephen Seewoester.

A previously announced plan to also base Eglin Air Force Base carriers at the Niceville post office has been postponed, with no new date given.

Both changes were described as cost-cutting moves when announced earlier this year.

In February, USPS announced that it planned to have Valparaiso and Eglin Air Force Base mail carriers start being based at the Niceville post office as part of a nationwide cost-cutting move. The consolidation was originally scheduled to take place April 23, according to USPS. It was delayed for reasons not publicly explained.

Under the original consolidation plan, all incoming mail for Valparaiso, Eglin and Niceville addresses was to be trucked to the Niceville post office, 90 N. Palm Blvd. That meant carriers for all three post offices would be based at the larger Niceville office, and

Please see POSTAL, page A-5

Public 9/11 memorial set Friday at stadium

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

One of the first commemorations of the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks will take place Friday, Sept. 2, at Niceville High School's Eagle Stadium.

Niceville Fire Chief Tommy Mayville said a 60-foot-long American flag will be hoisted by ladder trucks from Eglin and North Bay fire

departments during the pregame portion of Niceville High's first home football contest of the season.

The Eagles will host East Gadsden High School. Mayville said a helicopter ambulance from Gulf Flight will fly over in a salute to the flag.

The anniversary is especially meaningful to firefighters because of the 343 fire personnel



Tommy Mayville

who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks on New York City's World Trade Center Sept. 11, 2001, Mayville said. Nearly 3,000 people died that day in attacks in New York and at the Pentagon, and in a thwarted airplane hijacking that ended in a crash in Pennsylvania.

The memorial at Niceville High Friday will also honor members of the military who have lost their lives during the 10-year war on terror,

Mayville said.

The flag will be unfurled at about 5:30 p.m. and will be visible to those outside the stadium. Spectators who wish to see the event from inside the stadium must pay the standard football-game admission price (\$6 for adults).

A twisted piece of steel from the wreckage

Please see MEMORIAL, page A-7

Schools excel in college-prep tests

NHS, Collegiate, Rocky outstrip county, U.S.

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Students in Niceville's three high schools continue to outperform others in the county, in the state of Florida and in the U.S. on the country's most popular college admissions test, the ACT.

The ACT tests students' knowledge of English, math, reading and science. In addition to providing students a score of between 1 and 36 on each subject, ACT also provides students and college admissions offices a composite test score in the same range.

In 2011 NHS students achieved, on average, a composite score of 23.5. That's better than the average composite score of 19.6 achieved by students statewide in 2011 and above the average composite score of 21.1 earned by high school students who took the test nationwide.

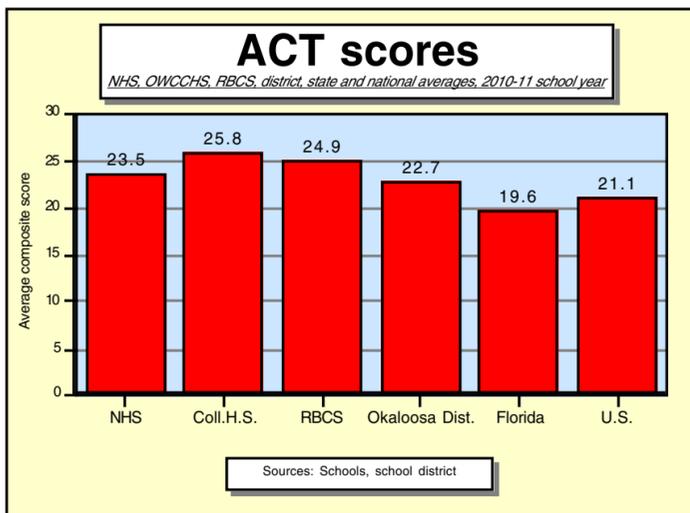
The mean subject scores at NHS include: English, 23.2; math, 23.5; reading, 23.9; and science, 22.7.

According to ACT, 309 students at NHS, or 66 percent of graduating NHS seniors, took the ACT in 2011—the same percentage of high school gradu-

ates who took the test statewide. Nationwide, just over 1.6 million students—49 percent of high school graduates—took the ACT this year, according to the company.

Collegiate High School, a public charter school in Niceville that offers an academically advanced curriculum, scored even higher on this year's test with a composite score of 25.8. Sixty-five Collegiate High students took the ACT this year, or 79 percent of the senior class.

Please see SCHOOLS, page A-8



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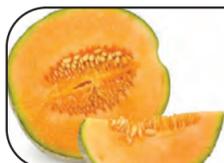
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Niceville eyes increased municipal budget

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Niceville City Council held the first two of several city budget workshops last week.

Public hearings, during which votes on the proposed budget will be done, are scheduled for Sept. 15, 20 and 22. The meetings will be held at 6 p.m. at city hall.

On Aug. 23, the city council discussed the city's proposed Fiscal Year 2012 general fund budget, currently planned to be \$9,217,860, up from the FY 2011 general fund budget of \$8,960,220. The proposed millage rate for FY 2012 is 3.65, the same rate as in FY 2011.

At a millage rate of 3.65, Niceville property owners will pay \$3.65 in property tax for every \$1,000 of appraised value of their property. For example, a homeowner whose house is appraised at \$200,000 after homestead exemption and other deductions would pay \$730 in property tax to the city of Niceville. City Clerk Dan Doucet said the proposed FY 2012 millage is below the "roll back" rate, which would produce the same property tax revenue as in FY 2011.

Although the proposed millage rate is the same as last year, said Doucet, property tax revenue to the city is expected to increase due to an increase in appraised property values in the city. He said this year's increase in property values is largely due to new construction, but does not yet include the new Walmart store, which will appear on property tax rolls for the first time in FY 2013. He also said the city council is likely to vote to either confirm or reduce the proposed millage rate during their public budget hearing on Sept. 17.

Total property tax revenue to the city in FY 2012 is expected to be \$2,620,260, plus other taxes, such as those on sales and gasoline, to make a total of \$3,028,560 in city tax revenue. Other revenue to the city will include fees for building permits (\$110,000), inter-governmental revenue such as



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Dominica Farmer, from the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, was one of several representatives of nonprofit organizations who are seeking funding from the city of Niceville. She spoke at a Niceville City Council meeting Aug. 23.

state and federal aid (\$2,380,400), charges for city services (\$540,100), fines and forfeitures (\$66,200), and miscellaneous revenue (\$110,100). The city budget also includes \$2,982,500 in "non-revenue" money, such as transfers, franchise fees, utility tax and other sources.

City expenses in FY 2012 are expected to include a 20.91 percent decrease in finance and administration, from \$134,220 to \$106,160, as well as an 11.53 percent decrease in the street department budget, from \$704,000 to \$622,800, and a 38.29 percent decrease in the youth center/skate park budget from \$88,350 to \$54,520, resulting in part from the city's closure of its money-losing paintball range earlier this year.

Increases in city expenses will include a 61 percent hike in expenses for the Niceville children's park from \$128,080 to \$200,750. There will also be a

16.3 percent increase in general government expenses from \$1,904,000 to \$2,214,620, and a 10.06 percent increase for information systems technology, from \$262,210 to \$296,290.

Doucet said later that the sharp increase in the children's park budget will help cover the cost of replacing padded play surfaces within the park, as well as replacing some play equipment.

The increase in general government expenses will cover recent increases in health insurance costs for city employees, and will also help pay off the purchase of some additional property adjacent to the Turkey Creek walk along John Sims Parkway, according to Doucet. A house and lot behind the current changing rooms are being bought to expand the park.

The information technology budget is being increased to cover the switch from a conventional phone system to a Voice Over

Internet Protocol (VOIP) system, which requires replacing all the city phones and installing other new equipment and software, Doucet said.

Police and fire department budgets will increase slightly, with the police budget climbing 2.76 percent from \$1,529,000 to \$1,571,830, and the fire department budget climbing 0.86 percent from \$813,290 to \$820,290. The police and fire budgets will include hiring one new police officer and two new firefighters, and the replacement of three police cars.

The Aug. 23 budget workshop addressed only the city's general fund budget. Other parts of the city budget deal with city services that are not directly funded by city taxes, such as the water & sewer and sanitation departments, and the city's storm water management utility. These were scheduled to be discussed at later workshops and meetings.

During discussion, Niceville City Manager Lannie Corbin said it may soon be necessary to increase the salaries of police, firefighters and some other city employees in order to remain competitive with Okaloosa county and other nearby cities. He said the city lost four police officers during the past year, who apparently left to take better-paying jobs in other jurisdictions.

City Councilman Bill Smith agreed, saying "We are only as good as our people. We have to hang onto the good ones."

Councilman Bill Schaeztle said he is concerned that the city may be training new recruits, only to lose them to other communities after they have completed their on-the-job training and gained enough experience to be offered jobs elsewhere.

Councilman William Thomas said the city is fortunate to have a relatively low crime rate, but "an ounce of prevention" may be worth paying more to retain the best police officers and firefighters possible.

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TAX

From page A-1

raise commercial tipping fees by 2 percent.

The city's stormwater management budget is \$1,493,230, including a 3 percent rate increase for each residential and commercial customer. This, according to city budget documents, will "help fund projects that do not qualify for the State Revolving Fund loan program, to pay future debt service payments and to cover repair and maintenance expense to existing facilities."

City Manager Lannie Corbin told the council that the city's stormwater management utility is intended to prevent rainwater from running directly into local waterways such as Turkey or Swift creeks or Boggy Bayou, and to contain such runoff long enough for the water to be absorbed by soil, allowing bacteria and other contaminants to decay before reaching open water.

Corbin said the city has about a 70-foot change in elevation, from its highest points near Northwest Florida State College to sea level along the shore. Stormwater, if not contained or slowed, can pollute local waters

with everything from chemicals such as leaking automotive oil and lawn fertilizer to pet waste and fecal coliform bacteria. This, Corbin said, can dirty local beaches and erode the quality of life for a waterfront community like Niceville.

Corbin said Niceville is one of the first Northwest Florida communities to have a stormwater utility and is the "envy of the county" in that respect, although increasing pressure from state and federal regulations is likely to push other communities to establish similar utilities in the near future.

Public Works Director Bruce Price said Niceville manages stormwater by diverting storm runoff into retention ponds and underground vaults, where pollutants have time to decay before they reach open water.

City council members spoke approvingly of the stormwater utility. Councilman William Thomas said Niceville is "light years ahead" of other communities in controlling pollution.

Councilman Bill Smith said Niceville's stormwater management costs are below those of Fort Walton Beach, and that Niceville has a better long range plan for combating stormwater pollution.

Corbin said that schools, with their large roofs, athletic fields and parking lots, are among the foremost sources of stormwater runoff, but that school districts are exempted by state law from paying stormwater taxes.

The nonprofit organizations submitting funding requests to the city council were the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Council Committee of 100, Bridgeway Center, Okaloosa-Walton Child Care Services, Shelter House, the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, the Senior Citizens Club of Valparaiso, the Children's Advocacy Center, Sharing and Caring, the Okaloosa County Comprehensive Head Start—Child Development Inc., and the Niceville YMCA. Funding requests ranged from a low of \$800 from the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra to a high of \$5,000 from the Chamber of Commerce. Total requests for FY 2012 are \$24,500, less than last year's total request of \$29,000.

Some of the nonprofit organizations requesting city funds sent representatives to Thursday's workshop to explain why they need the money they are requesting. For example, Kay

Rasmussen, of the EDC, said her organization is a "job creator" throughout Okaloosa County by its efforts to encourage businesses to locate here. She said the EDC is currently focusing on attracting "high wage, high growth" industries, such as information technology, financial, and professional services companies. She suggested that the city of Niceville should encourage more "extended stay facilities" such as efficiency apartments and motel rooms or suites equipped with kitchens, as these will be needed by students who come to Eglin Air Force Base for a few weeks or months at a time to attend military schools such as the 33rd Fighter Wing F-35 training program and the Navy EOD School.

Jeffrey Rink, head of the Niceville-based Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, said that his organization is about more than concert performances, and that 24 percent of its budget is devoted to local education, such as introducing elementary school students to orchestral music and instruments. For many children, he said, a school visit by orchestra members is the first time the children ever see a violin, trumpet or other instrument in person, and for some, it may be the last.

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F-35

From page A-1

On the flying side of the house, Toth said, the 33rd will concentrate on its cadre of instructor pilots throughout 2012. He said the 33rd already had 35 pilots waiting to train on the F-35, and that they were now keeping current in fighter plane operations by flying F-16s on loan to the wing.

By 2014 the F-35 system should be mature enough that the training center will begin accepting airmen fresh from basic training, Toth said.

Vice commander of the 33rd FW, USMC Col. Arthur Tomassetti—a test pilot on the X-35 aircraft during the initial fly-off between Boeing and Lockheed Martin for the Joint Strike Fighter program—said that in 2012 the training center would probably train 20 to 30 pilots, forming the instructor pilot cadre, as well as 200 to 300 maintainers, then “grow from there.

The F-35, the nation’s most-expensive aircraft program, is built in Fort Worth, Texas, by Lockheed. The U.S. will acquire 325 of the aircraft by 2016 at a total development and procurement cost of \$61.5 billion, or \$189

million per plane, the U.S. Government Accountability Office estimated earlier this year. The plane has been bedeviled by cost overruns and delays common to big new weapons programs.

Tomassetti expects the 33rd FW training center to get up to its full capacity of 900 students at any one time, in 2017 or 2018. The Air Force expects about 100 pilots a year to receive F-35 flight training at Eglin.

Keynote speaker Gen. Edward Rice, commander of the Air Education and Training Command, which operates the Eglin F-35 school, emphasized people. People during the 15-year F-35 program delivered a marvel of technology and warfighting capability, he said. “None of this happened without some truly amazing people behind the scenes,” he said, adding that people will continue to be at the heart of this aircraft.

The plane, which hasn’t flown since it arrived at Eglin in July, didn’t take to the air during Friday’s ceremony either. Although other copies of the aircraft have been flying in developmental tests at bases in California and Maryland, Eglin F-35s will remain on the



Air Force crew chiefs secured the F-35A Lightning II and installed covers on engine inlets at the conclusion of Friday's formal presentation and before visitors were invited to take a closer look at Eglin's newest fighter plane.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard

ground until training protocols are refined, according to Air Force officials.

Air Force officials were reluctant to say when the F-35s at Eglin would begin to fly. Although 33rd FW officials in July had predicted that flights would begin in October, the warplanes were recently grounded after testing revealed a power problem. Although the problem was corrected and planes released to fly again, the Eglin planes won't

take off until their training profiles are tested elsewhere, officials said.

After the formal presentations, invited guests were allowed to get close-up views of one Eglin's two F-35s.

“It's awesome,” said District 4 state Rep. Matt Gaetz. “The greatest fighter force in the skies will be calling Northwest Florida home. We trained the Doolittle Raiders, launched the (33 FW) Nomads to dangerous parts of the

world, and now we'll be home to the greatest airplane in the world.”

“It's a huge benefit for people in Okaloosa County and Northwest Florida,” said District 3 Okaloosa County Commissioner Bill Roberts. “Anytime you grow in military it helps the economy of the county,” Roberts said.

“It puts us at the top of air power,” said Judy Boudreaux, a former Niceville city councilwoman. “It may be little bit noisy, but it's ‘Top Gun,’” she said.

Valparaiso has twice sued the Air Force over high noise levels that the Air Force projected over the city and has said are incompatible with the mostly residential development of the city. While both lawsuits were settled out of court the Air Force is restudying the potential noise impacts, including possible ways to reduce the impact. No release date has been announced for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Study.

“What a boost. It's so exciting,” said Okaloosa County Schools Superintendent Alexis Tibbets. “A new plane, more pilots, more maintenance people, more support people, and more students ready to learn,” she said. “Patriotic people.”

“I'm sad we didn't get all of them,” said Niceville Mayor Randall Wise. Eglin was initially expecting up to 107 F-35s under BRAC; other training planes are expected to be based at still-to-be-announced location elsewhere in the U.S.

“It'll help the economy,” Wise said, with people associated with the program buying homes, going to local businesses, getting their children enrolled in schools and “making our F-35 team better.”

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Beacon photos by Del Lessard
Operations at the Valparaiso post office were restructured this week in a cost-cutting move. Above, Valparaiso resident Marie Harrison picked up mail Monday from postal clerk Jamee Masengale. Valparaiso's postmaster has been assigned to the Eglin post office, and Valparaiso mail carriers are now based at the Niceville post office, according to the U.S. Postal Service.

POSTAL

From page A-1

would sort their route mail there before heading out to deliver it.

For now, Eglin carriers will remain based on the Eglin post office, Seewoester said. The consolidation is not feasible at this time, he said, because of troops being moved to Eglin from North Carolina, a reference to the 7th Special Forces Group, which will complete its BRAC-ordered move of about 1,900 soldiers, plus their families, to Eglin by mid-September.

Moved to the Niceville post office are employees handling the three carrier routes in Valparaiso, which serves 231 post office box customers and 2,038 delivery customers. Another 21 Niceville routes are operated from the Niceville post office.

Valparaiso customers should not experience any major changes in their service, Seewoester said. The Valparaiso post office will remain open and continue to serve customers with counter service and postal boxes, he said, and post office box customers will not see any change in posting times.

Seewoester said savings will be realized by a reduction in non-management staffing, manager-level reduction, and reduced transportation expenses because the mail trucks picking up or delivering mail to the post offices will make fewer stops.

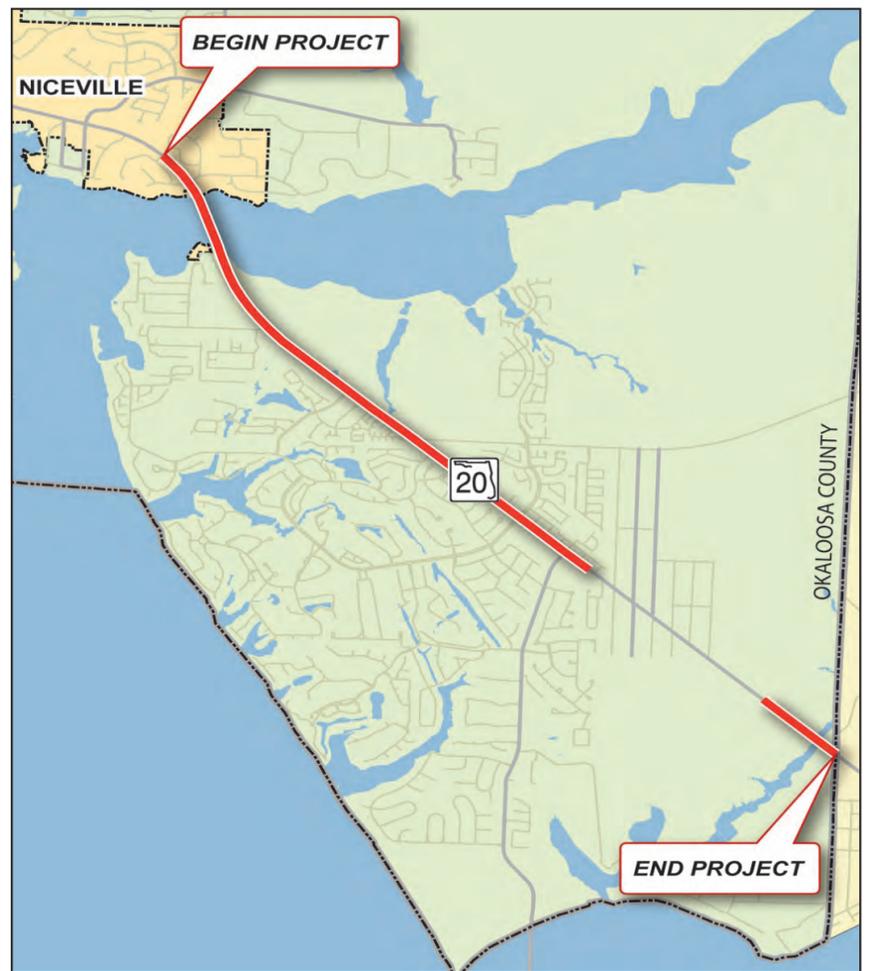
He also said that the Valparaiso postmaster position will either be downgraded or eliminated. As of Monday, the current Valparaiso postmaster, Jerry Maynard, is detailed as the Officer in Charge at the Eglin Post Office, Seewoester said. There will be no changes in the management structure at the Niceville Post Office, he said.

Seewoester also said that there have been no layoffs in the local reorganization. A few clerks will be repositioned within commuting distance, he added.

The Valparaiso post office is not on list of 3,600 possible post office closures nationwide, including 34 in Florida. The postal service, said to be facing an \$8 billion deficit this year as it grapples with declining mail volume and high labor costs, has proposed ending Saturday mail delivery nationwide, but such a change would require Congressional approval.

Postmaster General Patrick Donahue was quoted last month as saying that the postal service would become insolvent on Sept. 30 unless it is relieved of certain pension-funding requirements.

The USPS in February announced that "despite significant cost reductions and efforts to grow revenue, current financial projections indicate that the Postal Service will have a cash shortfall and will have reached its statutory borrowing limit by the end of the fiscal year" Sept. 30.



Fla. DOT

3 miles of SR 20 to be repaved

The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a public information meeting Thursday, Sept. 1, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., at the Niceville Community Center, 204 N. Partin Drive, Niceville. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the public to preview the proposed design of a three-mile long resurfacing of State Road 20 East, from Roberts Drive in East Niceville to the Walton County line. Construction is slated to begin in the spring of 2014.

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408 Crystal Lane	1,611	4	2	\$169,500
627 Caribbean Way	1,792	3	2	\$185,000
826 Turnberry Cove S	2,841	4	2/1	\$319,000
132 Baywind Drive	2,415	3	2	\$325,000
705 Mullet Creek Run	3,451	5	3/2	\$499,500
944 Lake Drive	3,796	5	3/1	\$598,000

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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

James Brian Dampier, a welder, 24, of 1119 Rita Lane, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 15 on a charge of violation of a domestic violence injunction.

Theresa Marie Haynes, 45, of 616 Ginko Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 14 on a charge of trespassing.

Michael Robert Lake, 22, of 1203 Finck Road, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Aug. 18 on charges of battery and robbery by sudden snatching. On June 28 Lake is alleged to have approached another man in the parking lot of a lounge, 626 John Sims Parkway, asked for a cigarette, struck the man in the face, grabbed his backpack and ran off. The victim stated that the backpack contained his wallet, ID and \$120.

Jerry Raymond Gavin, a flooring installer, 38, of 304 Reeves St., Lot B-12, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Aug. 20 on warrants from Walton and Escambia counties on child-support charges.

Joey Lindsey, unemployed, 40, with an at-large address, was arrested by Niceville police Aug. 17 on a charge of disorderly intoxication.

Marion E. Smith, 71, of 313 23rd St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Aug. 21 on a charge of domestic violence battery.

Kristopher Keith Decker, a truck driver, 25, of 320 23rd St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Aug. 21 on two Walton County warrants for worthless checks.

Robert Edmund Morris, a cook, 21, of 183 Grandview Ave., Valparaiso, and Gregory Troy Rewis, a cook, 20, of 349 Miracle Strip Parkway, Apt. 114, Fort Walton Beach, were arrested by Valparaiso police Aug. 17, each charged with grand theft. Morris and Rewis are alleged to have stolen an axle and the front beam of an automobile from private property in the 200 block of Alabama Avenue, with the intent of selling the items for scrap metal.

Samantha Jean Poole, unemployed, 21, of 4463 Kingslynn Road, Niceville, was arrested the same day as principal in the first degree of grand theft for allegedly driving the vehicle in which Morris and Rewis were depositing the metal.

Phillip Todd Tucker, self-employed, 32, of 500 22nd St., Niceville, was arrested by Valparaiso police Aug. 22 on charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, theft, trespass and breaking or injuring fences.

Police allegedly found Tucker inside a fenced, private property in the 200 block of Grandview Avenue with wire cutters in his hands and a bundle of wire. Tucker allegedly cut barbed wire from the top of a fence.

Tucker allegedly told police he had removed several items from the property over the past couple of months, selling them as scrap.

Tad Keith Bowers, 41, of 304 Reeves St., Lot A-6, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 20 on charges of burglary, petit larceny and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. Bowers is alleged to have stolen a bottle of prescription medication, acetaminophen with codeine, from an unlocked vehicle belonging to an Alabama resident on vacation in Destin sometime July 23-24.

Adam Jensen Thomas, unemployed, 23, of 1015 Julia Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 18 on a charge of violation of a domestic violence injunction.

Marlena Danielle Bussey, 23, of 718 27th St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 19 on a misdemeanor worthless-check charge.

Bruce Woolley, 25, of 710 Howell Road, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Aug. 20 on a charge of trespassing that allegedly occurred July 23.

Thefts

A Niceville resident from the 200 block of Olde Post Road reported Aug. 23 to being awoken by a vehicle alarm, going outside to check the vehicle and finding that unknown person(s) had

Please see BLOTTER, page A-7

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls August 22, 2011, through August 28, 2011.

0 Structure Fire	15 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	2 Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	8 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	0 Hazardous Conditions

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Reeves Street	Medical	08/22/11	04:17
College Blvd	Canceled	08/22/11	14:16
Magnolia Shores Drive	Canceled	08/22/11	18:47
W. John Sims Parkway	Medical	08/22/11	19:52
N. Partin Drive	Medical	08/23/11	16:28
E. John Sims Parkway	Canceled	08/23/11	18:04
Duke Drive	Medical	08/24/11	08:32
E. John Sims Parkway	Vehicle crash	08/24/11	15:43
SR85N	Smoke scare	08/24/11	17:17
Hickory Avenue	Medical	08/24/11	19:37
31st Street	Medical	08/24/11	22:17
N. Partin Drive	Medical	08/25/11	10:40
N. Partin Drive	Medical	08/25/11	16:36
Tamara Cove	Canceled	08/25/11	17:37
Elderberry Lane	Service call	08/25/11	18:35
N. Partin Drive	Service call	08/26/11	13:15
Everglade Drive	Medical	08/26/11	16:37
N. Partin Drive	Medical	08/26/11	19:23
SR85N	Medical	08/27/11	02:54
Canal Drive	Medical	08/27/11	05:30
E. College Blvd.	Medical	08/27/11	14:10
31st Street	Medical	08/28/11	03:27
E. John Sims Parkway	Canceled	08/28/11	13:03
E. College Blvd.	Vehicle crash	08/28/11	20:05
Rocky Bayou Drive	Medical	08/28/11	21:54

Weekly Safety Tip: Have your stove top and oven checked annually to be sure they are working properly. When using a BBQ grill on decks be sure to leave sufficient space from siding and eaves. Always supervise a BBQ grill when in use.

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls August 21, 2011, through August 29, 2011.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
E. Highway 20	Arcing, shorted electrical	08/21/11	00:19
E. Highway 20	Arcing, shorted electrical	08/21/11	00:55
Nassau Drive	Medical assist EMS	08/21/11	04:55
21st Street	Dispatched, canceled	08/21/11	10:36
Olde Post Road	Medical assist EMS	08/21/11	13:56
Merchants Way	Medical assist EMS	08/21/11	18:47
Pine Street	Medical assist EMS	08/21/11	03:20
Pine Street	Dispatched, canceled	08/22/11	07:33
Range Road	Alarm system activation	08/22/11	07:54
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	08/22/11	20:58
White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	08/23/11	10:35
Hickory Street	Smoke detector activation	08/23/11	14:49
Southwind Court	Medical assist EMS	08/23/11	22:21
E. Highway 20	Dispatched, canceled	08/24/11	11:39
Cypress Street	EMS excluding vehicle	08/24/11	16:17
White Point Road	Rescue, EMS incident	08/25/11	10:51
Southminster Circle	Medical assist EMS	08/25/11	10:56
Ingrid Court	Assist invalid	08/26/11	05:49
E. John Sims Parkway	Alarm system activation	08/26/11	09:12
Cat Mar Road	Medical assist EMS	08/26/11	12:15
Balmoral Drive	Medical assist EMS	08/26/11	21:26
Ingrid Court	EMS excluding vehicle	08/27/11	06:19
Otterlake Cove	Medical assist EMS	08/27/11	13:25
Hickory Street	EMS excluding vehicle	08/27/11	16:16
White Point Road	Rescue, EMS incident	08/28/11	17:36

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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

Name: John Paul Rashad Wannamaker
Wanted for: hit and run, aggravated battery, robbery by sudden snatching and robbery carjacking. Wannamaker's last known address was in Fort Walton Beach.
Height: five feet, eleven inches
Weight: 195
Age: 33
Date of birth: 08-30-1978
Hair: black, Eyes: brown

Name: Dmytro Prykhodko
Wanted for: failure to appear on the original charges of trespassing, resisting arrest and disorderly intoxication. Prykhodko's last known address was in Destin.
Height: five feet, nine inches
Weight: 190
Age: 22
Date of birth: 10-07-1988
Hair: brown, Eyes: blue

This information is from reports by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. A reward is offered by Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers, 863-8477, or 1-888-654-8477. Information can also be provided anonymously by texting "TIP214 plus the message" to CRIMES (274637)

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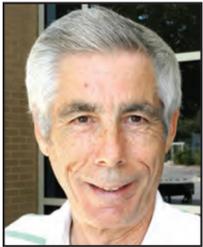
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If you were president, what would you do to create jobs?



"I would encourage private business by reducing or eliminating regulations."

Richard Forest, 60, Niceville, retired military



"I would bring back manufacturing jobs by limiting what we import."

Nelson DeMarsh, 54, Niceville, carpet cleaner



"I'd give more authority to the states rather than try to manage the economy from Washington, D.C."

Joyce Keller, 70, Niceville, retired



"I'd cut pay and perks for government officials to free more money for the private sector."

Cheryl Jordan, Crestview, semi-retired



"I would cut back on tax breaks to large companies that export jobs to China and overseas, and give tax breaks to companies that hire Americans in America."

Sophia Bergmann, 14, Niceville, Niceville High School student



"I would encourage Congress to compromise on the hard issues."

Ken Fiedler, 49, Niceville, program director, Embry-Riddle University

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

BLOTTER

From page A-6

entered the vehicle and ransacked items inside the vehicle.

A Niceville resident from the 600 block of St. Anne Cove reported that unknown person(s) broke into his home Aug. 19 and stole an estimated \$13,960 worth of jewelry, electronics and other items. Two men had been seen backing a pickup truck into the driveway of the victim's home earlier, then exiting the residence after about five minutes.

A Niceville resident who rode her cruiser style bicycle to a fast food restaurant, 1090 E. John Sims Parkway, the evening of Aug. 12, reported that unknown person(s) stole her bike while she was inside eating.

A Niceville resident from the 2000 block of Kildare Circle reported that unknown person(s) stole an iPod and a pair of sunglasses while it was parked in the driveway overnight Aug. 3-4.

A woman from the 800 block of Bay Drive, Niceville, reported that unknown person(s) broke

the passenger side window of her vehicle and stole a \$700 purse—containing a \$300 wallet, a checkbook, Social Security card, driver's license, two credit cards and a gift card—and a \$200 makeup bag, containing a variety of cosmetics, from the front passenger floorboard area of her locked vehicle, while it was parked in the driveway overnight Aug. 15-16. Deputies found a concrete walkway pad approximately one-foot square resting in the passenger seat.

A Niceville resident from the 1400 block of Cat-Mar Road reported that unknown person(s) stole the license tags from two vehicles that were parked in a carport overnight Aug. 14-15.

Criminal Mischief

Unknown person(s) spray-painted graffiti on the skate ramps at the Niceville Youth Center, 200 Campbell Drive, sometime Aug. 14-15. Damage was estimated at between \$200 and \$1,000. Police believe the criminal mischief is related to another incident of spray-painted graffiti Aug. 2 in the 100 block of North Cedar Avenue. In both cases the graffiti had similar messages about equality and putting people before the government.

der trucks at the Winn-Dixie shopping center, Bluewater Bay.

County firefighters plan a similar event on Okaloosa Island at 1 p.m. Sept. 11.

At least two local churches plan to observe the anniversary during services on Sunday, Sept. 11.

The Niceville Assembly of God plans a special message on hope, and has invited police and fire personnel to be honored.

First Baptist Church of Niceville will hold a two-hour service, starting at 9 a.m., centered on getting beyond hard times, working through 9/11, and touching on other tragedies, according to church officials.

Police found two mailboxes damaged in the 400 block of Paradise Road Aug. 15 after a neighbor reported a red, full-size pickup truck drove by and that it sounded like it hit something a few houses away.

A Niceville resident from the 1400 block of Ernest Hemingway Drive reported an estimated \$1,000-\$2,000 damage to the bumper and the paint

on the bumper and grill of his 2011 vehicle sometime Aug. 13 during a trip to and from Pensacola. A light-colored, neon-green nylon wire was imbedded in the bumper. Deputies state that there were two other similar incidents where someone had stretched a string across the road.

A dock cart was reported vandalized at a Niceville marina, 821 Bayshore Drive, Aug. 12.

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SCHOOLS

From page A-1

Composite scores among other Okaloosa County public high schools, include: Choctawhatchee at 23.2, Fort Walton Beach at 22.6, Crestview at 21.6, Baker at 21.3 and Laurel Hill at 19.2.

Students at Rocky Bayou Christian School, a private K-12 school in Niceville, also outscored their peers on the ACT. Out of a senior class of 48, 30 seniors took the ACT in 2011 and earned a composite score of 24.9, according to school officials. Mean subject scores at RBCS include: English, 26.2; math, 24.5;

reading, 25.7; and, science, 22.4.

Students in the Okaloosa County School District had the highest composite score, 22.7, of any of the 67 school districts in Florida. The next highest scoring school district was St. Johns County, which has a 22.1 composite score, followed by Santa Rosa County, with a

composite score of 21.6. The Okaloosa average, up 0.2 points from last year, was the highest since at least 1993.

Statewide, Florida students had an average composite score of 19.6, well below the national average of 21.1. Only Mississippi and Tennessee had lower composite scores.

Without the optional writing

test, it takes just over four hours to complete the ACT, including administration, instruction and breaks. Actual testing time is two hours and 55 minutes, broken down as:

—English, 75 questions over 45 minutes.

—Math, 60 questions over 60 minutes.

—Reading, 40 questions

over 35 minutes. —Science, 40 questions over 35 minutes.

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ber of the TECH-NET professional program that assures strict adherence to automotive code of ethics. All its technicians are ASE-certified, and able to keep your car moving at top performance.

Repeat customers may notice a few additions to the business, including an expansion to its building. The new "General Repair" side has three lifts dedicated to general repair. All makes and models, both foreign and domestic, are welcome. Even diesel engines can find all their solutions at Twin Cities Transmission.

This expansion supplements the four lifts dedicated to transmission work. That's not the only addition to the business. Senior K9 greeter "Pepper" has welcomed a new assistant to the team, 5-month-old "Tony," who is eager to learn the welcoming trade and hopes to serve the family, the business, and the community, with great pride!

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Who's News

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Christian and Vanessa Backhaus of Niceville will welcome a new "daughter" for the 2011-12 academic year. Celina Puetz, a Youth For Understanding USA exchange student from Germany, will attend Niceville High School this school year while living with her host family.

Puetz will be immersed in the Backhaus' family life, including social events, vacations and daily household chores. Puetz and the Backhaus family will engage in cultural exchange, Puetz sharing her German customs and culture with her host family.

Russell F. Budden III, son of Russell and Angela Budden of Niceville has retired after 34 years in law enforcement.

Budden was a police officer in Fort Walton Beach and Valparaiso. He was also an investigator for the Public Defender's Office in Shalimar, but he left the area for a position in the Broward County sheriff's department, Marine Patrol in Dive and Rescue, before he retired. He was also in the first six segments of the television show "Cops."

He still lives in South Florida with his wife Kristin and sons Christopher and Gregory.



Shelby Rose, center, expectantly awaits her name being called to get her diploma at the Freeport High School graduation ceremony May 19. Shelby plans to attend Coastal Carolina University this fall.

What limitations?

Young woman reaches for the stars

By Molly Mosher
Beacon Staff Writer

In most ways, Shelby Rose is like many other 19-year-olds: she plans to go to college in the fall, she works part time, and she loves math, reading and her friends. The main difference between Shelby and most others, though, is that she has Down Syndrome.

But despite her condition, Shelby has not lived a limited life.

"Everything we did as a family, she did," said Julie Rose, Shelby's mother. "She snorkels, snow skis, has taken classes in

the culinary arts, chorus, piano, art, and she's a great swimmer. She's an all-around kid."

Shelby isn't so different from her peers. She is motivated to succeed and polite, answering every affirmative, "Yes, ma'am." She enjoys reading teen celebrity magazine "Tiger Beat" and works part time as a front service clerk at Publix.

Shelby has worked at Publix for more than a year. "I like it a lot. Thursday (Aug. 25) is my last day," she said. She left her job to pursue the next phase in her life, as she calls it, "Chapter 19."

Shelby, who graduated from Freeport High School May 19, will head to Coastal Carolina University this fall to pursue her passion for learning in the university's LIFE program, or Learning Is For Everyone.

In addition to the rigors of the average college application,

Please see STARS, page B-3



Julie Rose

'Wild Kingdom' zoologist visits Biophilia Center

By Matt Brown
Beacon Correspondent

Visitors to the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center, Freeport, welcomed a special guest to the educational facility Saturday.

Jim Fowler, zoologist and host of "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom" on Animal Planet, was on hand to speak to the hundreds who showed up at the facility on the Nokuse Plantation. Visitors of all ages came to see the world-famous naturalist, who brought some furry guests of his own.



Jim Fowler

also gave a brief introduction. Davis credited Fowler for his appreciation for nature.

"My first experience of real-

The event Saturday began with remarks from facility director Christina Scally, M.C. Davis, the founder of the Nokuse Plantation,

ly being enthralled by nature was with Jim Fowler," said Davis. "I think it's only fitting that our paths cross again."

Fowler entertained members of the audience with a short video which included some of his career highlights from Wild Kingdom and his guest appearances on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. Fowler told several humorous stories that involved celebrities including Carson and Mary Tyler Moore.

Fowler delighted the younger crowd by showing off several wild cats they wouldn't typically see roaming the Florida Panhandle. A North American bobcat, an African serval and a Florida panther were just some of the highlights that wowed the audience, especially the kids.

His feline guests were from the Bear Creek Feline Center, Panama City, which is devoted to the preservation and conservation of these endangered cats. Center employees Jim Broadbudd and Roger Newson assisted in the event by introducing and handling the cats.

The endangered cats were not the only reason Fowler was

Please see WILD, page B-2



Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

Air female

Lewis School cheerleaders launch Rylee Thompson into the air during a break in Thursday's football jamboree with Davidson Middle School.

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**Lodge adopts
Lewis teacher**

The Okaloosa 312 Masonic Lodge Free and Accepted Masons recently donated \$200 to Lewis math teacher Trent Brown as part of their Adopt-a-Teacher program. The money will be used to purchase materials and supplies for Brown's classroom. From left, Lewis Principal Mike Fantaski, Lodge Master Bob Taylor, Trent Brown, and Lodge Secretary Ken Eichorn.



**Riders give
to Hospice**

The Amvets 78 Riders of Valparaiso held the annual motorcycle ride to benefit Covenant Hospice Aug. 13. More than \$1,650 was raised to support special programs. Riders' Board of Directors presented the check to Hospice Development Manager Jenni Perkins. From left, Brian McKenna, Perkins, Karen Glisson, Dana Ferguson, John Glisson and Macena DeRouen.

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WILD

From page B-1

at the center—he was doing his part to spread a message that is important to him. The title was "New message for the 21st century." Fowler, who considers himself a spokesperson for the natural world, touched on many topics that involved today's natural environment.

"I'm a little annoyed about the things that are occurring in the natural world," said Fowler. "How do we communicate with a public on why it is important to save the wildlife, wilderness and open space? More importantly, why is it important to human welfare?"

"We're pretty far disconnected from the natural world," he continued. "There are places in the world where people are too afraid to go in the wilderness, for fear that animals are going to attack them."

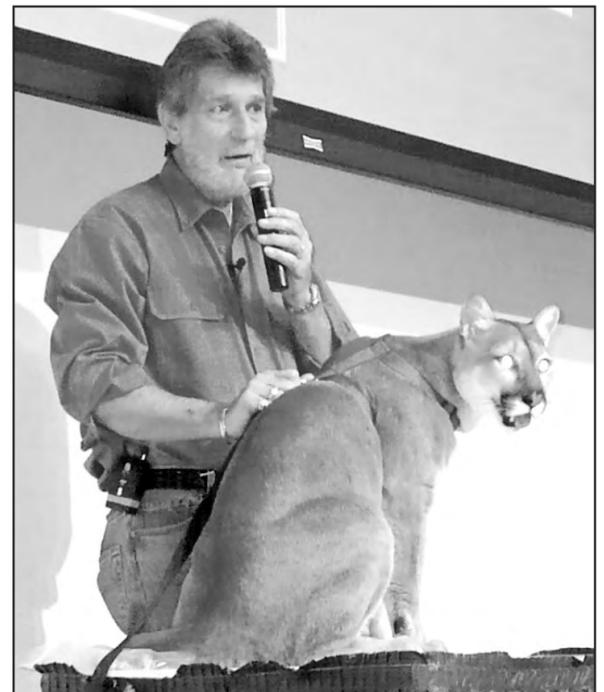
Fowler insists on not using the term "wild animals," preferring "animals in the wild." "It gives the impression that animals are always going hurt us," he said. "The number of people getting hurt by animals is so small." He said statistics show that more people get seriously injured or killed by lawnmowers than by animals.

Fowler praised everyone who is involved at the Biophilia Center for reaching out and

reconnecting people to the natural world.

"Our goal is to have everyone

who leaves here feeling like a naturalist," said Davis following the event.



Beacon photo by Matt Brown

Roger Newson shows off a Florida panther to the crowd during the event held at the Biophilia Center on Saturday.

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Niceville's Newspaper



School supplies donated to Sharing & Caring

On behalf of Okaloosa Lodge 312 and the civilian personnel office on Eglin, Bob Taylor dropped off school supplies to Sharing & Caring, Niceville, for the "Tools for School" supply drive. Susan Magerman, left, and Freida Spence were on hand to accept the donation.



Shelby Rose at the age of 6, right, with T-ball teammates at Rocky Bayou Christian School. The photo is from a Beacon article published June 5, 1999, about Shelby. Beacon photo

STARS

From page B-1

the application process for the program included a face-to-face interview between Shelby and seven admissions board members, who determine an applicant's potential for success.

When she spoke with the board, "I did it without my mom," Shelby said.

"She kicked butt," said Julie.

"Yes, I did," affirmed Shelby.

Shelby's success has come from rigorous schooling, a strong work ethic and the positive influences around her.

For Shelby, even learning a new word is a trying experience.

"I attended a conference years ago, given by Dr. Libby Kumin. She said a child with Down Syndrome would need to hear a word 500 times before being able to know and use it," said Julie. "All these things we take for granted, Shelby works hard for."

"It is the combination of the parents and the right professionals to facilitate and develop that learning," she continued. "We started early intervention at 2 weeks old, and we never stopped."

Shelby and her sisters, Ashly, 24, and Natalie, 22, all attended Rocky Bayou when the family lived in the area.

"We are a big Rocky family. We are big fans," said Julie.

As they should be. Shelby's mother credits Rocky Bayou Christian School, where Shelby started at the age of 3, with taking a great part in Shelby's success. It was while at Rocky Bayou, Shelby learned to read.

"She wanted to learn to read so much. Before she could, she would see her sisters reading and pretend to be reading a book as well," said Julie, smiling.

Julie is most pleased with the way the teachers and administrators cultivated and nurtured Shelby's learning.

"Don't ever assume that your child cannot do something," Julie said. "Assume they can and pur-

sue that.

"At Rocky Bayou we were on the same page with the approach," said Julie. "They give the students the opportunity to succeed. I applaud them for the part they had in Shelby's success."

"The only limitations she has are the limitations others put on her," said Julie.

Shelby's determination to succeed is evidenced in her conquering another struggle at Rocky Bayou—the playground monkey bars.

Although unable to cross the bars unassisted, Shelby was so set on completing it, she would pull up a chair, use it to help her traverse two bars, get down, move the chair over to the next couple of bars, cross them, and so on until she had finished the entire length of the monkey bars.

"It was three years later," said Julie, "that Shelby came up to me

saying 'Mom! Come here, come here!' She had finally crossed the monkey bars without the chair.

"She persevered. That perfectly describes Shelby, the not giving up, the determination," said Julie. "She's an inspiration to me."

"Shelby is a constant reminder of those character traits we all strive for. She is nonjudgmental, forgiving, thankful," continued Julie. "She has no prejudice of any sort."

"Those things come easy to her. To sum her up, the things that really matter in life come easy," said Julie. "What doesn't come easy is basically everything else."

But Shelby isn't fazed. She carries with her a strong work ethic and a determined attitude.

How has she been able to overcome the learning limitations of Down Syndrome?

"Just because I loved doing it," said Shelby.



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Students help teachers prepare

Before classes started at Niceville High School, several Information Technology students came a week early to help their instructors set up for the school year. Right, Shane Extracamp and Robert Robinson help set up computers in the IT building.



The students helped IT teachers complete a multitude of tasks, from hooking up computers to moving books and furniture, and cleaning up the classroom. Left, Reid Gallegos and Savannah Garza assemble packets of back-to-school paperwork.

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2011
CALENDAR

E-mail items to
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6:30, regarding the 2014 proposed resurfacing of John Sims Parkway, at the Niceville Community Center, 204 North Partin Drive, Niceville. This meeting will allow citizens an opportunity to preview the proposed design, ask questions, and submit comments concerning the upcoming project.

Audubon society meeting

Award-winning nature photographer Murray Cragin will showcase his photos at the Sept. 1 meeting of the Choctawhatchee Audubon Society.

The meeting will be held at Room 128 of the Learning Resources Center at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville. Socializing and announcements will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the program at 7. The meeting is free and open to anyone with an interest in birds and nature. Call Walt Spence at 582-7064 for more information.

School calendar meetings

The Okaloosa County School District will hold public meetings to receive input and make recommendations to the superintendent on the revision and development of the calendar for the 2012-2013 school year.

Meetings will be held:

—Sept. 1 at 4 p.m. in the Training Room of the Central Complex, 202-B Hwy. 85 North, Niceville.

—Sept. 12 at 4 p.m. in the Board Room of the School Board Administration Building, 120 Lowery Place SE, Fort Walton Beach.

If you are unable to attend one of these meetings and would like to provide input, email to OCSDCalendar@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us.

Greek Festival

The 20th annual Saints Markella and Demetrios Greek Festival will take place at the Emerald Coast Convention Center, Okaloosa Island, Sept. 2-4: Friday, 4-9 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Admission is \$2 for adults, children 12 and younger are free. There will be Greek food and drink, Greek music and folk dancing, silent auction and more.

Get a free pass and more info at GreekFestivalFWB.com

Relationship fellowship

Soul Care, Equipped For Relationships, an eight-week journey with the Holy Spirit, will be held Wednesdays, 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.

Preschool story time

Inspire a future reader at the Niceville Library's preschool story time. Join Miss Karen and Miss Christina for exciting stories selected just for children ages 3-5. Programs will be held in the Youth Services program room on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Programs last 30 minutes. Aug. 31 and Sept. 1: "Ice Cream Treat"



Financial recovery course

Niceville United Methodist Church, 214 S. Partin Drive, will hold financial courses taught through Financial Peace University. The first class for the 13-week course will be held Aug. 31 at 6 p.m. For information or to register: Kim Colpitts, 678-4411.

SR 20 repaving forum

The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a public information meeting Sept. 1, 5:30-



Military exhibit to open Sept. 3

The Military Memories exhibit at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Ave., will open with a reception Sept. 3, 10 a.m.-noon. The exhibit features military uniforms, wartime memorabilia and a homefront domestic scene. The cost is the price of general admission, and free for active duty military and their families.

Grief support group

Feelings of grief and loss can be overwhelming. For this reason, Covenant Hospice will be offering a six-week grief support group in Niceville at the United Methodist Church, 214 S. Partin Dr., 10:30 a.m.-noon beginning Wednesday, Sept. 7. The support group will run for six Wednesday mornings through Oct. 12. The support group is free of charge, but registration is required by Sept. 2. Info: Chris Krebs, 729-1800, ext. 4642.

Republican women meeting

The Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated will meet Sept. 7 at the Holiday Inn Resort, Okaloosa Island. Socializing will begin at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. The speaker will be State Representative Marti Coley from Marianna.



High efficiency laundry detergent and hardback books will be collected for Fisher House.

Reservations must be made by noon Sept. 2 through Donna Pattison at 651-5416 or donnapattison@cox.net. Cost of the lunch is \$16 for members, \$18 for guests.

September hikes

The Florida Trail Association announces the following events to be held in September:

Sept. 2, 6 p.m. Easy hike in Pensacola with dinner following. Info: 850-484-0528; Sept. 4, 6 a.m. Wake up hike in Milton followed by breakfast. Info: 850-776-5147 or 850-434-8861; Sept. 4, 8:30 a.m. Trail maintenance on Eglin near Navarre. Eglin permit required. Info: 850-736-7534

NHS class of '76 Reunion

Niceville High School Class of 1976 will hold its 35th reunion Sept. 2-3. For more information call Jaynee (Cowell) Kneeland at 678-6114.

Labor Day church gathering

Come to the third annual "We Grew Up at FBC Valparaiso" gathering during Labor Day weekend. There will be a reception with light refreshments Sept. 3, in the Church's Fellowship Hall from 2-5 p.m. Dinner at a local restaurant will follow at 6. Info: Pam Smith, 678-5484 or text 621-6135, or Liz Jepson Webb 678-1301 or elizmiz@aol.com.

Military exhibit to open

The Military Memories exhibit at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Ave., will officially open with a reception Sept. 3, 10 a.m.-noon.

The official opening reception will include refreshments and an educational program by historian Michael Weech. The exhibit, sponsored by Pioneer Technologies Inc., features

artifacts from the museum's Civil War, WWI, WWII and the Vietnam War collections. Additionally, on loan from local Howard Hill, is the original uniform he wore during his five years as a Prisoner of War during the Vietnam War.

The cost is the price of general admission, excluding active duty military and their families, and museum members.

ADSO art competition

The Arts and Design Society, 17 First St. SE, Fort Walton Beach, will hold an upcoming art competition "Let's Go Van Gogh." This is open to all artists and all mediums. Work can be turned in Sept. 3, 1-4 p.m., or Sept. 5, 9 a.m.-noon. Works are to reflect the various styles of Vincent Van Gogh. The reception will be Friday Sept. 9, 5-7 p.m.

Entry forms are available at artsdesignsociety.org.

Movies at Uptown Station

Movie nights will be held at Uptown Station, Fort Walton Beach. The movies are free, and guests are invited to bring lawn chairs, blankets and coolers. Pets and glass containers are not allowed. The movies for this month will be:

Sept. 3, 7:30 p.m., "Justin Bieber: Never Say Never" and Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m., "The Last Airbender"

Summer's end concert

The Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation will present a "Farewell to Summer Concert" with "The Return," a Beatles tribute band. The event will be held Sept. 4 at 7 p.m. on The Village Green, 4323 Commons Drive West, Destin, of the Mattie Kelly Cultural Arts Village, located behind the Destin YMCA and Grace Lutheran Church.

Admission is \$10 per adult and kids younger than 12 are free. Join the Picnic Supper Club by purchasing reserved tables and seating for six guests for only \$100. Bring your favorite lawn chair and picnic or purchase dinner prepared fresh onsite by Carrabba's Italian Grill.

Info: 650-2226 or MattieKellyArtsFoundation.org.

Baton twirling classes

Baton twirling classes, beginning Sept. 6, will be held at the Niceville United Method Church for preschool-high school.

Register at the Community Life Center or contact Amanda Saltsman, 687-9095 or Amanda@saltsman.net.

ESL and citizen prep class

English as a second language and citizen preparation classes will begin Sept. 6, at the First Baptist Church of Niceville, 622 Bayshore Drive. New students should register at 6 p.m. For returning students, classes will begin at 6:30 p.m. Info: 678-7568.

Tea and book discussion

The Friends of the Niceville Library will hold a tea and book discussion with author Nancy M. Kenaston at the Niceville Community Center, 204 Partin Drive, Sept. 7 at 10:30 a.m.

Kenaston worked at the Daily News, serving as editor during its transition from a weekly to a daily newspaper. She was also legislative aide to State Rep. Jerry Melvin for four years. She is the author of several history books, including "From Cabin to Campus," a story of the Okaloosa School System.

This program is free. To reserve a seat call Niceville Library at 729-4090.

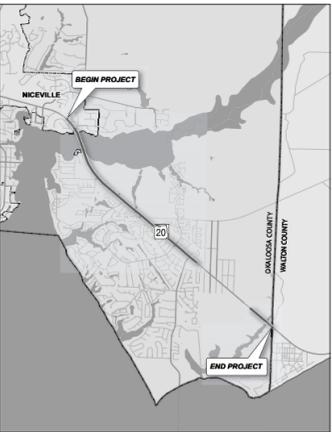
Ladies' golf season

Bluewater Bay's Nine-Hole Ladies' Golf League 2011-2012 season will begin Sept. 7. The ladies will play nine holes, followed by lunch at the Bluewater Bay Clubhouse each Wednesday through May 30, 2012.

Please see CALENDAR, page B-5

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 extension 208 or via email at Tommie.Speights@dot.state.fl.us.

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Worship Schedule
Sept. 4, One Service, 10:00 a.m.
Catechism Orientation
Today, August 31, 7:00 p.m.
www.stpaulniceville.com



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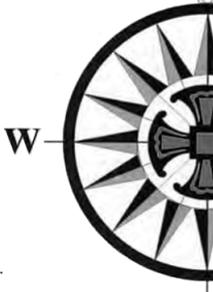
Sunday Morning Services
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CALENDAR

From page B-4

Info: Diane Chiquette, diane1157@aol.com or 897-4498.

Military officers meeting

The Northwest Florida Military Officers Association guest speaker for the Sept. 7 meeting will be Jim Ruckel, president of Ruckel Properties. Ruckel will share his family's relationship with Eglin AFB in the past, present and future. This meeting is open to all active, retired, reserve, or former military officers of the U.S. Armed Forces. The meeting is held at the Eglin Bayview Club,

formerly the Eglin Officers' Club, from 7-9 a.m. Coffee, breakfast and briefing are the plan of the day. For details on attending, visit nwfmioa.org.

PRIME time classes open

Registration for the Fall PRIME Time series of personal enrichment classes offered by Northwest Florida State College will begin Sept. 7 at the Niceville campus. Register from 8:30-10 a.m. in the College Mall, Building K, and from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in Building C-1. Individuals who have previously enrolled may register by web at nwfsc.edu starting Sept. 7 at 9 a.m.

The PRIME Time schedule of

classes and information is available on the college website at nwfsc.edu/schedule, at community locations such as libraries and chambers of commerce, or by calling the NWFSO Continuing Education Department at 729-6084.

Volunteers needed

The Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge seeks volunteers for its annual haunted house fundraiser. Volunteers age 16 and older will help with construction, prop building, decorating, painting, costumes, make-up, acting, security and more. Contact



Debbie, mknbn4u@cox.net, to volunteer.

Friends for Fun senior club

All singles 60 and older, join Friends for Fun for laughter and friendly conversation each Wednesday, 3-5 p.m., at the Bluewater Bay Clubhouse. This is an opportunity to make new friends and find joy and companionship. Info: 897-4434.

Cub Scouts registration

School has started and Cub Scouts invites all boys that enjoy fishing for the big one; hitting an archery or gun target; and sitting around the campfire with all of their friends. Boys in first

through fifth grade are eligible to join the Cub Scout program.

Call John Weaver at 850-683-0330 for information on packs or troops in your area.

Christian concert set

"We are the Beggars" will play a concert Sept. 10, starting at 7 p.m., at the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 1200 Valparaiso Blvd., in the Parish Life Center. The concert will also include Ike Ndolo

Band, Audrey Assad and Ennie Hickman. General admission tickets are \$10, and VIP youth event tickets

are \$15. Tickets are available by calling 678-7813, by email holyname@holynamechurch.org or online at HolyName.tix.com.

Community band welcome

The Emerald Coast Community Band welcomes all to join. The group will perform at several concerts and practices at 7 p.m. every Tuesday in the Meigs Middle School band room, 150 Richbourg Ave., Shalimar. All concerts are for charitable or civic organizations.

Info: 865-8902.



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<p>PAINTING & PRESSURE CLEANING</p> <p>Russell's Painting & Pressure Cleaning Residential Interior & Exterior Painting FREE ESTIMATES Licensed & Insured SPECIALIZING IN PRESSURE WASHING 25 Years Experience Senior & Military Discounts References Available 897-5632</p>	<p>PRESSURE WASHING</p> <p>E&D Pressure Washing "No Job Too Small" • Houses • Driveways • Fencing • Docks • RVs • Decks Licensed & Insured (850) 699-7866</p>	<p>PRESSURE WASHING</p> <p>RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES RELIABLE SERVICE CONCRETE WALKWAYS All Pro Powerwashing Amazing Results, Every Time (850) 897-5883 LOCALLY OWNED, RETIRED MILITARY FREE ESTIMATES \$119.00 House Washing 2000 SqFt & Under, 8/31/11 5% DISCOUNT for Military, Senior, & First Responders app1@gmail.com www.allpropowerwashing.com</p>	<p>ADVERTISE HERE!</p> <p>AT YOUR SERVICE advertising makes sense! With prices starting at only \$18.95 per week, advertising in At Your Service is easy AND affordable! Call us at 678-1080 or stop by the office at 1181 E. John Sims Pkwy., Niceville, FL 32578 to take advantage of this incredible bargain!</p>	<p>TUTORING</p> <p>Affordable Academic Advantage TUTORING • Reading • Language Arts • Mathematics • Science • Social Studies • FCAT Prep PreK to Grade 5 (850) 240-2890 Caroline Williams Experienced-Certified-Licensed Elementary Teacher</p>		

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Photo by Cathy Evans

Eagles ready for the season

Niceville High School's Eagle football team stretches before Friday's pre-season scrimmage against Washington High School in Pensacola. The Eagles used a combination of lightning offense and rock-hard defense to win, 14-0.



Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

Lewis falls in jamboree

Lewis School's Jordan Tinder runs the ball against Davidson during Thursday's jamboree in Niceville. The Falcons ran into a Davidson buzz saw, falling 22-6.



10-for-10 in medals

Sydney Dawson, 12, competed in the AAU Junior Olympics in New Orleans Aug. 1-5, swimming 10 events and winning 10 medals, including gold medals for her performances in the 400-meter freestyle and the 200-meter free relay. Sydney swims for Ruckel Middle School with coach Kathy Ritacco and the Bluewater Barracudas with coach Brad Kale.

NHS softball alumna excels on college field

Niceville High School's former star softball first baseman Meagan Balding (class of 2010) started 47 of 51 games as a freshman at Jacksonville University. The JU Dolphins finished first in the Atlantic Sun Conference and won the A-Sun Championship this year for the first time in their softball team's history. JU was defeated in N C A A Women's College World Series Regional play by last year's champions, the UCLA Bruins.



Meagan Balding

Meagan was a large part of JU's success, batting .361 in Conference games and .248 overall. Meagan attends JU on

an Honors Program scholarship and earned A-Sun all-academic honors and was named to the Dean's List with her 3.75 GPA in pharmacology.

She finished her first collegiate season with 36 hits, six doubles, 15 RBI and a homerun. A four-year starter at Niceville High School under Danny Hensley, she helped the Eagles record 20-plus wins each year. She earned the outstanding offensive player award during her first three seasons. As a senior, she batted .404 with three home runs, six doubles and 22 RBI to lead the Eagles to the state championship final and earned all-state and defensive MVP honors. As a junior, she recorded 30 RBI and 20 doubles for a .385 average, and as a sophomore, she received all-area honors and broke the school record for home runs in a game with three.

Sports Schedule

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

- Thursday, Sept. 1**
Destin@Bruner, football, 6:30
RBCS@Central, volleyball, 4/5
- Friday, Sept. 2**
NHS-East Gadsden, football, 7
RBCS@Jay, football, 7
- Tuesday, Sept. 6**
NHS-Crestview, volleyball, 5/6
- Wednesday, Sept. 7**
Destin-Prior, Jackson, cross country, 4
Ruckel@Shoal River, cross country, 4
Lewis-Davidson, cross country, 4
Destin-St. Mary, volleyball, 4
Lewis-Meigs, volleyball, 4
Ruckel@Davidson, volleyball, 4

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