

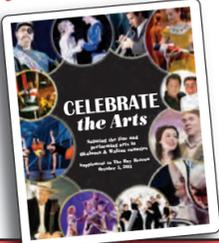
The Bay Beacon

22 Pages, 3 Sections, 3 Inserts

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

50¢

Inside...



UP
COMING

Saturday, 7 a.m.-noon



Sterling House of Bluewater Bay's annual **Alzheimer's Yard Sale** will be held at the **Winn-Dixie parking lot**, Bluewater Bay.

Sterling House will also accept donations of sale items Oct. 5-7. Info: 729-3323.

Saturday, 10 a.m.



The **Genealogical Society** will tour the Valparaiso Community Library, 459 Valparaiso Parkway. Library Director David Weatherford will give a **tour of the library's genealogy materials**, complete with tips on genealogy research. All interested in family history are welcome to come.

Info: 678-2023.

Tuesday, 9 a.m.

The **American Society for Training & Development** will present "Coaching Toward Excellence" by Kent Blumberg.

The program will be held at Northwest Florida State College, Building K, Niceville. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m., prior to the program.

Cost: \$60 for members, \$75 for nonmembers. RSVP: astd.ec.hospitality@gmail.com.

Calendar, B-4.

Audit: Tax execs' pay was 'excessive'

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Payroll for upper management at the Okaloosa County Tax Collector's office has been slashed by \$253,116, or nearly 31 percent, according to Tax Collector Ben Anderson, who released an audit he had ordered of his predecessor's final five years in the post.

Results of a "forensic audit" of

the last five years of the Okaloosa County Tax Collector's office cited "excessive" spending under former Tax Collector Chris Hughes, but nothing illegal.

Hughes immediately denounced the audit, and the Anderson press conference Sept. 28 at which it was released.

"This waste of \$60,000 in taxpayer money was a personal vendetta,"



Chris Hughes

said Hughes in an email to the Bay Beacon.

Hughes, who held the elective post of tax collector from 1994 until June of this year when he resigned, said the audit was politically motivated.

Anderson, a Fort Walton Beach businessman, was appointed to the position by Gov. Rick Scott Aug. 8 to fill the remaining term of Hughes,

who resigned June 30 with nearly 18 months remaining in his four-year term.

Anderson said he ordered the audit of the past five years because, "The community had concerns about the choices and decisions made by the previous tax collector. I considered it necessary to uncover the

Please see 'EXCESSIVE', page A-6

Pumpkins peak in October



Youngsters unloaded the first truckload, about 44,000 pounds worth, of pumpkins Thursday in preparation of the seventh annual Pumpkin Patch at Niceville United Methodist Church. The Pumpkin Patch offers kids and families a fun way to buy pumpkins throughout October, Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Proceeds will benefit student ministries. Above, Camron Holland, 12, of Niceville, arranges pumpkins for sale.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard

2nd invasion of a home is reported 1 arrest in robbery

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Police are hunting for suspects in a Sept. 27 home invasion robbery in which three men burst into a Bluewater Bay garage and attacked and robbed some people inside, according to reports from the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

It's the second time within a month that a violent home invasion robbery has occurred in the Niceville area.

One suspect, Victor Tyrell Robinson, a landscaping laborer, 27, of 714 Navy St., Fort Walton Beach, was arrested in Valparaiso by



Victor T. Robinson

Please see **INVASION**, page A-3

College costs in Richburg case rise nearly to \$1.6 million

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

New figures show that it cost Northwest Florida State College and its insurer over \$300,000 more than previously reported to litigate and settle claims against the college by its former president, James R. Richburg.

Previously published figures put the cost at over \$1.2 million, but did not include \$325,000 in college legal expenses, which boost the total to nearly \$1.6 million.

The Niceville-based state college compiled the new cost figures in response to queries by the Bay Beacon.

Please see **RICHBURG**, page A-3

Demand soars for reclaimed effluent

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Time was when no one wanted reclaimed sewage effluent in their back yard.

Now people can't get enough of it.

Some Niceville homeowners using highly purified wastewater

from the regional sewage-treatment plant to water their lawns lately are having trouble with low pressure in their sprinklers.

The advantage of using highly treated sewage effluent for irrigation is that it is clean, and, so far, free to the user.

Swift Creek Community

Owners' Association manager Beth White told Niceville City Manager Lannie Corbin and Okaloosa County Water and Sewer Department Director Jeff Littrell that she has recently received numerous complaints

Please see **SOARS**, page A-3



Some of Swift Creek subdivision's 310 owners have complained about low pressure in their irrigation systems, which use highly purified effluent from the regional sewage plant. Residents pay nothing for the water.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard

Putting Bluewater Bay on the map

The Mid-Bay Bridge Authority spent \$24,000 to erect five highway signs on or around its bridge connector road showing motorists the way to Bluewater Bay. The signs were requested by Tom Hanks, general manager of Bluewater Bay Resort, pictured here with one of the markers, on State Road 20 west-bound.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard



Mid-Bay Bridge agency erects community's 1st highway signs

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Since its founding in the mid-1970s Bluewater Bay has apparently not warranted a directional sign from the Florida Department of Transportation.

The Mid-Bay Bridge Authority recently rectified that oversight.

The authority last month erected five big, regulation green-and-white signs on its new bridge connector road and on State Road 20 pointing the

way to Bluewater Bay.

Jim Vest, executive director of the MBBA, said he ordered the signs, which were installed last month at the connector's exits at SR 20. Also erected was a sign on SR 20 west-bound, just west of the connector interchange, announcing, "Bluewater Bay 1 mile."

Vest said he added the signs, which cost \$24,000, after Bluewater Bay Resort general manager Tom Hanks said customers coming over the new

Please see **SIGN**, page A-7

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Park makeover underway

Rick Holcomb of the Valparaiso Public Works Department clears brush from a planned walking path that will encircle a future fishing pond at the center of T.J. Brooks Park, an undeveloped city-owned tract south of Lincoln Avenue, north of Okaloosa Avenue, and east of Echo Drive. The city also plans to award a contract soon to build a pair of covered picnic pavilions. With about \$100,000 in donations earmarked for the park upgrades, James Vanlandingham, Valparaiso Public Works director, said the city plans to seek matching grants. More plans include a path down the steep embankments, a fishing pier on the pond, a small parking lot and a dog park enclosure.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard



RICHBURG

From page A-1

On Aug. 5, NWFSC trustees and Richburg settled a dispute over the college's firing of him in April 2009, following his indictment on state charges stemming from a \$6 million state grant to the institution. The charges were dropped earlier this year.

Richburg contended that his sudden firing was unjustified. He demanded that he be reinstated or be paid for the remaining three years of his contract.

Richburg, who served as NWFSC president for 22 years, also contended that the college should pay his legal expenses in his two-year battle to clear his name in the criminal case.

On Aug. 5, 2011, the college trustees approved a \$1,255,000

Costs of NWFSC-Richburg battle

	College payments	Insurance payments
Breach of contract paid to J.R. Richburg	\$105,000	\$500,000
Criminal defense costs paid to J.R. Richburg	\$625,000	\$25,000
College payments for its own legal costs	\$325,000	
Totals	\$1,055,000	\$525,000

Source: NWF State College

settlement with its former president. In effect the board agreed to buy out Richburg's contract.

Also under the agreement reached in August, the college reimbursed Richburg \$650,000 for his criminal-defense costs. The college said it was obligated to do so because the charges stemmed

from Richburg's alleged actions as college president.

Of the \$1.255 million paid Richburg, the college's insurer, Chartis Insurance, paid \$525,000, according to NWFSC.

Each side agreed to bear its own legal fees in the contract dispute. The size of those legal fees,

however, was not announced at the time of the settlement.

Now, in answer to questions by the Beacon, the college has disclosed that it also paid an estimated \$325,000 in college legal fees related the Richburg matter.

The college's legal expenses include the full cost of a Tallahassee-based mediator used in the settlement. That cost, \$4,257, was paid by the college's insurer, the college said.

The legal costs also included the cost of a state administrative law judge hearing the contract dispute.

All told, the college and its insurer paid out \$1,580,000 to litigate and settle Richburg's claims, according to NWFSC.

The college had a budget of nearly \$68 million last year, funded primarily by state tax dollars and student fees.

SOARS

From page A-1

from homeowners in the community about a lack of pressure in their irrigation systems. The complaints, she said, increased earlier this year after the Niceville Walmart opened. The giant store also uses the highly treated effluent known as "reuse water" for irrigation.

The 310-lot Swift Creek subdivision, off North Partin Drive, Niceville, is one of several users of reclaimed effluent for irrigation. Other longtime users are Rocky Bayou Country Club, Rocky Bayou Christian School, Heritage Gardens Cemetery, and the city's Mullet Festival site, including soccer and baseball fields at the Twin Oaks Sports Complex.

Customers added more recently include the Swift Creek Plantation and Swift Creek Preserve subdivisions, Walmart, the Niceville City Hall complex and city softball fields.

Niceville and Okaloosa County each own 50 percent of the 2.7 million gallons a day of permitted reuse water capacity at the regional sewage-treatment plant in Niceville. The plant is permitted to process an average of 3.35 million gallons of sewage daily, but currently receives only about 2.5 million gallons a day.

Sewer plant manager Rick Helms said part of the pressure problem at Swift Creek is that irrigation customers generally want

to water their lawns at the same time—in the early morning. The Walmart site is connected through the Swift Creek system, he said.

A temporary solution would be to restrict watering to certain times and days, Helms said. This would spread out demand.

A long-term solution, Helms said, would be to increase the diameter of the 6-inch pipe supplying reuse water to Swift Creek subdivision and Walmart. But that would cost someone some money.

The feeder pipes to Swift Creek come off a 12-inch pipe along College Boulevard that supplies reuse water between the sewer plant and Rocky Bayou Country Club, the utility's oldest such customer.

Corbin and Littrell asked engineering firm Polyengineering to provide an estimate for upsizing the supply line to Swift Creek. After they get cost estimates, Niceville and the county will determine if they can afford the upgrade, officials said.

The sewer plant currently supplies reuse water free of charge because it would otherwise have to pay to dispose of it on land rented from Eglin Air Force Base. Thus, those who use it to water their lawns are, incidentally, performing a public service.

Littrell said that irrigation customers at Swift Creek were advised at the outset that the free water was only guaranteed for the first five years, a period that expired in 2005.

INVASION

From page A-1

sheriff's deputies less than an hour after the Bluewater Bay incident and charged with home invasion robbery, according to a sheriff's arrest report.

Sheriff's arrest reports and police reports from Niceville and Valparaiso give the following account:

At about 2:32 a.m. Sept. 27 deputies responded to a call at 823 St. Pierre Cove in Bluewater Bay. A man and two women reported they were sitting in the garage when three men, wearing ski masks, burst in. Two of the men attacked the male victim. The third intruder approached one of the women, who ran from the resi-

dence.

When the other female victim tried to intervene, one of the attackers caught her in a choke hold. She wriggled free, hit one of the intruders with a wine bottle, and shouted for help.

The intruders escaped with the male victim's wallet, containing about \$600, and with a \$600 cell phone belonging to one of the women.

One of the victims described a black sedan traveling out of the neighborhood with several passengers, all screaming.

While deputies were still taking statements from the victims, Niceville police pulled over a dark blue sedan 1999 Lexus wanted in connection with a sudden snatching robbery that had occurred in Niceville the day before.

The Lexus was pursued a short distance by a patrol car with lights and siren until it stopped in the parking lot of 500 block of Kelly Mill Road and its six occupants scattered on foot.

In the nearby woods Niceville police caught a man who said a woman had been driving. He was released after questioning.

Valparaiso police assisted in the search and found Robinson in an abandoned building nearby. Valparaiso police arrested Robinson on a charge of possession of cocaine after finding some white powder in his pants.

A victim in the Bluewater Bay home invasion identified Robinson as one of the robbers.

Inside the Lexus police spotted ski masks. They also found a spoon containing a white powder,

several beers, a machete, and firefighter's gear from the Fort Walton Beach Fire Department.

As of Tuesday, Oct. 4, Robinson was still being held at the Okaloosa County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 bail for the home invasion robbery and \$5,000 on the possession of cocaine charge.

Authorities did not immediately comment on whether the Bluewater Bay robbery might be related to an Aug. 31 home invasion on Cape Lane, Niceville. In that incident, three men with bandannas covering their faces, one armed with a pistol, tied up two men in their home and forced one of them to lure his mother and brother home. They stole the woman's purse and fled in her car. There have been no arrests in that robbery.

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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

Melanee Michelle Martin, 32, of 499-B Johnson St., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 20 on charges of petit theft and resisting property recovery by a retail merchant. On July 28 Martin allegedly concealed \$66 worth of merchandise in her purse while at a Fort Walton Beach store, 913-C Beal Parkway. When confronted by the store manager and told not to leave the store, Martin allegedly pushed the manager away from the exit door, then fled in her vehicle.

Christopher Michael Langford, 27, of 368 W. Edge Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 19 on a violation of probation charge on the original charge of battery.

Michele Rose Johnson, 23, of 224 Madison St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 20 on charges of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia. Subsequent to execution of a search warrant at Johnson's residence, deputies found five-and-a-half pills of Dilaudid in a wooden container next to Johnson's bed. Johnson allegedly admitted that she stole the pills from a family member and that she both uses and sometimes sells the narcotics.

Stephen Jacob Mesiner, unemployed, 23, of 403 Evans Road, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 21 on a charge of battery, domestic violence.

Brittany Ann Surgner, 25, of 4234 Marysa Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 20 on a misdemeanor worthless check charge related to a \$95 check.

Eric Christopher Jones, 34, of 485 Gulf Shore Drive, #206, Destin, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 19 on a battery, domestic violence, charge that allegedly occurred a Niceville residence.

Alan Craig Dorris, 44, of 507 23rd St., Lot A, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Sept. 25 on a charge of battery, domestic violence.

Rondy Johnson, 25, of 3780 N.W. 193rd St., Carol City, Fla., was arrested by Niceville police on a charge of petit theft. Johnson, who packed up and moved out of a Niceville apartment Feb. 4 after a disagreement with his girlfriend, is alleged to have stolen his girlfriend's laptop computer while packing his bags to leave.

Marvin Burrell Watkins, 50, of 221 Deer St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Sept. 21 on charges of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, domestic violence. Watkins is alleged to have placed a box cutter knife against his girlfriend's throat, stated he was going to kill her and caused a shallow laceration to her throat that was visible but not deep enough to bleed. Watkins also grabbed a male



Marvin Burrell Watkins

resident by the throat while holding a hammer in his hand and told the man, "I am going to kill you." After Watkins let the male victim go, the victim fled the house and called police.

Nathan Lloyd Baukus, 35, of 304 Reeves St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 11 on charges of car burglary, petit theft and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. On July 24 Baukus is alleged to have burglarized an unlocked car in Destin and stolen a bottle of Tylenol 3 with codeine.

Melissa K. Clemons, 35, of 304 Reeves St., Lot B-12, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 12 on charges of giving false ownership information on a pawned item and dealing in stolen property.

On July 19 Clemons allegedly pawned a stolen handgun, a Taurus .38 caliber revolver reported stolen in Niceville, at a Fort Walton Beach pawn shop, 100 S.E. Perry Ave. Clemons allegedly told police a male acquaintance asked her to pawn the handgun for him because he did not have identification. She said the man gave her half the \$200 the pawn shop gave for the gun.

Police said Clemons should have known the handgun did not belong to the male subject because it had pink pistol grips.

A 13-year-old Niceville boy, a student, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 11 on charges of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, a single pill of acetaminophen and propoxyphene napsylate, a schedule IV controlled substance, and for underage possession of a tobacco product.

John Keith Bennett, unemployed, 29, of 1215 Shipley Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 25 on a charge of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, a pill of oxycodone hydrochloride.

Rochelle Marie Woods, 21, of 107 2nd St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 24 on a misdemeanor worthless check charge, six counts.

Imani Tanelle Littleton, a waitress, 19, of 513-C Landview, Fort Walton Beach, was arrested by sheriff's deputies for domestic violence battery that allegedly occurred in parking lot of a Bluewater Bay restaurant.

Renee Marie Mann, unemployed, 45, of 304 Reeves St., Lot E-6, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 22 on a misdemeanor worthless check charge.

Adam Jensen Thomas, unemployed, 23, of 1015 Julia Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 21 on a charge of violating a domestic violence injunction.

Anthony Scott Barnett, unemployed, 25, of 1405 Cape Lane, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 16 on a misdemeanor worthless check charge related to a \$30 check.

Adrian Rey Peralta, unemployed, 30, of 1101 Hickory Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 20 on a charge of failure to appear on the original charges of possession of con-

Correction

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office on Sept. 7 served Robert Anton Cramer, 72, of 502 22nd St., Niceville, a court summons on a misdemeanor worthless check charge. An item published Sept. 21 incorrectly stated that Cramer had been arrested on the charge.

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls September 26, 2011, through October 2, 2011.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Davis Drive	Medical	09/26/11	17:26
Reeves Street	Medical	09/26/11	19:03
Kelly Road	Medical	09/26/11	20:17
Kathleen Court	Medical	09/26/11	20:23
Peachtree Way	Medical	09/27/11	04:06
E. Park Avenue	Medical	09/27/11	09:47
Ivey Terrace	Medical	09/27/11	09:57
SR85N	Brush fire	09/27/11	21:23
Linden Avenue	Medical	09/28/11	01:45
E. John Sims Parkway	Service call	09/28/11	09:18
E. College Boulevard	Medical	09/28/11	13:54
Madison Street	Medical	09/28/11	14:05
Government Avenue	Medical	09/28/11	14:07
31st Street	Good intent call	09/28/11	16:11
N. Partin Drive	Medical	09/28/11	23:41
W. John Sims Parkway	Medical	09/29/11	13:02
Camellia Place	Medical	09/30/11	12:54
27th Street	Medical	09/30/11	13:20
Hart Street	Medical	09/30/11	13:29
Honeysuckle Way	Medical	10/01/11	01:03
Perdido Circle	Medical	10/01/11	04:55
Hillside Drive	Medical	10/01/11	22:57
3rd Street	Medical	10/02/11	16:17
Als Drive	Medical	10/02/11	16:25
Rockywood Way	Medical	10/02/11	16:40
Hudson Circle	Illegal burning	10/02/11	16:46

Weekly Safety Tip: Cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Never leave cooking unattended. If grease catches fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames and turn off the burner.

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls September 26, 2011, through October 3, 2011.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Bay Drive & Highway 20	Motor vehicle accident	09/26/11	07:37
E. Highway 20	Motor vehicle accident	09/26/11	08:03
Saint Martin Cove	Medical assist EMS	09/26/11	20:47
Saint Pierre Cove	Medical assist EMS	09/27/11	02:32
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	09/27/11	10:25
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	09/27/11	11:24
E. Highway 20	EMS excluding vehicle	09/27/11	15:53
E. Highway 20	EMS excluding vehicle	09/28/11	08:54
White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	09/28/11	11:31
Pearl S. Buck Court	EMS excluding vehicle	09/29/11	15:59
Cedar Street	Dispatched, canceled	09/29/11	23:28
N. White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	09/30/11	06:14
Range Road	Motor vehicle accident	09/30/11	15:07
E. Highway 20	EMS excluding vehicle	09/30/11	15:42
Cypress Street	Rescue, EMS incident	09/30/11	17:31
Parkwood Place	EMS excluding vehicle	09/30/11	18:37
Oakmont Place	Dispatched, canceled	09/30/11	21:10
Oakmont Place	EMS excluding vehicle	09/30/11	21:53
White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	10/01/11	11:27
White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	10/01/11	11:57
E. Highway 20	EMS excluding vehicle	10/01/11	21:51
Merchants Way	EMS excluding vehicle	10/02/11	20:57

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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

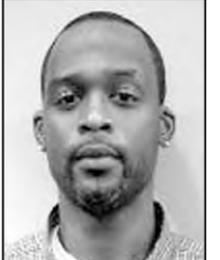
Name: James Joseph Robert Jr.
Wanted for: violation of probation on the original charges of passing forged or altered instruments and grand theft.

Height: 6 feet, 1 inch
Weight: 150 pounds
Age: 36
Date of birth: 02-11-1975
Hair: brown, Eyes: brown



Name: Victor Tyrone Wilson Jr.
Wanted for: violation of probation on the original charges of possession of a controlled substance and driving with a suspended or revoked license.
Wilson's last address was in Fort Walton Beach.

Height: 6 feet
Weight: 160 pounds
Age: 33
Date of birth: 09-18-1978
Hair: black, 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)

controlled substance without a prescription and possession of a listed chemical used to manufacture a controlled substance.

Jamie Bass Cavender Pope, unemployed, 35, of 304 Juniper Drive, Freeport, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 20 on charges of fraudulently obtaining a controlled substance, three

counts, forging or altering a prescription, one count, and attempting to solicit or conspire, one count. Between April 13 and July 20 Pope is alleged to have fraudulently obtained a controlled substance three times from a Niceville pharmacy, 4582 E. Highway 20, and was present a fourth time,

Please see BLOTTER, page A-5

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

Location: Winn-Dixie



What do you think about the recent audit report stating that former Okaloosa County Tax Collector Chris Hughes spent over \$1.6 million tax dollars on "excess compensation" for his staff?



"I was surprised and disappointed, but glad to see that someone was coming in to clean house, especially in this economy."

Ken Elliot, 48, Bluewater Bay, retired



"Misuse of funds needs to be fought and stopped. I don't like the waste of my tax money."

Caren Martino, 46, Bluewater Bay, Realtor



"That's not good. It's probably why he left office."

Brian Hausen, 48, Niceville, kitchen manager



"I think it looks bad for him, but I don't think we know the whole story yet."

Mike Adams, 64, Bluewater Bay, retired



"It's in line with everything else we've heard about the county government lately."

Scott Blackmon, 32, Niceville, network administrator



"The audit didn't surprise me, because I had known those bonuses were over the top. I'm sorry he wasn't a better steward of our tax money."

Larry Blameuser, 62, Bluewater Bay, RN

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-4

June 18, with another individual when a another controlled substance was obtained. Pope also allegedly obtained a noncontrolled medicine by fraud April 18.

Lonnie Michael Odom, 42, of 5220 Old Brown Road, Milligan, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 13 on a charge of stalking, which allegedly occurred May 20-June 17 in Niceville.

Joshua Heath Gentry, a welder, 26, of 403 Glendale Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 13 on an obstruction charge for failing to comply with an injunction to prevent child abuse.

Jamie Roy Bezzeard, an artist, 34, of 626 John Sims Parkway, Apt. 123, Niceville, was arrested by Valparaiso police Sept. 20 on an Escambia County warrant on the charge of failure to appear on the original charge of driving while license suspended or revoked.

Aneatria Diane Hinojosa, a bartender, 36, of 500 Kelly Mill Road, Apt. 116, Valparaiso, was arrested by Valparaiso police Sept. 28 on a charge of battery, domestic violence.

John Paul Barnett, 30, of 1405 Cape Lane, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Sept. 22 on a charge of violation of pretrial conditions on the original charge of battery, domestic violence.

Thefts

A Niceville man who spent the night in Fort Walton Beach

returned to his apartment in the 200 block of East College Boulevard about 6:50 a.m. Sept. 19 and found the front door to his apartment open and a 47-inch, wall-mounted television missing. Also stolen was a video game system and four video games, and eight watches. The victim estimated the value of the stolen items at nearly \$1,800.

A Niceville resident reported that unknown person(s) stole a cell phone from her unlocked vehicle in the 500 block of 27th Street Sept. 13.

A woman and her father visiting a patient at Twin Cities Hospital, 2190 N. Highway 85, Sept. 24, returned to the parking lot 45 minutes later to find unknown person(s) had broken the passenger side window of the father's vehicle and stolen his daughter's purse. Among the items stolen with the purse was a checkbook, a \$225 check, a credit card, \$160 cash, an iPod, a memory card, cell phone and various IDs.

A man reported that his locked vehicle was burglarized Sept. 23 while it was parked in a

parking lot in the 400 block of Government Avenue, Valparaiso. A laptop computer and a bag of clothes were stolen from the vehicle, which was found with the passenger side door lock broken, apparently from something being forced into the lock. The stolen items were valued at \$600 while damage to the door lock was estimated at \$500.

A Valparaiso resident reported Sept. 22 that between June and August someone had used several of his credit cards without authorization.

Criminal Mischief

A Niceville resident from the 400 block of Paradise Road reported Sept. 22 that unknown person(s) put an unknown pink substance in to the gas tank of her daughter's vehicle. The vehicle subsequently broke down and was taken to a repair shop where the repairman discovered the unknown substance while cleaning out the fuel system and fuel tank.

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Clarification

A photo caption in the Sept. 28 issue describing the Oktoberfest held Sept. 23-24 in Bluewater Bay neglected to mention that two of the four photos—that depicting the band, called The Sauerkrauts, and that showing two people dancing—were taken at Helga's Restaurant & Biergarten, which held its own Oktoberfest concurrently with, and adjacent to, the one sponsored by the Mid-Bay Rotary Club.

Community Clean Up Day

Saturday, October 08, 2011
At the Choctaw Beach Park - On State Road 20
In the Choctaw Beach Community, From 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM



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'EXCESSIVE'

From page A-1

facts, define or dispel the rumors and finally, put that chapter of the Tax Collector's Office in the history books."

Despite the findings that some of them had been excessively

compensated, Anderson had nothing but praise for OCTC employees.

The audit covered the period from Oct. 1, 2006, to June 30, 2011. It focused on employee compensation, bonuses and benefits, travel and internal controls, and did a comparative analysis

with other tax offices in the region, Anderson said.

"Though nothing illegal was found, the pay structure was overly excessive and generous," Anderson said.

Hughes' own paycheck, which was set by statute at \$125,254 in 2010, was not included in the list of "excessive" compensation.

The audit performed was performed by the accounting firm of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, and led by Glenn Gillyard, a certified fraud examiner with a background in law enforcement. Highlights included:

—"Excess compensation" paid to OCTC employees was estimated at \$1,601,767, between Oct. 1, 2006, and June 30, 2011. The estimate was based on a comparison of compensation paid to employees by other tax offices in the Panhandle.

According to the audit, the average annual pay for all Okaloosa County Tax Collector employees during the nearly five-year audit period totaled \$41,212 while the weighted average salaries for employees in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Bay and Leon counties was \$3,910 less, or \$37,302.

The Okaloosa Office was the only office among those studied to pay workers over \$100,000 a year, plus bonuses. The chief deputy tax collector and the assistant tax collector were both paid \$107,120 a year, according to the audit, while the next three highest paid

employees earned \$98,880 (director of finance), \$92,700 (director of operations), and \$79,310 (director of licenses and taxes). None of those figures counted any bonuses, which were a common practice in earlier years.

—Under the Hughes administration, the Carr Riggs audit reported last week, four employees received a total of \$166,500 during a two-year period that ended Sept. 30, 2009, under the voluntary separation incentive program (VSIP). The purpose of VSIP was to encourage eligible employees to retire so that positions could be eliminated for budget reduction purposes, according to the audit. But the audit report said the positions they vacated were not, in fact, eliminated.

—During Hughes' term in office, 22 terminated employees received a total of \$11,197 in unearned sick leave, according to the audit.

—Additional hours of annual leave beyond the stated policy were awarded to employees for their participation in American Heart Walk and as merit awards, amounting to an estimated cost of \$136,888 to OCTC, auditors said.

—During a three-month period

ending Sept. 30, 2009, 14 employees who declined health insurance received a total of \$305,909 in deferred compensation, the amount based on health insurance premium rates for employee coverage.

—Bonuses paid to Okaloosa County tax employees during a two-year period ending Sept. 30, 2008, totaled \$332,500.

This finding was not news. The generous bonuses, which were hidden from the state agency that was supposed to oversee the tax collector's office, were first disclosed in articles published by the Bay Beacon in March 2009. Hughes ended payment of such bonuses after the articles appeared.

In 2009 the Beacon reported that more than \$1 million in bonuses were handed to OCTC employees over a five-year period, according to tax office records. Hughes told the Beacon he had discarded pay records prior to 2004.

At least two tax employees received \$75,000 in bonuses from Hughes over the five-year period beginning with fiscal year 2004 through FY 2008. A third tax employee got a total of \$82,500 in bonuses over the same period, according to tax records.

The Beacon also reported in 2009 that at least 16 OCTC employees who received bonuses, plus three people listing the same address as such employees, gave money to Hughes' 2008 reelection campaign, according to county records. Twelve of those OCTC employees or households donations were \$500, the maximum allowed per donor.

The auditors said that none of the other county tax offices surveyed reported paying any bonuses.

Anderson said he reorganized the OCTC based on inputs he received as the audit was going on

and said he will apply "better business practices" based on the findings.

He announced savings of \$253,116 in payroll. This included two lower-level employees who were "let go" and a third top-tier employee who resigned, according to the tax collector. Anderson declined to identify those individuals.

No employees currently earn more than \$100,000, Anderson said, compared with two under Hughes.

Hughes defended his workers' pay. "To compare salaries of other counties is one sided," he stated in his email to the Beacon. "Such statements do not take into account the level of professionalism of my staff, 18 years of perfect audits or being recognized as the best tax collector's office in the nation. It also does not take into account the superior customer service that the public receives in Okaloosa County."

"The Riggs audit had to go back to 2006 to find any discrepancies because we followed every recommendation made since a 2009 review that I ordered and implemented," Hughes said.

When asked about Hughes' assertion that the forensic audit cost \$60,000, Anderson replied that his office had not yet received the bill from Carr Riggs.

Anderson said Carr Riggs was selected based on its experience with the county and with a forensic audit of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office after former Sheriff Charlie Morris was arrested for receiving kickbacks from employees to whom he had given bonuses.



Glenn Gillyard



Ben Anderson

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112 Oak Shores Drive	1,412	\$198,563
806 St. Joseph Cove	2,612	\$269,900
826 Turnberry Cove	2,841	\$319,000
132 Baywind Drive	2,415	\$325,000
1706 15 th Street	3,029	\$499,000
1332 Windward Circle	3,348	\$499,900
1628 Parkside Circle	5,325	\$779,000

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Road closure

The intersection at Hopper Street and Harding Road, Niceville, will be closed daily, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., through Oct. 6, for the installation of utilities, weather permitting.

Call Construction Service Company at 897-8030 with any questions.

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SIGN

From page A-1

connector road were having trouble finding the resort's golf course, restaurant and hotel, as well as short- and long-term residential rentals.

Hanks said that upon the scheduled completion in 2014 of the full 11-mile bridge connector road linking SR 85 north of Niceville with the toll bridge to Destin, the 4,000-home community and its stores "will be off the beaten path." Tens of thousands of motorists bound for Destin and southern Walton County that now funnel through Bluewater Bay will be largely diverted to the new expressway.

Affected, Hanks said, will not just be Bluewater Bay Resort, but also "mom and pop" businesses in Bluewater Bay that depend on highway business, and other, non-Resort business such as the Bluewater Bay Marina or the area's tennis center.

Hanks said he talked to Vest after he noticed the lack of signs to Bluewater Bay as he traveled over the bridge and the new connector road. Many motorists, he said, mistakenly exit at Range Road and then get lost. Frustrated people won't come back, he said.

"We'll be forgotten," Hanks said.

Now travelers going north or south on the MBBA's new connector road will spot the new directional signs to Bluewater Bay as they approach the SR 20 exits.

Vest noted that the DOT has long had similar signs directing motorists to popular recreational destinations. Look no further than the state agency's signs on SR 20 pointing motorists down White Point Road to the Maxwell Gunter Recreation area or to the entrance of Rocky Bayou State Park.

Still conspicuously missing, however, are any highway signs marking the actual boundaries of Bluewater Bay.

As an unincorporated community, Bluewater Bay has a Niceville mailing address, but many of its residents and merchants consider it a separate community. Plenty of highway signs erected by the DOT already point the way to Niceville.

The bridge authority's jurisdiction on SR 20 itself extends no further than the short stretch of highway east of the community which the authority recently widened to accommodate the new interchange.

By contrast, the smaller, unincorporated communities of Seminole and Villa Tasso just east of Bluewater Bay have DOT signs marking their boundaries.

Ian Satter, DOT spokesman, said that anyone in unincorporated areas can submit a request for a "city limit" sign. DOT will check whether the requested sign meets the criteria spelled out in Florida's administrative code 1451 and, if it does, will put it up.

It couldn't be immediately learned whether such boundary signs are in the works for Bluewater Bay.



Beacon photos by Del Lessard
Clockwise from top, north- and south-bound motorists on the Mid-Bay Bridge connector road approaching the exit at SR 20 first see a large sign advising them to take the next exit for Bluewater Bay, followed by a directional sign on the ramp stating which way to turn, and finally, westbound on SR 20 a sign stating there's one mile to go.



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Niceville's Newspaper

FWB crash injures 2 residents of Niceville

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Two Niceville residents were injured Thursday in a traffic crash on Lewis Turner Boulevard in Fort Walton Beach, according to a report from the Florida Highway Patrol.

The FHP gave the following

account:

Deshaun R. Frasier, 25, of Niceville, was driving a 2004 Pontiac four-door car northbound at a high rate of speed on Lewis Turner Boulevard, about 7:10 p.m. Sept. 29, when he passed onto the northbound shoulder to pass a vehicle that was in the outside lane.

When Frasier returned to the northbound roadway in front of the vehicle he just passed, he lost control and the Pontiac swerved in a northwesterly direction then struck the rear of a northbound 1999 Chevy SUV being driven by Jamelle B. Tinner, 21, also of Niceville. Neither driver was wearing a

seat belt at the time of the crash. Frasier received critical injuries and was transported to Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola by helicopter ambulance. Frasier left the hospital on Friday, according to a Mike Burke, spokesman for Sacred Heart.

Tinner received minor injuries and was taken to Fort Walton Beach Medical Center where she was treated and released, according to a spokeswoman for the hospital. Damage to Frasier's vehicle was estimated at \$10,000, while Tinner's SUV received an estimated \$15,000 damage.



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Dr. Olivier Broutin would like to help. Making sure that every patient has a comfortable, beautiful, functional smile is why he practices dentistry – and it's why he is so excited about the amazing benefits of dental implants. It really is the treat-

ment of choice for health, appearance and lasting benefits.

A dental implant is a relatively simple innovation. A Titanium rod is inserted into the bone where the tooth's root used to be. Because Titanium is bio-compatible, it becomes one with the bone and essentially becomes a part of your mouth – just the way the tooth root was. This keeps the bone living and stimulated, prevents further tooth loss and keeps your face youthfully supported.

The technology is both safe and proven – over a million implants are inserted every year and the results are incredible – far superior to a fixed partial denture or full dentures that do nothing to prevent bone loss and require removal of enamel or other preparation of the healthy teeth adjacent to the extraction. Each implant offers support and stimulation to the bone, keeping it intact and functioning. The teeth surrounding it are less likely to decay, require root canals or be lost because of a lack of bone support. And



Dr. Olivier Broutin

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Who's News

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

William Davis and Michelle Gonzalez, both 2010 graduates of Niceville High School,



William Davis

were selected by Huntingdon College to serve as Huntingdon Hosts for the 2011-12 academic year. Hosts work with the Office of Admission to welcome prospective students and their families to campus.

Davis, a Huntingdon Host, is a sophomore biochemistry major. He is a member of the Huntingdon Hawks baseball team, the Judicial Board, Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He serves as a Chemistry Wizard and on the Student Government Association. He is the son of Mary and Stuart Davis.



Michelle Gonzalez

Gonzalez, a Huntingdon Host, is a sophomore business administration major. She is the daughter of Michell and Roberto Rubet of Niceville. Gonzalez is a member of Alpha Omicron Pi women's fraternity, the Student Government Association, and the business club.



Earth Club cleans up

Niceville High School Earth Club took part in the 26th annual Beach Cleanup at Beasley Park Sept. 17. Club members collected more than five bags of trash and debris. The club adopted Beasley Park as a community project several years ago and conducts cleanups there every other month.

Eglin archaeologist discusses turpentine industry history

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, hosted a free lunchtime lecture noon Sept. 21 with archaeologist Joe Meyer from the Cultural Resource Management Center on Eglin Air Force Base.

Meyer, whose job is to locate, preserve and study archeological sites within the Eglin military reservation, talked about the Naval Stores Industry sites found on Eglin.

There are more than 2,000 archeological sites on Eglin, Meyer said, dating from thousands of years ago to more recent sites from about 50 years ago, such as World War II train-

ing installations. About 200 sites, he said, are of the timber and turpentine industry that formed a major part of the local economy and culture from the mid-1800s until the mid-20th century.

Turpentine, lumber, tar and pitch from pine and oak trees were often called "naval stores" because they were used to seal, waterproof and preserve parts of wooden ships. Hulls, decks and ropes in the ship's rigging were sealed and protected from the

elements with pitch and tar.

Turpentine and other products were made from the sap, or gum, of pine trees. Tree sap was collected by cutting into the trees in a series of chevron-shaped cuts, often called "cat faces." The sap was collected in cups and transferred to barrels. It was then taken to stills for processing. Today, the cat face patterns of cuts can still be seen on many trees throughout Eglin, as well as in Valparaiso and Niceville.

As with most industries of the 1800s and early- to mid-1900s, said Meyer, those who owned or managed the forest or the stills usually made a comfortable living, while those who



Joe Meyer



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

An exhibit at the Heritage Museum shows the tools and explains the methods for gathering turpentine.

Please see HISTORY, page B-2



Moo-ving forward in math

Waylynne Harris and Teresa Halus pose with their kindergarten 5B class at Rocky Bayou Christian School. The students are dressed in their farming clothes to advance to the farm unit in mathematics.

Sharing & Caring to build addition

Ground-breaking ceremony Friday

By Molly Mosher
Beacon Staff Writer

To better serve the community, Sharing & Caring will extend its current building 20 feet, creating a 640-square-foot addition.

"We are bursting at the seams," said Delle Diamon, president of Sharing & Caring. "Much of the time our lobby has standing room only, and this expansion will allow us to also add an extra office for interviews, thereby helping more people in a shorter amount of time."

This will also give Sharing &

Caring's team of volunteers more time to help people help themselves.

In addition to another interview office, Sharing & Caring will use the space to assist clients with food stamps and Medicaid applications as they are an agent for Florida Department of Children & Families. Also, space will be allocated for a work room for coordinating the Thanksgiving and Christmas program for the community. This includes food for families and gifts for their children. Sharing & Caring

Please see SHARING, page B-2



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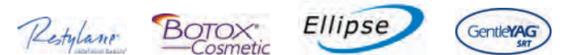
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Meyer's slideshow depicted various aspects of the turpentine industry. Top, from left, workers collected pine sap and gum from living trees; barrels of raw sap and gum were transported to the still for processing. Bottom left, a typical still. Today, wooden structural remains on Eglin are the last vestiges of the industry.

HISTORY

From page B-1

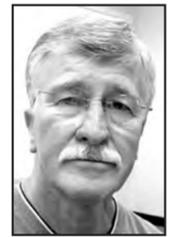
did the hard manual labor led more difficult lives. Nevertheless, the turpentine industry provided a livelihood for thousands of local people, especially as the South made the transition from an economy based on slavery to one based on paid employees. For many, working in the turpentine industry offered a better way of life than alternatives such as farming Northwest Florida's nutrient-poor soil.

Life in a turpentine town sometimes resembled life in the Wild West, Meyer said. The communities were isolated, and some rough characters, including the occasional wanted outlaw, were sometimes drawn to work in the turpentine industry. Drinking, fighting, and other misbehaving were fairly common, although most turpentiners were respectable, hard-working family people.

Raymon Melvin, who attended Meyer's lecture, said his family owned some of the land where turpentine was collected, and was involved in the industry for many years. He now owns a museum of the industry near his home in Holley, north of Navarre.

Melvin said that by the mid-20th century, demand for turpentine and other naval stores declined for several reasons. One of these was the replacement of

wooden sailing ships with steam or diesel powered steel vessels. Another was the replacement of turpentine by petroleum as the main ingredient for most of the products made from tree sap.



Raymon Melvin

When the U.S. military took over the land that is now the Eglin military reservation in the 1930s and '40s, most of the local turpentine

industry came to an end, said Melvin, although a few turpentine operations persisted into the 1960s on property outside the boundaries of Eglin.

"If it weren't for Eglin Air Force Base," Melvin said, "there would be no trace left today of the turpentine industry. All this area would have been developed by now, and the old sites would have been bulldozed."

Meyer helps operate the Eglin Air Force Base historical interpretive center, located in Building 238. Anyone with access to the base may visit the center. To arrange a visit, contact Meyer at 883-5202, or at meyerj@eglin.af.mil.

Raymon Melvin said his museum may be visited by appointment only, and visits can be arranged by calling him at 850-939-2746.

SHARING

From page B-1

provides this for approximately 200 families. Further the organization provide school supplies, Easter baskets, and other services beyond food and financial aid.

"This way, we will have the space to do more," said Diamon.

The building that Sharing & Caring occupies is on county leased land. The county leases the land to the organization for \$1 a year.

Sharing & Caring operates on a shoestring budget. So, where

did it get the money for the expansion?

"A local lady left her entire estate to six charities, including Sharing & Caring," said Freida Spence, program coordinator.

"She wanted to leave a legacy, wanted to help a lot," said Spence. "We want to honor her with something big."

According to Sharing & Caring Vice President Bob Mayhall, "The gift will cover the expense."

The organization selected the best bid from the four contractors who bid on the project.

Allen Milton Construction was awarded the contract for the addition.

Sharing & Caring continues to grow.

"In the first nine months of 2010, we helped 7,303 people. In those same nine months of 2011, we helped 8,466," said Mayhall.

One thing is for certain, if given the space, they will use it.

Groundbreaking for the new building addition will be Friday, Oct. 7, at 1 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Sharing & Caring is located at 104 Bullock Blvd. in Niceville.

Knights donate to library

The Niceville Public Library held its annual Constitution Week display Sept. 17-23. Material about the Constitution, early days of the country, past presidents and founding fathers were on display during the week. The Bluewater Bay chapter of the Knights of Columbus Council #13527 has donated reference materials to the program for the past six years. Reference Librarian Lora Glass, Knights of Columbus member Moni Carron and his daughter Adeline, 4, with the display.



Goodwill employees get 2nd chance

Three Goodwill employees' accomplishments were celebrated in a ceremony in Valparaiso Sept. 27. Through hard work, Christall Peavy, Leslie Hudson and David Brown were able to overcome obstacles in their lives and earn their General Education Development diplomas.

Fred Shelfer, Goodwill Industries president and CEO, presented each graduate with a certificate from Goodwill. Graduates' family members were also present at the ceremony.

Peavy, Hudson and Brown were employees at the Goodwill store in Valparaiso, without high school diplomas and lacking the desire to have a better life. They all enrolled in Goodwill's Earn and You Learn Program, which pays Goodwill employees three hours a week to work toward their education.

Peavy was charged with child neglect with no great harm, possession of marijuana and posses-

sion of drug paraphernalia, and lost her children to the state foster care system. She had never worked before and had few job skills. Peavy planned to do whatever was necessary to get her children back and make a good life for them. She began at Goodwill doing her community service hours and went to Goodwill Career Training Center to see what was available to help her change her life around.

Peavy began coming in four days a week and completed classes in Computer Basics, XP, Word, Outlook, Keyboarding, Financial Literacy and Ready to Work. She participated in a Transitional Work Experience and became an AmeriCorps member as a resource connector for Goodwill's Career Training Center.

"This program has given me not just a life, but a real blessed life, that I would never in the universe thought, even the slightest possibility, would ever become my reality," said Peavy.

When Hudson, a single mother of three, without transportation, first came to Goodwill she was surprised at how many different training programs were available to the public and employees. She



Leslie Hudson

enrolled in Computer, GED and Financial Literacy classes. She worked hard, studied hard and reached her dream of earning her G E D .

"Goodwill is helping me change my life for the better," said Hudson.

Brown finished sixth grade in the public school system. Due to medical issues and being in and out of the hospital, he needed to be



David Brown

h o m e schooled for the past three years and have a job to help the family. He has worked hard as a donation attendant for Goodwill and studying for his GED. Brown said, "Now that I have my high school diploma I want to go to college and study computer science."



Hospital Auxiliary installs officers

Twin Cities Hospital Auxiliary installed its officers. From left, Bobbie Humphrey, first vice president; Regina Joyce, recording secretary; Wanda Stapleton, assistant treasurer; Carolyn Van Pelt, president; Pat Willoz, treasurer. Not pictured, Mary Lou Catron, second vice president; Bonnie McKinney, corresponding secretary. This year the men and women of the TCH Auxiliary presented \$20,000 to 19 students pursuing careers in health care fields. New volunteers always are welcome. Leave contact information at the Volunteer Front Desk in the hospital lobby for more information.

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Ram setup

Ruckel Middle School's Jessie Day sets up the ball as Kelsie Walker backs her up in a Monday volleyball game with Destin Middle School. Ruckel took the match in straight sets, 25-12 and 25-11.

Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson



Photo by Marcena Bohler

Dallas 98 boys kick to victory

The FC Dallas 98 boys team won the Under 13 boys bracket at the Endless Summer Soccer Tournament in Panama City Labor Day weekend. From left: front, Tripp Whitaker, Michael Klinger, Daniel Abel, Chase Mixson and Joshua Springle; back, Seth Rung, Devin Drake, Nicholas Kennington, Grason Shackelford, Nicholas Bonanno, Corey Shelikoff, Zachary Jordan, Edward Shelikoff, Nathan Bohler, Connor Allen and coach Edwin Baptiste. Not pictured: Patrick Poate, Jacob Proctor and manager Beth Mixson.



10U girls are tri-state champs

The 10U High Intensity softball team won the tri-state (Alabama, Florida and Georgia) state championship in Donalsonville, Ga., recently under coaches Sonny Childress, John Ross and Jan Orr. From left: rear, Rachel Ross, Kaylee Orr, Kamryn Caldwell, Hannah Turley, Jessie Black, Alyssa Selvey, Michaela Cain and Grace McIntosh; front, Blakeleigh Eslinger, Haylie Robinson, Madison Childress and Mikhala Hampton.

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Museum seeks volunteers

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Ave.,

seeks responsible community volunteers to assist with greeting and reception in the gift shop. Flexible days and times are available for 1-3 hour shifts. Other volunteer positions are available. Interested individuals may stop by the museum during regular business hours, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Info: 678-2615.

Breast cancer benefit

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Hungry Howies locations in Florida will donate a portion of every pizza sold to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Pumpkin Patch now open

The Niceville United Methodist Church's seventh annual Pumpkin Patch will be open through October 31. The Pumpkin Patch will be open 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Every Saturday will be a family fun day with face painting, a petting zoo, a bouncy house, and hot-dogs and hamburgers. Pumpkins are sold for donations, which will benefit Student Ministries programs.

NHS band citrus sale

The Niceville High School Eagle Pride Band will sell fresh Indian River citrus to be delivered the second Saturday in December. Navel oranges, grapefruits and tangelos may be ordered from any band member from Oct. 17-Nov. 4. This fundraiser will help send the Eagle Pride band to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade next year. An online sale will go on during the entire month of October. Visit fruitorder.com to place an order with a credit card, using the NHS Band organization ID #787415, select a student's name for credit or General Band Fund. Fruit is shipped fresh to you from Indian River Groves. You may also call 729-2783 for locally delivered orders.

Audubon Society meeting

The next meeting of the Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will be Oct. 6. Rick West, coordinator of the Florida Ornithological Society's "Breeding Bird Atlas of Florida II" project, will present an overview of this work, which attempts to record the breeding distribution of all bird species in the state. The meeting will be held in Room 128 of the Learning Resources Center of 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. Info: Walt Spence, 582-7064.

NHS band citrus sale

The Niceville High School Eagle Pride Band will sell fresh Indian River citrus to raise money for its 2012 trip to perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Oranges, grapefruits and tangelos may be ordered online during October. Visit fruitorder.com and use the NHS Band ID #787415.



High Holy Days events

Temple Beth Shalom, 227 Beal Parkway NW, Fort Walton Beach, welcomes all Jewish residents and visitors of the Niceville area for its services during High Holy Days. The schedule follows: Kol Nidre, Oct. 7, 8 p.m.; Yom Kippur Day, Oct. 8, includes: Shaharit (10 a.m.), Month (3:15 p.m.), Yizkor (4:20 p.m.), Ne'ilah (5:15 p.m.), Break the fast, reservations required (6 p.m.).

Info: 862-6086 or TBSNWFL@aol.com.

Charity golf tournament

Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation will hold "Swing for the Arts," a charity golf tournament Oct. 7 at the Emerald Bay Golf Club, Miramar Beach. Registration will begin at 11 a.m., with lunch from noon-1 p.m., and a shotgun start immediately following.

Proceeds will benefit Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation and All Kinds of Art to support cultural events and art education outreach programs for youth development.

For more information: mattiekellyartsfoundation.org/special-events.php or Michelle Neubauer, 833-8470 or michelle.neubauer@regions.com.

Starfish Charity Gala

The 2011 Catholic Charities Starfish Charity Gala, with a cocktail reception and three-course, seated dinner, is scheduled for Oct. 7, at the Soundside Club, Hurlburt Field, beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$100; advance ticket purchase required.

Info and to buy tickets: starfishgala.com or Evelyn at 244-2825.

Purse sale fundraiser

Shelter House, a local domestic violence shelter, will hold Purse sale with a Purpose at Silver Sands Factory Stores, in the storefront between Juicy Couture and DKNY. This auction will feature new and lightly used designer purses to be sold, with all profits benefiting Shelter House. A VIP party Oct. 7, 6-8 p.m., will allow attendees to pay \$5 for first pick of the purses of their choice, door prizes, food and wine. Tickets may be purchased at the door, Oct. 8, 10 a.m.-noon, all items will be for sale with purses marked down 25 to 50 percent. Mimosas and muffins will be served. Info: Shelter House, 243-1201.

Haunted House

The Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge will present its 6th annual Haunted House at Uptown Station, Fort Walton Beach. No mere roadside attraction...visitors will take a journey through the scariest, creepiest, most blood-curdling attraction this side of the continental divide. This is not a haunted house for the faint of heart,

Yard sale for Alzheimer's

Sterling House Bluewater Bay's annual Alzheimer's Yard Sale to benefit the Alzheimer's Walk will be held Oct. 8, 7 a.m.-noon, at the Winn-Dixie parking lot. Help by donating items in good condition for the sale, giving a monetary donation to any manager, or logging into alz.org to register and donate online to the team "Sterling Stars." Plan to stop by on the day of the sale and show your support. Sterling House will accept donations of items for sale Wednesday through Friday, Oct. 5-7. Info: 729-3323.

Festa Italiana

The Sons of Italy Lodge #2422 will hold its 32nd Festa Italiana Oct. 7 and 8 at the Sons of Italy Lodge, 808 South Drive, Fort Walton Beach. This event will run 5-9 p.m. Friday, and 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday. The menu will include spaghetti, meatball or sausage subs, pizza, Italian pastries, gelato, lasagna, pasta fagioli, Italian beer and coffees.

Friday night is open-mic night for all area "idol" wannabes hosted by local Karaoke DJ, Dave Maloy. Saturday will feature The Garrett Brothers Band, Paradise Bayou and The Blues Brothers. The Tarantella Dancers And Eh! Cumpari Musicians will also perform Saturday.

Admission is free. Info: Maddie Meneal, 609-6077.

Liberty School reunion

There will be a Liberty School reunion Oct. 8, 10 a.m., at the Cluster Springs Baptist Church, 1333 Co. Hwy. 1084, DeFuniak Springs. All who attend are asked to bring a covered dish to this potluck event.

Ft. Pickens field trip

Alan Knothe will lead a field trip to Ft. Pickens and surrounding trails on the eastern end of Santa Rosa Island Oct. 8. Expect to see shore birds and migrating species which can't be seen at any other time during the year. Meet at Uptown Station at 8 a.m. Info: Alan, 200-6279.

Duck race benefit

The Emerald Coast Duck Regatta to benefit Sacred Heart Hospital on the Emerald Coast Guild will be held Oct. 8 at the Village of Baytowne Wharf at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. The event will have fun activities for the whole family, including Abtrakadoodle face painters and a scavenger hunt. Festivities will begin at 11 a.m.

A donation of \$10 or more will adopt a duck.

Ducks are available at the Sacred Heart Gift Shop or online at emeraldcoastduckregatta.com.

German Club Oktoberfest

The German Club "Germania" will hold an Oktoberfest Saturday, Oct. 8, beginning at 3 p.m., with live music starting at 5 p.m. at the Clubhouse, 428 W Racetrack Road, Fort Walton Beach.

There will be bratwurst, rolls, sauerkraut, red cabbage, potato salad and apple strudel. Oompah music on the accordion is for listening pleasure or dancing. Donations of \$10 for guests is appreciated.

Info: Inge Myers, 654-2941.

Artist Series at Arts Center

The Artist Series will premiere Oct. 8 with "BREAK! The Urban Funk Spectacular," at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville. The show is a tribute to hip hop music with break dancing, locking and "electric boogaloo," featuring New York's finest urban artists, a pumping soundtrack, live DJ and master percussionists.

Tickets are \$30. For tickets, call the Mattie Kelly Arts Center Box Office, 729-6000, or visit Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and 90 minutes prior to each concert, or purchase tickets by web at mattiekellyartscenter.org.

Genealogical meeting

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County will meet Oct. 8 at 10 a.m. at the Valparaiso Community Library, 459 Valparaiso Parkway, Library Director David Weatherford will give a tour of the library's genealogy materials, complete with tips on genealogy research. The Louise K. Fitzgarrald Genealogy Department boasts more than 7,000 volumes of printed materials and 1,200 microfilm reels from Federal Census records and other references. All who are interested in family history are welcome to come enjoy this program.

Info: Pat Pruett 678-2023.

Boating seminars

Two Monday night boating semi-

nars starting at 6:30 p.m. will be held Oct. 10 and 24 at the Anchorage, 404 Green Acres Road, Fort Walton Beach. The two-hour seminars, which are geared toward local boaters, cover Oct. 10, Using GPS, and Oct. 24, Anchoring. The seminars will be presented by members of the Fort Walton Sail and Power Squadron.

Info: 315-0686, 473-7468, or fwpsps.com.

VFW Post meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Niceville-Valparaiso Kent Purcell VFW Post 10090 will be held Oct. 10, at the DAV Hall, 920 Hospital Drive, Niceville, at 7 p.m. Info: post10090@flvfw.org. Members and potential new members are welcome.

RBCS band fundraiser

The Rocky Bayou Christian School marching band will hold a fundraiser, selling gently used RBCS school uniforms in the school gym, Oct. 10, 8-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m. Clothing donations will be accepted, along with hangers, at the Academy, kindergarten or elementary offices during business hours.

ADSO watercolor workshop

Sharon Long will return to the Arts and Design Society to teach watercolor workshop, "Fun, Explore and Express Yourself." The two-part class, Oct. 10 and 11, will run 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The cost is \$85 for ADSO members and \$90 for non-members. Learn about paper, brushes, how color moves, glazing, shape, how to apply them to paintings and many other techniques. No drawing skills required. Demos, followed by painting and exploration, one-on-one help and critiques will benefit all levels of watercolorists, from beginners to more advanced. Info: artsdesignsociety.org or 244-1271.

Professional development

The American Society for Training & Development welcomes the public to its October workshop, "Coaching Toward Excellence: A hands-on workshop to master the art of coaching." The program, presented by Kent Blumberg, will be held Oct. 11 at Northwest Florida State College, Building K, Niceville. Breakfast will be offered at 8:30 a.m., followed by the program, 9 a.m.-noon, and lunch from noon-1 p.m.

Cost: \$75 for nonmembers, \$60 for chapter members.

RSVP: Tracey Tapp at astd.ec.hospitality@gmail.com or astdmemberalcoast.memberlodge.org.

Gluten Free group meeting

Gluten Free Together is a monthly

support group for those on or considering a gluten-free diet. The group meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Niceville United Methodist Church, 204 S. Partin Drive. The Oct. 11 meeting will be held in rooms 905 and 907 in the Community Life Center.

Info: Candace Miller, 279-3020 or gftogether@live.com.

Chamber breakfast

The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce will hold its second Wednesday breakfast Oct. 12 at First Baptist Church of Niceville, 622 Bayshore Drive. The event will begin at 7:15 a.m. with coffee and conversation, followed by breakfast at 7:30. This month's sponsor is First Baptist Church of Niceville. Chamber members, their guests, and prospective members are invited to attend.

Luncheon history lecture

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida will host a free lecture, "Destin History and the Evolution of the World's Luckiest Fishing Village," with Jean Melvin, executive director of the Destin History and Fishing Museum, Oct. 12 at noon.

Come hear the stories, legends and facts about Destin, Florida's 19th century pioneers, the fishing industry and its evolution.

Bring a sack lunch and take your lunch break at the Heritage Museum for History Sandwiched-In. This lecture is free and open to the public. Space is limited. Call to reserve a seat, 678-2615.

Lunch & Learn at YMCA

The Niceville YMCA, 1031 E. John Sims Parkway,

Niceville, will present the Andrews Institute: Treating the Athlete in Everyone at a free Lunch & Learn event Oct. 12, noon-1 p.m. Come listen to the presentation by Andrews Institute for Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine and enjoy a free lunch.

Info: 897-9622.

FWB Aglow meeting

The Fort Walton Beach Aglow October speaker will be Winifred Gilbert, whose ministry has led her to establish two churches in Alabama. The meeting will be held Oct. 13 at Marina Bay Resort, 80 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach. Coffee and fellowship will take place at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will start at 10.

Info: Barbara Williams, 678-1335 or fwbaglow@yahoo.com.



Birds of a feather

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will meet Oct. 6 at the Learning Resource Center, Room 128, at Northwest Florida State College. Rick West will present "Breeding Bird Atlas of Florida II," a project to record the breeding distribution of Florida birds. Socializing at 6:30 p.m., with the program at 7. The meeting is free and open to all. Info: 582-7064.

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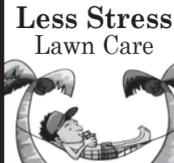
Weekly newcomer's class starts Wed., Sept. 21, 6 p.m., covering essentials of Anglicanism. All welcome. Call 837-6324 to sign up.

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Beacon photos by Sarah Clauson

Sebastian Schutte, left, and Joey Collins bring the ball down for a loss during Friday's game against Choctawhatchee. The Eagles won, 14-13.



Niceville's Josh Jones makes a critical completion under pressure on third and long in the third quarter against Choctawhatchee.

Eagles bounce back to edge Choctaw

By Sarah Clauson
Beacon Correspondent

The Eagles hosted district rival Choctawhatchee High School Friday and edged it out with a 14-13 victory. The home game came after three weeks on the road. It also marked the return of starting quarterback and kicker Andrew Mitchell, who was out two games due to a knee injury.

The Indians got the momentum going with a strong passing game and a blocked field goal midway through the first quarter. They then did something they haven't done in several seasons against the Eagles, scored the first touchdown of the game to take an early lead.

The Eagles started to bring their game together, and an electrifying 68-yard run by

Jon Hudson put the ball on the 6-yard line. A keeper by Mitchell moved them to the 1-yard line and Devin Vazquez broke the plane and helped tie the game with 6:14 left in the half.

The defense started the second half strong and provided the offense another opportunity to pull ahead. Mitchell connected with Josh Jones on a critical third and long for the

More sports, B-3.

first down, and a few successful plays later he connected with Tyree McCants for a touchdown and Niceville's first lead of the game with seconds remaining in the third quarter.

Eagle defense hit the field with even more determination in the fourth quarter and held the Indians off in several pos-

sessions. With a score of 14-7, and less than two minutes in the game, the battle intensified when the Indians, on a fourth and 12, completed a huge touchdown pass that threatened the Eagle lead. The point after was blocked by Eagle defensive back Kevin Chasteen, and the Eagles clinched their lead and the victory.

The victory, off the heels of

a big loss against Navarre, was a crucial boost for the team.

"It was big for team morale," coach John Hicks said of the win. He added, "I'm really proud of our defense for coming back and playing like they did. It was a team effort and I'm really proud of all of them."

The Eagles will host district opponent Mosley High School this Friday at 7 p.m.



Photo by Scott Schaeffler

Knights finish fourth in tourney

Rocky Bayou Christian School's Asher Bechtold chips his ball out of the sand during the recent Miracle Strip Invitational, held at The Pines, Fort Walton Beach. The Knights finished fourth out of 17 teams in the tournament, which was won by Niceville High School.

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