

The Bay Beacon

14 Pages, 2 Sections, 2 Inserts

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

50¢

**UP
COMING**

Thursday, 9:30 a.m.



The Bluewater Bay Garden Club will hold a "North Florida Wildflowers" program at the Bluewater Bay Clubhouse Oct. 13, 9:30 a.m., with Dave Gordon as speaker. Gordon is a fifth generation native of Okaloosa County, and a master gardener and certified master naturalist, as well as a retired middle school science teacher. All are welcome.

Saturday, 8 a.m.



Superior Residences of Niceville will hold its first-ever Walk to End Alzheimer's Oct. 15. Check-in is at 8 a.m., walk routes open at 9. This is the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Join a walking team today at alz.org/walk or 800-272-3900.

Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.



The Friends of the Niceville Library will hold a Tea and book discussion with author Johanna Ridenow at the Niceville Community Center, 204 N. Partin Drive. Ridenow will discuss her first book "Progeny of Lazarus." Refreshments and a book signing will follow the program. This program is free, but space is limited. Call the library, 279-4863, ext. 1504, by Oct. 15 to reserve a seat.

Calendar, B-2.

School board nixes pay hike for itself

By Del Lessard and Mike Griffith
Beacon Staff

For most employees, to accept a \$1,000 annual pay raise would be a no-brainer. But other considerations

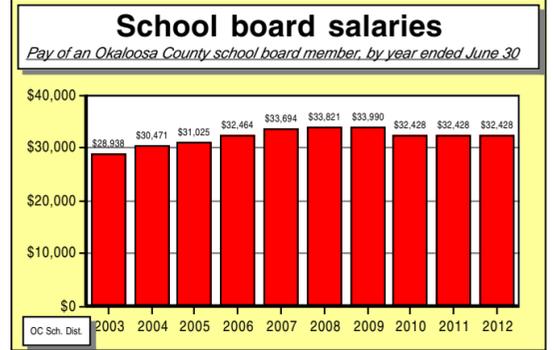
Monday led the five-member Okaloosa County School Board unanimously to reject a state-proposed pay increase for themselves.

The cash-strapped school board has already told teachers

and other employees that they, too, can't expect the usual raises this year.

School Board member Melissa Thrush, Niceville, said

Please see PAY HIKE, page A-5



Nearing finish line



Beacon photo by Del Lessard
Pedestrians are a step closer to enjoying a 1.5-mile sidewalk on White Point Road. On March 25 Okaloosa County awarded a \$639,895 contract to Anderson Columbia to build the sidewalk from State Road 20 south to Olde Post Road, but delayed work until after the Mid-Bay Bridge connector road opened May 12, relieving White Point Road of congestion. Above, on Friday construction workers poured concrete on sections of the project just south of Woodlands Drive.

For many, cost of Mullet fest jumps to \$15

By Kenneth Books
Beacon Staff Writer

The Boggy Bayou Mullet Festival will introduce peak pricing this year.

The cost of admission for most of the three-day music festival in Niceville later this month is unchanged from last year at \$10 a day at the gate. However, the gate cost will jump by 50 percent, to \$15, for an adult paying Saturday, Oct. 22, after 5 p.m., because of heavy costs associated with this year's headliner, country star Trace



Trace Adkins

Adkins, festival organizers announced.

Children 11 years and under will be admitted free throughout the festival Oct. 21-23. Advance tickets for adults, good any time, remain at \$9. Admission includes all entertainment. "We're really investing in Saturday, about \$20,000 more than we ever have for entertainment," said Lannie Corbin, festival entertainment chairman, referring to the Oct. 22 headliner, Adkins, who has had numerous No. 1

Please see MULLET, page A-4

Senate again eyes bridge's autonomy

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Will Florida legislators make another attempt to abolish the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority?

Jim Vest, MBBA executive director, said Tuesday that it appears that the state will "absolutely" make another try to abolish regional toll authorities, such as the Niceville-based Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, and consolidate them under Tallahassee rule. A measure is now before the governor's efficiency task force and it's "obvious where this thing's going," he said.

Vest said that last month he

had received an exploratory report from the Florida Senate transportation subcommittee.

During the 2011 legislative session, Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, then chairman of the subcommittee, caught MBBA officials by surprise when he introduced a bill to eliminate the MBBA and other regional transportation tolling authorities and place their functions under the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, an agency under the Florida Department of Transportation.

The bill would have also done away with discounts enjoyed by

Please see SENATE, page A-5

Tax collector appointee to run for post

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Ben Anderson, who was appointed interim Okaloosa County Tax Collector Aug. 8, told the Beacon Friday that he has decided to seek election to the office next year.

As of Monday, Anderson had not yet not prefilled with the Supervisor of Elections.



Ben Anderson

Prefiling would give him the right to collect and spend campaign money.

Meantime, a previously announced candidate for tax collector, District 3 Okaloosa County Commissioner Bill Roberts, prefilled Oct. 4 as a Republican candidate for tax collector.

Eight months ago, Roberts

BWB man seeks county commission seat, A-3.

announced his intention to run for the tax collector job, yet also vowed to complete his current term on the county commission.

"Character, integrity, proven experience and putting the best interest of the citizens ahead of any personal agenda

are what Okaloosa voters want and deserve," said Roberts last week after prefiling. "This is what I feel I have given in my 17 years of public service and this will be my platform in this campaign."

Roberts, 63, of Fort Walton Beach, owns an insurance agency that he has run for the past 31 years. He was

Please see TAX, page A-3

Valp. restricts Valp. Elementary site to school use

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

By a 3-2 vote Monday Valparaiso city commissioners set the stage for a possible confrontation with the Okaloosa County School Board over use of the former site of Valparaiso Elementary School.

Some city officials back a South Florida company's proposal to open a charter school on the site. The school board opposes that proposal but has not announced any plans for the site

itself.

At issue are three ordinances enacted by the city commission Monday. The first two new laws created a zoning district called Public Institutional, Elementary School and rezoned the school site from commercial to the new designation. The third ordinance incorporated the new zoning category to the city's future land use map.

Taken together, the measures

Please see SCHOOL, page A-2



The 13-acre property that includes the former Valparaiso Elementary School was rezoned by the Valparaiso City Commission Monday from commercial use to elementary school use. The Okaloosa County School District, which closed the school in May, said the rezoning was illegal.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard



Beacon photo by Del Lessard
A divided Valparaiso City Commission Monday approved a measure restricting use of the former Valparaiso Elementary School site to use as an elementary school. A court reporter hired by the school district, left, took a record of the proceedings for use in a possible district legal challenge.

SCHOOL

From page A-1

would bar anything but an elementary school from operating at the site.

A court reporter hired by the school board, which owns the 13-acre site and its aging buildings, recorded the proceedings as lawyer Greg Stewart, representing the school board, declared the city commission actions "unconstitutional." The new city ordinances, Stewart said, transgress upon authority Florida law gives to the

school board alone.

The school district closed Valparaiso Elementary, 379 Edge Ave., last May because of declining enrollment and sent its students to Lewis School, which also enrolls middle school students. The closure proved unpopular among many parents in Valparaiso.

The controversial new zoning laws originated last January when City Commissioner Neal Shermer proposed that the city investigate starting or attracting a charter elementary school to replace

Valparaiso Elementary, which the school board by then had announced would close.

The commission then tasked Shermer with studying the issue and directed its attorney, Doug Wyckoff, to propose zoning that would limit the property from being used for non-school purposes.

Since January the city has held a number of meetings on the issue, including some with school district officials. Commissioners also directed the city planning commission to study the matter.

In August the planning commission, by a 3-2 vote, recommended changing the property from its former limited commercial zoning of C-1 to a new designation called Public Institutional.

The school board supported the proposed Public Institutional zoning.

Meantime, however, Wyckoff offered a more restrictive measure for city commission consideration. His measure also recommended zoning of Public Institutional, but with mutually exclusive subcategories, including one limiting usage to elementary school, the option chosen by the city commission Monday. Other subcategories in Wyckoff's version included community recreation, public parks and playgrounds, or public libraries, museums or art galleries.

At Monday's city commission meeting, the school board's lawyer, Stewart, argued that the state constitution gives school boards sole power to establish public schools and that Florida law limits local-government power over school facilities. He said the Wyckoff-drafted measure would be unconstitutional and unlawfully dictate how the property could be used.

Shermer disagreed, saying that the school board would only have to come back to the city commission for permission if it wanted to use its property for another public use besides an elementary school.

Shermer said that a school district committee had recently recommended approval of a Valparaiso charter school proposed by Academica, a South Florida charter school company supported by members of the city commission. He said Okaloosa County Schools Superintendent Alexis Tibbetts would have to add her recommendation to the school board, likely later this month.

Even if Academica's proposal is approved, there's no guarantee that the school board would allow it to lease the former Valparaiso Elementary School property, or that both sides could agree on terms.

"These three ordinances invite litigation that can break our city," City Commissioner Diane Kelley, a principal of an Okaloosa County School District school, said Monday.

Shermer accused Kelley of a conflict of interest on the issue. Kelley denied the accusation, saying that she is in the school district's Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP), so her future salary and retirement benefits cannot be changed.

An Eglin Air Force Base representative also objected to Wyckoff's proposed zoning, though for a different reason. The representative noted that the western part of the 13-acre school grounds was at higher risk of an airplane crash because it lies under the approach of an Eglin runway. The school building itself is outside the risk area, however.

Mayor Bruce Arnold, too, opposed Wyckoff's zoning version, at least for now. Arnold said he preferred to table any action until the Air Force releases a planned new study of jet noise, expected within 12 months.

After more discussion and public input, commissioners Shermer, Tom Miller and Heyward Strong voted in favor of Wyckoff's version of the zoning ordinances, with Arnold and Kelley dissented.

Arnold said Monday's commission action highlighted mistrust and a communication gap between the school board and the city.

Kelley said she hoped the majority would not regret their action "when the lawsuit that will surely ensue comes to pass and effectively bankrupts our beautiful little city." She added, "We could achieve so much more, so much more quickly and efficiently, through collegial conversations rather than creating contention and strife with the very entities we need to be a healthy community."

Asked after the meeting whether the school board would sue Valparaiso, school district Assistant Superintendent Rodney Nobles, who attended, said he couldn't speak for the school board, but noted the district had hired a Tallahassee law firm to represent its interests, Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, of which Stewart is a member.

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 <p>GATO NEGRO WINE</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: red;">\$3.20</p> <p>ALL VARIETIES, 750 ML</p>	 <p>POWERADE SPORTS DRINK</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: red;">59¢</p> <p>32 OZ</p>		

BWB man seeks county office

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Bluewater Bay resident Felix Beukenkamp has prefiled as a candidate for the District 5 Okaloosa County Commission seat being vacated next year by James Campbell.

"It's really a service thing for me," said Beukenkamp about his first run for elective office. He prefiled Oct. 5 as a Republican candidate for the District 5 County Commission seat, which covers most of Niceville, Bluewater Bay and Destin.

Beukenkamp, 58, is a builder, developer and real estate manager who has lived in Okaloosa County since 1984, and Bluewater Bay since 1987. He and his wife of 32 years, Nancy Dillon, raised four

daughters. Among his community activities, Beukenkamp served as a founding board member and also chairman of Habitat for Humanity in Okaloosa County. He also serves or has served on the boards of the Okaloosa Community Development Corporation, on the Workforce Development Board, the Building Industry Association of Okaloosa and Walton counties, the Florida Home Builders Association and the Mental Health Association.



Felix Beukenkamp

He holds a bachelor's degree in economics and an MBA with a major in finance.

In his business dealings Beukenkamp said he's become familiar with county departments, including water and sewer, public works and growth management. He has served on the Okaloosa County Planning Commission for the past five years and is currently its vice chairman, he said.

After 27 years in the business community, Beukenkamp said it's a good time for him to be able to give back to the community by being a candidate. He said that in these difficult economic times, "I have the time and experience and the skill set to help" county government stay "lean and mean, with an eye toward future growth."

Another Niceville Republican, Aaron Weinstock, of Niceville, also prefiled for the District 5 County Commission seat Oct. 3. The Beacon was unable to reach Weinstock for comment.

Two other men, also Republicans, prefiled for the District 5 County Commission job earlier this year:

—Kelly Windes, of Destin, who prefiled Jan. 4.

—Larry Hines, of Destin, who prefiled Feb. 22

Profiling allows candidates to begin raising money for their political campaigns.

The qualification period for Okaloosa County commission candidates is June 4-8, 2012, with the primary election set for Aug. 14 and the General Election Nov. 6, 2012.

TAX

From page A-1

elected to the Fort Walton Beach City Council in 1985 and as mayor in 1989.

In 2002 Roberts was elected to fill the remaining two-year term of former District 3 Okaloosa County commissioner Doug Hutcheson. He won re-election to four-year terms in 2004 and 2008.



Bill Roberts

District 3 represents all of Valparaiso and part of southern and western Niceville, as well as parts of Fort Walton Beach as well as the Baker area in the north part of Okaloosa County.

Roberts and his wife, Debi, have been married for 40 years and have two grown sons and one grandson.

Okaloosa County Tax Collector Chris Hughes, who was first elected in 1992 and re-elected to serve five four-year terms, quit about 18 months before the end of his last term on June 30 to pursue a religious ministry.

Anderson was appointed tax collector by Gov. Rick Scott to finish the remaining 18 months

of Hughes' term. Anderson ordered a special audit of the Hughes administration. The audit found "excessive" spending on the pay of some executives, but no criminal wrongdoing.

Anderson said Friday that when he was first appointed he didn't know the full responsibilities of the office. However, after his first two months in

office, which included a restructuring of the management team, he said, "I can do the job and make a difference."

So far, three candidates, all Republican, have prefiled to run for Roberts' seat on the county commission:

—Bill Smith of Niceville.

—Dennis Reeves of Fort Walton Beach.

—Nathan Boyles of Holt.

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Beacon file photo

The 35th annual Boggy Bayou Mullet Festival will be held in Niceville Oct. 21-23. Daily admission, normally \$10, will rise to \$15 at the gate on Saturday, Oct. 22, after 5 p.m. to help pay for the \$125,000 Trace Adkins act.

MULLET

From page A-1
country hits. His concert will begin at 10:30 p.m.
The cost for this year's Adkins show, according to Corbin, was about \$125,000 including room and transportation. The total for all entertain-

ment at the three-day festival is about \$230,000.

Corbin said anyone who enters the festival the day of the Adkins show before 5 p.m. won't have to pay the surcharge.

Corbin said that tickets for a recent Adkins performance in Biloxi, Miss., started at \$69.

Of the 40,000 people who

attended last year's festival, about half attended the Saturday night headliner show by country music singer Joe Nichols, according to festival officials.

Advance tickets are available for \$9 at MulletFestival.com/admission.htm and at a number of locations, including branches of Coastal Bank, Beach Community Bank, and Peoples National Bank, the Niceville library, Niceville City Hall, the Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, and Image Makers hair salon, in Niceville.

For two decades after its founding in 1977, admission to the annual music and food festival was free. That included the landmark year of 1992, when new superstar Billy Ray Cyrus was the Saturday night headliner.

But in response to requests from local residents for better entertainment and declining

beer sales, a \$1 admission fee was instituted in 1997. That fee rose to \$2 in 2000, \$3 in 2001, \$5 in 2003 and the current \$10 in 2006.

Corbin said many people in the past have come to the festival just for the Saturday night entertainment. "That's OK," he said, "but we also have a lot of people who invest in their booths and we'd like to help out the people helping us." He said the admission cost break for those arriving before 5 p.m. will lure more people to tour the grounds and visit the booths.

Friday's music headliner will be country music star Brantley Gilbert, performing at 10 p.m., and Sunday's will be Josh Owen, whose performance will begin at 6 p.m.

The Mullet Festival grounds at Twin Oaks on the corner of Highway 85 and College Boulevard is expected to be packed again this year.



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- **Ask Again**
There can be a lot of information to digest and sometimes talking about cancer treatment can just be overwhelming. Don't be afraid to ask a question again for better clarification. It is always ok to ask.
- **Four Basic Questions to Ask**
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 2. What is important for me to remember about my diagnosis/treatment?
 3. What do I need to do when I get home?
 4. What signs or symptoms should I report immediately?



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Remember that you are one of the most important members of your healthcare team and you deserve to have the answers you need.



SENATE

From page A-1
the DOT's electronic tolling program, Sunpass, resulting in higher tolls for local motorists who use Sunpass.

The bill failed, after it was opposed by the MBBA and the state's other self-governing highway agencies: the Santa Rosa Bay Bridge Authority, the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority and the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority.

In late July the Senate subcommittee—now chaired by Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto, R-Palm Beach—asked the MBBA and other regional authorities for detailed financial information, raising suspicions that the legislature might again attempt to consolidate regional transportation authorities under the state.

Vest said that the Senate subcommittee's September draft report reached no conclusions and mainly repeated financial information it collected from the regionals.

The subcommittee's draft report, however, did include a statement of the issue it is studying. For years Florida has used toll facilities as a means of financing road and bridge construction. The purpose of the study was to determine the cost effectiveness of



Beacon photo

The Mid-Bay Bridge, currently owned and overseen by an autonomous state agency based in Niceville, may again be a target of a state takeover attempt in the next state legislative session.

regional expressway authorities whose directors are appointed by the governor rather than named by the DOT.

The report listed three issues with independent regional toll authorities such as the MBBA that don't fall under the DOT. As stated in the report, the issues are:

—Under agreements with the Florida Department of Transportation, the regional tolling authorities are allowed to reimburse the DOT for operations and maintenance expenses of their bridges and roads only after the authorities service their own bond debt and administrative costs. That

is out of sync with the rest of the country, according to the report, where revenue bond resolutions typically require O&M expenses be paid before debt service. As of June 30 the debt owed to the DOT from the various toll authorities under the agreements totaled \$391 million, of which the Mid-Bay Bridge owes \$16 million.

—Regional transportation authorities pay for redundant services, such as executive management, legal, accounting, marketing and contract oversight, that could be reduced under state consolidation.

—More money could be borrowed to build or improve state roads and bridges, at less expense, under the state's AAA bond rating rather than by regional tolling authorities. The MBBA's bond rating is BBB-, for example, while the Santa Rosa Bay Bridge Authority is technically in default.

Gaetz—who stepped down as the subcommittee's chair because of his new duties as the next Senate president—told the Beacon he was sorry there little support in Okaloosa County for his unsuccessful bill to abolish the MBBA because many proposed transportation projects in Northwest Florida which are awaiting funding could be built more quickly if the state could borrow against the independent authorities' toll revenue.

PAY HIKE

From page A-1
that since no one else in the school district is getting a raise this year, it would be difficult for any Okaloosa County school board member to vote to boost their own pay by over \$1,000.

Thrush, mother of four young children, said she spends an enormous amount of time performing the duties of her elective office and often pays a baby sitter so that she can attend to meetings and events tied to those duties.

Florida law sets a ceiling on pay of each county's elected school board members based on that county's student popula-

tion. This year the state's recommended pay for the five Okaloosa County School Board members was \$32,428 a year, up \$1,027, the raise the board rejected Monday.

In addition to their salaries, the part-time school board members are entitled to free health and dental insurance, the same benefit as any full-time employee of the school district, said Mike Foxworthy, the school district's personnel director. Also like other school district employees, school board members can get coverage for additional family members but have to pay for that coverage, he said.

School board members are

also entitled to enroll in the state's defined-benefit retirement program, Foxworthy said. The school district contributes a percentage of each employee's salary to the Florida Retirement System, he said, but starting this year both board members and employees have had 3 percent deducted from their current salaries to help pay a share of their retirement benefit.

State legislation that went into effect two years ago, but expired this year, caused school board members to suffer a pay cut the last two years, officials told the Beacon.

In 2010 Okaloosa board members, who were being paid the maximum allowed, saw their

salary reduced from \$33,990 to \$32,428, down 4.6 percent. Their pay remained at the lower figure again in 2011 because starting teachers' salaries in Okaloosa County, on which the board members' pay was based, were unchanged.

Expiration of that law reinstated a previous formula that would have increased the Okaloosa board's pay if accepted.

This year the school district has proposed lowering the salary of beginning school teachers with a bachelor's degree from \$32,428 to \$31,779, Foxworthy said. The

Please see BOARD, page A-8



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Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

The Okaloosa County School Board voted unanimously Monday not to accept a state-proposed pay raise. From left, board members Chuck Kelly, Rodney Walker, Cathy Thigpen and Cindy Frakes. Member Melissa Thrush also voted to reject the raise.

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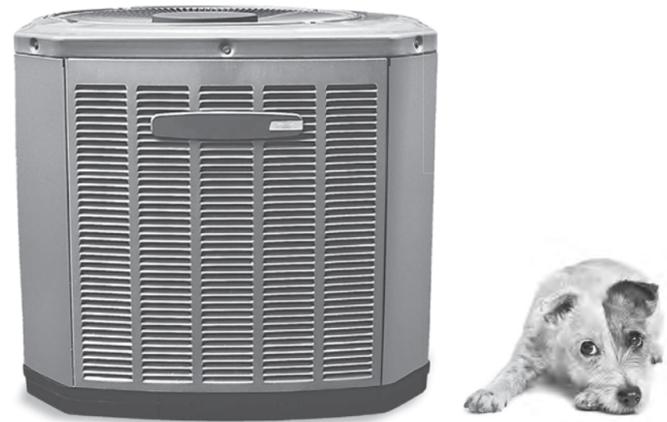
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Police Blotter

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

Wendell Keith Miller, 44, of 64 5th Ave., Shalimar, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 26 on charges of providing false ownership information on a pawned item and dealing in stolen property. Miller is alleged to have pawned two rings, valued together at \$12,500, that were stolen from a Niceville home July 13 during which time Miller was repairing an air-conditioning system at the victim's home. On the same day Miller allegedly received \$150 for the two rings from a Fort Walton Beach pawn shop, 14 Eglin Parkway S.E.

John Paul Barnett, 30, of 1405 Cape Lane, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 23 on a Walton County warrant on a worthless check charge, four counts.

Olyvia Christine Infinger, 23, of 4123 Callaway Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 19 on a charge of battery, domestic violence which allegedly occurred Sept. 1.

William Joseph Whitmarsh, unemployed, 24, of 129 Raintree Blvd., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Oct. 1 on a charge of fraudulent use of credit cards more than twice within six months. On Oct. 1 Whitmarsh was at a Niceville convenience store, 4563 E. Highway 20, when he was recognized by another man who said he had seen Whitmarsh on surveillance videos using his wife's credit card. When the man told Whitmarsh to wait for police, Whitmarsh allegedly fled on foot with the victim's husband chasing him over a fence and into a

stormwater retention pond where the chase ended. Whitmarsh allegedly admitted to deputies that he had used a credit card he knew was not his own to purchase \$153 worth of Lottery cards and miscellaneous items at the store, but said he found the card on Okaloosa Island.

Troy Adams, 36, of 1417 29th St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 18 on charges of leaving the scene of an accident involving property damage, resisting an officer without violence, driving while license suspended or revoked, and refusing to accept and sign a citation. Adams allegedly collided with a parked ambulance while aid was being rendered, then left the scene and entered a bar in Destin.

Jason Norman Clampitt, 30, of 20 Joseph Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 19 on a violation of probation charge on the original offense of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Norman James Yeater IV, 29, of 1402 Live Oak St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 20 on a charge of battery that allegedly occurred Jan. 4, 2010.

Phillip Todd Tucker, 32, of 500 22nd St., Niceville, was arrested by Valparaiso police Sept. 29 on charges of grand theft and possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. Tucker allegedly stole about \$500 worth of aluminum and stainless steel pipe from a residence on Kelly Lane.

A 15-year-old Niceville boy

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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

Name: Emanuel Dwayne Pride
Wanted for: failure to appear on the original charges of resisting arrest, possession of a controlled substance, trafficking in cocaine, driving with a suspended or revoked license and possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell.
Height: 5 feet, 8 inches
Weight: 215 pounds
Age: 42
Date of birth: 07-11-1969
Hair: black, Eyes: brown



Name: Christopher Alan Chance
Wanted for: fraud, burglary and dealing in stolen property. Chance's last known address was in Fort Walton Beach.
Height: 5 feet, 10 inches
Weight: 180 pounds
Age: 36
Date of birth: 11-19-1974
Hair: brown, Eyes: brown



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

was arrested by Niceville police Oct. 3 on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Victoria Elizabeth Oscar, a waitress, 30, of 203 W. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Oct. 1 on a charge of battery, domestic violence.

Victor Manuel Zuniga-Guerrero, 25, no address available, was arrested by Niceville police Oct. 3 on a charge of retail theft. Zuniga-Guerrero was allegedly observed placing two CDs in his pockets then leaving Kmart, 1140 E. John Sims Parkway, without paying the \$36 cost of the CDs.

Joshua Brian Wright, 30, of 424 Morningbird Court,

Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Sept. 26 on a charge of burglary. On Dec. 19, 2010, Wright allegedly smashed a window and entered a church, 1601 27th St., but then ran off when a church member returned to the office area and saw him inside.

William L. Ford, an air-conditioning technician, 51, of 304 Ohio Place, Fort Walton Beach, was arrested by Niceville police Sept. 20 on a charge of battery that allegedly took place Aug. 15 in Niceville.

Robert Cole Fuller, unemployed, 28, of 1417 29th St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Oct. 1 on a violation of probation charge on the original charges of felony battery and

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls October 3, 2011, through October 9, 2011.

0 Structure Fire	18 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	4 Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	6 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	0 Hazardous Conditions

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Spencer Place	Medical	10/03/11	00:05
SR85N	Vehicle crash	10/03/11	00:39
College Boulevard/SR85N	Vehicle Crash	10/03/11	07:59
Boyd Circle	Medical	10/03/11	09:33
Palm Boulevard/23rd St.	Canceled	10/03/11	11:02
N. Partin Drive	Medical	10/03/11	11:40
Reeves Street	Canceled	10/04/11	03:44
E. John Sims Parkway	Medical	10/04/11	12:42
Partin Drive/Palm Boulevard	Vehicle crash	10/04/11	18:00
SR85N	Medical	10/04/11	19:12
W. John Sims Parkway	False call	10/04/11	20:12
E. John Sims Parkway	Canceled	10/05/11	10:17
E. John Sims Parkway	Medical	10/06/11	17:03
E. College Boulevard	Alarm activation	10/06/11	17:20
College Boulevard/SR85N	Vehicle crash	10/07/11	07:44
Als Drive	Medical	10/07/11	10:33
Redwood Avenue	Medical	10/07/11	14:18
E. John Sims Parkway	Medical	10/07/11	19:52
E. John Sims Parkway	Medical	10/07/11	21:48
Valparaiso Boulevard	Medical	10/07/11	22:04
Iowa Street	Medical	10/08/11	09:58
N. Partin Drive	Medical	10/08/11	11:47
S. Cedar Avenue	Medical	10/08/11	16:06
23rd Street	Medical	10/08/11	22:33
Ivy Terrace	Medical	10/09/11	06:43
Kelly Road	Medical	10/09/11	10:38
N. Partin Drive	Medical	10/09/11	17:14
Wava Avenue	Canceled on scene	10/09/11	20:59

Weekly Safety Tip: The National Fire Protection Association recommends heating equipment, including chimneys, chimney connectors, fireplaces, and wood or coal stoves should be inspected by a professional every year and cleaned as often as necessary.

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls October 3, 2011, through October 9, 2011.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
E. Highway 20	EMS excluding vehicle	10/03/11	12:30
Oakmont Place	EMS excluding vehicle	10/03/11	14:01
Glenlake Circle	EMS excluding vehicle	10/03/11	19:37
White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	10/04/11	09:17
Armadillo Trail	EMS excluding vehicle	10/04/11	14:10
W. John Sims Parkway	Dispatched, canceled	10/04/11	20:14
N. White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	10/05/11	10:12
N. White Point Road	Dispatched, canceled	10/05/11	11:36
Jamaica Way	Medical assist EMS	10/05/11	14:43
Bay Drive	Dispatched, canceled	10/06/11	00:09
Parkwood Square	Medical assist EMS	10/06/11	03:06
Sunset Cove	Dispatched, canceled	10/06/11	06:49
E. Highway 20	Gas leak	10/06/11	07:48
Merchants Way	Medical assist EMS	10/06/11	09:51
E. College Boulevard	Dispatched, canceled	10/06/11	17:26
Treasure Cove	EMS excluding vehicle	10/06/11	21:40
N. White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	10/07/11	02:10
Parkwood Lane	Unintentional transmission	10/07/11	17:52
Bay Drive	EMS excluding vehicle	10/08/11	18:29
Highway 20 & Lancaster Dr.	Dispatched, canceled	10/09/11	02:00
Bluelake Cove	EMS excluding vehicle	10/09/11	07:33
Merchants Way	EMS excluding vehicle	10/09/11	14:20
Southwind Court	Brush fire	10/09/11	18:56
Wava Avenue	Building fire	10/09/11	21:02
Calinda Lane	Alarm system sounded	10/09/11	21:54
N. White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	10/09/11	22:40

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

resisting a law enforcement officer without violence.

David Joseph Archer, 28, of 211 Deer Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Oct. 3 on charges of driving while license suspended and resisting an officer without violence. Both offenses occurred May 31 when Archer allegedly fled on foot subsequent to a traffic stop shortly after the vehicle he was driving was seen leaving a Niceville lounge.

David Shane Turner, 34, of 776 27th St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 30 on a violation of probation charge on the original charge of battery.

Thefts

A thief or thieves stole about \$500 worth of copper and aluminum wire from a house under construction in the 1500 block of Valparaiso Boulevard, Niceville, the victim reported Sept. 30. The copper and aluminum wire was cut and removed from the attic portion of the home sometime in the previous three weeks, the victim stated. The home was locked but windows were open to allow air to circulate. Labor to replace the wire was estimated at \$2,500.

A student reported Oct. 3 that

someone stole his school laptop computer when he attended a class but forgot and left the computer in the K Building of Northwest Florida State College. The computer was valued at \$300.

A Niceville automobile repair shop, 1956 E. John Sims Parkway, reported that on Sept. 30 someone stole a 2005 pickup truck from the business. The pickup truck had been towed to the business earlier the same day after it was reportedly blocking a garage on a residential street in Niceville.

A Niceville resident from the 1800 block of 17th Street reported Sept. 30 that unknown person(s) stole an 8-hp outboard motor from a 25-foot sailboat moored at a dock at the residence.

A Niceville resident from the 1000 block of Lake Way Drive reported that unknown person(s) entered his unlocked vehicle and stole a wallet with five \$100 bills, a digital camera, a bridge transponder, and a GPS unit. Estimated value of the stolen items was \$795.

A Niceville resident from the
Please see BLOTTER, page A-7

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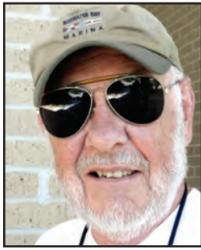
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What do you think about the targeted killing of American-born Al Qaeda leader Anwar al-Awlaki by a U.S. missile strike in Yemen?



"I think it's a good thing. It's the way to stop terrorism around the world."

Sonny Myers, 56, Santa Rosa Beach, operations manager



"He went to war with us, so we went to war with him."

Bob Andruss, 76, Niceville, retired



"We had to use the option we had to get him. That was the only option we had that was working."

Carl Watts, 68, Bluewater Bay, Realtor/builder



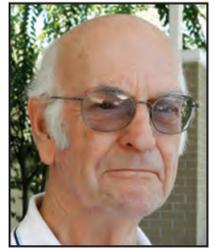
"I'm of two minds about it. It eliminated a dangerous person, but I don't like the way we went about it, with the risk of collateral damage or death to innocent persons."

Joshua Heilweil, 34, Fort Walton Beach, roofer



"In my opinion, it won't make much difference because he was only a figurehead. We need to reach farther down into the organization to really make much of an impact."

Adrienne Larson, 40, Niceville, student



"I go along with it. I agree with the idea of taking out terrorists. Strike first."

Joe Richardson, 68, Niceville, retired Air Force

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

1100 block of 46th Street reported that sometime Oct. 1-2 unknown person(s) burglarized two unlocked vehicles at the residence and stole a GPS unit from one vehicle and a flashlight from

the other. A next door neighbor also reported unknown person(s) entered his unlocked pickup truck during the same time period and stole a fleet fuel card.

A volunteer working at a concession stand at the Niceville High School football game Sept.

30 reported that unknown person(s) stole her purse from a shelf inside the stand sometime during the game. The purse was later found in the field house parking lot by an unknown person but was missing \$20 and a cell phone.

A Niceville resident from the 1100 block of Forest Road reported Sept. 26 that a visitor stole a bottle of prescription medication from his kitchen counter.

Other

Christopher J. Lloyd, 18, of 306 Oaklake Lane, Niceville, was issued a notice to appear by sheriff's deputies Sept. 11 on a charge of underage possession of alcohol.

A 17-year-old Niceville boy was issued a notice to appear by sheriff's deputies Sept. 11 on a charge of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana.

Daniel Adam Sheller, a pizza driver, 18, of 4408 Southminster Circle, Niceville, was issued a notice to appear by sheriff's deputies Sept. 19 on charges of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

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BOARD

From page A-5

school district also proposed no across-the-board raise for teachers for the third straight year, and this year it also proposed skipping the annual "step" raises that automatically give returning teachers a 3 percent pay hike.

The teachers union subsequently declared negotiations at an impasse, sending the talks to mediation.

Because the two sides are at an impasse, Foxworthy said Friday that a special master is in the process of being selected and he or she is expected to hold hearings in about a month, listening to arguments from

both the union and the school district. After the hearing the special master will make a recommendation. Both sides then consider the special master's recommendation, Foxworthy said, and either side can reject it.

If the two sides can't agree on the recommendation the issue moves to the school board

for a decision, he said.

The average Okaloosa County public schoolteacher is paid \$51,753 for about nine months' work, a sum that is among the highest among Florida's 67 school districts.

Counting payroll taxes, worker's compensation insurance, and employer-paid pension contributions, the average

annual cost to the school district is \$64,400 per teacher, according to Rita Scallan, the school district's chief financial officer.

Elected school board members are considered part-time workers, and many have additional jobs in the local economy, despite the many hours some spend on school board business.

Just prior to the vote Monday night, School Board Member Chuck Kelley said he wanted to make it clear that the board members had no intention of raising their own pay.

The vote, he said, was "simply responding to the state" which required the board to decide whether to accept the state pay formula.



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Superior Residences

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Advertising Feature

Superior Residences of Niceville encourages area residents to come out to the Walk to End Alzheimer's and show their support in finding a cure for the disease. The walk will be held Oct. 15 with event registration and opening ceremonies on the Superior Residences lawn. Although this will be the first Walk to End Alzheimer's event to be held in Niceville, Superior already plans to make this an annual community event.

"There has never been a greater need for the citizens of Niceville to join in the fight against Alzheimer's disease by participating in Walk to End Alzheimer's," said Shelley Normand, executive director of Superior Residences of Niceville.

"Funds raised will provide care and support services to the thousands of residents of Florida living with Alzheimer's, while also contributing to advancing critically needed research," Normand said.

The Alzheimer's Association held the first Walk event in 1989, with the goal of educating through advocacy and support programs and services, and raising awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care.

The event will begin with registration at 8 a.m., and the walk will begin at 9 a.m. Food, specialty beverages, and commemorative T-shirts will be on sale with all of the proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Association.



Participants show support and help raise awareness for those suffering from Alzheimer's. Residents of Niceville will be able to do their part in the first Walk to End Alzheimer's at Superior Residences of Niceville Oct. 15.

Participants will be given a canvas flower pinwheel during registration. The flowers come in four colors: Blue to represent those that have Alzheimer's; yellow for those who care for someone suffering from the illness; Purple for those who have lost someone to the disease; and orange for those who support the cause and have a vision of a world without Alzheimer's. After individuals select and add a personal message to each, the flowers will be "planted" in the "promise garden."

Participants can choose to walk either a short "memory lap" with their loved ones on Superior's grounds or walk a one- or two-mile course down

Partin Drive. "We just want everyone to come out, show support and be a part of this meaningful and memorable experience," stated Elizabeth Rambow, director of community relations at Superior Residences.

Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. Today an estimated 5.4 million Americans have Alzheimer's.

Local corporate teams have joined in the cause and helped to raise awareness about the event. Corporate supporters include Angels Home Health, Emerald Coast Hospice, Senior Home Care, Gentiva Home Health, Genesis Rehab, Guardian Pharmacy,

Healthcare Solutions, Home Instead Senior and Gulf Coast Guardian.

Call Superior Residences of Niceville at 897-2244 to sign up to participate in the Walk. For more information on the event, visit alz.org/walk.

Superior Residences of Niceville, 2300 N. Partin Drive, specializes in providing care for those with Alzheimer's and other dementia related illnesses. Superior Residences is the only assisted living community in the area maintaining a licensed nurse on site 24/7 to care for its residents. For more information about Superior Residences, call or visit superioralf.com/niceville.php.

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Superior Residences

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"Promise flowers" show how people have been affected by Alzheimer's disease. Participants will plant their own "promise garden" at the Walk to End Alzheimer's hosted by Superior Residences of Niceville.

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Who's News

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In recognition of her community service in support of women's and children's issues, Niceville resident **Judy Wiseman**



Judy Wiseman

was presented the 2011 Florida Achievement Award from the Florida Commission on the Status of Women (FCSW) at the Commission's Award Celebration in Fort Lauderdale.

Phi Sigma Theta announces that **Dylan Hoover**, son of Ron and Holly Hoover of Niceville, has recently become a member of Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society at Florida State University. Phi Sigma Theta is a national honor society which recognizes and rewards academic achievements by undergraduates at institutions of higher learning.

The works of artist **Robert Reese** will be on exhibit at the Niceville Public Library throughout October.

His favorite medium is oil paint, and seascapes, landscapes and aeronautical subjects are common in his works. One of his pieces was recently selected to be on display at the

Please see WHO'S, page B-2



Beacon photo by Molly Mosher

Sharing & Caring expansion under way

Sharing & Caring held its building extension groundbreaking Oct. 7 at the Sharing & Caring building in Niceville. The "Founding Fathers," as called by S&C President Delle Diamon, were on hand to move the first shovels of dirt. From left, Diamon; Peggy Coughlin (background), long-time volunteer; Don Selby, founding member and first president; Allen Milton, building extension contractor; Rob Benson, founding member and chairman of S&C's building committee; the Rev. Ed Chandler, who helped establish S&C; and Jack McAlister, founding member and still-active volunteer. Sharing & Caring will add a \$60,500, 640-square-foot addition of meeting rooms and storage space to its existing building.

Teens share word of God in Scotland

While most 14-year-olds are spending their summer breaks at the beach or sleeping in, Sam Glenn and his best friend Bryce Cato were using the break from school to minister in Scotland.

Sam, a freshman at Rocky Bayou Christian School, and

Bryce, a home-schooled student who lives in Niceville, were two of the 800 young people worldwide who joined with Teen Missions International to disseminate the word of God throughout the world.

The two boys selected

Scotland for their destination, but it was not all castles and IRN BRU. Before traveling to their destination, all youth missions participants must take part in a "boot camp."

Sam said of the experience, "Boot camp lasted two weeks. We slept in tents, and we had no computers, television, cell phones or any other electronic media. We woke up at 5:30 a.m. and started off by running an obstacle course. We memorized Scripture, worked with our teams, and learned how to build concrete block walls and wood structures and many other things.

"At night we had a two-hour church service with some really neat speakers from different parts of the world. There were a total of 800 youth here going to places all over the world," Sam said. "I

'Mindgame' to open



Doctor Farquhar, Nurse Plimpton and writer Mark Styler unravel a mysterious series of events.

Photo by Grant E. Collins of ...Photography Ever

Just in time for the Halloween season, Northwest Florida State College will present its fall theatrical production of "Mindgame."

Based on Anthony Horowitz's thriller novel, this play follows Mark Styler, a prominent author of novels and "true crime" stories, who enters a secluded mental institution to interview a serial killer who has been confined there for 30 years.

Styler believes he has snared the coup of his career by scheduling an interview with a serial killer. But, when he arrives at the asylum, he finds nothing can be trusted, not even his own eyes. Through a series of lies, manipulations and memories, dark secrets are revealed. Why is there a skeleton in Doctor Farquhar's office? Where did

the raw meat in the fridge come from? What is Nurse Plimpton so afraid of? And most importantly, how does one get out?

The show will be performed in the Mattie Kelly Arts Center's Sprint Theater, a flexible performance venue. As the venue will be configured for only 125 seats per night, advance ticket purchase is recommended. Due to some intense violence, "Mindgame" is recommended for audiences ages 15 and older.

Tickets are on sale for the production, which is directed by Clint Mahle. The show will be presented Oct. 12-15 at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for youth ages 18 and younger. For tickets, contact the Box Office at 729-6000 or purchase online at mattiekellyarts-center.org.



Sam Glenn, Bryce Cato and the Scotland Missions Team went to Inverness last summer to spread the word of God.

was really homesick for the first week and thankfully I got over it. Every time I walked into the tent where we had our worship service my homesickness disappeared.

"Eventually I got over it and started getting excited about traveling to and ministering in

Scotland. The day we got commissioned we got on buses and rode several hours to Miami where we caught a plane the next day," Sam said. "While in boot camp my relationship with Christ became much stronger and I am

Please see SCOTLAND, page B-3

LOVE, HOPE & PIZZA

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and for every Large Pizza purchased, Hungry Howie's will make a donation to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Their programs help save lives through breast cancer awareness campaigns, early detection methods and cancer research.

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First-place filly

Maggie Bowers, 11, showed her horse Fox at the Dixie Gulf Open All-Breed Show Oct. 1 in Baker. Maggie won two first place ribbons, two third places and one fifth place in five events. She rides with Angie Reichert Performance Horses in the English Equestrian Rider Class. Maggie is a fifth grader at Edge Elementary and the daughter of Joseph and Cynthia Bowers of Bluewater Bay.

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Obituaries

Thelma Schoendorf Spencer

Thelma Elizabeth Schoendorf Spencer, 89, peacefully passed away on October 6, 2011, at the home of her daughter in San Antonio, Texas.

A native of New Orleans, she attended John McDonough High School and Maybin Business School, then married a U.S. Air Force officer and moved away for several years. As a military wife and homemaker, with her family she traveled extensively in the United States and for a time lived on the island of Guam.

After retirement, Thelma moved back to the New Orleans area for several years, then moved to Texas, and eventually settled in Niceville, Fla., where she lived for 23 years. While living in

Niceville, Thelma attended classes at Okaloosa-Walton Community College.

She always held a special place in her heart for her hometown of New Orleans. Thelma was a loving mother and grandmother and an avid reader and gardener.

Thelma was preceded in death by her parents, the late Gaston Schoendorf Sr. and Elizabeth Biaggi Schoendorf and her brothers Gaston "Gus" Schoendorf Jr. and Richard Schoendorf. She is survived by her four children, Ann S. Parsons, San Antonio, Texas; Arthur F. Spencer, Niceville, Fla.; Mary Jane Meier, Roosevelt, Utah; and Patricia S. Jones, Tallahassee, Fla.; and 12 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A private family memorial service will be held in New Orleans with interment in the family tomb at St. Louis No. 3



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. The sponsor is First Baptist Church of Niceville. Chamber members, their guests, and prospective members are invited to attend.



Lunchtime 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.

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.



Single-handed Regatta

The Bluewater Bay Marina will hold a Single Handers Regatta Oct. 15. Registration and a skippers meeting will take place Oct. 14, 6-8 p.m., at L.J. Schooners. The race will begin with a Bermuda start Oct. 15, 11 a.m. The cost is \$15 per boat. Only one person is permitted per boat. Register at the Oct. 14 meeting or call Brett Hinely, 897-2821.

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.



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.

Local celebrities lunch

Come see local celebrities dressed as their favorite storybook characters at Carrabba's Italian Grill, 10562 Highway 98 W., Oct. 13. There will be two seatings, 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Servers will work to earn tips for the Foundation's "All Kinds of Art" educational outreach program. The minimum ticket donation is \$20. For tickets, Lisa Morgan 837-1071 or Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation 650-2226.

'Seussical' at Arts Center

The Mattie Kelly Arts Center will hold "Seussical" as the next installment of the Children's Series Oct. 13. All shows appear at either 9:45 or 11:30 a.m. and runs about an hour.

Tickets are \$6 each. Limited space may be available for the general public following group sales to schools.

Instructional guides available for teachers. For information or group reservations call Delores Merrill, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, 729-6065 or merrill@nwfsc.edu.

Twin Cities senior club

Twin Cities Senior Citizens Club will meet Oct. 13 at 2 p.m. for potluck, bingo and an entree of meatloaf. Come enjoy food and fellowship. All seniors 50+ welcome. Info: 678-8645 or 678-4346.

DAR meeting

The Choctawhatchee Bay Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will meet Oct. 13 at St. Simon's on the Sound Church, Fort Walton Beach, at 10 a.m. Martha Gorecki will present the program, "Honoring Women in the Military" and Emily Danker will speak on Mission San Luis and the Appalachian Indians. All women lineally descended from a Revolutionary War Patriot are invited to attend meetings and apply for membership. Info: Dotty Burdick 496-0783.

BWB Garden Club meeting

The Bluewater Bay Garden Club will hold a "North Florida Wildflowers" program at the Bluewater Bay Clubhouse Oct. 13, 9:30 a.m., with Dave Gordon as speaker. Dave Gordon is a fifth generation native of Okaloosa County and a master gar-

dener and certified master naturalist, as well as a retired middle school science teacher.

Lionfish workshop

The Emerald Coast Reef Association will hold a Lionfish workshop Oct. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Destin Community Center. The workshop is free and open to the public.

A representative from the FWC will also be available at the meeting to answer questions.

For more information about the Emerald Coast Reef Association, visit ecreef.org.

Autism Gala benefit

The Emerald Coast Autism Society will hold the "Spectrum of Stars" Autism Gala Oct. 14 at the Emerald Grande's Ballroom, Destin, to raise funds to develop, establish and support a summer day camp for individuals with autism. Guests will enjoy a social hour at 6:30 p.m. and a sit-down dinner at 7:30. The night will feature comedian Dan Kulp.

Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased by contacting Maribel Alvarado, 787-298-6686 or malvarado622@yahoo.com.

Giant flea market

The Flying Needles Quilt Guild will sponsor a giant flea market in the parking lot of Niceville Church of Christ, 801 E. John Sims Parkway, across from Niceville High School, Oct. 15, beginning at 8 a.m. Come early to get the best choices of quilting supplies, home-baked goodies, jewelry, household goods and many other treasures. Everyone is welcome to join the fun.

Rosary Rally

The 2011 Public Square Rosary Rally will be held Oct. 15, sponsored by America Needs Fatima. This rally will be one of over 5,000 rallies that will take place all across the United States on that day. Please join us in praying for our nation on Oct. 15, at noon. The Public Square Rosary Rally will take place at 208 Partin Drive, Niceville, in front of the City Hall complex. It will last about 45 minutes. For more information, call Mr. or Mrs. Hernandez at 835-2323.

PAWS dog walk/run

The Panhandle Animal Welfare Society will hold a "New Leash on Life" dog walk/run, a fun-filled event Oct. 15 at the Fort Walton Beach Landing. Late registration for the walk will begin at 8 a.m. and the 1.25-mile walk/run will begin at 9. PAWS will also offer \$5 rabies vaccinations and \$15 Microchips, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Information about the event and registration forms can be found at paws-shelter.org or through Tricia Bryant, 243-1525 or triciabryant@embarqmail.com.

Arts and crafts show

The Holly Fair arts and crafts show will be hosted for the 15th year by Shalimar United Methodist Church, 1 Old Ferry Road, Oct. 15, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

This event will feature a variety of treasures created by more than 80 exhibitors.

All proceeds will be donated to local missions and church projects.

Info: church office, 651-0721, or visit shalimar-umc.org.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

The Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's is a united movement to reclaim the future for millions. Niceville will host its first-ever Walk to End Alzheimer's Oct. 15. Check-in will be at 8 a.m., with the walk routes opening at 9. The walk is the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Start or join a team today at alz.org/walk or 800-272-3900. Info: kimberly.brammer@alz.org, 897-2244 or erambow@superioralf.com.

Apostle John play

Pastor Heywood Day has been asked to perform "John at Patmos" at Bluewater Baptist Church, 4580 Range Road. He first performed the one-man drama at the church last December. The performance will start at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 16. The play portrays the apostle John imprisoned at Patmos, writing the book of Revelation and reviewing the life of Christ. The public may attend.

Tea and book discussion

The Friends of the Niceville Library will hold a Tea and book discussion with author Johanna Ridenow at the Niceville Community Center, 204 Partin Drive, Oct. 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Ridenow will discuss her book "Progeny of Lazarus," which is part of the Lazarus trilogy.



Refreshments will be served and a book signing will follow the program. This program is free, but space is limited. Call the Niceville Library 279-4863, ext. 1504, by Oct. 15 to reserve a seat.

Community symphony

Preparations are underway to form a new musical group in the area. "Emerald Coast Symphonic Pops" will provide an opportunity for local musicians to perform light symphonic classics and popular music. Symphonic Pops will be a volunteer organization geared for community musicians, ages 18 to 98, looking for friendship, fun and, of course, music. Rehearsals will begin Oct. 17, 7-9 p.m., in the choral room of Shalimar United Methodist Church. Info: Liz Aylor, 651-4308.

Chiropractic presentation

Chiropractic Associates, 705 W. John Sims Parkway, will present "How to live to 100" at Chiropractic Associates Oct. 17 at 6:15 p.m. Call 678-8048 to register.

Food drive

Two Niceville doctors' offices have decided to hold a food drive in exchange for their services, Oct. 17-21, benefiting Sharing & Caring, Niceville, Niceville Family Dental Center will double the value of your nonperishable food donation, and will take up to \$60 off of your dental bill that week. Zook Family Chiropractic in Niceville is offering an entire new patient spinal exam, including x-rays if necessary (\$180 value), in exchange for \$25 or more of nonperishable food items brought in during the week. Call 729-1223 to schedule with Niceville Family Dental Center, or 678-4155 to schedule with Zook Family Chiropractic. If interested in participating in a future Sharing and Caring food drive, contact Dr. Zook for more information.

WHO'S

From page B-1 new courthouse annex in Fort Walton Beach.

Reese will donate half of the proceeds from any sale to the library.

A short story by Marilyn Turk, "Being Thankful," is featured in "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Devotional Stories for Tough Times." Turk, who lives in Niceville with her husband, Chuck, received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in journalism from Louisiana State University, and has been published in "Guideposts," "The Upper Room," "Clubhouse, Jr." and "Coastal Christian Family."

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101 Jasmine Place	2,159	\$275,000
132 Baywind Drive	2,415	\$298,000
1395 Windward Lane	2,646	\$329,900
1818 Huntington Road	2,254	\$360,000
739 Persimmon Way	2,949	\$424,000
705 Mullet Creek Way	3,451	\$499,500
944 Lake Drive	3,796	\$568,000

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Edge K-Kids honored

Three former Edge Elementary students received awards Sept. 29 for their achievements in the 2011 Kiwanis International K-Kids competition. All three graduated from Edge in 2011 and now attend Ruckel. From left, Trey Buck, first in speech at Edge, first at the Florida District of Kiwanis International and third at Kiwanis International; Josie Wenner, first in the essay category at Edge and third at the Florida District; and Meg Horrigan, first in art at Edge and third in the Florida District. Also pictured are Kiwanis K-Kid advisers Mike Davis, left, and Don Pulley.



Area school volunteerism commended

Bluewater, Edge, Eglin, Plew, Ruckel, Lewis, Destin, Niceville honored

Area schools recently earned awards for their students' contributions to the community.

Niceville High School was one of two schools to receive the Five Star School Award by the Florida commissioner of education. As a result of their diligence in promoting ongoing community involvement, two Okaloosa County schools received the Five Star School Award, thirty schools have been named Golden Schools and nine schools have been named Silver Schools.

Designated as schools with exemplary community involvement, Niceville High School, along with Bruner Middle School, was awarded the commissioner of education's highest award for community involvement. Qualifications for the Five Star School Award include:

—100 percent of the criteria met in the categories of Business Partnerships, Family Involvement, Volunteers, Student Community Service,

and School Advisory Councils. —A portfolio documenting 100 percent compliance of the application.

"Personally, the process of assembling the documentation required for the Five Star Award is a constant reminder of the pride our community and students take in Niceville High School," said Rebekah Ellis, volunteer coordinator at Niceville. "Winning this award gives our community volunteers, students and faculty validation of all the hard work they put forth every year."

The Golden School Award recognizes public schools with exemplary volunteer programs that meet the following criteria: —A staff training program on volunteerism in which a minimum of 80 percent of the school staff have participated during the school year.

—A school volunteer coordinator who has been designated to provide leadership for the school volunteer program through recruitment, placement,

training and supervision of participants.

—A total number of hours in volunteer service that equals twice the number of students enrolled in the school. These hours of volunteer service will be in the areas that support instruction. Hours can be donated in all forms of volunteering, i.e. mentors, tutors, advisors and advocates.

Area Golden School Award winners include:

- Bluewater Elementary
- Destin Middle School
- Edge Elementary
- Eglin Elementary
- Lewis School
- Niceville High School
- Plew Elementary
- Ruckel Middle School

The Silver School Award recognizes secondary schools whose students provide exemplary volunteer services to elementary and secondary schools and meet the following criteria:

—The sending school must have a school volunteer coordinator who will provide coordi-

nation of the program, placement of students, orientation and training for the students, and student and program evaluation.

—The receiving school must have a volunteer coordinator who will provide coordination of the program, assist in the placement of the secondary students, provide orientation and training for the receiving staff, and assist in providing for student and program evaluation.

—Student volunteers and the receiving faculty must both receive orientation and training. Student volunteers must receive continuous supervision.

—The composite student volunteer hours must equal at least one half the total number of students in the sending school (e.g., 2000 students - 1000 volunteer hours).

(Elementary schools are not eligible for this award.) Area Silver School Award winners:
Lewis School
Niceville High School



Lady Knights hold pancake breakfast

The Rocky Bayou Christian School Lady Knights Basketball team held an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at Ed's Hometown Seafood and Steak restaurant, Niceville, Oct. 1. The proceeds from the breakfast benefited the Lady Knights basketball program. From left, Coach Tatisha "T" Bowles, McKenzie Davis, Kristen Bernheisel, Peyton Preston, Lauren Wright, Shiloh Johns and Claire Gunter.

SCOTLAND

From page B-1

thankful for the experience."

The boys' destination was Inverness in the Scottish Highlands. The name in Scottish Gaelic means "mouth of the River Ness." The town Inverness is at the top of the famous Loch Ness, which is well-known as the home of the legendary Loch Ness monster.

Upon arrival in Scotland, Sam said, "one of the things I loved the most was the weather. It was very cool and beautiful."

However, not all of Scotland was pleasing to him. "One of the grossest things I ate was Haggis," Sam said. Haggis is a traditional Scottish dish containing sheep's heart, liver and lungs, minced with onion, oatmeal, suet, spices and salt, mixed with stock, and traditionally simmered in the animal's stomach. "It is very popular," said Sam, although clearly not with himself.

For the missions team, the time spent in Scotland was used for more than simply sightseeing and having fun. The team tended to various needs of their Scottish

brethren, attended and participated in worship services, bolstered lagging faith, and spoke with some who had heard little of the tenets of Christianity.

The team even helped renovate a Scottish football club turned church building.

The team's leader, Matt Smith, commented, "I was very proud with how hard the team worked, and the pastor could not believe how much work these teenagers accomplished."

"During all of this the team realized that most people they talked to were searching for the

truth about life, but did not know where to turn. You would think the team would come back daunted and discouraged by the challenges they faced, but instead they were excited," said Smith. "There have been no decisions made for Christ yet, but many seeds have been planted."

"It is such a blessing to see the team growing as well," Smith said.

July 30, after five weeks in Scotland, the boys returned home safely, but not unaltered.

Said Sam of the time, "It was a life changing experience."

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Beacon photos by Sarah Clauson

Rams and Falcons run

MacKenzie Reid of Lewis School, left, and Wesley Urbanczyk, a home-schooler running for Ruckel Middle School, give it their all in a three-way cross country meet Oct. 5. The Lewis girls finished third while the boys finished second. The Ruckel girls finished second and the boys first.



End of a run

Brooks Alexander of the Panhandle Youth Football Association Niceville Senior 2, is tackled after a nice run by Chance Huff of Niceville Senior 3 in Saturday's grid action at Twin Oaks. Niceville Senior 2 won the game, 13-7.

Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

Golfers raise \$9,500+ for Shelter House

A group of Regatta Bay residents recently teed off to help end domestic violence.

The Ninth Annual Regatta Bay Shelter House Golf Tournament was held on Sunday, Sept. 18, with proceeds from the event going to Shelter House—Domestic Violence Center. This year's event was another success, raising more than \$9,500 for the fight against domestic violence.

More sports, B-6

This year, the money raised is being directed toward sustaining Shelter House's emergency shelter services.

"I am thrilled that the residents of Regatta Bay gave so generously and thoughtfully," said Michelle Sperzel, Shelter House Executive Director. "Thanks to their financial support, women and children in our community will continue to find safety and support at Shelter House."



Regatta Bay Shelter House Golf Tournament winners Steve Johnson and Loretta Maurer.



From left: Mike and Diane Carpenter, Regatta Bay members; Michelle Sperzel, Shelter House Executive Director; and Larry Hines, Regatta Bay member, get together after the tournament.

PAL Soccer: 35 years of fun and exercise



Beacon photo by Jeff Gammons

Jack Sentell of the Fresh Greece Pizza Dragons moves the ball Saturday morning during a PAL soccer game, as Caleb McKnight follows.

By Howard Hill
PAL president

From a humble beginning in 1975, PAL Soccer League of Niceville has grown into the largest youth soccer organization in Okaloosa County. While also the oldest of the area's youth soccer clubs, PAL—as it is commonly known—is the only local club to field girl-only recreational soccer teams for ages U8 through U19.

PAL proudly traces its origin to the first youth soccer team in Okaloosa County, the Badgers. Formed by retired Air Force Tech. Sgt. Elton Cook in 1975, the Badgers had to travel to Pensacola or Panama City to find a game.

The following year, Police Athletic League, Inc., was formed with Cook as its president, a post he held for seven years. Cook also helped secure financial start-up assistance from the national Police Athletic League for the first two years,

hence the original name. In 1988, after a decade of no association with Police Athletic League, the then board of directors decided a new name was in order. While searching for a replacement, the board finally settled on the moniker PAL, as that was the familiar term everyone knew and used for the club.

Also in 1988 PAL started its girls' soccer program, which continues to thrive. Among the 675 players in PAL this year, 270 play on girl-only teams while another 39 girls are on the younger, coed teams.

Although incorporated in Niceville and primarily serving Niceville, Valparaiso and Bluewater Bay, membership is

open to any child from 5 to 18. Generally, 40 to 50 players from outside the immediate area enroll each year.

PAL's continued success derives from adherence to the sound principles of having fun while learning soccer, sportsmanship and teamwork and providing a wholesome environment for children's development. Also, we strive to keep our player registration fees as low as possible to enable more children to participate and do likewise with our team sponsorship fees so businesses as well as individual sponsors can more affordably support our program. Even our concessions

are renowned for being inexpensive. This year, we are selling half-liters of bottled water for 25 cents to incentivize players to choose water for staying hydrated.

Since PAL is made up entirely of volunteers, we are fortunate to have such strong parental and

community support. This year, we have about 150 volunteer coaches plus 19 board members who make it possible to organize and operate a quality yet affordable recreational soccer program for the children of our area.

PAL is extremely grateful to the Niceville Recreation Department for allowing us to use the best-maintained athletic fields in our county, bar none.

Over the past 35 years, we in PAL have been blessed to have had a confluence of such favorable factors and look forward to many more years of serving the children of our community and to helping make the Niceville area a nice place to live and raise children.



Howard Hill

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Eagles top Mosley on late touchdown pass

14-13 victory gives Niceville 2-1 district mark

By Sarah Clauson
Beacon Correspondent

The Niceville Eagles came away with another 14-13 victory last Friday. This time it was against district opponent Mosley High School, giving the Eagles a 2-1 district record. Once again the young team felt the pressure early on, and was forced to battle to the very end.

Offensively it wasn't a strong game for either team, and the scoreboard showed it. Mosley was the first to score, with a field goal late in the first quarter. The defense, in regular form, made some big stops, and fought to put the ball back in Eagle hands.

A huge completion to Tyree McCants, and another first down by Devin Vazquez, finally put the Eagles at first and goal. McCants moved the ball to the 1-yard line, and quarterback Andrew Mitchell

powered through the pack to score Niceville's first touchdown, and take the lead 7-3, midway through the second quarter.

Both teams had failed possessions, theirs due to the Eagle defense, and Niceville's due to a failed field goal attempt from the 40-yard line. Mosley took over the ball and in less than a minute shattered the Eagle lead with a touchdown just before the half.

A Mosley field goal late in third edged its lead to 13-7. But the Eagle defense stayed strong and made some critical plays in the fourth quarter, starting with a big tackle by Malik Williams to drop the Dolphins for a loss. The Eagles continued to push, and forced the punt, which was blocked by Trey Barnes with less than six minutes in the game.

The impressive play gave the Eagles the ball on the Mosley 20.

The offense moved the ball to a fourth-and-one and made the conversion to win the first down. A penalty pushed Niceville to second-and-11, but Mitchell connected with Alec Morgan, who found the end zone to take the lead, 14-13, with 2:36 remaining.

Mosley took over and made a huge play right out of the gate that landed it on the Eagle 36-yard line. A quarterback sack, followed by a timely interception by Denzel Applewhite, helped seal the win for the Eagles.

Coach John Hicks wasn't surprised to have another nail-biter.

"Our defense played tremendous," he said. "I thought there'd be more points scored." As for next week's non-district match up against Alabama's Central High School, Hicks said, "Hopefully we'll use next week to improve."



Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

Alec Morgan scores on a pass from Andrew Mitchell Friday night to put the Eagles ahead of Mosley, 14-13.



Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

Niceville drives to win

Niceville High School junior Kayla Bloor drives the ball during Thursday's golf match with Fort Walton Beach at Bluewater Bay Country Club. Bloor shot a 39 to lead the Eagles to victory.



Gridders in the pink

Niceville Football Little League Juniors Team 1, coached by Chris Kidder, will wear socks and wristbands with pink awareness ribbons on them to show their support of breast cancer awareness during October. From left: rear, Jenna Elmer, Ramsey Kidder, Perry Bolin, Preston Hendricks, Maclane Baucom, Max Chambers, Gage Dodds and Alex Jones; middle, Ryan Taulbee, Sam Garea, Jacob Plummer, Evan Griffith and Hunter Pruitt; front, Jason Magnuson, Corey Church, Bryce Moorer, Luke Kennedy, Clayton Hoskins, Sid Doyle and Clay Ford. Not Pictured are Joey Cary and Emily Cary. Assistant coaches are Chris Baucom, Charlie Griffith, Cortney Dodds and Jason Magnuson. Cheerleaders are Carley Kidder, Macey Kidder, Ella Ford, Bethany Ford, Sara Garea, Madysen Taulbee and Tea Marta.

Sports Briefs

E-mail items to
info@baybeacon.com.

Race to benefit art pupils

The Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation and Destin Health & Fitness Club plans the inaugural 5K Race for the Arts Saturday, Nov. 5, starting at 8:30 a.m. to benefit youth development in art education. A one-mile Kids' Fun Run will follow.

Registration is \$25. Late registrations Nov. 1-5 are \$30. The Kids' one-mile fun run is \$10 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child. To register, visit active.com/running/destin-fl/race-for-the-arts-5k-and-1-mile-fun-run-2011.

For more information or to volunteer, call 650-2226.

More sports, B-4

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The Bay Beacon and Beacon Express, incorporating the Bluewater Breeze, is published every Wednesday by Bayou Enterprises Inc. Free total-market home delivery to Niceville, Valparaiso, Bluewater Bay and Seminole, as well as mid-Walton County from Villa Tasso to Basin Bayou, including Choctaw Beach. Subscriptions: One year, mail, \$104. One year, electronic subscription, \$52.

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