

The Bay Beacon

14 Pages, 2 Sections, 2 Inserts

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

50¢

UP COMING

Wednesday, 6 p.m.

The Taylor Haugen Foundation will hold a culinary and wine tasting benefit. Nine chefs will create culinary masterpieces and pair them with wines at Alys Beach's Caliza Pool, off Co. Highway 30-A in south Walton County.

Tickets are \$30 each, \$50 per couple.

Thursday, 10:30 a.m.

The Valparaiso Community Library will hold the first of two book discussion groups. The Constant Readers will meet Nov. 3 to review "The Great Man" by Kate Christensen.

The second group, the Mystery Lovers, will meet Nov. 10 to discuss "Booked to Die."

Info: 729-5406.

Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The seventh annual Baker Heritage Day will be held at the Baker Block Museum, intersection of Highway 4 and 189 in Baker.

The event will feature pioneer craftsmen demonstrations, a variety of arts & craft vendors, food, gospel and country music. Craftsmen will also demonstrate their skills.

Info: 537-5714.

Calendar, B-4.

Medivac chopper to leave Niceville

GulfFlight will still serve area

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

GulfFlight, an air ambulance service which has stationed a helicopter ambulance at Twin Cities Hospital since June 2005, plans to leave the Niceville hospital at month's end, according to Larry Hall, field operations manager for Air Methods, the firm that owns and operates GulfFlight.

But company officials said area patients are unlikely to notice any reduction in air-ambulance

Valp. seeks stricter curbs on dogs

'Voice control' may not be enough

Under a proposed Valparaiso ordinance, pet owners would no longer be allowed to let their dogs outside fenced areas without a leash.

Current Valparaiso law allows pet owners to restrain their dogs and cats by three

methods:

- Enclosed within a house, building, fence or pen.
- On a leash held by a competent person.
- Off leash but under voice control

when the animal is obedient to a person's voice command and the person is present with the animal at all times.

—In a vehicle.

Proposed city ordinance No. 623 would remove voice control as a legal form of restraint. The measure is scheduled for final action Nov. 14 by the

Valparaiso City Commission, which gave it preliminary approval last month.

Commissioner Heyward Strong said he introduced the proposed ordinance to help make Valparaiso safer for walkers.

Strong said he had received several

Please see DOGS, page A-3

Niceville Homecoming festivities



Niceville High School's annual Homecoming celebration Friday included all the traditional festivities, including a football game and a float parade. The senior class float, shown here, took second place in the competition. Another highlight was the selection of Thor Schaefer as Homecoming King and Shelby Russell as Queen. Both are seniors. For the first time in several years, the Eagles lost a Homecoming game, 28-14, to Auburn. Details, B-6.

Beacon photos by Sarah Clauson



Gaetz warns of Florida budget woes

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

State Sen. Don Gaetz warned members of the Mid-Bay Rotary Club to expect more state budget cuts last Friday, as he addressed the October 26 breakfast meeting of the club in Bluewater Bay.

"The bad news," Gaetz, a Niceville Republican, told the assembled Rotarians, "is that the state of Florida faces an extraordinary uphill climb over the next couple of years." During the next year, he said, the Florida Legislature must find ways to cut an additional \$2 billion from the state budget, after making similar cuts during recent years.

"We are having to cut needs, not wants," said Gaetz. "We are down to boiling the bones." The state's economy also remains in poor shape, he said, with unemployment about two percentage points above the national average, and the number of food stamps and unemployment payments up from previous years.

The good news, Gaetz said, is that Florida has thus far avoided state tax hikes, and "The Northwest Florida economy is on the upswing."

Gaetz, who is on tap to become senate president in 2013, said he expects some state funding for education, public safety, and environmental protection to be "crowded out of the budget" during the coming year, in order to fund federally mandated Medicaid payments. Medicaid,

Please see GAETZ, page A-5

Hughes faces ethics allegations

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

A state ethics panel found probable cause that former Okaloosa County Tax Collector Chris Hughes violated state statute 112.313(6) in three of five allegations contained in a complaint filed by a Fort Walton Beach resident.

A commission spokeswoman said the finding is not final. If the

finding does become final, possible penalties include public censure, reprimand, restitution, and civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation.

The Florida Commission on Ethics found probable cause to believe that Hughes misused county office equipment and resources during work hours for personal business, misused a county vehicle to



Chris Hughes

travel to a funeral for the mother of an employee, and misused county funds to reimburse an employee for costs associated with attending a funeral for the mother of an employee, according to a commission finding issued last week.

The Commission on Ethics met in Tallahassee Oct. 21 in closed session to take action on several complaints, including a complaint

against Hughes that had been filed by Fort Walton Beach resident Robert Bonmar Jr. in July 2009.

Hughes was the tax collector from his first election to the post in 1992 until he resigned June 30, 2011, about 18 months before the end of this fifth four-year term of office. Hughes, who had come under

Please see HUGHES, page A-4



GulfFlight, an air ambulance service which has stationed a helicopter ambulance at Niceville's Twin Cities Hospital since June 2005 plans to leave Niceville Nov. 30, according to Larry Hall, field operations manager for Air Methods, the firm that owns and operates GulfFlight. Hall said the company determined it had an "overabundance" of aircraft serving the area, including helicopter ambulances operated from Pensacola, DeFuniak Springs and Marianna. Left, the helicopter sits ready to respond from a small helo pad at the rear of Twin Cities Hospital.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard

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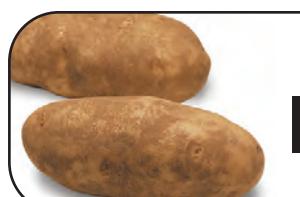
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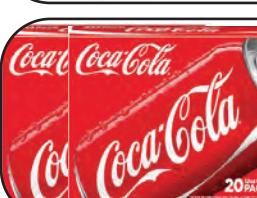
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Beacon photo by Del Lessard

Valparaiso gets new park pavilions

This pair of picnic pavilions are nearing completion in Valparaiso's TJ Brooks Park. The pavilions are part of the city's plans to revitalize the mostly undeveloped park, between Lincoln and Madison avenues. Much of the work is funded by private donations. A walking path around the heavily wooded park is also under construction.

2nd suspect nabbed in home invasion

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

A Niceville man has been arrested by Okaloosa County sheriff's deputies for his alleged role in a home invasion robbery by three men in ski masks that occurred Sept. 27 in the garage of a home in Bluewater Bay.

Daniel Ryan Taylor, 30, of 4174 Whitetail Circle, Niceville, was arrested Oct. 25 on a charge of home invasion robbery.

As previously reported, Victor T. Robinson, 27, of 714 Navy St., Fort Walton Beach, was arrested on the same charge.



Daniel R. Taylor

Sept. 27, less than an hour after the Bluewater Bay home invasion, in which three men allegedly entered a home on St.

Pierre Cove, attacked a man, and drove off with his wallet.

Shortly thereafter Niceville police stopped a Lexus in an unrelated matter. Its six occu-

pants ran away.

Police found ski masks in the Lexus, which was registered to Taylor, according to police reports.

As of Monday, Taylor was being held in the Okaloosa County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 bond. Robinson, who police reported was found in possession of cocaine when he was arrested Sept. 27, was also in jail Monday in lieu of \$100,000 bond on the home invasion charge, and \$5,000 bond on a cocaine charge.

Deputies were still looking

for the third suspect in the case, according to Michele Nicholson, spokesman for the sheriff's office.

Separately, there are still no arrests in connection with an Aug. 31 home invasion on Cape Lane, Niceville, according to Niceville police. In that incident, three men with bandanas 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. The robbers stole the woman's purse and fled in her car.

Man dies after walking into car's path

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

An 88-year-old Niceville man who was struck by a vehicle while trying to walk across six lanes of John Sims Parkway Oct. 20, died Oct. 25.

DOGS

From page A-1

complaints from citizens who fear for their safety because of unleashed dogs coming at them from their owner's unfenced yard. While some dogs are just friendly and run out to greet people, to some walkers, it causes fear for their safety, he said.

Okaloosa County law, like Valparaiso law, requires dogs to be leashed or inside a fenced property or structure. Voice control is not mentioned in the Niceville ordinance.

At least two Valparaiso residents questioned the proposed ordinance during a commission public hearing Oct. 10.

Valparaiso resident Joe Morgan asked if that would apply to hunting dogs, who are trained to respond to voice commands.

Terry Griffin, a Valparaiso dog owner, objected to the proposal at the first public reading. He said it would make it illegal

for him to let his dog out in his own yard without a leash.

After hearing residents' comments Mayor Bruce Arnold suggested that there might be a need for some changes in the ordinance before the second and final public hearing.

Strong said the city would look into a possible alternative solution before the Nov. 14.

According to Valparaiso police records, between Oct. 1, 2009, and Oct. 1, 2011, officers issued six notices to appear for violating the city's animal control ordinance.

—Jan. 31, 2010: A dog got loose from its collar and ran from the owner. The dog later bit a child who was trying to run from it.

—June 22, 2010: A dog ran into the street and bit another dog that was being restrained by its owner. Both dogs were injured and taken to veterinarian clinics.

—Oct. 25, 2010: The owner of a pit bull mix allowed the dog to run free in the front yard using only voice commands to control the animal. When a neighbor

sustained in the accident.

Derrick had already crossed halfway across the six-lane state highway, from south to north, just west of Elm Street, about 10:30 a.m. when he stepped, with his

walked by with his dog on a leash, the pit bull attacked the other pet without provocation.

—May 4, 2011: Three or four small dogs ran from their home, and one bit a woman who was walking by with her granddaughter. The dog owner stated the front door to the residence was due for repairs and that was the likely reason the dogs escaped.

—Jan. 17, 2011: Police on three of four occasions found dogs excessively barking after a neighbor complained the dogs' owner was not at home but allowed the animals to go in and out of the house and bark excessively, annoying the neighbors.

—April 9, 2011: City employees captured a dog running loose after a neighbor complained the animal ran loose "all the time." Police records showed the owner had been warned three times in five months.

Those animals' owners given notices had the option of paying fines of between \$50 and \$100, or appearing before a special magistrate.

In three other animal-bite

cases during the same two-year period, owners were not cited:

—Oct. 31, 2009: Police determined that a dog was able to break its chain and bite one of a group of boys who were cutting through the owner's back yard, provoking the attack. The bite did not break the boy's skin.

—Nov. 26, 2009: Police found that the dog was protecting its owner, who experienced a medical condition and was lying in the yard when a first responder approached the man and was bitten by the dog.

—Jan. 17, 2011: A pit bull on a leash charged and bit a neighbor's child.

Police Capt. David Bruckelmeyer said officers usually issue a notice to appear when an unrestrained dog bites someone or another animal, or if the dog is frequently running off its owner's property. He said that yard dogs often escape through a hole in a fence or because it has dug a tunnel under the fence.

This story was reported and written by Beacon staffers Del Lessard and Mike Griffith.

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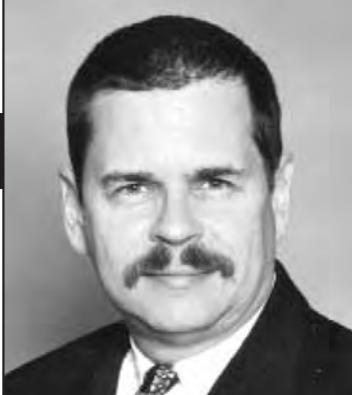
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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —Mike Griffith

What do you think is the most promising source of renewable energy?

Location:
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"Solar. The sun is free, and it's not going out any time soon."

Kellie Higley, 17,
Niceville,
Niceville High School student



"We don't tap into solar energy nearly as much as we should, especially here in Florida. It can be used to heat water, or to heat your house. It can also be stored in cells to supplement your electric power."

Ian Magary, 39,
Niceville,
U.S. Navy



"I would say wind. I'm aware of some work being done in South Carolina, and the articles I've read seem promising."

Jack King, 67,
Niceville,
engineer



"I would say solar panels. They save on electricity."

Brittany Pearson, 28,
Niceville,
teacher



"Solar is going to be our next reliable source. It's provided by God, and as our technology progresses, it will become more useful."

Ray Miller, 57,
Niceville,
pizza deliverer



"Wind power. The wind always blows, and if they develop it, I think it will be the best route."

Owen Strickland, 58,
Choctaw Beach,
shop foreman

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

HUGHES

From page A-1

fire for awarding undisclosed five-figure bonuses to some employees, said he resigned to serve in a full-time Christian ministry.

The ethics commission dismissed other portions of Bomar's complaint and found no probable cause to believe that Hughes used employees to help him during work hours with his television

cooking show, according to commission documents. Allegations that he misused his position to give significant bonuses to employees who assisted him with Salvation Ministries or his other outside business interests were also dismissed, according to commission documents.

The next stage of the ethics commission's proceedings will be to make a determination as to whether or not the law has been violated, according to Kerrie Stillman, spokeswoman for the Commission on Ethics.

"At this point, Mr. Hughes has the right to request a full evidentiary hearing before an Administrative Law Judge at the Division of Administrative Hearings or he can choose to try to reach a settlement agreement with the Commission Advocate who prosecutes our cases," Stillman said.

"Regardless, the matter will be taken up by the (ethics) commission during a future public session meeting to decide whether or not the law was violated and if so, recommend a penalty. Any penalty recommendation would go to the Governor for imposition by Executive Order," she said.

Hughes did not respond to a request for comment before the Beacon's press deadline.

The ethics commission cited

Section 112.313(6) of state statutes:

Misuse of Public Position—No public officer, employee of an agency, or local government attorney shall corruptly use or attempt to use his or her official position or any property or resource which may be within his or her trust, or perform his or her official duties, to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption for himself, herself, or others. This section shall

not be construed to conflict with s.104.31.

The ethics panel also cited section 112.312(9):

"Corruptly" means done with a wrongful intent and for the purpose of obtaining, or compensating or receiving compensation for, any benefit resulting from some act or omission of a public servant which is inconsistent with the proper performance of his or her public duties."

GULFFLIGHT

From page A-1

will continue unchanged until Nov. 30. After that, he said, he does not yet know exactly how emergency flights will be handled in Okaloosa County.

"We are waiting to hear from GulfFlight about what their final strategies will be," he said.

Herndon said he is not worried

about emergency medical transport after GulfFlight ceases basing at Twin Cities Hospital. He said GulfFlight will most likely have other helicopters readily available from its other locations that can respond to emergencies in Okaloosa County and the Niceville area.

Other helicopter services are also available from Air Methods, Herndon said, such as Air Heart

in DeFuniak Springs and Baptist Life Flight from Pensacola.

Earlier this year the Colorado-based company, which calls itself "the world's largest air ambulance operator," said it operated 311 medivac helicopters in at least 39 states.

An Okaloosa County official said between 10 and 20 patients a month are airlifted from various emergencies in the county.

Herndon said that in medical emergencies, a specific set of medical criteria, set by the State of Florida, are used to determine whether the emergency warrants transport by air to a trauma center such as the ones in Pensacola. The exact medical criteria for air transport, he said, are lengthy and complicated, but clearly understood by emergency medical personnel. Basically, he said, air transport is called for when a patient's condition is serious enough to need very rapid transport to a trauma center, and the

patient is stable enough to survive being moved by air.

Butch Parker, who handles emergency medical responses for the North Bay Fire Department, said an example of an injury needing flight to a trauma center would be a massive head trauma. An active cardiac arrest, in which a patient's heart is not beating, he said, would be an example of a patient who could not be flown until first responders restore a heartbeat, because CPR cannot be done properly in the back of a helicopter in flight.

In cases in which North Bay firefighters or county EMS first responders think a patient is likely to need air transport, they immediately notify the flight service of an "air transport alert," enabling the flight crew to get the helicopter ready for takeoff. Upon determining that the patient meets state criteria for air transport, they notify the flight crew to take off.

Parker said that helicopters based at Twin Cities Hospital typically take between 3 and 7 minutes to reach such areas as Bluewater Bay or Seminole in the North Bay fire district. Helicopters from other locations, such as DeFuniak Springs or Pensacola, may take anywhere from 7 to 20 minutes to arrive in the North Bay district.

Meanwhile, Parker said, the first response team tries to stabilize the patient, by starting IVs, ensuring a heartbeat, and performing other initial medical care as required. They must also establish a safe landing zone for the helicopter.

In some cases, Parker said, the landing zone, or LZ, may be in the middle of State Road 20 or

another highway, if that is near the initial response site and a landing zone free of obstructions can be arranged by stopping traffic and making other arrangements, such as placing battery powered lights to illuminate the LZ at night.

In other cases, he said, a patient may be transported by ground ambulance to a suitable helicopter landing site such as the school yard at Bluewater Elementary School.

North Bay Fire Chief Joseph Miller said that once airborne, helicopters usually take between 15 and 20 minutes to reach a trauma center at either Baptist or Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, depending on flying conditions and on which hospital is best prepared to handle that specific patient.

Miller said pediatric patients, for example, are usually taken to Sacred Heart. In some special cases, such as severe burns, patients may be airlifted greater distances, directly to such specialized facilities as the Shands medical center at the University of Florida in Gainesville, or the University of Alabama medical center in Birmingham.

Hall, of Air Methods, said three other helicopters, all owned by Air Methods, also serve the Panhandle, and are based in Pensacola, DeFuniak Springs, and Marianna. Flying at speeds of 120 to 125 miles per hour, or just over two miles per minute, said Hall, the remaining three helicop-

ters can easily cover the Niceville-Valparaiso area, and indeed all of Okaloosa County, without significant delay in response time.

Hall said his company is now engaged in "strategic planning" to determine if any of the remaining helicopters should have their bases relocated to better balance their overlapping coverage of the Panhandle, but no decisions on such possible relocations have yet been made.

Hall said that since 2005, relatively few emergency air transports have originated from the Twin Cities area. "Most have come from the beaches, or from north of Interstate 10," he said. He also said that the employees who now operate the helicopter based in Niceville will not be laid off, but will be reassigned to other jobs within Air Methods.

Dave Whalen, CEO of Twin Cities Hospital, said his hospital was never directly affiliated with Air Methods. "We're not in the helicopter business," he said. "We just gave them a place to keep their helicopter." Whalen said he is not aware of any case in which an emergency patient was brought to Twin Cities Hospital to be loaded on a helicopter.

"I can count on one hand," Whalen said, the number of times a patient already admitted to Twin Cities Hospital was later transported by air to another hospital.

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GAETZ

From page A-1

he said, is a "health welfare" program, in which Florida taxpayers pay for the health care of needy fellow Floridians, in a program governed by federal rules and requirements. "The feds set the rules," he said, "and Florida gets the bill."

At present, Gaetz said, Medicaid, which pays medical bills for lower-income residents, takes up about 19 percent of the state budget, and is expected to take up 26 percent in another two years, as federal requirements and the number of people on Medicaid continue to grow.

"Within the next two years," he said, "one out of every four Floridians will be on Medicaid, with their health care being paid for by the other three." He added that Medicaid recipients receive better health care than many other Floridians get from employer-based health insurance plans.

Gaetz predicted painful cuts to the state budget, and told his audience to "expect extraordinary debates" as state legislators decide what to cut. He said he is doing what he can to reduce unnecessary Medicaid spending, such as adding provisions to the state Medicaid bill to cut non-emergency medical care for illegal aliens, and to require Medicaid patients whose illnesses are related to personal behaviors like addictions, smoking, and obesity to show evidence of their participation in medically-directed drug and alcohol treatment, smoking cessation, and weight reduction programs.

The senator also said he



State Sen. Don Gaetz told local Rotarians last week that, "Within the next two years one out of every four Floridians will be on Medicaid, with their health care being paid for by the other three."

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

helped pass a new "public workers integrity act" which Gov. Rick Scott has recently signed into law.

The new law, Gaetz said, forbids state and local government officials from using public money to give special payments to favored employees or coworkers. Gaetz said he favors genuine incentive bonuses to government workers for exceptional performance of their jobs, but that the new law forbids such things as "golden parachutes" and "buddy bonuses" for cronies and political supporters of senior officials or Constitutional officers.

Gaetz said that fortunately, Florida has avoided the path of some other states, who responded to the national economic recession by raising taxes to pay for maintaining or expanding their social programs. The result of such tax hikes, he said, has been

worse economic decline in those states.

After Pennsylvania raised taxes, Gaetz said, the city of Harrisburg, the state capital, declared bankruptcy, and in New York, 15 percent of the state's hospitals have closed since the state raised taxes. Illinois raised taxes, he said, only to see businesses and jobs leave the state, and in California, where taxes were also raised, the state is now paying many of its bills with IOUs rather than checks.

Gaetz also said that the economy of Northwest Florida is improving. "Tourism is up," he said, "and here in Northwest Florida we have benefitted from the artificial insemination of funds from new military organizations like the F-35 training wing and the Seventh Special Forces Group."

In addition, he said, payments from British Petroleum, for which Northwest Florida will receive presumptive preference during the next three years, will help stimulate the local economy and provide an opportunity to diversify by attracting new businesses to the region, especially in science and technology fields.

"A year ago," Gaetz said, "we were on our knees because of the oil spill." He spoke of a Crestview T-shirt shop owner who employed three people before national news media reports of the spill scared vacationers away. Because of lost tourism, he said, all three employees were laid off and the owner now works only part time.

Gaetz said he looks forward to further recovery from the economic damage done by last year's false nationwide perception that

all Northwest Florida beaches were covered with oil. "Every time people saw Gov. Charlie Crist washing that seagull again on television," said Gaetz, "it cost us another \$40 million."

Gaetz, who was recently designated to become President of the Florida Senate for the 2013-14 session, said the designation means that, "I must win the next election. I don't really have the job yet." Nevertheless, he said, his life has already gotten a lot busier as he has had to travel extensively throughout the state to prepare himself for the statewide responsibilities that will come with the new position in

addition to representing his own district.

With respect to the state's ongoing redistricting process for state and federal election districts, Gaetz said federal and state laws that theoretically require the redistricting process to result in no loss of minority representation, or any political advantage for either party or any incumbent, "are more likely to favor the courts over the ballot box," in determining where district lines will ultimately be drawn.

Nevertheless, he said, "We will do our best for equal representation. I hope you will see some sanity."

Eglin F-35s still grounded

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Although six new F-35 fighter planes are presently at Eglin Air Force Base, they have not yet been allowed to be flown for training new pilots.

Officials at Eglin Air Force Base said Tuesday that they do not know the reason for the delay in beginning flight operations, which were originally expected to have begun by yesterday, Nov. 1.

According to reports in other news media, Department of Defense flight test officials have recommended that training flights be delayed for up to 10 more months, to allow time to resolve potential problems with safety-related issues with the aircraft.

Some of these issues may involve problems with the extensive computer code needed to operate the high-tech planes, the nation's newest warplanes, according to reports.

Other problems may involve expected higher-than-desired abort rates and potential in-



An F-35 at an Eglin Air Force Base ceremony earlier this year. Eglin, training base for the nation's newest warplane, had no immediate comment on reports that its six aircraft may continue to be grounded for months because of safety and other concerns.

Beacon photo

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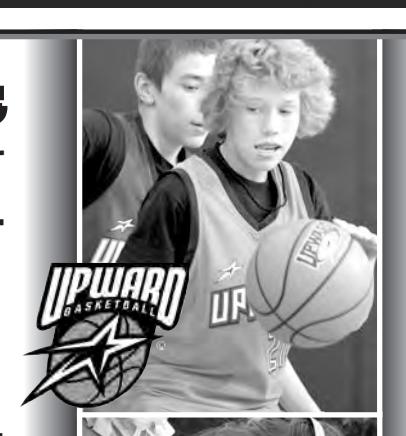
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Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from October 24, 2011 through October 30, 2011.

0 Structure Fire	15 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	0 Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire	1 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	8 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	1 Hazardous Conditions

Street	Situation	Date	Time
23rd Street	Medical	10/24/11	08:04
Hill Lane	Canceled	10/24/11	09:31
McKinney Street	Medical	10/24/11	10:05
Park Avenue	Medical	10/24/11	17:21
McKinney Street	Medical	10/24/11	17:22
20th Street	Medical	10/24/11	18:01
Ponteveda Lane	Medical	10/25/11	07:53
N. Partin Drive	Medical	10/25/11	15:34
27th Street	Medical	10/25/11	22:19
Crestview Avenue	Medical	10/26/11	06:28
S. Partin Drive	Alarm Activation	10/26/11	12:24
W. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	10/26/11	18:48
Hampton Circle/BWB	Canceled En Route	10/26/11	21:06
N. Partin Drive	Medical	10/27/11	09:33
23rd Street	Medical	10/27/11	12:07
N. Cedar Avenue	Service Call	10/27/11	12:11
E. John Sims Pkwy	False Call	10/27/11	17:21
SR85N	Extrication	10/28/11	03:51
E. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	10/28/11	14:20
3rd Street	Alarm Activation	10/28/11	14:34
Crestview Avenue	Medical	10/28/11	22:30
SR85N	Fuel Leak	10/29/11	07:54
W. John Sims Pkwy	Canceled	10/29/11	09:58
Hillside Drive	Service Call	10/29/11	19:20
E. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	10/30/11	20:54

Weekly Safety Tip: Use and store flammable liquids (e.g. pesticides, fertilizers, paint & gasoline) away from any source of heat or flame. Never smoke near flammable liquids.

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls October 23, 2011 through October 31, 2011.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
N. White Point Road	Dispatched, canceled	10/23/11	14:36
Newcastle Court	Medical assist EMS	10/23/11	18:00
Olde Post Road	Assist invalid	10/24/11	21:43
Newcastle Court	Dispatched, canceled	10/24/11	22:42
Parkwood Place	False alarm	10/25/11	09:28
Hampton Circle	Smoke scare	10/26/11	21:06
Olde Post Road	EMS excluding vehicle	10/26/11	21:27
Highway 20	EMS excluding vehicle	10/27/11	09:52
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	10/27/11	17:12
E. Highway 20	EMS excluding vehicle	10/28/11	08:25
Merchants Way	EMS excluding vehicle	10/28/11	23:15
White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	10/30/11	10:58

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

Valparaiso Volunteer

The Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department responded to the following calls from October 2, 2011 through October 30, 2011:

Street	Situation	Date	Time
West College Blvd.	Chest Pain	10/2/11	05:57
Lincoln Ave	Fall	10/2/11	20:09
Edge Ave	Sick Call	10/3/11	19:26
Seminole Ave	Fall	10/4/11	18:16
North Bayshore Dr	Fall	10/5/11	08:38
Menzel St	Unconscious	10/5/11	10:33
Iowa St	Unknown Problem	10/5/11	11:01
Hickory Lane	Breathing Problem	10/6/11	00:19
Valparaiso Pkwy	Breathing Problem	10/6/11	03:22
South Bayshore Dr	Sick Call	10/7/11	11:14
Nordberg Ave	Diabetic	10/7/11	11:26
Edge Ave	Breathing Problem	10/7/11	18:44
Glendale Ave	Chest Pain	10/9/11	08:32
West College Blvd.	Unconscious	10/9/11	09:06
Edge Ave	Fire Alarm	10/11/11	00:11
Kelly Mill Road	Unconscious	10/11/11	01:19
Edge Ave	Fire Alarm	10/11/11	23:05
Edge Ave	Fire Alarm	10/12/11	01:03
Old East Gate Road	Chest Pain	10/15/11	02:19
Mississippi Ave	Stroke	10/17/11	12:36
Spencer Place	Sick Call	10/17/11	19:30
Montana Ave	Heart Problem	10/20/11	02:59
Edge Ave	Unknown Problem	10/20/11	20:16
Valparaiso Pkwy	Fall	10/20/11	21:18
North Bayshore Dr	Chest Pain	10/20/11	23:38
Okaloosa Ave	Unconscious	10/21/11	20:30
Carie Way	Police Matter	10/23/11	03:53
Edward Circle	Cardiac Arrest	10/24/11	00:42
South John Sims Pkwy	Breathing Problem	10/26/11	13:24
Nordberg Ave	Breathing Problem	10/26/11	05:34
North Bayshore Dr	Breathing Problem	10/26/11	03:16
Glendale Ave	Fall	10/26/11	09:03
Okaloosa Ave	Psychiatric Problem	10/30/11	21:16

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

Alan Warren Aguire, a plant manager, 49, of 202 Westview Drive, Crestview, was arrested by Niceville police Oct. 21 on a charge of domestic violence battery that allegedly occurred during the Mullet Festival.

to a disturbance at a mall store, 300 Mary Esther Blvd., Mary Esther, Aug. 21.

Kelsey Nicole White, a restaurant server, 18, of 4483 Woodbridge Road, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies, subsequent to a traffic stop in Destin, Oct. 20, on charges of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Dennis Dra'cal Henderson, unemployed, 31, of 1605 26th St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Oct. 20 on charges of possession of crack cocaine and resisting an officer without violence.

James Patrick McDonald, 32, of 7770 Rockport Court, #6, Fort Walton Beach, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Oct. 14 on a charge of violating a domestic violence injunction. The violation allegedly occurred Oct. 3 at an address in Niceville.

Larry Shane Patrick, a mechanic, 26, of 206 Edrehi Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies for DUI on Highway 98 at Two Trees Road, Destin, Oct. 23 at 7:48 a.m. Dottaviano was also cited for speeding, 115 mph in a 45 mph zone, violation of the state's open container law, running a red light and reckless driving.

Jonathan Lee Yates, 25, of 30 Newcastle Court, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Sept. 26 on a charge of driving while license suspended or revoked, habitual offender.

Christopher Lee Campbell, 32, of 405 Hickory Ave. Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Oct. 21 on a violation of probation charge on the original charge of domestic violence battery.

Jermaine Carl Tape, 21, of 400 Kelly Mill Road, Apt. 13, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Oct. 20 on a breach of peace charge related

A Valparaiso resident of the

400 block of James Avenue flagged down a police officer to report unknown person(s) had kicked in the door to his residence and ransacked every room in the home sometime between 5:50 and 9 p.m. while the residents were gone. Reported stolen were two flat-screen TVs, a laptop computer, a \$400 camera, two video game systems, a digital computer tablet and a \$200 watch. The stolen items were valued together at \$5,900.

A patron of a Valparaiso restaurant Oct. 20 returned from lunch to find two rear windows in his 2007 truck had been busted and several items stolen from the vehicle while it was parked in the restaurant's overflow parking area in the

300 block of Glen Avenue. The following item were reported stolen from the rear seat of the vehicle, a red firefighter bag containing military clothing, BDUs, boots and tennis shoes, a backpack, jacket and fishing gear bag with tackle. Total value of the stolen items was about \$925. Damage to the vehicle was estimated at \$600.

A Mary Esther woman reported that unknown person(s) stole the wallet out of her purse while she was at her Niceville workplace in the 1000 block of East John Sims Parkway Oct. 21. The purse contained credit cards, \$100 cash, a Social Security card, military ID and driver's license.

A woman reported her purse was stolen from a vehicle at the Mullet Festival Oct. 22. The purse contained a wallet and debit card, keys and other items.

A bartender, 290 Yacht Club Drive, Niceville, reported that someone stole a tip jar from the outdoor patio area Oct. 21.

Out-of-town firefighters staying at a Niceville motel, 4400 Ansley Drive, Sept. 17 reported that unknown person(s) broke the rear window of a pickup truck parked at the motel and stole two bags filled with firefighter gear including bunker jackets, flashlights, fire helmets, Nomex head covers, rope, bunker pants, suspenders and rubber boots in each bag, and a \$100 coat that was not in the bag. Total estimated value of the stolen items was \$3,675.

A Niceville resident reported that unknown person(s) broke the rear passenger side window out of his car while it was parked at a business, 550 Highway 85, Oct. 24. Reported stolen from the car were a \$250 leather jacket and a \$50 briefcase.

A Crestview woman reported that unknown person(s) burglarized her truck while it was parked at the Mullet Festival site Oct. 22-23 and stole her wallet, a drill and a tool belt. The wallet contained two credit cards and a driver's license.

Other

Keith Edwin Wagner, a cook, 26, of 507-B 23rd St., Niceville, was issued a notice to appear by sheriff's deputies Oct. 25 on charges of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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



Name: Shannah Lee Short

Wanted for: violation of probation on the original charges of grand theft, possession of a controlled substance and driving with a suspended or revoked license. Short's last known address was on John Sims Parkway in Niceville.

Height: 5 feet, 1 inch

Weight: 115 pounds

Age: 29

Date of birth: 04-14-1982

Hair: brown

Eyes: blue



Name: Edgar Servelio Tiguiran-Mendoza

Wanted for: burglary and battery. Tiguiran-Mendoza's last known address was in Fort Walton Beach. Height: 5 feet, 10 inches

Calendar

November DAR meeting

The Choctawhatchee Bay Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will meet Nov. 10 at St. Simon's on the Sound Church, 28 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach, at 10 a.m. The Good Citizen Essay Contest winners will be announced. Seven High Schools in Okaloosa and Walton County have selected essay winners from their school to be entered in the contest. All women lineally descended from a Revolutionary War patriot are invited to attend monthly meetings and apply for membership. Info: Dotty Burdick, 496-0783.

'Junie B. Jones' at Arts Center

The Mattie Kelly Arts Center will hold "Junie B. Jones" as the next installment of the Children's Series Nov. 10. All shows appear at either 9:45 or 11:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted and each 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 merrilld@nwfsc.edu.

Women's fellowship set

For the November meeting of Fort Walton Beach Aglow, the speaker will be Janet German. The meeting will be held on Nov. 10 at Marina Bay Resort, 80 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach. Coffee and fellowship at 9:30 a.m.; the meeting starts at 10. Info: Barbara Williams at 678-1335 or fwbaaglow@yahoo.com.

Hospice volunteer workshop

Covenant Hospice will hold a volunteer training workshop 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Niceville Assembly of God Church, 108 Highway 85 N. The workshop is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

Covenant provides a flexible volunteer schedule with opportunities for one time, periodic or weekly assignments. Volunteers receive ongoing educational opportunities and are honored annually for their contributions. Info: Kappy Smith, 729-1800.

Golf for Heroes tourney

The Northwest Florida USO will hold a golf tournament Nov. 11 to raise funds for local USO activities.

The tournament will follow a scramble format with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. A BBQ lunch will be served after play. Hole in One wins 2012 Chevy Silverado truck courtesy of Award Chevrolet.

Registration is \$45 for Foxwood members and active duty military, \$55 for all others. The fee includes greens fee, cart, refreshments on course and lunch. Interested golfers can contact Foxwood Country Club at 682-2012 or bobbyz55x@gmail.com.

Event info: Bob Davis, 685-4759.

Food drive

Edge Elementary students will participate in a schoolwide canned food drive for Sharing & Caring to see whose teacher will be crowned "Top Turkey!"

The entire community is invited to donate nonperishable food items during the week, Nov. 7-11. Items can be dropped off in the collection bin at



Read me another

Valparaiso Community Library holds Story Time three days a week, Monday, Tuesday and Friday, starting at 9:45 a.m. Parents and caregivers tag along with their preschool-age children, from newborn to 5 years old, while the youngsters enjoy story reading and associated crafts.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard

the main entrance of Edge Elementary, 300 Highway 85 N., between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. With teamwork from Edge families and the community we can make a stellar event for the families who benefit from Sharing & Caring.

Veterans Day breakfast

A "One Nation Under God" Veterans Day prayer breakfast will be held Nov. 11 at 8 a.m. at AmVets Post 78, 910 Valastics Ave., Valparaiso.

The guest speaker will be U.S. Congressman Jeff Miller. Special guest Lt. Col. Samuel Lombardo, WWII veteran and author, will also speak at the event. Tickets are \$3. For tickets, call Carol Mullins-Hernandez, 240-0616, or AmVets Post 78, 678-3828.

Lunch & Learn event

The Niceville Family YMCA, 1031 E. John Sims Parkway, will hold a free "Lunch & Learn Event" Nov. 11 with Dr. Elise Gordon of The Andrews Institute. Gordon is a board-

certified primary care sports medicine doctor. The event, which will be held noon-1 p.m., will include a free lunch.

Veterans Day dinner

The American Legion Post 235 will host a Veterans Day spaghetti dinner 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11. The dinner will be held at the American Legion Post 235, 105 Hollywood Blvd. N.W., Fort Walton Beach.

Proceeds will benefit Fisher House at Eglin. Info: 243-0221 or amleg235@gmail.com.

YMCA military appreciation

The Niceville YMCA will hold a promotion Nov. 11 for military appreciation. All active duty military who join the YMCA will have their joining fee waived, in addition to the already discounted rate for the military. The YMCA will also stay open after closing that evening, from 7-9 p.m., only for military active duty and their families. The YMCA will provide snacks and drinks, and members can use the facility that evening.

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Collegiate High sets enrollment ceiling for 2011-12

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Northwest Florida State College trustees met as the governing board for the college's Collegiate High School and approved an enrollment capacity of 285 for the 2012-13 academic year.

Admissions applications will be accepted in February 2012. An admissions lottery is scheduled for March 2012 if enrollment exceeds

capacity in each grade or program. The Collegiate High School currently has a waiting list of about 40 potential students.

Such a lottery was held early this year for the current academic year.

Meeting Oct. 18 in Crestview, trustees also approved an annual independent audit of the high school by the firm Mauldin & Jenkins of Bradenton. The audit

reflected a "clean" opinion with no adverse findings.

In other business, trustees approved:

The advertisement for a request for qualifications for legal services for the board of trustees, and a calendar for the attorney selection process which calls for proposals to be submitted by Nov. 28 and a contract submitted for board approval by Feb. 21, 2012.

Ratification of agreements with the Okaloosa County and Walton County school districts to provide dual enrollment opportunities for area high school students.

Approval of creation of a scholarship endowment by Okaloosa Gas which will be brought before the NWFSC Foundation Board of Directors at its Nov. 1 meeting.

Prior to the start of the trustees

meeting at the college's Robert L.F. Sikes Education Center, the center's director, Gail Kaltz, gave the board an overview of the center and its services. Kaltz emphasized the enrollment growth at the college's north Okaloosa center, which is located off of Highway 90 next to Twin Hills Park, saying that the NWFSC Sikes Center serves about 1,300 students annually and normally fills all classes offered.



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The Summit II in Hair

From HI Lites to LO Lites, Welcome in the Fall!

Advertising Feature

Envision yourself as a dark chocolate brunette, deep mahogany redhead or maybe a golden blonde. Fashionising.com encourages you to "just change it" when it comes to your hair color. If you're not ready (or daring enough) to do a complete change, the fall is a perfect time to shift those summer Hi Lites into warm Lo Lites with more depth for the upcoming season. The Summit II can help you decide on the perfect look!

The Summit II is a full service unisex hair salon catering to all ages and styles since 1977. For more than 33 years, owners Ron and Debbie Pettis have been on the leading edge of the ever-changing hair fashion industry through continuing education in the latest styles and techniques. An upcoming training event is Centricity 2011 in Orlando. At Centricity 2011, The Summit II team will continue to extend their expertise within the Redkin Hair Systems' approach and artistry. Although it's important to keep abreast on current styling trends and presenting these trends to new and existing clientele, The Summit II continues to stay grounded in their



roots by providing consistency to its loyal and established guests.

With semi-private rooms, your stylist at Summit II can provide individualized and focused attention. From the moment you walk in the door there is a warm,

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The Summit II provides an array of hairstyling and color treatment services. The main color treatment featured at Summit II is The Redkin Chemistry System. Specialized, this system revitalizes and renews hair in just one treatment. This revolutionary process is a conditioning treatment that is customized to every guest's individual hair type. It strengthens the hair from the inside out.

For color modifications, the Summit II team offers a Redkin treatment that provides natural-looking coverage without drying your hair. Within 35 minutes, your hair will be well-conditioned, shiny and have vibrancy from this Color Fusion Hair treatment.

Another treatment combats the signs of aging hair. Those experiencing signs of chronological or hormonal aging can

benefit from the Time Set Salon Service offered at Summit II. This system can improve your hair density, luster and overall manageability.

Gentlemen clientele can also benefit from Summit II's Camo system. Specifically tailored for men, this brief 15-minute process will enable those fashion savvy clients to erase some of what the years have put on their appearance. This semi-permanent color treatment lasts for approximately four weeks so there's no long-term commitment.

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Summit II is located on 101 East John Sims Parkway in Niceville on the corner of John Sims and Bayshore Drive. Salon doors are open 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday. The salon is closed Monday and Sunday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 678-1977. The Summit II stylists are ready to make you look fabulous!

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Teen has un-'conventional' leanings

By Molly Mosher

Beacon Staff Writer

Jade Reindl doesn't let the fact that she cannot legally vote bar her from an interest in politics.

This 16-year-old dual-enrolled Niceville High School junior just added another peg to her political totem. She returned Sunday from the Democratic State Convention, for which she was selected to be a delegate to represent Okaloosa County.

The convention was held Oct. 28-30 in Orlando and featured Democratic speakers from throughout the political

arena, including Vice President Joe Biden, who spoke Oct. 28 at "A Legacy of Leadership: A Promise for Tomorrow" dinner.

The local Democratic Club sponsored her trip, allowing her to attend a number of expensive dinners and lectures.

But acting as delegate was not Jade's first foray in politics.

She is an intern at the Okaloosa County Democrats office, and leader and founder of the NHS Democrats Club.

Since she was 13 years old, Jade has known how she

stands politically. In her eighth-grade year, a presidential election year, her mom, Beth, tasked her with making her own opinion about her political leanings.

"A lot of young people just take their parents' opinions (about politics). But it is important to be informed and form your own opinions," she said. "It's very much an individual thing."

So, Jade researched and found the party she most closely identified with was the Democrats.

"There are some things I

Please see TEEN, page B-3



Jade Reindl, far left, with a group of future leaders at the Young Democrats of America High School Leadership Academy held in Washington, D.C., this past July.



Edge to hold food drive for S & C

Edge Elementary students Sean Kelly, Kyle Kelly, Tanner Burke, Amelia Burke, Becca Gilbar and Madison Holman eagerly await the start of the Edge food drive Nov. 7-11 for Sharing & Caring, Niceville. Students will compete in this schoolwide drive for class bragging rights to see who will be crowned "Top turkey!" The entire community is invited to drop donations off during the week at Edge, 300 Highway 85 N., from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.



Beacon photo by Kenneth Books

Battle for the toys

Niceville High School's Annmarie Dowden, left, a chemistry teacher, and Lynn Prevatte, honors English and leadership, square off to promote "Fur vs. Feathers," a contest between Niceville and Crestview high schools to collect the most toys for Toys for Tots. Last year, the two schools collected about 1,300 toys, but Crestview won the contest. New, unwrapped "toys that real kids would play with," said Prevatte, can be dropped off at the school office by 4 p.m. Friday.



Capt. receives Bronze Star

Lt. Col. Shilisa Geter, left, commander of "Griffin" Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, pins a Bronze Star Medal onto the uniform of Capt. Selina Tolonen, public affairs officer with 2nd AAB and a Niceville native, Oct. 1 at Camp Liberty, Iraq. The Bronze Star Medal is given for heroic or meritorious achievement or service and was first awarded during World War II.

Who's News

E-mail items to
info@baybeacon.com

Susan Shaw of Niceville was appointed as director of the University of West Florida at Emerald Coast. Shaw has served as interim director since August.

Shaw has worked for UWF for 29 years and most recently served as associate director of marketing communications for UWF at Emerald Coast. She has also been teaching various courses at UWF since 1982.

In her new position she will oversee administrative functions, community outreach and engagement.

S. Grant Williams, owner of Niceville Hearing Center, was nominated as "The Best of 2011 Hearing Healthcare Professionals" by The Hearing Review publication.

The Hearing Review publishers established the "Best Of The Best" program to recognize

Please see WHO'S, page B-3

Niceville Amateur Youth Baseball



TRYOUT DATES HAVE BEEN SET FOR THE SPRING 2012 NAYB BASEBALL SEASON

Saturday, November 19, 2011

Sunday, November 20, 2011

(Times and locations to be determined)

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Gaetz visits AF village

Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fort Walton Beach, visited the Air Force Enlisted Village. Pictured, Edna Tippin, left, resident of the Hawthorn House, and Gaetz. The Enlisted Village provides a home for surviving spouses of military heroes and to mothers of current active duty and retired military. The village has two communities, Bob Hope Village, Shalimar, and Teresa Village, Fort Walton Beach. Hawthorn House is located at Bob Hope Village.



Golfing Fore! charity

The Bluewater Bay Men's Golf Association MGA and the Ladies Golf Association held their inaugural Charity Golf Tournament Oct. 15. Fifty-two golfers participated in the tournament. The four person scramble winners were Jim Miller, Mike Marchese, Paul Hederi and Art Jean. Closest to the pin winners were Claire Boggs and Rolf Klam. The Charity Tournament raised \$580 for Niceville Sharing & Caring. A presentation was made by Barbara Sims, and Art Jean to Sharing & Caring Director Delle Diamon Oct. 26.



Hats for the homeless

The ladies of Bob Hope Village knit and crocheted 550 hats to donate to the Mental Health Association in Fort Walton Beach. From left: front, Sheila Biggs, Valarie Edrington, Jo Coats, Margaret Wesolowski, Dorothy Simpson, Helen Gallagher and Edith Duhamel; back, Sue Lell, Annette Worthy, Theresa Wineinger, Joan Hampton, Eva Stark, Hazel Reynolds, Elizabeth Reeser and Ann O'Neill.

Happy birthday Gamma Epsilon

Gamma Epsilon Master's Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi celebrated its first birthday with a luncheon and meeting. Members marked the first year of becoming a Master's Chapter in Beta Sigma Phi. The meeting was held at the home of Linda Michalowski in Fort Walton Beach. Members attending were Marge Ballon, Nilah Estep, Ann Jones, Mary MacDonald, Helen Martin, JoAnn Jones, Doris Olig, Eunice Whitman and Angela Budden.



In the Service

E-mail items to
info@baybeacon.com.

Grant C. DeVuyyst, son of Rick and Anita DeVuyyst, of Niceville recently completed "A" school as the distinguished honor graduate of the Basic Public Affairs Specialist course at the Defense Information School in Fort Meade, Md. He will be stationed at the 17th Coast Guard District in Juneau, Alaska. Grant is a 2006 graduate of Niceville High School.



Grant DeVuyyst

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class **Michelle L. Parmelee**, a 1998 graduate of Freeport

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michelle L. Parmelee, a 1998 graduate of Freeport

Senior High School, and fellow Sailors and Marines aboard the amphibious transport dock USS New Orleans, home-ported in San Diego, Calif., recently participated in detainee handling training while conducting a two-week certification exercise off the coast of southern California.

The training ensured the ship's visit, board, search and seizure team with and members of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Maritime Raid Force that all personnel on the ship are capable of properly handling a detainee.

New Orleans is the second of the San Antonio-class transport dock ships. Its warfighting capabilities include a state-of-the-art command and control suite, substantially increased vehicle lift capacity, a large flight deck, and advanced ship survivability features that enhance its ability to operate in the littoral environment.

Parmelee joined the Navy in October 2001.

Advertising in the Bay Beacon gets results! Here's proof!

Dear Bay Beacon,

Since 2000, Gotta Git Taxi has been helping the community get where they are going safely. We have advertised in the Bay Beacon for more than ten years.

Throughout the year, we place ads in the Bay Beacon's various special sections, like the Mullet map. Due to our ad's exposure, each year, our business has grown. This year, we spent more time than ever giving rides to and from the Mullet Festival.

Thank you producing ads that get such spectacular results. We know the Bay Beacon works and will continue to advertise.

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Fall pumpkin harvest

Lewis teacher Jennifer Shaw's kindergartners were the "Pumpkin Patch Kids" to represent the fall harvest on Oct. 21. The children were engaged in various center activities such as cider stirring, popcorn popping, cupcake decorating and face painting. They rotated activities and a parent volunteered to help at each center. The students also toured parts of the school to show off their pumpkin costumes.



Kristen Marie and Thomas Joseph Whiddon

Weddings

E-mail items to
info@baybeacon.com.

Hicks-Whiddon

Kristen Marie Hicks, daughter of Susan and John Hicks of Niceville, and Thomas Joseph Whiddon, son of Lynn and Paul Whiddon of Niceville, were joined in matrimony July 2, 2011, at the Niceville United Methodist Church.

Kristen is a graduate of

Niceville High School and Auburn University's Harrison School of Pharmacy with a Doctorate of pharmacy. She is employed at the Target pharmacy in Oxford, Ala.

Thomas is a graduate of Niceville High School and Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Ala., with a Bachelor of Science in geography and a master's degree in public administration and athletic administration. He is employed by the Jacksonville State University football program.

ans."

That the club is not Democrats only mirrors what Jade identifies with most about the Democratic Party.

"Open-mindedness," she said.

A local Democrat who understood Jade's passion for action mentioned a leadership academy for young Democrats. So Jade applied and was selected out of thousands to participate. Jade spent a long July weekend in Washington, D.C., as one of 48 young Americans selected to take part in the Young Democrats of America High School Leadership Academy.

As part of the trip, the

School Briefs

E-mail items to
info@baybeacon.com.

Ruckel academic team takes first

The Ruckel Middle School fifth and sixth grade junior varsity academic team took first place at the Middle School Academic Tournament hosted by Destin Middle School. The RMS academic team includes JV Coach Vicki Washington, and team members Julia Freeman, Meredith Freedman, John Hencinski, Chris Halprin, Geoffrey Hall and Mandy Martin.

RBCS to offer enrichment term

Jan. 3-18, 2012, Rocky Bayou Christian School will offer its first Jan Term, an innovative curricular feature for ninth through 12th grade students. Jan Term is designed to increase learning opportunities for students. Not only are students given new classes to choose from each year, above and beyond the high school cur-

riculum, they also have the opportunity to travel through a variety of educational and mission trips. RBCS juniors and seniors will have the chance to experience a profession through work internships, before they decide on a college major.

Some of the course offerings this year are cooking, woodworking, art history, ACT/SAT prep, music recording, sign language, disc golf, Red Cross lifeguard certification, football, scrapbooking and basketball. The three trips offered this year will be a college trip, which will visit nine colleges and universities and include skiing and snowboarding; a science trip to Tampa and Orlando, which will include spending the night at the Florida aquarium; and a mission trip to Granada, Nicaragua, where students will spend eight days laboring and worshipping with local believers.

The final day of Jan Term, Jan. 18, will be used for students' presentations of what they have learned from their trips, internships, and classes. This day will be open to parents and the community.

young leaders went to see the White House. As usual, there were people passing out political reform literature.

A protester handed Jade a book, which was full of libel about a past president.

"It was trying to be insulting," she said, reflecting on reading it. "We elected him, and he's deserving of respect. Even if we don't always see eye to eye, we can discuss things and still be civil, if people are willing to be open minded."

"We can agree to disagree," said Jade.

Jade has one-and-a-half years until she finishes high school, but already she has a

pretty good idea of what she wants to study, and it is no surprise—diplomacy and international studies.

But does this driven young Democrat have dreams to be a future leader of the country?

"I want to experience other cultures. But if the opportunity arises..."

And even though Jade is so young, not even to be of age for the next presidential election, she is already quite accomplished. Even so, however, she still feels she can do more.

"By chance, I ended up with all of these opportunities. I want to redouble my efforts to be worthy of them," she said.

research and actual clinical experience.

Tom Ashley of Glass Doctor, Niceville, was honored with a Top Gun Award during The Dwyer Group's 2011 Reunion held Oct. 19-22 in Indianapolis.

The Top Gun designation recognizes outstanding sales, sales growth, market penetration and networking the prior calendar year.

"I just come to work and do my best," said Ashley. "I wasn't thinking about an award, but it's nice to be recognized."



Dr. Olivier Broutin

honor which a professional society such as the ICOI bestows on a dental professional involved in dental implant treatment.

The IOCI has a Fellowship program in which active members are encouraged to achieve Fellowship status through their efforts in education,

research and actual clinical experience.

Tom Ashley of Glass Doctor, Niceville, was honored with a Top Gun Award during The Dwyer Group's 2011 Reunion held Oct. 19-22 in Indianapolis.

The Top Gun designation recognizes outstanding sales, sales growth, market penetration and networking the prior calendar year.

"I just come to work and do my best," said Ashley. "I wasn't thinking about an award, but it's nice to be recognized."

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Info: myfloridaprepaid.com or 1-800-552-GRAD to request an Enrollment Kit.

THF dinner benefit

Join the Taylor Haugen Foundation for Alys Beach Caliza Pool's "Savor the Season: A Culinary and Wine Tasting Affair" Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. This year features nine local celebrity chefs presenting seasonal cuisine paired elegantly with vinted, sparkling and brewed libations. The cost is \$30 per person, \$50 per couple at the door. Alys Beach is located off Co. Hwy. 30-A in Walton County.

All proceeds of this event will benefit the mission of the Taylor Haugen Foundation, including the Youth Equipment for Sports Safety program.

Library book discussion

The Valparaiso Library will offer two books discussion groups beginning in November. The first group, the Constant Readers, will meet Nov. 3 at 10:30 a.m. to review

"The Great Man" by Kate Christensen. The second group, the

Mystery Lovers, will meet Nov. 10 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss "Booked to Die" by John Dunning. Info: call the library at 729-5406 or visit vcl.valp.org.

November blood drives

The following blood drives will be held in the Niceville area in November:

Thursday, Nov. 3, Niceville City Hall, 204 N. Partin Drive, 6-11 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 6, St. Jude's Episcopal Church, 200 Partin Drive, Niceville, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 15, Twin Cities Hospital, Niceville, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Business workshop

"Starting a Business Workshop" will be held Nov. 3, 1-4 p.m., at the UWF/NWFSC Fort Walton Beach campus, 1170 Martin Luther King Blvd., Building 1, Room 156. This workshop will review business planning areas such as financing, selecting a business legal structure, identifying your market, record keeping and identifying risks that can challenge success. The fee is \$35. To reserve your seat and pay online, visit sbdc.uwf.edu. Space is limited.

Info: 850-833-9400.

Audubon Society meeting

Nov. 3, birders and nature enthusiasts will enjoy a program by Barb Almario of the Florida Wildlife & Conservation Commission,

"Demographic Monitoring of the Bachman's Sparrow in the Blackwater Wildlife Management Area." Learn about efforts to study and protect this celebrated, but declining, species whose song is one of the sounds most identified with the pine forests of the Florida Panhandle.

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

Children's health seminar

The Healthy Start Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties will host a free half-day seminar, "Kids Who Bounce Back." The featured speaker is Judy Manning, Ed. D. Manning, operations director with



Children in Crisis, is an advocate for children's issues. She will address two topics: Resilience in Children and Family Traditions.

The event will be held Nov. 4, 9 a.m.-noon at Shalimar United Methodist Church, 1 Old Ferry Road. Light refreshments will be provided. Registration is required. Call 833-9284 or visit healthystartokawalton.org to register.

NUMC Secret Church

Niceville United Methodist Church will host "Secret Church" Nov. 4 from 6 p.m. to midnight at their Niceville Campus at 214 Partin Drive S. This is a six-hour intensive Bible study meeting. This is a simulcast that will be led by the author of *Radical*, David Platt. The topic will be "Family, Marriage, Sex and the Gospel." Childcare will not be provided. Cost is \$5 (this covers the cost of the study guide provided). Visit nicevilleumc.org/secreetchurch/ to sign up and for more info.

ADSO Art Week

Arts and Design Society will host Art Week Nov. 4-11. Many two-hour classes will be offered in a variety of mediums. This week is geared for

adults and children with classes such as painting with a palette knife, painting on YUPO paper, making paper cloth, block printmaking, family clay class, and more. The cost is \$25 for the first class, \$20 for additional classes. All materials will be supplied. Art Week will take place at the ADSO Art Center, 17 First St. S.E., Fort Walton Beach. Info: call 244-1271 or visit artsdesignsociety.org.

Art Foundation 5K benefit

The Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation and Destin Health & Fitness Club invite all runners and walkers to participate in a 5K Race for the Arts Nov. 5 starting at 8:30 a.m. to benefit youth development in art education. A one-mile Kids' Fun Run will begin after the 5K. The race course features an out and back course beginning near the entrance of the Mattie Kelly Cultural Arts Village, 4323 Commons Drive W.

Registration is \$25. Late registrations after Nov. 1 are \$30. The Fun Run is \$10 and for families, each additional child is \$5. To register, visit active.com/running/destin-fl/race-for-the-arts-5k-and-1-mile-fun-run-2011. Info: MKAF, 650-2226.

Info: Baker Block Museum, 537-5714.

Niceville Farmers Market

One20A Modern Bistro, 120 Partin Drive, Niceville, will be the site of a farmers market Nov. 5, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. The event features local vendors selling homemade products, including canned goods, homemade sauces, salsa, candles, and crafts, and farm-fresh vegetables.

Baker Heritage Day

The seventh annual Baker Heritage Day will be held Nov. 5 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Baker Block Museum, intersection of Highway 4 and 189 in Baker.

The event features pioneer craftsmen demonstrations, a large variety of handmade arts and craft vendors, food, gospel and country music. Craftsmen will demonstrate such skills as blacksmithing, shingle making, basket weaving, flint knapping, spinning, quilting, open hearth cooking and much more.

Info: Baker Block Museum, 537-5714.

Audubon Society field trip

Gary Parsons will lead a field trip to the Taminco/Air Products Wildlife Refuge in Milton Nov. 19. Many

species of shore and wading birds will be on display in this unique preserve which is unrivaled in the western Panhandle. Dress for the elements and bring binoculars and cameras. Meet just inside the College Boulevard entrance to the Twin Cities Sports Complex at the corner of College Boulevard and Hwy. 85 North, Niceville.

Call Gary, 678-1461, for more information and to sign up. Because of security considerations, participants must RSVP by Nov. 5.

AIDS fundraiser

OASIS, the Okaloosa AIDS Support and Information Services, will hold its Style fundraiser Nov. 5 at the Ramada Beachfront Resort, 1500 Miracle Strip Parkway S.E., Fort Walton Beach. The evening will feature fashion, live entertainment, a buffet and a silent auction. Save the date, and contact Paul at OASIS to purchase tickets, donate auction items, or volunteer. You can reach Paul at 850-314-0950 or at oasis@cox.net.

BWB Garden Club meeting

The Bluewater Bay Garden Club will present "Water Gardening" at its Nov. 10 meeting. The meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Bluewater Bay Clubhouse and will feature Niceville resident and Master Gardener John Palm, who built his own pond and helped with building the Butterfly House pond in Navarre. He will be assisted by Master Gardener, Jenny Gillis who participated in the creation of the pond in her yard. The importance of the balance and maintenance of fish, plants and nutrients in the pond ecosystem will be discussed and samples of pond plants may be shown.

QuickBooks workshop

"QuickBooks Basics" will be held Nov. 10, 9 a.m.-noon, at the NWFSC/UWF Fort Walton Beach campus, 1170 Martin Luther King Blvd., Building 1, Room 126.

See an overview of how QuickBooks simplifies tasks such as payroll, sales tax and job estimating. The fee is \$50. To reserve your seat, register online at sbdc.uwf.edu or call the SBDC at 833-9400.

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National tennis tourney in BWB

Finals are set for weekend

By Gerri Norris
Beacon Correspondent

For the third year in a row, The Bluewater Bay Tennis Center is hosting a United States Tennis Association (USTA) Pro Circuit Futures Tournament through Nov. 6. Futures are professional tournaments providing \$10,000 to \$15,000 in prize money, and serve as the preliminary battleground for top-ranked juniors, college players and pros at the early stages of their careers.

Since its beginnings in 1979, the USTA Pro Circuit has brought world-class professional tennis to many communities nationwide. The Pro Circuit was designed to provide players with the opportunity to gain professional points essential to compete on the major pro tours. During the last 30 years, the Pro Circuit has grown into an influential force in the tennis world. It consists of more than 90 annual tournaments and more than \$2.5 million of awarded prize money. Players representing more than 30

countries came to compete at this year's Pro Circuit Tournament at Bluewater Bay Tennis Center. Player ages range from as young as 14 to seniors.

The tournament began Friday. Players have competed for a position in the qualifiers, which will continue through Monday afternoon. The qualifying matches are based on a single-elimination process. The main draw began Tuesday, Nov. 1. The semifinals will be played on Saturday, Nov. 5, and the finals will be the following day. These tournaments are open to the public and admission is free during the main draw and qualifying rounds. Admission is \$5 during the semi-final and final matches.

Players expected to qualify include past University of Florida athlete Sekou Bangoura, Austin Smith of Cumming, Ga., and Christian Harrison of New Braunfels, Texas. Expected competitors for the main draw are Olivier Sanjous of Haiti and Adam Kellner of Hungary, defending

2010 singles champion.

During last Saturday's competition, Steven Stege from Los Gatos, Calif., lost to Damjan Despotovski of Macedonia, 6-1 and 6-3. Afterwards, Stege was asked to comment on his defeat.

"We all have multiple tournaments to get ready for," he said. "As for me, I just need to get ready for the next one in Florida."

Three consecutive tournaments are scheduled for the northern regions in the state of Florida. The Niceville tournament is followed by a Nov. 7 competition in Pensacola and a Nov. 14 competition on Amelia Island. All three are within the Futures category and played on clay surfaces

Mitchell Polnet of Churchville, near Philadelphia, also competed Saturday against Sam Sweeney of Crystal Lake, Ill., defeating him 6-2, 6-4. The 17-year-old victor was eager to get through the qualifiers.

Polnet began playing tennis when he was 5 years old and has competed in tournaments since 2006, when he was 12. "Just glad to move on to the

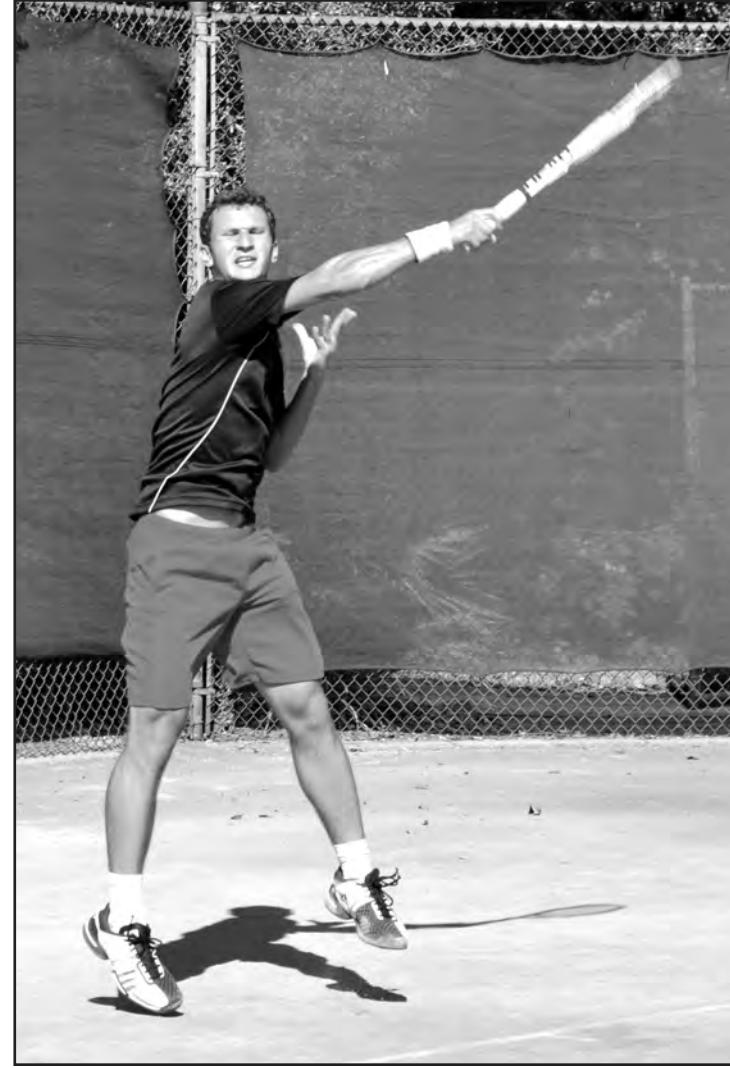
next level," said Polnet on his victory.

Like all sports, injuries can happen that disable a player to continue the competition. Aba Omodeo-Lucien from Berkeley, Calif., suffered a pulled muscle during his match. He was seen icing his injury on the sidelines as he watched others continue to compete. He hopes to recover well enough to play in the upcoming tournaments at Pensacola as well as Amelia Island.

Doug Barthel, tournament director at Bluewater Bay Tennis, said the tournament represented "the golden opportunity the community has to experience world-class professional tennis right here in Niceville."

"This is the time and place to see some of the up and coming tennis stars you'll see in the U.S. Open," said Barthel.

History proves Barthel's proclamation. Champions who began their professional tennis careers on the USTA Pro Circuit include Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras, Lindsay Davenport and Andy Roddick.



Beacon photo by Gerri Norris

Mitchell Polnet returns a serve during last Friday's United States Tennis Association action at Bluewater Bay Tennis Club. The semifinals and finals are scheduled for this weekend.

Sports Briefs

E-mail items to
info@baybeacon.com.

Two Monday boating seminars starting at 6:30 p.m. will be conducted at the Anchorage, 404 Green Acres Road, Fort Walton Beach. The two-hour seminars will cover:

Nov. 7, How to Use a Chart; Dec. 5, VHF Marine Radio.

The seminars will be conducted by experienced local boaters, and cover the practical aspects of boating.

Info: 315-0686 or 499-5797 or visit fwsp.com. ***

Registration is now open for the 2012 NAYB Spring Baseball Tryouts. for ages 8

through 14.

The Traveling Eagles strive to provide an environment that recognizes and enhances the abilities of talented youth baseball players, and to ignite their passion for higher level competition while preparing them for playing and excelling at the middle school and high school level; The tryout dates are set for Nov. 19 and 20.

More sports, B-6.

For more information, visit Travelingeagles.com.

The Eagles Wrestling Club will start kids and middle school wrestling Tuesday, Nov. 8, at Niceville High School wrestling room. The instruction will end Feb. 7.

Practices will be held every Tuesday and Thursday.

Kids (grades 1 to 5) practice will run from 5 to 6:15 p.m., while Middle school (grades 6-8) practice will follow from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The cost is \$75.

Wrestlers need to have a USA membership, which can be purchased on line at FAWA.com, as well as

wrestling shoes and shorts. The club will provide T-shirts.

Coaching will be done by USA coaches, with high school wrestlers helping out.

Fun and competition are emphasized. No experience is needed.

Questions: Niceville High School head wrestling coach G, 225-1452 or 224-619-2679 (cell).

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Eagles drop Homecoming grid game, 28-14

Andrew Mitchell boots 57-yard field goal for NHS

By Sarah Clauson

Beacon Correspondent

The Auburn High School Tigers spoiled Niceville High School's homecoming, defeating the Eagles, 28-14. The tough non-district matchup was an opportunity for the Eagles to challenge themselves against a high-caliber opponent and prepare for their final, and biggest, game of the season next Friday against Crestview.

The Eagles started the action with what looked to be a promising possession. Freshman running back Shi Kim Coward hit the ground running and after a 50-plus-yard run, landed the ball on the 30-yard line. An interception in the end zone cut the possession short and gave the

Tigers their first shot at the ball, which ended with a touchdown to give the Tigers a 7-0 lead.

The Eagles took over and made their way down the field, primarily thanks to several runs by Coward and a completion to Alec Morgan to move the chains once more. The Tiger defense held strong, and at fourth and goal Andrew Mitchell kicked a field goal to put three on the board for Niceville. The aggressive Tiger offense, which proved to be quite a challenge for Niceville's tough defense, answered quickly with a touchdown at the first quarter buzzer.

What is arguably the most memorable play of the game came midway through the second quarter when Andrew

More sports, B-5.

bring the final score to 28-14.

Coach John Hicks acknowledged Auburn's skill.

"Like Central (High School), a very talented football team," he said. "We struggled a little bit, but a lot of that has to do with them."

As for scheduling such tough teams for the off-district weeks, there is a purpose, even with the losses.

"I think our kids will keep things in perspective," Hicks said. Next week's season closer against Crestview will determine the final district standings, and may result in a three-way shoot out Monday, Nov. 7. As Coach Hicks put it, "Gotta get ready—it's the biggest game of the year."



Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

Eagle Tyler Fleet outruns an Auburn defender for a big gain during Friday's Niceville High School homecoming game. The Eagles dropped the game, 28-14.



Photo by Zach Davis

Knights win first

Wide receiver Nathan McCullough dashes for a touchdown for Rocky Bayou Christian School Friday against John Paul II. The Knights won their first game of the season in convincing fashion, 46-8.



PAL battle at the goal

Carriage Hills Realty U8 players, in black uniforms, try to outflank Service Engineering defenders during Saturday's PAL Soccer game at Twin Oaks. Carriage Hills won the game, 7-0, to remain undefeated. The PAL regular season ends Saturday.

Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson



Rocky Bayou Christian School's Morgan Milam swims to a time of 1:30.26 in the Class 1A District 1 finals Friday in Panama City.

Sober wins 2 swim titles

Staff reports

Rocky Bayou Christian School swimmer Suzi Sober won two Class 1A District 1 championships Friday. She finished at 26.86 in the Women's 50 Freestyle, and at 59.37 in the Women's 100 Freestyle for district honors.

Other Rocky Bayou individual final times were: Men's 200 Freestyle, Colin Frazier, 1:03.09, and Doug Linder, 1:06.07; and Women's 100 backstroke, Morgan Milam, 1:30.26.



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