

# The Bay Beacon

14 Pages, 2 Sections, 3 Inserts

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

50¢

**UP  
COMING**

**Friday-Sunday**

Northwest Florida State College will present a one-man show about Teddy Roosevelt, "Bully: An Adventure with Teddy Roosevelt" at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in the Sprint Theater, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville. Tickets for "Bully" are \$15 adult and \$10 for ages 18 and younger. Info: 729-6000 or visit mattiekellyartscenter.org.

**Saturday, 10 a.m.**

The Niceville-Valparaiso Rotary Community Christmas Parade theme this year is: "It's a jungle out there! Have a jingle jungle Christmas!" Parade begins at 10 a.m. in Niceville at the John Sims Parkway and Palm Boulevard intersection.

**Saturday, 1-3 p.m.**

Deborah Brodie, author of "The Path That Gets Brighter," will be at Bayou Book Co. in Niceville signing copies or her book and answering questions. Info: 678-1593 or visit bayoubookcompany.com.

**Thursday, 7:30 p.m.**

The Jazz Ensemble of Northwest Florida State College presents a free concert on the mainstage theater of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center. No ticket required, the concert will include a line-up of jazz favorites. Info: 729-6000 or visit mattiekellyartscenter.org.

**Sunday**

The Northwest Florida State College Madrigals and Belle Voci will perform a variety of a cappella and holiday music at the Tyler Recital Hall, Mattie Kelly Arts Center. Following the performance will be a dessert reception. Tickets are \$15. Info: 729-6000 or visit mattiekellyartscenter.org.

Calendar, B-1

## Board to meet in teacher-pay dispute Mediator recommends a raise falling short of union demand

By Del Lessard  
Beacon Staff Writer

The Okaloosa County School Board is expected to meet this week to discuss recommendations of a mediator to settle a pay dispute between the board and teachers.

A special magistrate last week recommended that most Okaloosa County teachers receive a 3 percent pay increase Jan. 1, six months later than the union proposed.

The school board, citing a lack of funds, earlier this year froze teacher pay,

canceling the traditional annual increases known as step increases, which give most returning teachers a 3 percent raise every year.

The Okaloosa County Education Association (OCEA), which represents 1,815 instructional employees in labor-

contract talks, declared a negotiations "impasse" over the step issue. The declaration required employment of a special magistrate to hear the dispute and make non-binding recommendations.

Please see DISPUTE, page A-5

## Dressed for the cold



This jolly old elf, waving to motorists on North Partin Drive in front of Niceville City Hall, knows how to dress for the season. Low temperatures for Niceville were forecast to be near freezing at dawn Wednesday, rising gradually over the next five days.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard

## Christmas parade set Saturday At least 55 organizations taking part

By Marie Rodriguez  
Beacon Staff Writer

The Christmas spirit will fill the streets of Niceville Saturday, Dec. 3, with the annual Niceville-Valparaiso Community Christmas Parade.

The theme this year is "It's a Jungle Out There! Have a Jingle Jungle Christmas!" with Grand Marshall Lannie Corbin, Niceville city manager.

The parade, which will start at 10 a.m. and end roughly at 11 a.m., will travel west on John Sims Parkway, closing all but two south lanes to two-way traffic, from Palm Boulevard to Partin Drive. It will turn north on Partin, staying on the right and keeping the two left lanes open for two-way traffic, and travel to the area between the Niceville Children's Park and Ruckel Middle School. Mark Smith Boulevard will be closed for the duration of the parade.

Floats will be judged and awards will be given as follows: Honorary Grand Marshall Award, Grand Marshall Award and President's Award. First, second and third place will be awarded in the categories of Commerce, Club/Non-Profit/Church (Adult), Club/Non-Profit (Youth) and Best Marching/Performing Unit. Results will be posted at the Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce office by 3 p.m.

Proceeds from the parade entries will support holiday meals for Sharing and Caring families among other community service projects. The parade will also host a Toys for Tots drive.

Please see PARADE, page A-3

## Five seek two posts on Valparaiso commission

Five Valparaiso residents filed election papers with the city clerk by the 5 p.m. Nov. 23 deadline, qualifying as candidates for two seats on the city commission that will be on the ballot Jan. 31.

The candidates are:  
—Joe Morgan, 55, of 289 S.

Bayshore Drive.

—Thomas G. Miller, 86, an incumbent, of 202 Hickory Lane.

—Kay Hamilton, 61, of 321 Glen Ave.

—Keith Randall Roberts, 48, of 10 Dove Cove.

—Neal Shermer, 46, an

incumbent, of 391 Glendale Ave.

Valparaiso candidates run at large. The two top vote-getters will win four-year terms on the nonpartisan, unpaid, five-member city commission. The two winners

will take office March 20.

Up for election Jan. 31 are the city commission seats currently held by Miller and Shermer.

Miller was first elected to the city commission in 1996 and has

won reelection three times.

Shermer was appointed to the commission two years ago, when Brent Smith resigned in order to run for mayor. Smith lost.

Earlier this month the city election was rescheduled from March 13 to Jan. 31 to coincide

with the Florida U.S. presidential primary. The combined election will save Valparaiso money in polling expenses, city officials said.

Elections for the cities of Destin, Cinco Bayou and Mary Esther also moved from March 13 to Jan. 31.

Candidates respond to questions, A-7.

## Assault ship's bell to come home

By Del Lessard  
Beacon Staff Writer

Eager to do battle in WWII after graduating from an Ohio high school, Wally Helmstadter enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943 and served aboard the USS Okaloosa in the Pacific theater from March to December 1945.

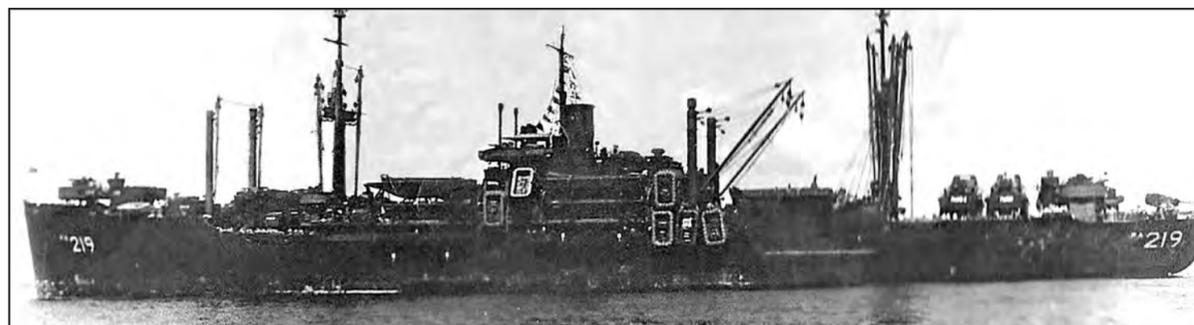
"I vaguely remember the (Okaloosa's) bell," said



Wally Helmstadter

Helmstadter, now an 87-year-old retiree living in Bluewater Bay. Used to announce watch changes, the 8-inch bell was mounted on the Okaloosa's bridge, where he reported to the Navy deck officer.

Okaloosa County officials now plan to put the bell from the county's namesake ship on permanent display at Northwest Florida



The 455-foot USS Okaloosa, a WWII attack transport, earned a battle star for its role in the invasion of Japanese-held Okinawa in 1945. The ship's bell will be installed in a memorial at Northwest Florida Regional Airport next spring.

Regional Airport. So far as anyone knows, the bell, currently on display in Alabama, has never been in Florida before.

Named after Okaloosa County, the 455-foot Haskell-

class Navy attack transport was built by Permanente Metal at Kaiser shipyard in California between Aug. 8 and Nov. 28, 1944, when it was commissioned. Troops referred to the quickly

built ships as "Kaiser coffins."

"But she was a mighty oak as far as we were concerned," Helmstadter recalled last week.

In May, Okaloosa County Judge Patt Maney discovered on

the Internet the existence of the ship's eight-inch bell at a war memorial in Foley, Ala. After visiting the memorial with

Please see SHIP'S, page A-3

# Lewis School puts science at the forefront

## Eglin engineers tutor pupils

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

While the Okaloosa School District is considering a proposal to establish a Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Medicine (STEMM) center at the former site of Valparaiso Elementary School, students at Lewis School in Valparaiso already have such a program of their own.

The Lewis program, administered by Assistant Principal Jason Driver and Principal Mike Fantaski, brings scientists and engineers from Eglin Air Force Base to the school one day each

month to work with sixth through eighth grade students.

Sometimes, said Driver, the visiting scientists teach a class or help students conduct hands-on experiments, while on other days they show videos of weapons tests and other scientific activities at Eglin Air Force Base, or demonstrate scientific principles in classrooms or in the school auditorium, gym or band room.

Three such scientists came to Lewis on a recent Friday afternoon. One of these was Greg Hutto, an Annapolis graduate and former Navy officer is now

chief mathematician for the 46th Test Wing. He wowed students in the school auditorium with his video of a Hellfire missile striking and destroying a target in a fiery explosion on an Eglin test range.

The Hellfire missile, Hutto explained, was originally designed to help Air Force pilots, possibly including the parents of some Lewis students, destroy enemy tanks from the air.

The original Hellfire had great penetrating power against armor, but when the same missiles were used against lighter vehicles such as the trucks used by terrorists in the Middle East, they sometimes went right through the vehicles without destroying them or killing the enemy inside.

Hutto showed how he and other scientists helped redesign the missiles with antipersonnel warheads, designed to penetrate the thin outer layers of a truck, then explode inside, destroying the vehicle and killing the occupants while minimizing harm to innocent people who might be near the truck when it is hit.

In the school gym, Fred Simon showed students pictures from his latest trip to Antarctica. Simon is a contract weather observer at Eglin, as well as being a national guardsmen and a TV weatherman.

While at the frozen bottom of the world, Simon said, he photographed the exotic weather phenomena of the icy continent and helped drill for ice



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Greg Hutto, chief mathematician for Eglin's 46th Test Wing, wows Lewis School middle school students with his video of a Hellfire missile destroying a target in a fiery explosion on a base test range. Lab equipment is available for hands-on experiments and demonstrations in the school's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program.

core samples from glaciers and frozen lakes. Those samples, he explained, contain thin layers of soil and ash from all the seasons that have passed since the glaciers began forming long ago.

By examining those layers, scientists can learn the history of Earth's weather, such as how volcanic eruptions have affected the planet's climate, and whether human activity is really causing global warming to occur.

In the school band room, Jamie Madaris, a systems safety engineer from Eglin, told students about how he helps design safety measures into weapons systems and test programs.

Madaris used pictures from Road Runner cartoons to illustrate safety issues of designing munitions and test plans. As every cartoon fan knows, Wile E. Coyote often buys all sorts of

exotic weapons, ranging from rocket-powered bombs to giant bear traps from ACME, his favorite munitions contractor, in order to catch or kill the Road Runner. Unfortunately for the coyote, most of his plans end in disaster because he fails to consider what might go wrong ahead of time.

At Eglin, Madaris said, he and other safety engineers go over every weapon design and test plan before it is carried out, in order to determine what might go wrong, and how to prevent accidents before weapons are tested.

Fantaski and Driver said the purpose of the monthly STEMM sessions at Lewis are to help students meet actual scientists and engineers, and learn first-hand what they do.

"It lets the kids know that scientists and engineers are not

just a bunch of geeks," Driver said, "but that these are really cool people who get to do some really cool things." Working with scientists and engineers, he said, helps the students learn about science from people who actually do it every day.

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**Corrections**

Three items in the Nov. 23 "Hometown Christmas" Bay Beacon supplement gave incorrect dates and/or locations for certain concerts.

The correct information follows:

Northwest Florida State College's **Schola Cantorum** vocal group will perform a series of free concerts in area churches. Donations for the NWFSC music program will be accepted. Performances are Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Crestview; Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Shalimar; and Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal Church, Fort Walton Beach. Info: 729-6000.

**Opus One** of Niceville High School will give a candlelight concert at First Assembly of God Church, Niceville, on Friday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. The event will be by reservation only and priced at \$25 a person. Info: 833-4262.

**Niceville United Methodist Church** will present "Light Looked Down," on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. The free praise and worship concert combines traditional and contemporary music ministries and features the choir, contemporary band and the Sounds of Praise orchestra. Info: 678-4411. The church will not have concerts Dec. 5 or Dec. 12.

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**PARADE**

From page A-1

Parade visitors and participants are encouraged to bring an unwrapped new children's toy to put on the Toys for Tots float.

As of Monday, participating organizations in the parade were, according to the Rotary Club:

- 40/8 Voiture 1490 Niceville
- All Star Twirlers
- American Cancer Society
- American Legion Boy Scout Troop 157
- Bill Smith for County Commissioner
- Carrage Hills Realty, Inc.
- Century 21 Wilson Minger Agency, Inc.
- Chick-fil-A of Niceville
- Children's Discovery Center
- City of Niceville
- City of Niceville Fire Department
- City of Valparaiso Fire Department
- Cub Scout Pack 52
- Cub Scout Pack 553
- Cub Scout Pack 556
- C.W. Ruckel Middle School Band



Beacon photo

The 2011 Niceville Valparaiso Christmas Parade along John Sims Parkway will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday at Palm Boulevard, Niceville. Pictured, a float in last year's parade.

- East Niceville Fire District 553 & 247
- Eglin Spouses Club
- Emerald Coast Association of Realtors
- Emerald Coast Autism Center
- Exchange Club of Niceville
- FC Dallas Emerald Coast
- First Baptist Church of Niceville
- Fisher House of the Emerald Coast
- Girl Scout Brownie Troops
- Heath Rominger, Niceville city councilman
- Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
- Jackson Hewitt Tax Service
- Keller Williams Realty
- Knights of Columbus Assembly 3236
- Krewe of Bowlegs
- Marching Knights of Rocky Bayou Christian School
- McDonald's/David Costa

**SHIP'S**

From page A-1

Baldwin County officials, the judge contacted Congressmen Jeff Miller of Florida and Jo Bonner of Alabama to help find a replacement bell to give Baldwin County in exchange for the USS Okaloosa's bell.

Tracy Stage, Okaloosa County's airports project manager, said he has received a replacement bell from the Navy—from the destroyer USS Peterson—which he will exchange with Baldwin County, Ala., for the Okaloosa's bell.

An outdoor memorial to the USS Okaloosa and county Navy veterans will be built outside the airport terminal and opened to the public on April 26, 2012, Stage said.

The Okaloosa could transport more than 1,500 soldiers and their officers and a crew of 500 to the site of an amphibious landing, where the combat troops would be landed in smaller craft. The vessel earned a battle star for its part in the battle for Okinawa, in April 1945. It was decommissioned in 1949.

In the hurry-up-and-wait mode of military life, Helmstadter had completed infantry training and was waiting with cold weather gear in Seattle to battle the Japanese who had occupied parts of Alaska's Aleutian Islands, when his orders were changed.

He was sent to quartermaster school to learn how to load assault ships. Wartime military leaders had learned that Army units just boarded and stored equipment where they wanted onboard assault ships. When soldiers hit the beaches they then had to wait for combat equipment that had been stored in no particular order onboard.

He first boarded the USS Okaloosa in March 1945, not long

after the ship arrived in Honolulu, still undergoing its initial shake-down cruise. Helmstadter was one of two Marines assigned to the Navy ship's crew. He said the combat troops the ship carried lived below deck where bunks were stacked five deep. Because it was crowded, hot and uncomfortable, Helmstadter said he chose to sleep most nights in his tiny office topside, rather than in the hold.

Loaded with troops and equipment, the new ship sailed for action March 29, stopping briefly at Eniwetok and Ulithi, two atolls serving as Navy resupply depots, and arriving at Okinawa April 26, landing reinforcements about three weeks after the American invasion of the Japanese-held island.

The 82-day battle for Okinawa was the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific during WWII and the bloodiest overall. Helmstadter said the Japanese military resorted to heavy use of the suicide planes at Okinawa because they knew that if the large island fell, only 350 miles from the Japanese mainland, their homeland would be hit by greater Allied bombardment and an invasion of Japan itself. Allied troops suffered some 65,000 casualties, while an estimated 100,000 Japanese were killed, wounded or captured.

Although their landing area at Okinawa was fairly secure, Helmstadter said Japanese Kamikaze planes started attacking the convoy of ships almost as soon as the ship dropped anchor. The SS Canada Victory, an ammunition ship about 500 yards away from the USS Okaloosa, blew up and sank within five minutes after one of the Japanese Kamikaze planes flew down its stack, he said.

While at Okinawa, troops were stationed around the ship with rifles to defend the ship from attack by small Japanese "skunk

boats," small suicide craft packed with explosives, Helmstadter said. The men with the most dangerous jobs, he said, were those who skippered the Okaloosa's small landing craft ashore with G.I.s and equipment.

Armed with one 5-inch gun and some 20- and 40-mm anti-aircraft guns, the crew arrived thinking they could shoot down anything, Helmstadter said. But friendly fire wasn't always accurate. During a Kamikaze attack, a shell from another ship struck the Okaloosa, and a cook named Dillard was grazed by shrapnel. He was the only crewman on the ship to receive a Purple Heart during the Okinawa battle, Helmstadter said.

It took a little more than a week to unload the ship, which then left Okinawa and began transporting troops and equipment between locations in the wartime Pacific. On one of those missions, a strong storm, possibly a typhoon, rolled the ship 46 degrees, slightly further than the ship was designed to withstand. The storm swept everything off the deck, Helmstadter said, and only a heavy cargo of 105 mm guns in a hold kept the ship from overturning.

The Okaloosa went dead in the water on one transport mission after a generator quit, he said. The ship was towed to Subic Bay in the Philippines, but the crew had to sweat out traveling through the China Sea, where Japanese submarines still prowled.

The Okaloosa brought American occupation troops to Japan as U.S. commander Gen. Douglas MacArthur accepted the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay in early September, he said.

The ship also delivered occupation troops to China after the Japanese surrender. The Okaloosa picked up a load of Chinese troops from Haiphong Harbor, in what was then French Indochina and

- Mullet Festival Queens, Miss Mary Masterson & Little Miss Jillian Sewell
- Niceville Cash & Carry
- Niceville Family YMCA
- Niceville High School Band
- Niceville High School Cheerleaders
- Niceville High School ROTC Cadets
- Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce
- North Bay Fire Department
- Okaloosa County Republican Party
- Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
- Okaloosa Lodge 312 Pack 50 Eglin Air Force Base
- One Hour Air
- Playground Corvette Club
- Quantum of FWB (radio)
- Simple HR and Simple Hire
- So Stinkin Cute
- Toys for Tots
- Twin Cities Hospital
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# Sharing and Caring thanks community

**Delle Diamon**  
**President**  
**Sharing and Caring**  
 Dear Community:  
 What a year Sharing and Caring is experiencing. In the first nine months of 2011 we have seen a 35% increase in the numbers of families coming through our door seeking assistance as compared to the same time frame in 2010. In May you were asked to sup-

port the Postal Workers Food Drive, and you did so to the tune of over 16,000 pounds of food! Shelves were piled high and we hoped this would last us at least until the holiday season kicked into gear. However, it did not. In September we found ourselves in short supply and our once-filled shelves looking very barren. That's when an article appeared highlighting our struggle. Since that day Sharing and

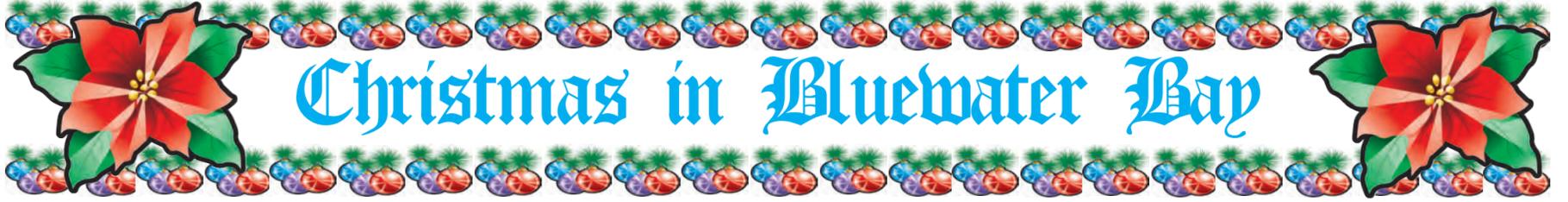
## Letters to the Editor

Caring has been blessed daily with food and financial contributions. In the month of October alone we received 12,000 pounds of food. We are humbled and sincerely do appreciate your response to our need. In the 22 years Sharing and Caring has served families in this

community, you have generously supported us each and every time we have asked. You have been our Energizer bunnies who keep giving and giving and giving! On behalf of the volunteers who faithfully give of their time each day and the families we serve who count on our help,

thank you. Support has come from such a vast array of sources, including youth, churches, schools, individuals, clubs, businesses, and scouts. The stories behind the donations are many, but the central theme remains extending the hand of kindness to others. You all are amazing, caring, and generous. You don't know the difference your support makes in the lives of so many families in our area.

What may seem as an insignificant bag of food becomes the support of a community when multiplied together and makes a world of difference to those who are able to receive it. Thank you for your hearts, your caring spirit, and your donations. Like the Marines, Sharing is looking for a few good volunteers to join our family. We'd love to talk to you about this opportunity to serve.



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**DISPUTE**

From page A-1

Last week school district and OCEA officials received the report and recommendations of the magistrate, Richard Deem. He recommended that teachers receive the step increases they would have normally received July 1, but six months later, on Jan. 1. The raises would not be retroactive, though they would carry over into future years, compounding in the event of further raises.

The school district said the six-month cost of the step increases would be \$608,759, but the cost would increase next year to \$1,217,518 for the full 12 months beginning July 1, 2012.

The magistrate also recommended against a union demand that teachers who have already reached the top step on their salary schedule, Step 23, be given a one-time bonus of \$1,000.

Paying the \$1,000 bonus to

employees frozen at the top of the step ladder would cost the district \$362,320 this school year, plus FICA taxes (\$27,717) and retirement (\$17,966), according to the school district.

Deem didn't say how the school district should pay for raises for Okaloosa teachers, who are among the highest paid in the state.

"I think the district could rearrange their priorities in the 2011-2012 budget that would allow the payment of step increases effective Jan. 1, 2012," Deem wrote in his eight-page decision. "The fact that the step increases would only be effective the last six months and that there would be no \$1,000 one-time lump sum pay should significantly reduce the cost of this issue as proposed by the association."

Superintendent of Schools Alexis Tibbetts said that school board members would likely meet this week in closed session to decide whether to accept or reject

the magistrate's recommendations.

Tibbetts said that by late this week the board would send a letter to the union explaining its position to accept, reject or offer to renegotiate the issues, she said. The union would then have a few days to review the board's decision, she said.

Karen Peek, president of the OCEA, said the union won't likely announce a response to Deem's recommendations before Dec. 9. She said the union's board is set to discuss the report Thursday, but no decision is likely until union representatives from each school meet Dec. 8.

In addition to the step-increase issue, Deem also made recommendations on two other contract disputes between the union and the school board:

—The union requested paid leave for bone marrow or organ donors, a benefit the school board said was not paid by any of 66 school districts in the state. Deem

recommended against changing the district's current leave policy, which does not allow such leave, but which does grant 16 other categories of leave, including 11 categories of paid leave, several of which could be taken for such a purpose against a teacher's typical 190-day work year.

—The school district proposed a reduction in supplemental pay for teachers with advanced degrees hired after July 1, 2011. The board argued that the reduction was required by a new state law, while the union countered with a demand for higher supplements. Deem recommended supplements between the two sides: Deem recommended \$2,400 for master's degrees, the same as the union requested. The school district had proposed \$2,100. Deem recommended \$4,200 for specialist's degrees, the amount recommended by the school board. The union asked for \$4,400. Deem recommended \$6,300 for teacher's with doctorate degrees, the

amount recommended by the school board. The union seeks \$6,400.

The school district currently spends \$1,867,304 on supplements to more than 511 teachers with advanced degrees, according to the school district.

If the two sides are still unable to agree on the issues mediated by Deem, the school board would ultimately have the final say after a quasi-judicial hearing, according to Tibbetts and Peek. Strikes by public-school teachers, or by other local or state public employees, are illegal in Florida.

Tibbetts said that she expects the matter to be decided by Christmas in any case.

Tibbetts said that she, the school district's chief financial officer, and the board have to look at the district's financial position not only today but a year from now. For example, the district will lose \$5.5 million in non-renewing federal revenue, she said. Florida state leaders have already stated

they expect statewide tax revenue shortfall of between \$1.2 and \$1.9 billion next year, which may result in more reductions for local districts.

Tibbetts said the school district had cut \$30 million from the operating budget over the past five years, forcing job cuts in administration, custodial, and school nurses. She said it has reduced the number of deputies working as school resource officers, while at the same time hiring additional teachers to meet state class size mandates.

The school district's support staff, cafeteria workers, secretaries, janitors and others "understand" the school's financial dilemmas, Tibbetts said, and have settled for no raises this year.

The Okaloosa County School District remains the best in the state for grades 9-12, Tibbetts said, in large part due to strong teachers. "We are fourth highest paid in the state of Florida," she said about Okaloosa County's teachers.



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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

Michael Ivan Chisolm, a bartender, 45, of 512 Oak Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 20 on a misdemeanor worthless check charge.

William Brandon Woodard, 30, of 105 Davis Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 15 on a Washington County warrant for probation violation on the original charges of robbery and grand theft.

Marion McDonald, a student, 46, of 354 Pine St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 15 on a charge of petit theft. McDonald was allegedly observed concealing a bottle of liqueur under her jacket and leaving a liquor store, 4530 E. Highway 20, Niceville, without paying for the \$26 product.

Patrick Richard Novinski, 22, of 507 23rd St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 16 on a violation

of probation charge on the original charges of no valid driver's license and violation of an injunction.

Lacy Rachel Slifko, unemployed, 24, of 1312 Als Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 16 on a violation of probation charge on the original misdemeanor charges of passing worthless checks, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana.

Daniel Ryan Taylor, 31, of 4174 Whitetail Circle, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 18 on the charge of passing a counterfeit check.

On Sept. 24 Taylor allegedly tried to cash a personal check at the customer service counter of a Destin grocery store, 4425 Commons Drive, that appeared to be printed on copy paper and cut out unevenly with scissors. When the bank the check was written on was called they had no record of the account and the clerk refused to cash it. Taylor allegedly tried to grab the check, but failed and fled the store.

Justin Colt Bray, a lawn maintenance worker, 29, of 1662 Red Hill Road, Ponce de Leon, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 14 on a Walton County warrant.

James Charles Hicken, unemployed, 34, of 4428 Southminster Circle, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 15 on a charge of resisting an officer without violence. A deputy on Okaloosa Island allegedly clocked a motorcyclist on Highway 98 at 95 mph in a 55 mph zone. The deputy activated his lights and sirens and attempted to catch up to the

cyclist, then observed the motorcycle lying on its side on the side of the road and the driver running south over the sand dunes towards the beach. Hicken was discovered allegedly trying to hide in the brush and then admitted he had been driving the motorcycle.

Valarie Ann Standley, 32, of 401 Niceville Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 15 on a misdemeanor worthless check charge, three counts, for checks allegedly written for \$31.80, \$142.64 and \$70.90.

Phillip Todd Tucker, 32, of 500 22nd St., Niceville, was arrested by Valparaiso police Nov. 21 on a charge of burglary to a dwelling. Tucker's fingerprint had been recovered from the glass lamp cover of a lamp at the scene of a burglary in the 100 block of Grandview Avenue, Valparaiso, that reportedly occurred sometime Sept. 16-28.

## Thefts

A Niceville resident from the 4200 block of Shadow Lane reported that someone entered his locked residence sometime Nov. 16 and stole a 26-inch flat screen television. A rear sliding glass door was found unlocked and open when the victim returned to his residence.

A Niceville resident from the 600 block of Nelson Point Road reported that sometime Nov. 8-20 unknown person(s) stole a 1996 Johnson Electric Long Shaft 15 hp outboard motor from a 15-foot aluminum boat that was secured to a dock at the rear of the residence. Parts of a padlock that had secured the motor to the boat were found in the boat and appeared to have been cut with bolt cutters. The owner estimated the value of the stolen motor at \$900.

# Fire Department Reports

## Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from November 21, 2011 through November 27, 2011.

0 Structure Fire	18 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	0 Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire 1 Vehicle Crash with Extrication	
0 Illegal Burn	6 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	0 Hazardous Conditions

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Cape Lane.....	Medical	11/21/11	18:47
22nd Street.....	Medical	11/22/11	04:11
E. John Sims Pkwy.....	Medical	11/22/11	04:52
SR85N @ MM#18.....	Canceled	11/22/11	11:52
McEwen Drive.....	Medical	11/22/11	20:13
Forest Road.....	Canceled	11/22/11	23:57
Powell Drive.....	Medical	11/23/11	03:45
SR85N @ MM#20.....	Good Intent	11/24/11	07:52
Powell Drive.....	Medical	11/24/11	09:20
Evergreen Avenue.....	Service Call	11/24/11	12:17
Benton Avenue.....	Medical	11/24/11	17:03
E. John Sims Pkwy.....	Medical	11/24/11	19:28
Royal Palm Drive.....	Medical	11/24/11	21:18
College @ SR85N.....	Vehicle Extrication	11/25/11	12:59
Rue De Palms.....	Medical	11/25/11	15:39
Edgewater Drive.....	Medical	11/26/11	00:41
E. John Sims Pkwy.....	Medical	11/26/11	01:44
Cadillac Avenue.....	Service Call	11/26/11	05:48
Mulry Drive.....	Medical	11/26/11	08:44
22nd Street.....	Medical	11/26/11	19:51
E. John Sims Pkwy.....	Medical	11/27/11	04:53
SR85N @ MM#20.....	Medical	11/27/11	05:24
SR85N @ MM#20.....	Canceled	11/27/11	06:09
Benton Avenue.....	Medical	11/27/11	08:59
S. Cedar Avenue.....	Medical	11/27/11	09:38

Weekly Safety Tip: It is very important to clean your lint filter on your dryer regularly and inspect the vent leading from the dryer to the outside. Build up of lint will restrict the escape of heat exhaust and can cause a FIRE.

## North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from November 21, 2011 through November 27, 2011.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Troon Drive West.....	Dispatched canceled	11/21/11	10:33
N. White Point Road.....	EMS excluding vehicle	11/23/11	21:37
Pembroke Court.....	Medical assist EMS	11/23/11	22:54
E. Highway 20.....	EMS excluding vehicle	11/24/11	04:34
White Point Road.....	EMS excluding vehicle	11/24/11	13:05
Meadowbrook Court.....	Medical assist EMS	11/26/11	00:06
Bermuda Circle.....	Rescue, EMS incident	11/27/11	03:02
White Point Road.....	EMS excluding vehicle	11/27/11	12:39
Canterbury Circle.....	EMS excluding vehicle	11/27/11	16:02

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

## Other

Brian Michael Volz, 22, of 311 Lincoln Ave., Valparaiso, was issued a summons by Niceville police, subsequent to a traffic stop, Nov. 18, on a

charge of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. Volz was also cited for not wearing his seat belt and for unknowingly driving while license suspended.



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# Q&A: Valparaiso candidates

The Beacon last week asked Valparaiso's five city commission candidates in he Jan. 31 municipal election to respond briefly to a few questions. Here are their responses:

## Neal Shermer

391 Glendale Ave.  
Age: 46.  
**Occupation:** Small business owner (upholstery repair).  
**How long have you lived in Valparaiso?**  
Lived in Valparaiso 46 years.

**Have you ever sought public elective office before, and if so what office(s)?**

I have never before sought political office, other than being appointed to the commission 2 years ago.

**Why are you seeking a seat on Valparaiso's city commission?**

If asked by the people, I will continue to serve.

**Why should people vote for you?**

Because I have no conflicts of interest, divisions of loyalty, or ulterior motives to serve, and I will put Valparaiso's interests first every time.

**What would you like to change in Valparaiso?**

I will work hard to continue to revitalize, reinvigorate and redevelop the most beautiful city anywhere, including reopening our recently closed elementary school, while striving for a forward leaning leadership role for our city and reversing any trends of stagnation in planning and action towards those ends.

**What do you think about the F-35 noise issue?**

The protection of individual property rights against government expansion are the core principles of conservatism. Valparaiso and its leadership are correct in seeking, maintaining, and demanding, when necessary, a legitimate and effectual voice in any decisions which will drastically impact the future of its citizens, and quality of life. Demanding honesty, transparency and accountability from government, to include the military, are the duty and responsibility of every citizen of this nation. I have faith that all parties will work to resolve any logistical problems, and that all missions and relationships will be stronger as a result.

## Kay Hamilton

321 Glen Ave.  
Age: 61.  
**Occupation:** Director of Operations, Compass Rose Restaurant.

**How long have you lived in Valparaiso?**

14 years.

**Have you ever sought public elective office before, and if so what office(s)?**

No.

**Why are you seeking a seat on Valparaiso's city commission?**

I have a great appreciation for living in Valparaiso and want to

make a meaningful contribution to my community. I believe the city is poised for a new elected leadership that will guarantee the success of the city for generations to come.

**Why should people vote for you?**

I will listen to the concerns of our residents and hopefully bring new energy in service to our Commission. I will work to promote positive relationships within our community and always be cognizant of the importance of great relationships with the City of Niceville and Eglin Air Force Base. I am a firm believer that not all of our issues can be resolved with litigation. It is time for some common sense leadership to prevail.

**What would you like to change in Valparaiso?**

Two priorities come to mind. First, the Commission needs to stop negative budgeting and learn fiscal responsibility. For the past several years, the Commission has voted to take large sums of money from our reserve to develop a balanced budget. This continued practice is a dangerous mode for any municipality, especially one such as Valparaiso with shrinking revenues.

Second, the people need to take back control of the Commission. I think it is obvious that certain Commissioners are not doing the work of the people and have developed their own personal agendas. I am a strong believer in limiting the influence government has on our personal lives and abiding by the ideal of government by the people for the people.

**What do you think about the F-35 noise issue?**

There needs to be a balance between the needs of the people of Valparaiso and the stated mission of Eglin Air Force Base. The last lawsuit filed with the Air Force accomplished nothing to resolve the noise issue, resulting only in another Environmental Impact Study to which the same conclusions were drawn. Over three hundred thousand dollars of taxpayer money was expended and a victory claimed when the city was reimbursed a mere sixty thousand dollars. More importantly, the good will between the city, the county and its neighbors has been all but destroyed. We would have been far better off by hiring a professional lobbyist to keep our issue forefront in the political arena ensuring our voice was heard.

## Keith R. Roberts

10 Dove Cove  
Age: 48.  
**Occupation:** Antique, Classic and Muscle Car Restoration.

**How long have you lived in Valparaiso?**

48-year native. My extended family have been here since Eglin was a tent city.

**Have you ever sought public elective office before, and if so**

**what office(s)?**

No.  
**Why are you seeking a seat on Valparaiso's city commission?**

I'd like to see change in the direction of the city along with better relations with our citizens and Eglin Air Force Base.

**Why should people vote for you?**

Because I will listen to each and every citizen's problems with an open mind. I will vote on issues with common sense and my best judgment.

**What would you like to change in Valparaiso?**

Appearance of the city and the attitude of its government. Simply, make the city friendly again.

**What do you think about the F-35 noise issue?**

I think the litigation with Eglin AFB is ridiculous and the expense to the tax paying citizens of Valparaiso is a total waste.

## Joe Morgan

289 South Bayshore Drive  
Age: 55.  
**Occupation:** Retired Military, Realtor, Consultant - Special Forces/Civil Affairs ARTIC (Apalachicola Regional Training Center).

**How long have you lived in Valparaiso?:**

18 years, but I have lived in the Panhandle for over 30 years (my dad was a Naval aviator, retiring in Pensacola, therefore, I have strong roots in the area).

**Have you ever sought public elective office before, and if so what office(s)?**

No.

**Why are you seeking a seat on Valparaiso's city commission?**

I feel that I have the breadth of experience, sense of community, background, and interest to serve Valparaiso. I have a history of service, from volunteer fireman and EMT at Pensacola Beach, to the military, to church, to the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance and Native Plant Club. I have breadth of experiences, I have taught science in our Okaloosa schools, was the Sr. Advisor to the Ministry of Housing and Construction, and Program Manager for the Reconstruction of Iraq, and the Provincial Reconstruction Team USAID provincial local governance and financial management advisor in Mosul, Iraq.

Further, I believe in Valparaiso, have made "Valp" my home and raised my family in Valparaiso. I believe it is a wonderful community, with neighborly neighbors, and you just cannot beat the people we have on our city staff in-so-far as their willingness to help, and give us that

"small-town" feel that is lacking in so many places today. The balance and the trick is how to keep that feeling, and still look forward.

**Why should people vote for you?**

Because I believe I have the time, talent, disposition and skills needed to represent the citizens of Valparaiso.

**What would you like to change in Valparaiso?**

Probably, first and foremost, is what many perceive as our "adversarial nature," whether it be with Eglin, the school board, local businesses, or our citizenry.

Second, I have learned the value of "keeping it simple." I think this can be applied to our local government - from how we write our ordinances, to how we deal with our challenges.

Third, I would like to develop a more participatory, involved government, that actively listens to its citizens, its businesses, both current and potential, and its advisory boards and committees.

**What do you think about the F-35 noise issue?**

While connected to my "too adversarial" comment above, I also strongly believe that the Air Force forced our hand on the issue, at the expense of our citizens and our relationship. Our relationship with Eglin has become bureaucratic, and involves way too many lawyers. I would hope that a determined effort by both parties could develop the leader-to-leader relationship that is needed for both of us to succeed—and I am willing to help try to mend that fence.

## Thomas G. Miller

202 Hickory Lane  
Age: 86.  
**Occupation:** Retired Air Force.

**How long have you lived in Valparaiso?**

43 years.  
**Have you ever sought public elective office before, and if so what office(s)?:**

Yes. Valparaiso City Commissioner (since first being elected in 1996).

**Why are you seeking a seat on Valparaiso's city commission?**

To continue the Gulf Power Company pole rental fee litigation (and to) continue monitoring the TV Cable System. I designed the original.

**Why should people vote for you?**

The best commissioner for the price and have the city's best interest at heart!

**What would you like to change in Valparaiso?**

The Valparaiso Elementary school utilization.

**What do you think about the F-35 noise issue?**

There is a solution to the problem. I spent 20 years with the USAF as a pilot, and there are traffic patterns that will mitigate the noise and still allow the mission.

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# Panel backs Congress district change

By Del Lessard  
Beacon Staff Writer

The Florida Senate Reapportionment Committee released its proposed redistricting maps for the Florida Senate and congressional districts Monday.

While residents of Valparaiso and Niceville wouldn't see any changes in their state senate dis-

trict under the plan—the entire Twin Cities remains in Senate District 4—Bluewater Bay residents would be represented by a new congressman in 2012 if the measure is passed into law.

The proposed congressional redistricting plan submitted by the state senate would extend congressional District 1, currently

represented by Rep. Jeff Miller (R-Chumuckla) eastward to include all of Okaloosa and Walton counties, including Bluewater Bay and Destin.

Bluewater Bay and Destin are currently in District 2, that of first-term Rep. Steve Southerland, a Panama City Republican.

Ten years ago, during the last

congressional redistricting following the decennial U.S. Census, largely Republican Bluewater Bay and Destin were carved out of District 1 and made part of the traditionally Democratic U.S. District 2, then held by Rep. Allen Boyd, a Monticello Democrat who lost to Southerland in 2010.



The 1st congressional district, as proposed by the Florida Senate Reapportionment Committee.



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# The French Quarter Grill Brings New Orleans to Niceville

Advertising Feature

If you have ever been on John Sims Parkway, and turned up the steep hill of 85 South (also known as Government Avenue) to head toward the Northwest Florida Regional Airport, don't blink! You just passed the French Quarter Grill. This family-owned and operated casual dining "hole in the wall" has been serving locals since 2004.

The French Quarter Grill is the best-kept secret in Niceville. If you haven't tried it, you're missing a treat.

The menu offers a variety of New Orleans-inspired dishes, such as gumbo, crawfish etouffée, crawfish beignets, red beans and rice, po boys and more. It also has some unique dishes like the seafood Nantua, grilled fish over rice, smothered by a roasted corn and red bell pepper, crawfish and shrimp cream reduction.

The atmosphere is also New Orleans-inspired with a variety of original local jazz paintings on the walls, vibrant New Orleans colors in the lighting and on the tables and blues music filling the air and enhancing the "Big Easy"



Shown here is one of French Quarter Grill's favorite desserts, homemade bread pudding, topped with vanilla bean ice cream, rum sauce, whipped topping and chocolate sauce.

ambience. Adding to the New Orleans character is the old cinder block building and rustic concrete floor. All that's missing is Louis Armstrong.

The French Quarter Grill is casual dining. It is a great place for luncheons and business dinners as it has a separate back dining room that can seat 45-50

guests comfortably. Patrons of the Mattie Kelly theater can stop in for a satisfying dinner beforehand without worrying about missing the opening curtain, because the service is always prompt.

Reservations for parties are highly recommended. The French Quarter Grill is a family restaurant with a kids' menu and high chairs, but it also has a romantic flavor for couples din-

ing or celebrating anniversaries. There is no bar, but beer and wine by the glass or bottle is available.

The French Quarter Grill recently started offering a mini menu of dinner items offered at smaller portions and lower prices. So far, this has been extremely popular, as it allows guests to try more items, such as appetizers, soups, and not be overstuffed by just the entrée. Don't forget to try the Chocolate Chip Bread Pudding served with sugar rum sauce, vanilla ice cream and whipped cream.

If you are new to the area and you would like to know where the locals go, a definite must is The French Quarter Grill. This is where you get a local home-cooked New Orleans-inspired meal and friendly family-style service.

The French Quarter Grill serves delectable lunches Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and mouth-watering dinners Tuesday through Saturday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Reservations are accepted, a kids' menu is available and major credit cards are accepted.

Stop in to Niceville's best-kept secret, 714 Howell Road, or call 678-2604.

**French Quarter Grill**  
Cajun Cuisine

"Best kept secret in Niceville"  
www.fqgniceville.com

Lunch: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Dinner: Tues.-Sat. 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Closed Sundays  
For Reservations Call: 678-2604  
714 Howell Rd. ~ Niceville, FL 32578



A picture of French Quarter Grill's spring mix house salad, fresh diced tomatoes, honey jalapeno dressing and a french roll.

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## Who's News

E-mail items to: [info@baybeacon.com](mailto:info@baybeacon.com)

A gesture of need shared with Dr. Kirk Garcia-Rios of Valparaiso resulted in a trailer load donation of medical equipment from both **Twin Cities Hospital** and Dr. Jose Garcia-Rios.

The equipment was delivered by Dr. Kirk Garcia-Rios and his mother, Janie Garcia-Rios, to the Bay Medical Foundation in Bay City, Mich. that is affiliated with FinCap Trust, a non-profit organization that works with central Kenyan community groups in improving their livelihood by engaging them in activities on health, sanitation and environmental issues. This equipment will be shipped to Kenya for distribution by the Ministry of Health to its various needy hospitals. Many patients in Kenya will have their health positively impacted by this generous and loving gesture.

\*\*\*

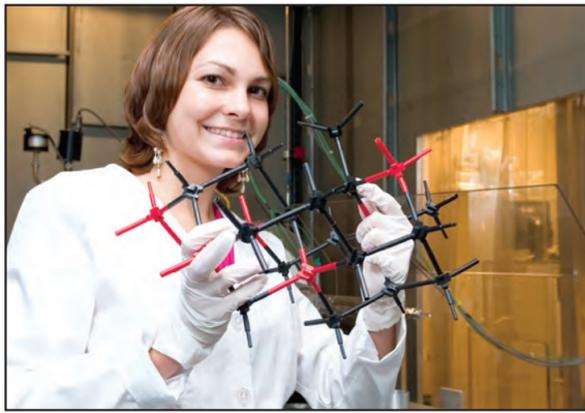
**Jean Floyd**, of Niceville Keller Williams Realty Emerald Coast, has completed and graduated from Florida Realtors Leadership Academy. Floyd was one of 21 Realtors from the State of Florida selected for this Academy.

When asked about her participation in the program, she responded, "Anything to expand my ability to mentor other agents and improve my skills as a Realtor is important to me and I try to take advantage of these kinds of opportunities." Floyd is currently serving as the 2011 President of the Emerald Coast Association of Realtors.

\*\*\*

**Robert Joseph Przybylski**, a resident of Niceville, has earned an Associate in Science degree from Excelsior College. Excelsior College, based out of Albany, NY, is an accredited, private, nonprofit institution that focuses on the needs of working adults.

## Student recognized



Jean Weatherwax, an electrical engineering major and recipient of the Marshall Scholarship, currently works on a novel implantable glucose sensor.

## NHS grad receives postgraduate award

Jean Weatherwax, a Niceville High School graduate, is the first recipient of the prestigious postgraduate Marshall Scholarship in the history of the University of South Florida.

Weatherwax, a University of South Florida Honors College student, earlier this year was named the recipient of a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, the nation's highest honor for undergraduate study in the sciences. She has followed that up with the Marshall Scholarship, where the electrical engineering major's pursuit of "some cool gadgets" that improve a range of medical treatments will continue

next year in the United Kingdom, thanks to the postgraduate award.

Weatherwax received the Goldwater Scholarship in April 2011. She is also a NASA MUST (Motivating Undergraduates in Science and Technology) Scholar and interned last summer at the space agency's Ames Research Center in California, helping to develop a microcontroller-based automation system for graphene synthesis.

The Marshall Scholarship provides university fees, cost-of-living expenses, books, research and travel grants for up to three

years of study at Imperial College, London. Established by the British Parliament in 1953 as a living gift of thanks to the United States, generally fewer than 40 of the intensely competitive scholarships are given to American college students each year in honor of Gen. George C. Marshall, who spearheaded American and Allied efforts to help rebuild Europe following WWII.

Already boasting an extensive background in the design and fabrication of biocompatible electronic devices, Weatherwax's research goals while at Imperial

**Please see STUDENT, page B-3**



Beacon photo

## Rocky stages 'Harvey'

Rocky Bayou Christian School performed the comedy "Harvey" Nov. 19 and 21 at Niceville High School. From left: Michael Obrigewitch as Elwood P. Dowd, Josh Turner as Dr. Anderson and Audrey Stevens as Nurse Kelly.



### Friends for Fun seniors

All singles 60 and older are invited to join Friends for Fun for laughter and friendly conversation each Wednesday, 3-5 p.m., at the Bluewater Bay Clubhouse. This is

an opportunity to make new friends and find joy and companionship.

Info: 897-4434.

### TOPS evening meetings

TOPS club 0111 is a weight-loss support group which meets every Thursday evening at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 1200 Valparaiso Blvd., education building, room 4. Weigh-in will be at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7 p.m.

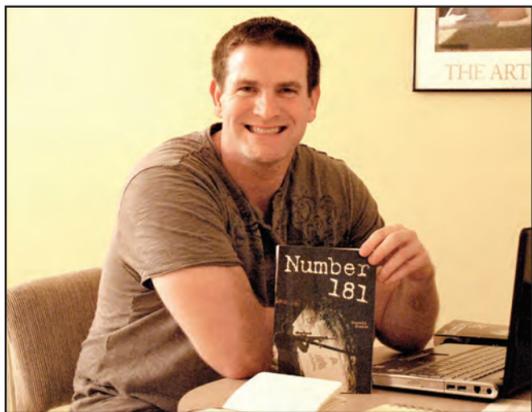
Info: Michele, 678-2863, or Cindy, 279-4847.

**Please see CALENDAR, page B-2**



## College jazz concert

The Jazz Ensemble of Northwest Florida State College presents a free concert Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the mainstage theater of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center. No ticket required, the concert will include a line-up of jazz favorites. Info: 729-6000 or [mattiekellyartscenter.org](http://mattiekellyartscenter.org).



## Niceville native published

Russell Stoewe, a 1996 graduate of Niceville High School, has recently published his first novel, "Number 181," a thriller. The book is available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com).

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*"Where there is no vision, the people perish" -Proverbs 29:18*

**CALENDAR**

From page B-1

**Math, science tutoring**

Free math and science tutoring is available at the Valparaiso Community Library on Mondays from 3-5 p.m. The tutoring is for elementary school students and is taught by Dr. La Vergne Thatch. Call the library at 729-5406 to set up an appointment.

**Sharing and Caring**

Sharing and Caring is looking for donations of food, hygiene products, diapers, detergents, etc. at their location at 104 Bullock Blvd., Niceville. Their hours are Mon.-Thur. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m.-noon. Info: 729-3600 or 678-8459.

**Museum seeks volunteers**

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, seeks responsible community volunteers to assist with greeting and reception in the gift shop. Flexible days and times are available for 1-3 hour shifts. Other volunteer positions are available. Interested individuals may stop by the museum during regular business hours, Tue.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: 678-2615 or visit heritage-museum.org.

**Niceville library exhibit**

The artwork of Sue Tarkin will be on exhibit at the Niceville Library, 206 Partin Drive N., Niceville, through November. Tarkin's art will be available for sale at close to her cost for

framing and materials and donating 20 percent to the library. Info: 279-4863.

**Shelter House needs**

Shelter House, a local domestic violence center, is collecting canned and dry food items to create a Christmas meal for women and children residing in shelter during the holidays. Frozen meats will be accepted on drop-off deadlines only. Laundry baskets to compile items, gas cards and gift cards to stores like WalMart or Publix are also accepted. All donations will be accepted at the Shelter House, 102 Buck Drive, Fort Walton Beach by Dec. 15. Cold food items for holiday meal gift baskets will be accepted until Dec. 19. Info: 243-1201 or e-mail info@shelterhousewfl.org.

**Military Memories exhibit**

"On the Home Front and At War," sponsored by Pioneer Technologies Corp., is the Heritage Museum's exhibit featuring original artifacts from its collection of the Civil War, WWI, WWII and the Vietnam War. Also exhibited is the original POW uniform worn by POW Howard Hill, on loan. Exhibit runs through the end of April 2012. Info: 678-2615 or heritage-museum.org.

**Hospital volunteers**

The Twin Cities Hospital Auxiliary is seeking volunteers. For



**Christmas Lady display**

The Christmas lady, Debbie Lewis, presents "Animation in Motion" at her 17th annual Christmas display. The event runs from Dec. 3-27 from 6-9 p.m. nightly at Radiant Life Church, 100A Hart St., Niceville. This year, over 600 animated dolls will be featured along with a Christmas village, scale model trains and a new layout.

more information, call 729-9481, or stop by the hospital, 2190 Highway 85 North, Niceville, and speak to a volunteer at the front desk.

**Valp. library events**

The Valparaiso library holds traditional Story Time for pre-school age children Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings. Parents and caretakers are invited to participate in singing, dancing and sharing a fall-themed story and working on a fun craft. Story Time begins at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday mornings, the Valparaiso Library holds genealogy-based United States history class. The topic for fall will be the Gilded Age. Class begins at 9:30 a.m.

The French class meets at 9:30 a.m. on Friday. The class is designed for those familiar with the language who want to advance to the fluent level. All programs are open to county

residents free of charge. Info: 729-5406 or vcl.valp.org.

**'Christmas Reflections'**

DeFuniak Springs hosts "Christmas Reflections," an evening of lights and decorated seasonal characters through Dec. 31 at Lake DeFuniak from 5-9 p.m. Evening passes are \$3 and children under 6 are admitted free. Info: 892-8500 or visit christmas-reflections.com.

**'Geek lights' on the corner**

The 4th annual "Geek Lights on the Corner" Christmas light and music show will run through New Year's. The free performances take place nightly at the corner of Bluewater Boulevard and Antiqua Way in Bluewater Bay. Shows begin on the hour and half hour starting at 6 p.m., with the last show starting at 9:30 p.m. Sun.-Thur. and 10:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat. Get more information by following the show's Facebook page, facebook.com/geeklightsonthecorner.

**Local art show, sale**

The Public Safety Department of Northwest Florida State College teams up with local artists at a "Hearts in Art" show and sale on Nov. 30 from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. and Dec. 1 from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the college's Niceville campus. A portion of the proceeds from artworks sold at the event will be donated to the Public Safety Memorial through the NWFSFC Foundation to help raise funds to build a memorial area near the public safety building honoring local heroes killed in the line of duty. Info: 729-5378.

**Alzheimer's support group**

Alzheimer's Family Services provides monthly support groups for family members or friends coping with a loved one with Alzheimer's disease. A support group will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 30, at the First United Methodist Church, Chandler Center, located at 214 S. Partin Dr., Niceville. The support group is free and respite care is available. Info: 478-7790 or visit alzfam serv.org.

**'Compassionate Friends'**

The Niceville chapter of the Compassionate Friends, a non-sectarian national organization that welcomes bereaved families to its meetings when they have suffered the death of a child, will hold its first meeting on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. at Our Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 1200 Valparaiso Blvd., Niceville.

The mission of the group is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief and to provide information to help others be supportive. Info: 398-6394 or visit compassionatefriends.org.

**Society meeting**

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society Dec. 1 meeting is free and open to anyone with an interest in birds or nature. Refreshments, socializing and announcements begin at 6:30 p.m. in room 128 of the Learning Resource Center (LRC 128) of the Niceville Campus of Northwest Florida State College. Info: 678-3965.

**Edge book drive**

Edge Elementary hosts a book drive to benefit the Children's Advocacy Center in Niceville. The community is encouraged drop off new book donations from Dec. 1-9 in the front office at Edge Elementary, 300 Highway 85 North, between the hours of 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Eglin tree lighting**

The Eglin Chapel will host the 2011 Holiday Tree Lighting on Friday, Dec. 2, at 5:30 p.m. at the West Gate Chapel.

This is one of Eglin's biggest family events with caroling, choir performances, tree lighting and Santa arriving on a fire engine.

Refreshments will be served following the ceremony. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event to start the holiday season. For more information, please call the Chapel at 882-2111.

**Rocky band, chorus**

Rocky Bayou Christian School's symphonic band and chorus will have their Christmas concert at Rocky Bayou Baptist Church on Friday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. The beginning and middle school bands will have their concert on Saturday, Dec. 10, at the same church and time.

**'Coats for Kids' drive**

The United Way of Okaloosa-Walton counties will hold its Coats for Kids at Christmas drive for children in need at Okaloosa and Walton counties. Drop off coats through Dec. 2 at the following locations: Bank of America, Compass Bank, Coastal Bank and Trust, Covenant Hospice, Eglin Chapel, Eglin Federal Credit Union, Northwest Florida State College, Regions Bank, Trustmark Bank, Twin Cities Hospital and YMCA. Info: United Way, 243-0315.

**Christmas benefit concert**

The Emerald Coast Community Band will host a Christmas concert Friday, Dec. 2, to benefit Children in Crisis. The concert will be held at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium at 7 p.m. The groups ask that guests make a \$10 donation. Info: 864-4242.

**NWFSFC presents 'Bully'**

Northwest Florida State College will present a one-man show about Teddy Roosevelt, "Bully: An Adventure with Teddy Roosevelt" on Dec. 2, and 3 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. in the Sprint Theater, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville.

Tickets for "Bully" are \$15 adult and \$10 for ages 18 and younger. Tickets may be purchased in person, online or by phone from the box office and are available at the door starting 90 minutes prior to showtime each date. Info: 729-6000 or mattiekellyartscenter.org.

**Scouts to sell firs**

Niceville's Boy Scouts of America Troop 546 will hold its annual Christmas tree sale on Friday, Dec. 2-4 in front of the Niceville Police Station, 212 N. Partin Drive.

The troop will have an assortment of Fraser fir No. 1 trees from North Carolina in various prices and in sizes ranging from 5 to 9-foot tall.

Hours of operation are Friday from 3-9 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Info: 374-2602.

**'Christmas Lady' display**

The Christmas lady, Debbie Lewis, presents "Animation in Motion" at her 17th annual Christmas display. The event runs from Dec. 3-27 from 6-9 p.m. nightly at Radiant Life Church, 100A Hart St., Niceville. This year, over 600 animated dolls will be featured along with a Christmas village, scale model trains and a new layout.

Info: 678-5355 or visit thenicevillechristmaslady.com.

**College jazz concert**

The Jazz Ensemble of Northwest Florida State College presents a free concert Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the mainstage theater of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center. No ticket required, the concert will include a line-up of jazz favorites. Info: 729-6000 or visit mattiekellyartscenter.org.

**Rotary Christmas parade**

The Niceville-Valparaiso Rotary Community Christmas Parade will be held Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. The theme this

Please see EVENTS, page B-3

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

**JOIN US SUNDAY!**  
 9:00 a.m. Traditional Service  
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service  
 622 Bayside Drive www.fb niceville.org

**First Baptist Church of Niceville**

**The Plane Truth About Christmas**  
 December 4, 6:00 PM  
 Presented by FBCN's J-Force! Children's Choir

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 Sunday Morning Worship - 11:15 a.m.  
 Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

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## Bruce Collier in 'Bully'

Northwest Florida State College will present a one-man show about Teddy Roosevelt. Watch Bruce Collier as Teddy in "Bully: An Adventure with Teddy Roosevelt" on Dec. 2, and 3 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. in the Sprint Theater, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville.

## EVENTS

From page B-2

year is: "It's a jungle out there! Have a jingle jungle Christmas!"

Parade route is in Niceville from John Sims Parkway at the intersection of Palm Boulevard and goes to Partin Drive, where the Parade will turn and travel down Partin between the Children's Park and Ruckel Middle School. Funds from the parade allow the Niceville-Valparaiso Rotary Club to contribute to Sharing and Caring and provide Christmas meals for families during the Christmas Holidays.

### Hometown festival

Niceville's fifth annual Community Christmas Festival will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, from 5-9 p.m. at the Niceville City Hall Complex on Partin Drive.

At the event will be choral groups from local schools performing, crafts for children, Christmas decorations, Christmas characters and food vendors.

### Camp Walton open house

The City of Fort Walton Beach Heritage Park and Cultural Center will hold its annual Christmas open house at the Camp Walton Schoolhouse on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 1-5 p.m. Free admission day includes musical entertainment from 2-4 p.m., children's games and crafts, home-baked goodies, local history and a visit from Santa, arriving at the schoolhouse on an antique fire truck at 4 p.m. and lighting the tree at 5 p.m.

Info: 833-9595 or visit fwb.org.

### Book signing

Deborah Brodie, author of "The Path That Gets Brighter," will be at Bayou Book Co. in Niceville on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 1-3 p.m. sign-

ing copies and answering questions. Info: 678-1593 or visit bayoubookcompany.com.

### Holiday Anthology exhibit

The Full Circle Gallery in Fort Walton Beach presents a distinct collection of original artwork by Laurel Siwicki, Heather Maccaw, Sol Davis and Mercedes Rodgers from Dec. 3-24.

On Dec. 3, join the gallery for a holiday celebration from 6-8 p.m.

Info: 362-8041 or visit fullcirclefwb.com

### A sweet swap

The Niceville Public Library and the Friends of the Library will be hosting a Holiday Cookie Swap on Thursday, Dec. 8, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Registration is necessary and each person will be required to bring five dozen cookies. Coffee and tea will be provided. Register by Saturday, Dec. 3, at 279-4863 ext. 1504 or e-mail lglass@okaloosa.lib.fl.us.

### 'Holiday on the Harbor'

The Destin History and Fishing Museum will host the 25th annual Holiday on the Harbor Destin Boat Parade on Sunday, Dec. 4. Festivities will be held that afternoon all along the Harbor. The Lighted Boat Parade and judging will start at 6 p.m. upstairs at Harry T's Restaurant. Boats will start lining up in the Harbor between 5 and 5:30 p.m. Fireworks in the East Pass will light up the sky after the parade.

In case of bad weather, the event will be held on Sunday, Dec. 11. All commercial, charter and private boats are invited to help light up the Harbor. Entry forms may be requested via fax

or e-mail at the Destin History and Fishing Museum at 837-6611 or kathydestinhistory@gmail.com.

### NWFSC holiday concert

The Northwest Florida State College Madrigals, a select 18-voice mixed ensemble of scholarship vocalists under the direction of Allison Everitt, and Belle Voci, a select women's ensemble under the direction of Lois Van Dam, will perform a variety of a cappella and accompanied holiday music on Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. Following the performance will be a dessert reception in the Tyler Recital Hall at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center. Tickets are \$15 each.

Info: 729-6000 or visit mattiekellyartscenter.org.

### Schola Cantorum

Northwest Florida State College's Schola Cantorum vocal group will perform a series of free concerts in local area churches. Donations for the NWFSC music program will be accepted. Performances are Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Crestview; Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Shalimar and Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal Church in Fort Walton Beach.

Info: 729-6000.

### Niceville high concert

The Niceville High School Choral Music Department presents their holiday concert on Monday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. at the Mattie Kelly Fine Arts Auditorium in the Northwest Florida State College Campus.

Tickets are \$15 and available by phone. Info: 833-4262.

Please see CALENDAR, page B-5

## Homeroom

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.



Sarah Gold

Sarah Gold, Niceville High School senior in the class of 2012, was accepted for admission to the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY for the class of 2016.

Sarah has held several key staff positions in AFJROTC, becoming instrumental in 95 percent of its successes. She is the current commander of the Drill Team, Rocket Club and presents the Colors at numerous school and community events.



Kyle Saleeby

Kyle Saleeby, a junior at Niceville High School, has been named the Sunshine State Scholar for Okaloosa County for 2012.

The Sunshine State Scholars program recognizes the top 11th grade student in science, technology, engineering and math from each of the 67 districts in Florida. Each district is invited to select one junior distinguished in both mathematics and science.

In February, Saleeby will be invited to attend the 2012 Sunshine State Scholars program hosted by the Florida Education Foundation in Orlando.



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## STUDENT

From page B-1

College, hosting one of the top 10 electrical engineering programs in the world, include work on a novel implantable glucose sensor. In the past, she has worked on both the materials and hardware sides of bio-electronics, including carbon-based electronic fabrication, micro-electromechanical systems or MEMS design, and electroencephalogram or EEG realization.

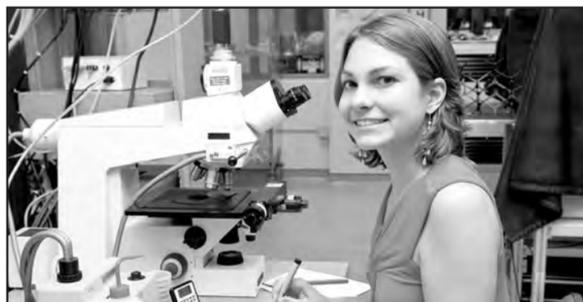
She hopes to team with pioneering researcher Dr. Pantelis Georgiou, head of the college's Bio-inspired Metabolic Technology Laboratory, part of the Medical Engineering Solutions in Osteoarthritis Centre of Excellence. His current focus is on developing the first bio-inspired artificial pancreas for treatment of Type I diabetes.

"This is a very new and

innovative kind of research that I'm interested in because my father (a Boeing engineer in Charleston, S.C.) is a Type I diabetic, and because most of my undergraduate research activity has centered around biomedical devices," Weatherwax said. "So, it certainly seemed like the most promising way to go."

"She'd be the first to say that she doesn't understand what all of the fuss is about," observed Silverman of the low-key Weatherwax, "but no one should underestimate the level of this accomplishment. Thousands of students nationwide apply for Marshall Scholarships each year and only a relative few are successful.

"It's an extremely rigorous process and for Jean to secure this scholarship in the midst of an already very busy schedule of classes, labs, her obligations as a Goldwater Scholar and other commitments is just remarkable."



Jean Weatherwax, a Niceville High School graduate, has received a variety of scholarships to advance her research development.

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**THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER** —Mike Griffith

What do you think about Niceville being named "The Best Place to Raise a Family in Florida" by Bloomberg Businessweek?

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"If I was a resident of Niceville, that would be exciting news. We're just visiting family for the Thanksgiving holiday."

Jesse Shannon,  
36,  
Atlanta, Georgia,  
real estate



"I think it's awesome. My husband and I were raised here, and we bring our boys here to play all the time."

Nicole Bankston,  
29,  
Panama City,  
registered nurse



"I think it's wonderful, and it's not a surprise."

Brad Brobeck,  
38,  
Niceville,  
physician



"I think it's awesome. There are a lot of parks like this one. Niceville is a good place to be a kid, except when your parents yell at you."

Victoria Brobeck,  
7,  
Niceville, student;  
Bluewater Elementary  
School



"I'm from Crestview, but my sister lives here, and this is a nice place to raise a family. It's near the water, and the people are friendly here."

Wilada Bailey,  
63,  
retired teacher



"I think it's very true, and we should take great honor in it."

JoJo Yabui,  
24,  
Niceville,  
landscaper

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**CALENDAR**

From page B-3

**Ruckel chorus concert**

The Ruckel Middle School chorus will have their winter concert Tuesday, Dec. 6, at First Baptist Church of Niceville at 6:30 p.m.

**Niceville drama production**

The Niceville High School Drama Department will be presenting its winter production, "An Evening in Three Acts," at the Niceville Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8, Friday, Dec. 9, and Saturday, Dec. 10.

The production will feature two acts showcasing a select group of acting ensembles, as well as musical solos which will also be performed for the Florida District One Thespian Festival competition in January. The third act will be the short dramatic play "Lockdown" by Douglas Craven.



Tickets are \$5 at the door and may also be purchased prior to the performance through the Niceville High School Drama Director, Charlie Williams, at 217-8101.

**Destin winter concert**

Destin Middle School's band will have its winter concert Friday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. at Village Baptist Church, 101 Matthew Blvd., Destin.

**Niceville high concert**

The Niceville Singers of Niceville High School will give a free concert at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Friday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m.

**NFSO holiday concert**

The Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra will present "Holiday Pops!" Dec. 9 at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville. The symphony will bring in the holidays with seasonal music. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$22.50 and can be purchased at the box office, weekdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at mattiekellyartscenter.org or 729-6000. Info: nfsymphony.org.

**Christmas party**

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society's annual Christmas party will be held at Ed's Legendary Seafood and Steaks Restaurant in Palm Plaza, Niceville, at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10. Departing member, Don Ware, will be roasted and toasted, and there will be a raffle. Drinks and dinner will be available from the menu. Open to the public.

Info: 240-3688 or e-mail phyllis.early@yahoo.com.

**'Yule of Yesteryear'**

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida invites the public to celebrate holidays past during their annual event, Yule of Yesteryear and Holiday Victorian Tea on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Children can visit with Santa, make ornaments, listen to musical performances and story time. Also available at the event are craft demonstrations, a popular bake sale and stocking stuffers will be available in the museum's gift shop and bookstore.

The Yule of Yesteryear event is free, but the Victorian Tea, at 1:30 p.m. does require pre-registration as space is limited.

Info: 678-2615.

**Bluewater yard sale**

Bluewater Baptist Church is having a yard and bake sale Saturday, Dec. 10 at 4580 Range Road, Bluewater Bay. The sale will be held to help the church buy a new sign. The public is invited to stop by from 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

Info: Bobbie, 897-2332.

**NFSYO winter concerts**

The Junior Orchestra of Northwest Florida State College and the college sponsored Northwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra will present concerts on Dec. 10 and 11. Both concerts are free and open to the public, however donations to support the youth program are accepted. The Junior Orchestra perform Saturday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. in Tyler Recital Hall, located in the Music Wing of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center complex, Niceville. The NFSYO performs in the mainstage theater

Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m.

Info: 729-6000 or visit mattiekellyartscenter.org.

**Holiday Boat parade**

North Light Yacht Club hosts the Holiday Boat parade on Saturday, Dec. 10, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Parade begins at Lions Park off Bayshore Drive in Niceville and circles counter-clockwise around Boggy Bayou. Boats of any size are invited to participate. Prizes will be awarded.



A post-parade reception and awards ceremony for participants and sponsors will be held at North Light Yacht Club, 113 John Sims Parkway West, Niceville. Entry for parade is \$20 plus an unwrapped toy brought to the reception to benefit Toys for Tots. Info: 678-2350 or visit NorthLightMarina.com.

**Illuminated benefit run**

Shelter House and Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort will team up for the inaugural Luminaria Run Dec. 10. More than 2,000 luminarias will line the course, lighting the path for runners and walkers.

The race includes 5k and 9k courses winding throughout Sandestin. The public is encouraged to decorate luminaria bags in honor or in memory of a loved one. Bags are available for a \$10 donation and can be picked up and dropped off at the Shelter House office, 102 Buck Drive, Fort Walton Beach. Visit imathlete.com and search the event name to register.

**Sanctuary concert**

Niceville United Methodist Church presents "Light Looked Down," on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The praise and worship concert combines traditional and contemporary music ministries and features the choir, contemporary band and the Sounds of Praise Orchestra.

Info: 678-4411 or visit nicevilleumc.org.

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**Opportunities**

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Discover keys to your past, present and future! Free workshop on PAST LIVES, DREAMS and SOUL TRAVEL. Saturday, December 17, 1:00 pm. Hampton Inn, 7710 Navarre Pkwy., Navarre, FL. FREE book included! (850) 862-0446. Presented by local members of ECKANKAR.

**Public Notices**

Dr. Stephanie Silberberg will be leaving her practice of Orthopedics effective December 16, 2011. Your medical records will remain at White Wilson and be available for other White Wilson physicians. You may request copies of your records for physicians outside of White Wilson by calling their Medical Records Department, 863-8262.

**Warehouse Space**

Warehouse space available, 700SqFt warehouse, \$475 per month. For more information call 897-4149, 419 Adams Ave., Valparaiso

**Yard Sales**

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## 12U softballers 2nd in classic

The High Intensity 12U Travel Softball team recently finished second, losing 1-0 in the championship game, at the Veterans Day Classic in Marianna. From left: Rear, coaches Jan Orr, David Stewart and Sonny Childress; middle, Emily Stewart, Jessica Black, Kaylee Orr, Sydney Byrd, Hannah Turley, Sydni Earley, Alyssa Selvey, Mollie Seeling and Meredith Milam; front, Baylee Andrews, Haylie Robinson, Madison Childress, Michaela Cain and Ashley Holder.



## Eagles fall to Rams

Niceville High School's Mckinley Stevens passes the basketball out of a double-team situation in Monday's game against Rutherford High School. The Eagles came out on the losing end, 72-60, for their second loss against three victories.

Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

## Rocky girls lose, 58-26

Rocky Bayou Christian School's Shiloh Johns tries to get the basketball out of a two-on-one situation during Monday night's game against Poplar Springs. The Knights lost the game, 58-26.

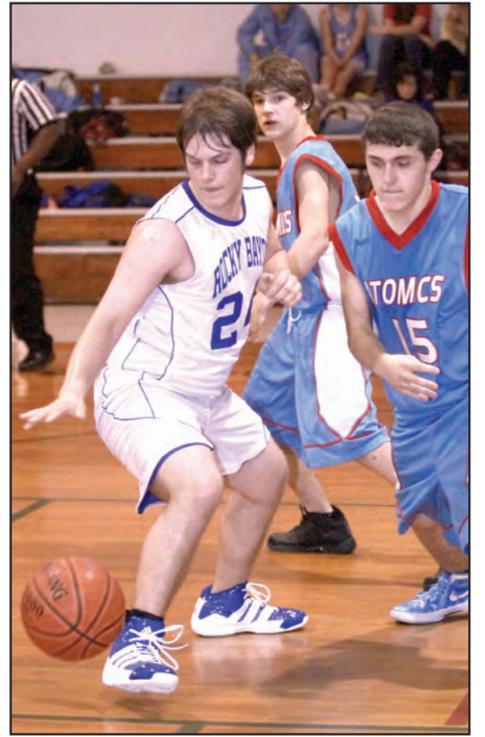
Beacon photo by Norman Wolf



## Knights drop cage match

Rocky Bayou Christian School's Kyle Wilson tries to get hold of a loose ball during Monday night's basketball game against Poplar Springs. The Knights lost the game, 35-25, to go 0-2 on the season. Graham Pierce and Jason Rogers led Rocky Bayou with seven points each.

Beacon photo by Norman Wolf



## Schedule

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

### Wednesday, Nov. 30

NHS-Choctaw, wrestling, 6

### Thursday, Dec. 1

NHS@Escambia, boys soccer, 5/7

Destin@Davidson, boys basketball, 6:30

Lewis-Liza Jackson, boys basketball, 6:30

Ruckel-Shoal River, boys basketball, 6:30

Lewis@Pryor, boys soccer, 5

Lewis@Pryor, girls soccer, 6:15

Ruckel-Destin, boys soccer, 5

Ruckel-Destin, girls soccer, 6:15

Ruckel-Shoal River, girls basketball, 5

Destin@Davidson, girls basketball, 5

Lewis-Liza Jackson, girls basketball, 5

Ruckel-Shoal River, girls basketball, 5

RBCS@Paxton, boys basketball, 4:30/6

RBCS@Paxton, girls basketball, 5:30

RBCS-Liza Jackson, girls middle school soccer, 5

RBCS-Liza Jackson, boys middle school soccer, 6:15

### Friday, Dec. 2

NHS-Crestview, boys basketball, 7

RBCS@Washington, girls soccer, 8

### Saturday, Dec. 3

NHS@Arnold, wrestling, noon

RBCS@St. Francis, girls soccer, 11

RBCS@Bay, girls soccer, 3

Monday, Dec. 5

NHS@Walton, girls basketball, 5:30/7

RBCS@Vernon, boys basketball, 4:30/7:30

RBCS@Vernon, girls basketball, 6

### Tuesday, Dec. 6

NHS@Pace, girls soccer, 5:30/7:30

NHS@Choctaw, boys soccer, 5/7

NHS-Pensacola Catholic, boys basketball, 7

Lewis-Pryor, boys basketball, 5

Lewis-Pryor, girls basketball, 6:15

6:15

Ruckel@Destin, boys basketball, 5

Ruckel@Destin, girls basketball, 6:15

Destin-Pryor, boys soccer, 6:15

Destin-Pryor, girls soccer, 5

Lewis-Shoal River, boys soccer, 6:15

Lewis-Shoal River, girls soccer, 5

RBCS-Central, boys basketball, 4:30/6:30

RBCS-Central, girls basketball, 3:15/5:30

RBCS-Port St. Joe, girls soccer, 4

RBCS-Port St. Joe, boys soccer, 6

## Bulls set tryouts

The North Florida Bulls travel baseball team is scheduled make-up tryouts for ages 8-10, Saturday, Dec. 10. Register online at NorthFloridaBulls.com

## The Bay Beacon & Beacon Express

1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, Florida 32578 (850) 678-1080 Fax: 729-3225 info@baybeacon.com

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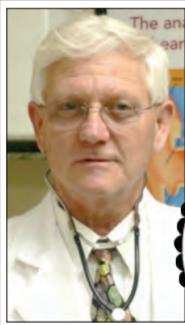
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Niceville's Newspaper



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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 those hearing instrument specialist, audiologists, ear, nose & throat medical doctors and others who exemplify quality hearing health care. This program highlights outstanding individuals, practices, facilities and companies that "go above and beyond" the call of duty to serve the needs of people with hearing impairment.



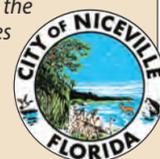
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