

The Bay Beacon

14 Pages, 2 Sections, 4 Inserts

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

50c

**UP
COMING**

Thursday-Saturday

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. each night.

Tickets are \$5 at the door and may also be purchased prior to the performance through the school drama director, Charlie Williams, at 217-8101.

Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



Twin Cities Hospital Auxiliary will hold a book sale at the Hospital Wellness Center, Twin Cities Hospital, Niceville. All proceeds benefit the Auxiliary Health Care Related Scholarship Fund. Info: 729-9481.

Friday, 7 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Niceville, will host the Niceville High School Singers Christmas Concert, under the direction of Michael Dye. A freewill donation will be taken at the door in support of the choir program at Niceville High School. Info: 678-1298.

Sunday, 3 p.m.



The Northwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra will present a free concert open to the public. Donations to support the youth program are accepted. The NFSYO will perform at Mattie Kelly Arts Center's main stage. Info: 729-6000 or visit mattiekellyartscenter.org.

Monday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.



The Valparaiso Community Library will have its holiday open house. A new collection of books and DVDs will be available along with homemade fruitcake, cookies and other seasonal treats. Info: 729-5406, vcl.valp.org.

Calendar, B-2.

School board sues Valp. over grade school

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

On Monday, representatives of the City of Valparaiso and the Okaloosa County School Board will sit down face-to-face to try to resolve issues related to the Valparaiso Elementary School property. The aim of the Dec. 12 meeting is to avoid a lawsuit filed in Okaloosa County Circuit Court by the school board last month.

"They (the school board) had to sue

us," observed Valparaiso City Attorney Doug Wyckoff.

School Board attorney Gregory Stewart, of Tallahassee, agreed. On land use issues, the state's rules of appeal gives appellants, such as the school board, only 30 days from the date of an action to object, Stewart said. Appellants lose their standing to appeal if they miss the deadline, he said.

In 2010 the school board began closure of Valparaiso Elementary School, moving

second through fifth graders to Lewis School at the end of the 2010 school year and the remaining first grade and kindergarten students to Lewis in May of this year.

In January, 2011, Valparaiso's city commissioners began to study the feasibility of opening a charter elementary school at the then-soon-to-be-vacated Valparaiso Elementary School. The proposal was supported by some residents who wanted to preserve an elementary

school within walking distance of the city's largest residential area.

In October the school board approved the application of Somerset Academy, a south-Florida charter school company recruited by the city to operate a charter elementary school in Valparaiso. Now-closed Valparaiso Elementary is a possible location for the proposed charter school, a proposal steadfastly opposed by Okaloosa

Please see SUES, page A-8

St. Nick, yule season arrive



Hundreds of people turned out to enjoy Saturday's annual Niceville Christmas Parade. The highlight, of course, was the arrival of Santa Claus with his helpers and elves, riding atop a fire truck. Winners, more photos, A-5.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Teacher pay issue may be decided soon

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

As early as next week the Okaloosa County School Board could conduct a quasi-judicial hearing to resolve an impasse over teacher's pay.

On Friday attorneys for the school board sent a message to the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) stating that the school board had rejected a recommendation from Special Magistrate Richard Deem that teachers receive "step wage increases" effective Jan. 1, 2012.

The school board earlier this year froze teacher's salaries, eliminating the annual pay hikes known as step increases, which gives most teachers a pay raise for each year they teach and which average about 3 percent. The school district said there wasn't enough money in the budget to fund the step increases, which it estimated to cost about \$1.2 million for a full year, or \$608,759 for six months.

The teacher's bargaining unit, Okaloosa County Education Association (OCEA), which represents 1,815 teachers in the county, argued that the step increases were due teachers as of July 1, 2011, under their existing contract with the school district.

With no agreement between OCEA and the school board, the school board declared an impasse and the issue went to Special Magistrate Deem to try to resolve.

Please see PAY, page A-2

New water main to connect two Walton communities

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

A \$2 million, eight-mile water main construction project underway along Highway 20 is expected to provide public drinking water to several small residential areas in Walton County and fire protection that has hampered commercial and industrial development between Portland and Choctaw Beach.

The project will connect the city of Freeport's water system with the North Bay Water Company system that supplies drinking water to Choctaw Beach and Villa Tasso, east of Bluewater Bay, said Freeport City Clerk Robin Haynes. A 12-inch water main is being laid between Portland and Choctaw Beach, about eight miles in length, she said.

The connection will provide

public water for the first time to several small residential communities and possibly spur commercial and industrial development. It also provides an additional source of water to Choctaw Beach and Villa Tasso, two areas that are already water customers of the city of Freeport, Haynes said.

The \$2 million construction

Please see WATER, page A-3



Near Basin Bayou last week construction workers were busy excavating a trench for a 12-inch water main, part of a \$2 million, eight-mile-long, city of Freeport project to connect the city's water systems from Portland to Choctaw Beach. The project is expected to be completed by the end of April.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard

Room at the inn, but no one came

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

There was bad news and good news Thursday night at the First United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Niceville, where volunteers opened a cold weather shelter for the homeless. Thursday night's temperature was forecast to dip below the 40 degree threshold for opening such a shelter.

The bad news was that no homeless people showed up for the free meals, sleeping space and other amenities offered by the shelter.

The good news was the same—that no homeless people showed up. "I hope nobody comes," said volunteer Pat Carrell, as she manned the reception desk in the foyer of the church's fellowship hall. "I hope nobody needs us tonight." Nevertheless, the shelter was ready for anyone who needed it and knew where to find it. Carrell was ready to greet any guests who arrived with such essential supplies as towels, toothpaste and new underwear, along with instructions on how to

Please see ROOM, page A-7



Sam Hays discussed the evening's preparations with fellow volunteers. While nobody showed up Thursday, that may change, as overnight temperatures are forecast to dip into the 30s Thursday through Saturday.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Lions Park gets a new bathroom

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Niceville opened a new public bathroom overlooking Boggy Bayou at Lions Park. Meantime, the park's older bathroom was demolished and the debris hauled away. The city spent about \$25,000 on the project, which was completed late last month.

Bruce Price, the city's public works director, said the previous wooden bathroom on the south end of the park was in bad shape and the city had received complaints about its condition. In addition, the old bathroom building was not accessible to handicapped persons, he said.

The new, waterfront building at the north end of the park is made of concrete block and meets current codes for accessibility and wind resistance, Price said.

Along the waterside edge of the park, a handicapped-accessible sidewalk with handrails leads to the new bathroom. The facility is on high ground, formerly the site of a sewage pump.

Price said the city plans to extend a sidewalk through the park so that pedestrians along Bayshore Drive won't have to walk behind cars and boat trailers that often crowd the parking lot during warmer weather. The planned extension will connect existing sidewalks along Bayshore Drive on either side of the park, he said. The additional sidewalks will go through the picnic area and may include realignment of existing sidewalks leading to the picnic pavilions, he said.

Price said work on the sidewalks will start early next year.



Bathroom facilities at Lions Park on Boggy Bayou were recently upgraded by the city of Niceville with a handicap accessible, concrete block bathroom at the northern edge of the park, above. The new facility replaced an older wooden bathroom at the opposite end of the park, which was torn down and removed, right.

Beacon photos by Del Lessard



PAY

From page A-1

After hearing arguments from both sides in October, Deem issued his report Nov. 16 recommending that Okaloosa County teachers begin receiving annual salary step increases beginning Jan. 1.

On Dec. 2, the school board rejected the proposed compromise on step increases this year.

School Board Attorney Jeff McInnis told the Beacon Monday that once the school board receives clarification that both the school district and OCEA have responded to PERC then it is up to the school board to schedule a quasi-judicial hearing to settle the issue. The school board has the ultimate say on the pay issue. OCEA's response is expected early this week.

If and when the school board meets in quasi-judicial session on the teacher pay issue, the school board moves from being one of the antagonists in the dispute to being the judge and jury. At such a meeting the school board will take testimony from the school district and the union before making the final decision.

School Board Chairman Rodney Walker said last week that when the special magistrate's report was distributed before the Thanksgiving holiday, he told board members to call by Nov. 30 if they felt there was a need to meet in special executive session to discuss the report. He said no member has called and that he

now expects the next meeting on the subject will be when the School Board meets in quasi-judicial session to give the final ruling. That meeting could come as early as Dec. 13, Walker said, possibly in Niceville. Walker said the expected quasi-judicial hearing would likely be "ugly."

On Friday, Schools Superintendent Alexis Tibbetts said that the school district and OCEA can still meet at any point where they feel they have agreement on the issues.

Dec. 13 is probably the earliest the school board could meet as a quasi-judicial body that ultimately decides the issues, according to Mike Foxworthy, the school district's personnel director and chief negotiator.

In its Dec. 2 letter to PERC, school board attorneys agreed to some other recommendations made by Special Magistrate Deem while rejecting others, including:

—The board agreed with Deem's recommendation that teachers not be granted a new benefit requested by OCEA, leave for bone marrow or organ donors.

—The school board partially agreed with Deem's recommended amounts to pay new teachers a supplement, agreeing with the amounts recommended for specialist and doctorate degrees, but rejecting the amount recommended as a supplement for teachers with masters degrees.

—The school board also agreed with Deem's recommendation not to pay a non-recurring \$1,000 bonus to teachers at the top of the step scale.

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Road closing Thursday

The city of Niceville will close 18th Street between Nutmeg and Redwood avenues for installation of utilities Thursday, Dec. 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., weather permitting. For more information, call 729-4064.

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Larry, wife Kay, and the boss of the house, Molly

WATER

From page A-1

project will not result in any rate increase to Choctaw Beach and Villa Tasso customers, Haynes said, and there are no plans to extend sewer service.

The city of Freeport purchased the North Bay Water System, which serves Choctaw Beach and Villa Tasso, from a private company several years ago at the urging of Walton County, Haynes said. After the purchase the city began a multi-million dollar upgrade, completed in 2005, that provided Choctaw Beach-Villa Tasso all new water lines, a new water tower, a new water well and the installation of fire hydrants, she said. Freeport's water department serves about 800 customers in Choctaw Beach and Villa Tasso, she said.

The city's 12-inch water pipe extension between Portland and Choctaw Beach will provide a backup water source for the two small communities, she said. North Bay Water customers are currently served by one water well and an elevated tank on Western Street.

A few smaller communities between Portland and Choctaw Beach, such as Trout Creek, Basin Bayou and Dolphin Cove, will have access to public water for the first time because of the project, she said. About 160 customers between Portland and Choctaw Beach signed up to become customers of the city water system, she said. Freeport offered a \$100 connect fee to encourage new customers to sign up, she said, including the owners of some vacant lots.

New customers, who will pay the same rate as other water customers, agreed to minimum monthly bills of \$14 for the next five years, whether they use water or not.

In addition, about 60 fire hydrants will be installed along Highway 20, Haynes said. No additional hydrants are planned in the North Bay service area.

Freeport Fire Chief Ben Greenslait said the additional hydrants will allow more commercial development between Portland and Choctaw Beach. Freeport provides fire protection as far west as Basin Bayou, he said, while Walton County, through the former Tri-Village fire station in Choctaw Beach, is responsible for fire protection between Basin Bayou and the Okaloosa County line.

The new line will provide backup water supply if needed for both fire departments, Greenslait said. The Choctaw Beach-Villa Tasso area already has adequate water pressure and number of fire hydrants since the city purchased and upgraded the North Bay water system, he said.

Chief Greenslait said Walton County had put some commercial development plans on hold between Portland and Choctaw Beach because of the lack of fire protection water. The new water main and hydrants will allow further commercial and industrial development along Highway 20, he said.

Haynes said the current project to extend and connect North Bay to the city's system at Portland is expected to be completed by the end of April, 2012. The project cost about \$2.1 million, she said.

Utilities Solutions Group was the low bidder awarded the construction project with a \$1,921,000 bid, Haynes said. The city's engineering firm, Preble Rich, surveyed and designed the project, and satisfied the requirement for special archaeology studies along the intended route through Eglin Air Force base property before construction could begin, she said.

The city of Freeport offers sewer service within the city limits and westward to Hammock Bay and Bay Loop Road, Haynes said, but there are no plans to extend sewer further west.



Beacon photo by Del Lessard

Raising yule spirits

Young carolers sang Christmas tunes and passed out cookies at several Niceville area businesses Thursday, including Eyewear Unlimited, above. The children are students at Heights Tutoring Center, a non-profit academic tutoring outreach ministry of Rocky Bayou Baptist Church.

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Correction

A Nov. 30 Beacon story on the teacher pay dispute incorrectly stated which side declared an impasse. It was the school board, not the teacher's union, which declared that an impasse existed between the two sides on teacher pay issues.

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —Mike Griffith

Location: Niceville Public Library

What do you think about the United States helping to "bail out" indebted European countries?



"It's unfortunately necessary. If your neighbor's house is on fire, you've got to go put it out. We're all woven together. If we were in trouble, we'd want them to come bail us out."

Ken Edwards, 66, Niceville, retired



"I think we should focus on our own indebtedness first."

Shirley Humphries, 64, Niceville, secretary



"I think we need to take care of our debt first."

Nancy Miller, 62, Niceville, nurse



"I think we ought to bail ourselves out of debt before we take care of anyone else."

John Husty, 61, Niceville, defense contractor



"With out current economic situation in the US, our government should focus on our own economic recovery. We can't afford to bail out Europe. I work for the US Department of Labor, and our figures show that small businesses are really hurting. No one else will bail out us."

Diane Aversano, 55, Niceville, data specialist



"To maintain our reputation as the stronghold that we are, it is important for us to spread the wealth. The problem is that we don't have the wealth to spread."

Cristin Byrne, 30, Niceville, teacher

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

'TIS THE SEASON 2011

Advertisement for ReSound Alera hearing aids. Includes text: 'HAVE YOU HEARD NO MORE RINGING! Peaceful Living with Tinnitus', '\$900 OFF ReSound Alera™ TS', and 'BAY AREA Better Hearing YOUR SOUND CHOICE IN BETTER HEARING'.

Advertisement for Ritz Salon. Includes text: 'MATRIX IMAGINE ALL YOU CAN BE', 'NEW! total results™', '5 Total Miracles for instant transformation you can see and feel.', and 'Mid-Bay Plaza Bluewater Bay 897-4466'.

Advertisement for Boggy Bayou Holiday Boat Parade. Includes text: 'Benefitting TOYS FOR TOTS', 'Boggy Bayou Holiday Boat Parade December 10th 5:30 PM—6:30 PM', and a list of sponsors like 'The Trophy Center', 'Boat House Restaurant', and 'Nick's Seafood Restaurant'.

Advertisement for JEWELERS. Includes text: 'JEWELERS Across from the Niceville Garden Center in Parkway East Shopping Center.', 'OPEN HOUSE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 • 4PM-7PM', and '20% OFF ANY ONE ITEM'.

Winners of Niceville yule parade

The Niceville-Valparaiso Rotary Club, sponsors of Saturday's Christmas Parade, announced winners of the float contest.

Theme of this year's parade was "It's a Jungle Out There! Have a Jingle Jungle Christmas."

—President's Award: City of Niceville.

—Grand Marshall: Twin Cities Hospital.

Commercial floats:

—1st place: Niceville Cash & Carry.

—2nd place: Discovery Learning Academy.

—3rd place: White-Wilson Medical Center.

Club/non-profit/church/adult floats:

—1st place: Northwest Florida State College Student Government Association.

—2nd place: Fisher House of the Emerald Coast.

—3rd place: American Cancer Society—Relay for Life.

Club/non-profit/youth floats:

—1st place: Girl Scout Brownie Troops #553, 247 and 910.

—2nd place: BSA, Cub Scout Pack #553.

—3rd place: BSA, Cub Scout Pack #52.

Best marching/performing unit:

—1st place: Twinkling Twirlers.

—2nd place: All Star Twirlers.



Beacon photos by Mike Griffith
The Niceville High School band performed Christmas favorites in the annual Christmas parade Saturday, while presenting a joyful, festive appearance.



The Niceville-Valparaiso Little League brought Santa's reindeer, including Rudolph, to the parade.

County/state \$780K tax break designed to lure Ala. company

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Okaloosa County commissioners Tuesday voted to offer a five-year, \$780,000 financial incentive to an Alabama pharmaceutical company. The unanimous vote was cast as a way of enticing the company to locate a new 45,000-square-foot pill factory at the Bob Sikes airport just north of Crestview, bringing as many as 30 jobs to the county with an average annual salary of \$43,800. The payments and tax breaks will take place over a five-year period.

Okaloosa County public affairs representative Kathy Newby told the Beacon Monday that the company will receive about \$156,000 directly from Okaloosa County taxpayers, in the form of ad valorem property tax abatements. The tax break will be matched by an additional \$624,000 in cash from the state of Florida.

Newby said the combined county and state financial incentives are part of a program called the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program, in which the state matches funds from local governments to induce selected companies to locate in Florida.

The local effort to lure Pharmacy South to Okaloosa County is being called "Project Pill."

According to a source close to the Economic Development Council who asked to remain anonymous, the tax abatement program in Okaloosa County was approved in a March 2004 voter referendum, and matched pre-existing business incentive programs in adjoining counties, allowing Okaloosa to compete with neighboring counties for new business, and to become eligible for the state matching payments.

The state payments, said the source, are based on a formula that includes such factors as the number, type, and pay of new jobs likely to be created by a newly-relocated company, likely future tax payments after the incentives end, environmental impact of the industry, overall economic impact of the company, and other factors.

Since 2004, the source said, Okaloosa County has offered such incentives three times. The Pharmacy South deal, if approved, would be the fourth such incentive deal. The incentives offered so far, according to the EDC, have been:

February 2, 2010 for annual abatement of \$75,847.

Project DRS—Approved April 5, 2011 for total abatement of \$429,702.

Project Indian—Approved April 5, 2011 for a total abatement of \$230,962.

Project Pill—Potentially approved December 6, 2011 for a total abatement of \$156,000.

Craig Barker, former mayor of Destin and now the CEO of a consulting company called Cobalt Blue, said his company has been involved in the effort to bring Pharmacy South to Okaloosa County. "We have been active in recruiting the company to come here," he said. Beyond that, however, Barker was reluctant to give any details, or even to give a phone number or other contact information for Pharmacy South. "They do not want to be contacted," Barker said of the company, and said Pharmacy South had even taken down its web site to avoid inquiries from news media or others. He said the company is still in the process of deciding whether to locate in Crestview or elsewhere, and is keeping its decision making process to itself.

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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

Tracy Alan Radar, a landscaper, 48, of 300 Yacht Club Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 21 on a charge of failure to appear on the original charge of driving while license suspended or revoked.

Keiko Marie Kopp, 22, of 208 3rd St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 21 on contempt of court and violation of probation charges on the original charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, possession of marijuana with intent to sell and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

William Joseph Whitmarsh, a cook, 24, of 129 Raintree Blvd., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 16 on a charge of false verification of ownership of a pawned item. In August, Whitmarsh allegedly pawned a bag of stolen jewelry he said he received from someone else.

Jeanette Dorothy Hadden, 32, of 203 Kelly Road, Apt. 8, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Nov. 25 on a charge of indecent exposure that allegedly occurred Oct. 26.

Robert Edmund Morris, 21, of 183 Grandview Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by Niceville police Nov. 29 on a charge of petit theft.

Samantha Jean Poole, 21, of 349 Miracle Strip Parkway, #114, Fort Walton Beach, was arrested by Niceville police Nov. 30 on a charge of petit theft.

Gregory Troy Lewis, 21, of 349 Miracle Strip Parkway, #114, Fort Walton Beach, was arrested by Niceville police Nov. 30 on a charge of petit theft.

On Aug. 17, Morris, Poole and Lewis were arrested by Valparaiso police on theft charges and a cart and four rails stolen from the rear of a store, 701 W. John Sims Parkway, was

found in their vehicle. Morris told police the trio was looking for scrap metal and thought the cart and rails were scrap.

Patrick Richard Novinski, 22, of 507 23rd St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Nov. 20 on a charge of cruelty to animals.

Jason Arthur Denny, a chef, 36, of 500 Kelly Mill Road, Apt. 141, Valparaiso, was arrested by Valparaiso police Dec. 1 on a charge of battery, domestic violence.

Jack Cranford III, 36, of 139 2nd St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 28 on a charge of failure to appear on the original charge of driving while license suspended.

Marilyn Yevette Hairston, 50, of 306 Boxer Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 29 on a misdemeanor worthless check charge related to a \$25 check

DUI arrests

Jeanette Dorothy Hadden, a restaurant employee, 32, of 203 Kelly Road, Apt. 8, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI Nov. 26 in the 100 block of Cadillac Avenue, subsequent to an accident in which Hadden allegedly backed into a fire hydrant. No one was injured in the accident, which caused an estimated \$1,500 damage.

Thefts

A Niceville resident from the 200 block of White Street reported that unknown person(s) stole a bicycle from his front porch sometime Nov. 19. The bicycle was valued at \$70.

A Niceville resident from the 1200 block of Whitewood Way reported that his wallet was stolen from the center console of a vehicle with an open window that was parked in an open garage Nov. 21. The wallet con-

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from November 28, 2011 through December 4, 2011.

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

Street	Situation	Date	Time
N. Partin Drive	Medical	11/28/11	08:55
Cook Street	Illegal Burning	11/28/11	10:21
23rd Street	Medical	11/28/11	15:18
E. College Blvd	Medical	11/29/11	08:33
S. Partin Drive	Medical	11/29/11	13:24
SR85N @ MM#20	Medical	11/29/11	20:09
N. Partin Drive	Alarm Activation	11/30/11	10:05
N. Partin Drive	Medical	11/30/11	10:43
SR85N/College Blvd.	Vehicle Crash	11/30/11	12:25
Pine Court	False Call	11/30/11	19:58
SR85N/SR123	Smoke Scare	12/01/11	00:28
27th Street	Medical	12/01/11	11:36
Juniper Avenue	Medical	12/01/11	15:40
Duke Drive	Medical	12/01/11	19:27
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Alarm Activation	12/01/11	22:03
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Alarm Activation	12/02/11	00:32
SR285 @ MM#10	Controlled Burn	12/02/11	07:04
N. Partin Drive	Medical	12/02/11	10:55
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	12/02/11	13:09
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	12/02/11	14:44
23rd Street	Medical	12/02/11	19:45
Juniper Avenue	Medical	12/02/11	23:16
Linden Avenue	Medical	12/03/11	01:57
Powell Dr./Juniper St.	Medical	12/03/11	16:46
Hillside Drive	Medical	12/04/11	03:09
Crestview Avenue	Medical	12/04/11	08:43

Weekly Safety Tip: Keep a natural (fresh cut) Christmas tree outside until you are ready to decorate it. Make sure your tree stand can hold at least 1 gallon of water and check the water level daily to make sure there is plenty of water in the bowl. (A tree should use 1 quart to 1 gallon of water every 1-2 days.) A dry Christmas tree can burn in 3 to 5 seconds.

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from November 28, 2011 through December 5, 2011.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Shibley Drive	EMS excluding vehicle	11/28/11	16:56
West Ridgewood Cove	Medical assist EMS	11/28/11	17:19
E. Highway 20	No incident found	11/30/11	08:45
E. Highway 20	EMS excluding vehicle	11/30/11	12:37
Turnberry Place	Dispatched canceled	12/01/11	07:49
William Faulkner Drive	Medical assist EMS	12/01/11	08:04
Highway 20 East	Sprinkler activation	12/01/11	09:52
East Highway 20	Dispatched canceled	12/01/11	11:07
Highway 20 & Lancaster Dr.	Dispatched canceled	12/01/11	11:15
Highway 20 East	Medical assist EMS	12/01/11	12:39
Cypress Street	Dispatched canceled	12/01/11	23:39
Highway 20 East	EMS excluding vehicle	12/02/11	02:46
North White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	12/02/11	09:16
Fairway Lakes Drive	EMS excluding vehicle	12/02/11	13:39
West Hampton Court	Dispatched canceled	12/02/11	15:02
Garden Oaks Cove	Medical assist EMS	12/02/11	15:33
Greenwood Way	Medical assist EMS	12/03/11	03:22
Windlake Drive	Assist invalid	12/03/11	17:07
North White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	12/04/11	12:26
North White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	12/04/11	19:53

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

A Bluewater Bay resident from the 400 block of Martinique Cove reported that a safe was stolen from an upstairs bedroom closet sometime Nov. 19-21. An unlocked window in the living

room was a possible point of entry. The victim valued the safe at \$300 and said it contained a few papers but nothing important.

A Mary Esther resident reported that unknown person(s) stole \$50 cash and a lunch bag with her paycheck in it while the vehicle was parked at her place of employment, 1500 White Point Road. The purse had been left inside the vehicle in plain view with the door locked. But access was apparently gained through a sliding back window. The purse itself, which contained IDs and credit cards, was not stolen.

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ROOM

From page A-1

check in and find the church dining hall.

In the dining hall, volunteer Ronalda Hays was ready with a hot supper she had helped prepare, including macaroni and cheese soup, corn chowder, salad, cornbread casserole and pumpkin rolls. The shelter also included male and female showers, and sleeping areas with mats and bedrolls for each guest.

Eileen Underwood is another volunteer, who said "My pastor volunteered me" to be the meal coordinator for the local shelter program. Underwood, a member of Holy Name Catholic Church, said she has previously served as her parish's meal coordinator to Opportunity, Inc., a homeless

shelter in Fort Walton Beach operated with the Okaloosa-Walton Continuum of Care, which also operates the Niceville/Valparaiso shelter program.

Carrell said she had volunteered to help with the shelter after reading an article about it in the Bay Beacon. Carrell, a member of Christ Our Redeemer Church, said her church does not have the facilities, such as a large kitchen or showers, to operate a homeless shelter on its own, but she was happy to join the volunteers from several local churches who are working together to start the Niceville/Valparaiso area's first cold weather shelter for homeless people.

Sam Hays, Ronalda's husband, is the area coordinator for the Niceville/Valparaiso shelter program. He said he was unsure



of the reason for the low turnout Thursday night. One possible reason, he said, may have been that there are few homeless people actually living in the

Niceville area. He said he had been given an estimate from the Niceville Police Department that only about three homeless people permanently live in and

Ronald Hays had food prepared and ready to serve in the church's kitchen. Each guest was to receive supper, followed by breakfast the next morning and a sack lunch to take along when leaving the shelter. Other amenities available to guests included sleeping mats and showers.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

attend public schools in Niceville or Valparaiso are without a permanent address on their school registration records, so estimating the actual number of homeless people in the area is difficult. Hays said he expects as many as 10 people per night to use the local shelter program once it becomes better known among homeless people.

Another possible reason for the low turnout, Hays said, is that local homeless people may not yet be aware of the local shelter program or how it works. Hays said he has been posting flyers at local churches, as well as at the Niceville Sharing & Caring office, the Niceville and Valparaiso public libraries, as well as at local convenience stores, fast-food restaurants and other places homeless people may visit.

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SUES

From page A-1
 school district officials, in part because it would likely cause a decline in enrollment at Lewis School, a K-8 public school also in Valparaiso.
 On Oct. 10, by a 3-2 vote, the Valparaiso City Commission passed ordinances 619, 620 and 621, rezoning the 13-acre Valparaiso Elementary School property from commercial to a

new land use classification called Public Institutional Elementary School (PI/ES)—which limits future use to elementary schools. The rezoning action was opposed by the school district officials.
 On Oct. 24 the school board unanimously approved a resolution declaring Valparaiso's rezoning action unconstitutional, and authorizing a lawsuit.
 In November the school board filed a lawsuit against the city, asking a circuit court judge to review

the legality of the city's legal procedures used to rezone the elementary school property. A copy of the lawsuit was provided to the city's mayor and city attorney Nov. 17.
 The school board's legal case claims Valparaiso denied the school board due process to present evidence in their case against rezoning. The suit claims the city commission did not adequately advertise that a quasi-judicial hearing before the city's planning

commission in August would be the only opportunity to present evidence; and, that the city commission failed to hold its own quasi-judicial hearing on the rezoning, as required by the city's own rules. The lawsuit called the rezoning "improper and confiscatory 'spot zoning' of property to dictate a particular use."
 The school board also asked the circuit court to abate or stay any action on the lawsuit to allow both sides to settle their differ-

ences out of court in procedures laid out in Chapter 164 of Florida statutes, a law intended to resolve conflicts between governmental bodies without resorting to litigation. School board and city representatives and attorneys already met Nov. 18 under Chapter 164.
 Perhaps adding to the controversy over use of the Valparaiso school property, on Nov. 10 at a school board workshop, Okaloosa Schools Superintendent Alexis Tibbetts

for the first time publicly proposed using the Valparaiso Elementary school property to house a training center for science, technology, engineering, math and medicine (STEMM). The school board gave the proposal a tentative go-ahead, pending a review of costs.
 The Dec. 12 meeting between the school board and the city will be at 1:30 p.m. in the Valparaiso City Commission Chambers, 465 Valparaiso Parkway, Valparaiso.



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For family dining, the Boathouse Landing features fresh seafood, steaks and pasta. And diners can enjoy incredible views as they relax in the waterfront restaurant's casual atmosphere.
 Open seven days a week for lunch and dinner, the Boathouse Landing offers

meals for the whole family, including a children's menu specifically tailored for younger guests. Gluten-free options are also available upon request.
 Each afternoon, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., diners can choose

from early bird specials, featuring such mouth-watering selections as beef tenderloin tips with a marsala mushroom sauce, pan sauteed chicken breast topped with crab meat, asparagus and hollandaise, jumbo fried shrimp or a pecan crusted catch of the day. While it's a delectable treat for the palate, it's also light on the wallet at just \$9.95. A side salad can be added for \$1.45.

As befits a restaurant bordering the bayou, seafood is abundant. Selections range from oysters on the half shell, seafood stuffed shrimp, grilled or blackened mahi-mahi topped with lemon beurre blanc, or Boathouse grouper topped with Maine lobster meat and a sherry butter sauce.

For food from the land, diners can choose from everything from New York Strip steak and filet mignon to half-pound hamburgers and po' boy sandwiches. Lighter fare includes salads such as the coconut chicken salad: bread-

ed chicken with coconut bread crumbs on fresh mixed greens, with mandarin oranges, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, honey roasted nuts and orange vinaigrette dressing.
 Downstairs, at the Bilge Pub Lounge and Patio Oyster Bar, you can enjoy an appetizer and your favorite refreshment during Happy Hour, which runs Mon.-Sat. 3-6 p.m.

Live music is played on the enclosed patio bar Friday and Saturday nights with a mix of country, island and pop.
 If you want excellent dining in a casual atmosphere at a price you can afford, the Boathouse Landing is sure to please.
 For more information, reservations and to reserve a banquet room, call the Boathouse Landing at 678-2805 or stop by their location at 124 John Sims Parkway. You can also go to their website at www.theboathouselanding.com to see more pictures and menus.

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'Yule of Yesteryear' and tea set for Saturday



Yule of Yesteryear is presented by the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida hosts its annual event, Yule of Yesteryear and Holiday Victorian Tea on Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The event begins at 10 a.m. with Santa visiting for one hour at 11 a.m. for pictures. The Museum will feature live music from the Niceville Noodlers who will be performing throughout the day, the Emerald Coast Chorus at 12:30 p.m. and Trinity Presbyterian Choir at 4:30 p.m., both in Perrine Park.

The tree lighting will take place at 5 p.m. in Perrine Park, sponsored by Trinity Presbyterian Church and the City of Valparaiso. Groups, families and individuals are

Please see YULE, page B-4

Who's News

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com

Cherie Anderson, of MetLife Gulf Coast, recently celebrated 20 years of service with the company.

Since she began with MetLife in 1991, Anderson has devoted her career to helping clients in the Okaloosa County area build financial freedom.



Cherie Anderson

Jennifer Crook has been named Director of Sales at the Holiday Inn Express, Niceville. Previously, she worked

for Hilton Hotels for nine years.

Crook lives in Niceville with her husband, Craig, a staff sergeant in the Air Force, stationed at Eglin Air Force Base. They moved to Niceville from Oklahoma City.

Walton County Sheriff **Michael A. Adkinson, Jr.** presented the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center with a \$15,000 check acquired through seized criminal assets.

"Children are our most valuable assets," said Sheriff Adkinson. "This donation will further assist the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center's mission of preventing child abuse."

Walton County Sheriff **Michael A. Adkinson, Jr.** presented the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center with a \$15,000 check acquired through seized criminal assets.

"Children are our most valuable assets," said Sheriff Adkinson. "This donation will further assist the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center's mission of preventing child abuse."

Please see USO, page B-4

School principal remembers a friend

Shelly Arneson, principal at Edge Elementary School in Niceville, recently authored a book memorializing her late yellow labrador retriever, K.C.

When Arneson and her husband, Dave, first laid eyes on K.C., they knew she was special. Their new four-legged family member saw them through happy and sad times and even grieved with them as Arneson's mother

passed away. So, when K.C. was diagnosed with cancer, her two-legged family members couldn't forget her loyalty.

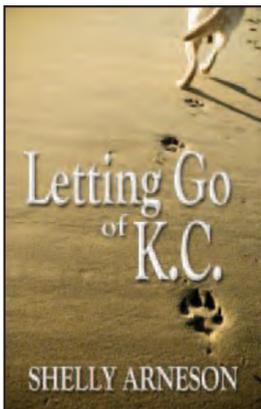
Through it all, the couple cared for their beloved K.C. and when she finally passed on Feb. 7, 2008, Arneson began writing a book culminating a tribute to a dog that forever changed their lives.

"After K.C.'s death, I decided to write a book that

would be a journey through her diagnosis and death," Arneson said. "But more than that, it is a story that takes us back through her entire life and the blessings she gave us. Her story reminds us not to take loved ones for granted."

The book, entitled "Letting Go of K.C." begins each chapter with a personal journal entry about K.C. and her family's fight for her life, with

Please see FRIEND, page B-3



Shelly Arneson and K.C. during Christmas of 2007, their last photo together before K.C. passed away.



Dave Miller

USO Volunteer of the quarter

Dave Miller, 68, of Niceville, was named Volunteer of the Quarter for USO United States region by USO Northwest Florida.

Miller is retired military who is passionate about the work he did as a Protocol Officer and more for 30 years. He has an exceptional desire to give back and help the guests in the Northwest Florida Regional

Airport USO Lounge, nicknamed the "Freedom Lounge."

The time Miller spends educating, working and fundraising for the USO is more than that of a full-time job. He recently volunteered to go above and beyond the call of duty and

Please see USO, page B-4



Letters for deployed troops

Gabe Seabrook, Rocky Bayou Christian School Elementary student government president, and Lauren Householder, 6th grade student government representative, delivered 320 cards to the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce for the "Holidays with a Heart" letter writing program. Both the RBCS Elementary and Talent Development schools created cards in computer class and brought in cards from home to brighten our troops' holidays.

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2011
CALENDAR
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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.

Niceville Singers

St. Paul Lutheran Church will host the Niceville High School Singers Christmas Concert, under the direction of Michael Dye, on Friday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. A



free will donation will be taken at the door in support of the choir program at Niceville High School. A reception in the Gathering Room follows the concert. The church is located at 1407 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville. Info: 678-1298.

Auxiliary book sale

Twin Cities Hospital Auxiliary will hold a book sale Friday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Hospital Wellness Center, Twin Cities Hospital, Niceville. All proceeds benefit the Auxiliary Health Care Related Scholarship Fund. Info: 729-9481.

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. Info: 729-6000 or visit mattiekellyartscenter.org.

Rocky Bayou celebration

Rocky Bayou Baptist Church, Niceville, will host the Student Christmas Celebration at Genesis Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6-8 p.m. Bring an unwrapped gift valued less than \$10 and your favorite holiday treat to share. Drinks will be provided. Info: 748-2593.

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. 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 or visit mattiekellyartscenter.org.

Valp. library book club

The Mystery Lovers books discussion group at the Valparaiso Community Library will meet on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 10 a.m. The book to be discussed will be Alexander McCall Smith's "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency." Info: 729-5406, vcl.valp.org.



Niceville drama production

The Niceville High School drama

Audubon society meeting

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society's annual Christmas party will be at Ed's Legendary Seafood and Steaks Restaurant, Palm Plaza, Niceville, on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. Open to the public. Info: 240-3688.

Children's Christmas party

The American Legion Post 221, at 444 John Sims Parkway, Niceville, will host the annual Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The free event is open to the public and children living in Niceville and Valparaiso. Info: 729-7044.

Gospel concert

The Mitchum Brothers will perform at Central Baptist Church, Crestview, at 6 p.m. on Dec. 10. Admission is free. Info: 682-5525 or visit centralcrestview.com.

Rocky band concerts

Rocky Bayou Christian School's beginning and middle school bands will have their Christmas concert at Rocky Bayou Baptist Church on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Info: 678-7784 ext. 305.

Yule of Yesteryear

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, invites the public to celebrate holidays past during their annual event, Yule of Yesteryear and Holiday Victorian Tea on Saturday, Dec. 10, 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 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. is \$12 for non-members, \$8 for members and does require pre-registration as space is limited. To purchase tickets and pre-register, call 678-2615.

Bluewater yard sale

Bluewater Baptist Church, Bluewater Bay is having a yard and bake sale Saturday, Dec. 10, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Info: 897-2332.

Holiday Boat parade

North Light Yacht Club will host the event 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 new toy brought to the reception to benefit Toys for Tots. Info: 678-2350 or visit NorthLightMarina.com.



Orchestra winter concerts

The Junior Orchestra of



Holiday Boat parade

North Light Yacht Club will host the holiday boat parade on Saturday, Dec. 10, 5:30-6:45 p.m. The parade begins at Lions Park off Bayshore Drive in Niceville and circles counter-clockwise around Boggy Bayou. Info: 678-2350.

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 performs Saturday, Dec. 10, at 11 a.m. in Tyler Recital Hall, in the Music Wing of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center complex. The NFSYO performs in the main-stage theater Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. Info: 729-6000 or visit mattiekellyartscenter.org.

Rosemont Baptist party

Rosemont Baptist Church, 1601 27th St., Niceville, will host a children's Christmas party on Dec. 11 4-6 p.m. The church will have food, singing, puppet shows and Santa will arrive to tell the Christmas story. Info: 678-1611 or visit rbc niceville.org.

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.

Assembly of God

KidzTown of Assembly of God in Niceville will present their Christmas musical, "Back to the Manger" on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 9 and 10:30 a.m. at the Niceville Assembly, 108 Highway 85 North. Admission is free. Info: 678-2531.

First Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Niceville will present "Down From His Glory—A Celebration of Christmas" on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 and 5 p.m. Admission is free. Info: 678-4621.

Valp. library open house

The Valparaiso Community Library will have its annual holiday open house on Monday Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. A new collection of books and DVDs will be available along with homemade fruitcake, cookies and other seasonal treats. Info: 729-5406 or visit vcl.valp.org.

VFW Post 10090 meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Niceville/Valparaiso Kent Purcell VFW Post 10090 will be held Monday, Dec. 12, at the DAV hall, 920 Hospital Drive, Niceville. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. and potential new members are welcome. Info: 678-3525.

Tea Party open house

The Niceville-Valparaiso Tea Party Christmas will host an open house on Monday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m. at Niceville City Hall Chambers, Niceville. Info: 729-2874 or visit emeraldcoastpatriots.org.

Lewis chorus, band

The Lewis School band will hold a winter concert on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lewis gym. The chorus will have the winter concert on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. The public is welcome to both. Info: 833-4130.

'Wise Mullet' discussion

Bring a sack lunch and take your lunch break at the Heritage Museum for History Sandwiched-In, an informal lunch time education program. The lecture is free and open to the public on Dec. 14, with the author of "The Wise Mullet," Timothy A. Weeks. Space is limited, call to reserve a spot. Info: 678-2615, or visit heritage-museum.org.

Holiday jazz production

Peter White, a jazz guitarist, along with Kirk Whalum and Mindi Abair,

will take the stage for a Peter White Christmas on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville. The annual holiday production is presented by WSBZ-FM The Seabreeze 106.3 FM and blends contemporary jazz with traditional holiday music. Tickets are \$80 for special seating and \$40 for reserved seating. Info: 729-6000 or visit seabreeze.fm.

Ruckel holiday concert

The Ruckel Middle School band will have its winter concert Thursday, Dec. 15, in the Niceville High School's auditorium during the assembly at 8 a.m. The public is welcome. Info: 833-4172.

Niceville high concert

Opus One of Niceville High School will have a candlelight concert at First Assembly of God Church, Niceville. The event will be Friday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. by reservation only. Tickets are \$25 and include coffee and dessert. Info: 833-4262.

St. Paul Lutheran concert

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Niceville presents "The Festival of the Christ Child" Friday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. The concert features Bonita Clark on the Rodgers organ, sing-alongs, soloists and a mass singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus" Handel's Messiah. A reception in the Gathering Room follows the program. The church is at 1407 E. John Sims Parkway. Info: 678-1298.

'Victorian Christmas'

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, will host a "Victorian Christmas," Dec. 17, 10 a.m.-noon. This program will engage kids by utilizing authentic historic museum collections with hands-on activities to entertain and educate. Cost: \$7 per child or \$5 per child for Museum Family Members. Chaperones are free. Space is limited. Info: 678-2615.

NWFAA Astronomy meeting

The Northwest Florida Astronomy Association will have a meeting on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. at the observatory (S-2) at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville. Info: 678-6483, nwfaastro.org.

Immanuel Anglican Church

Immanuel Anglican Church, Destin, will be hosting "The Greatest Gift Camp," celebrating the birth of Jesus on Saturday, Dec. 17, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Immanuel Anglican Church inside Noah's Ark Preschool. All children ages 4-10 are welcome, \$30 for students and \$25 for siblings. Info: 837-6324 or visit iacdestin.org.

Please see CALENDAR, page B-4



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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. Dec. 8-10. Tickets are \$5 at the door and through the Niceville High School at 217-8101.



E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Friends for Fun seniors

Singles 60 and older invited for laughter and conversation. Bluewater Bay Clubhouse. Wednesdays at 3-5 p.m. Info: 897-4434.

Math, science tutoring

Valparaiso Comm. Library. Mondays at 3-5 p.m. Info: 729-5406.

TOPS Club 0111

Weight-loss support group. Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Niceville, education building room 1.

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Info: 678-2863 or 279-4847.

Sharing and Caring

Donations of food, hygiene products, diapers, detergents, etc. 104 Bullock Blvd., Niceville. Mon.-Thur. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday 9 a.m.-noon. Info: 729-3600 or 678-8459.

Museum seeks volunteers

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso. Info: 678-2615 heritage-museum.org.

Military Memories exhibit

Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso. Admission is \$5 for adults. Info: 678-2615 heritage-museum.org.

Hospital volunteers

Twin Cities Hospital Auxiliary, Niceville. Info: 729-9481

Valp. library events

Story Time for pre-school age children Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings at 9:45 a.m. Wednesdays, Genealogy-based US History class at 9:30 a.m. French Class at 9:30 a.m. on Fridays. Valparaiso Comm. Library. Info: 729-5406, vcl.valp.org.

DeFuniak Christmas

DeFuniak Springs hosts evenings of lights and decorated seasonal characters. Through Dec. 31 at 5-9 p.m. Lake DeFuniak Admission: \$3 and children

under 6 are free. Info: 892-8500. christmasreflections.com.

'Geek lights' on the corner

"Geek Lights on the Corner" Christmas light and music show will run through New Year's. Free. Starting at 6 p.m. and continuing on the hour, last show starts at 9:30 p.m. Sun.-Thur. 10:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat. Corner of Bluewater Boulevard and Antiqua Way in Bluewater Bay. Info: facebook.com/geeklightsonthecorner.

'Christmas Lady' display

The "Christmas Lady" Christmas display runs through Dec. 27, 6-9 p.m. Radiant Life Church, Niceville. Info: 678-5355.

Bayou Book Co. celebrates 25 years

Bayou Book Co., a Niceville bookseller, card store and gift shop, is marking a quarter century in business.

Established in 1986, the establishment has evolved from a small bookstore into a larger operation, encompassing a Hallmark Gold Crown store and a gift shop.

Owners Mike and Carolyn Chesser credit the store's success to employees and customers. Carolyn explains, "We have been fortunate to have wonderful employees. In fact, some of them have been with us all these years. Our customers have been just as amazing and instrumental in our success. While they may be able to find the books and gifts they want at a lesser price, they appreciate the personal service they receive and familiarity of old friends and surroundings."

While the economic and retail climate has certainly proven challenging in recent times, the Chessers are opti-



From left: Kathy Bulot, Candice Foster, Carolyn Chesser and Vicki Rudolph help celebrate Bayou Book Company's 25th anniversary.

mistic about the community and store's ability to survive and thrive.

"We've all weathered and adapted to changes, and we pull with and for each other. I

feel confident people recognize the importance of locally-owned businesses which contribute to the area's causes and tax base, something online-only entities cannot and will

not do," said Carolyn. "We'd love to be here another 25 years."

The bookstore is located at 1118 John Sims Parkway East, Niceville.

UWF grads

The University of West Florida announced the names of local students who will be recognized at the commencement ceremony Dec. 10 at 9:30 a.m. at the Pensacola Civic Center.

Among the students eligible for a Bachelor's degree are: Allison Walker, Giustino Carrano, Austin Davis, Heather Evans, Robert Feist, Kellie Folley, Steven Foster, Michael Galati, Savannah Goetsch, Christin Harrison, Amber McAllister, Robert Okuly, Ashley Richard, Rebecca Russell, Stephanie Sandstrom, Brittany Shaw, Michael Stanton, Michael Weech and John Wynn.

Students eligible for a Master's degree are Alina Joukova-Seamon and Shaun May.

Niceville man authors memoir



Jim Story, a Niceville resident, publishes memoir entitled "The Story, an Autobiography".

Jim Story, a Niceville resident, 92, recently published the story of his life in a book entitled, "The Story, an Autobiography."

The book narrates Story's tale from a young boy growing up in Kansas during the Depression era to his time in the U.S. Air Force during the early part of WWII, as documented by his war diary kept from June, 1942 to July, 1943.

Story acquired a love for flying when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps



Jim Story

after two years of college at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan. He flew the B-26 and B-25 in the Pacific theater of war during WWII and is a veteran of the Vietnam War.

In his autobiography, Story recalls memories from his multiple tours at Eglin and Hurlburt fields along with his tours to Europe and to Vietnam.

The book is self-published and available online and locally at Bayou Book Co., Niceville.

FRIEND

From page B-1

each chapter chronicling the laugh-out-loud moments and blessings when times were better. The story will bring readers tears of joy and sadness, sometimes even on the same page.

Arneson is no stranger to publishing. Earlier this year, she published a book about school leadership entitled "Communicate and Motivate: A School Leader's Guide to Effective Communication." Arneson explains, "The first book, while 'technical' about communication, is really down-to-earth, about building relation-

ships and how we communicate with each other."

"This book is different for sure, but I've written lots of children's stories and am currently working on my dissertation," says Arneson. "Upon completion of that, I have another memoir that will likely be my next book published. My mother always said I'd be an author when I grew up and I couldn't wrap my brain around that. Now, I guess she was right."

Print and e-versions of "Letting Go of K.C." can be found online. A copy of Arneson's book can also be picked up at Bayou Book Co. in Niceville.



Shelly Arneson, author of "Letting Go of K.C.," has written children's stories and hopes to publish another memoir.

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All-County Lewis band

The following Lewis School band students were selected to the All-County band, from left: Andrew Coln, tuba; Josh Banaszak, tuba; Kyle Allman, tuba; Jawon Jackson, clarinet; Bethany Banaszak, clarinet; Tacy Coln, clarinet; Khloe Miller, flute; Madeline Coln, flute; Kinley Childress, flute; D'Angelo Swafford, trumpet; Zachary Krouse, French horn.

Rocky spellers



Ariel Schesniak



Chelsea Outman

Rocky Bayou Christian School Junior Chelsea Outman placed second in the state at the Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools Spelling Bee on Nov. 2.

Joshua Hofman, 7th grade, also participated in the state bee.

In the Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee on Nov. 1, Ariel Schesniak placed second and Sean Snow placed fourth in the 7th and 8th grade category.



Joshua Hofman

USO

From page B-1

helped organize the first USO Golf for Heroes event held on Veterans Day at Foxwood Country Club, Crestview. It was at this event he was surprised with the announcement that he

was the United States USO Volunteer of the Quarter.

His goal is to always make sure the USO is supplied and operational, providing that touch of home. "Once you're part of the military, you're always a part of that family, and I plan to stay with them as long

as I can," said Miller. He has made a personal commitment to spend all the time necessary to financially support the USO Northwest Florida. "It's what I can do to give back to the military and stay in touch with the military. It's a lot of fun," he added.

As an advocate, he is constantly in the community looking for businesses and individuals who are willing to give of their financial resources or needed items for the USO. All of this is done in addition to the hours he volunteers staffing the Freedom Lounge.



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Niceville High School helps 'America Recycles'

Tory Marks, Courtney Sisk and Jessica Kepple from Niceville High School's Earth Club, volunteered at the "America Recycles" event at Santa Rosa Mall. The students worked the Chamber of Commerce booth, passing out information flyers about recycling and signing people up to pledge to recycle. The annual event, which strives to encourage people to recycle, was sponsored by Okaloosa County in conjunction with Eglin Air Force Base, the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce's Green Task Force, Cumulus Radio and the mall.

YULE

From page B-1

welcome to gather in Trinity Presbyterian Church immediately following the lighting to organize for traditional neighborhood Christmas caroling.

Traditional craft demonstrations will be available as well as the opportunity to shop for unique gifts and affordable stocking stuffers from local craft vendors in Perrine Park and in the Heritage Museum gift shop. Food vendors will be serving food outside, while the Museum will have sweets inside at their holiday bake sale.

The Museum event is free, but the Victorian Tea at 1:30 p.m. is \$12 for non-members, \$8 for members and does require pre-registration as space is limited. The Museum's Victorian Tea is an educational program and includes tea and other refreshments while guests learn about Victorian costume, etiquette and holiday traditions.

To make reservations for the Victorian Tea, call the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at 678-2615.

The "Family Celebration Service" at 4:30 p.m. offers traditional carols, a dramatic presentation the children will enjoy, and special choral music.

The "Service of the Word with Carols and Candles" is at 7:30 p.m., with the St. Paul Sanctuary Choir and woodwind and string ensemble.

At 11:00 p.m. will be the "Candlelight Holy Communion" with harp and choir.

Nursery is open for the 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. services. The church is located at 1407 E. John Sims Parkway.

Info: 678-1298.

First Presbyterian

It is the 21st year of the Niceville First Presbyterian Church's Christmas Eve celebration, "A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols." This adaptation, at 7 p.m., of the King's College Chapel service at the University of Cambridge in England, will have a mix of spoken Scripture lessons and carols about the prophecy and birth of Jesus.

"Touch a Piece of History"

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, will host "Touch a Piece of History," Jan. 7, 10 a.m.-noon

This program will engage kids by utilizing authentic historic museum collections with hands-on activities. Cost: \$7 per child or \$5 per child for Museum Family Members. Chaperones are free. Space is limited. Info: 678-2615.

CALENDAR

From page B-2

Bayou Gypsies perform

The Emerald Coast Concert Association will present MoJo & The Bayou Gypsies Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium, 107 Miracle Strip Parkway S.E. Prior to the concert, the artists are meeting with special ticket holders to hear MoJo explain the music, its origin and history. Following the concert, there will be an afterglow at the Magnolia Grill, Fort Walton Beach.

Tickets are \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door, and are available at Artful Things in Niceville.

Info: 362-9356 or visit emeraldcoastconcerts.com.

Children's Christmas party

Lucas Navideñas Inc. invites needy families to attend the seventh annual Lucas Navideñas children's party Sunday, Dec. 18, 2-6 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club's Teen Center in Fort Walton Beach.

The "Latin-flavored" party open to all children and families is free and includes new toys for those who attend. There will be food, games, DJs, singers, church choirs, clowns, magicians and Santa with his elves.

The organization is looking for donations of toys, gifts, clothing as well as monetary contributions to defray the costs of the event, along with volunteers and business sponsors.

Info: Estela Elias, 305-3686, estela.elias@embarqmail.com, or David Triana, 368-3505, dt4alex@gmail.com.

St. Paul Lutheran service

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Niceville offers its three different Christmas Eve services Saturday, Dec. 24.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

First Baptist Church of Niceville
9:00 a.m. Traditional Service
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service
Down From His Glory
The Love Story of Christmas
3:00 and 5:00 PM Free Admission
622 Bayshore Drive 678-4621 www.fbcniceville.org

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Bible Study • 9:30am
Celebration Service • 11:00am
Discipleship • 5:00pm
Wednesdays
Adults, Youth, & Children • 6:00pm
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850-678-4822
www.fbcvalparaiso.org

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
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850-678-1298
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Walk-In...Worship 11:01
with children's classes
Weekly Small Groups
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Immanuel Anglican Youth
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Church Office: 850-837-6324
www.iacdestin.org
"Pointing The Way To Jesus"

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CHURCH OFFICE (850) 729-0733
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Sunday Morning Worship - 11:15 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.
Bishop T.P. Johnson, Sr. - Senior Pastor
www.thisisnewlife.org
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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.

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

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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.

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Yard Sales

Yard & Bake Sale, 4580 Range Rd., Bluewater Church, for new sign, 7am-1pm, Saturday, Dec. 10.

Sat., Dec. 10th, 8-5pm, 75D Mansfield, Valparaiso, Next to Goodwill. Furniture, shop equipment, etc.

See news happening? Be sure to call the Beacon Newspapers at 678-1080. Located in Niceville, Florida. 1181 John Sims Pkwy.

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First Word			
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<input type="checkbox"/> Bay Beacon (Number of weeks)	Price of First Run	\$
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<input type="checkbox"/> Hurlburt Patriot (Number of weeks)	= Total Price	\$

Contact Information (Will not appear in ad):
Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____

BEACON NEWSPAPERS, 1181 E. JOHN SIMS PKWY., NICEVILLE, FL • (850) 678-1080

The Cuz wins classic tourney

12-year-olds dominate three teams

The Cuz, a local football team made up of a group of 11- and 12-year-old boys from Destin, Niceville and Freeport, won 33-6 on Thanksgiving against Niceville, then again the following day against Port St. Joe, 38-0, before winning the championship held at Niceville stadium on Saturday, 28-6 against Fort Walton Beach.

The Cuz dominated throughout the tournament with old school-style football rushing for more than 900 yards in three games behind offensive blocking from Jason Shirley, Caden Phillips, Taylor Dalton, David Hicks, Judd Barth, Seth Witt and Noah Williams.

Deonte Sheffield, Austin Garofalo, Dawson Fletcher and Bailey Miller led the Cuz in rushing. Sheffield, with 708 yards and 10 touchdowns, bulldozed through the tournament with a combination of speed and size. Barely making



The Cuz, from left: front, Austin Garofalo, Tucker Wimberley, Jake Bari, Devon Mosely and Noah Williams; second row, Dawson Fletcher, Jason Shirley, Deonte Sheffield, Bailey Miller and Blake McRae; third, Calahan Phillips, Trevor Wright, David Hicks, Seth Witt, Judd Barth, Taylor Dalton, Caden Phillips, Tyler Roberts, Michael McFarlane and Landon Bigner. Coaches are Charlie Bari, Larry Wright, Brad Fletcher, Eric McFarlane, Donny Sheffield.

weigh-in for the tournament, Sheffield was not only the biggest back, weighing in at 154 pounds, but the fastest. Sheffield shredded defenses with a 21-yard average behind an oversized offensive line with an average weight of 160 pounds.

Miller produced goal line power, running north and south with four extra point conver-

sions and a touchdown and Austin Garofalo provided much-needed relief at tailback with 100 yards and a touchdown in just 10 carries, while Dawson Fletcher added two extra point conversions and a touchdown at fullback.

Quarterback Michael McFarlane connected on a 40-yard touchdown pass to Sheffield, two extra point con-

version passes and one running extra point conversion.

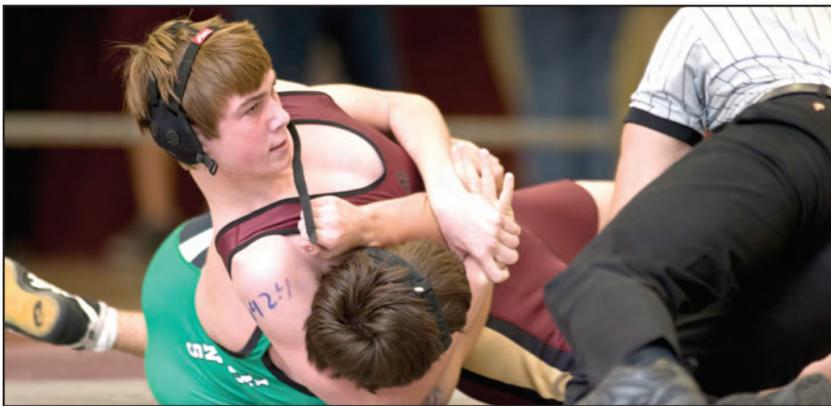
The Cuz scored three defensive touchdowns while allowing opponents only two touchdowns and giving up 127 yards from the line of scrimmage for the entire tournament. The 2011 Brick house tournament was held in Niceville and will benefit the Taylor Haugen Foundation, taylorhaugen.org.



Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

Rams fall to Shoal River

Ruckel Middle School's Stephen Herrera dribbles through heavy pressure from Shoal River during Thursday's basketball game. Ruckel lost the game, 37-28.



Beacon photo by Jeff Gammons

Eagle grapplers go 2-0

Niceville High School junior varsity wrestler Billy Sager prepares to pin his Choctawhatchee opponent last Wednesday at home. The varsity won the match, 48-23, while the JV won most of its matches but was throttled by a large number of forfeits. The victory brought the varsity to a 2-0 record on the season.



Ice Queens win crown

The Dairy Queen Ice Queens are the PAL U8 girls soccer champs. Not only did they win first place in the tournament, they also finished the season undefeated. From left: kneeling, Katie Sjostrom, Gracie Langston, Madi Collins and CeCe Jordan; standing, Willa Urbanczyk, Mia Normand, Julia Watts, Emma Duke and Chloe Ellis. Coaches are assistant coach Chris Ellis, on left, and head coach Troy Sjostrom.

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The Bay Beacon & Beacon Express

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