

The Bay Beacon

14 Pages, 2 Sections, 5 Inserts

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

50c

**UP
COMING**

Wednesday, 12 p.m.



Bring a sack lunch and take your break at the Heritage Museum, Valparaiso, for History Sandwiched-In with Timothy A. Weeks, author of the children's book, "The Wise Mullet." Space to the free lecture is limited, call to reserve a spot.

Info: 678-2615, or visit heritage-museum.org.

Friday, 6 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Niceville presents "The Festival of the Christ Child." The concert features Bonita Clark on the Rodgers organ, sing-a-longs, soloists and a mass singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus," Handel's Messiah. Info: 678-1298.



Fri.-Sunday, 6:30 p.m.

Valparaiso First Assembly of God will host a free live outdoor Nativity scene. Refreshments will be served. Info: 678-4030.

Saturday, 10 a.m.



The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, will host a "Victorian Christmas." Tickets are \$7 or \$5 per child for Museum Family Members. Chaperones are free. Space is limited. Info: 678-2615.

Monday, 12 p.m.

The Valparaiso Community Library will host a free Christmas film showing of "Elf" for teenagers. Beverages and popcorn will be served. Friends and family are welcome. Info: 729-5406, vcl.valp.org.

Calendar, B-2

Ex-cop sues Valparaiso for firing him

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

A former Valparaiso police captain has sued the city for wrongful dismissal and damages allegedly suffered by his seafood store at the hands of city officials.

Matt Willingham, who filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court, Pensacola, is seeking a jury trial, damages of at least \$15,000, and costs.

In October 2009 Willingham, second-in-command at the Valparaiso Police Department, was fired after city officials uncovered alleged building code violations at his seafood business. As a police captain one of Willingham's duties had been code enforcement for the city.

Willingham opened Willingham Seafood around June 2004, obtaining a city license to sell shrimp from his boat, moored at Cutts Lane.



Matt Willingham

Willingham's lawsuit gives the following chronology:

—In May 2006 Willingham was hired as police captain.

—In October 2008, the city issued Willingham Seafood a license granting him the right to sell seafood from a building on his property on Cutts Lane.

—In early October Willingham, the police chief and the city administrator disagreed over whether police

officers could or should enforce city building codes.

—On Oct. 12, 2009, Willingham spoke to the city commission during a public meeting regarding selective enforcement of various city code violations and stating his belief that the police department should not be responsible for enforcing building codes.

Please see EX-COP, page A-7

Holiday delights



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Daniel and Casey Lancaster, brothers from Valparaiso, ogled Christmas cakes and pastries for sale during the Yule of Yesteryear festival Saturday at the Heritage Museum, Valparaiso. The event featured caroling, a tree lighting, musical performances, an assortment of food, craft booths and demonstrations, a visit from Santa Claus, and a Victorian tea.

Fire board discusses fiscal issues

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Members of the East Niceville Fire Commission accepted an annual audit report Monday from an accounting team from Carr, Riggs, & Ingram. They also approved some cuts in the fire district's fiscal year 2012 budget, discussed how best to keep track of leave time for firefighters, and debated the need for a paid secretary.

Joann Rocque and John R. Slingerland, of Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, presented the results of their recent audit of the fire district's finances.

Slingerland said the accountants found no serious problems or discrepancies in the district' financial management. Although there were some minor areas

Please see BOARD, page A-7

Bridge directors view bypass work

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Members of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority board of directors were given a bus tour Thursday of the latest progress made in constructing the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector, a new road that will link the Mid-Bay Bridge to State Roads 285 and 85 north of Niceville by early 2014.

The tour took place Thursday morning, following the MBBA board's regular meeting in Destin, during which the board heard briefings on the connector road, declining traffic over the toll bridge, and the current status of a proposal for a state takeover of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority. The board also approved bonuses for its two employees.

James VanSteenburg, an engineer with HDR Engineering, the consulting firm that is managing

Please see BRIDGE, page A-2

Niceville's movers and shakers

Bobbing boards for business

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Motorists on John Sims Parkway, have been waved at, danced for, and serenaded by an air guitarist, a sombrero-topped mariachi and even Santa Claus—all energetic "board shakers" hired to stand on the sidewalks and advertise local businesses.

"It's so much fun," said Savanna Bardisa, a 17-year-old Niceville High School senior, as she danced on a State Road 20

sidewalk outside Merchants Walk, Bluewater Bay, playing air guitar to the techno beat of "Skrillex" in her earbuds. The Choctaw Beach teenager started working as a board shaker for Little Caesar's, a Bluewater Bay pizza business, in August.

One woman recently told Bardisa, "Because you're doing such a good job, I stopped and got a pizza." Comments like that

Please see SHAKERS, page A-7



Beacon photos by Del Lessard
Jacob Simmons was dressed in a Santa outfit last week shaking an ad board for a Niceville metals dealer.



"It's so much fun," said Savanna Bardisa, a 17-year-old Niceville High senior, as she danced on a Bluewater Bay sidewalk playing air guitar on a sign peddling pizza.

Union and board remain far apart over teacher pay

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

The Okaloosa County School Board will conduct a quasi-judicial hearing to settle a dispute on teacher pay Jan. 4 in Niceville.

The Okaloosa County Education Association (OCEA) has rejected mediator-proposed teacher "step" raises that would have started Jan. 1, 2012, instead of July 1, 2011, as demanded by the teachers union.

The OCEA represents the

school district's 1,815 teachers in labor matters.

In a Dec. 9 letter to the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission, Greg Butler, executive director of OCEA, said, "The association rejects the recommendation of the Magistrate to make the step increase effective January 1, 2012 and also rejects the recommendation of no one-time payment of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to

Please see TEACHER, page A-7



Present nevertheless

Thieves early Monday stole a figure of the baby Jesus from his manger crib in a Nativity set erected by the City of Niceville on John Sims Parkway just west of the traffic "triangle." Police Lt. Joe Whitfield said that about 2 a.m., Dec. 12, police received a citizen's call reporting two suspicious males going into the woods behind the Christmas scene. Also stolen were figures of a sheep and one of the three Wise Men. The missing Wise Man and the sheep were found Tuesday morning at a church donation box on Valparaiso Boulevard. The crèche scene was purchased by local churches a few years ago for about \$5,000 and given to the city, which has used it annually in its Christmas display, a city official said.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard

BRIDGE

From page A-1
 the connector road construction project on behalf of the MBBA, told board members that the construction project is on schedule and within budget. The project is expected to be complete by the end of January 2014.

During the bus tour of the route, VanSteenburg pointed out key points of the project, such as bridges being built over local creeks and wetlands, paved areas, and holding ponds to contain storm water runoff.

MBBA Executive Director Jim Vest also briefed the board, saying that the proposal for the

state to take over the MBBA, which is now governed by a board of local volunteers appointed by the governor of Florida, has been presented to the state legislature as a proposal from a state government efficiency task force committee, but that no actual bill to authorize the takeover has been presented in either the House or Senate. The task force recommendation, said Vest, is now in the hands of the Senate Transportation Committee, whose vice chairman is Senator Greg Evers. The legislative session will begin next month.

“There are more conversations to come,” Vest said, before

the legislature can take any action on the takeover, and he said he is monitoring the proposal and will keep MBBA members informed.

Vest also said that Okaloosa County recently awarded a contract to install fiber optic cables beneath the Mid-Bay Bridge, to complete the county’s fiber-optic data transmission system. He said Anderson Columbia, a local contracting company, has already installed fiber optic cables in the ground alongside the new sidewalk along White Point Road leading toward the bridge. The cable would be the first utilities carried by the bridge.

Vest also discussed the continued decline in traffic over the 3.5-

mile span, which has produced a drop of about two percent in toll revenue in September 2011, from year-ago levels. He said he is still awaiting final traffic and toll figures from the Florida Department of Transportation for October, November and December. Vest said he thinks the decline in bridge traffic follows a general trend of reduced tourism following the British Petroleum (BP) oil spill in the spring and summer of 2010, which he said may also have permanently closed some businesses on either side of the bridge, reducing the amount of commuter traffic.

Vest said he is still awaiting final figures for the MBBA’s

pending claim against British Petroleum for toll revenue lost during 2011 because of the 2010 oil spill. Although the spill actually did little damage to local beaches, national media coverage of the spill may have created a public impression that Northwest Florida beaches were, or still are, fouled by oil, even though the beaches are clean.

During the meeting, the MBBA members voted unanimously to award pay bonuses to Vest and to his assistant, Cathy Demoreski, the agency’s only other employee. The amount of the bonuses wasn’t discussed during the meeting.

Following the meeting,

MBBA board chairman Gordon Fornell was asked by the Beacon how much the bonuses were, but he replied that he did not know, except that they were the same amounts as were awarded to Vest and Demoreski last year. The Beacon then asked Demoreski, who said that she and Vest each were awarded a \$2,000 bonus.

The next meeting of the MBBA will be held at Destin City Hall at 9 a.m. Jan. 19. Ordinarily, MBBA meetings during odd numbered months are held in Niceville, but the January meeting will be in Destin because of early voting taking place at Niceville City Hall on Jan. 19.

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER — by Mike Griffith



What do you think about the U.S. Postal Service proposal to cut costs by ending Saturday mail deliveries and next-day delivery of first class mail?

Location: US Post Office, Niceville



"I think the Postal Service should be privatized. It's been losing money for years, and would be bankrupt if it was a business."

Mike Marston, 39, Niceville



"It's fine with me. I don't use the mail that much. I rely on the Internet."

Deloris Gordon, 69, Niceville, retired



"I'm OK with losing Saturday deliveries, but sometimes I need to mail something overnight."

Mily Tremino, 21, Niceville, student



"It's understandable that they want Saturdays off, but as for overnight deliveries, mail is a necessary thing. People need to reach each other."

Aaron Shimeld, 20, Niceville, server



"I've always thought the Post Office ought to be privatized. Anything government runs doesn't seem to be effective."

John Davis, 41, Bluewater Bay, student and real estate photographer



"I don't have a problem with losing Saturday mail, but overnight deliveries are important. Some people get paychecks in the mail, or have to send something quickly to someone else."

Kathy Richardson, 53, Niceville, library technician

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

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Florida House redistricting plans unveiled

No change is seen for Twin Cities area

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Twin Cities residents would remain in the same legislative district that now represents them in the Florida House of Representatives under any of five possible redistricting plans unveiled last week.

Twin Cities residents are House District 4, currently represented by first-term lawmaker Matt Gaetz, a Fort Walton Beach Republican.



Matt Gaetz

Outside the Niceville-Valparaiso area, however, District 4 would undergo a facelift to include north-county areas and all of Destin.

Under any of the five proposed redistricting maps that were announced Dec. 6 in Tallahassee for consideration by the House Redistricting Committee, District 4 would

become wholly confined within Okaloosa County boundaries, including all of the county south of Interstate 10, plus much of the Crestview area.

District 4 currently includes most of Okaloosa County south of the Eglin reservation but only the western tip of Destin, plus about half of the coastal area of Santa Rosa County south of the military reservation. Destin is currently split between districts 4 and 7, currently held by Marti Coley, R-Marianna.

All seats in the Florida Legislature will be on the ballot next November, after reapportionment takes effect to reflect the latest census.

The rural north part of Okaloosa County—now split between House Districts 1 (Doug Broxson, R-Milton) and 5 (Brad



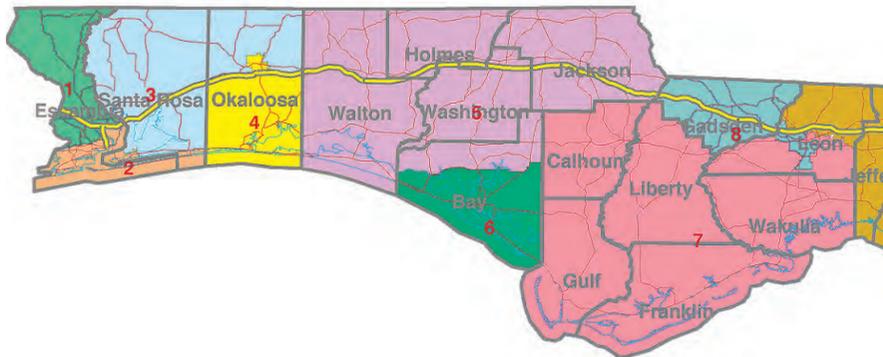
Jeff Miller

Drake, R-DeFuniak Springs) plus nearly all of Santa Rosa County except portions of Santa Rosa Island—would become part of District 3 under all five House options. Any of the five proposed district maps would result in Okaloosa County going from having four Florida House members to two.

The maps were drawn by the staff of the House Redistricting Committee, based on state and federal legal standards, public input and guidance received in meetings, according to a statement from the committee.

“For the past year, we have traveled the state, received hundreds of letters, emails, Facebook comments and tweets and held committee meetings to seek and analyze input on how to redraw Florida’s political boundary lines for the next 10 years,” said House Redistricting Committee Chairman Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel.

One of the most frequently requested options in 26 public input meetings held around Florida, according to the commit-



Florida House District 4 (yellow) would include the Twin Cities area as before, but also extend north to encompass much of the Crestview area under proposed reapportionment plans.

tee staff, was that Floridians wanted their cities and counties to be kept whole in their districts, not divided up between districts as is now common.

The committee staff also released seven options for redistricting U.S. congressional seats. In all seven proposed options, Twin Cities residents would continue to be in U.S. House of Representative District 1, currently represented by Congressman Jeff Miller, R-Chumuckla.

The Florida Senate released its

proposed redistricting plans for the Florida Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives Nov. 30.

All seven House congressional redistricting plans would see congressional District 1 expanded eastward to encompass all of Okaloosa and Walton counties, same as the Senate plan. That would restore most of Bluewater Bay and Destin to District 1.

Ten years ago redistricting resulted in Bluewater Bay and Destin, both considered conser-

vative Republican strongholds, being carved out of District 1 and made part of U.S. District 2, a traditionally rural Democratic district. In 2010 District 2 Republican Steve Southerland defeated seven-term incumbent Democrat Allen Boyd, Monticello.

The Florida Legislature will convene Jan. 10, about two months earlier than normal, in order to adopt a redistricting plan in time for the 2012 general election cycle.

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Fires hit 3 houses

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Three house fires, one of them caused by rodents, were reported in the Twin Cities area in recent days. No one was seriously injured.

Niceville firefighters responded to two blazes, the first on Greenwood Way Thursday in which an occupant was hospitalized hospital for smoke inhalation. The other occurred Saturday evening in a home on Ivey Terrace.

Rodents chewing on electrical insulation caused a fire in a Valparaiso home Sunday night, officials said.

The Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department received an alarm at 6:53 p.m. Dec. 11 for a fire at 431 Edge Ave., according to Fire Chief Mark Norris. The occupants had already exited the home and had pulled a smoldering mattress from the house, he said. A police officer used a fire extinguisher on the mattress, then on a wall that the residents said felt warm.

Norris said that firefighters subsequently tore out the wall, found a smoldering stud, and extinguished it. Firefighters discovered that squirrels or other rodents had been chewing the insulation on electrical wiring. The mattress caught fire when an electrical outlet fell on it,

he said.

Although damage was estimated at only \$1,000, the home was declared uninhabitable until the wiring is examined and replaced, he said. The American Red Cross and TIPS volunteers helped the husband and wife who were renting the home to find other accommodations, Norris said.

Firefighters from Eglin, East Niceville and Valparaiso responded to the alarm.

In Niceville, firefighters received an alarm for a house fire at 7:14 p.m. Dec. 8 and were on scene at 216 Evergreen Ave. three minutes later, finding smoke coming from the home, according to Fire Chief Tommy Mayville.

Firefighters found the resident, James King, asleep on a couch, Mayville said. They pulled him from the house before attacking a fire that had spread from the kitchen stove, to cabinets, to the attic. The blaze was under control by 7:35 p.m.

Mayville said that King would have died if it hadn't been for the persistence of a neighbor. He said the neighbor initially went to King's home and spoke to him about the sound of a smoke alarm issuing from the house. The neighbor called 911 after she returned home



Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Dept. Rodents gnawing on electrical insulation were blamed for a fire in Valparaiso.

and heard the smoke alarm continue, Mayville said.

King was taken to Twin Cities Hospital, where he was admitted for smoke inhalation, officials said. He has since been released, the hospital said.

Mayville listed the cause of the fire as an accidental cooking fire, which caused between \$5,000 and \$7,000 in damages.

On Saturday, Dec. 10, Niceville firefighters responded to another alarm at 5:28 p.m. and were on scene a minute later at 1121 Ivey Terrace, finding a house full of smoke.



Floating festivities

Brightly decorated boats lit up the waters off North Light Yacht Club, Niceville, during the annual Boggy Bayou Holiday Boat parade Saturday. Story, B-4.

Photos by John Brashears



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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

Caroline Letitia Edwards, 48, of 617-A Powell Drive, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Dec. 3 on a charge of battery, domestic violence.

Benito Moreno Garcia, 28, of 4270 Calinda Lane, #313, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 30 on a charge of petit theft that allegedly occurred Oct. 30.

Michael Bruce Savage, a student, 22, of 314 Biscayne Lane, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 30 on a violation of probation charge on the original charge of DUI.

Curtiss Jay Clark, unemployed, 54, of 434 Valparaiso Parkway, #12, Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 29 on a violation of probation charge on the original charge of false ID, regulated metals property under \$300.

Dakaya Arnika Floyd, 28, of 308 Boxer Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 1 on misdemeanor worthless check charges, 12 counts.

Mason Garrett Riley, 19, of 2021 Mary Ann Court, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 26 on a violation of probation charge on the original misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana.

Glenn Patrick Leatherman, 42, of 229 Evans St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 23 on a contempt of court charge.

Two Niceville boys, ages 14 and 15, both students, were arrested by Niceville police Dec. 5, each charged with attempted burglary.

On Nov. 8 both juveniles allegedly left Niceville High School during regular school hours and were observed trying to burglarize a truck in the driveway of a residence in the 400 block of 31st Street. The victim saw the 15-year-old boy with a screwdriver in his hand and subsequently discovered an estimated \$1,000 damage to the driver's side door of the truck.

James Devin Pepper, a full-time student, 32, of 102 Nathey St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Dec. 5 on charges of aggravated assault and impersonating a law enforcement officer.

Dean William Snell, a landscaper, 52, of 104 Sasser St., Niceville, was also arrested by Niceville police the same date on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon.

Pepper and Snell allegedly went to an apartment in the 1100 block of South Cedar Avenue to help a family member vacate his apartment. The family member moving allegedly got into a confrontation with another man on scene, and Pepper and Snell separated the two. The other man told police that Pepper allegedly brandished a "big dark colored revolver and stuck it in my face and said don't call the police, because I am the police."

Pepper is currently attending the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, Law Enforcement Academy, according to Niceville police.

Police searched Snell and discovered a concealed .25 caliber semi-auto gun in his left rear pants pocket. Snell, who did not have a concealed weapon permit, allegedly told police he decided to carry the pistol for protection from the neighbor/victim whose family, he alleged, had previously threat-

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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

Name: Ted Jeffrey Felder Jr.
Wanted for: home invasion robbery. Felder's last known address was on Shirley drive in Fort Walton Beach.
Height: 5-feet, 9-inches
Weight: 135 pounds
Age: 25
Date of birth: 09-14-1986
Hair: black
Eyes: brown



Name: Daniel Westly Arthur
Wanted for: fraud and neglect of an elderly or disabled person without great harm, possession of a controlled substance, forgery and theft. Arthur's last known address was on McFarlan Avenue in Fort Walton Beach.
Height: 5-feet, 8-inches
Weight: 155 pounds
Age: 29
Date of birth: 06-06-1982
Hair: brown, Eyes: green



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

ened Snell's family member.

Joshua Alexander Adams, a Canadian military member, 29, of 4270 Calinda Lane, #326, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 4 on a charge of battery, domestic violence.

Nicholas Adam Byrd, a military member, 22, of 1501 Partin Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 1 on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon. On Nov. 6 a bouncer at a Destin bar, 116 Harbor Blvd., removed a loaded .45 caliber handgun from Byrd as he exited a bathroom stall where the bouncer had seen Byrd lying sick on the floor with the gun close to his waistline.

Geraldine Labaclado Coats, 45, of 1450 Mediterranean Circle, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 4 on a charge of aggravated battery, offender knew the victim was pregnant, domestic violence-related.

Christopher Bryan Hinojosa, a chef, 28, of 500 Kelly Mill Road, Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 1 on misdemeanor worthless check charges, seven counts.

Aneatria Diane Hinojosa, 36, of 500 Kelly Mill Road, Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 1 on misdemeanor worthless check charges, three counts.

Devon Paul Hunt, 43, of 1124 Bayshore Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 1 on a charge of probation violation on the original charge of DUI.

Kayla Vanderpool, 24, of 24 Owen St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 1 on a charge of welfare fraud.

Jason Christopher Mason, 31, of 1309 Keturah St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 6 on a violation of probation charge on the original charge of driving while license suspended or revoked.

Colton Daniel Griffin, 20, of 324 Ohio Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on a violation of probation charge on the original charge of armed robbery.

DUI arrests

Ryan Jeffery Sewell, 24, of 38 Howell Street, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 28 for DUI on County Line Road/Pippen Drive, Niceville, that occurred June 11 at 3:05 a.m. Sewell's vehicle allegedly crashed into some trees, injuring himself and causing about \$5,000 damage. Sewell was also charged with driving while license suspended or revoked.

Cullen Douglas Jones, 24, of 227 Wava Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies for DUI in the 300 block of Harbor Boulevard, Destin, Nov. 26 at 5:42 a.m.

Thefts

A bartender at a Niceville bar, 626 W. John Sims Parkway, reported a man ordered a pizza and pitcher of beer, then left in his pickup truck after refusing to pay the \$20.75 tab. The suspect stranded several people who had ridden to the bar in his vehicle. Three of them confirmed that the man had ordered the items and then left without paying.

A Niceville resident from the 200 block of Yacht Club Drive reported that sometime Nov. 23-Dec. 3 unknown person(s) stole a \$2,200 generator from the second floor of his houseboat, which had been raised out of the water on a boat lift. The victim said it would have taken at least two or three people to lift the generator from the top deck of the boat and carry it off.

A Shalimar resident reported that unknown person(s) stole her purse from the top of her vehicle while the vehicle was in the parking lot of a Niceville grocery store 1104 E. John Sims Parkway, Nov. 30. The woman told police she placed her purse on top of her vehicle and retrieved her children from the vehicle and began speaking to her boyfriend's mother, who was also in the parking lot. When

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from December 5, 2011 through December 11, 2011.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
3 Structure Fire	16 Emergency Medical Calls		
1 Vehicle Fire	4 Vehicle Crash		
0 Other Fire/0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication			
0 Illegal Burn	2 Other Emergency Calls		
0 False Alarms	0 Hazardous Conditions		
E. John Sims Pkwy.....	Vehicle Crash.....	12/05/11.....	11:24
S. Cedar Avenue.....	Medical.....	12/05/11.....	12:33
Kelly Road.....	Medical.....	12/05/11.....	16:15
32nd Street.....	Medical.....	12/05/11.....	19:17
St Charles Street.....	Medical.....	12/06/11.....	20:32
27th Street.....	Medical.....	12/07/11.....	04:29
N. Partin Drive.....	Medical.....	12/07/11.....	07:25
W. John Sims Pkwy.....	Good Intent.....	12/07/11.....	09:20
Karen Court.....	Vehicle Crash.....	12/07/11.....	09:42
Garden Lane.....	Alarm Activation.....	12/08/11.....	05:43
SR85N.....	Vehicle Crash.....	12/08/11.....	08:51
College Blvd.....	Vehicle Crash.....	12/08/11.....	17:57
Evergreen Avenue.....	Structure Fire.....	12/08/11.....	19:11
SR85N.....	Medical.....	12/08/11.....	19:53
Azalea Drive.....	Medical.....	12/08/11.....	23:20
Ruckel Drive/ENFD.....	Structure Fire.....	12/09/11.....	06:27
N. Partin Drive.....	Medical.....	12/09/11.....	10:45
Government Avenue.....	Medical.....	12/09/11.....	11:04
N. Partin Drive.....	Medical.....	12/10/11.....	05:56
Dyer Street.....	Medical.....	12/10/11.....	07:39
E. John Sims Pkwy.....	Medical.....	12/10/11.....	14:15
Reeves Street.....	Vehicle Fire.....	12/10/11.....	14:28
Ivy Terrace.....	Structure Fire.....	12/10/11.....	17:27
Juniper Avenue.....	Medical.....	12/11/11.....	13:06
N. Partin Drive.....	Medical.....	12/11/11.....	13:38
Abbott Circle.....	Medical.....	12/11/11.....	23:10

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from December 4, 2011 through December 12, 2011.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
North White Point Road.....	EMS excluding vehicle.....	12/04/11.....	12:26
North White Point Road.....	Medical assist EMS.....	12/04/11.....	19:53
Old Post Road.....	Medical assist EMS.....	12/05/11.....	16:18
North White Point Road.....	EMS excluding vehicle.....	12/05/11.....	17:28
Mechants Way.....	Medical assist EMS.....	12/05/11.....	19:23
North White Point Road.....	EMS excluding vehicle.....	12/05/11.....	19:39
Bimini Way.....	Water or steam leak.....	12/05/11.....	23:36
Glen Eagles Drive.....	EMS excluding vehicle.....	12/06/11.....	07:54
Bay Drive & Highway 20.....	Motor Vehicle Accident.....	12/06/11.....	07:57
Merchants Way.....	EMS excluding vehicle.....	12/06/11.....	12:45
White Point Road.....	EMS excluding vehicle.....	12/06/11.....	17:26
Birkdale Circle.....	EMS excluding vehicle.....	12/07/11.....	05:43
Merchants Way.....	EMS excluding vehicle.....	12/07/11.....	12:47
Windward Circle.....	Chemical spill or leak.....	12/07/11.....	17:48
Merchants Way.....	EMS excluding vehicle.....	12/08/11.....	16:44
Ridgewood Way.....	Chimney or flue fire.....	12/08/11.....	18:48
Evergreen Avenue.....	Building fire.....	12/08/11.....	19:31
Ruckie Drive.....	Building fire.....	12/09/11.....	06:28
Meadowbrook Court.....	EMS excluding vehicle.....	12/09/11.....	08:04
Bay Drive.....	Assist invalid.....	12/09/11.....	11:05
Saint Pierre Cove.....	EMS excluding vehicle.....	12/09/11.....	13:21
Yacht Club Drive.....	EMS excluding vehicle.....	12/09/11.....	13:57
Highway 20.....	Dispatched canceled.....	12/09/11.....	14:08
Pine Street.....	Dispatched canceled.....	12/10/11.....	07:54
Parkwood Place.....	EMS excluding vehicle.....	12/10/11.....	09:11
North White Point Road.....	Medical assist EMS.....	12/10/11.....	10:08
Pembroke Court.....	EMS excluding vehicle.....	12/10/11.....	13:35
Reeves Street.....	Dispatched canceled.....	12/10/11.....	14:30
Ivey Terrace.....	Building fire.....	12/10/11.....	17:29
Armaddillo Trail.....	Medical assist EMS.....	12/11/11.....	16:38

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

one of the children ran into the grocery store, the mother followed, then realized she had left her purse on top of the vehicle. She went to retrieve it but found it missing. The purse contained \$150, several prescription medications, a driver's license and Social Security cards.

A Niceville resident from the 300 block of Evergreen Avenue reported that on Nov. 29 unknown person(s) burglarized the residence and stole a safe. The safe contained jewelry, coins and currency, family videos and photos, passports, narcotic medications, Social Security cards, the deed to the house and original wills valued in total at about \$3,000. The vic-

tim said the garage was the likely point of entry.

Other

A 16-year-old Niceville boy, a student, was issued a criminal summons by sheriff's deputies Dec. 5 on a charge of battery that allegedly occurred Nov. 5.

A 16-year-old Niceville boy, a student, was issued a criminal summons by sheriff's deputies in Mary Esther, Dec. 1, on a charge of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana.

Marlena Danielle Bussey, 23, of 10097 Highway 20, Freeport, and Aaron Deering Odle, 25, of

Please see BLOTTER, page A-7

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2 charged with drug dealing

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Two Niceville residents have been charged with drug trafficking following a traffic stop on Interstate 10, according to reports from the Walton County Sheriff's Office.

Steven T. Grillone, 24, of 4600 Range Road, Apt. 103, and Katrina Louise Cavaliere, 20, of 538 Nassau Drive, were arrested by Walton County sheriff's deputies Dec. 11, each charged with one count of drug trafficking and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia, according to the reports.

Sheriff's reports gave the following account:

Following a traffic stop on I-10 for a defective turn signal on a 2007 Pontiac driven by Grillone, a deputy noticed Grillone was extremely nervous, his hands shaking uncontrollably and his voice quivering as he spoke. The deputy subsequently wrote Grillone a criminal citation for driving on an expired driver's license.

The deputy then asked Cavaliere if she had a valid driver's license, which she did. Cavaliere also appeared very nervous and was shaking uncontrollably, according to the deputy.

Cavaliere denied a request to search the car. The deputy deployed a police drug dog which "alerted" for the presence of narcotics at the passenger side door where Cavaliere was sitting. Cavaliere allegedly admitted having 52 oxycodone pills concealed on her person. Cavaliere said Grillone had asked her to hide the pills as they were pulled over.

Inside the vehicle, deputies also recovered a pill grinder, two marijuana pipes, cut straws, tinfoil with burnt residue and a black container with residue.

Grillone and Cavalier told deputies that they had driven to Orlando, where Grillone purchased about 50 oxycodone tablets for \$500. Grillone said he planned to sell the pills for about \$30 each.

Steven T. Grillone

Katrina L. Cavaliere

SHAKERS

From page A-1

are rewarding, she said. "I dance because it's fun," Bardisa said. "It pays, seeing people smile and wave at you." Next year she hopes to study business more formally at Northwest Florida State College.

Frank Krivec, 53, of Niceville, might be the reason board shaking, which pays between \$8 and \$9 an hour, appears to have taken off locally. For over a year Krivec was the public face of Little Caesar's in Niceville before the pizzeria moved to Bluewater Bay recently. Krivec's friendly smile and enthusiastic waves draws lots of return waves and the occasional horn toot from motorists. "No matter if I'm depressed, I've got a smile on my face," he said.

When the business moved to Bluewater Bay earlier this year, the job left Krivec behind because a bicycle is his only mode of transport. But the Niceville native returned to his favorite sidewalk

haunt near the corner of Bullock Boulevard a few weeks ago, now attired in a sombrero and a colorful poncho advertising a Mexican restaurant, La Rumba. When asked what he likes about his job, Krivec replied: "The friendliness. People wave and honk all the time."

One Bluewater Bay resident told the Beacon that Niceville really must be nice because of the smiles and energetic waves from Krivec.

Across John Sims Parkway from Krivec, Jacob Simmons, 18, of Crestview, wore a Santa outfit one day last week while shaking a board for Goldwave, a new store in the Oak Creek shopping center that buys precious metals.

Simmons, who removed his earbuds long enough to answer a reporter's questions, said he shakes six hours a day, Monday through Saturday. As he waves his sign in rhythmic arcs, he occupies his mind with the beat of his iPod, shuffling his feet to the music.

Two blocks west of Simmons, Paul Geddings, 22, of Crestview, was advertising a competitor,



Beacon photo by Del Lessard
After completing training for his job in the Air Force Reserve Paul Geddings, 22, of Crestview, found being a board shaker was a good job as he searches for more permanent employment.

American Gold Parties.

Geddings said he'd been working as a board shaker for two months, using his time on



Beacon photo by Del Lessard
Advertising a Niceville Mexican restaurant Frank Krivec, 53, of Niceville, waves and smiles at passing motorists from underneath a sombrero and poncho.

Niceville's main thoroughfare listening to music and educational programs through his earbuds. He typically works three or four

hours a day, but sometimes as much as seven hours, with 10-minute breaks and a lunch hour. Geddings, an Air Force

reservist, expects to start working soon at a Crestview call center.

He said his Niceville employer finds it worthwhile to pay an hourly wage for live advertising, and that he occasionally gets feedback from customers that say they stopped because, "I saw your sign guy."

Today's board shakers, whose livelihood is not regulated by Niceville's sign law, city officials say, are reminiscent of "sandwich board" advertising often associated with the Great Depression of the 1930s. They got their name from wearing front-and-back advertising boards that "sandwiched" the walker, hawking everything from dry goods, to newspapers, to five-cent beer and sandwiches.

Billboards eventually replaced sandwich boards as the traveling public left sidewalks for automobiles. Now, the Internet and digital social media compete with billboards (and newspapers) for shoppers' attention.

Perhaps the pendulum is swinging back.

BLOTTER

From page A-6

308 Lincoln Ave. Valparaiso, were issued criminal summonses by Niceville police Nov. 29, each charged with retail theft.

Loss prevention personnel at Walmart, 1300 E. John Sims Parkway, allegedly observed Odle pushing a buggy containing

a purse through the store with Bussey standing by Odle and acting as a lookout as Odle placed items in the purse. Bussey allegedly picked up the purse and walked out of the store without paying for the concealed merchandise, which included pliers, a seven-piece wrench set, a water filter, a knee brace, a half-inch ratchet, an adjustable wrench and

a rechargeable battery, all of which were valued together at \$179.

On the Eglin Wildlife Management Area, during the period Nov. 18-Dec. 1, a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation officer encountered a vehicle parked adjacent to an area closed for the day due to military mis-

sion activity. Footprints indicated that the individuals had entered the closed area. The FWC officer followed the footprints and located two individuals hunting. Both hunters admitted that they failed to ascertain if the area was open for hunting that day, as required by Eglin rules. Both individuals were cited for hunting in a closed area.

Using Eglin lands for hunting or other recreation purposes requires a permit from Eglin's Jackson Guard Station in Niceville. Each day users are required to contact Eglin to ascertain what areas will be closed to the public due to military mission activity. Persons in violation of rules and regulations on the Eglin Wildlife

Management Area may lose their right to enter Eglin property in the future.

On a separate occasion during the same time period, an FWC officer located another vehicle parked adjacent to a closed area in the Eglin Wildlife Management Area. This individual was also cited for hunting in a closed area.

BOARD

From page A-1

of financial reporting in which the fire district could theoretically be more complete, said Slingerland, it would not be cost effective for an entity as small as the East Niceville district to maintain as detailed records as would be expected of a larger government agency. Thus, he said, the fire district had a solid financial report.

Following the audit report, the fire commissioners discussed some adjustments to their annual budget. Commission Chairman Mike Marcolongo said that he recently received figures from Okaloosa County on property values in the East Niceville Fire District. The total taxable value of property in the district, he said, has dropped from the amount estimated during the summer and fall, when the FY 2012 budget was prepared. As a

result, said Marcolongo, the expected revenue from property taxes dropped from the original estimate of \$637,623 to \$635,262.

To compensate for the reduction in expected revenue, Marcolongo recommended some cuts to the fire district budget for advertising budget, operations, office supplies, trips and miscellaneous expenses. After a brief discussion, fellow board members agreed unani-

mously to Marcolongo's recommendations.

Commissioner Ed Dunbar told fellow commissioners that he has found it difficult to keep track of some aspects of the district's payroll data, such as the amount of accrued leave for firefighters. He said the district's accountants have not provided him the data he needs to keep an accurate tab on the leave figures.

Marcolongo and Fire Chief Michael Wright, who manage

the district's payroll on a daily basis, at first said they did not see a need for Dunbar to receive detailed data on firefighter leave, but agreed to provide the data to him.

Dunbar also questioned the need for the fire commission to employ a professional secretary to keep the minutes of commission meetings and do other secretarial services. "Now that fire commissioners are being paid \$500 a month," he said, "per-

haps we should be doing those things for ourselves."

Marcolongo disagreed, saying that it was decided years ago to hire a professional secretary so that commissioners could concentrate on the actual issues of managing the fire district. Marcolongo's daughter, Sharon Marcolongo, is the district secretary.

The next meeting of the East Niceville Fire Commission is scheduled for 7 p.m., Jan. 9.

TEACHER

From page A-1

teachers at the top step." For different reasons, the Okaloosa County School Board Dec. 2 had rejected the recom-

mendations of a mediator that teachers receive the annual step raises starting Jan. 1. The board contends there is no money in the budget this year for any step increases at all.

The rejections of the media-

tor's findings by both the union and the school board has left both sides far apart.

The school board this year offered teachers no across the board pay hike and no annual step increase, annual raises for each

year experience with the school district which traditionally gave teachers an average 3 percent annual pay hike.

The school board did accept the recommendation that teachers at the top step level not receive a

\$1,000 bonus, a position the board had proposed.

A state mediator was hired by the school district in October to mediate an impasse declared between the school board and OCEA over pay.

Rejection of the teachers step pay compromise by both sides means the school board will have the final say after conducting a quasi-judicial hearing now scheduled for Jan. 4 at 6 p.m. at Niceville High School.

EX-COP

From page A-1

—On Oct. 14, 2009, city officials refused to renew Willingham's business license. The same day Willingham received a letter from Mayor Bruce Arnold placing him on administrative leave and stating the mayor was considering terminating his employment.

—On Oct. 28 Willingham received a termination letter from the mayor saying his termination was "for cause." The letter said Willingham had engaged in "illegal conduct." A copy of the letter was released to newspapers and made public.

In his lawsuit Willingham alleges that:

—He was fired from his police job illegally and without being given due process to tell his side of the story.

—He was deprived of his good reputation by "false, misleading and stigmatizing statements allegedly made by the City Attorney (Doug Wyckoff) and Mayor (Bruce) Arnold at city commission meetings, to local citizens and other political officials and in the local press," and therefore his future employment opportunities in law enforcement were severely diminished.

—He suffered damages from the city's selective enforcement of building codes, including his seafood business receiving the largest fine ever levied by the city.

—He was denied his right to free speech on a matter of public concern, namely the selective enforcement of various code provisions by city officials. The suit claims Willingham's intended speech would have implicated several high-ranking city officials.

Arnold said Monday he was surprised by the lawsuit. Bruce Bowman, an attorney associated with the Florida League of Cities, would represent the city, he said.

The mayor declined to comment on the allegations.

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Sunglasses are available for most prescriptions, and can now fit into many of our wrap around sunglass frames. Our selection includes OAKLEY and MAUI JIM sunglasses. We have a style selection that will fit any lifestyle. Our golfers hit farther and straight down the fairway every time. Our fishermen catch the biggest fish. Our cyclists win the race. Our bikers win the "Best Biker Award" at Thunder Beach. Our soccer team is the best! Let us show you why!

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Thank you Niceville for another wonderful year. We cherish the relationships we have made, and feel blessed to provide better vision in our community. Thank you for choosing to shop locally, which allows us to do the same and help make our local area stronger. Happy Holidays to you and yours, and have a blessed New Year.

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Who's News

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Mary Marcum Dark has joined First Florida Bank as the new mortgage loan originator. Dark, who



Mary Marcum Dark

has been in the mortgage industry for 11 years, specializes in VA and FHA lending. She will be located at First Florida Bank's upcoming Niceville location after its grand opening.



Beacon photo

RBCS performs the Advent story

The Rocky Bayou Christian School Symphonic Band, Concert Choir and Chamber Choir presented "An Evening of Lessons and Carols" Dec. 2 in Niceville (pictured). The school's Beginning Band, Concert Band, Beginning Chorus and Middle School Chorus performed their annual Christmas concert Dec. 10 in Fort Walton Beach. The school's Marching Knights band marched in Christmas parades in Niceville (Dec. 3), Crestview (Dec. 3), and Fort Walton Beach (Dec. 5). The Marching Knights will perform at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans Jan. 3.

Homeroom

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Josh Banaszak, an eighth grade Lewis School tuba player, was selected to the All-State band. Josh will travel to Tampa in January to perform in the honor ensemble.



Josh Banaszak

Mr. Destin Middle School



Tristan Ferrara, voted Mr. Destin Middle School by peers.

Tristan Ferrara, of Bluewater Bay, was chosen to be Mr. Destin Middle School by the student body on Dec. 1.

Tristan has been in many local musical plays, and his

dream is to be an actor one day. He was recently asked to be represented by a casting agent from Orlando.

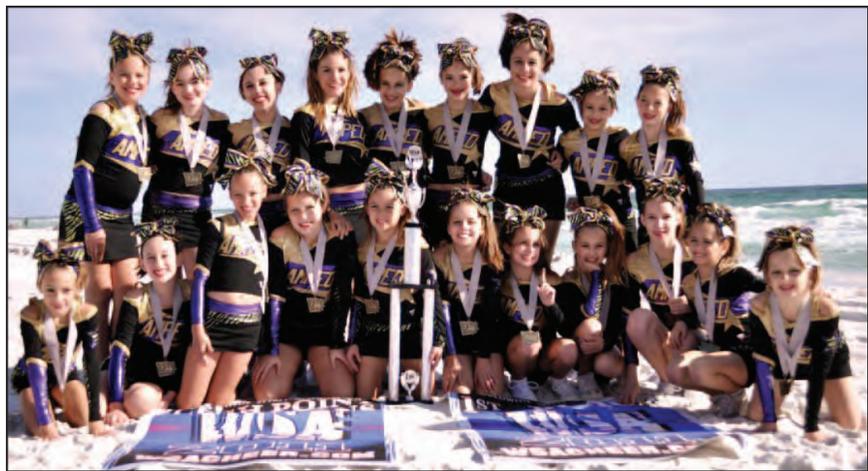
Tristan is the son of Sherri Ferrara and the late Chris Ferrara.

Amped Elite All-Stars excel in competition

Amped Elite All-Stars, based in Bluewater Bay, competed at the Worldwide Spirit Association Christmas at the Beach cheerleading competition at the Fort Walton Beach Convention center on Dec. 3.

Two of their teams, the mini team Knights of Chaos and the junior team Krewe of Ruckus, placed first in their category. Both were also awarded the title of High Point Champions, the highest prize of their team level.

The senior team, Krewe of Excalibur, placed second in their division, and one of their own, Anna Marie Green, placed first in the individual category.



The ladies of Amped Elite All-Stars excelled at the Worldwide Spirit Association Christmas at the Beach competition.

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2011 CALENDAR

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com before 5 p.m. Wednesday.

'Angel Tree' donations

Leading up to Christmas, the Salvation Army has "Angel Trees" located in many retail locations. The community is invited to adopt these "Angels" and fill their Christmas wishes with presents. Many times these "Angels" get lost and the presents don't get returned for distribution to less fortunate children.

Lee Automotive and Cumulus Broadcasting are stepping in to help The Salvation Army with their "Lost Angels" by collecting toys and non-

perishable food items for the Angel Tree Program and food pantry. Donations may be made during regular business hours at Lee Automotive on John Sims Parkway in Niceville. Info: 243-2323.

6:30 p.m. at St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal Church in Fort Walton Beach. Info: 729-6000 or visit mattie kellyartscenter.org.

Schola Cantorum

Northwest Florida State College's Schola Cantorum vocal group will perform a free concert Dec. 14 at

'Wise Mullet' discussion

Bring a sack lunch and take your lunch break at the Heritage Museum, Valparaiso, for History Sandwiched- Please see CALENDAR, page B-2

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New Year's Eve 2011

\$65 per person
\$100 per person with Chef's Wine Pairings

APPETIZERS (choose 1)
Goat Cheese and Spinach Stuffed Artichoke with Spicy Marinara and Parmesan Cheese
Chef's wine selection: Sacred Hill Sauvignon Blanc

Pan Fried Lobster Cake with Sherry Hollandaise and Topped with Jumbo Lump Crab Meat
Chef's wine selection: Nora Albarino Rias Baixas

SALAD
Mixed Greens with Gorgonzola, Candied Pecans and a Champagne Strawberry Vinaigrette
Chef's wine selection: Next Riesling

ENTREES (choose 1)
Seared Rack of Lamb on a Bed of Wild Mushroom Risotto, Served with Sautéed Haricot Vert and Sweet Tomatoes, Finished with a Port Fig Reduction
Chef's wine selection: Belle Glos Meomi Pinot Noir

Braised Veal Osso Bucco with Fingerling Potatoes and Roasted Winter Root Vegetables, Topped with Pan Gravy
Chef's wine selection: Banfi Chianti Classico Riserva

Pan Seared Chilean Sea Bass over a Tropical Wild Rice Amandine, with Grilled Broccolini and Finished with Citrus Compound Butter
Chef's wine selection: Byron Chardonnay

DESSERTS (choose 1)
Hazelnut Cappuccino Crème Brûlée - Chef's wine selection: Charles Lafitte Brut Prestige

Black Forest Molten Lava Cake - Chef's wine selection: Banfi Rosa Regale Sparkling Red Wine

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CALENDAR

From page B-1

In, an informal lunch time education program. The lecture is free and open to the public on Dec. 14, with the Timothy A. Weeks, the author of the children's book, "The Wise Mullet." 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, seabreeze.fm.



Peter White

Ruckel holiday concert

The Ruckel Middle School band will have its winter concert Thursday, Dec. 15, in the Niceville High School 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. 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.

Live outdoor Nativity

Valparaiso First Assembly of God will host a free live outdoor Nativity scene Dec. 16-18, 6:30-8:30 p.m. The path to the Nativity will be lit by luminaries, refreshments will be served. Info: 678-4030.

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, nwfastro.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.

Bayou Gypsies perform

The Emerald Coast Concert Association will present MoJo and The Bayou Gypsies Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium. Prior to the concert, the artists will meet with special ticket holders to hear MoJo explain the music, its origin and history. Tickets are \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door, and are available at Artful Things in Niceville. Info: 362-9356 or visit emeraldcoastconcerts.com.

Info: 362-9356 or visit emeraldcoastconcerts.com.

Children's Christmas party

Luces Navideñas Inc. invites needy families to attend the seventh annual Luces 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 free event will include food, games, DJs, singers, church choirs, clowns, magicians and Santa with his elves. The organization is looking for

donations, volunteers and business sponsors. Info: 305-3686 or 368-3505.

Info: 305-3686 or 368-3505.

'Elf' for teens

The Valparaiso Community Library is kicking off the holiday break with a free Christmas film showing of "Elf" for teenagers on Dec. 19 at noon. Beverages and popcorn will be served. Friends and family are welcome. Info: 729-5406, vcl.valp.org.

Winter Bottom fishing

The Emerald Coast Saltwater Seminar Series, presented by the Ships Chandler & Half Hitch Tackle, will host a free Winter Bottom fishing Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. at Northlight Marina, Niceville. The free buffet dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m., with a cash bar and free raffles. The event is open to the public. Info: 384-7737 or 516-0709.

St. Paul Lutheran service

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Niceville offers its three different Christmas Eve services Saturday, Dec. 24. 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. Info: 678-2521.

'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.

'Memories of Elvis'

Chris MacDonald's "Memories of Elvis Rockin' Birthday Bash" will be performed at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center at Northeast Florida State College in Niceville on Jan. 13. In celebration of what would have been Elvis Presley's 77th birthday, Chris MacDonald performs, complete with costumes and a concert band, a tribute celebrating the life and music of Elvis. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the box office or online. Info: 729-6000 or visit mattiekellyartscenter.org.

Tim Zimmerman concert

Tim Zimmerman and The King's Brass will be appearing in concert at First United Methodist Church, Fort Walton Beach, on Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$15 adults and \$8 students in advance, available online and at Bayou Book Co., Niceville. Info: 863-2436, or visit firststartsconcerts.org.

Please see CALENDAR, page B-4



NHS Opus One sets 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.

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* Green Beret Dec. 16 only.

Students build solar houses

Destin Middle School 5th grade students were assigned to create their own solar house by Mrs. Leah McGill as a solar energy unit project.

The students were instructed to use any type of material or box for the structure, with at least one window and a solar panel (made out of construction paper), and write a one-page description of their solar house after it had been completed.

The unit was meant to teach the students of the extensive history of solar houses in America, and how more than 300,000 homes in the United States use solar energy.

Students were graded on the assigned written description, creativity, effort, organization, set up, solar use and presentation.



Alivia Buzan with the solar house she built for Mrs. McGill's 5th grade class at Destin Middle School.

Engagement

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.



Matthew Webb and Emily Cromer

Cromer-Webb
Jeff and Jill Cromer of Vinings, Ga. and Bob and Liz Webb of Valparaiso, joyfully announce the engagement of their children, Emily Cromer and Matthew Webb.

Emily and Matt will be married on May 12, 2012, at The Pace House in Vinings, Ga. They met while on mission in Miami with Campus Crusade for Christ during the summer of 2010.

Emily will graduate from Kennesaw State University, Ga. in May with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Matt will graduate from the University of Central Florida in May with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

Wedding

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Sargent-Donaldson
Amanda Elizabeth Sargent and Larry Brandon Donaldson were married Nov. 26, 2011, at First United Methodist Church of Fort Walton Beach. The Rev. David McAlister performed the double-ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Thomas and Tammy Sargent of Fort Walton Beach. She is a graduate of Fort Walton Beach High School and Northwest Florida State College and currently works for Healthy Start Coalition of Okaloosa-Walton Counties. The bride, who will go by Mrs. Amanda Sargent Donaldson, had family in attendance from California, Washington and Ohio.

The groom is the son of Larry and Debora Donaldson of Laurel Hill. He is a Niceville High School and Troy University graduate and currently teaches history at Fort Walton Beach High School and coaches football.

Presented in marriage by her father, the bride was attended by her closest friends, Chelsea Farland, as maid of honor and Candi Laslie, as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Jennifer Jeffries, Jessica Hyde, Amanda Simpler and Shelby Bennett.



Amanda Sargent Donaldson and Larry Brandon Donaldson

Josh Whiddon was the best man. Groomsmen were Shawn Hart, Chris Hart, Gordis Morales, John Paul Makrai and Jonathon Bankston.

A reception was held at the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort on Okaloosa Island. Guests took pleasure in hors d'oeuvres and cocktails overlooking the

Gulf at sunset before enjoying an evening of dinner and dancing.

A rehearsal dinner, hosted by the groom's parents, was held at Compass Rose in Valparaiso the night before.

After a weeklong cruise for their honeymoon, the couple will reside in Valparaiso.

Birth Announcement

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Serbe

Alexander David Serbe was born on Nov. 30, 2011 to proud parents David A. Serbe and Monica Minghiar Serbe. Alexander arrived into the world at 7:45 a.m. at Sacred Heart Hospital in Santa Rosa Beach, and weighed 8 pounds 14 ounces. Happy relatives include grandparents David and Fernanda Serbe and uncle Christopher Serbe, all of Bluewater Bay.

Bulletin Board

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com at least 6 days before publication.

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. Info: 729-9481

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.

Christmas bird count

Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will have its Christmas Bird Count Dec. 15-19. Info: 814-323-2001 or 862-6582.

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.

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Lewis students make All State Chorus



Ten Lewis students earned 2012 All State Chorus seats. Front row, from left: Catherine Crump, Ryan Counsman, Tanner Dean, Blake Dean. Back row from left: Alexis Reid, McKenna Dean, Alison Thomas, Donell Wells, Anthony Litscher and Wesley Brooks.

Lewis School had more chorus students make the All State Chorus this year than ever before.

Ten Lewis Chorus students scored high on the written theory test, the sight-singing test and the individually recorded prepared vocal audition to earn seats in the 2012 All State Chorus. They were rated against every other middle school student in the state who were also vying for the All State Chorus seats.

The Lewis choral director, Michelle Tredway, will conduct the students in a performance on Jan. 14 at the Convention Center in downtown Tampa.

Operation Twinkie



Members of the community surprised Army Ranger School trainees with Twinkies to thank them for their service.

Members of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, local FBI, First Baptist Church of Fort Walton Beach, First Baptist Church of Niceville, Chaplain Charlie Shields and others surprised the exhausted troops finishing the Army Ranger School with cases of Twinkies and words of encouragement. "Operation Twinkie" was a small gesture with a big message. Thanks to our mili-

tary for your service. Army Ranger School training is an intense, sleep-deprived two-month course designed to teach soldiers light infantry skills and leadership. Those that finished the program on Friday, December 2, were heading back to camp around 10:30 at night when they were met by a group of folks who wanted to say thanks for their contributions and sacrifices.

Thanksgiving cheers from All American

Cheer Captain Mimi Taylor and Cheer Co-Captain Jaycee Malone, from Ruckel Middle School, recently performed in the Thanksgiving Day Parade at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom.

Mimi and Jaycee both attended a cheer camp at Auburn University this summer and were nominated to be All American cheerleaders, they were selected out of over 200 cheerleaders to become All American. Disney's Magic Kingdom asked Mimi and Jaycee to perform in the parade along with other All Americans from the Southeast.



Mimi Taylor and Jaycee Malone at Disney's Magic Kingdom.

Ruckel Multicultural Club

Ruckel Middle School Multicultural Club has been highly engaged this school year, celebrating a variety of cultures and looking forward to upcoming events. Last month, club members learned about and celebrated Native American Indian heritage. Students created murals celebrating Native American culture and will learn to make pottery at the Valparaiso Heritage Museum.

Currently, members are collecting and packaging Christmas gifts for children ages 7-13, boys and girls, at the Children in Crisis Center in the Children's Neighborhood in Fort Walton Beach.

Anyone wishing to donate a house gift to be shared or an individual gift may leave it at the front office or send it to room 705. Gifts will be delivered Friday, Dec. 16.

Students donate to Children's Advocacy Center

A group of students who were very close to the late Will Teutenberg started a community service group last summer after the tragic death of their friend.

The students wore T-shirts made with the saying "Always present, never absent" and the class number 15 in honor of Will. Will was very proud that he never missed a day of school and he will always be present in their hearts.

The group came together recently for a community project. They collected and donated soccer balls to the Children's Advocacy Center for distribution at the center's Christmas party that will host 300 people this year. The Teutenbergs were strong supporters of soccer. Fred, Will's father, coached the boys' soccer team at Ruckel middle school as well as other league teams in the area.

Word of the project spread and the Ruckel boy's soccer team, Lewis middle school boy's soccer team, FC Dallas and Liza Jackson soccer team donated soccer balls to the center as well. A total of 50 soccer balls were donated by the community.



Friends of the late Will Teutenberg, came together to donate soccer balls to the Children's Advocacy Center.

Fred Teutenberg, 42, his wife Terresa, 36, and their five children, Will, 10, Brendon, 9, Ellie, 6, Peyton, 4, and Emma, 2, were killed July 9 when their twin-

engine plane crashed into a wooded area less than a mile from the airport at Demopolis (Ala.) Municipal Airport.

Will Teutenberg and his fam-

ily will be missed for many years by their peers but their spirit of family and community will continue to live on through community groups and friends.

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CALENDAR

From page B-2

Art exhibits

Duncan Baird and Cetin Oguz, two Cleveland, Miss., artists, will bring a contemporary two-man show to the McLroy Gallery at Mattie Kelly Arts Center Jan. 13-Feb. 17. Their multimedia exhibition will include drawings, paintings, reliefs and free-standing sculpture, with some sound elements.

In the Holzhauser Gallery at Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Elizabeth Austin will display her cassetinas, Italian for "little boxes." Her exhibition of small, precious works is made possible through Katherine T. Carter and Associates.
Info: 729-5382.

Ballet 5k/10k benefit

The Northwest Florida Ballet will host its second annual New Year's Resolution Run and Walk at the Fort Walton Beach Landing on Jan. 14. The 5k and 10k will take place at 9 a.m. and the Kiddie Dash will follow immediately after. Registration closes on Jan. 13 on active.com and will also be held the day of the event, 8-8:45 a.m. Fees at the event will be \$25 for adults, \$15 for children. 1k Kiddie Dash is \$5 for children under 8. All proceeds benefit the Northwest Florida Ballet.
Info: 664-7787, nfballet.org.

'Truth of Leonard Destin'

Bring a sack lunch and take your lunch break at the Heritage Museum for History Sandwiched-In, an informal lunch time education program. The title of the lecture is "The Real Truth of Leonard Destin During the Civil War," by Tony Menillo, author of "Salty Memories." The lecture is free and open to the public on Jan. 18. Space is limited. Call 678-2615 to reserve a seat. For information visit heritage-museum.org.

Holiday boat parade winners

The third annual Boggy Bayou Holiday Boat parade, hosted by North Light Yacht Club, lit up the bayou Saturday evening thanks to the fourteen participating boats covered in Christmas lights and decorations.

The parade started at Lions Park off Bayshore Drive in Niceville and circled counter-clockwise around Boggy Bayou, traveling past restaurants, homes, businesses, docks and parks. The boats were escorted by the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The brightly lit vessels were separated into three categories for judging: 36-foot and over, 35-foot and under, and sailboat. Judges were Judge

Michael Flowers, Major General Kenneth Merchant, Dr. Alexis Tibbetts, Mr. Stephen Kent and Ms. Tricia Brunson.

- The winners are:
- Best Overall, C Lady
 - First Place 36' and over, Lynn Marie.
 - First Place 35' and under, My Girl Jen.
 - First Place Sailboat, Governor Stone.
- Participants:
- Private 35' and under
 - Ebb Tide
 - Fat Bottom Girl
 - My Blue Heaven
 - My Girl Jen
 - Neptune
 - Big Red
 - Private 36' and over
 - Aquarius
 - C Lady
 - Hallie
 - Jim-n-I
 - Lynn Marie
 - Sanity (check)
 - Sailboat
 - Governor Stone

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Correction

In the Dec. 7 Beacon, the caption under the All-County Lewis band picture on page B-4 misspelled the names of three students. Andrew Colón, Tacy Colón and Madeline Colón were among other students selected to the All-County band.

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Beacon photo by Jeff Gammons

Knights beat Pensacola

Rocky Bayou Christian School junior Peyton Preston battles a Pensacola Christian player for the ball during Friday's girls basketball game. The Knights won the game, 44-31.



Exotic harvest

Nicholas Baldock of Niceville bagged a sambar deer, an exotic animal similar to an elk, at the St. Vincent Island Wildlife Preserve Dec. 2. The deer, which was introduced to the island in 1908, was about 3 or 4 years old. The annual sambar hunt is a primitive annual hunt designed to thin the herd so it can't disrupt the native whitetail deer population. Hunters must be boated to the island, which is south of Port St. Joe, and camp.

Sports schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 14

NHS-Navarre, girls soccer, 5/7

Thursday, Dec. 15

NHS-Pace, boys soccer, 5/7

NHS-Choctaw, girls soccer, 5/7

Ruckel@Baker, boys basketball, 5/6:30

Destin-Meigs, boys basketball, 5/6:30

Lewis-Davidson, boys basketball, 5-6:30

Destin-St. Mary, boys soccer, 6:15/5

Lewis-Meigs, boys soccer,

6:15/5

Ruckel@Davidson, boys soccer, 6:15/5

RBCS-FWB, girls soccer, 4:30

Friday, Dec. 16

RBCS@Central, girls boys basketball, 3:15/5:30

Friday-Saturday, Dec. 16-17

NHS@Beast of the East duals, wrestling, FWB

NHS-Choctaw, girls, 5/6:30

NHS-Choctaw, boys basketball, 7:30

Saturday, Dec. 17

RBCS@Altha, boys basketball, 6:30

Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 19-21

NHS@Choctaw, boys basketball, TBD

NHS@Cats vs. Cancer

Tourney, Paxton, girls boys basketball

Tuesday, Dec. 20

NHS@Pace, JV wrestling

Tuesday-Thursday, Dec. 20-22

NHS@High School Invitational, Tampa, boys soccer



Rocky falls short

Rocky Bayou Christian School's Graham Pierce (23), Kyle Wilson (24), Josh Bryant (30) and Cooper Eaves (10) put pressure on the Central offense during the Dec. 6 basketball game between the schools. Central won, 59-37.

Photo by Scott Schaeffler

Sports Briefs

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

Hole in one

De Fischer of Valparaiso scored a hole-in-one Nov. 24 at the Foxwood Country Club, Crestview, hole 13, 112 yards, using an 8 iron. It was witnessed by J.J. Hart, Don Mazerat and Jonathan Kramer.

All-star football game

The Pensacola Sports Association (PSA) announced the rosters for the eighth annual Subway High School All-Star Football Game Friday, Dec. 16, at Woodham Middle School Stadium.

Four players from Niceville High School and two from Rocky Bayou Christian School were named to participate. They are: defensive lineman Joey Collins; linebackers Sebastian Shutte and Trey Barnes and defensive back Kevin Chasteen, all of Niceville High School, and outside linebacker Caleb McCullough and defensive lineman Josh Stubblefield, both of Rocky Bayou.

The game will pit players from this area against those from the Pensacola area.

Tickets are \$7, or \$5 with a canned good to be donated to

charity.

Academy Sports + Outdoors will hold a contest for two fans to win as much as \$200 in Academy gift cards.

For more information, call Jason Libbert at PSA at 434-2800 (jlibbert@pensacolaspports.com), or visit subwaypsaallstars.com.

Saltwater Seminar

The Emerald Coast Saltwater Seminar Series presented by Half Hitch Tackle and The Ships

Chandler will cover the wide variety of tricks and techniques you can use to catch species such as amberjack, mingo and triggerfish. The seminar is Wednesday, Dec. 21, beginning at 6 p.m. at Northlight Marina, Niceville.

Free food will be served at 5:30 and free raffles will be held after the seminar. There is no need to RSVP.

For more information, call host Sonny Granger at 384-7737 or Joe Z at 516-0709.

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