



The Bay Beacon

12 Pages, 1 Section, 3 Inserts

Wednesday, December 28, 2011

50¢

Proposed sewage contract prompts questions

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

The Niceville, Valparaiso, Okaloosa County Regional (NVOC) Sewer Board seemed poised earlier this month to go ahead with advertising for bids on a \$6.6 million treatment plant upgrade and sprayfield conversion project.

Now the bidding process is on hold after officials raised concerns that some of the specifications were written to favor proprietary equipment specifications which a county engineer described in a public document as "a disguised form of 'sole-sourcing.'"

At a meeting earlier this month, the NVOC board unanimously gave the go-ahead to advertise the construction project for bid.

The planned upgrade included a new Integrated Fixed-Film Activated Sludge (IFAS) technology that is designed to remove more nutrients from the sewage effluent than the existing plant.

It would also build a Rapid Infiltration Basin System (RIBS) system to replace and shrink the size of leased sprayfield land used to dispose of the excess sewage effluent.

Unchanged by the upgrade of the 3.35-million-gallon per day (mgd) regional sewage-treatment plant in Niceville would be the permitted use of up to 2 mgd of the effluent as "reuse" water clean enough to use for irrigation by private residents, golf courses and public areas.

The NVOC is being pressured by military and environmental agencies to proceed with the disposal upgrades as soon as possible.

The Florida Department
Please see SEWER, page A-3

Bypass to revamp a Niceville junction

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Prepare to stop or yield to toll road motorists.

Motorists on College Boulevard and Forest Road in the residential Rocky Bayou area of Niceville will see changes in two years as the Mid-Bay Bridge connector, an 11-mile, controlled-access toll

road, is completed.

When the final segment of the bridge connector road opens in January 2014, it will include five overpass interchanges and a grade-level intersection just north of the junction of College and Forest.

Overall, the connector road is expected to ease traffic flow in the Niceville area. However, it may have the opposite

effect at the junction of Forest and College.

Traffic to and from the toll road will take precedence over local traffic at the College-Forest intersection. Currently, traffic going between College and Forest, which are joined by a 90-degree curve, flows freely.

Motorists exiting the connector road

at College and Forest will have the right of way over local traffic as they exit south onto Forest or turn right to head west on College.

Eastbound traffic on College Boulevard—which now merely slows for the sharp curve onto Forest—will have

Please see BYPASS, page A-2

Fall's fading light



Autumn arrives late in the Florida Panhandle, and its hues persist even after the official start of winter. As 2011 wanes, bright fall leaves are reflected in a pond along 27th Street, Niceville.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

New Year heralds utilities price changes

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Residential customers will soon see reductions in their monthly bills for natural gas from Okaloosa Gas, and electricity from Gulf Power—even though electric rates may rise after March.

Okaloosa Gas announced Dec. 19 that natural gas rates will be going down effective Jan. 1.

The Valparaiso-based gas utility said the cost-of-gas portion of customer's bills will be decreasing 5.2 percent. Customers currently pay \$0.4750 per therm for the cost of gas, while the new, lower rate will be \$0.4500. U.S. natural-gas prices have plummeted since a peak in 2008.

The delivery rate for residential use (\$0.4898 per therm) and customer charge (\$10.80) remain unchanged, as will the monthly customer charge. So the overall reduction in customer bills will be a smaller percentage than 5.2.

"The typical residential customer can expect an average monthly savings of 88 cents," said Gary Long, vice president of marketing for Okaloosa Gas. He said the savings was based on the average use of 35 therms a month.

"The savings may be greater than that in winter and lower than that in summer—depending upon the number and type of appliances a customer has in the home," Long said.

Residential customers who want to review what the changes will mean to their individual usage can log on to:

www.okaloosagas.com and visit the free Okaloosa Gas Rate Calculator. The Rate Calculator shows a comparison between costs before and after a rate

Please see UTILITIES, page A-4

Golfers want to take to the road in carts

County panel eyes request by Rocky Bayou residents

By Del Lessard
and Ken Books
Beacon Staff Writers

Bob Weideman, president of the Rocky Bayou Country Club, said he has asked the Okaloosa County Commission to allow residents living around the club's golf course to drive golf carts on county roads.

The commission is scheduled to hold a public hearing Jan. 17 on a proposed ordinance that would allow golf carts to use county-maintained roads within the Rocky Bayou Estates subdivision, under certain conditions.

Weideman said he acted after a member was warned by a sheriff's deputy for driving her cart on Ruckel Drive several months ago.

Many residents have carts at home and use them to get to and from the subdivision's 18-hole golf course—and of course on the course itself.

Under the proposed rule, golf carts would be allowed on roads within the subdivision under the following conditions:

—A golf cart is defined as a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour.

—A golf cart may be operated on county maintained roads only between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

—If the golf cart is to be operated between the hours of sunset and sunrise it must be equipped with headlights, brake lights, turn signals and a windshield.

—Golf carts must be equipped with efficient brakes, reliable steering apparatus, safe tires, a rearview mirror, and red reflector warning devices both front and rear.

—Golf carts may not be oper-

ated by persons under the age of 16.

—Golf carts may not be operated on any sidewalks within the sub-division.

—Golf carts may cross sidewalks at BCC-approved locations with appropriate warning signage.

—Golf cart operators must obey all traffic regulations applicable to motor vehicles.

Rocky Bayou Estates is described generally as a residential development built around the Rocky Bayou golf course and bounded on the north by College Boulevard, to the east by Forest Road, and to the west and south by Ruckel Drive and those residential streets directly off Ruckel Drive.

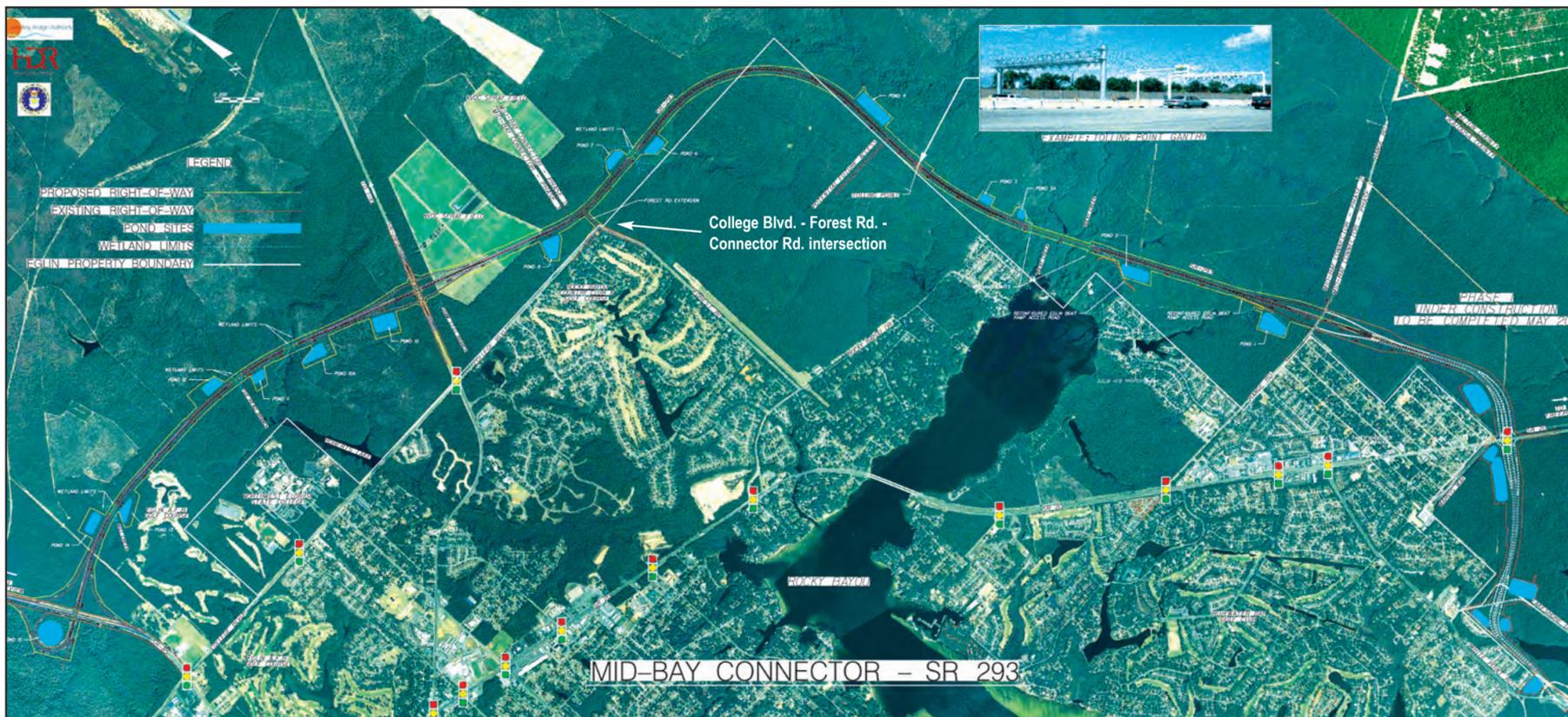
Other areas which are also known as Rocky Bayou apparently would not be included in the proposed ordinance.

Golf carts are frequently seen
Please see GOLFERS, page A-4



Bob Weideman, president of the Rocky Bayou Country Club, backs passage of a proposed county ordinance that would allow local residents to drive their golf carts on county roads surrounding the club's golf course.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard



Mid-Bay Bridge Authority

Above, aerial photo shows route of Mid-Bay Bridge connector road under construction, including its planned intersection at College Boulevard and Forest Road. Below right, the intersection today looking north, with connector construction visible. Below right, graphic depicts traffic flow upon completion of the connector road.

BYPASS

From page A-1

to halt for a planned stop sign before continuing south on Forest or turning left to the connector road.

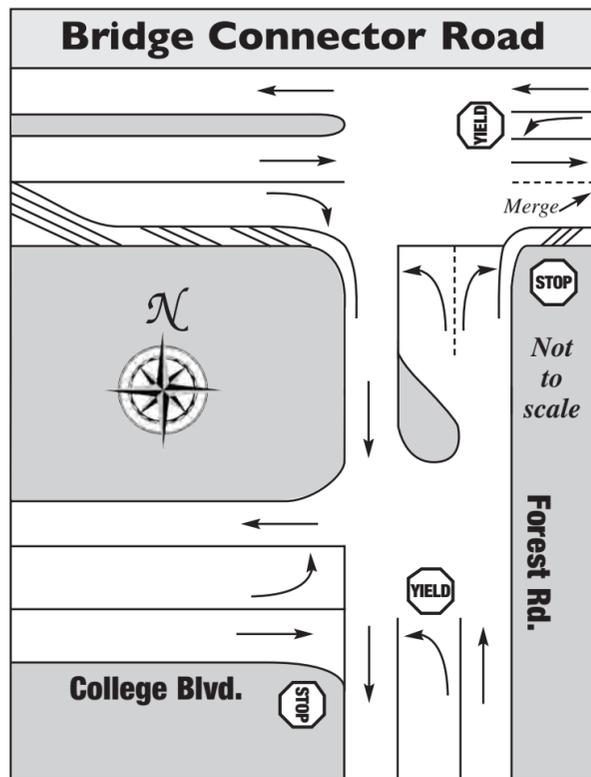
Similarly, northbound traffic on Forest Road will have to yield to motorists coming off the toll road before turning left and continuing west onto

College. Forest Road traffic to the connector road won't have to stop or yield until it reaches a stop sign at the entry to the two-lane connector road, about 100 yards north.

The connector road's five other intersections (including the three already open at Lakeshore Drive, State Road 20 and Range Road) will all include overpasses with on ramps and off ramps in both



Beacon photo



Beacon graphic

directions.

Mid-Bay Bridge Authority Executive Director Jim Vest said changes to the existing College-Forest intersection won't happen until near the completion date of phases 2 and 3 of the bridge connector road in two years. At that time the expressway will stretch from State Road 85 north of Niceville's Mullet Festival site to the Mid-Bay Bridge that links Niceville and Destin. It is already open between Range Road and the bridge toll plaza.

College Boulevard, Forest Road and Rocky Bayou Drive are outlets for the many residential developments in the Rocky

Bayou area of northeast Niceville. Together, the three roads also serve as a de facto bypass around often-congested John Sims Parkway in Niceville.

Traffic originating north of Niceville on state roads 85 and 285 headed to Destin, for example, can bypass five to seven stoplights by using the College-Forest bypass and avoiding John Sims.

About 7,000 vehicles a day use College Boulevard east of State Road 285, according to the Florida Department of Transportation.

Traffic on the College-Forest-Rocky Bayou route is expected to grow in the future as

the last large chunk of undeveloped land in Niceville is subdivided—an 1,100-acre residential and commercial tract east of Forest Road. The land will be developed by Ruckel Properties.

Vest said that no highway flyovers at the Forest-College intersection were included in connector plans because traffic there is not expected to ever be heavy. Such structures, which would be required for unimpeded traffic flow, would also have been costly and have required more land.

Eventually, another grade-level T-intersection with the connector road is planned to be built on the east boundary of the 1,100-acre Ruckel development, Vest said. However, unlike the Forest Road intersection, there are provisions that would allow the Ruckel intersection to be upgraded to a flyover interchange as growth and traffic may dictate in the future, he said.

The road's sole toll plaza (\$1 for Sunpass, \$1.50 for others) will be between the new College-Forest access road and the Range Road exit near Bluewater Bay.

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Valparaiso OKs more sidewalks

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

At a meeting lasting about 10 minutes, the Valparaiso City Commission last week approved a new sidewalk extension on Ferndell Avenue. The new sidewalk, part of a larger project to add sidewalks near Lewis School, will run along Ferndell Avenue between Georgia and Grandview avenues.

The Dec. 20 decision was made by a unanimous vote of Mayor Bruce Arnold and the two commissioners present, Neal Shermer and T.G. Miller, barely a quorum. Two other commissioners were absent.

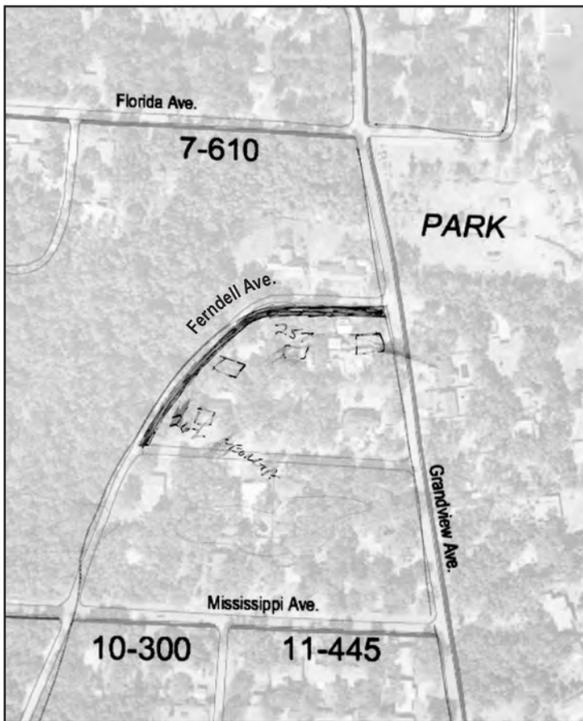
Prior to the vote, the commission heard from City Administrator Carl Scott, who said he had managed to contact three of the four residents along Ferndell Avenue where the new sidewalk will be built.

Of those three, said Scott, all approved the project. One of them asked that when building it, the city take care that contractors do not leave materials or equipment unattended, since local children might attempt to play on or with such items, and thus risk injury, according to Scott.

A state grant is paying for a four-month construction project that is adding nearly three miles of sidewalks on neighborhood streets in the vicinity of Lewis School. The \$372,000 construction project got underway in September and is expected to be completed in January.

Earlier this year, the city canceled some other planned sidewalks, after residents along the planned routes objected.

No other business was discussed during the Dec. 20 meeting.



City map shows segment of Ferndell Avenue, Valparaiso, slated to get sidewalks in a larger state-funded project to add three miles of sidewalks in areas around Lewis School.

SEWER

From page A-1

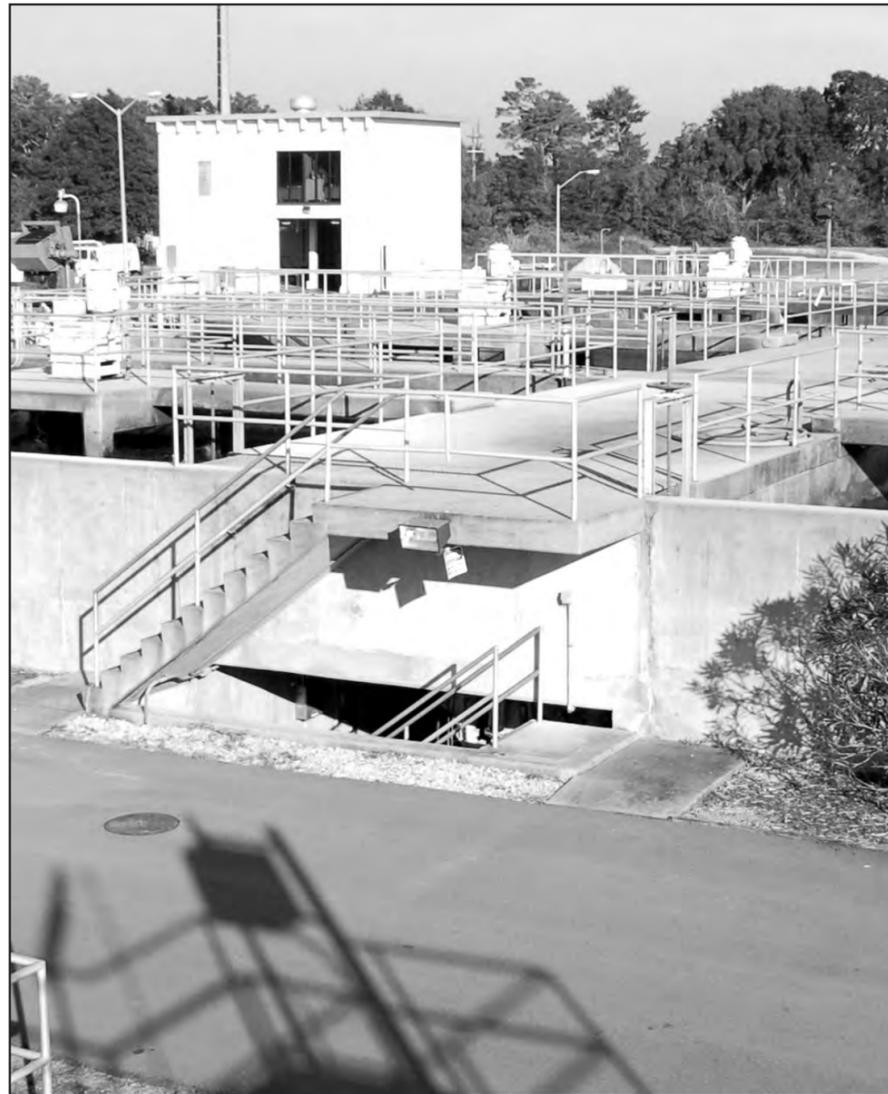
of Environmental Protection has issued a consent order against the NVOC board for exceeding groundwater pollution figures, including nitrates, near the utility's existing sprayfields located on leased Eglin land just north of Niceville and east of Highway 285. The IFAS technology selected for the treatment plant upgrade is supposed to remove much more of the nutrients, including nitrates from its effluent, thus eliminating groundwater pollution potential.

Eglin Air Force Base wants to start charging the NVOC market rates for its effluent sprayfield on Air Force land just north of Niceville. The sewer board currently pays nothing for 250 acres of sprayfield leased from Eglin. The RIBS design would reduce the amount of Eglin land to be leased to about 80 acres, at which point the Air Force would start charging hefty rental fees that would ultimately be borne by sewerage customers in Niceville, Valparaiso and Bluewater Bay.

The NVOC has been working for over a year to come up with specifications for the proposed upgrade to its wastewater treatment plant. A technical subcommittee of the board had visited several treatment plants before recommending the IFAS technology.

Over the past several months Jeff Littrell, the county's water and sewer department chief and a member of the six-member NVOC board, had expressed concerns about whether the specifications being developed by the regional authority's engineer, Polyengineering, would allow for a truly competitive bidding process. Littrell was assured that the specifications—completed in late November—would allow such competition.

At their Dec. 7 meeting the board gave the tentative go-ahead to advertise for bids. The only caveat was a request from Valparaiso's representative, Mayor Bruce Arnold, asking



Proposed bid specifications for a \$6.6-million upgrade to the regional sewage-treatment plant have been challenged by county officials. Picture is the plant on Highway 85 North, Niceville.

that the engineer explain the bidding strategy and how the board would hold the contractor responsible for ensuring the IFAS technology met all the requirements, before advertising.

Littrell subsequently asked for a special meeting of the sewer board after he received a Dec. 15 technical analysis of the proposed specifications from Constantine Engineering, an engineering firm supporting the

county. In its technical memorandum Constantine Engineering outlined portions of the specifications that would limit a bidder to using equipment parts like pumps, mixers and blowers that are proprietary to certain manufacturers. Constantine Engineering described such examples as "a disguised form of 'sole-sourcing.'"

The report also addressed the performance warranty portion

of the specifications and stated that "this warranty is disproportionately preferential to the manufacturer and not the owner." Owner means the NVOC sewer board.

The Dec. 20 special meeting was later canceled at Littrell's request when not all six board members were available. Instead, the issues will be discussed at the sewer board's next monthly meeting, Jan. 4, in Niceville.



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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —Mike Griffith

Location:
Wal-Mart

What changes do you hope to see in the coming year?



"A better job market and an improving economy."

Skip Becker, 55, Fort Walton Beach, sales associate



"A new President."

Jonathan Williams, 23, Niceville, public works



"Less taxes, higher wages, lower gas prices. A living wage would be nice. We've got a lot of people out there working for a whole lot less."

Angie Fowler, 58, Mossy Head, school bus driver



"I'd like to see the House of Representatives get their act together. They cause so many problems because they can't agree on things. The jobs are bad, but they're making it worse."

Lorraine Slauson, 73, Niceville, retired



"A new President, and a whole new Congress. The whole bunch needs to be changed out."

Ralph Feese, 65, Niceville, Wal-Mart greeter



"I'd like people to have a better attitude about everything in general."

Sharon Gentile, 50, Niceville, director of rehabilitation services

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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UTILITIES

From page A-1 change.

Gulf Power also says its customers will see cheaper electricity bills Jan. 1, even as the utility is asking the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) for a 21-percent increase in its base rate.

Gulf Power said the electricity bill for an average home buying 1,000 kilowatt-hours is \$127.16. Starting Jan. 1, 2012, the same amount of electricity will cost \$125.80, a decrease of \$1.36, the company said. The decrease reflects the lower cost of fuels—

chiefly coal and natural gas—used to generate electricity.

"The FPSC adjusts our prices each year based on the cost of the fuel used to make electricity, power bought from other utilities and providers, environmental compliance expenses and the cost of energy efficiency programs for customers," said Jeff Rogers, Gulf Power Corporate Communications supervisor.

Gulf Power monitors its fuel mix to use the most cost-effective generation available at any time during the day, the company said in a statement. That has helped the utility take advantage of some lower fuel prices for coal and nat-

ural gas—the two major fuels Gulf Power uses to make electricity, the company said.

Meanwhile, Gulf Power petitioned the PSC during the summer for a permanent increase to its base rate. If the permanent rate hike is approved, customers' rates would go up by \$12.15 for every 1,000 kilowatt hours. The PSC is expected to announce its decision on the requested increase to the base rate in March.

In August the PSC approved an interim rate hike that increased the utility's base rate by \$4.49 a month for every 1,000 kilowatt-hours used. The interim increase will remain in effect until the

PSC votes to approve or deny the permanent rate hike.

The PSC is expected to rule on the permanent rate increase March 12.

Spokesmen for another public utility serving the area, Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative (Chelco), could not be reached for comment.

Industry figures provided by Florida Power & Light showed the typical residential 1,000-kwh power bill for Chelco at \$125.51 a month last summer, compared with \$122.67 for Gulf Power, and with \$125.51 as the average among Florida's 55 electric utilities.

GOLFERS

From page A-1

alongside the public streets in Bluewater Bay, which operates a 36-hole golf course. According to Bluewater Bay Resort General Manager Tom Hanks, the development has an agreement with the county to allow the vehicles on the road.

"Bluewater was built as a golfing community," Hanks said. "The developers made an agreement with the county."

Hanks said golf carts may use special lanes alongside certain roads. He said the lanes were con-

structed double the width generally seen for bicycle paths so they could accommodate golf carts as well as bikes and pedestrians.

Joe Jellison, a member of the Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) that governs certain public spending in Bluewater Bay, said there have been no problems with golf carts using the special lanes.

"We're patrolled regularly by the sheriff," he said, "and there have been no problems."

According to Florida statutes, golf carts may be used on public roadways if any of the following applies:

—The road has been previously designated for their use;

—It is a designated crossing path for golf carts;

—It is the only available public road to a government location;

—Crossing the roadway is required within a single mobile home park;

—You are within a private retirement community that permits golf carts.

Violations are treated as non-criminal traffic violations.

According to Sgt. Matt Harrison of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, "There are certain exceptions. We have a couple of

different statutes. For the most part, unless it is authorized within a homeowner's covenant, golf carts are not authorized on a roadway except to cross a thoroughfare."

The public hearing is scheduled for a commission meeting Jan. 17, at 6 p.m., in the Emerald Coast Convention Center, Okaloosa Island.

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

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

Dear Bay Beacon,

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Joyce Anderson

Joyce Anderson
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U.S. combat role in Iraq ends



Air Force photo

Airmen assigned to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group prepare to take off on a C-17 Globemaster III Dec. 18 at Ali Air Base, Iraq. They were the last U.S. service members to leave Iraq. Since the U.S.-led invasion of 2003 that toppled dictator Saddam Hussein, more than 1 million uniformed Americans have served in that country.



Air Force photo

A 33rd Fighter Wing F-15 from Eglin Air Force Base is refueled in midair over Iraq in 2003. The 33rd racked up 1,841 flight hours and 272 sorties during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Beacon photo

A member of the 728th Air Control Squadron of Eglin's 33rd Fighter Wing sets wheel chocks on a truck prior to deployment in Iraq in 2003. The 728th deployed five times to Iraq after the U.S.-led invasion that year.

Senior Airman Michelle Wamsley, of Eglin's 96th Logistics Readiness Squadron, stands by her vehicle during her deployment in 2010. When they deployed, Eglin vehicle operators would shift gears from duty as bus drivers and dispatchers to "combat truckers" hauling critical cargo in convoys to and from Iraq.

Courtesy photo



Airman Anthony Puma arranges memories of his fallen comrade during his wing's memorial ceremony for Senior Airman James Hansen Oct. 1 at the East Gate Chapel. The 46th Test Wing, Eglin senior leaders and the base community gathered together to commemorate the life of the airfield management operations airman who died Sept. 15, 2010, from injuries received during a controlled detonation at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Air Force photo

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- 2010/11 CADILLAC SRX - 2 TO CHOOSE FROM
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First Day Hike set for Jan. 1 at Rocky Bayou State Park

DAY TRIPPER

If you're looking for something to do on New Year's weekend, why not grab some outdoor adventures at the Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park in Niceville?

This year, the park will participate in the First Day Hike, coordinated by America's State Parks, an organization that promote activities in state parks in all 50 states. The guided hike will cover one and possibly two park trails. Each trail is about a mile long.

The hikers will meet at 10 a.m. at the trailhead kiosk. All ages can participate. Adult supervision is required for those under 18. There are no other restrictions; pets are allowed. The park management recommends that hikers bring a water bottle and wear closed toe shoes.

The park entrance fee will be waived for all participants.

The park is a 357-acre reservation that offers camping, fishing, hiking on nature trails and a boat ramp right on the Choctawhatchee Bay that provides both saltwater and freshwater fishing.

"We have some kayaking and canoeing available for rent, a big picnic area and about three miles of nature trail," said Dan Laird, park manager. "It's all very accessible for families to use. We also have boat ramps for launching boats of up to 30 feet."

Laird said the park has a playground for kids and two pavilions for public use unless they're rent-

ed for private functions, as well as a 42-site campground for anyone who wants to spend the night.

The park also has a concrete bomb, believed to be one that Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle dropped during practice for his raid on Japan in a 1942 raid.

All the campsites are well-shaded with amenities, including water, electricity hook-ups, grills and picnic tables. The campsites are semi-private, and most overlook the bay. Shaded by trees, the sites have a deep wilderness feel where campers can see such wildlife as deer, osprey and the occasional dolphin or bald eagle.

Please see **FIRST**, page A-7



The sign for the Sand Pine Nature Trail, above, shows the route and describes the creatures the hiker may encounter. Below, A long, paved boat ramp makes it easy for visitors to get into the water.



Trip Tips

Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park

Getting there: From Niceville, go east on Highway 20 across the Meigs Bridge, where you'll see signs for the park on the left.

Hours: Park hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.

Prices: Entrance fees include \$5 per vehicle with a limit 2-8 people per vehicle; \$4 for single occupant vehicle; \$2 for pedestrians and bicyclists. Annual Individual Entrance Passes (\$127.20) provide free entrance to any Florida state park. Camping fees are \$16 per night, plus tax. Includes water and electricity. Other fees include \$5 boat ramp fee and a \$75 per day, plus tax, for a pavilion rental.

Accessibility: Many areas are handicapped accessible, but trails and beaches could present a problem. Pets are permitted in designated areas only. They must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and be well behaved at all times.

Restrooms: There are a number of restrooms available in both day use and campground areas.

Food: Some vending machines are on site, providing limited choices. A small store at the park's entrance carries some camp supplies.

Contact: 833-9144 or visit floridastateparks.org/rockybayou/ for more information. To make a camping reservation, contact Reserve America at (800) 326-3251 or visit ReserveAmerica.com.

Happy New Year!

New Year's Eve Dinner

Four Course Meal @ Live Music

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APPETIZER (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 Biaxis

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

ENTRÉE (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 Brocolini, Finished with Citrus Compound Butter | Chef's wine selection: Byron Chardonnay

DESSERT (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

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

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Dawn, Karen, Amber, Carolann, Ashley, Joanne, Joan, Bonnie, Cheri, Lynn, Shelly & Sandra.
Missing: Sandi, Stephanie, Gisela

Happy New Year!

To our neighbors, associates, and friends, go our thanks and best wishes at the New Year. We wouldn't be where we are without people like you, and we're grateful for your loyal support. We wish all of you a safe and happy New Year's Eve celebration and we look forward to seeing you soon in 2012!

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FIRST

From page A-6

With a firepit included, all that is needed is a stick roasting marshmallows to complete the experience. All sites can accommodate both RVs and tents. There is a heated and air-conditioned shower facility as well as laundry and vending machines.

A large parking area allows boaters enough room for their vehicles and boat trailers to park. Overnight docking is not permitted and all boaters must pay entrance fees to access the park.

The water that the boat ramp serves is brackish—a mixture of both fresh and salt water—which plays host to a vast number of sea creatures, including dolphins, alligators and otters. Common fish

are mullet, trout and flounder. Fishing licenses are required for both salt and freshwater fishing.

For \$15, visitors can rent a single kayak for up to two hours. A canoe can be rented for \$20 for up to two hours. All-day use—for more than four hours—of kayaks costs \$40 while a canoe is \$55. Anyone over 18 with a valid ID can rent either watercraft. Life jackets are provided and are required the entire time on the water.

The use of the crafts can enhance visitors' perspective of the area. The surrounding waters are a natural habitat to many of nature's most beautiful and unique wildlife. The blue heron can often be seen standing on the shores of the water, or one could watch as a gull pulls its prey out of the bayou.

Amanda Baldwin, 19, and

William Robinson, 20, of Massachusetts, recently visited the park.

"There are lots of things to do here," Baldwin said. "We went hiking yesterday and today we're taking out a kayak."

"I really like the white sand," Robinson said. "We like the outdoors and doing things outside. This place is perfect for both."

The Waltrip family visited the area from Perdido Key and spent the day at the park enjoying the outdoors.

"This is our first time here," Beth Waltrip said. "We spent some of the afternoon down by the water looking for bamboo and now we're going on a nature walk."

"We want to go swimming next!" Andrew, 8, said. "I really like the bay."



With about three miles of nature trails, Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park can take you past longleaf pine, pitcher plants and much of the unique flora of Florida.

Happy New Year!

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Mattie Kelly Arts Center at NWF State College, Niceville
Info: ECCA at 362-9356 or visit emeraldcoastconcerts.com

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FEB. 18, 2012
at 7:30 P.M.

\$22/person in advance or \$25 at the door
Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium
Info: ECCA at 362-9356 or visit emeraldcoastconcerts.com

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~ Price* includes 3 course dinner: Appetizer, Salad and Entrée ~
~ Reservations available from 4pm - 11pm. Call 678-2805 ~

Appetizer Choice

Oysters Rockefeller – baked with a rich bacon Florentine topping
Baked Raspberry Almond Brie – in a puff pastry
Lobster and Shrimp Bisque – with a hint of sherry
Sesame Seared Yellow Fin Tuna – cucumber wasabi aioli

Salad Choice

Spring Mix – honey roasted nuts, mandarin oranges, mango vinaigrette
Classic Caesar Salad – garlic croutons

Entrée Choice

Groupers – Pan sautéed, topped with blue crabmeat and garlic beurre blanc sauce with saffron rice and sautéed vegetables ...\$29*
Twin Filet mignon – One topped with gorgonzola, the other shiitake mushroom demi glace. Garlic mashed potatoes and sautéed vegetables\$30*
Chicken Piccata – Sun dried tomatoes, artichoke hearts, and capers with saffron rice and sautéed vegetables\$24*
Lobster Tail and Stuffed Shrimp – ¼ lb Maine lobster tail and seafood stuffed shrimp. Saffron rice and sautéed vegetables...\$35*
Filet and Grilled Lobster – 4 oz filet mignon with 4 oz Maine Lobster tail, garlic mashed potatoes and sautéed vegetables ...\$39*
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Advertising Sales

The Beacon Newspapers (The Bay Beacon, The Eglin Flyer, The Hurlburt Patriot and The Green Beret) have an opening for a career-minded, full-time person to sell newspaper advertising. Calling on new customers and collecting also required. Candidates should be upbeat, energetic, organized, self-starting and detail-oriented. Salary plus commission. Benefits include IRA plan and paid vacation. Candidates must be available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. We will train the right person. Apply in person at the Beacon, 1181 John Sims Parkway (Parkway East Shopping Center), Niceville.

Help Wanted

Editorial Assistant Beacon Newspapers
Beacon Newspapers (The Bay Beacon, The Eglin Flyer, The Hurlburt Patriot, and The Green Beret) seeks an editorial assistant who will work in the office to help compile, write, and edit news items, assist the editor in preparing the newspapers for publication, and perform other clerical and administrative duties under the direction of the editor. Applicants must be familiar with desktop computers, able to write quickly and accurately, and possess proofreading and editing skills. Candidates must be detail-oriented, and able to adapt to a fast-paced editorial environment. Nonsmoking office. Competitive pay, commensurate with experience and aptitude. Benefits include paid vacation and holidays, and IRA plan. Apply at The Bay Beacon, 1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, FL 32578.

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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

Robert Jason Barber, a cook, 32, of 1303 S. Cedar Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies, subsequent to a traffic stop for driving 62 mph in a 45 mph zone, Dec. 17, on a charge of driving while license revoked, habitual offender.

Jason Arthur Denny, a restaurant worker, 36, of 500 Kelly Road, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 15 on a violation of probation charge on the original charge of driving while license suspended or revoked, habitual offender.

Penny Lynn Wahab, unemployed, 48, of 4323 Sunset Beach Blvd., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 17 on a charge of battery, domestic violence.

Larry James Ford, unemployed, 62, of 504 Miller Lane, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 16 on a misdemeanor worthless check charge.

Aaron Reid Huff, unemployed, 30, of 1703 26th St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 13 on a misdemeanor violation of probation charge.

John Joseph James III, 36, of 367 Washington Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 13 on charges of worthless checks, six counts, and on violation of probation charges on the original charges of worker's comp fraud and obtaining controlled substance by fraud.

Aneatria Diane Hinojosa, a restaurant server, 36, of 500 Kelly Mill Road, Apt. 116, Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 12 on a charge of battery, domestic violence.

Johnny Lee Holmes Jr., 34, of 1124 Bayshore Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 8 on a violation of probation charge on the original charge of fraud, false statement to obtain unemployment compensation.

A 17-year-old Valparaiso boy was arrested by Valparaiso police Dec. 20 on a charge of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana.

Lonnie Michael Odom, a cook, 42, of 5020 Old Brown Road, Baker, was arrested by Niceville police Dec. 6 on a charge of violation of pretrial supervision which required no contact with the victim.

Jimmy Dean Glover II, 20, of 61 2nd Ave., Shalimar, was arrested by Niceville police Dec. 19 on charges of underage possession of alcoholic beverages and on a violation of probation charge on the original charge of felony battery.

Dave Randolph Vandervort, 55, of 710 Powell Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 20 on a misdemeanor worthless check charge, three counts.

DUI arrests

Sheron S. Baker, 58, of 706 U.S. Highway 331 N., DeFuniak Springs, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI at the parking lot of a convenience store, 598 Highway 85 N., Dec. 16 at 2:03 a.m. Baker was also arrested for knowingly driving while license suspended or revoked and cited for no proof of valid insurance.

Thefts

A Valparaiso resident told police she had been defrauded out of money by a contractor in 2010 for an \$8,820 upgrade to an existing irrigation system. The resident later learned that the price of materials claimed by the contractor was \$2,200 more than she paid for the materials. The state attorney's office said the case was not criminal and that the resident was advised how to proceed with a civil case in order to recoup any monies she feels she is entitled to.

Niceville police responded to a residence on Cypress Drive for a possible break-in Dec. 12 after the resident reported the inside of the house had been "trashed" by someone or something. Police cleared the house to ensure no one was inside. The resident said nothing appeared to be missing. The Christmas tree had been knocked over, the TV stand moved away from the window and the blinds had been knocked down. In a child's bedroom, toys had been moved away from the window, which the resident said she thought were locked but which were then unlocked. The resident concluded it may have been the "house dog" that caused all the damage. Police closed the case due to lack of evidence or leads.

A Niceville resident reported Dec. 8 that she lost her phone at Northwest Florida State College and that someone subsequently purchased apps for the phone.

A Niceville man reported that someone burglarized his vehicle Dec. 12, while it was parked at a convenience store, 598 N. Highway 85, and stole several pills, including oxycodone pills, from three medicine bottles stored in the vehicle.

Criminal Mischief

A Valparaiso resident from the 300 block of Virginia Avenue reported that sometime Dec. 7-15 unknown person(s) cut the convertible top of his automobile and poured what appeared to be silver nail polish on the trunk and passenger door while the car was parked under the carport.

Other

Candice Marie Griffin, 31, of 4301 Hassel Road, Crestview, was served a criminal summons by Niceville police Dec. 9 on a charge of retail theft. A 13-year-old Crestview girl who was with Griffin was also served a criminal summons on the same charge.

Griffin and the 13-year-old were allegedly observed taking merchandise at a store, 1300 E. John Sims Parkway, placing it into their purses and in their clothing then trying to exit the store without paying. Griffin allegedly took pens, greeting cards and a lanyard valued in total at \$41, while the teenager allegedly took two bags of candy, a bottle of perfume, a key chain, coin purse and a drink tumbler valued together at \$45.

Rachel Anne Kirkland, 19, of 4134 Beach Drive, Niceville, was issued a criminal summons by Niceville police Dec. 12 on charges of retail theft and underage possession of an alcoholic beverage. Kirkland was allegedly observed concealing a bottle of wine and two cans of another beverage in her purse before attempting to leave the store, 1015 E. John Sims Parkway, without paying.

Two 16-year-old boys were

issued trespass warnings Dec. 11 after they tried to swap their shoes and walk out of the store with new ones. Niceville police determined the boys were reported missing from Fort Walton Beach as of Dec. 6. Their parents were asked to pick up their children.

Brock Maurice Sutton, 18, of 2621 Edgewater Drive, Niceville was issued a criminal summons by Niceville police Dec. 16 on a charge of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. A 17-

year-old Niceville girl, a passenger in Sutton's vehicle, was also issued a criminal summons on a charge of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, a single Xanax tablet.

Charles Colt Morrison, 18, of 401-C Niceville Ave., Niceville, was issued a criminal summons by Niceville police, subsequent to a traffic stop for an extinguished tail lamp, Dec. 19, on a charge of underage possession of alcohol.

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from December 19, 2011 through December 21, 2011.

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

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Reeves Street	Medical	12/19/11	20:11
Azalea Drive	Medical	12/20/11	16:00
Sabal Palm Drive	Medical	12/20/11	18:28
Sabal Palm Drive	Service Call	12/20/11	22:40
Killarney Road	Medical	12/21/11	10:11
Coral Drive	Medical	12/21/11	11:31
Peachtree Way	Medical	12/21/11	13:59

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from December 19, 2011 through December 27, 2011.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
State Road 293	Outside rubbish	12/19/11	00:21
Merchants Way	EMS excluding vehicle	12/19/11	07:04
White Point Road	Assist invalid	12/19/11	17:45
Windward Circle	Medical assist EMS	12/20/11	04:12
Merchants Way	Medical assist EMS	12/20/11	06:27
Evans Road	Medical assist EMS	12/21/11	07:28
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	12/21/11	22:48
Calinda Lane	EMS excluding vehicle	12/21/11	22:54
N. White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	12/22/11	09:27
N. White Point Road	Dispatched canceled	12/23/11	01:09
E. Highway 20	Medical assist EMS	12/23/11	09:09
Parkwood Circle	Service call	12/23/11	22:33
Evans Road	Medical assist EMS	12/24/11	04:14
Greenwood Cove	Rescue EMS incident	12/24/11	07:20
White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	12/24/11	15:19
Highway 20 & BW	Motor vehicle accident	12/24/11	18:43
Ida Coon Circle	Medical assist EMS	12/25/11	10:01
Olde Post Road	EMS excluding vehicle	12/25/11	10:26
Hickory Street	EMS excluding vehicle	12/25/11	16:37
Pine Street	Medical assist EMS	12/25/11	23:23
State Road 293	Rescue EMS incident	12/26/11	11:46
Cedar Street	Medical assist EMS	12/26/11	13:07
Windlake Drive	EMS excluding vehicle	12/26/11	19:57

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.



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Niceville's Newspaper



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Museum announces new board

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida in Valparaiso announced the 2012 Board of Trustees for the Heritage Museum Association, Inc. at their annual general membership meeting in November. The museum's first official meeting of the board was held on Dec. 15.

Executive Committee members are: Gordon King, chairman of the board; Steve Czonstka, vice-chairman and finance; Diane Plank, secretary; and Ken Bailey, ex-officio.

Newly elected Board of Trustees are Lannie Corbin, Terri Fedonczak, Steve McLaughlin, Donna Miller, Harold Peek and Carl Scott.

Continuing Board of Trustees Members are Carole Apfel, Beverly Gross, Bill Reeder, Erik Stoer, Jill White and Omar Wiseman.



Jill White



Erik Stoer



Lannie Corbin



Omar Wiseman



Carl Scott



Gordon King



Terri Fedonczak



Beverly Gross



Bill Reeder



Steve Czonstka



Carole Apfel



Donna Miller



Harold Peek



Diane Plank



Ken Bailey



Steve McLaughlin

Spring registration

Spring term registration will be held Jan. 3-17 for Northwest Florida State College credit courses, non-credit adult basic education and professional development offerings.

Extended registration hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fridays at NWFSC locations in Niceville, Fort Walton, Crestview, DeFuniak and South Walton. College centers at Eglin and Hurlburt are open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Current students or new students who have completed admissions may also enroll or pay fees by web. Online application for admission, textbook purchase and the complete course schedule of more than 1,000 day, evening, weekend, fast-track and e-campus courses is available on the college website at nwpsc.edu. Most college and adult education/GED classes begin Jan. 9 and March 2, with professional development courses offered at various times throughout the semester.

In addition to college classes, individuals may enroll in non-credit professional development courses and seminars offered through the college's Leadership Institute. See the Leadership Institute website at nwpsc.edu/LI for a complete course list and registration information or contact the NWFSC Leadership Institute at 729-6880 or email leadership@nwpsc.edu.

NWFSC also offers courses designed for adults who do not have a high school diploma, including adult basic education, preparation for the GED high school equivalency test, and English-as-As Second Language. Adult Education courses are offered for a set fee of \$30 per semester which includes materials.

NWFSC has an open door admissions policy and there is no fee to apply for admission to the college. Free academic advising is available. NWF State offers the lowest tuition in Florida, as well as financial aid, and an installment fee-payment plan.

Santa Patrol delivers



Lt. Eddie Farris picks out gifts for the Santa Patrol fundraiser.

The Walton County Sheriff's Office announced the results of the 2011 Santa Patrol fundraiser and donation gift drive to support underprivileged children this holiday season. More than 350 children will benefit from the fundraiser, which raised more than 2,000 bicycles and dolls among other items.

Lt. Eddie Farris of the WCSO's Citizens Services Division said, "We are proud of the businesses and individuals who donated money and gifts to help the children in our local communities." More than 35 businesses and individuals contributed to this year's Santa Patrol donation drive.

Eagle boys win 2; girls improve

By David Vardaman

The Niceville boys and girls basketball teams hit the hardwood last week in separate three-day tournaments. The boys went 2-1 while the girls won one of three very close games.

The boys got going early in game 1 against Navarre, finishing with a 61-56 victory. Along with junior McKinley Stephens' multiple 3-pointers and 20 points, the Eagles maintained a distributive attack via Kyle Koszuta's superior point guard mastery as nine different players scored.

In game two, the Eagles were firing on all cylinders as they built a lead by as much as 22 points as Shane Horton got hot early followed by solid inside play from Andrew Mitchell and Nick Haynes. The opponent,

P.K. Yonge (Gainesville), fought back late in the game, only to have the Eagles close the door with a high-scoring 81-73 win.

The third game in as many days took its toll as Pine Forest came into the game with fresh legs. The Niceville fast-break points and pinpoint 3-point accuracy weren't there as Pine Forest built a 10-point halftime lead which the Eagles couldn't crack in a 67-59 loss. Koszuta scored 19 points to lead Niceville but the Eagles couldn't find an answer to the inside play of Pine Forest.

The Lady Eagles continue to improve their team game as they also played three hard-fought contests on consecutive nights. In game one, a sluggish Eagle team fell behind early against Freeport. Niceville was able to make the game close but time ran out as the Eagles lost 36-40.

The Lady Eagles marched to victory against Laurel Hill in game two. This time the Eagles built the lead and didn't look back in a 52-49 victory. In the highest point production of the season Ashley Levesque, Dani Douglas and freshman standout Michaela Mitchell scored in double figures to go along with 10 different players registering points.

In game three the Lady Eagles came from behind in a physically demanding affair to tie the score with 1:20 left in the game, but Paxton was able to claw its way to a win, 43-39.



Photo courtesy of Paula Mims
Niceville's Nick Haynes shuts down the lane against Pine Forest but the Eagles dropped the game, 67-59.

In the Service

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

U.S. Marine Private **Dallas Kody Wade**, son of Dean and Julie Wade of Niceville, completed Basic Training at Parris Island in South Carolina on Sept. 9.



Dallas Kody Wade

Wade completed Military Combat Training at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina on Oct. 18 and is currently training for MRSS Maintainer at Pines Marine Base in California until March 2012.

Wade is a 2011 Niceville High School graduate.

Army Cadet **Matthew D. Turnbull** has graduated from the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Wash.

The primary focus of the course is to develop and evaluate each cadet's officer potential as a leader by exercising the cadet's intelligence, common sense, ingenuity and physical stamina.

Turnbull is the son of Andrew and Sandra Turnbull of Mossy Cove Court, Niceville.

Air Force Airman **Nathaniel W. Hartley** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Hartley is the son of Michele and Jeffrey Hartley of Lake Amick Drive, Niceville.

Hartley is a 2010 graduate of Niceville High School.



Nathaniel W. Hartley

Brownies spread Christmas cheer



Brownie Troop 131 from Bluewater Elementary School spread their Christmas cheer to the residents of Sterling House of Bluewater Bay last week with holiday songs and greetings. Carolers, from left standing: Caroline Swanick, Parker Lee, Jasmine Moore, Page Dolloff, Katherine Johnson, Kailey Threet and Alexa Johnsen. Kneeling: Libby Bowen, Haley Leach, Lindsay Marrion and Maija Fair.



Eagle Scouts honored

On Dec. 19, Boy Scouts of America Troop 157 honored four of its seven scouts that have attained the rank of Eagle Scout this year at a combined Eagle Scout Court of Honor at the Rocky Bayou Baptist Church, in Niceville. Pictured, from left, Jacob Baltz, Phillip Bridges, David Haynes and Mark Sharp.



Christmas tea celebration

The American Girls History Mystery book club members celebrated the holidays with a Christmas tea led by Christina Wyatt and Karen Houston at the Niceville Public Library Dec. 17. The book club is for girls in 2nd-6th grade and meets monthly on the third Saturday of each month during the school year. For information on the club, call 279-4863 extension 1514.

NHS Art Club paints the town



Niceville High School Art Club, from left: Brianna Cupp, Madison Brake, Terry Johnston (artist), Olivia Tuttle, Nikki Paci, Allysia Webb and Dominika Borakiewicz.

The Niceville High School Art Club helped local artist Terry Johnston paint a mural on the Read It Again bookstore wall off highway 20 as part of their community service efforts on Dec. 17.

The Art Club enjoys finding ways to leave a colorful mark on the community, from helping young artists transform rocks into works of art at Rocky Bayou's Pioneer Days, to adding holiday cheer to the Twin Cities Pavilion with 70 homemade Christmas cards.

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

Patriotic Essay Contest

The Twin Cities Elks Lodge of Niceville/Valparaiso announces the theme "Why I am Proud to Pledge Allegiance to Our Flag" for the 2011-2012 Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest for fifth through eighth grade students.

Local prizes will be first and second place plaques. District, state and national prizes of savings bonds from \$50 to \$1,000 will be awarded in both divisions.

Each entry will receive a certificate of participation. Contest ends Jan. 10.

Info: 729-3557 or 897-4387.

'Christmas Reflections'

DeFuniak Springs hosts "Christmas Reflections," evenings of lights and decorated seasonal characters to Dec. 31 at Lake DeFuniak, 5-9 p.m. Evening passes are \$3 and children under 6 are admitted free.

Info: 892-8500 or visit christmasreflections.com.

'Geek lights' on the corner

The 4th annual "Geek Lights on the Corner" Christmas light and music show will run to Dec. 31. The free shows take place nightly at the corner of Bluewater Boulevard and Antiqua Way in Bluewater Bay. Shows begin on the hour and half hour starting at 6 p.m., with the last show starting at 9:30 p.m. Sun.-Thur. and 10:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat. Get more information by following the show's Facebook page, facebook.com/geeklightsonthecorner.



First Day Hike at park

Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park will sponsor a ranger-led First Day Hike Sunday, Jan. 1, at 10 a.m. The hike, which will be about one mile long and held on one of the park's nature trails, is open to all ages, although adult supervision is required for those under 18 and pets are allowed. Park entrance fees are waived for the hike.

Hikers will meet at the trailhead kiosk. It is recommended that hikers bring a water bottle and wear closed shoes.

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Mike Lewis



Candice Legge

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One Hour Air Conditioning

Happy New Year to All from One Hour Air

Advertising Feature by Gerri Norris

One Hour Air Conditioning would like to remind everyone that the start of a new year is a great time to remember to change out your air filters. Depending on your filter, the standard is to change it every 1-3 months. One Hour Air has a Filter Club program to help maintain cleaner air for your breathing environment.

With the Filter Club, customers don't have to be bothered to run out every month to purchase a new filter. You don't have to be bothered to remember what size your vents are, or how many filters you need. One Hour Air can take into account your needs and have a pre-ordered amount for the year, then deliver it to your door. Customers can order a wide array of air filters that include: electronic filters, high efficiency filters, and high rating filters. The cost is equitable to local retail prices.

Also, Comfort Club is the option for worry-free indoor comfort. Comfort Club is a maintenance program that can provide added peace of mind by minimizing overall repair costs to heating and air conditioning systems.



One Hour Air wishes you and your family a Happy New Year!

According to One Hour Heating and Air Conditioning, bi-annual planned check-ups have the potential to extend the life of systems to as much as twice as

long, and can greatly save on utility bills. Members receive one precision tune-up, professional cleaning and rejuvenation, plus one safety check directly prior to the main season in use (early spring/summer for air conditioning systems and fall/winter for heating units). As a bonus, members receive a 20% discount on any repairs.

In addition, comprehensive services focused on maintenance and repairs are available for air conditioning and heating concerns. Installations of new units are equally reliable and quick-without-worry. Highly trained staff ensures prompt and courteous customer service from the moment your call comes in. Extensive screening and training of technicians, in conjunction with background checks and routine foreign chemical assessments, guarantee service calls are handled in a timely and professional manner.

Furthermore, service vehicles are regularly well-stocked and prepared for repair visits, often referred to as "warehouses on

wheels." This expedites completion of most appointments.

Services for an array of indoor air quality (IAQ) systems are also available including: central air cleaners, ultra violet lights, HEPA filters, fresh air intakes and electronic air cleaners. If you have concerns regarding excess dust, dry air, allergens or airborne viruses and bacteria, One Hour's IAQ services can help.

Wytrwal said, "With most indoor air being 4-5 times more polluted than outdoor air and the potential for it to be 100 times worse, our IAQ services become more and more of value to your family's comfort and health."

One Hour Air Conditioning is located on 319 Hwy. 85, in Niceville. Customer service representatives are available to take your calls 24/7. Contact the office at 678-1498 for all your heating and air conditioning concerns. Military discounts and senior discounts are available upon request. For more information on One Hour Air Conditioning services, visit onehouremeraldcoast.com.

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