

# The Bay Beacon

12 Pages, 2 Sections, 3 Inserts

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

50c

**UP  
COMING**

Wednesday, noon



Bring a sack lunch and take your lunch break at the Heritage Museum for **History Sandwiched-In**. The title of the lecture is "The Real Truth of Leonard Destin During the Civil War," by Tony Menillo, author of "Salty Memories." Free. Space is limited. Call 678-2615 to reserve a seat.

Thursday, 10 a.m.

The Northwest Florida **Horticulture Studies Group** will meet at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso. The topic is "What's in Your Garden, **Friendly Natives or Exotic Monsters?**" Free. Info: 678-2842 or 678-2615.

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

The Emerald Coast Concert Association will present the **DePue Brothers**, violinists, rock Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m., at the **Mattie Kelly Arts Center**, Niceville. Tickets, \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door, are available at **Mattie Kelly Arts Center** Box Office or by calling 729-6000.



the door, are available at **Mattie Kelly Arts Center** Box Office or by calling 729-6000.

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Join the Friends of the Niceville Library for "**Couponing 101**" at the **Niceville Community Center**, 204 Partin Drive N., adjacent to the Library. It is a free program but space is limited. Reserve your spot by calling 279-4863 ext. 1504.

Calendar, B-3.

## 'Squatter' arrested in 4 bedroom house

By Del Lessard  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

A sometime schoolteacher has been arrested for "squatting," or living in a four-bedroom vacant Niceville home without the owner's knowledge. Robert George Harris III, 47, who gave his address as 2709

Edgewater Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Jan. 3 on charges of burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, grand theft, and fraud, obtaining property over \$50,000, according to a report by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. Harris, who allegedly had

electricity service restored to the previously vacant home, told deputies that he was ready to defend it with an assault rifle.

Harris has been a substitute teacher with the Okaloosa County School District since 2008, but has taught

**Please see SQUATTER, page A-2**



This vacant house in the Rocky Bayou community was occupied by a "squatter," according to authorities.

Beacon photo

## Airport gets body scanner



A passenger undergoes a full-body security scan inside the TSA checkpoint at the Okaloosa Regional Airport last week. The \$150,000 scanner was installed at the airport near Valparaiso earlier this month.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard

### Device uses microwaves to search passengers

By Del Lessard  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

Many travelers at the Okaloosa Regional Airport are now being asked to submit to a full-body scan before they board their planes.

On Jan. 4 a full-body scanner was installed in the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) security area of Okaloosa Regional Airport, according to airport Director Greg Donovan.

Since 2007 the TSA has been installing full-body scan-

ners at the nation's airports, although not without controversy. The devices, developed after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, use X-rays or microwave to help detect any weapons or bombs hidden under passengers' clothes.

There are some 540 such scanners at more than 100 U.S. airports, according to the agency's website. The devices can detect a wide range of threats to transportation security in a matter of seconds.

TSA uses two types of

imaging technology: millimeter wave and backscatter. Both enable an operator to look for any items—metallic and non-metallic—that might be anywhere on the body.

The growing use of full-body scanners at airports has raised questions about their safety, namely the potential health effects of radiation used in the scanners. Also at issue is privacy—the production of images that, in virtual sense,

**Please see SCANNER, page A-5**

## Early voting features site in Niceville

By Del Lessard  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

Early voting for Florida's Jan. 31 Presidential Preference Primary—as well as municipal elections in Valparaiso—will start Saturday. For the first time, an early-voting site will be open in Niceville.

Early voting will end Jan. 28, three days before Election Day, Jan. 31.

Only Republican registered

voters may cast ballots in the party's hotly contested presidential primary, said Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections Paul Lux.

Because the Democratic Party has only one presidential candidate, incumbent Barack Obama, Florida does not have a Democratic presidential primary this year. For the same reason, no

**Please see VOTING, page A-6**

## Council backs plan to award no-bid pact



Beacon photo

The Niceville City Council has acted to again award the city's garbage-collection contract to the current hauler, Waste Management, despite a competitor's request that officials shop around.

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

Without seeking other bids, the Niceville City Council has approved the first of three readings of ordinances renewing Waste Management's contracts with the city for residential and

commercial trash pickup and disposal.

Meeting Jan. 10, the council tentatively approved the extension of Waste Management's existing contracts, repeating a

**Please see COUNCIL, page A-4**

## Pentagon details F-35 problems

*Beacon Staff Writer*

Development and testing problems with the multi-billion-dollar F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program could lead to further delays in the fielding of production aircraft at Eglin Air Force Base and elsewhere, senior Pentagon officials have concluded.

The findings come at a time

when the administration in Washington, D.C., is reported to be considering defense budget cuts, including a possible slowdown in acquisition of the tri-service, supersonic, stealthy warplane, which is expected to be the workhorse of the nation's tactical airpower through the mid-21st

**Please see F-35, page A-2**

## Economy hints at better times

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

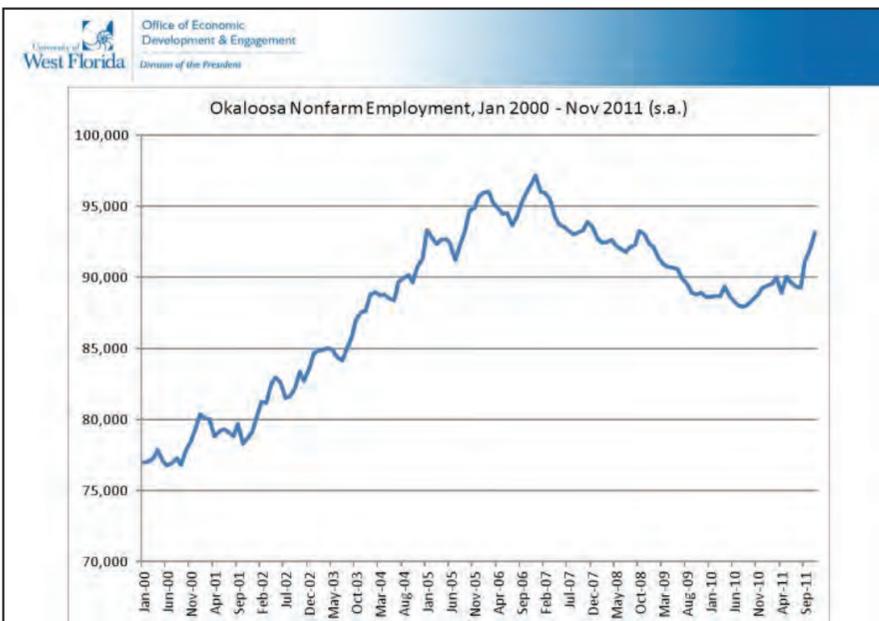
Members of the Building Industry Association of Okaloosa and Walton Counties heard a cautiously optimistic assessment of economic trends Jan. 12 at the Niceville Community Center. A series of three speakers discussed national and local economic trends and local incentive programs designed to lure new businesses to the two-county area.

Rick Harper, an economics professor and executive director of the Office of Economic

Development and Engagement at the University of West Florida, spoke about economic trends. "I have great news," he said. "Local employment is up."

Harper described the national economy as "tepid" and said that expectations of slow, rather than rapid, economic growth have become "the new normal" throughout the nation. He also said he is concerned that the national debt has passed \$15 trillion, which he called a "tipping point" at which the debt

**Please see ECONOMY, page A-3**



Local hiring is up as the economy slowly recovers from the 2008 housing crash and ensuing recession, according to economist Rick Harper.

University of West Florida

F-35

From page A-1

century. The 2012-13 Defense Department budget is expected to be unveiled next month.

The F-35 program includes three variants: the Air Force F-35A, which will use conventional runways; the Marine Corps F-35B, which will take off on short runways and land vertically; and the Navy F-35C, which will operate from aircraft carriers.

The U.S. services are scheduled to buy 2,443 F-35s to replace a variety of older fighter planes, making the \$379 billion program the Pentagon's largest. Air forces of several U.S. allies are also expected to buy the planes, although some have delayed these plans after reports of ballooning costs and technical problems.

Last week two F-35B Marine airplanes flew from the Lockheed-Martin factory in Texas to Eglin Air Force Base—joining six Air Force F-35As which arrived last year. Following their delivery flights, however, none of the eight Eglin planes has been allowed into the air.

Eglin's current total of eight aircraft are just a third of the 24 to 26 F-35s that were scheduled to be delivered to Eglin's F-35 training center by the end of 2011, according to Air Force docu-

ments. The base is eventually supposed to get at least 59 of the craft, hosting a training wing that is expected to bring thousands of jobs to the area in future years.

Industry publications and a "quick look" review by senior Pentagon officials have recently detailed problems in the F-35 program.

A report on the Pentagon review, dated Nov. 29 and first reported in the trade publication Aviation Week, noted that years ago defense officials took a calculated risk that the fifth-generation fighter program could begin fielding production models at the same time it was being tested and further developed. The assumption behind such "concurrency" was that advanced design and simulation tools would result in a "more mature" system design than the Pentagon had experienced with other fighter development programs.

The belief was, according to the quick look panel, that problems discovered during the design and testing phase would be relatively minimal, and therefore the cost to modify the first production aircraft—such as those at Eglin now—in light of the findings would be minimal as well. Those assumptions led the Pentagon to accept the economic risk of beginning low rate initial production (LRIP) concurrent with the flight testing and development of



U.S. Air Force

**Two new F-35 warplanes intended for Marine Corps use arrived at Eglin Air Force Base last week. Pictured, one of the craft made a pass over Destin before landing at Eglin. A recent Pentagon study identified problems in the \$379 billion defense program that threaten to boost costs and slow production.**

the F-35, the report notes.

However, design problems discovered during F-35 development testing are, the report's Pentagon authors concluded, "at a rate more typical of early design experience on previous aircraft development programs."

So far, no fundamental design flaws have been found that are sufficient to preclude further production of the planes, the quick look report concluded, although it identified five problems that could have major consequences:

—Helmet-mounted display. It's a system that consolidates and presents sensor information onto the pilot's helmet visor so he has to spend less time peering down at cockpit panels while flying.

Unlike many previous U.S. ground-strike fighters, the F-35 has a single aircrew member who is responsible for flying, navigating, targeting and releasing weapons. There is no "back-seat" weapons officer or navigator.

—Fuel dump system. Testing has shown that fuel dumped in flight can pool on the aircraft skin, posing a fire risk, rather than blowing off into the air. Fuel is often dumped in flight to lighten planes that are too heavy to land, such as those making emergency landings immediately after take-off.

—Integrated power package. One such package malfunctioned on a test aircraft in 2011, causing a precautionary grounding of the

small fleet, since lifted.

—Arresting gear system on the F-35C. The tailhook on the Navy version reportedly failed eight out of eight times, possibly forcing a significant redesign of the airframe. On landing, the plane's tailhook grabs an arresting cable on the deck of an aircraft carrier, bringing the aircraft to a quick halt so it doesn't wind up in the water.

—An unspecified problem that is shrouded in Pentagon secrecy.

Other issues with potentially major consequence are still likely to be discovered during future testing—which includes some of the more rigorous flight profiles—the Pentagon report concluded, including aircraft buffeting, design flaws that means some parts won't achieve desired lifetime goals without redesign, and the conduct of the testing itself. Industry sources have stated that flight testing has identified parts of the F-35 that are prone to fatigue earlier than specified and that will require redesign.

Correcting those flaws would drive up the cost of retrofitting production planes already in use by military commands.

The quick-look report also identified five other issues where the individual cost impacts are seen as moderate, but taken together could cause significant cost and mission risks. Those concerns include software, weight management, thermal concerns, computerized "maintenance manuals" and lightning protection.

The Pentagon panel concluded that because the design of the F-35 is still not as mature as originally expected, that there is a growing cost risk to buying as many production aircraft as now planned early in the program.

The panel also recommended each of the three variants of the F-35 be considered independently with respect to purchasing more production aircraft concurrent with testing.

A Pentagon spokeswoman declined to comment on plans for the warplane. "Until the President's budget is submitted sometime in early February, any discussion on the future status of programs is premature," the spokeswoman, Cheryl Irwin, told the Beacon.

SQUATTER

From page A-1

only infrequently, according to the district. He has been suspended due to his arrest, according to the district. Harris also listed a job with a private employer which could not be reached for comment.

Arrest and offense reports from the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office gave the following account:

A woman who had resided at 2709 Edgewater Drive, in the unincorporated Rocky Bayou community, moved out of the home in February 2008 due to bankruptcy, believing ownership of the property would revert to the bank that held the mortgage.

Deputies were called to the home Dec.

28 in

response to a citizen call that a man had broken the locks on the front door and was inside, trespassing. When deputies arrived there was a sign on the door stating the property belonged to Robert Harris III and that he would defend it from anyone trying to enter.

Harris then arrived in a 2009 Mustang, unlocked the doors, disarmed an alarm system, and talked with deputies. He said he and his family were also renting a house in the 2600 block of Edgewater Drive, but that he didn't get along with the neighbors there and was mainly staying at 2709.

Harris allegedly told deputies that about two months ago he found the residence at 2709 Edgewater unsecured and that he was "squatting" in the home under adverse-possession law. Under the legal doctrine of adverse possession, a person can, under certain conditions, eventually come to own a property simply by occupying or using it in a public way with no objection from the owner of record.

Inside the home deputies found a blowup mattress on the floor and, leaning against the wall, an assault rifle. Harris said he legally owned the firearm and would use it only if someone threatened his life or broke into the residence. There were at least two gun cases in the den, deputies said.

The house had electric service, a stereo was playing, and the swimming-pool pump was running. The home smelled of smoke, as if someone had been using the fireplace.

Deputies found a television that had three security camera views of the exterior of the home. Harris told deputies he believed people from the bank were after him because he was living there. He also said he eventually planned to turn the residence into a place for homeless people to stay.

Deputies contacted the previous occupant by phone at home in California. She said she believed the bank was the owner as part of a bankruptcy settlement. But after checking with the bank it was learned that the woman was still the owner.

Later, the woman said she did not give anyone permission to take possession of the house or to reside in it.

Harris was arrested in a sheriff's raid Jan. 3, booked into the Okaloosa County jail, and released the next day on a \$7,500 bond, according to sheriff's and jail records.

The property, which was sold to the listed owner in 2004 for \$325,000, is now valued at about \$242,000, according to county records. The house, which contains 2,667 square feet of living area, has four bedrooms, four bathrooms, fireplace, and swimming pool, according to county records.



Robert G. Harris III



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**ECONOMY**

**From page A-1**  
exceeds 90 percent of the Gross Domestic Product—a point at which a general economic decline could become irreversible for the foreseeable future.

Although such a high debt means that “it is time to cut back on public spending,” Harper added that such cut-backs will inevitably hurt the economy, at least for the next few years, because so much of the economy, and so many businesses and individual people, have become so dependent on receiving money from the government in one form or another.

He predicted that the effect of government spending reductions will be similar to that recently seen in Europe when governments there were finally forced to cut back on their spending. We need to cut spending and reduce the debt, Harper said, but the process will be painful, at least at first.

The responsibility to cut spending, said Harper, lies with Congress, not with an executive agency or the Federal Reserve, because government spending is mandated by laws Congress has passed, and can only be cut by further congressional action.

Nevertheless, Harper said, the economy is slowly recovering, and jobs are gradually reappearing. He said the housing market will also recover from the losses it has suffered since the crash of 2008, but will recover slowly, as the next generation of Americans leave home and seek places to live and raise their own families.

Inflation has been lower so far in 2012 than during 2011, but as the economy recovers, Harper said he expects interest rates to climb, and inflation will climb with it. National unemployment, he said, will probably be at about 8 percent during the November general elections.

Some local good news, said Harper, is that unemployment in Okaloosa County will probably be only about 6 percent by election time, and slow but steady economic growth throughout Florida may help relieve some of the budget pressure now facing state legislators.

Local tourism is up after the BP oil spill, Harper said. The summer 2011 tourism season was “gangbusters,” and Panama City and Fort Walton Beach led the rest of Northwest Florida in job growth.

Government activity, Harper said, is still the largest job generator in Northwest Florida, mainly due to the military bases in the region. While the military is a large source of jobs, especially higher-paying jobs, military employment remains “flat,” with little prospect for large growth. The fastest-growing job fields in the next few years, Harper said, will be real estate sales agents, food preparation and services, and tourism management.

He said that the banking industry is also recovering, but the greatest prosperity is in large national banks rather than in community or regional banks, as the large banks were better able to take advantage of federal subsidies and stimulus programs since 2008.

Housing prices in Northwest Florida, which dropped dramatically during and after 2008, have now returned to the levels they were at in 2004 and 2005,

and Harper expects them to continue climbing, but very slowly. “This is a great time to buy a home,” he said, “if you can qualify for a loan.”

Larry Sassano, president of the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, spoke about local projects to lure new businesses to the county. He said the EDC is a “public-private partnership,” staffed by four employees. The EDC, Sassano said, works with state agencies and local business and political leaders to attract businesses to Okaloosa County. The “targeted industries” of most interest to the EDC, he said, include aerospace, defense, information technology, life sciences, manufacturing and engineering, renewable energy, and corporate headquarters. The development and building of unmanned aerial vehicles, he said, is of special interest within the aerospace industry.

Projects to attract new businesses, Sassano said, begin with leads about companies that may be interested in coming to Okaloosa. The EDC then gathers specific information

about the company of interest, to include what economic and social benefits the company can bring to the county, and what the company’s own needs are for a friendly business environment. The EDC works confidentially with target companies to evaluate their needs, arrange site tours and information, and arrange economic incentives from local governments. “It’s all about creating jobs,” Sassano concluded.

Scarlett Phaneuf, of the Walton County EDC, said her county’s program is similar to that in Okaloosa, except that Walton is considered a more rural area than Okaloosa, which requires a different approach and tends to attract different kinds of businesses. Local governments in Walton County are business-friendly, said Phaneuf, and the county has established industrial parks or “enterprise zones” in or near Freeport, DeFuniak Springs, and Mossy Head. Currently, she said, the Walton EDC is helping to locate a new brewery in South Walton County, a chemical manufacturer in Freeport, and possibly a redistribution center there as well.

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**ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

**FREE FACULTY SEMINARS/PRESENTATIONS**

- “Mid Life Makeover - Careers” – Women’s Resource Center
- “Resume Review” – Career Resource Center
- “Networking Niches for Relationship Riches” – Leadership Institute
- “Changing Careers – Surviving & Thriving in the Transition”
- “Leadership Styles” – Leadership Institute
- “Periodontal Disease and Its Effects on the Heart” – Dental Assisting
- “Can Diabetes Be Prevented?” – Nursing
- “Mosasaurs – Sea Serpents from Age of Dinosaurs” – Science
- “Monitoring Global Climate Change” – Science
- “Fossil Hominins: Ape or Human?” – Science/Anthropology
- “Income Tax Seminar” – H & R Block
- “Everyday Economics” – Business Division
- “Doing Philosophy: Thinking for Yourself” – Humanities
- “Math Magic Show” – Mathematics Department
- “Online Math with Tegrity” – Mathematics Department
- “Wonders of Numbers in Nature, Art & Architecture” – Mathematics

**FREE DEMONSTRATIONS/ACTIVITIES**

- Raiders Baseball Game vs. Jackson State (Free Admission) 11:00 a.m.
- Raiders Baseball vs. East Georgia (Free Admission) 5:00 p.m.
- Free Throw Contest – Basketball Arena
- Portrait Photography – Pose for a Free Photo
- Fire Science Fire Tower & Burn Demonstrations
- EMS Patient Simulator in EMS mock emergency
- Defensive Tactics Demonstrations – Public Safety
- Touch Tank – Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance
- Interactive Sundial Demonstration – “Why Your Watch is Wrong”
- Art Exhibits – Art Galleries
- Performing Arts Vocal & Instrument Recitals
- PRIME Time – Tai Chi Demonstration

**OPEN FOR TOURS & INFORMATION**

- Okaloosa County Emergency Operations Center Tours
- Student Services – Admissions, Financial Aid, VA, Advising
- Arena & Wellness Center (Community Memberships Available)
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- Business & Computer Technology (at Leadership Institute)
- Career Resource Center & Workforce Education
- Collegiate High School
- Computer Engineering – Microsoft IT Academy
- Drafting – Architecture/Construction
- Early Childhood Education & Child Development Center
- English/Communications/Blackwater Review Literary Journal
- Fine & Performing Arts – Art Exhibits, Costume Shop, Dance Studio, Recitals, Recording Studio, Theater, Usher Program
- Food Services & Facilities Rental/Conference Facilities
- Graphic Design & Photography
- Healthcare Programs – Nursing, Dental, Radiography
- Leadership Institute
- Learning Resources Center – Library
- Mattie Kelly Environmental Institute
- PRIME Time Personal Enrichment Classes
- Public Safety – Fire Science, Paramedic, EMT, EMS, Corrections & Law Enforcement Academies
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- Women’s Educational Resource Center

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**Monday: LADIES' DAY**

**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**

Tara Jane Fenwick, 27, of 502 Rana Lane, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 8 on a charge of battery, domestic violence. \*\*\*

Robert Thomas Auger, 26, of 117-B Azalea St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 8 on a charge of battery, domestic violence. \*\*\*

Marcus Anthony Prier, 30, of 400 Kelly Road, Apt. 44, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 5 on a charge of battery, domestic violence. \*\*\*

A 15-year-old Niceville boy was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 4 on a charge of lewd or lascivious exhibition. It had been reported Sept. 29 that over a period of about three months the boy had allegedly been exposing himself to a juvenile victim who lived in the neighborhood. Some of the indecent exposure incidents occurred in the morning when the victim would go outside to meet a school bus, as well as from the window of the boy's home. \*\*\*

Lawanda Dette Allen, 35, of 1413 29th St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Jan. 3 on a violation of probation charge for the offenses of petit theft, illegal use of personal identification information, fraudulent pawnbroker transaction. \*\*\*

Ray Lynn Allbritton, 51, of 105 Alan A Dale Road, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 30 on a charge of battery. Allbritton allegedly punched another man in the chest and in the face after he was asked to leave a residential property in the 1000 block of 48th Street. \*\*\*

Edward Lamar Adkins, 37, of 83 Winfield St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Jan. 4 on a contempt of court charge on original charges of felony battery and felony domestic violence battery. \*\*\*

Brandon Michael Grim, 24, of 310 St. Andrews Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Jan. 4 on a violation of probation charge on the original charges of DUI and leaving the scene of an accident. \*\*\*

Ronnell Deon Barbour, a business owner, 32, of 188 Edge Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 31 on misdemeanor worthless check charges, four counts, related to checks for \$21.53, \$18.21, \$20.53 and \$17.47. \*\*\*

Akeem Sharrieff Dixon, a model, 21, of 1601 23rd St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 31 on a charge of failure to appear on the original charge of driving while license suspended or revoked.

**DUI arrests**

John Melvin Hembree, 46, of 321 Redwood Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies for DUI in the 5000 block of South Ferdon Avenue, Crestview, Jan. 4 at 4:36 a.m.

**Thefts**

A vehicle belonging to an out-of-state motorist was burglarized Jan. 8 in the parking lot of a Valparaiso restaurant, 305 Glen Ave. Restaurant employees informed the diner that unknown person(s) shattered the window of the driver's side window of the 2006 pickup truck. The victim reported two purses that were on the floorboard between the driver's and passenger floorboard were stolen. The purses contained about \$10 in change, hygiene items and cosmetics. \*\*\*

A student at Niceville High School reported that unknown person(s) stole a \$200 set of headphones Jan. 5 after the victim left them unlocked in a book bag on the floor of the locker room while he was at practice. \*\*\*

A Valparaiso couple from the 1200 block of North Bayshore Drive reported that someone stole a \$1,500 gold bracelet from the top of a bedroom dresser Jan. 8. The same day an unknown man came to the couple's front door asking about work and offering to clean up the outside of the residence. When the man finished his work he asked to use the bathroom in the house, where he stayed for sometime. When the owner went to check he found the man in the bedroom, claiming he was looking for toilet paper, which was already in the bathroom. After being

**COUNCIL**  
 From page A-1

decision originally made during a Nov. 8 meeting. The contract extension would renew Waste Management's exclusive right to collect and dispose of residential and commercial waste, and would also offer new discounts for senior citizens in return for less service.

During the Nov. 8 meeting, Dominica Farmer, a representative of Waste Management, asked the council to renew her company's contract with the city. Although the contract does not officially come up for renewal until October 2012, Farmer said an early renewal would help her company plan for the future, and in return, she said, Waste Management would forego any price hike in 2012. She also said the company would offer 15 percent discounts for senior citizens, who generally produce less waste than younger families, and

who require only one trash pickup per week rather than two.

At that time council members approved the early renewal saying they have been very pleased with Waste Management's performance so far. "You guys have been phenomenal," Councilman William Thomas told Farmer.

"I think we should hang onto a good thing," agreed Councilman Bill Smith.

However, the city council reversed the Nov. 8 decision during its next meeting, on Dec. 13, after hearing from a competing company which wanted to be considered for the contract. The council changed its position after hearing from Rory Cassidy, municipal services manager of Allied Waste and Republic Services, a company that wanted a chance to compete for the contract.

During his Dec. 13 briefing to the city council, Cassidy gave a PowerPoint presentation and showed off a 64-gallon bin for collecting recyclables. He said that with his company's "single-stream recycling" program, the city could save up to \$75,000 per year.

Waste Management representative Larry Jones also spoke to the city council that evening, saying that his company already does single-stream recycling, and plans to begin introducing 96-gallon containers in a pilot program in 2012.

After hearing from both companies, the city council decided to await more information before making a final decision on renewing Waste Management's existing contract. City Attorney Dixie Powell said that although the city had acted legally in its original decision to renew Waste

**Fire Department Reports**

**Niceville**

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from January 9, 2012 through January 12, 2012.

0 Structure Fire	12 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	1 Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	3 Other Emergency Calls
1 False Alarms	0 Hazardous Conditions

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Fedman Court	Medical	01/09/12	01:52
Iowa Street	Medical	01/09/12	05:15
John Sims	Medical	01/09/12	11:25
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	01/09/12	16:00
Julia Ave.	Medical	01/09/12	16:37
Spence Circle	Medical	01/09/12	16:48
Rocky Shores	False Alarm	01/09/12	17:30
Dana Pointe	Medical	01/09/12	19:22
John Sims	Service Call	01/10/12	11:14
N. Hwy 85	Power line	01/10/12	18:41
E. John Sims	Medical	01/11/12	09:36
Galway Drive	Medical	01/11/12	10:25
23rd St.	Medical	01/11/12	11:59
N. Hwy 85	False Alarm	01/12/12	10:15
Linden Ave.	Medical	01/12/12	12:14
N. Partin	Power line	01/12/12	19:50
E. John Sims	Medical	01/12/12	16:33
John Sims/Partin	Motor vehicle accident	01/12/12	17:40

Weekly Safety Tip: Replace all smoke alarm batteries immediately upon moving into a new home. Test smoke alarms at least once a month and clean the unit according to the manufacturer's instructions. Regularly vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarm can help keep it working properly.

**North Bay**

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from January 10, 2012 through January 13, 2012.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Bluewater Point Road	Medical assist EMS	01/10/12	09:05
Muirfield Way	Dispatched canceled	01/10/12	15:49
Iida Coon Circle	EMS excluding vehicle	01/11/12	18:08
Bay Drive & Hwy 20	Motor vehicle accident	01/12/12	03:34
East Hwy 20	Motor vehicle accident	01/12/12	10:01
Nelson Point Road	Dispatched canceled	01/12/12	11:52
East Hwy 20	EMS excluding vehicle	01/12/12	13:00
Bluewater Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	01/13/12	03:33

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

ordered from the house the couple later discovered the bracelet was missing. \*\*\*

A Niceville resident reported her vehicle stolen Jan. 7 after her daughter lent the vehicle to a friend who did not return the vehicle from what was expected to be a 20-minute trip home. The car was recovered later that day in Fort Walton Beach. The owner asked police to search the car for drug-related items and police discovered two unlabeled prescription pill bottles with trace amounts of what appeared to be marijuana. \*\*\*

A man who left his son's pickup truck on a house jack with a tire and tools on the ground in the 200 block of Yacht Club Drive in Bluewater Bay Jan. 5, returned 10 minutes later to find another truck with a house jack in the bed parked and his own jack, tools and tire missing.

When the second truck sped off, the victim followed and later gave deputies a description and the tag number. Deputies traced the vehicle to two teens who admitted that they knew where the tools, jack and tire and had been disposed of. Some items were in a wooded area a few miles down a dirt road off Range Road, and others were in a swamp off Bay Drive.

The victim agreed to drop charges if the boys returned the stolen items. They did so. \*\*\*

A 17-year-old boy reported that unknown person(s) stole his wallet from a bag he had placed on a table at the Niceville skate park, 200 Campbell Drive, Jan. 7. The wallet contained \$120 cash, a credit card, a gift card, driver's license and military ID.

**Criminal Mischief**

Three suspects vandalized the south and north parts of Niceville's Turkey Creek nature trail early Jan. 9 using blue and red spray paint to write vulgarities on the boardwalk, railings and on several trees.

Police first discovered the vandalism at the north end of the park, off College Boulevard. In addition to the graffiti, police observed several muddy shoeprints on the boardwalk that looked like the suspects had jumped over the rail and onto the boardwalk. The shoeprints were followed into the woods in the direction of Turkey Creek South boardwalk.

**Please see BLOTTER, page A-5**

also said that no formal bids have yet been received from other companies wanting to compete for Waste Management's contract. The city did not issue specifications and formally seek such bids, however, according to city officials.

Waste Management has held Niceville's exclusive franchise to pick up and dispose of residential garbage since November 1993, and commercial garbage since November 1992. Previously the city's sanitation department was responsible for all garbage and trash service in the city.

The city council sought competitive bids only once, when the contract was awarded to Waste Management 18 years ago. The city has renewed the agreement three times since then—always with Waste Management—without competitive bidding.

Some citizens spoke in favor of renewing Waste Management's contract. "Waste Management does a good job," said one, "and the drivers are always courteous." In addition, she said, the company is involved with local schools and community affairs.

Rory Cassidy, of Allied, said, "Waste Management is a phenomenal company," but said the city should still be willing to look for new opportunities.

Larry Jones, of Waste Management, also spoke, saying, "If it's not broke, don't fix it." He said that the city can learn more about Waste Management's single-stream recycling program and its planned use of larger trash cans by observing the results of a pilot program. Waste Management will begin with Okaloosa County beginning in February of this year.



THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —Mike Griffith

Location: KMart

What do you think about the US postal rate hike scheduled for January 22, to include "forever" stamps going from 44 to 45 cents, and priority mail going from \$4.95 to \$5.15?



*"I think they should leave rates the same. I don't see a reason to raise them with the economy the way it is."*

Kim Putney, 26, Valparaiso, stay-home mom



*"We don't like any increase. It goes up every time you turn around."*

Larry Cordle, 50, DeFuniak Springs, truck driver



*"This is the first I've heard of it. Money is tight, and I had to stop sending Christmas cards this year because I couldn't afford the postage. This will only make it worse."*

Regina Perkins, 29, Crestview, mother



*"Everything is going up. I personally still pay my bills the old-fashioned way, with checks rather than online. I guess it's just another way for the government to get more of our money."*

Stacey Barkman, 43, Baker, bus driver and food service worker



*"I think the postal service will soon be a thing of the past, what with electronic alternatives like email and Facebook."*

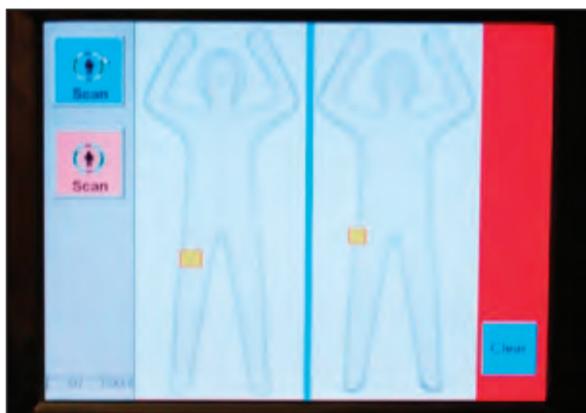
Ashley Jackson, 27, Niceville, mother



*"I would expect it. Everything is constantly going up, so to me, it's no shocker."*

Brittany Newman, 26, Crestview, stay-home mom

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



Transportation Security Administration images displayed by a full-body scanner of the type newly installed at the Okaloosa Regional Airport. Yellow areas indicate possible threats necessitating a search.

SCANNER

From page A-1 have the effect of removing a passenger's clothes. TSA says it has addressed both issues with the purchase of 300 advanced imaging technology (AIT) imagers in September.

"The type of imaging technology at (Okaloosa airport) is millimeter wave," said TSA spokesperson Jonathan Allen. "Millimeter-wave imaging technology uses nonionizing radio frequency energy in the millimeter-wave spectrum (there is no X-ray involved). The energy projected by millimeter-wave technology is thousands of times less than that permitted for a cell phone transmission."

Each of the millimeter-wave scanners costs about \$150,000, a cost paid by TSA, Allen said.

The other type of full-body scanner, in use at many other airports, uses a form of X-rays called backscatter technology, which TSA says produces the same radiation exposure as that posed by natural cosmic rays in two minutes of flying at altitude on an airplane.

New software installed on the millimeter-wave imaging machines reduces privacy concerns by replacing passenger-specific body image with generic outlines of a person. The generic image is the same for all passengers. Any potential threats that are detected by the scanner will show up on the corresponding area of the generic outline. While standing in the scanner, passengers at the Okaloosa airport get to see the same image on a computer monitor that TSA officers see.

If no potential threats are detected, an "OK" appears on the screen seen by the passenger and the TSA agent, Allen said. If a potential "threat" is detected, the

passenger and TSA agent see the generic body outline with area where the anomaly was detected highlighted. The images are not stored, printed or transmitted, according to the agency.

The TSA requires passengers undergoing a scan to raise their hands and spread their legs. It also recommends removal all items from pockets and certain accessories such as wallet, belt, bulky jewelry, money, keys, and cell phone.

An 18-year-old Niceville college student who flew from the Okaloosa airport Jan. 7, three days after the scanner was put into service, recalled her experience with the device. "I was asked to put my hands over my head and stand for about five seconds," she said.

"The machine detected something, so an agent gave me a pat-down," the student recalled. "The security agent determined that the problem was my watch and something metallic about my buttons. She then showed me my image on the machine, which was a basic human outline highlighting the areas where metal was detected."

Screening by full-body scanners is optional for all passengers, according to the TSA. Passengers who are asked to submit to a scan, but refuse, are searched by hand, according to the agency.

"For security reasons, we don't disclose the percentage of passengers screened by one method compared to another," Allen stated.

From the viewpoint of a reporter standing in the public area of the Okaloosa airport terminal one day last week, it appeared that most passengers going through the TSA checkpoint were being asked to walk through the now-routine magnetometer—or metal detector—rather than the new full-body scanner.

BLOTTER

From page A-4

Surveillance video showed two white males entering Turkey Creek South about 12:54 a.m. Jan. 9, with one subject holding a plastic shopping bag. Two other cameras on the boardwalk showed a third male had joined

the first two. All three were seen walking northward on the boardwalk.

The surveillance cameras never recorded the three leaving. Police checked local retail stores to see if anyone had purchased blue and red spray paints, but turned up no leads. The city estimated the cost to clean the damage at \$1,000.

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This explains why some people lose weight on a vegetarian diet, Atkins Diet, South Beach Diet, Weight Watchers, etc. and others are left wondering why the diet they chose didn't work

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For them. Chances are, that diet wasn't metabolically correct for their body chemistry. Another essential parameter that dictates what diet is best but is often overlooked is hormone levels. The one most noteworthy for weight loss is leptin. Leptin is a hormone in your body that tells your brain to stop eating, when to burn fat, and regulates the function of other hormones. If leptin is out of balance despite your best efforts, you will not lose weight. Your brain will not get the message to burn fat for energy; instead you will continue to be a sugar burner. The problem with this is, you will not use your fat store for energy (burn fat); you will have constant and uncontrollable cravings for sugar and will break down muscle tissue, which your body converts to sugar for energy. This causes a decrease in metabolism and a constant downwards spiral. Remember: fat doesn't make you fat, it's the inability to burn it. In our clinic we use patient history and a blood test for measuring leptin to determine what diet is best.

**VOTING**

From page A-1  
minor-party candidates are on the primary ballot.  
Meantime, all registered voters who are residents of Valparaiso, Mary Esther, or Destin may vote early in municipal elections, Lux said, at any of the four early voting sites.  
To make it even easier to vote early this year, Lux said, a fourth Okaloosa County early-voting station has been added, this one in Niceville.

Early voters can cast their ballots at any of four polling places in the county:  
—Niceville City Council Chambers, 208 N. Partin Drive, Niceville.  
—University of Florida's REEF, 350 North Poquito Road, Shalimar.  
—Bob Sikes Library, 1445 Commerce Drive, Crestview.  
—Supervisor of Elections Office, 302 Wilson Street N, Suite 102, Crestview.  
Hours for early voting Jan 21-28 are:

—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
—Saturday and Wednesday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.  
—Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Anyone standing in line at closing time will be allowed to vote, according to Lux.  
Jan. 3 was the last day to register or change party affiliation before the Jan. 31 primary. On Election Day, voting will take place 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 52 precincts countywide.  
Nine Republican presidential candidates were listed as qualified

by the state's Division of Elections: Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Gary Johnson, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney, and Rick Santorum.  
Bachmann, Cain and Huntsmen have withdrawn since they qualified for the Florida ballot.  
In Valparaiso, voters of any party, or no party may vote in the city's nonpartisan elections for city commission. Five qualified candidates vying for two seats: Kay Hamilton, incumbent Thomas G.

Miller, Joe Morgan, Keith Randall Roberts and incumbent Neal Shermer.  
Registered voters may also request an absentee ballot by telephone, mail, email, fax, or in person, to be mailed to or picked up by the voter. Absentee voters may also designate in writing a member of their immediate family to pick up a ballot—no earlier than four days before an election—by providing required information. You can also have someone else return your ballot. The designee for pickup must provide identifi-

cation. Candidates may not pick up or return ballots for anyone except members of his/her immediate family.  
Absentee ballots must be returned to either one of the Supervisor of Elections' two offices by 7 p.m. on election day in order to be counted. However, registered voters who are overseas must have their ballot dated or postmarked by the date of the election and receive by the Supervisor of Elections within 10 days of the election in order to be counted.



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## Dad enlists son, friend into USMC

By **Kenneth Books**  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

The apple didn't fall very far from the military tree.

Army Capt. Mike Smith beamed with pride Wednesday at Rocky Bayou Christian School as he swore his son, Andrew, and Andrew's friend, Joey Wilson, into the Marine Reserves.

The enlistment ceremony, which was attended by the student body, took place before graduation because Smith, a chaplain with the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), was days away from a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan.

Both new Marines hope to get into force reconnaissance, a job that requires stealth, intelligence and nerve. Force recon forces often stray far from their unit, gathering information. The goal is secrecy and quiet. If a

single shot is fired, their mission is considered a failure.

"It's the unit the commander uses to go gather intelligence," Andrew said.

Both young men—seniors who will graduate in the spring—have varied military heritages.

"I have a grandfather who served in the Marines in Vietnam," Joey said. He has two brothers in the Navy, as well.

"I wanted a challenge and I figure the Marine Corps is the service with the hardest challenge," he said.

Andrew said he joined the Marine Reserve primarily to serve his country. "It's something I wanted to do," he said.

For Mike Smith, the swearing-in ceremony was familiar. He joined the Marine Corps in 1988 as an enlisted man, served 10 years, then spent 10 years as a Tampa police officer while studying at seminary. Ordained, he joined the Army as a chaplain.

Both new Marines will attend basic training at Parris Island, N.C. If they're accepted



Andrew Smith is sworn into the Marine Reserve by his father, Army chaplain Capt. Mike Smith, as Andrew's friend, Joey Wilson watches. Also watching family friend Marine Col. Robert Armfield.

into the force recon program, they'll receive their training for

that billet in Mobile, a factor that contributed to Joey's plans.

"I'd like to stay in the South," he said.

### Who's News

E-mail items to  
info@baybeacon.com.

**Leah Guidry** of Valparaiso has been admitted to the professional program at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine as a member of the class of 2015.

Guidry earned an animal sciences degree from the University of Florida. She is a 2007 graduate of Niceville Senior High School. The veterinary program at Auburn is the oldest in the South and the nation's seventh oldest. More than 6,250 doctors of veterinary medicine have graduated since the first degrees were officially awarded in 1909.



**Leah Guidry**

\*\*\*

**David Haynes and Lindsay Haynes**, son and daughter of James and Barbara Haynes of Niceville, have been named to the Bryan College Dean's List for the fall 2011 semester.

Bryan is a Christian liberal arts college offering bachelor's degrees in 20 areas and master's degrees in business administration and Christian studies. The college has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report for 16 consecutive years as being among the top tier of Southern liberal arts colleges.

### In the Service

E-mail items to  
info@baybeacon.com.

Air Force Airman **Michael D. Blaker** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, 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.

Blaker is the grandson of Michael Gant of Quince Avenue, Niceville.

He is a 2010 graduate of Niceville High School.

## Outdoor excursions set to highlight Panhandle

The Natural Resource Extension Agents of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (UF/IFAS) will present Panhandle Outdoors LIVE, a series of guided field excursions highlighting unique ecological features throughout northwest Florida.

All excursion sites are special places, most are protected, many are unique to the Southeast U.S. and some have global significance. The Florida Panhandle boasts a diversity of landscape features resulting from uncommon combinations of underlying rock, elevation, groundwater and surface waters. This diversity of water-dominated landscape features

has allowed hotspots of high biodiversity to evolve and flourish. How familiar are you with these world-renowned natural resources right here in our own backyard?

Trips begin in January and run monthly through November. Participants can choose to attend as many or as few of the individual events as they wish.

Each day runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.. Depending on location, moderate walking, hiking, swimming and/or paddling may be involved. Lunch, park entry fees and rentals will be provided for each participant (18 and up only) at a cost of \$30 per class. Registration is available at panhandleout

doorslive2012.eventbrite.com. Space is limited, so register early.

Necessary equipment and clothing will vary, based on weather and location, participants should wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water, sunscreen and a camera on each trip. Transportation to each location will be facilitated by carpooling and some counties may be able to provide transportation.

For more information, contact Brooke Saari, bsaari@ufl.edu via e-mail or by phone at 850-689-5850 or 850-892-8172.

## Excursion schedule

**Jan. 18:** Leon Sinks, Sinking Springs and Wakulla Springs at the Florida Park Service's Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park and the U.S. Forest Service's Leon Sinks Geological Area in the Apalachicola National Forest.

**Feb. 16:** Chipola River Bluffs and Caverns, near Marianna, and Falling Waters, in Chipley

**March 15:** Eglin Air Force Base Seepage Slopes and Fire Ecology

**April 4:** Bear Creek Educational Forest and Apalachicola Bluffs, Steepheads and Ravines

**May 11:** Perdido River canoe trip

**June 5:** Navarre Beach and Santa Rosa Sound

**June 6:** Navarre Beach Tour and Kayak Trip

**Aug. 22:** Ochlockonee River canoe trip; brackish river swamps and marshes

**Sept. 20:** St. Andrews State Park, snorkeling

**Oct. 11:** Hiking at Tate's Hell, wet savannas and swamps

**Nov. 14:** Hiking at Torreya State Park, Torreya Bluffs, streams and flood plain forests

*Registrants must be at least 18 years of age; all prices include lunch.*



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E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.



Allison Haley Dunn and William Samuel Bade

**Dunn-Bade**  
April Carter of Niceville and David Dunn of Austin, Texas, announce the engagement of their daughter, Allison Haley Dunn, to William Samuel Bade, son of Mary Jo and William Bade, of Omaha, Neb.

The bride-to-be is a 2005 graduate of Niceville High School and a 2010 graduate of the University of Florida, earning both her bachelors and masters degrees from the Fisher School of Accounting. She is employed in the audit practice of KPMG in Jacksonville, and has qualified to be a CPA. The future groom is a 2006 graduate of Saint Mary's University (Minn.), earning bachelors degrees in both math and English. He has been employed since June

2006 at Allstate Insurance, and is an actuary (FSA) and community leader in his start-up non-profit organization, The Self Movement, in Jacksonville.

Allison and Bill were engaged this past July while vacationing and hiking in Switzerland. They will be married on July 21, 2012, at Immaculate Conception Church in Jacksonville.

**Obituary**

**Ruth Eubanks Langston**

Ruth Eubanks Langston, 97, of Niceville, Fla., passed away Thursday morning, Jan. 5, 2012, at Twin Cities Hospital in Niceville.

Ruth was born in Pitt County, N.C., on Sept. 29, 1914, to Ernest and Mary Lou Eubanks. She attended Lenoir County (N.C.) schools and graduated salutatorian of her class from Contentea School in 1931. She married Wilbur Langston in August 1931 and in 1934 gave birth to their only child, Minnie Lou. They lived on their tobacco farm in Lenoir County until relocating to Niceville in the fall of 1955 to be near Minnie Lou and her family, who were stationed at Eglin Air Force Base.

Ruth was an accomplished seamstress, operating her own shop in Niceville for a time. She enjoyed preparing for and attending her daughter's many school activities through the years and later for her grandchildren, to whom she was affectionately known as DanMuddy.

Ruth enjoyed cooking, crossword puzzles and working in her yard. She also loved ballroom dancing and spent many Saturday nights dancing and socializing with friends at the VFW in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Don Eubanks and Earl Eubanks; sister, Vivian Jones; grandson, Jeffrey DeBruhl; and son-in-law, Dr. Robert S. Ellis. She is



Ruth Eubanks Langston

survived by her daughter, Minnie Lou Ellis, of Niceville; brother, J.W. Norris of Grifton, N.C.; grandsons, Joseph W. Ellis II (Wendy) of Madison, Miss., and Dr. Michael Miller (Leslie) of Panama City, Fla.; granddaughters, Sharon Reaves (Tison) of Niceville and Alison DeBruhl of Shalimar, Fla., great-grandchildren, John Jeffrey DeBruhl, Candice Gorynski, Shannon Smith, Devan DeBruhl, Joseph W. Ellis III, Meghan Ellis, Megan Brown, Tyler Brown, and Ryan Miller; great-great-grandchildren, Kaleigh Hatzinger, Brendon Gorynski, Paige Gorynski and Gage DeBruhl; as well as several nieces and nephews; and a very special friend, John Edenbo, of Fort Walton Beach.

There was a visitation on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012, at Heritage Gardens Funeral Home, with a funeral service at the funeral home. Ruth's grandsons served as pallbearers.

You may express condolences to the family and sign the guestbook at heritagegardensfuneralhome.com. Heritage Gardens Funeral Home of Niceville is entrusted with the arrangements.

**Scouts plan dessert tasting to raise cash**

The Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle and Resort Quest plan the first Destin Desserts Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort.

Destin Desserts is a fundraiser based on Girl Scout Cookies. All proceeds will benefit local Girl Scouts. Tickets are \$75.

Chefs from around Destin will prepare special desserts using Girl Scout Cookies. Guest will sample the desserts and vote for their favorite. Chef Tim Creehan will be head judge, along with Girls Scout Council of the Florida Panhandle CEO Raslean M. Allen. The event will feature music by Jones and company, along with a silent

auction and heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Local chefs include Brannon Janca of Stinky's Fish Camp, Dan Pettis of One20 A Modern Bistro, John Sallman of Beach Walk Café, Mark Hall of the Emerald Coast Conference Center and Alan Baltazar of Cuvee Bistro.

Tickets and sponsorships are available by contacting Michelle Kyser at ekyser@gscfp.org or 850-434-1333, or they can be purchased at Bayou Books in the Oak Creek Shopping Center, near Food World.

The Girl Scouts of America turns 100 years old on March 12. Locally, 129 girls are Scouts and 34 adults serve as leaders.



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**Quilt raffle tickets on sale Jan. 30**

Can be seen at March show



The "Tulips Around the Cabin" quilt will be the Flying Needles' second prize.

Tickets for the 2012 Opportunity Quilt by the Flying Needles Quilt Guild will be available after Jan. 30 at Margie's Sew Much Fun, Crestview; Lynne's Sewing Center and The Sewing Center, Fort Walton Beach; Yarns n Yarns LLC, Freeport; Bayou Books, Niceville, and the office of Dr. Eleanor McCain, Fort Walton Beach. Tickets are 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5.

The Amazon Star quilt is a complex 104-by-104-inch paper foundation-pieced pattern by well-known designer Judy Niemeyer, and will be first prize in the biannual raffle drawing. There will be a second prize quilt, Tulips Around the Cabin, 84-by-84-inches, which is composed of blocks of the log cabin design with a tulip appliqué on the top of each block, sewn and turned in by members who wished to participate.

Funds raised will be used to support supply costs for charitable items the guild makes and donates to local organizations, including the National Quilts of Valor organization, which is dedicated to the distribution of a red, white and blue quilt to every wounded war-

rior in the service of our country. The additional charitable items, all made by the guild's more than 100 members, are quilts, drawstring tote bags, smaller zippered cosmetic/school supply bags and Christmas stockings, given to shelters throughout the area for distribution to children. Guild members made more than 900 Christmas stockings for children in 2011 and are dedicated to charity sewing every month.

The quilts will be displayed all weekend March 1, 2 and 3, during the 2012 Quilt Retreat & Show at the Emerald Coast Conference Center, 1250 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door.

Call Pat, 729-7772, or Lynne, 897-7323, for information about the Quilt Show. Check flyingneedlesquiltguild.org for more information about the Retreat. Call Sandra, 862-8588, for more information about the quilts.



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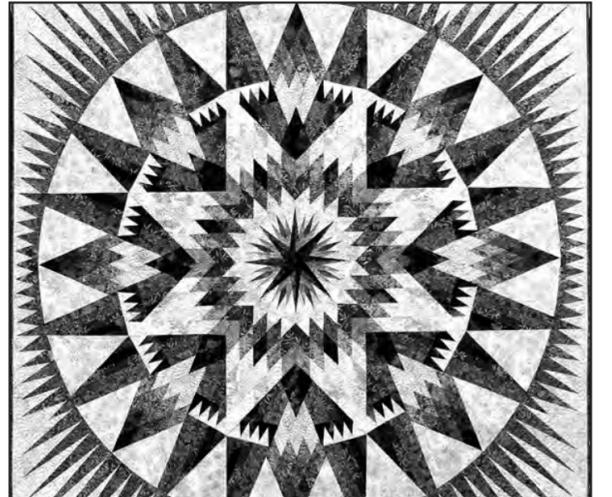
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**CALENDAR**  
 E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com before 5 p.m. Wednesday.

**Library story time**

Story time for ages 3-5 has started up again at the Niceville Public Library and will feature the following themes this month:

- Jan. 18 and 19—"A Snow Day"
- Jan. 25 and 26—"Damsels and Dragons"

Join Ms. Karen and Ms. Christina for these fun upcoming story times.

Each session begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Youth Services Program room and lasts for about 30 minutes.

Wednesday and Thursday programs are identical.

On Jan. 18 and 19, the Niceville Library and Children's park will join forces for "A Snow Day." There will be a special surprise during story time and at 11:30 the park will host a snowflake hunt.

**Art Salon works at library**

The artwork of the Art Salon group will be on exhibit at the Niceville Library through Jan. 31.

The Art Salon is a group of artists who meet to discuss art, see videos, critique and share art, and occasionally work on a group project.

**Eatery features artwork**

The art of Lynette Miesen will be on display through Jan. 29 at Cafe Bienville, 14 Bayshore Drive, Niceville. As a member of the Local Color Artist's Guild and the Plein Aire Artists of Florida, Miesen's paintings capture the essence of the Emerald Coast. The exhibit is free and open to the public 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday and noon-6 p.m. Sunday. Info: 678-2233.

**Mattie Kelly art exhibition**

The Mattie Kelly Arts Center Galleries at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville, begin the new year with two exhibitions, running through Feb. 17.

The McIlroy Gallery will host to "Worlds Apart," a two-man show featuring the works of Duncan Baird and Cetin Oguz.

In the Holzhauser Gallery, viewers will see the work of Elizabeth Austin, "Cassetina, the Magic Box," an intimate view of decorated miniatures.

The Galleries are always free and open to the public. Info: 729-5382.

**'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 regarding lecture topics, visit heritage-museum.org.

**Popcorn and politics party**

On Thursday, Jan. 19, 6 p.m., the Democratic Women's Club will have a Popcorn and Politics Party at the Democrat Headquarters, 60 Second Ave., (unit 305), Shalimar.

The event is free; however donations are requested for drinks. Popcorn and nibbles will be available. All local Democrats and their friends are encouraged to attend. Please contact



**The DePue Brothers**

The Emerald Coast Concert Association will present the DePue Brothers, four violinist brothers and their band, whose sound is a vivid blend of bluegrass, classical and rock Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m., at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville. Tickets, \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door, are available at Mattie Kelly Arts Center Box Office or by calling 729-6000. Info: 362-9356 or emeraldcoastconcerts.com.

Trish Rowe at 678-0871, or the office at 609-3367.

**Horticulture group meeting**

The Northwest Florida Horticulture Studies Group will meet Jan. 19, 10 a.m., at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso. The topic, "What's in Your Garden, Friendly Natives or Exotic Monsters?" will teach native alternatives for exotic invasive plants that grow in area gardens. Meeting is free and open to the public without reservations. Info: 678-2842 or 678-2615.

**Violinists to perform**

The Emerald Coast Concert Association will present the DePue Brothers, four violinist brothers and their band, whose sound is a vivid blend of bluegrass, classical and rock Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m., at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville. Tickets, \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door, are available at Mattie Kelly Arts Center Box Office or by calling 729-6000. Info: 362-9356 or emeraldcoastconcerts.com.

**Lopez Tabor duo concert**

The Lakeview Concert Series Guild will host the violin/piano duo of Alfonso Lopez and Michelle Tabor on Jan. 22, 3 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, DeFuniak Springs. The free performance will be followed by a reception. Info: 892-5332.

**Embroiderers to meet**

The Sand Dunes Chapter of Embroiderers' Guild of America celebrates various forms of hand embroidery. Its 2012 program continues at the January meetings. The day meeting is Monday, Jan. 23, 9:30 a.m.-noon. The night group meets Thursday, Jan. 26, 6-8:30 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church of Niceville. Visitors are welcome.

**Couponing 101**

Have you watched TLC's Extreme Coupon show and thought "I wish I could save money on my grocery bill, but who has 60 hours a week to spend couponing?" Learn how to get more and spend less when you shop.

Join the Friends of the Niceville Library for "Couponing 101." Elaine Courtney, Family & Consumer Sciences Agent with UF/IFAS Okaloosa County Extension Services, will provide valuable information on beginning couponing. This program will be held at the Niceville Community Center, 204 Partin Drive N., adjacent to the Library Tuesday, Jan. 24, 6:30 p.m. It is a free program but space is limited. Reserve your spot by calling 279-4863 ext. 1504.

**Beginner's French**

The Valparaiso Community Library will offer a beginner's French class beginning Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 3:45 p.m. This class is free of charge and is opened to high school and college students as well as to adults. The instruction is based on conversational French as well as French history and culture, and is taught by a Frenchman who has lived in the area for a couple of years. The book used for instruction is available at the Library. Info: 729-5406.

**'Damn Yankees'**

"Damn Yankees" will come to the stage at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. The musical is part of a national touring production. Tickets to the seven time Tony Award winning show are \$45. Info: 729-6000 or mattiekellyartscenter.org.

**Shorebird program**

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will offer a public program, "Shorebirds of the Florida Panhandle," at its regular monthly meeting Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m. Learn how to identify the various species seen on local beaches, hear fascinating details about their behaviors, and find out what's being done to protect them. The program will be presented by Alan Knothe, the Northwest Florida Bird Conservation Coordinator for Audubon of Florida. The meeting will be held in Room 140, Building D (Collegiate High School), of the Niceville Campus of Northwest Florida State College. Refreshments and socializing begin at 6:30 p.m., with the program at 7. The meeting is free and open to the public. Info: Walt Spence at 850-678-3965.

**Fla. architecture program**

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida will host a program Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-noon, entitled "Cracker Shack." Many early settlers in Florida grew up in log cabins, cracker shacks and shotgun houses. Learn about different homes from Florida's past with this hands-on lesson in Panhandle architectural history. Then build a pioneer house the way Florida settlers did in the 1800s.

The program will engage kids by using 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.

**'Simply Sinatra'**

"Simply Sinatra" starring Steve Lippia, will be performed at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m. The performance will be part of the Artists Series and

will feature "Ol' Blue Eyes" style singing with a 16-piece band. Tickets are available for \$30 each.

Info: 729-6000 or mattiekellyartscenter.org.

**Contracting seminar**

The Niceville office of accounting firm Carr, Riggs & Ingram will present its third annual government contracting seminar Tuesday, Feb. 7, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. The seminar is designed to prepare government contractors with strategies for unlocking government contracting mysteries that will enhance opportunities for success in 2012.

The event features topics including DCAA compliance made easy, patents, trademarks, copyrights and intellectual property, bids and proposals, SBA and 8(a) program benefits, and Deltex's Clarity 2011 update. The government contracting consulting professionals of CRI will be available to answer any questions and provide best practices throughout the day. Admission is \$60 and includes lunch. To register, call 682-4357.

**'Brigadoon' at Arts Center**

"Brigadoon," a national touring production of the musical, will be performed at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville, main stage Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45. Info: 729-6000 or mattiekellyartscenter.org.

**Concerto winners perform**

The Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra will present "The Stars of Tomorrow" at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. Elementary, middle, high school and college winners of the 2011 Concerto Competition will be the featured soloists. The show will also include a tribute to the Old West. Tickets are \$22.50. Info: 729-6000 or mattiekellyartscenter.org.

**'The Doo-Wah Riders'**

The Emerald Coast Concert Association will present The Doo-Wah Riders Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium. They feature sounds of high energy country with a Cajun twist. The audience can meet the artists after the concert at the Magnolia Grill, Fort Walton Beach.

Tickets are \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door, and are available at Artful Things in Niceville. Info: 362-9356 or emeraldcoastconcerts.com.

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## Junior Golf Tour set to begin Jan. 29 Season runs through December

The Emerald Coast Junior Golf Tour season opener will be at Rocky Bayou Country Club Jan. 29. Tony Capano, a Senior Rules Official with the Florida State Gold Association, will host a rules presentation, followed by a skills challenge and 9-hole three-club, par 3 event. Points will be awarded. Every player will need to complete a United States Golf Association rules quiz in 2012.

Tour participants are between 7 and 18 years of age. The tour is run by Chris and Michelle Poate. It's stated goal is to provide tournament-quality play for youngsters to encourage them to become the best golfers possible.

Last year, between 100 and 150 young golfers participated.

The Medicus Cup Spring Series will include six events, including a two-day event at Hidden Creek in March and the series finale at Emerald Bay, Destin, April 28-29. The first play date will be Feb. 12, the first Turf vs. Surf Tour Challenge with the Red Hills Junior Golf Tour organization at Camp Creek Golf Club.

The Edwin Watts Trophy Summer Series will include six events, with finals Aug. 25-26 at Marcus Pointe, Pensacola. Four events in the Fall Series, including a new two-day event in October at the Nicklaus Course

at Bay Pointe, Panama City Beach, finish the event.

The tour will again play for American Junior Golf Association Performance Stars as part of the Medicus Cup Spring Series and Edwin Watts Summer Series, along with Florida Junior Tour exemptions at both spring two-day events and several summer tour events. All two-day events will be National Junior Golf Scoreboard-ranked tournaments. This is the No. 1 resource college coaches turn to when reviewing and evaluating a player's scores and tournament schedules.

Match Play Championships return to Bluewater Bay in May, followed by the Rocky Bayou Junior Classic in June and the Daily News Junior Classic in July. A team of 12 players in four divisions will represent the EC Junior Golf Tour at the FSGA Florida Junior Team Championships at Vero Beach Aug. 10-12.

### Schedule

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

#### Tournament Schedule

- Spring tour—Medicus Cup**  
Jan. 29-Rocky Bayou CC, Opening Day with Rules Presentation  
Feb. 12-Camp Creek GC—Tour vs. Tour Challenge w. RHJGT  
Feb. 18-Pensacola Country Club  
March 10-11-Hidden Creek GC, Navarre  
March 25-Holiday GC, Panama City Beach  
April 15-Gator Lakes GC, Mary Esther  
April 28-29-Medicus Cup 2012 Spring Tour Championships, Emerald Bay GC, Destin
- Summer Tour—Edwin Watts Trophy**  
May 20-Emerald Coast Junior Match Play Championships, Bluewater Bay GC  
June 14-15-Rocky Bayou Junior Classic (open)  
June 23-Stonebrook GC, Pace  
July 15-Eglin AFB, Niceville, Eagle Course  
July 18-19-Daily News Junior Classic, FWB (open)  
Aug. 10-12-ECJGT Team goes to Florida Junior Team Championships  
Aug. 25-26-Edwin Watts Trophy 2011 Summer Tour Championships, Marcus Pointe GC, Pensacola
- Fall Series**  
Sept. 16-Emerald Coast Junior Four-Ball Championships, Kelly Plantation, Destin  
Oct. 6-7-Dewssweeper's Junior Fall Classic, Bay Point Resort, Nicklaus Course, PC  
Dec. 16-Junior/Adult Charity Classic TBA



Travis Thornton joins his skydiving crew in a formation during the U.S. Parachute Association National Collegiate Parachuting Championships at Skydive, Ariz.

## Skydiving champ wins gold, sets records at national meet

Niceville native Travis Thornton won two gold medals and set national and state collegiate skydiving records Dec. 29 at the 2011 U.S. Parachute Association National Collegiate Parachuting Championships at Skydive, Ariz in Eloy, south of Phoenix.

Nearly 100 fearless collegiate skydivers from around the country put their books aside over the winter break to compete at the national championships, pushing their aerial skills to the limit and competing for the title of national champion in four spectacular skydiving disciplines: Formation

Skydiving, Vertical Formation Skydiving, Sport Accuracy and Classic Accuracy.

Thornton, a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, won gold in the 4-way formation skydiving event with his team, Air Force Intrepid. In formation skydiving, the team leaps from an aircraft more than two miles above the ground and

then races against the clock to form prescribed geometric formations in freefall before opening their parachutes.

Thornton took a second gold medal in the team accuracy event with his team, Air Force Lawn Darts. In accuracy competition, jumpers exit an airplane more than 3,000 feet in the air and then steer their parachutes and try to land on a dime-sized dot on a landing tuffet. The team also national and Arizona state collegiate skydiving records with a total score of 0.65 meters.

Thornton has skydived more than 500 times. He is a senior with a major in history.



Travis Thornton

leaps from an aircraft more than two miles above the ground and

### Sports Briefs

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

mately 3 p.m. at L.J. Schooner's Docksides Restaurant.

There are no fees or awards for the race and all boats will participate as a single class.

The race will be to government marks, as defined in the captain's meeting.

For more information, call Bill Deming at 678-7223 or e-mail [bdeming1@cox.net](mailto:bdeming1@cox.net).

#### More sports, B-6

STARS recreational soccer registration will take place Saturday, Jan. 21, 9 a.m.-noon, at Northwest Florida State College, Building LRC, Room 131, for boys and girls U8 and U10 (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th grades).

Info: [emeraldcoaststars.com](mailto:emeraldcoaststars.com).

The final STARS registration will take place Saturday, Jan. 28, 9 a.m.-noon, at Northwest Florida State College, Building LRC, Room 131, for boys and girls U8 and U10 (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th grades).

\*\*\*

The Destin 50 Beach Ultra, Destin 50 Beach Ultra Deployed Shadow Run, Son of a Beach 5K and Son of a Beach Athlete Challenge, all benefiting the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, will take place Saturday, Feb. 18, beginning at the Back Porch restaurant, 1740 Scenic Highway 98, Destin. The 5K will begin at 8 a.m., followed by an "Athlete Challenge," a CrossFit-inspired event that will challenge those athletes with various strength events mixed with short runs at 9:30.

On Sunday, Feb. 19, a 50-mile race on the beach will begin at 5 a.m., a 50K race will begin at 6 a.m. and a 40-mile relay will start at 7 a.m.

A pre-race pasta dinner will be served from 4:30-8 p.m. at Graffiti in Baytowne, and a runners' social will take place 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at The Red Bar, Grayton Beach.

Info and registration: [destin50@live.com](mailto:destin50@live.com) or call 585-9773.

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Beacon photos by Norman Wolf

## Niceville, Tate girls tie, 1-1

Niceville High School freshman Elisah Craft outruns her Arnold soccer opponent Friday night at Twin Oaks, above. The two schools ended the game tied, 1-1. Below, Jessica Chavis heads the ball out of a swarm of Arnold players



## Eagles shut out Tate

Niceville High School's Marcos Melecio-Zambrano moves the ball away from Tate defenders during the Eagles' 3-0 victory over the visitors Friday at Twin Oaks, left. Below, Eagle David Williams frustrates the Tate players by keeping the ball moving toward the Tate goal.

Beacon photos by Norman Wolf



## More sports, B-4



Darlene Martin, RN, BSN, CDE  
Joint Replacement Coordinator



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## NHS falls to Bulldogs Thursday

Niceville High School's Tashi Brown shoots from within a pressing crowd of Crestview players Thursday at home, drawing a foul. Crestview won the hard-fought contest, 56-39.

Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

## Knights lose to Choctaw

Rocky Bayou's Grace Stoner rushes for the ball Jan. 10 as teammate Mariah Jammer watches. The Knights lost the game to Choctawhatchee, 4-0.

Photo by Scott Schaeffler



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