

# The Bay Beacon

14 Pages, 2 Sections, 3 Inserts

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

50c

## UP COMING

**Wednesday, 3:45 p.m.**

The **Valparaiso Community Library** will offer a beginner's **French** class, free of charge and open 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.  
Info: 729-5406.

**Friday, 7 p.m.**

The **Emerald Coast Autism Society** will hold its second annual **"T-shirts and Ties Party"** at The Howl at the Moon in Fort Walton Beach to help raise funds support local families affected by autism. Party goers are encouraged to wear your snazziest T-shirt or favorite tie.

Tickets are \$10 per person and will include the cover charge to the club, two drinks from the sponsor and a raffle ticket.

**Saturday, 11:30 a.m.**

The **Niceville High School Eaglettes** will hold a **dance clinic** in the high school cafeteria. Cost: \$30. Registration forms are available at local schools or at the clinic at 11:20 a.m.

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

"**Damn Yankees!**" will come to the stage at the **Mattie Kelly Arts Center**, Niceville. Tickets to the seven-time Tony Award-winning show are \$45.  
Info: 729-6000 or mattiekellyartscenter.org.

Calendar, B-4.

## Valparaiso candidates answer questions

By Del Lessard  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

Four of five Valparaiso City Commission candidates answered residents' questions Thursday in a televised forum. Two four-year commission

seats are at stake in the Jan. 31 municipal election.

Candidates Kay Hamilton, Joe Morgan, Keith Roberts and Neal Shermer, an incumbent, answered questions Thursday night in a city-sponsored candi-

date forum at city hall. A fifth candidate, incumbent Thomas Miller, was absent due to illness.

The forum was videotaped

Please see ANSWER, page A-7



Beacon photo by Del Lessard  
Four of five candidates for two Valparaiso City Commission seats took part in a televised forum. From left: Neal Shermer, Joe Morgan, Kay Hamilton, Keith Roberts.

## Early voting underway



Beacon photo by Del Lessard  
Pollworkers Libby Goehring, left, and Jean Miller prepare to greet voters Monday in Niceville's city council chambers, newest of four early-voting locations in Okaloosa County. At any of the four sites, eligible voters may cast early ballots for the Florida Republican Presidential Preference Primary, and in municipal elections in Valparaiso, Destin and Mary Esther. A total of 1,785 voters countywide cast ballots in the first three days of early voting, through Monday, including 550 at the Niceville site, according to the Supervisor of Elections. Early voting will continue through Saturday. Election Day, when the county's 52 regular polling places will be open, is Jan. 31.



## College investigates enrollment decline

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

Enrollment has been slowly declining at Northwest Florida State College, said NWFSC President Ty Handy.

Although Handy said he is not alarmed by the decline, he nevertheless plans to investigate the trend to learn more about what is causing it, how far it is likely to go, and what the college should do about it.

Speaking earlier this month to directors of the college's fund-raising arm, the NWFSC Foundation, Handy said that

Trustees meet in new building, A-4.

enrollment last fall was about 6 percent below that of the previous year, and he expects a similar enrollment drop of 6 or 7 percent for the spring semester, for which exact figures were not yet available.

The good news of such an enrollment drop at a community college, he said, is that it may be an indicator of an improving local economy, in which potential students choose to take available jobs rather than attend college classes to improve their employability.

For the college, however, declining enrollment means less revenue in tuition, fees and

Please see COLLEGE, page A-3

# Homebuilding ends year on a strong note

## Strongest performance since at least 2005

By Del Lessard  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

Residential building activity picked up in 2011 in the city of Niceville, with a 27-percent increase in housing starts.

A total of 85 permits were issued for construction of single-family homes last year in the city limits, up from 67 in 2010, according to figures from the Niceville building

inspector.

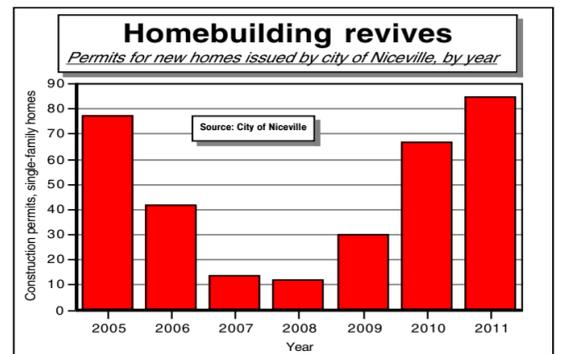
For the past three years, permits for single-family homes in Niceville have increased steadily.

A booming housing construction market in the mid-2000s—including several multi-family projects aimed at incoming military families after BRAC 2005—came to a practical standstill when the

local housing market tanked in 2007. Permits for new homes in Niceville hit lows of 14 and 12 permits issued in 2007 and 2008 respectively.

There were no permits filed for multi-family homes, and only one last year for a duplex, after permits for 18 projects were issued between 2005 and 2007 for a total of 119 housing units.

Meanwhile the average construction price for a single-family home continued a decline that began in 2007, according to permit figures. Last year the average new home was valued at \$219,108, down 13 percent from a year earlier. The figures include only the value assigned by the builder to the dwelling, not the land.



## Bridge takeover bill seen on back burner

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

A proposed state takeover of the Mid-Bay Bridge appears to have been put on the back burner, at least for 2012, according to bridge officials.

Bridge Executive Director Jim Vest told members of the toll span's governing board last week that he was recently asked to provide budget information to a Florida legislative panel, but that there has been no legislative action in recent months regarding the potential takeover.

Mid-Bay Bridge Authority lawyer Mary Kraemer concurred,

telling board members during a meeting Thursday in Destin that the Florida Legislature is so busy with other business, such as redrawing all legislative districts,

Please see BRIDGE, page A-3

One of several creeks and swamps being bridged for an 11-mile, \$174 million expressway under construction to link the Mid-Bay Bridge and Highway 85 north of Niceville. A proposed state takeover of bridge and road is seen as unlikely this year.

Mid-Bay Bridge Authority



## City aids nonprofit groups

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

The Niceville City Council has awarded \$15,000 in tax money to 10 nonprofit organizations.

Of the 10 organizations, only the Economic Development Council received as much money as it had asked for—\$3,000.

The amounts requested

Please see CITY, page A-2

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# Eglin pilots 'antsy' to fly F-35



Beacon photos

A Marine F-35 Lightning II arriving at Eglin Air Force Base Jan. 11. A total of 59 of the new triservice warplanes are scheduled to be based at Eglin for a training wing.

## Wing leader addresses local group

By Mike Griffith

Beacon Correspondent

Although there are still fewer than a dozen F-35s at Eglin Air Force Base after years of planning and preparation, there will soon be more of the world's top fighter planes at Eglin than anywhere else in the world, said Col. Arthur Tomasetti, a Marine who is vice commander of the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin.

Tomasetti addressed a luncheon meeting of the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce last week. His flying unit is a multi-service, international training wing for the pilots and maintenance troops who will come to Eglin to learn how to operate and care for the new jets.

As of last week, said the colonel, there were eight F-35s at Eglin, with more expected to arrive as they become available after manufacture and testing. Eglin's 33rd Fighter Wing is supposed to receive 59 of the warplanes for training pilots and maintainers from the Air Force, Navy and Marines, as well as certain allied nations.

Although the planes have suffered from a number of cost overruns and technical problems that have prevented them from being cleared for flight by anyone except test pilots, some training for maintenance troops has already begun. "We are doing everything we can do with the planes short of flying them," Tomasetti said. "The maintainers don't have to share them with the pilots yet."

The pilots are awaiting permis-

sion to start flying the new jets. Tomasetti described their mood as "antsy."

"They can see the hardware," he said. "The feel of the people on our team is one of excitement—a feeling that, 'Now it's my turn, my chance to show what I can do.'"

He said pilots and troops have been keeping track of news and information about the status of the F-35 program on an hour-to-hour basis, using their personal cell phones to check news and information sites and to exchange information among one another via Facebook, YouTube and other social networking media.

"We are close to starting flights," the colonel said, but he could not pinpoint a specific date, as the planes are still grounded while military and civilian officials sort out the technical problems that have plagued it, driven up its cost, and delayed its operational capability.

He did say, however, that "We know the things we have to do" to get ready to fly, and he hopes to see the first F-35 flights from Eglin sometime in February. He said he expects to see about two dozen planes at Eglin by the end of this year, with the rest arriving by 2018.

Earlier this month the Department of Defense took the Marine Corps variant of the tri-service strike fighter off "probation" because of progress in solving technical problems.

An important factor in his troops' morale, Tomasetti said, is the local community. "I'm impressed by how happy the troops are to be in this community," he said. "They tell me they have never been anywhere where they felt so connected and involved, or had such positive relationships with the local people. Thank you."

Tomasetti said his unit will be a unique military organization, including members of three branches of the U.S. military as

well as from several allied nations. "We want to be successful," he said, "at making Eglin a model of how different services and nationalities can work together and overcome their cultural differences."

Asked about the delays and cost of the new planes, Tomasetti said such problems are to be expected in a new fighter that pushes the state-of-the-art of aircraft design and manufacturing. Creating such a new machine, he said, is a blend of science and art, and everyone involved is learning something new at each stage of the process. He said the 59 planes to be stationed at Eglin "have already been bought and paid for," but conceded that the cost and delay problems may translate into reduced numbers of operational planes worldwide.

Asked how noise from the F-35 will affect the city of Valparaiso, where some residents are concerned that homes may be declared uninhabitable because of noise, Tomasetti said that while theoretical science and studies are complete, the actual effect of the planes on surrounding communities will only be known for certain once the planes begin flying regularly.

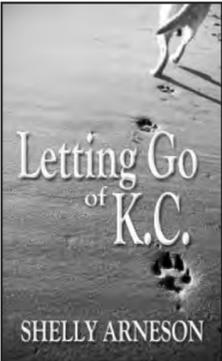
He said he is optimistic that the F-35 training program will prove to be more compatible with the local environment than its critics have feared, and may actually have no more real noise impact than other types of planes that have flown from Eglin in earlier times, including F-15s, F4s, and B-52s.



Col. Arthur Tomasetti, a Marine who is vice commander of the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin, gave a wing update to members of commerce in Niceville.

## Meet Shelly Arneson, Author of Letting Go of K.C.

Saturday, January 28, Noon- 2:00 p.m.



For anyone who has lived through the loss of a dog, it can feel like the end of the world, but it doesn't have to be. K.C., a beloved yellow Labrador Retriever, taught author Shelly Arneson and husband Dave unconditional love. Because of her uncanny ability to read emotions, her effective communication skills as the bearer of bad news as she reports misbehavior by other dogs, and her resolute vigil through the death of Shelly's mother, it was only fitting her family would be there for K.C. when she was diagnosed with a rare form of lymphoma. Share laugh-out-loud moments, poignant memories and devastating decisions that will move you to tears as Shelly openly and honestly reveals the loss of a beloved pet and the blessings of life after such a loss.

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## CITY

From page A-1

and allocated to other organizations during a city council meeting Jan. 10:

—Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce: Asked for \$5,000, allocated \$4,500.

—Bridgeway Center: Asked for \$3,000, allocated \$1,500.

—Okaloosa-Walton Child Care Services: Asked for \$1,000, allocated \$500.

—Shelter House, Inc.: Asked for \$1,000, allocated \$500.

—Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra: Asked for \$800, allocated \$500.

—Sharing and Caring: Asked for \$5,000, allocated \$2,000.

—Okaloosa County

Comprehensive Head Start-Child Development, Inc.: Asked for \$3,000, allocated \$500.

—Children's Advocacy Center: asked for \$3,000, allocated \$2,000.

—Senior Citizens Club-Valparaiso: "In Kind" services requested and allocated, but without specifying the nature of the services or their dollar value.

The organizations had originally requested a total of \$24,800 from the city during the Fiscal Year 2012 budget hearings last summer and fall, but the city council approved the lesser total of \$15,000 due to budget constraints, and left the allocation of funds among the various agencies to be decided at the Jan. 10 meeting. The allo-

cations approved by the council followed recommendations from city staff members, with one exception: The council decided to allocate \$500 to the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, despite a recommendation from staff that no money be given to that organization. To fund the orchestra, the council reduced the allocation to the Bridgeway Center Crisis Line and Meals on Wheels programs from the \$2,000 recommended by staff to \$1,500, thus remaining within the originally-budgeted amount.

City Manager Lannie Corbin said giving money to the non-profit groups benefits Niceville taxpayers because the groups provide public services that

would otherwise have to be provided by the city government.

In other tax-related business, the city council approved a resolution opposing Florida House Bill 4025 and Florida Senate Bill 760, which would repeal chapter 205 of the Florida Statutes, eliminating the Local Business Tax Act.

The proposed state bills, said council members, would deprive the city of a source of revenue and violate principles of home rule. Local business taxes, they said, have been in place in Niceville since the 1970s, and provided General Fund revenues in the amount of \$80,446 in Fiscal Year 2009-2010 and \$75,661 in Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

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# Student arrested as drug dealer

Lawmen raid Niceville house

By Del Lessard  
Beacon Staff Writer

A Niceville college student was arrested at home on drug charges Thursday, according to reports by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

Officials said they seized more than \$6,000 in marijuana.

The Okaloosa County Multi-Agency Drug Task Force raided 133 Mulry Drive, Niceville, following a narcotics investigation by sheriff's investigators and a Niceville police detective, according to a sheriff's report.

James Gregory Poddubny, a college student, 19, of 133 Mulry Drive, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, according to a sheriff's report.



James G. Poddubny

Michael John Poddubny Jr., unemployed, 27, of the same address, was arrested on an unrelated warrant from Washington County, according to a report from the



Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Law enforcement officials executed a search warrant at 133 Mulry Drive, Niceville, (above) Jan. 19, and seized a pound of marijuana (insert) allegedly packaged for distribution. James G. Poddubny, 19, (left) was arrested on drug charges.



sheriff's office. The two men were identified as brothers.

A sheriff's report gave the following account:

A drug task force investigation that began in October resulted in a search warrant for the Poddubny residence.

During a search of James Poddubny's bedroom, Thursday, drug paraphernalia was discovered, including a scale, marijuana price lists, packaging material, and a cell phone containing text messages consistent with drug transactions.

During a search of the garage

a deputy smelled marijuana. A backpack containing James Poddubny's college papers was found, along with 15 plastic bags of marijuana. Each bag contained about one ounce of the drug.

A total of 16 marijuana-stuffed bags were seized in the raid. Deputies estimated the street value of the drug at \$400 an ounce, or a total of \$6,400.

After running a records check on Michael Poddubny, who was present in the house during the search, officers found that he was wanted in Washington County for failure

to appear on a charge of driving while license suspended or revoked, according to a sheriff's report.

James Poddubny was released from the Okaloosa County Jail Jan. 21 on \$7,000 bond. Michael Poddubny was handed over to Washington County authorities Jan. 23.

The Okaloosa County Multi-Agency Drug Task Force is comprised of personnel from the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office, Niceville Police Department, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and federal agencies.

## BRIDGE

From page A-1

as well as balancing the state budget in spite of declining revenue, that no action is likely this year on the takeover originally proposed last year by State Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville.

Gaetz last year proposed that the state assume ownership of the 3.5-mile toll span and its associated northern-approach expressway, as well as two other independent toll-road authorities in Tampa and Orlando, in order to boost state borrowing to fund other road projects. The proposal, which was stiffly opposed by the three authorities, never came to a

floor vote last year.

In other business during the bridge directors' meeting, James VanSteenburg, of HDR Engineering, briefed the governing board on progress in building the \$174 million connector road under construction between the bridge and Highway 85 North, Niceville. He said most of the work now underway is being done on the several bridges needed to span the creeks and wetlands along the connector route.

The entire project, he said, is on schedule and expected to be complete by the end of 2013. Cost of the project, he said, is expected to be about \$49.2 million. It will link the bridge with State Highway 85 north of the

Mullet Site, bypassing Niceville streets.

Traffic over the bridge during December 2011 was about one percent lower than during the same period in 2010, as was toll revenue, Vest said.

Vest told the MBBA board that although SunPass toll revenue was down, cash tolls were slightly higher, possibly indicating that tourism is once again increasing, but that commuting by people living on one side of the bridge and working on the other, along with construction projects in the Destin area, may still be lagging.

Vest said that he is hopeful that traffic and revenue will increase as the national economy recovers, and will eventual-

ly return to or exceed the peak levels that occurred in 2005, before the U.S. housing crash decimated the Florida real estate and construction market.

Vest also said that he had no new information concerning possible payments to the MBBA from British Petroleum for lost revenue resulting from the BP oil spill during the spring and summer of 2010. Vest said he is still awaiting official December 2011 revenue figures from the Florida Department of Transportation, which he needs in order to submit the MBBA's claim for revenue lost during 2011. A previous claim for toll revenue lost during 2010 has already been paid by BP.

## COLLEGE

From page A-1

state funding. The Niceville-based college is one of the area's biggest employers.

Handy said he is appointing a 13-member enrollment committee to investigate the recent declines, find out what is causing it, and devise solutions to help the college attract students.

Also at the Jan. 10 meeting in Niceville, foundation Executive Director Cristie Kedroski briefed the directors on the upcoming grand opening of the new student services building at NWFSC, which will actually consist of several events. The first will be a student/faculty/staff open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31. It will feature tours of the new building as well as food for students, faculty and staff of the college.

The next event will be a joint after-hours event for local chamber of commerce members, as well as other local business and community leaders. This event, from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 2, will include a ribbon-cutting and tour of the student services building, as well as unveiling of the NWFSC Leadership Institute which will be headquartered in the new building.

The third event will be a community open house throughout the entire Niceville campus of the college, open to the general public. It will be from 12 to 3 p.m., Feb. 4, and will include tours of the campus, showcasing college departments and facilities, as well

as tours of the new student services building and the Okaloosa County Emergency Operations Center. Attendees will be offered free admission to a Raiders baseball game and to fine and performing arts recitals, as well as free seminars and workshops on assorted topics. There will also be prizes and various fun activities yet to be announced.

Finally, said Kedroski, the NWFSC Foundation's annual dinner will be held in the new student services center, at 6 p.m., Feb. 10.

Kedroski also discussed results of a recent audit of the foundation. She said that net assets were \$35,168,000 at the close of the fiscal year—a decrease of 0.09 percent from the previous year. However, gifts, contributions and endowment revenue was just over \$872,000—a 33-percent increase. The foundation gave \$189,000 in scholarship expenses and \$934,000 in support to the college, about \$341,000 more than during the previous fiscal year.

Foundation financial advisor Ray McGovern told the directors that there has been considerable market volatility in stocks, bonds and other securities, and he expects such volatility to continue for the foreseeable future. This, he said, reflects the national economic situation, in which "debt problems won't go away" any time soon, and Europe will continue to struggle with its own financial problems. In the United States, McGovern said, "the economy will muddle along," with slow economic growth.

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# College trustees meet in new building

*Community to be invited to tour center*

By Mike Griffith  
Beacon Correspondent

The Board of Trustees of Northwest Florida State College held its Jan. 17 business meeting in the college's new Student Services Center—their first meeting in the 75,000-square-foot facility recently completed on the college's main campus in Niceville.

Various college programs are moving into the new facility in stages and the college will host a series of student and community events on Jan. 31, Feb. 2 and Feb. 4 to officially inaugurate the new building.

According to the college, the three-story Student Services Center is part of a \$25 million project that will also include complete renovation of the college's 1970's era College Mall (Building K), with the work on Building K slated to be completed later in



2012.

As the Jan. 17 trustees meeting began, furniture and equipment was being moved out of Building K in preparation for the renovation there.

When Building K is overhauled, the two-building complex will be the hub of student and community life. The new facility houses vital functions such as advising, admissions, registration, financial aid, testing, veteran's affairs, adult education, continuing education, food services, student activities, the college's Leadership Institute, community meeting

space and more.

The renovation of the existing College Mall will include the college bookstore, Career Resource Center, Academic Success Center and more.

To open the facility for students and the community, the college will hold a student and staff opening event on Jan. 31 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., as well as a formal grand opening and ribbon-cutting the evening of Feb. 2 and a chamber of commerce function featuring the center's third floor Leadership Institute quarters.

The opening week festivities

will culminate with a free community open house featuring the facility, as well as activities and tours of the entire Niceville campus, on Feb. 4 from noon to 3 p.m.

In their business meeting, trustees approved various items related to the college's fund-raising arm, the NWFSC Foundation, including approval for the establishment of endowments funded by donors to support the Leadership Institute programs housed at the new Student Services Center.

Facilities naming based on the gifts will be formally unveiled at

The Northwest Florida State College trustees for the first time met in the new student services building, on the main campus in Niceville.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Finance and Audit Committee recommended the selection following a request for proposals and interviews with four applicants, which included longtime board lawyer Joseph Lorenz.

—A retirement resolution honoring the 11 years of service of Bob Coache of Crestview who served as a senior systems programmer in the college's information technology area.

—Deletion of \$24,310 in tangible property from the college's inventory.

The board also commended the staff of the NWFSC Collegiate High School for the charter school's recent top ranking among 410 high schools in Florida as reported by the Florida Department of Education's school grade report. It was the third time in the school's eleven year history that the school achieved the top A+ high school grade in the state.

The next trustees business meeting will be held Feb. 21 at 4:30 p.m. at the college's South Walton Center in Santa Rosa Beach. Meetings are open to the public.

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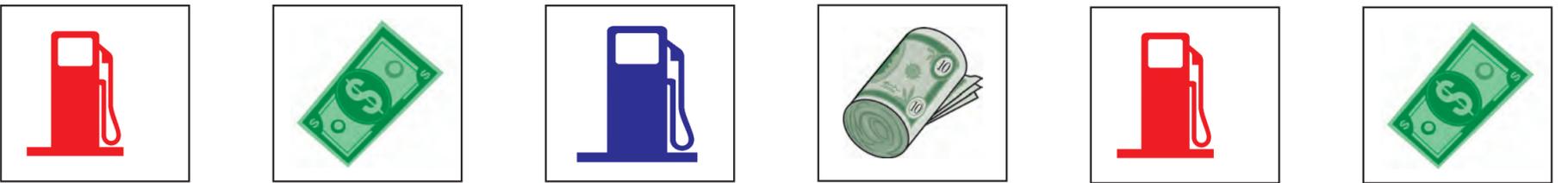
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# Sewer board seeks bids on sprayfield upgrade

## Panel reworks proposal to ease county's concerns

By Del Lessard  
Beacon Staff Writer

After a month's delay, on Jan. 17 the Niceville, Valparaiso Okaloosa County Regional Sewer Board again approved bid specification on a \$6.6 million sewage plant upgrade and Rapid Infiltration Basin (RIB) system.

The sewer board had previously approved the specifications for the plant upgrade in December, but that decision was subsequently tabled after county officials voiced concerns that parts of the specifications were worded to favor a sole-source procurement and could result in a protest by potential bidders.

There was also concern that the proposed performance warranty favored the contractor rather than the sewer board.

The board appointed a technical advisory committee to work out the difference. That committee met Jan. 11 and revised the wording of bid documents to satisfy the county's concerns that the project can be competitively bid.

Regional sewer board members subsequently approved the revised specifications at a special meeting Jan. 17.



The regional sewer authority is accepting bids for an expensive upgrade to shrink its sprayfield, pictured in 1993, because Eglin Air Force Base, on which the field is situated, will soon be charging market-rate rent.

Beacon photo

The sewer plant upgrade is designed around new technology that will remove most nutrients

before the wastewater is sent for disposal at the utility's leased sprayfields on land leased from Eglin Air Force Base. The RIBS segment of the project will reduce the amount of leased land needed to dispose of the treated waste-

water.

Customers of each of the three owners of the NVOC regional sewer utility can expect to pay increased sewer rates to help pay for the upgrades, officials said.

The upgrade project is needed as soon as possible to satisfy the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, which placed the regional sewer board under a consent order for exceeding groundwater pollution limits at the sprayfields. The RIBS portion of the project is needed to reduce the amount of land the utility needs to lease from Eglin, since the base plans to charge market value on the leased property, which until now has been free.

Engineers were anxious to get the bid out as soon as possible so that construction on the plant upgrade portion of the project can be completed before December. The new technology—which provides extra surface area for bacteria to aid in the breakdown of sewage waste water—is less effective during cold weather. Performance of the new plant upgrade will be evaluated, preferably during cold weather conditions, under a performance warranty that is included in the bid package.

Contractors will be required to attend a mandatory pre-bid meeting Feb. 9 with bid opening set for March 1.

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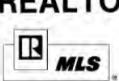


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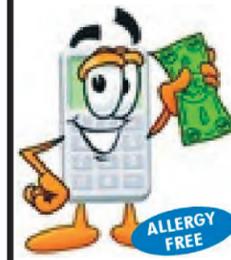
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# Police Blotter

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

Donna Goodrich, a cashier, 57, of 1518 Cedar St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 10 on a charge of battery, domestic violence.

Casey Michael Chavis, 24, of 610 Crestview Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 14 on charges of retail theft and resisting a merchant after committing theft. Chavis was allegedly observed at Kmart, 1140 E. John Sims Parkway, concealing without paying for a box of Reese's Pieces, three cans of sausage and a bag of Jolly Ranchers candies, valued at \$10.55 total, then pushing aside a store employee and fleeing. Chavis allegedly told police he stole the sausages because he was hungry.

Chavis was also arrested by sheriff's deputies the same day on a charge of failure to appear on an original misdemeanor charge of violation of nonresident exemption from registration.

Christy Renee Forrester, 39, of 614 Crestview Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Valparaiso police Jan. 11 on a charge of knowingly driving while her license was suspended.

John Donald Burklow, a cab driver, 41, of 103 Oak Shores Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Nov. 11 on a misdemeanor worthless check charge, three counts, related to three checks each written for \$27.40.

Jason Arthur Denny, 36, of 500 Kelly Road, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Jan. 12 on a felony charge of battery, with prior conviction and on a contempt of court charge.

## DUI arrests

Deshaun Roosevelt Frazier, 26, of 905 Trout Creek Cove, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies for DUI, subsequent to an accident with injuries and \$25,000 damage, on State Road 189 northbound and south of Mooney Road, Fort Walton Beach, that occurred Sept. 29 at 7:10 p.m. On Dec. 23 Florida Highway Patrol obtained a report on blood sample from Frazier, who was transported by helicopter to a hospital in Pensacola for his injuries, showing his blood alcohol level exceeded the state's legal limit. Frazier was also arrested Jan. 5 on a charge of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription as a result of cocaine residue was found in his vehicle. Frazier was also cited for reckless driving and driving with a suspended or revoked driver's license.

Jonathan David Touchstone, self-employed, 35, of 749 St. John Cove, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI on Highway 20 at Wise Avenue, Jan. 16 at 12:40 a.m. Touchstone was also cited for possession of an open container of alcohol in the vehicle.

Ronda Marie Bolin, unemployed, 51, of 128 Beach Drive, Fort Walton Beach, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI in a parking lot, 626 W. John Sims Parkway, Jan. 17 at 12:36 a.m.

Bolin was also arrested on a charge of aggravated battery, which occurred just prior to the DUI arrest, for allegedly fighting with another woman and hitting her in the mouth twice with a 1.7 liter whiskey bottle. Police found the bottle allegedly used in the assault under the front passenger seat of Bolin's vehicle.

## Thefts

A Niceville resident reported Jan. 12 that someone had used her debit card without her permission the same day the suspect had borrowed the victim's card, resulting in an unauthorized \$40 charge on the victim's account.

A man reported that sometime Oct. 31 to Jan. 14 unknown person(s) boarded his boat while it was docked at 124 N. John Sims Parkway, Valparaiso, and stole a radio, fish finder, GPS device, a 20-inch flat-screen TV with built-in DVD player, an electric drill as well as several rods, reels and fishing tackle. The estimated value of the stolen items was over \$4,000.

A Valparaiso man reported that unknown person(s) used his debit card on eight unauthorized transactions in Sacramento, Calif., between Dec. 30 and Jan. 9. The victim said he had possession of his debit card and had never been in Sacramento. His bank issued him a credit of \$432 for the fraudulent transactions.

A Niceville resident from the 300 block of Reeves Street reported that sometime Jan. 15-16 unknown person(s) stole the bicycles of two children from the front porch of the residence. Together the bikes were valued at \$350.

Responding to a motorist who called deputies after seeing a couple of boys sitting in some bushes with a red wagon full of stuff, deputies talked to the two 17-year-old juveniles, both residents of Niceville. The boys said they took the items from the garage of an abandoned house on Union Avenue where the glass panel on the door was already broken.

Taken were a cane fishing pole, a dress, a board game, a sweater, two books, a framed picture, an ammo can, a shoebox containing index cards, and wagon, a Radio Flyer. The teenagers said they assumed the items were abandoned. After they returned the items to the garage the owner was contacted and signed a drop charges form.

A Niceville resident reported that on Jan. 13 unknown person(s) made an unauthorized withdrawal of \$5.50 from her checking account. The victim stated she had been the victim of identity theft before and believed that the small with-

## Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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

**Name:** Ted Jeffrey Felder Jr.  
**Wanted for:** home invasion robbery.  
**Height:** 5-feet, 9-inches  
**Weight:** 135 pounds  
**Age:** 25  
**Date of birth:** 09-14-1986  
**Hair:** black  
**Eyes:** brown



**Name:** Derrick Bernard Thomas  
**Wanted for:** failure to register as a sexual offender, aggravated assault and child abuse.  
**Height:** 6-feet, 4-inches  
**Weight:** 190 pounds  
**Age:** 45  
**Date of birth:** 09-14-1966  
**Hair:** black  
**Eyes:** brown



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

## Golf carts okayed on some streets

By Del Lessard  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

The Okaloosa County Commission Jan. 17 approved the use of golf carts on residential streets inside the Rocky Bayou Estates subdivision.

Golfers who live in Rocky Bayou Estates and use the carts at the Rocky Bayou Country Club had requested permission to use the carts on county maintained roads surrounding the golf course after one of their members was pulled over by a deputy last year.

Under the new county ordinance golf cart drivers must be at least 16 years old, have a driver's license and proof of liability insurance. They are not allowed to drive carts capable of going faster than 20 mph and are not allowed to drive on sidewalks, although the carts can cross sidewalks at county approved locations.

Carts are allowed on streets within the subdivision, but not on sidewalks, and not on nearby major feeder roads such as College Boulevard or Forest Drive.

drawal was a test of the account before a larger withdrawal would be made.

A Niceville resident reported Jan. 12 that she found two unauthorized charges on her bank debit card account, one in Michigan, the other in Illinois. The California charge, for \$90, was declined by the company because the address on the transaction did not match the victim's address on her bank account. The victim said she was going to cancel the debit card.

## Criminal Mischief

Vandals used red and blue spray paint to write graffiti on a business building on Early Street, it was reported Jan. 10, as well as on the rim of a rental trailer. Police suspect the vandals might be the same individuals who vandalized Turkey Creek park.

Vandal(s) broke into a vacant trailer in the 300 block of Reeves Street and broke a mirror and a toilet cover, it was reported Jan. 16.

Sometime Jan. 14-15 someone "egged" a vehicle while it was parked in the 1100 block of 27th Street, Niceville.

# Okaloosa schools rank 6th statewide

By Del Lessard  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

The Okaloosa County School District has earned an A rating for another year Monday, and was ranked sixth among Florida's 67 school districts.

The Florida Department of Education announced the district grades and rankings Monday. The state listed 30 school districts as A districts, 23 districts as B, 13 districts as C, and one, Madison County, as D.

Each district also was ranked among its peers based on student performance on the state's standardized tests, the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT), during the 2010-11 school year. For example, Okaloosa County students amassed a total of 572 points to earn the rank of sixth statewide. The numerical ranking is based on each district's total points derived from FCAT scores. Districts are awarded one point for each percent of students in the district who were enrolled for the full year who score on grade level or higher on the FCAT and make annual learning gains (800 possible points).

The total is the sum of the percent of students scoring at Level 3 or higher for FCAT tests in reading, mathematics, and science; scoring at Level 4 or higher on the FCAT Writing essay; the percent of students who made learning gains in reading and mathematics; and for the percent of the lowest 25 percent of students who made learning gains in reading and mathematics.

Okaloosa students earned 572 points total with: —79 percent of students on grade level or higher in reading.

## Fire Department Reports

### Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from January 13, 2012 through January 22, 2012.

0 Structure Fire	17 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	0 Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	2 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	0 Hazardous Conditions

Street	Situation	Date	Time
N. Palm Blvd.	Medical	01/18/12	07:59
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	01/19/12	08:04
N. Partin Drive	Medical	01/19/12	08:28
Rattan Palm Drive	Medical	01/19/12	13:03
Perdido Circle	Medical	01/19/12	17:50
N. Partin Drive	Medical	01/19/12	19:35
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	01/20/12	03:43
Rue De Palms	Medical	01/20/12	13:17
21st Street	Medical	01/20/12	22:32
Kumquat Avenue	Medical	01/21/12	01:21
Blossom Creek Run	Medical	01/21/12	08:04
Stoney Creek Cove	Service Call	01/21/12	09:27
Bayshore Drive	Medical	01/21/12	12:38
Reeves Street	Medical	01/21/12	17:56
College Blvd.	Medical	01/21/12	21:46
Meigs Drive	Medical	01/22/12	09:49
Roberts Drive	Medical	01/22/12	13:06
Bullock Blvd.	Lock Out	01/22/12	13:28
Pine Court	Medical	01/22/12	16:20

Weekly Safety Tip: The National Fire Protection Association recommends that people with hearing impairments install smoke alarms with louder signals and/or strobe lights to alert them to a fire. Please look at the new Niceville Fire Department web page on Facebook.

### North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from January 15, 2012 through January 23, 2012.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	01/15/12	06:38
East Highway 20	Medical assist EMS	01/15/12	17:22
N. White Point Road	Dispatched canceled	01/16/12	01:48
Napa Way	Medical assist EMS	01/16/12	12:37
Troon Drive West	EMS excluding vehicle	01/16/12	15:59
Merchants Way	Medical assist EMS	01/17/12	04:17
Bluewater Boulevard	Smoke detector	01/17/12	17:47
Merchants Way	EMS excluding vehicle	01/17/12	17:53
White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	01/17/12	18:09
N. White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	01/18/12	11:09
East Highway 20	Rescue EMS incident	01/18/12	13:03
N. White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	01/19/12	20:08
Hampton Court	EMS excluding vehicle	01/19/12	21:05
Parkside Circle	EMS excluding vehicle	01/19/12	21:14
N. White Point Road	Medical assist EMS	01/19/12	22:29
Bluewater Boulevard	EMS excluding vehicle	01/20/12	18:14
East Troon Drive	EMS excluding vehicle	01/20/12	20:27
White Point Road	Dispatched canceled	01/20/12	22:04
N. White Point Road	Dispatched canceled	01/21/12	14:17
Merchants Way	Medical assist EMS	01/21/12	15:44
Tumberly Place	Medical assist EMS	01/21/12	17:46
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	01/21/12	20:30
White Point Road	Rescue EMS incident	01/22/12	18:14

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

- 83 percent of students at grade level or higher in math.
- 82 percent meeting the state's writing standard.
- 66 percent of students on grade level or higher in science.
- 65 percent of students making learning gains in reading.
- 71 percent making learning gains in math.
- 60 percent of the bottom 25 percent of students were making learning gains in reading.
- 66 percent of the bottom 25 percent of students were making learning gains in math.

Okaloosa County has earned an A rating every year since the 2003-2004 school year, according to the DOE website. Adjacent Santa Rosa and Walton counties also were among the top performing school districts rated A districts. Santa Rosa County students garnered a total of 576 points, ranking it the second highest in Florida. Walton County students earned a total of 546 points and were ranked 17th in the state.

## School district rankings

2011, Fla. Dept. of Education

Rank	District	Grade	Rank	District	Grade
1	St. Johns	A	34	Pasco	B
2	Santa Rosa	A	34	Volusia	B
3	Martin	A	37	Dade	B
4	Sarasota	A	38	Hernando	B
5	Gilchrist	A	38	Hillsborough	B
6	Okaloosa	A	38	Osceola	B
7	Seminole	A	41	Levy	B
8	Brevard	A	42	Holmes	B
8	Monroe	A	42	St. Lucie	B
10	Sumter	A	44	Escambia	B
11	Wakulla	A	44	Lake	B
12	Dixie	A	44	Marion	B
13	Clay	A	47	Manatee	B
14	Citrus	A	48	Columbia	B
14	Nassau	A	49	Pinellas	B
16	Palm Beach	A	50	Duval	B
17	Walton	A	51	Baker	B
18	Calhoun	A	52	Highlands	B
19	Union	A	53	Washington	B
20	Glades	A	54	Okeechobee	C
21	Charlotte	A	55	Suwannee	C
22	Lee	A	56	Putnam	C
23	Gulf	A	57	Taylor	C
24	Leon	A	58	Bradford	C
25	Alachua	A	59	Polk	C
26	Bay	A	60	Franklin	C
26	Broward	A	60	Hardee	C
26	Liberty	A	62	Gadsden	C
29	Flagler	A	63	Hendry	C
30	Indian River	A	64	DeSoto	C
31	Jackson	B	65	Hamilton	C
31	Lafayette	B	66	Jefferson	C
33	Collier	B	67	Madison	D
34	Orange	B			

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**What do you think about political attack ads?**



*"I'd rather hear a candidate say what he's going to do than what his opponent has done wrong. Stick to policies, not personalities."*

Kerry King, 48, Bluewater Bay, engineer



*"I don't like the personal attacks, especially the ones about Newt Gingrich's ex-wives. They have nothing to do with the presidency."*

Bonnie McClure, 60, Niceville, civil servant



*"I would rather see the candidates focus on what changes they can make to better the country, rather than attacking each other."*

Lauren Cochran, 51, Niceville, retired



*"I think political attack ads are sad. They're about candidates being defensive in trying to just win other people's votes."*

Susan Eppright, 37, Niceville, mother



*"It makes me sad that we've come to that, rather than focusing on policies. I've grown tired of hearing it."*

Suzanne McCracken, 38, Niceville, graphic designer



*"I don't respect them. I don't like to hear people speak badly of others in order to puff themselves up. Someone's character should stand on its own."*

Jennifer Stoffel, 29, Niceville, 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.

**Businesswoman Terri Fedonczak, center, moderated a televised forum for candidates for Valparaiso City Commission in the commission chambers Thursday.**



**ANSWER**

From page A-1

and is scheduled to be shown on the city's cable system, Channel 37, at 8 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., every day through Monday, Jan. 30.

Valparaiso has 2,864 registered voters eligible to cast ballots in the Jan. 31 nonpartisan municipal election that will seat two commissioners on the five-member city commission. Early voting began Saturday.

Valparaiso residents received a city newsletter earlier this month asking them to submit written questions for the candidate forum.

Valparaiso resident and busi-

nesswoman Terri Fedonczak moderated the forum, pulling a question from a bowl of 41 submitted questions and randomly selecting a candidate's name from another bowl to answer it. The chosen candidate was given a minute to respond to the question. City Administrator Carl Scott kept time.

The Jan. 19 forum was not designed as a debate, so only one candidate addressed each question. There were no follow-up questions. Each candidate was asked about 10 questions. After all the questions were drawn, each candidate was given two minutes at the end to make any statement.

Questions to the candidates broadly fell into three categories, including queries about:

—Specific city services, such as the library, street repairs, sidewalks or the city-owned cable television system. One example was a question that went to Morgan asking what he would do to improve streets? Morgan said as a commissioner he would prioritize the city's needs.

—General aspects of governance, including candidate qualifications, possible conflicts of interest, candidate objectives, compensation for commissioners and past commission decisions. For example, one question that went to Shermer asked what decision of previous city commission he disagreed with. Shermer said he thought the city should have kept its own sewer treatment plant rather than joining with Niceville and Okaloosa County to form a regional sewer utility in 1980.

—Negative perceptions about Valparaiso, including perceived poor relations with the Air Force, the school board, other cities and the county, as well as the number and costs of lawsuits in which the city was either the plaintiff or defendant. A couple of questions asked what the city commission could do to make the city more busi-

ness-friendly.

One of the lighter moments occurred when Shermer got a question about the effects of the F-35 on Valparaiso. "That's a one-minute question?," he responded in mock surprise, a reference to the strict time limit on candidate responses. He went on to note that an Air Force decision on flight profiles had been pushed back twice, delaying an analysis of jet-noise impacts on Valparaiso.

After all 41 questions were asked, each candidate was given two minutes to tell voters anything they wanted about their candidacy.

"The most important thing I can do is listen," Morgan said, noting that God had given him two ears but only one mouth. Based on his past professional experiences, he said he would "act in the best interest of the city after listening to you."

Roberts said his love of the city was the reason he decided to get more involved in Valparaiso's governance. He said he was willing to listen. Speaking from the dais where city commissioners normally sit, he said, "We're put up here to do what you want us to do." He added, "I'll do my best."

Hamilton said she didn't like how things were going on the city commission but had thought

long and hard before deciding to run. She said she had previously served on the city's planning commission and was willing to give the time needed to serve as commissioner. "We can turn things around," she said, including improved relations with Valparaiso's neighbors.

Shermer, who was appointed commissioner two years ago and is running for his first four-year term, said commission members will soon face several decisions that will greatly affect Valparaiso residents and their quality of life. He said the city needs leaders with detailed knowledge of the issues and the courage and selflessness to act in their neighbor's interests. "If chosen, I will continue to work hard for the benefit of our city, and to always put your interests first," he said.

Miller said he was absent, because he was being treated for a sleep disorder that affected his balance. He was reached earlier by the Beacon for comment. "I stand on my record of what I've accomplished, and hope to continue," said Miller, who has served on the city commission since 1996.

About 20 people in the audience watched candidates quietly. The forum allowed no questions other than those submitted earlier in writing.

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Award-winning novelist, Joshilyn Jackson, will be featured at a luncheon sponsored by Bayou Book Co. on Saturday, Feb. 4th, at noon at Rocky Bayou Country Club in Niceville.

Her first book, *Gods in Alabama*, was the winner of the Southern Booksellers' Novel of the Year Award in 2005.

Her latest book, *A Grown-up Kind of Pretty*, is due in stores later this month and will be available for autographing and purchase at the luncheon. Says Sara Gruen, author of *Water for Elephants*, "...I loved this book about what it means to be a family for its big heart, its pitch-perfect dialogue and the kind of clever plot twists I've come to expect from Jackson. Book clubs take note - here's your next pick!"

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**Advertising Feature**

PoFolks restaurant has been providing great country cooking in Niceville for the past 18 years. Although the menu continues to offer the best in southern cooking, the service inside the family restaurant is getting a makeover. This is all thanks to Paul Snow, who has repeatedly received praise from satisfied customers since rejoining the staff of the restaurant. Snow has served as the operating partner since August.



PoFolks, at 1170 John Sims Parkway in Niceville, has been offering delicious country cooking for the past 18 years.

"Everyone who walks into PoFolks will get an experience they haven't had at PoFolks in years," said Snow. Snow has a long history with PoFolks. He started as a cook and worked his way up to management. Since then, Snow has helped manage other PoFolks restaurants in Dothan, Ala., and Panama City. Snow has also been responsible for making the Niceville location the best restaurant in the chain several times in the past. He will soon be the sole owner of the restaurant in July 2012. Snow boasts that PoFolks' award-winning fried chicken rivals that of any other restaurant.

Another popular item on the menu is the grilled fish, which is one of Snow's favorite items. He even says that the grilled fish compares to that of most seafood restaurants in Destin. The country fried steak and the fried green tomatoes continue to remain customer favorites. "People are always going to eat," said Snow. "Whether or not they come eat with you depends on what kind of show you give them and whether you treat them

like a guest in your own home." Every week, PoFolks has several specials for dining guests. For example, eight pieces of chicken for \$6.99 through March, and Wednesday kids eat free all day. This is also on top of the daily lunch specials that run from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and all-you-can-eat specials. PoFolks also offers a catering service for special events. It offers individual items, such as its famous fried chicken, or side items, such as vegetables. It also

has fruit and vegetable party trays. In the future, Snow hopes to reintroduce the country cooking restaurant to the Florida Panhandle. Besides Niceville, the closest PoFolks locations are in Panama City and Enterprise, Ala. "We're looking to expand specifically through franchising," said Snow. You can find PoFolks at 1170 John Sims Parkway, Niceville. Paul and his staff can be reached by phone at 729-2262. PoFolks is open from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

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## Who's News

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**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.



Leah Guidry

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.

\*\*\*

**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 South

\*\*\*

**Christian Weeks** of Niceville made the Dean's List at the University of Central Florida for the fall 2011 semester, the first semester of his freshman year.



Christian Weeks

Christian is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Niceville High School, majoring in marketing with a cinema studies minor. He is also actively involved in Campus Crusade for Christ.

\*\*\*

**Trenton Kilbey** of Niceville made the Dean's List for the fall semester 2011 at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

\*\*\*

RE/MAX Southern Realty announces that **Dana Fairchild, Claire Gagne, Denis Gagnon, Joy Trainor, Hyosun Choe-Kelly, Dawn Shoults, Jeremy Fretwell, Donna Jonsson, Jim Murphy, Silvia Giovannelli, Anne Hurre-Kazek, Christy Ruchel, Diane McCoach and Marti McGee** have all scored placement in the Executive Club.

**Matt Williams, Destin Lowery, Mike Gaskill, Paul Shorey, Donna Jonsson, and Mandy Cooper** achieved movement to the 100% Club.

**Sandy and Ray DiTirro, and Carole Pleasants** ended the year with a spot in the Platinum Club, while **Jim Gilliland, Susie Kirkland and Cindy Cole** have moved to the Chairman Club.

# Ruckel 7th-grader wins cooking contest

## One of two from school to win medals

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

When another cook was named second-place winner at the Sodexo Future Chefs contest Tuesday, Jan. 17, Lauren Matthews' eyes opened wide and her smile grew. She knew she was the last cook standing.

When it was announced that the Ruckel Middle School seventh-grader won first prize and the chance to move on to regional competition, she said, "It didn't really dawn on me until I walked up there."

Lauren, 12, comes from solid cooking stock. Her mother, Louisa, taught culinary arts in her native England.

Will Lauren pursue a career in the kitchen? "Definitely," she said, smiling in anticipation. "I absolutely love cooking. It's my passion."

Her frittata with mushrooms, onions and other ingredients, was obviously a hit in a contest with 10 other middle school students that the five judges said was incredibly close.

Even though she just recently turned 12, Lauren's comfort zone is surrounded by stoves, ovens and sinks.

"She loves to cook," said her mother, Louisa, who, with

Lauren's father, John, was on hand to egg her on. "She cooks dinner quite often."

Sodexo is a food service and management company specializing in institutional meals, including those served in Okaloosa County schools. Headquartered in Gaithersburg, Md., this is the second year in a row the firm has sponsored a cooking contest for students. Those who win at the district level go on to regionals, then to the state contest, all of which are virtual, with judges rating the recipes. Five end up in a

in the form of a slice of pie, with a spinach and tomato garnish.

Last year, **Dulcie Robinson**, a fourth-grader from Helena, Mont., won the national title and a \$5,000 scholarship, plus the role as company spokesman for a year. The theme in 2011 was "Healthy Snacks." This year's theme was breakfast foods. Throughout the Okaloosa School District Nutrition Center, Niceville, where the cooking took place, the aromas of eggs, quiche, croissants and other early-

morning goodies prevailed.

Bryce Keesey, a Ruckel Middle School eighth grader, took honorable men-

tion in the contest for his quiche, using bacon, cheese and chopped apple.

"It's something we've been making for a long time now," he said of his dish. "Except for the apple. I just added it."

Other students came from most area middle schools.

Sodexo officials who attended the cookoff were impressed with the quality of the dishes and the presentations.

"If I didn't know better, when I walked in here I'd never

Please see RUCKEL, page B-3



Beacon photo by Kenneth Books

**Lauren Matthews** watches with satisfaction as her frittata cooks. The Ruckel seventh-grader won first prize at the Sodexo Future chefs contest Jan. 17, and will not compete with other young chefs in a regional contest.

**'I absolutely love cooking. It's my passion.'**

—**Lauren Matthews**

national competition.

The competitors are selected by Sodexo from recipes they submit to the company. This year, more than 50 local students were chosen to compete, one of whom bowed out. Nationally, the number of entrants is closer to 600, said **Larry Haile**, local Sodexo general manager.

Judges rated the food on the basis of originality, ease of preparation, kid appeal, healthy attributes, use of featured ingredients and presentation. Lauren's frittata was presented

# Kids to get smiles Feb. 3

Northwest Florida State College's dental assisting program, along with several local dentists, will host the American Dental Association's (ADA) national "Give Kids A Smile" event Friday, Feb. 3.

The annual event will include free oral examinations and radiographs for children in Okaloosa County ages 6-17 in the Dental Lab on the college's Niceville campus. "Give Kids A Smile" events in Florida are sponsored by the Florida Dental Association,

Florida Dental Health Foundation, Project: Dentists Care, and locally by the Okaloosa-Walton Dental Society.



During the "Give Kids A Smile" event, children will be seen by local dentists and dental assistants volunteering their time and services. Children ages 6-17 may prequalify for this free service through the Okaloosa County School District based on house-

Please see KIDS, page B-2



A dentist checks a child's teeth during the 2007 "Give Kids A Smile" event.

Beacon file photo



## Sorority welcomes new member

Gamma Epsilon Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi had its monthly meeting at Susan Vetter's home, where it welcomed a new member, **Carol Ann Trombley**, formerly of Albany, N.Y. Present for the ritual also were **Marge Ballon, Mattie Williams, Nilah Estep, Margaret Holley, Doris Olig, Eunice Whitman and Dianne Wilbur.**

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**Lewis 5th-graders visit Exploreum**

Recently Lewis School's 5th Grade Class traveled to the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center in Mobile, Ala. There, students got a first-hand look at the Kangaroo Kraze exhibit that introduced life from "Down Under" (Australia). The exhibit consisted of live kangaroos, wallaroos, wallabies, baby joeys and more. Students learned outback survival skills and saw and heard ancient Aboriginal music and art. They also experienced a variety of other exhibits, including the IMAX theater, hands-on lessons, and experiments. Alison Sutsko's class, above, was one of four classes that were able to attend.

**Rocky students get specialized training or work internships**

Rocky Bayou Christian School (RBCS) sent more than 25 students into the workforce Jan. 3-18 with its first-ever Jan-Term Internship Program.

For the first two weeks of the spring semester, RBCS launched Jan-Term for its ninth- through 12th-grade students. Students choose from specialized classes such as cooking, nutrition, football, disc golf, lifeguarding, student ministries, worldviews, art, art history, woodshop, sign language, ACT/SAT preparation, Spanish culture, music and the-

ater. The school is also sponsoring an excursion to explore colleges throughout the Southeast and a marine biology-focused science trip to south Florida. In addition, juniors and seniors had the opportunity to secure an internship in their desired career fields to experience real-world work environments during the two-week session.

The internship program was designed to help students try out career fields they are considering and learn from local experts in those fields. RBCS has 28 active

interns working in fields including law, nursing, radiology, ranching, land management, catering, veterinary, aviation, marketing, graphic design, education, music, cosmetology, pharmacy, youth ministry, interior design and engineering. The interns are journaling about their experiences using an online course site. At the end of the Jan-Term session, each intern will give a short presentation to fellow interns, parents, and internship hosts sharing his or her experience and explaining how the experience either encouraged or

deterred the student from pursuing the career field after high school.

"When we were planning for Jan-Term, we were thinking we would have five to 10 interns," said Dr. Michael Mosley, RBCS superintendent. "We were delighted when almost 30 students signed up for the program. These internships are an ideal way for our upperclassmen and women to get a taste of the real world as they seek God's purpose for their lives and make choices about colleges and career paths."

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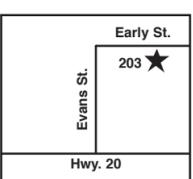
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Dr. Alexis Tibbetts, left, superintendent of Okaloosa Schools, presents Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year finalist Jodi Maker with flowers.

**NHS teacher finalist for Okaloosa honor**

Jodi Maker, science teacher at Niceville High School, has been named one of three finalists for the Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year. Dr. Alexis Tibbetts, superintendent of schools, made the announcement on Friday, Jan. 13, at a special faculty meeting in the NHS Media Center.

"I feel honored to represent all of my distinguished colleagues at NHS," said Maker. "I appreciate the support of our staff, teachers and administration."

The Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year will be announced in February.

**In the Service**

E-mail items to  
info@baybeacon.com.

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Michael A. Thompson II 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.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Thompson is the son of Michael Thompson I of Niceville and Anja Szelinski-D'Mariano of Lake Village Boulevard, Auburn Hill, Mich.

He is a 2004 graduate of Niceville High School.

**KIDS**

From page B-1

hold income. Parents are encouraged to obtain Eligibility Forms from their child's school nurse or health tech and return them to the school. The focus of the event is to help provide dental care and raise awareness of the importance of dental care access for underserved children.

Mary Thomas, NWF State College's dental assisting program director, noted that this will be the college's seventh year participating.

"Each year we partner with the Okaloosa County School District to identify underserved children in the area," she said. "The children come to campus and have radiographs and an exam done, then they are referred to a dentist in the community who performs the recommended treatments all free of charge."

"Give Kids A Smile" is a national initiative by the American Dental Association to focus attention on the epidemic of untreated oral disease among disadvantaged children.

For more information about the local "Give Kids A Smile Day," call Thomas at 729-6444.

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Beacon photos by Kenneth Books

Ruckel eighth-grader Bryce Keesey displays his quiche, using bacon, cheese and chopped apple. He won honorable mention in the contest.

**RUCKEL**

From page B-1

have thought these dishes were made by kids," one said.

The judges—Okaloosa County Schools Superintendent Alexis Tibbetts, School Board members Melissa Thrush and Cindy Frakes, school district food service manager Ed Coleman and Sodexo executive chef Robbie Joynt—filed from dish to dish, asking questions of the youthful chefs, tasting and commenting on both the flavor and presentation. They said they were uniformly impressed with all the food and their creators.

When all the tasting and tallying was completed and Lauren had donned her first-place medal and received a \$30 Walmart gift card, there were smiles all around, from the parents, the judges, company officials and the chefs themselves.

And for Lauren Matthews, it may serve as a springboard to a career. As motivational speaker Harvey MacKay once said, "Do what you love and you'll never work a day in your life."

So why does Lauren cook? "I just find it a fun thing to do," she said.



Lauren Matthews watches nervously as Okaloosa County School Board member Melissa Thrush, serving as a judge in the Sodexo Future Chefs contest, tasted her frittata.

**NHS plans registration for students in 8th grade**

Current eighth-grade students zoned for Niceville high School will visit the campus Thursday, Feb. 2. After a tour of the school, students will be presented with an overview of the curriculum and the registration process at an assembly in the auditorium.

All eighth-grade students will receive their NHS ninth-grade curriculum guides from their middle school between Jan. 26 and Feb. 1. Students should review the information with their parents and teachers before attending the scheduled night registration assemblies at NHS.

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, Niceville High School will host Destin Middle School and Lewis School, beginning at 6 p.m. in the auditorium with a brief welcome and overview of the process that will take place immediately following in the gym.

On Thursday, Feb. 9, Ruckel Middle School will be the guest of Niceville High School in two sessions. Eighth-grade students with last names beginning with A through M will report to the auditorium at 5:30 p.m. and will proceed to the gym after a short welcome. Eighth-graders with last names beginning with N through Z will report to the auditorium at 6:15, then to the gym after a brief welcome.

Students who are now attending a private or charter school and who are considering attending NHS as freshmen in the fall may attend any of the three registration session. Call 833-4114, ext. 1312, for additional admissions information.;

Zoning waivers will also be available on both evenings or a zoning waiver may be printed from the website nicevillehighschool.org, under "guidance," and then "new student documents." The completed form must be returned to NHS.

**Let Kiwanis Raise Old Glory At Your House**

There are seven times a year when flying our flag is the perfect way to show your family's patriotic spirit. Kiwanis can make it easy for you to do this!

For just \$35 a year, we will install a permanent inground base for your flag. Then, just before LABOR DAY and 9/11, VETERANS DAY, PRESIDENTS DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, FLAG DAY, INDEPENDENCE DAY and MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY, we will install a 3x5 foot sewn flag (not printed) on a metal pole in front of your home. And take it down afterwards. Kiwanis does it all, you do nothing but look proud! The modest \$35 a year supports Niceville-Valparaiso Kiwanis Club's numerous children's programs throughout our community.

Time's a wastin'. Act now! Call Bill at 897-4396 or Jim at 897-3068 and order a flag.

Serving the Children of the World

Niceville/Valparaiso Kiwanis Club

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE**

NICEVILLE CAMPUS

**COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE**

& STUDENT SERVICES CENTER OPENING

Saturday, February 4 • Noon to 3:00 p.m.

100 College Blvd., Niceville, FL 32578

- Tour Entire Campus, Activities & Departmental Demonstrations
- Grand Opening Student Services Center, Leadership Institute & Community Meeting/Conference Facilities
- Free Admission NWFS Raiders Baseball games
- Free Seminars/Workshops
- Fine and Performing Arts Recitals
- Tour Okaloosa County Emergency Operations Center
- Door Prizes! Win an iPad! Free T-Shirts/first 200 to register!

The new Student Services Center on the Niceville campus is a 3-story, 75,000 square foot facility that is the central hub of student life & community activity on the college's main campus! The top floor houses the college's prestigious Leadership Institute & specialized facilities for conferences, community events & meetings. For Open House information and times for activities see [www.nwfs.edu/openhouse](http://www.nwfs.edu/openhouse).

**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

**OPEN FOR TOURS & INFORMATION**

- Okaloosa County Emergency Operations Center Tours
- Student Services – Admissions, Financial Aid, VA, Advising
- Arena & Wellness Center (Community Memberships Available)
- Adult Education/GED/English-as-Second-Language
- Bachelor of Applied Science in Project Management
- 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
- Sciences – Biological, Physical, Observatory Student Activities/Student Government
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- Women's Educational Resource Center

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before 5 p.m. Wednesday.

**Alzheimer's support group**

Alzheimer's Family Services will provide a support group at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the First United Methodist Church, 214 S. Partin Drive, Chandler Center. The support group is free and respite care is available.

To register or for info: 478-7790 or AlzFamServ.org.

**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. 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.

**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.

**Tutoring available**

The Niceville Public Library is offering tutoring in English, math and writing Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-4 p.m., with Rachel Reese. Reese has a masters degree in secondary mathematics education and is also proficient in English composition and grammar, as well as the social and hard sciences. She is a writer of young adult fiction and general fiction short stories.

Info: 279-4863, ext. 1514.

**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



**Library story time resumes**

Story time for ages 3-5 has started up again at the Niceville Public Library and will feature the themes "Damsels and Dragons" Jan. 25 and 26. 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.

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.

**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.

**Party for autism Society**

The Emerald Coast Autism Society will hold its second annual "T-shirts and Ties Party" Jan. 27 at The Howl at the Moon in Fort Walton Beach to help raise funds support local families affected by autism in Okaloosa and Walton counties. Party goers are encouraged to wear your

snazziest T-shirt or your favorite tie or if you really want to have fun wear them together.

The event will start at 7 p.m.; entry must be made to the club before 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person and will include the cover charge to the club, two drinks from the sponsor and a raffle ticket. Tickets can be purchased from Myra Fowler at 736-0879 or e-mail myra@ecautismsociety.com. Donations will also be collected at the door. All proceeds will benefit Emerald Coast Autism Society.

**Eaglette dance clinic**

The Niceville High School Eaglettes will hold a dance clinic Saturday, Jan. 28, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Cost: \$30.

Those attending will learn an entertaining dance routine, eat pizza for lunch, receive a Valentine goodie bag and get to know current Eaglettes. Each will also get to participate in a VIP performance at the Lady Eagles vs. Paxton basketball game that afternoon.

Registration forms are available at local schools or at the clinic at 11:20 a.m.

**Women and Money**

The second annual WAM! (Women and Money) conference will take place Saturday, Jan. 28, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Baytowne Conference Center at Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort. \$25 per person includes all workshops, breakfast and lunch.

New to the conference this year is a youth track, designed for ages 12 to 18, covering topics such as banking,

resume writing, job interviews and entrepreneurship. The keynote address will be delivered by New York Times best-selling author Regina Leeds.

To register, call 243-1201 or visit shelterhousenwfl.org.

**'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.

**Astronomy Assn. meeting**

The January meeting of the NorthWest Florida Astronomy Association (NWFAA) will be held 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28, at the observatory (S-2) on the Niceville campus of the Northwest Florida State College. Weather permitting, telescopes will be set up for viewing by sunset.

Info: Tom Haugh, 678-6483.

**Author to sign books**

Local author Shelly Arneson, Principal of Edge Elementary School, will sign copies of her book, "Letting Go of K.C.," at Bayou Book Co. on Saturday, Jan. 28, noon-2 p.m.

She recounts poignant and laugh-out-loud moments with her yellow Lab, K.C., as she openly and honestly reveals the loss of a beloved pet and the blessings of life after such a loss.

Info: 678-1593 or bayoubookcompany.com.

**GOP women host Paul Lux**

The Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated will meet Wednesday, Feb. 1, at the Holiday Inn Resort, Okaloosa Island. Socializing will begin at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon. To accommodate working women, there will be a "Dine and Dash" table, which will accommodate those who can only stay for a limited time.

The speaker will be Okaloosa County Superintendent of Elections Paul Lux, who will speak on the effect of new legislation on Florida voters and any issues that arose in the presidential preference Primary Election, as a result.

Reservations: Donna Pattison, 651-5416 or donnapattison@cox.net by noon Friday, Jan. 27. Cost of the lunch is \$16 for members and \$18 for guests.

**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.

**Library discussion groups**

The Valparaiso Community Library will offer two books for its February book discussion groups. On Thursday, Feb. 2, the book selection is "Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight," by Alexandra Fuller. The selection for Feb. 9 is Marjorie Allingham's "Crime at Black Dudley." Both groups meet at 10:30 a.m. and are moderated by Jill White.

Info: 729-5406.

**Cowboy singer to perform**

First Arts Concert Series, First United Methodist Church, 103 First Street, SE, Fort Walton Beach, presents cowboy balladeer Don Edwards Friday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. Grammy nominated songster Don Edwards continues to build a legacy that enriches our vision of the American West.

Following the concert an Afterglow will be hosted at Magnolia Grill.

Tickets are \$15 adults and \$8 students in advance from firstartsconcerts.org or at Bayou Books

Info: firstartsconcerts.org or 863-2436.

**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.

**Lunch to feature novelist**

Award-winning novelist Joshilyn Jackson will be featured at a luncheon sponsored by Bayou Book Co. Saturday, Feb. 4, noon at Rocky Bayou Country Club, Niceville.

Her first book, "Gods in Alabama," was the winner of the Southern Booksellers' Novel of the Year Award in 2005.

Her latest book, "A grown-up Kind of Pretty," is due in stores later this month and will be available for autographing and purchase at the luncheon.

For more information about the luncheon, phone Bayou Books at 678-1593 or visit bayoubookcompany.com.

**'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.

**Ott music study**

Dr. David Ott, local composer, conductor and musician, will open the popular community classical music study series, "Better Listening," Tuesday Feb. 7, at the Valparaiso Unitarian Church. His topic will be

"How Money, Weather and Sex Changed the History of Music," with examples from CD selections. This is the first of eight programs to be held each Tuesday evening through March 27, 7-9 p.m.

All sessions are free and open to the public. No reservations are required. Direct questions to Lou Johnson, musicstudy@ufec.com.

**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 Deltek'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.

**Tops in Blue Concert**

The U.S. Air Force's Tops In Blue is offering a free night of family entertainment at the Emerald Coast Convention Center Friday, Feb. 10, 7-11 p.m.. In this year's show, Tops In Blue 2011 drums up their own rhythm. Audiences will be tapping their feet to pulsating music from great performers like the jazz of Nat King Cole and Billie Holiday, the great rock n' roll sounds of Little Richard and Jerry Lee Lewis, the cool Motown R&B of Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell, hits by J-Lo and Mamma Franti, some inspirational country sounds and much, much more.

Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.

For tickets and more information visit [TopsInBlue.com](http://TopsInBlue.com)

**Vegetable garden seminar**

The Bluewater Bay Garden Club will present "Keys to Successful Vegetable Gardening in Northwest Florida" Feb. 10, with Dennis Gilson.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday at 9:30 am September through May at the Bluewater Bay Golf Clubhouse on Bluewater Bay Boulevard in Niceville Florida. New members are always welcome.

**Gospel concert**

Libby and Friends Gospel Concert Ministry presents Ernie Haase and Signature Sound on the "Here We Are Again" tour Feb. 10, 7 p.m. at Central Baptist Church, 951 South Ferndon Blvd., Crestview, FL.

Ticket prices begin at \$18 each and can be purchased at Central Baptist Church, Crestview, 682-5525; Gospel Lighthouse Bible Bookstores, Crestview and FWB, 689-4404, 244-5438; and Libby and Friends Gospel Concert Ministry, 496-7106. For credit card purchases: [IMCconcerts.com](http://IMCconcerts.com) or 1-800-965-9324.

Info: [Libbyandfriendsgospelconcerts.com](http://Libbyandfriendsgospelconcerts.com), Libby

**Author to speak at library**

The Friends of the Niceville Library will host "Following in Zora Neale Hurston's Footsteps," with author and guest speaker Dr. Anna Lillios from the University of Central Florida, who will take you on a journey through an important time in Florida's history as she shares the life of author, folklorist, and anthropologist Zora Neale Huston and the town where she grew up, Eatonville, Fla.

The free program will be held at the Niceville Community Center, 204 Partin Drive N., adjacent to the library, Wednesday, Feb. 8, 11 a.m.

Info or reservations: 279-4863, ext. 1504.

**Steak dinner at the library**

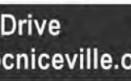
Join the Niceville Library's Foundation for a steak dinner, Thursday, Feb. 9, 5-8 p.m., in the Niceville Community Center. Proceeds benefit the Niceville Public Library. The dinner will include grade-A ribeye, sides and soda. Cost is \$15 each or two for \$25. Dine in or take out. Tickets are available at the Niceville Library or from a Foundation Board Member.

**United Way meeting, fete**

The United Way of Okaloosa and Walton Counties will hold the Campaign 2011 "Live United—Inspire Hope" celebration and annual meeting combining Okaloosa and Walton counties, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Friday, Feb. 10, at the Shalimar United Methodist Church. Lunch will be \$12 per person and corporate tables of eight are available for \$96. RSVPs are requested no later than Friday, Feb. 3, to the United Way Office at 243-0315 or e-mail events@united-way.org.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

**Welcome To First Baptist Church of Niceville**

			<b>9:00 AM</b> Traditional Service
			<b>10:30 AM</b> Contemporary Service
			<b>5:30 PM</b> Bible Study

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Sunday Morning Worship - 11:15 a.m.  
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Bishop T.P. Johnson, Sr. - Senior Pastor  
[www.thisisnewlife.org](http://www.thisisnewlife.org)

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Matt 28:19

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**Help Wanted**

Help Wanted, Laborer, Ken's Gas Piping, 897-4149. Must have transportation.

**Help Wanted**

Looking for a job? Check the classified section every Wednesday in the Bay Beacon.

**Help Wanted**

**Newspaper Delivery** - Earn extra cash of \$45 to \$140 or more each week in your spare time! The Bay Beacon seeks a reliable independent contractor to insert, bag, and deliver newspapers Tuesday night. You must be over 21 and have a reliable vehicle, a good driving record, a Florida driver's license, and proof of current liability insurance. No collecting duties. Earnings vary according to route and work load. Stop by the Bay Beacon for an information sheet and to fill out an application. The Beacon 1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville • 678-1080 (Parkway East Shopping Center across from PoFolks)

**Help Wanted**

**Homes for Rent**  
Condo for rent, one bedroom in Niceville, \$500 per month, call 830-4816.

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**Items for Sale**

Pillowtop Mattress Set, new in plastic, \$200, 850-527-2295, can deliver.  
**Warehouse Space**  
Warehouse space available, 700SqFt warehouse, \$475 per month. For more information call 897-4149, 419 Adams Ave., Valparaiso  
**Yard Sales**  
Garage Sale  
Household goods, children's clothes, toys, January 21 & 28, 6:30 AM, 4276 Lancaster.

**RV's for Sale**

**NWFL's Winter RV Show**  
sponsored by Dixie RV SuperStores  
January 26th - 29th  
Show Hours are Thurs.-Sat. 9am-6pm and Sun. 10am-5pm  
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MAIL: Beacon Newspapers, 1181 E. John Sims Pkwy., Niceville, FL 32578. Please enclose check.  
DROP IN: The Bay Beacon, 1181 E. John Sims Pkwy., Parkway East Shopping Center. Office hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. M-F. After hours, use mail slot in our door.  
E-MAIL: Classified@baybeacon.com Type "Classified" in subject field. (Do not include credit card information. We will call you for credit card info. \$5 processing fee.)

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Please write ad on form. Include phone number as part of ad. Minimum charge \$11.00\* for up to 10 words. Each additional word 20¢. Attach more paper if needed.

First Word		
\$11.00	\$11.20	\$11.40
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\$12.20	\$12.40	\$12.60
\$12.80	\$13.00	\$13.20
\$13.40	\$13.60	\$13.80

\*Base price includes \$5 weekly discount for walk-in or mail-in prepaid ads.

50% discount for additional weeks or papers. Check publications to publish ad:

Bay Beacon (Number of weeks) \_\_\_\_\_ Price of First Run .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eglin Flyer (Number of weeks) \_\_\_\_\_ + Price of subsequent runs ..\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Ads are non-refundable.  
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Please make checks payable to the Beacon Newspapers.  
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# BEACONSPORTS

Wednesday, Wednesday, January 25, 2012

B-6



Beacon photo by Norman Wolf

## Rams edged by Pryor

Ruckel Middle School's Stephen Herrera tries to burst through a Pryor double-team Thursday at home against Pryor. The Rams dropped a close game, 33-22, to fall to 2-6 on the season.



Beacon photo by Norman Wolf

## Ruckel girls still perfect

Cari Sands of Ruckel Middle School gets a line on the basket Thursday against Pryor. The Lady Rams won the home game, 41-28, increasing their perfect record to 8-0.



Beacon photo by Norman Wolf

## Eagles lose to Vikings

Niceville's Kelsey Roberts shadows a Fort Walton Beach basketball player during Saturday's 60-36 Eagle loss at home. The loss was the Eagles' 12th against three wins.



## Lady Knights fall on penalty kicks

After two previous 0-0 final scores between the Rocky Bayou Lady Knights and Franklin County this year, the teams met Friday in the district championship game. After regulation it was 0-0. After 20 minutes of overtime and 260 minutes of play, it was still 0-0. Ultimately, the Lady Knights fell 3-1 in penalty kicks and finished as the district 1-1a runners-up. Tuesday they travel to play Tallahassee in the regional quarterfinals.



Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

## Rocky girls trip Seaside

Christa Daughtry stays ahead of her Seaside Neighborhood School opponent as the Rocky Bayou Christian School girls soccer team shut out the Sharks Monday at Twin Oaks, 5-0.

## Sports Briefs

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

### VNGSA signup deadline

Last week to sign up for VNGSA Slowpitch Softball.

Registration Deadline is January 28, 2012.

Registration will occur at the Niceville City Hall Building or can be completed online at vngsa.org.

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 6-8 p.m. or Saturday, Jan. 28, 9 a.m.-noon

Registration cost is \$55 per child plus \$10 city fee if you live within Niceville City Limits and

\$20 Niceville City Fee if you live outside city limits.

Visit vngsa.org for more information.

### Eaglette dance clinic

The Niceville High School Eaglettes will hold a dance clinic Saturday, Jan. 28, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Cost: \$30.

Those attending will learn an entertaining dance routine, eat pizza for lunch, receive a Valentine goodie bag and get to know current Eaglettes. Each will also get to participate in a VIP performance at the Lady Eagles vs. Paxton basketball game that afternoon.

Registration forms are available at local schools or at the clinic at 11:20 a.m.

### Baseball skill clinics

Baseball skill clinics at Ruckel Middle School are planned for current sixth, seventh and eighth graders Thursday and Friday, Feb. 16 and 17, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Baseball tryouts will begin the week of Feb. 20. Sign-ups with Coach John Runyon are under way now. There will be more information regarding tryouts soon.

You will need a current physical and parent permission form to participate.

## Schedule

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com.

### Wednesday, Jan. 25

NHS-District semifinals, wrestling, 5/7

### Thursday, Jan. 26

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

Ruckel-Liza Jackson, boys basketball, 6:30/5

Destin@Shoal River, boys

soccer, 6:30/5

Lewis-Destin, boys soccer, 5/6:15

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

### Friday, Jan. 27

NHS-District finals, boys soccer, 5/7

NHS-FWB, boys basketball, 7

RBCS@Laurel Hill, boys basketball, 4:30/6:30

RBCS@Laurel Hill, girls basketball, 5:30

RBCS-boys soccer District

championship, 7

### Saturday, Jan. 28

NHS-Paxton, girls basketball, 2/3:30

RBCS@Liza Jackson tourney, middle school soccer, TBD

### Monday-Saturday, Jan. 30-Feb. 4

NHS-District playoffs@Mosley, girls basketball, TBD

### Monday, Jan. 30

RBCS@Baker, boys basketball, 6/7:15



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