

# The Bay Beacon

14 Pages, 2 Sections, 5 Inserts

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

50¢

**UP  
COMING**

**Wednesday, 9 a.m.**

The **Valparaiso Garden Club** will meet at the Mitchell Building, Room 3, Valparaiso. The program this month features Raymond Sturdivant who will demonstrate **plant grafting**.

Info: Kay Parsons, 678-1461.

**Thursday, 10:30 a.m.**

The **Valparaiso Community Library** will sponsor a book discussion for Marjorie Allingham's "**Crime at Black Dudley**," moderated by Jill White.

Info: 729-5406.

**Thursday, 5-8 p.m.**

Join the Niceville Library's Foundation for a **steak dinner** in the **Niceville Community Center**. Proceeds benefit the 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.

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

The Air Force's **Tops In Blue** will offer a free night of family entertainment at the **Emerald Coast Convention Center**. Seating begins at 7 p.m.

Calendar, B-4.

## Valp. to seat 2 new commissioners

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

Having ousted two incumbents, Kay Hamilton and Joe Morgan are scheduled to be sworn in on March 20 as members of the Valparaiso City Commission.

Hamilton and Morgan defeated commissioners Neal Shermer and Thomas G. Miller in municipal elections last week, securing



Kay Hamilton

four-year terms on the four-member commission.

Candidates, city officials, and citizens gathered at the city commission chamber the evening

of Jan. 31, election day, where they awaited the results after voting ended.

City Clerk Tammy Johnson gathered the figures from ballots, counted and added them carefully, then announced the results to those assembled.

According to Johnson's figures, challengers Hamilton and Morgan received 544 and 552 votes, respectively, followed by



Joe Morgan

incumbents Shermer and Miller with 392 and 204. Trailing the other candidates with 149 votes was another challenger, Keith Roberts.

Johnson said the vote count must still be checked by the Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections before becoming official, but considering the margins of victory for Hamilton and Morgan, she did not expect any corrections or changes made by the supervisor of elections will alter the outcome.

Please see ELECTION, page A-2

## Open wide



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

A dummy nicknamed Dexter was one of the attractions Saturday as Northwest Florida State College held an open house at its main campus in Niceville to mark the opening of its new Student Services Center. Student dental assistant Carrie Harper showed visitors how dental X-rays are performed, using one of NWFSC's many patient simulators. The robo-patients can simulate many characteristics of real people, such as healthy or unhealthy heartbeats, breathing and coughing, bleeding, and even moaning in pain or complaining. Story, A-4.

## Romney barely beats Gingrich in Okaloosa but swamps him statewide

By Del Lessard  
*Beacon Staff Writer*



Mitt Romney

Paul.

Unofficial reports from the Florida Division of elections showed that of 1,671,513 ballots cast in last week's Florida presidential preference primary, Romney won 46.4 percent of the votes statewide. Gingrich came in second, far



Newt Gingrich

Please see ROMNEY, page A-6

## Foreign F-35s due soon at Eglin

By Del Lessard  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

Three F-35s from foreign allies will fly into Eglin Air Force Base this year. The jets, two from the United Kingdom and one from the Netherlands, are in addition to the 59 U.S. F-35s that are scheduled to be assigned to an Eglin training wing by the end of 2013.

With the Department of Defense budget guidance discussing a slowdown of as many as 179 F-35 purchases over the

next five years, the fifth-generation fighter jet's prime contractor, Lockheed Martin, sat down with local news reporters last week to highlight some of the successes the program has had, especially through 2011.

Eglin Air Force Base will receive 17 more F-35s, including the first U.S. Navy F-35C carrier version, before the end of calendar year 2012, a company spokesman said. That will bring the total number of F-35s assigned to the 33rd Fighter

Wing to 26 by the end of the year. With nine F-35s assigned to the 33rd Fighter Wing, Eglin already has the largest fleet of F-35s in the world, a distinction it will retain through the end of the decade.

None of the nine aircraft currently assigned to the 33rd—six F-35A conventional take-off and three Short Take-off Vertical Landing (STOVL) F-35Bs—are yet allowed by the

Please see F-35, page A-2



Lockheed Martin

The first international F-35 rolled out of the Texas factory Nov. 20. The United Kingdom will use the jet for training and tests. Two other U.K. F-35s are expected at Eglin later this year.

## Valentines for 52 years

Niceville couple follows tradition in renewing vows

By Tess Hollis  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

For one Niceville couple, an upcoming vow renewal is an homage to their more than half-a-century union.

"It's a celebration of survival," laughed Moe Powers. His wife, Carol Powers, agreed.

"It makes me realize how long we've lasted," she said with a smile.

Moe and Carol will participate, on Feb. 16, in the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church's 11th annual vow renewal Mass. The couple said they have only missed one year of the renewal, which takes place around Valentine's Day.

"It's become a tradition in our parish, among our friends," Moe said. "It's a social, but also spiritual event."

The Powers, who have been married 52 years, first met on a blind date set-up by mutual friends, and dated for two to three years.

"She looked like Grace Kelly," Moe said, of what first attracted him to Carol. "She was a cute blonde. We just enjoyed each other's company and we still do."

Carol said "everything just came together" in their relationship.

Moe proposed to Carol in the couple's hometown church in Massachusetts, and the two were married on Feb. 20, 1960.

"We had a big wedding," Carol said. "It was the whole works."

Shortly after they were married, Moe, who is retired from the Air Force, was mobilized during the Berlin Crisis, and later deployed to Vietnam.

"We wrote letters almost every day," Carol said. "That was important then because we didn't have the technology they have today. It was snail mail."

The couple said the secrets to having a long, successful marriage, and surviving the

Please see VALENTINE, page A-3



Beacon photo by Tess Hollis

Moe and Carol Powers, who have been married 52 years, will participate on Feb. 16 in the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church's vow renewal Mass.

## Man uses fake ID in bank theft bid

By Del Lessard  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

A North Carolina man was arrested on a fraud charge after he attempted to use an altered driver's license to take \$4,500 out of someone else's bank account in Bluewater Bay.

According to an Okaloosa County Sheriff's report, Courtney Marshall Edwards, a retrofitter, 41, whose address was listed as 945 N. College St.,

Sharlot, N.C., was arrested on Jan. 30 on charges of fraud, unauthorized possession of a blank forged or stolen driver's license, obstructing a criminal investigation by giving false information to a law enforcement

officer, and resisting arrest without violence.

The arrest report gives the following account:

Bank of America employees notified deputies on Jan. 30 at 4:10 p.m. that a man suspected of fraudulent activity left the Bluewater Bay branch, 4500 E. Highway 20, and was in the parking lot.

Edwards allegedly had asked the bank teller for a cashier's check for \$7,500. He presented a Nevada driver's license with someone else's name, and told the teller that he did not use a debit card for the account. He recited the bank account number.

Since the name on the license matched the name of the account, the teller began processing the request. The teller told Edwards that there was \$4,500 in the account, and Edwards lowered his withdrawal request to \$4,500.

Please see FRAUD, page A-3



Courtney M. Edwards

**ELECTION**

From page A-1

Voters were asked to choose two city commissioners among the five candidates running. Two additional incumbent commissioners, H.H. Strong and Diane Kelley, were not up for re-election this year and will remain in office, as will incumbent Mayor Bruce Arnold.

"I now plan to relax a little bit before bearing down and getting on with it," Hamilton said.

"I'll try to fulfill the promises I made in my campaign," Morgan said. "My first step will be to listen and learn."

Morgan said he plans "to learn about the city, its rules and departments."

When asked whether he plans to vote against continuing the

city's efforts to bring a new, privately-operated charter elementary school to the former site of Valparaiso Elementary School, Morgan said, "I don't want to drop the charter school, but I also don't want to restrict the zoning of the property."

He said the Okaloosa County School District has filed a lawsuit against the city, which recently rezoned the school site so that it can only be used for an elementary school. The school district, Morgan said, "hasn't objected to the charter school, only to the zoning restriction," which limits what the school district can do with property it owns.

The school district closed Valparaiso Elementary School last year, moved students to Lewis School on the other side of John Sims Parkway, and has recently

announced plans to open a special middle school and teacher training center at the former elementary school, specializing in science, technology and mathematics education.

The city's current zoning restriction, Morgan said, could also interfere with the new charter school, preventing it from offering middle or high school as well as elementary school classes.

Morgan said he also wants to reduce the level of conflict between the city and the U.S. Air Force regarding the planned F-35 training wing at Eglin Air Force Base, which may, according to

some Air Force studies, produce enough aircraft noise to make some parts of the city unsuitable for residential use.

"The city was put in a box by the Air Force," Morgan said, "and only left with the lawsuit option."

He said he thinks the city was "positioned" by lawyers for both sides, and that city commissioners chose to file a lawsuit too soon. Morgan thinks a negotiated solution may be possible.

"I prefer discussion," Morgan said. "A suit is expensive and adversarial. I prefer to cooperate, not litigate, with my neighbors."

In an interview Monday,

Hamilton said that she wants stronger, more positive communications with surrounding communities, especially with Eglin, instead of litigation. She said a number of voters had suggested to her that the city form a military affairs committee to improve communication with the Air Force.

On the other hand, she said, she recognizes that the city may be greatly affected by military decisions concerning the flight patterns of Eglin-based F-35 warplanes.

Hamilton said it may be of more benefit to Valparaiso to form a committee to lobby Congress to

address the financial impact of jet noise or other military impacts on Valparaiso and its residents. The military itself cannot fund such efforts, she said.

Asked about the Valparaiso Elementary School property, Hamilton pointed out that she resigned from the city's planning board in August after the city attorney ignored the panel's zoning recommendations for the property. Instead, she said the attorney crafted a new zoning category, limiting the future use of the school board's property to "elementary school," a change that she said amounted to

Please see VALP., page A-6

**Woman sneaks drugs to jail, cops say**

By Del Lessard  
Beacon Staff Writer

A Niceville woman who was arrested on drug charges faces additional charges after officers found she had smuggled drugs into her jail cell, according to police reports.

Codie Rochel Owens, 25, of 1525 Cat-Mar Road, was arrested on Jan. 25 and charged with possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, according to Niceville police reports.

The next day, Owens was

arrested by sheriff's deputies, at the Okaloosa County Jail on charges of possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, and smuggling contraband into a detention facility, according to an Okaloosa County sheriff's arrest report.

Police and sheriff's arrest reports give the following account:



Codie R. Owens

Niceville police made a traffic stop on Jan. 25 at 10:24 p.m. on a vehicle in which Owens was a passenger. During a search of the vehicle, police found Owens' purse, with a cigarette containing marijuana, rolling papers and a marijuana pipe with marijuana inside. Also in Owens' purse, police found methamphetamine.

Owens was arrested and taken to the Okaloosa County Jail.

At 8:35 a.m., Jan. 26, corrections officers received information from other inmates that Owens had methamphetamine.

During a subsequent search of Owens, officers found two plastic containers in her brassiere. She admitted that powder inside the two containers was methamphetamine.

Owens allegedly said that when Niceville police pulled over the vehicle the day before, she had taken the two plastic containers and concealed them inside her body.

Once jailed, Owens said she removed the drugs from her body and hid them in her bra.

On Friday, Owens was being held at the Okaloosa County Jail under a \$9,000 bond.

**F-35**

From page A-1

military to begin flying at the 33rd FW.

JR McDonald, Lockheed Martin's local vice president for corporate domestic business development, said the decision to begin pilot training at Eglin is a military decision. The F-35s being flown by Air Force and Marine Corps pilots at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., and at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Md., are specially instrumented jets for developmental tests.

Lockheed officials said they expect flying at Eglin to begin soon, perhaps a matter of a few months or even a few weeks, but the actual start date will be a military decision.

Lockheed Martin officials said Eglin's nine aircraft are all prepared to fly, waiting on the Pentagon to approve the start of pilot training at Eglin. Maintenance crews at the 33rd FW prepare each jet to fly each day. They have been doing taxi runs with the aircraft (not to the

speed that would allow lift-off) and are performing engine run-ups on the planes.

By the end of calendar year 2013 all 59 expected aircraft will be at Eglin's F-35 training center, Steve O'Bryan, Lockheed Martin vice president of program integration and business development for the Joint Strike Fighter, told reporters.

O'Bryan said all 59 Eglin aircraft are already purchased and are in various stages of completion. Eglin's F-35 were all included in production orders through Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) 5, he said.

Lockheed Martin officials said they expect all 59 jets slated for Eglin to come here within the next two years, because they need to train Air Force pilots for F-35s slated to fly at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and Edwards Air Force Base, where the jets will begin Air Force operational testing. F-35s currently at Eglin are doing Development Testing. The 33rd FW also needs to train Marine Corps pilots so they can begin scheduled Marine Corps operational test-

ing at the service's Yuma, Ariz., base.

Company spokesmen said they will "stand up" F-35 units at Yuma this year.

Two British F-35Bs and one Dutch F-35A will arrive at Eglin this year, O'Bryan said. The United Kingdom and the Netherlands are two of the eight partner nations participating in the F-35 development program, he said. Other countries, including Japan, Israel, Korea and Singapore, have committed or will soon commit to purchasing F-35s through the Foreign Military Sales program through the U.S. government, he said. Those countries will pay the same price per plane as partner nations, plus a recoupment charge to help pay the development costs.

The foreign planes do not count against Eglin's allotment of 59 F-35s, O'Bryan said. They are currently scheduled to be at Eglin later this year for training by maintenance personnel. McDonald said a decision as to whether the three foreign jets would fly at Eglin is subject to negotiations by the DoD.

Eglin spokesperson Chrissy Cuttita said the international aircraft will only be at Eglin for a short period of time before they depart.

"The current plan is for international partner maintainer training to be conducted at Eglin and pilot training to be conducted at Pilot Training Center 1, location TBD (to be determined)," she said. Cuttita continued: "The personnel going through the training will be considered students and TDY to the U.S. and the 33 FW. It is assumed each country will have a small contingent of personnel attached to the 33 FW that will manage their country specific student population similar to other international training programs. This still is in coordination at levels above the 33 FW."

Two British F-35B fighters are scheduled to arrive at Eglin

in the late spring or early summer, with the Dutch aircraft arriving in the fall, according to Eglin and Lockheed Martin officials.

O'Bryan said the cost of an F-15 depends on several variables, including the development costs, which make LRIP aircraft seem much more expensive, to cost per plane much later in the production phase. Lockheed Martin plans to keep the production line open through 2036, according to the company. O'Bryan said the average price will be close to the average price the military currently pays for the airplanes that will be replaced by the F-35s, including F-16s, F-18s and AV-8 Harrier jets. He said the average price is expected to be around \$65 million per plane, with lots of caveats as to what is meant by "average."

Lockheed Martin officials, explaining a "fifth-generation" fighter jet, pointed out that the F-35 was a stealthy fighter that has twice as much internal fuel capacity as existing fighters, and can carry up to 5,200 pounds of bombs internally. Additional weapons can be carried externally, but that detracts from the aircraft's stealth, or low-radar detectability, they said.

The plane is more maneuverable than existing U.S. stealth aircraft like the F-117 fighter or B-2 bomber. The F-35 is also manufactured with a large amount of composite material, as opposed to the aluminum-skin jets it replaces. The plane is designed to have lower life-cycle costs due to the large degree of commonality among the three different versions of the plane and its expected wide use by friendly allied countries.

The planes being replaced by the F-35 were designed during the Nixon-era, while McDonald described the F-35 as a "Star Wars" fighter, with the movie's android robot R2-D2 in the back of the plane running sophisticated software and other electronic wizardry.

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VALENTINE

From page A-1

tough times, include love, understanding, patience and forgiveness.

"Faith is a big factor," Carol said. "You have to share in faith, and share time together."

Moe and Carol agreed that another key to a lasting marriage is a good sense of humor.

"You have to have a sense of humor," Carol said. "I always say 'I have to laugh because if I didn't I'd die!'"

Over the years, Carol said the love she shares with Moe has grown into a "different kind of love."

"We've had many experiences over the years," she said. "I think it's more real."

The Powers, who have five children and seven grandchildren, said they've been blessed to have a supportive family throughout their marriage.

"At this time in our lives the children are gone, we are no longer working and we have more time to get fed up with

each other," Moe joked. "But we do have more time to spend together and love to be in one another's company."

The couple said they will continue to participate in the vow renewal Mass.

"Doing this you see all the other people in the church from newlyweds to older-weds," Carol said. "I think it gives the newlyweds hope, but it also gives us hope for younger couples."

Monica Pepler, the church's office manager, said she anticipates 40 to 50 people will sign up for the vow renewal, which is followed by a catered dinner.

"We have a mix of both young and old couples," she said, "but I would say that the age is mostly 40 and up. Although we do have several young (late 20s, early 30s) couples that attend."

Father Dominic Tran will celebrate the Mass, where he will lead the couples in the vows they took at marriage.

The Mass is at 6 p.m., followed by the dinner at 7 p.m. Couples are asked to sign up in the church office the week before the renewal.

Moe and Carol Powers were married on Feb. 20, 1960, in Massachusetts. The couple celebrates their marriage each year by participating in the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church's annual vow renewal Mass.



FRAUD

From page A-1

While processing the request, the teller noticed there were debit card purchases on the account made in Las Vegas four days earlier. The clerk left the counter to call the customer's telephone number listed on the account.

At that point Edwards grabbed the driver's license and left, informing the teller he needed to check on his daughter. The teller called sheriff's deputies.

Deputies found the man, identified as Edwards, on Bluewater Boulevard near Parkwood Square. When asked for his identification he presented a Nevada driver's license with someone else's name. Nevada authorities reported no record of a license issued to the person Edwards claimed to be.

In an effort to identify Edwards, deputies removed his wallet and found several credit cards with the name "Courtney Edwards," and a credit card with the same man's name that was on the fraudulent Nevada driver's license.

Edwards was jailed under a \$17,500 bond.

Happy Valentine's Day

Advertisement for Sharing & Caring. Text: 'The hearts of the volunteers from Sharing & Caring go out to this generous community. Your donations helped over 12,900 of our neighbors and provided \$327,500 in food and \$178,922 in financial assistance.' Includes a list of items saved and helped by donations, and a 'Thank you!' message.

Advertisement for ReSound Alera hearing aids. Text: 'SWEET NOTHINGS MEAN EVEN MORE when heard with clarity. ReSound Alera connects you to your world. CALL 850-279-4545 NOW for your FREE HEARING EVALUATION and DEMONSTRATION OF THIS STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY'. Includes images of hearing aids and a 'Better Hearing' logo.

Advertisement for Supercuts. Text: 'Color Service starts at \$49.95. Highlights start at \$44.95'. Lists four store locations with addresses and phone numbers. Includes the Supercuts logo and website information.

Advertisement for Jewelers. Text: '100's of items for your Valentine Gifts to fit any budget'. Shows images of jewelry including necklaces and a ring. Text: 'New designer jewelry arriving daily! You'll love our FREE Gift Wrapping!'. Includes the Jewelers logo and address.

Supercuts coupon section. Three coupons for haircuts: 'KIDS HAIRCUT (12 AND UNDER) \$9.95', 'ADULT HAIRCUT \$12.95', and 'MILITARY HAIRCUT (Active or Retired Military Personnel) \$10.95'. Each coupon includes terms and conditions.

Advertisement for Edible Arrangements. Text: 'Sweeten your Valentine's Day'. Shows a box of chocolate-covered strawberries. Text: '\$5.00 off! any order'. Includes the Edible Arrangements logo and contact information.

# College names institute as student center opens

## Campuswide open house celebrates new building

By Mike Griffith  
Beacon Correspondent

Among its many purposes, the new Student Services Center at Northwest Florida State College's Niceville campus is a great place to throw a party.

This was demonstrated Thursday evening, when the college held a grand opening celebration for local chamber of commerce members and other prominent citizens. Area chamber of commerce representatives and college officials inaugurated the new Student Services Center at Northwest Florida State College Thursday at 5 p.m. with a ribbon-cutting and the announcement of the naming of the college's Leadership Institute, which occupies the third floor of the 75,000-square-foot facility.

The NWFSCL Leadership Institute, which provides professional development and corporate training programs, was officially named in honor of the Costa family of Niceville, college benefactors and owners of Bluewater Bay-based Costa Enterprises, which operates 14

McDonald's restaurants from Navarre to Port St. Joe, including one in Niceville and one in Bluewater Bay.

The college program will officially be known as the Costa Leadership Institute at Northwest Florida State College, according to the college.

A conference room within the new building was also named in honor of Charles K. and Eileen H. Arpke. Several members of the Costa family, as well as Eileen Arpke, were on-hand for the grand opening.

The owners of Costa Enterprises, David and Helen Costa, David Costa Jr., and Amy and Steven Killebrew, were recognized at a naming ceremony for a donation and match of \$250,000 to the college's foundation.

"The owners of Costa Enterprises are well known as active community members and are generous supporters of many philanthropic initiatives in our area," said Ty Handy, NWFSCL president. "We are honored that a major gift from Costa Enterprises

will underwrite the vital professional development and corporate training programs offered by the Costa Leadership Institute."

David Costa Jr. received his associate of arts degree from the college and serves as a board member of the college's foundation.

David Costa Sr. was asked what led his family to give \$250,000 to the college foundation, rather than to other charities.

"Actually, we do both," Costa said. As for the gift to the college, he said, "It is a way for us to give back to our community."

Another gift and match of \$25,000 from former college board of trustees member Eileen Arpke established the Charles K. and Eileen H. Arpke Endowment in support of the Costa Leadership Institute.

Eileen Arpke was appointed by the governor and served as a member of the college's Board of Trustees from 1987 to 1994. Charles Arpke retired from Eglon

Please see COLLEGE, page A-5

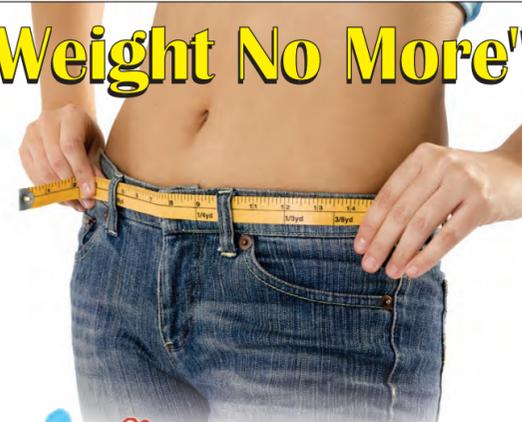


Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

The Costa family, which owns and operates 14 McDonald's restaurants in Northwest Florida, Thursday joined Northwest Florida State College President Ty Handy, second from left, to dedicate the school's Costa Leadership Institute on the Niceville campus.

# Happy Valentine's Day

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**COLLEGE**

From page A-4

Air Force Base as the Chief of Directorate at the Air Force Armament Laboratory.

"Mrs. Arpke and her late husband Charles have been faithful, longtime supporters and volunteers at the college," said Lamar Conerly, vice president of the NWFSC Foundation. "The Arpkes previously established an endowed scholarship through the foundation to support our students and the college's Raider Club, Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, and Institute for Senior Professionals have also benefited from their support and philanthropy."

According to the college, the Costa Leadership Institute at NWFSC offers corporate training, professional education, and leadership development programs, including the Leadership

Okaloosa program for all area chambers.

A name for the new Student Services Center itself, or for the two-building student services complex that will open when renovations of the adjoining former student center are completed, known as "Building K," are yet to be determined.

Before the naming ceremony, college officials recognized those instrumental in completion of the three-story, glass-walled building, including: Jay Smith, vice president and owner of Ajax Building Corporation, the construction management firm for the project; the more than 700 skilled construction professionals and subcontractors who built the facility; and David Alsop and staff from Sam Marshall Architects of Pensacola, who along with partners Orcutt Consulting, designed the facility.

Alsop said despite its fragile



Beacon photos by Mike Griffith

Its architect says the new, three-story, glass-walled Student Services Center at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville, is an energy-efficient building. It was the centerpiece of a campuswide open house Saturday.

appearance, with large glass windows all over the exterior, the new building is built to withstand Florida hurricanes.

"The windows are made of special glass that meets the latest Florida regulations for wind loading and resistance to impact by wind-blown projectiles," he said.

In addition, Alsop said the windows are treated to allow for passive solar heating during winter months, but will resist intense infrared wavelengths of sunlight during the summer to reduce the need for air conditioning. The entire building, he said, is designed to be energy-efficient and to harmonize with its environment as much as possible.

NWFSC board of trustees Chair Sandy Sims noted that the new student center is focused on offering the support students need to "help them be successful both inside the classroom and in life."

The center hosts college functions such as: registration, advising, student ID office, financial aid, business office, testing, food services, the college's Women's Resource Center, the NWF to UWF program, student activities and student government, adult education and GED programs, the Prime Time and continuing education non-credit programs, and the Leadership Institute.

"The new Student Services Center building and the renovations of the College Mall located next door represent our second largest construction project in 20 years," Sims said. "The combined economic impact is \$25.5 million."

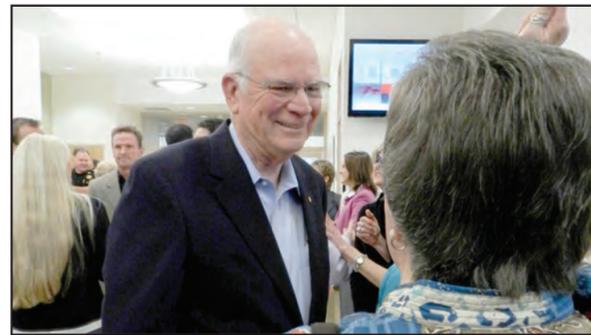
Sims said the facility provides a lasting impact not only for students, but also for the community as it offers extensive meeting and conference room space available for use by businesses and community groups.

Thursday's celebration was followed-up Saturday with a campus-wide open house to which the public was invited. The event included tours of the campus, demonstrations of fire-fighting, marksmanship and unarmed self defense, and medical skills by NWFSC students in such fields as firefighting, law

enforcement and corrections, nursing and medical and dental technology, and fine and performing arts. Lectures and seminars were presented in the science building and other academic facilities, and visitors were offered free admission to college baseball games in the NWFSC stadium.



Demonstration of the police firing range at Northwest Florida State College was one of the activities offered during an open house Saturday of the Niceville campus.



Bob Richburg, former president of Northwest Florida State College, was among those who attended festivities Thursday celebrating the dedication of the college's quarters for its Leadership Institute.

# Happy Valentine's Day

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*What do you think about Mitt Romney's win in the Florida Republican presidential primary?*

Location:  
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Public Library



*"I think he's riding the tide. Support for him is snowballing, and it looks like he's the inevitable Republican nominee."*

Ron Mayer, 65, Choctaw beach, retired



*"I'm happy about it. I voted for him. I think he's the only one who can beat Obama."*

John Voss, 73, Niceville, retired



*"I didn't want him to win. He's too liberal, and I don't agree with his policies."*

Julie Alldredge, 24, Niceville, mom



*"I'm voting for him. As long as Obama is out of office, I'll be a happy camper."*

Allison Hagen, 31, Niceville, mom



*"I didn't vote for him, but I wasn't surprised that he won."*

Cathy Dickson, 62, Bluewater Bay, retired



*"I'm not involved in politics, because I feel like my opinion doesn't get heard."*

Nick Weavers, 33, Niceville, chef

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

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**TAKEOVER**

From page A-8

not notified of Benacquisto's amendment, which was filed a day before the Transportation Committee hearing, and therefore did not attend Friday's hearing. Gov. Rick Scott's task force on government efficiency last summer recommended that the

MBBA be consolidated under the Turnpike Enterprise. It only recommended continued study of proposals to consolidate the Orlando and Tampa tolling authorities.

Sen. Greg Evers, R., Baker, vice chairman of the Transportation Committee, voted for the amendment. As of the Beacon's press deadline Evers,

**ROMNEY**

From page A-1

behind in the winner-take-all election with 31.9 percent.

In Okaloosa County Republicans were almost equally split between Romney, with 36.7 percent of the total going to Romney, and Gingrich winning 36.1 percent, giving Romney the edge by 206 votes out of more than 29,000 cast, according to unofficial results released by Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections Paul Lux. Official results have to wait 10 days to ensure absentee votes from military and overseas voters are counted.

Bluewater Bay resident

Steve Czonstka, Republican state committeeman for Okaloosa County, credited Romney's win to better organization.

"He's done this before," he said, noting that Romney was the only candidate who showed up for a presidential campaign debate in Okaloosa County four years ago.

Gingrich did well in the more conservative Panhandle of Florida, beating Romney in adjacent Walton and Santa Rosa counties, as well as in Escambia County. Gingrich also beat Romney in most rural Panhandle counties, including Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson,

**BLOTTER**

From page A-7

Jan. 9. The city spent about \$25,000 to open the new Lions Park bathrooms in November.

\*\*\*

A Niceville resident from the 4300 block of Sunset Beach Circle reported Jan. 28 that unknown person(s) entered the residence and caused \$2,500 damage from water in a hallway and two rooms. The victim, who had to turn a knob to shut the water off, said the home may have been left unlocked.

\*\*\*

Three Niceville boys, two age 12, and one age 13, allegedly carrying baseball bats, entered an empty, double-wide mobile home in the 1400 block of Cape Lane, Niceville, Jan. 21 and damaged the walls. Police reported an estimated \$10,000 damage to the trailer, including multiple holes in the walls, knocked out walls and spray-painted graffiti. One of the boys allegedly told police the juveniles had used the trailer as a hangout and previously spray-painted on Jan. 21 the interior before hitting and kicking holes in the walls.

consolidation has been filed.

Gordon Fornell, chairman of the MBBA, said it was difficult to see the rationale for the consolidation proposal. The bridge authority, he said, is very efficient and pays its bills. He said that MBBA officials were surprised by the latest consolidation proposal, and was not called to testify at last week's Senate committee hearing.

whose district currently includes much of the MBBA's \$174 million, 11-mile bridge connector road, now under construction, had not returned a call for comment.

It was not immediately clear Tuesday what comes next for SB1866, which has several amendments. Nor was it known whether or not a companion House bill seeking the MBBA

Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla and Washington. Romney beat Gingrich in Bay County by 57 votes, but easily carried Leon County, with nearly 1,800 votes over Gingrich.

Nine Republican candidates, including several who had withdrawn from campaigning for their party's presidential nomination, were on the ballot. Rick Santorum came in third in the state with 13.4 percent of the vote, while Ron Paul received 7 percent. The remaining five candidates each garnered less than half of 1 percent of the ballots cast.

In Okaloosa County Santorum was the choice of

15.9 percent of Republican voters, while Paul won 9.8 percent.

A total of 29,598 votes were cast by Republicans in Okaloosa County, a turnout of 41.6 percent of the county's 71,011 registered GOP voters.

Since the Democratic presidential race is uncontested this year in favor of President Barack Obama, only registered Republicans were allowed to vote in the presidential primary.

There were also three, non-partisan municipal elections in Okaloosa County Jan. 31. Adding these voters, the total turnout was 39.5 percent, with 30,403 voters, out of 76,903 eligible, casting ballots, according to unofficial results.

**VALP.**

From page A-2

"spot zoning." After the city commission enacted the new zoning, the school board sued the city.

Hamilton said she is not opposed to a charter elementary school opening in Valparaiso but feels that the city shouldn't be promoting a private interest like such a school. "That should be between the charter school company and the school board," she said.

The school board is scheduled to hold a workshop meet-

ing Thursday in Fort Walton Beach concerning its plan to site a science, technology, engineering, math and medical (STEMM) center at the Valparaiso Elementary School site. Shermer has been invited to address the board on the possibility of putting a charter school there as well.

Hamilton also said that she would like to see the city improve its planning and budgeting activities in the future.

"The people have spoken," Shermer said of the election results.

"Given my lack of cam-

paigning, I'm pleased by the level of support I received from people," he said, "and I wish the best of luck" to the winning candidates.

Shermer opposed the school district's decision to close Valparaiso Elementary School last year, saying the school was an important part of what united Valparaiso as a community. He has also been a leading advocate for the charter school plan and the rezoning of the former school site.

What may happen to the charter school plan now, he said, "remains to be seen," and

he hopes that the new commissioners, after studying the issue in more detail, "will get on board" with supporting the charter school. "I hold out hope they'll do the right thing," he said.

Commissioner T.G. Miller and Roberts also lost their bids for office, but did not offer any comments following the announcement of the election results.

The two new commissioners will be sworn in on March 20, noon, at city hall. The commission will meet in special session at 6 p.m. the same day.

**Other**

Keith Joseph Ormsbee, a rental manager, 21, of 927 E. Choctawhatchee Drive, Niceville, was issued a criminal summons by sheriff's deputies Jan. 22 on charges of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

\*\*\*

A 16-year-old Niceville boy, a student, was issued a criminal summons by sheriff's deputies in Fort Walton Beach Jan. 22 on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. A marijuana pipe was found within the immediate vicinity of the boy in the 700 block of North Eglin Parkway. The boy invoked his Miranda rights and refused to provide a statement. The boy was also charged with littering because numerous beer bottles, chip bags

and trash were found in his immediate vicinity.

\*\*\*

Christina Marie McMahon, 20, of 115 Hughes, C-4, Fort Walton Beach, was issued a criminal summons by Niceville police, subsequent to a traffic stop for speeding, Jan. 24, on a charge of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana.

\*\*\*

Rebekah R. Martin, a cleaner, 40, of 202 Seminole Ave., Valparaiso, was issued a criminal summons by sheriff's deputies Jan. 27 on a charge of retail theft. Martin is alleged to have concealed two bathing suit tops and two bottoms and a pair of flip-flops inside her purse without paying the \$33 price of the items at a Fort Walton Beach store, 748 Beal Parkway.

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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

Jonathan Alexander Chute, 26, of 1913 Quince Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Jan. 25 on a charge of petit larceny. On Oct. 18 Chute and a female allegedly left without paying a tab of \$132 for alcoholic drinks and food at a Destin restaurant and bar, 34940 Emerald Coast Parkway.

Robert Leif A'Lii Aloh Lauderdale, 25, of 1703 15th St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Jan. 25 on a Walton County warrant for driving while license was suspended.

Gail Tolbert Poland, unemployed, 40, of 590 Hill Lane, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Jan. 23 on a violation of probation charge on the original charge of driving while license suspended or revoked.

A 16-year-old Niceville boy was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 24 on a charge of battery, domestic violence, which allegedly occurred Dec. 16.

Ronald John McDaniels, unemployed, 44, of 1204-A S. Cedar Ave., Niceville, subsequent to a traffic stop for speeding, was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 23 on charges of knowingly driving while his license was suspended or revoked, and falsely identifying himself to a law enforcement officer.

Tucker Raymond Robinson, unemployed, 21, of 1115 Rita Lane, Niceville, subsequent to a traffic stop for a seat belt violation, was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 24 on charges of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, three-and-a-half pills of oxycodone, and possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana.

James Richard Ray, 55, of 2002 Coconut Palm Circle, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 28 on a charge of battery, domestic violence.

Cynthia Ann Gurisko, unemployed, 51, of 1275 Bayshore Drive, Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Jan. 25 on a charge of failure to appear on the original charge of hit and run accident, unattended vehicle or property, without leaving ID.

Brian Wayne Snavelly, 43, of 4011 Phyllis Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Jan. 26 on a charge of driving while license suspended or revoked. Snavelly was subsequently arrested on a Sarasota County warrant on a charge of failure to appear on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while license suspended or revoked.

## DUI arrests

Evan Duran Gamble, self-employed, 25, of 503 Greenway Cove, Niceville, subsequent to a traffic crash with \$2,500 damage, but no injuries, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI at 1407 E. John Sims Parkway, Jan. 28 at

5:03 a.m.

William Aaron Sweeney, 21, of 431 Marquette St., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies for DUI on Harbor Boulevard, Destin, Jan. 29 at 2:47 a.m. Sweeney was also cited for unlawful speed and failure to maintain a single lane.

## Thefts

A Niceville resident from the 200 block of Marquette Street, reported Jan. 23 that unknown person(s) kicked in the door to his residence, but that nothing appeared to be missing. Police saw a large piece of the door frame on the floor at the main entrance of the home and a dent in the door. Damage was estimated between \$200 and \$1,000.

A Niceville resident from the 100 block of McEwen Drive reported that unknown person(s) entered the home while the victim was gone for about two-and-a-half hours Jan. 25 and stole a small fire safe from a laundry room, and a bag of jewelry from a bedroom. The safe contained important papers including a deed, \$1,600 cash and 500 Euros valued at \$640. The victim said the back door may have been left open while visiting a friend.

A Niceville resident from the 100 block of Kailyn Court reported on Jan. 28 an unknown male stole an \$800 iPad from the garage, during a garage sale in which nothing inside the garage was for sale.

A Valparaiso resident from the 1100 block of North Bayshore Drive reported that sometime Jan. 5-14 unknown person(s) stole a 36-foot extension ladder from the side of the residence, and a nail gun and a paint sprayer from the toolbox in the rear of his truck. The stolen items were valued at \$1,375.

Valparaiso police, Jan. 27, discovered a Florida boat trailer registration sticker attached to a Georgia tag on a vehicle in the city. Police contacted the victim, who said he was unaware of the theft but declined to press charges because he knew the suspect.

A Valparaiso resident from the 200 block of Glenview Avenue reported that unknown person(s) stole a GPS unit and a bottle of prescription medication from his locked vehicle Jan. 27. Police found no signs of forced entry.

Unknown person(s) stole copper parts from two air-conditioner units outside a foreclosed home in the 400 block of Redwood Avenue, Niceville. The theft was discovered Jan. 30 by an employee of a property protection company hired by the bank that owns the home. The air compressors were valued at \$3,000. The property appeared to have been empty for several years.

A student at Niceville High School reported that unknown person(s) had broken the driver's side window of his vehicle, Jan.

# Fire Department Reports

## Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from January 30, 2012 through February 5, 2012.

0 Structure Fire	16 Emergency Medical Calls
1 Vehicle Fire	3 Vehicle Crash
1 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	4 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	0 Hazardous Conditions

Street	Situation	Date	Time
SR123	Vehicle Crash	01/30/12	05:38
SR123	Vehicle Crash	01/30/12	06:05
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	01/30/12	10:58
E. College Blvd.	Medical	01/31/12	12:36
SR85N/Hart Street	Vehicle Fire	02/01/12	06:54
SR123/SR85N	Medical	02/01/12	13:59
Karen Court	Medical	02/01/12	18:23
White Circle	Medical	02/02/12	08:17
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	02/02/12	09:13
Early Street	Medical	02/02/12	10:37
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	02/02/12	16:03
N. Partin Drive	Medical	02/03/12	04:54
N. Partin Drive	Canceled	02/03/12	08:49
Edgewater Drive	Service Call	02/03/12	13:02
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	02/03/12	16:59
SR285 @ MM 11	Brush Fire	02/03/12	21:57
23rd Street	Medical	02/04/12	07:39
Allen Street	Medical	02/04/12	14:15
Paradise Road	Medical	02/04/12	16:48
Rocky Bayou Drive	Smoke Scare	02/04/12	17:36
Boyd Circle	Medical	02/04/12	19:11
Canopy Creek Cove	Canceled	02/05/12	09:00
Azalea Drive	Medical	02/05/12	17:55
Hill Lane	Medical	02/05/12	22:11

## North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from January 30, 2012 through February 5, 2012.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	01/30/12	08:27
Highway 20 East	EMS excluding vehicle	01/30/12	12:11
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	01/30/12	14:16
Evans Road	Medical assist EMS	01/31/12	10:00
Parkwood Lane	EMS excluding vehicle	01/31/12	11:35
State Hwy 20/Freepport	Dispatched canceled	01/31/12	18:18
E. Hwy 20 & Range Road	Good intent call	02/01/12	00:39
White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	02/01/12	12:51
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	02/01/12	20:12
Barbados Way	Medical assist EMS	02/03/12	02:44
Bluelake Cove	Medical assist EMS	02/03/12	06:58
Olde Post Road	Assist invalid	02/03/12	10:02
Highway 20 East	Medical assist EMS	02/03/12	11:00
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	02/03/12	11:38
E. Highway 20	EMS excluding vehicle	02/03/12	14:07
Merchants Way	EMS excluding vehicle	02/03/12	23:03
Rocky Bayou Drive	Dispatched canceled	02/04/12	17:37
S. Midbay Bridge	EMS excluding vehicle	02/04/12	22:01
Olde Post Road	EMS excluding vehicle	02/05/12	08:41
N. White Point Road	EMS excluding vehicle	02/05/12	10:55
Pine Street	Dispatched canceled	02/05/12	11:12
Sandalwood Circle	EMS excluding vehicle	02/05/12	14:22
East Dominica Circle	EMS excluding vehicle	02/05/12	23:26

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# Okaloosa seeks fugitives

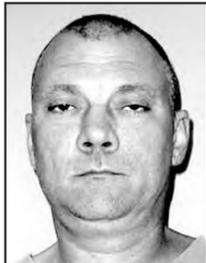
This information is from reports by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

**Name: Alan Brent Hedrick**  
**Wanted for: failure to appear on the original charge of fraud. Hedrick's last known address was on Wright Parkway in Fort Walton Beach.**  
**Height: 5-feet, 10-inches**  
**Weight: 185 pounds**  
**Age: 44**  
**Date of birth: 10-22-1967**  
**Hair: brown**  
**Eyes: brown**



Alan Brent Hedrick

**Name: Harley William Johnson**  
**Wanted for: violation of probation on the original charge of sell/manufacture/deliver marijuana. Johnson's last known address was on Timberlake Drive in Mary Esther.**  
**Height: 6-feet**  
**Weight: 200 pounds**  
**Age: 42**  
**Date of birth: 04-01-1969**  
**Hair: brown**  
**Eyes: hazel**



Harley William Johnson

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)

23, while it was parked at the school. The victim reported that about \$200 that had been stored inside a beverage insulator had been stolen.

## Criminal Mischief

Vandal(s) defaced another Niceville park with spray-painted graffiti Jan. 28, discovered when officers checked the inside of the men's bathroom at Lions Park just before midnight. Investigators said the graffiti appeared to be similar to the spray paint damage done at the city's Turkey Creek nature trail

Please see BLOTTER, page A-6



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# Panel again aims at bridge takeover

By Del Lessard  
Beacon Staff Writer

On Friday a Florida Senate committee approved a proposal that would transfer governance of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority system to the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, which is run by the state.

Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto, R., Wellington, introduced amendment 297172 to Senate Bill 1866, which deals with transportation. Under her amendment the MBBA

would be consolidated under the state's Turnpike Enterprise July 1.

The amendment was approved by a 5-3 vote in a Feb. 3 meeting of the senate Transportation Committee, chaired by Sen. Jack Latvala, R., St. Petersburg.

After paying existing bond debt and money owed to the Department of Transportation under existing lease-purchase agreements, any funds generated by the Mid-Bay Bridge toll bridge and yet-to open connector road,

could only be spent on improvements of Florida Turnpike Enterprise toll facilities within Okaloosa County.

Benacquisto's amendment would not completely consolidate two other regional tolling authorities, the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority and the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority. However, her amendment would restrict those two authorities' ability to issue bonds after July 1.

A similar but unsuccessful bill to consolidate the MBBA—and both the Tampa and Orlando area toll authorities—under the state's Turnpike Enterprise was introduced last year by Sen. Don Gaetz, R. Niceville, whose district contains the bridge. At the time Gaetz said the consolidation of the regional tolling authorities would save money now spent on overhead and would increase the amount of money the state could borrow, at a lower interest rate

than the regionals, to build new toll roads in Florida.

The MBBA is much smaller than the toll authorities in Tampa and Orlando, and employs only two people, executive director Jim Vest and administrative assistant Cathy Demoreski. Its annual budget of \$725,000, is currently approved each year by the Okaloosa County Commission.

Vest said that the MBBA was

Please see TAKEOVER, page A-6



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# Sammy's Pizzas & Subs

## Pizza at its best

### Advertising Feature

Sammy's Pizzas and Subs, located in Niceville, has opened its doors to the community. With his friendly staff, restaurateur and owner, Sam Poppell, serves tasty pizzas, mouth-watering hot and cold sandwiches, and savory strombolis. In addition, freshly prepared salads and warm cookies round out the menu to provide something to please everyone!

Sammy's Pizzas and Subs takes pride in promoting itself as the one of the few pizzerias/sub shoppes that boasts an oven-baked pretzel sandwich. All hot menu items are baked on stones right into a brick-oven. This cooking process produces a crispier crust. Overall, the results are better flavors compared to those baked in conveyor ovens.

Sub sandwiches begin with fresh baked bread, baked daily on the premises. Meats and cheeses are deli-sliced just prior to serving, and all vegetable toppings are cut fresh daily as well. Sam developed a variety of delectable signature subs, such as his Famous



Made with the freshest ingredients available.

Philly! Lunch specials are available.

Pizzas also get primo attention at Sammy's. All pizzas are topped with a blend of five cheeses that include: low-moisture mozzarella, low-moisture part-skim mozzarella, smoked provolone, parmesan, and Romano cheeses. This specialized blend gives Sammy's pizza a very distinctive flavor, unlike any other. Sammy's 16" pizzas can satisfy the largest hunger! Customers can also order pizza-by-the-slice until 4:00pm.

Focused on providing a family friendly dining experience, Sam has expanded his dining facility so customers can have more space for birthday parties, sports gatherings and family events. Dining space was recently increased by 30%.

Sammy's Pizzas and Subs understand the importance of community involvement and the positive impact small businesses can be. Community

efforts include: school fundraising and youth league sponsored promotions. As a big supporter of youth sports, Sammy is currently a sponsor one of Destin's 6 and 7-year-old basketball team.

On March 1st, Sammy's will delivery to areas that spans Rocky Bayou through Choctaw Beach. Special discounts to the community include: 15% off to military, law enforcement and fire department staff. In addition, youth sports league are offered 15% discounts for those who come in uniform.

Sammy's Pizzas and Subs is located at 4677 E. Hwy 20. Hours are 10:30a-9pm daily. Delivery hours will extend on weekends. For call ahead or group orders, call 279-4790. Also, visit sammypizzaandsubs.com and Sammy's Pizzas and Subs on Facebook. Click "Like" and add "Check In" feature for up-to-date discounts, specials, and promotions.

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## Plew, Ruckel excel in KMO

James E. Plew Elementary School's Academic Team placed first in Florida and fifth out of 203 in the world on the Knowledge Master Open (KMO) competition with a total score of 722. The team members include Adam Mistretta, Angus Atkins, Arianna Wittic, Cambell Taylor, Chase Penton, Delaney Hughes, Derek Vogel, Gilliah Boden, Jason Stukbauer, Joshua Riley, Katie Lightfoot, Kyle Hodgen, Matthew Murphey, Rania Smeltz, Ryan Alford, Sarah Markwardt, Sierra Moore, Stephen Dubben, William Murray and Xavier Graham. The team is coached by Michael Scrivner.

Lewis School finished fourth with a score of 520.

Ruckel Middle School also excelled in the Jan. 25th competition, finishing first in the state and 21st in the world with a 747 score.

The Knowledge Master Open is a computer-based semiannual worldwide academic competition in which teams of students from many schools earn points by answering multiple-choice questions quickly and accurately. The questions includes 15 subject areas: American history, world history, government, recent events, economics & law, geography, literature, English, math, physical science, biology, earth science, health & psychology, fine arts and trivia.

### Who's News

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

Winners of the Twin Cities Elks of Niceville/Valparaiso have been announced.

Division 1: First, **Sally Clifton**, Bluewater Elementary; second, **Ryan Thomas**, Lewis School.

Division 2: First, **Alison Thomas**, Lewis School; second, **Chelsea Anderson**, Ruckel Middle School.

Winners each receive a plaque and certificate of participation from the Elks. The winning

Please see WHO'S, page B-2



Members of Rocky Bayou Christian Academy's Junior Classical League display the ribbons they earned at the Junior Classical League Regional Forum.

## Rocky Junior Classical students excel

Rocky Bayou Christian Academy's Junior Classical League placed third in the Creative category at the Junior Classical League Regional Forum Jan. 28 at Gulf Breeze High School.

Individual winners in the Creative Contests were: Jessica Sandlin, first for her Hippolyta costume and third for Modern

Myth; Kayla Thompson, second for her Illustrated Booklet; and Josh Birdsong, second for his Computer Program.

The Latin II Certamen team, made up of junior Jessica Sandlin, sophomores Kat Koster and Kelly Hanning, and freshman Josh Birdsong, earned third place.

In the Olympics, individual winners were: 100-meter race,

third, Christian Yun; "frisCUS" throw, first, Kayla Thompson; mile run, third, Josh Turner; standing broad jump, fourth, Kayla Thompson, first, McKenzie Davis, fourth, Joey Allen and third, Josh Preston; 400-meter mixed relay, third, McKenzie Davis, Michelle Earls, Josh Turner, and Christian Yun.

Individual winners for the aca-

demetic testing were: seniors—Kimberly McMahon, second in Advanced Latin Derivatives and third in the Advanced Heptathlon; Josh Turner, fifth Advanced History of the Empire; juniors—Jessica Sandlin, fifth in Advanced Greek Literature; Savannah West, second in Advanced Latin Derivatives; sophomores—Kelly Hanning,

fifth in Latin Derivatives II and third in the Heptathlon II; freshmen—Josh Preston, second in Latin Derivative I; Ian Kampert, second in History of the Empire I.

JCL sponsor Julie Mosley said she is proud of her small-school group for earning a place among much larger schools in this total points competition.

## Niceville native attends film event

### Has role in upcoming movie

Jenna Rae Montgomery of Niceville was honored to attend the 18th Annual Screen Actors Guild awards ceremony Jan. 29 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

This is her five-year anniversary as a member of the Screen Actors Guild and she was delighted to walk down the red carpet for the first time and celebrate with her peers and actors who have influenced her life.

Montgomery lives in New York City, where she has appeared in many movies,

including "Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2," "Mildred Pierce," "Music and Lyrics," "Buzzkill" and "Mulberry Street." She also has worked on noted television shows such as "Damages" with Glenn Close and on HBO's "Bored to Death" with Kevin Bacon. She also has a role in the upcoming movie "Men in Black 3" as an MiB agent.

She attended the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts and also holds teaching degrees from Florida State University. She enjoys traveling, fulfilling her dreams and spending quality time with her family as she frequently returns home to the Emerald Coast to visit with her parents, Wayne and Donna Montgomery. She attended Ruckel Middle School and is a graduate of Niceville High School.



Jenna Rae Montgomery



## Eaglettes take top prize

The NHS Eaglettes took first place Jan. 21 in both jazz and hip-hop routines in the Alabama State Championship, sponsored by Universal Dance Association. From left: standing, Taylor Berry, Leigh Herndon, Mariah Perkins, Jessie Saris, Allison Schwartz, Kellie Higley, Tia Patel, Taylor Anderson and Alexa Verzwylt; kneeling, Kayln Worsham, Victoria Verzwylt, Nicole Manard, Ashley Robinson and Caroline Strickland. Coaches (not pictured) are Brooke James and Jill Kerschitz.

## Niceville Realtor elected treasurer

The manager of SymbolMTReli Title, Grayton Beach, Lori Ogles of Niceville, was elected and installed as the 2012 treasurer of the Emerald Coast Chapter, Women's Council of Realtors.

This will be her second term. The Emerald Coast Chapter is a professional real estate industry group affiliated with the Women's Council of Realtors (WCR).



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Holly Reedy, left, of the Niceville Exchange Club, presents a Student of the Month certificate to Brittany Boothe.

## Brittany Boothe earns ACE kudos

Brittany Boothe, granddaughter of Shirley Smith of Niceville, was selected as the January ACE (Accepting the Challenge of Excellence) Student of the Month at Rocky Bayou Christian School by the Niceville Exchange Club. Brittany was honored at the Exchange Club's monthly luncheon Tuesday, Jan. 10.

The ACE program recognizes outstanding high school seniors who have overcome great physical, emotional, or social obstacles to graduate from High School.

## Engagement



Jessica Ureña and Paul Brian Carroll

### Ureña-Carroll

Erasmo and Carolina Ureña of Niceville announce the engagement of their daughter, Jessica Ureña to Paul Brian Carroll, son of Richard and Carmel Carroll of Crestview.

Jessica is a graduate of Niceville High School and the Florida State University where she obtained her B.S. in psychology and her M.S. in family and child sciences. She is currently working on licensure for mental health counseling in Florida.

Paul Brian is a graduate of Crestview High School and attended Northwest Florida State College. He is a fifth degree Black belt in Taekwondo and is a nationally certified instructor at ATA Taekwondo in Crestview.

The wedding will take place April 28, 2012, followed by a honeymoon in the Caribbean.



Guild member Sandra Congleton shows the chosen quilts at Lynne's Sewing Center in Fort Walton Beach, which will be part of the Original Sewing & Quilt Expo shows through November. The quilt tops were made by members Karen Boswell (Radiant Stars, left), and Anita Stephens (Easy Diamonds).

## Traveling quilt show to visit 10 area sites

The Flying Needles Quilt Guild will exhibit two of its Quilts of Valor as part of a traveling tour to 10 locations. The quilts, two of 35 selected from more than 100 submissions, were chosen by the Quilt of Valor Foundation and Marianne Fons of "Love of Quilting Magazine." These two quilts will join others made by well-known quilters Mark Lipinski, Alex Anderson, Eleanor

Burns, Marianne Fons, and artist Nancy Mahoney as part of the Quilt of Valor traveling exhibit.

The quilts will be included in all the 2012 shows sponsored by Original Sewing & Quilt Expo, after which they will find homes with wounded warriors. Locations include Lakeland, Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Worcester, Mass., Raleigh, N.C., Chantilly, Va., Kansas City, Mo., and

Duluth, Ga. Exact dates of the shows can be found at sewingexpo.com.

Flying Needles Quilt Guild members meet the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 at the Niceville Church of Christ, across the street from Niceville High School. Visitors are always welcome.

Info: Sandra Congleton, 862-8588.

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Kathy Morrow, second from left, Chelco's director of communications, announced that Tyler Kinard, left, and Rachel Shelikoff, third from left, will represent Niceville High School in Chelco's Youth Tour Program. NHS Principal Marcus Chambers, right, joins them.

## NHS juniors nominated to youth tour

Rachel Shelikoff and Tyler Kinard, both juniors at Niceville High School, have been nominated to enter Chelco's Youth Tour Program.

Chelco sponsors the annual contest for high school juniors that allows deserving students to compete for an all expense paid, weeklong trip to Washington, D.C.

Electric cooperatives

across the country hold this contest, which was inspired by Lyndon Johnson in 1957 when he was a senator. That year, electric cooperatives in Texas began sending groups of young people to Washington to work during the summer in Johnson's office and learn more about their government.

The program is designed

for young people to increase their understanding of rural electric cooperatives, become familiar with the historical and political environment of the nation's capital, visit elected officials and meet students from all over the country.

Rachel and Tyler will also attend the area Chelco conference in Tallahassee this spring.

## WHO'S

From page B-1

essays will be forwarded to the district level for further consideration in the national contest.

The essay theme is: "Why I am Proud to Pledge Allegiance to Our Flag."

\*\*\*

**Kathryn Delaney Lorenz** has been named to the Dean's and

President's List for the fall

2011 semester at Florida State University.

Kathryn is a 2011 graduate of Rocky Bayou Christian School and is the daughter

of Joe and Judy Lorenz.

\*\*\*

**Kelsey Mason**, Class of 2015,

received her "White Coat" Jan. 28

in a ceremony for first year medical students at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM),

Bradenton Florida Campus. Kelsey is a 2005 graduate of Niceville High School and a 2009 Graduate of the University of Florida. She plans to specialize in either radiology or anesthesiology after medical school graduation.

Kelsey has spent past summers volunteering in a Red Cross-sponsored orphanage in Vietnam and working at the Cheyenne River Youth Project Center in the Sioux Indian community in South Dakota. This summer, Kelsey is organizing a medical mission trip to Guatemala focusing on provid-

ing childhood inoculations.

\*\*\*

**Scott Hartman** of Niceville made the Dean's List at DePaul University for the fall quarter of 2011. To qualify for the Dean's List at DePaul, students must earn above a 3.0 grade point average on a four-point scale.

\*\*\*

**Anthony Tuttle** of Niceville recently traveled to Nicaragua with 15 other graduate students from the Wake Forest University Schools of Business. The group visited local small businesses in Managua and surrounding cities and developed business seminars to address owners' concerns. They also did business training in cost analysis, cash flow recording and networking. The team went as part of Project Nicaragua, a student-run Wake Forest organization that, since the fall of 2006, has sent students to work with small businesses in Nicaragua through consulting projects and business skills seminars.

\*\*\*

**Cale Hansen**, a senior cadet lieutenant at the U.S. Military Academy West Point, was recently selected by Phi Alpha Theta National Honor Society for collegiate historians to present his paper: "Influential Consensus, an Analysis of the Role of the Liberal Consensus on the Reception of the Warren Report." Hansen presented his paper, followed by discussion at the society's annual convention held at Disney World

Orlando in early January. Hansen, a 2008 honor graduate of Niceville High School, is the son of LTC Michael and Carolann Hansen of Bluewater Bay.

\*\*\*

Carriage Hills Realty presented its 2011 Top Agent award to **Linda Zickler**. Since joining the company, Zickler has been a top producer with more than 1,300 sales.

\*\*\*

Summit Bank NA has named **Philippe Miceli** of Niceville president of its Okaloosa County operations. Miceli, formerly of BankTrust, Santa Rosa Beach, has 23 years banking experience, the last 17 of which in Okaloosa County. He spent seven years as a member of BankTrust's Florida Senior Management Team. Miceli will be part of Summit Bank's transition team when the former Premier locations convert to Summit Bank in early May.



## Youth of the Month

Carol Mullins-Hernandez, Niceville Exchange Club, presents the club's Youth of the Month award to Wendy Kent, a senior at Rocky Bayou Christian School. "She excels academically and is an accomplished musician and performer," the club stated. RBCS Principal Marilyn Bilby praised Wendy as the kind of student the Exchange Club is proud to honor.

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# Ruckel wins three titles



Beacon photos by Kenneth Books

## Lady Rams champion soccer team

Ruckel Middle School's county champion girls soccer team consists of, from left: front, Hannah Stevenson, Lauren Melaicon, Alexa Miles, Payton Lewis, Kaleigh Maker, Lena Owen, Kirsten Jones, Emma Ladd, Anslee Gregoire and Amina Downey; middle, Jaysa Ligon, Devynn Vachon, Delanie Bomar, Nicole Farmer, Candace Metcalfe, Hannah Davis and Anni-James Walsh; back, Krista Abel, Savannah Low, Kristen Anderson, Julie Duchock, Brooke Gaskell, Kelsie Walker and Laine Ely.



## Ruckel winning boys soccer team

Ruckel Middle School's county champion boys soccer team includes, from left: front, Chase Mixson, Allen Connor, Drake Devin, Finley Hyder, Daniel Abel, Hagon Lewis and Devin Melancon; middle, Joey Gianelloni, Richard Moore, Alex Nalovic, Chris Halprin, Nick Kennington, Jordan Richardson, Greyson Brothers and Patrick Poate; rear, coach Zac Keeler, Zac Jordan, Kevin Hartzog, Justin Mikulcic, Dustin Smith, Colin Schafer, Ed Sheilkoff, PJ Shaw, David Rood and Seth Rung. Not pictured are Vincent Ramirez, Jared Driver and Austin Adair.



## RMS girls basketball champs

The Ruckel Middle School county champion girls basketball team members are, from left: front, Megan O'Neal and Jessie Day; middle, Maya Volz, J'Melia Richardson, Grace Dowden and Peyton Looney; rear, Cari Sands, Alexis Bonton, Amanda Wilson, Abby Runyon and coach David Day.

More sports, B-6



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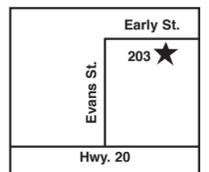
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**Garden Club meeting**

The Valparaiso Garden Club will be meeting on Feb. 8 at the Mitchell Building, Room 3, Valparaiso. Social with refreshments starts at 9 a.m., with the program starting at 9:30 a.m. The program this month features Raymond Sturdivant who will demonstrate plant grafting.

Info: Kay Parsons, 678-1461.

**Seniors meeting**

Twin Cities Seniors will meet Feb. 9, 1 p.m., 268 Glenview Ave., Valparaiso. 50 plus welcome. Entree provided, bring a covered dish. Info: 678-4346.

**Library discussion groups**

The Valparaiso Community Library will offer a book discussion on Feb. 9 for Marjorie Allingham's "Crime at Black Dudley." The group meets at 10:30 a.m. and is moderated by Jill White.

Info: 729-5406.

**DAR meeting**

The Choctawhatchee Bay Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will meet Feb. 9, 10 a.m., at St. Simon's on the Sound Church, Fort Walton Beach. All women who are lineally descended from a Revolutionary War patriot are invited to attend and apply for membership.

Info: Dotty Burdick 496-0783.

**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.

**Regional science fair**

The 35th Robert Sheffield East Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair will be Feb. 9, at the C.H. "Bull" Rigdon Fairgrounds on Lewis Turner Boulevard, Fort Walton Beach. Projects will be available for public viewing at no entry cost from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

The awards ceremony for the fair will be Feb. 15 at the fairgrounds, 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

**Fort Walton Aglow**

February speaker for Fort Walton Beach Aglow is Brenda Blackmon. The meeting will be Feb. 9 at Marina Bay Resort, 80 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach. Coffee and Fellowship at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10 a.m.

Info: 678-1335, fwbaglow@yahoo.com.

**Tops in Blue Concert**

The U.S. Air Force's Tops In Blue will offer a free night of family entertainment at the Emerald Coast Convention Center, Feb. 10, 7:30-11 p.m.

In this year's show, Tops In Blue 2012 drums up its own rhythm. Audiences will be tapping their feet to music from performers like: Nat King Cole and Billie Holiday; Little Richard and Jerry Lee Lewis; Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell; hits by J-L

and Michael Franti; inspirational country sounds and more.

Seating begins at 7 p.m.

**Vegetable garden seminar**

The Bluewater Bay Garden Club will present "Keys to Successful Vegetable Gardening in Northwest Florida," Feb. 10, 9:30 a.m., with Dennis Gilson.

**Valentine's celebration**

The Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge invites you to join them on Feb. 10 for its annual "Wild at Heart" Valentine's Day celebration at Howl at the Moon Destin. Attendees will receive two free drink tickets, along with a raffle ticket for door prizes. Pre-sold tickets are \$10 with all proceeds benefiting the ECWR. (Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets purchased at the door AFTER 8 p.m. will NOT benefit the refuge.) Tickets can be purchased at the ECWR at 105 Santa Rosa Blvd., Fort Walton Beach, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., or at www.ecwildliferefuge.com.

Info: Debbie at 685-9014.

**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., Central Baptist Church, 951 South Ferdon Blvd., Crestview.

Ticket are \$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 or 1-800-965-9324.

Info: Libbyandfriendsgospelconcerts.com.

**Disc golf tourney**

Fort Walton Beach will host the fourth annual Emerald Coast Ice Bowl Disc Golf Tournament, Feb. 11 at Ferry Park (behind Uptown Station). Entry is \$25 and five non-perishable food items. Players packs will be given to each participant. Registration begins at 8 a.m. All proceeds benefit Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center and Catholic Charities food pantry. Lunch will be provided between rounds.

This is a Southern Nationals points tournament and points will go toward receiving an invitation to the 2012 Southern Nationals Championships.

Info: Eric Walker, ice.bowl@yahoo.com

**Learn about aquatics**

Mike Kay, saltwater fish expert, will present on the importance of aqua culture and its influence on the conservation of coral reefs, Feb. 11, 11 a.m. This is a must see if you have an aquarium or want to learn more about certain aquatic species. E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center, 4965 State Highway 20 East, Freeport. Standard admission rates apply. Info: 835-1824, www.eowilsoncenter.org.

**'Pamper Me' for women**

The 10th annual "Pamper Me" program will be Feb. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Niceville Community Center. Admission is \$3 per person.

The Friends of the Niceville Library will provide food, beverages, door prizes and music.

**Eight-mile hike**

The Florida Trail Association plans an eight-mile hike Feb. 11, 8 a.m., on Eglin Air Force Base near Crestview. Eglin recreation permit required.

Info: 683-0803 or choctaw.florida.trail.org.

**Genealogical Society**

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County will meet Feb. 11, 10 a.m. at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Drive, Valparaiso. The speaker will be



**'Brigadoon' at Arts Center**

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

Hank Klein, a native of Destin who lives in Arkansas. His presentation will be on "The Migration to Destin of the Early Families." Info: Pat Pruett, 678-2023.

**'CHOCOLAT' FARE'**

The ninth annual "CHOCOLAT" FARE, sponsored by Destin United Methodist Women, will be Feb. 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Destin United Methodist Church, 200 Beach Drive, Destin. Proceeds benefit the Church Benevolent Fund. Info: 650-3573.

**Fire commission to meet**

The regular monthly meeting of the East Niceville Fire District Commission will be Feb. 13, at 7 p.m., at the Fire Station, 1709 E. 27th St., Niceville.

The public is invited to all ENFD Commission meetings.

**VFW meeting**

The regular monthly meeting of

the Niceville/Valparaiso Kent Purcell VFW Post 0090 will be Feb. 13, 7 p.m., at the DAV hall, 920 Hospital Drive, Niceville.

Info: e-mail post10090@flvfw.org. New members are welcome.

**Eatery benefits Relay**

Dockside Cafe & Oyster Bar will donate 10 percent of all proceeds for the day (lunch and dinner) on Feb. 14 to the Niceville-Valparaiso Relay For Life.

Info: Ernie Danjean at 678-1241.

**Johnson leads session**

The popular community classical music study series, "Better Listening," meets Feb. 14, 7-9 p.m., at Valparaiso Unitarian Church, 1295 Bayshore Drive. Lou Johnson will lead the session "10 Must-Have Classical CDs." Selections will be representative of all major Classical Musical Eras.

**Driver safety course**

The AARP Driver Safety Classroom Course for mature drivers will be Feb. 15-16, 12:30-3:30 p.m. at the Bob Gates Welcome Center at Bob Hope Village in Shalimar. Open to drivers age 50 or older, the classroom course is designed to help older drivers adjust to the challenges of life changes. Florida auto insurance providers offer discounts to those certified. Cost is \$12 for AARP members, \$14 for others. Each student must attend both sessions and should bring cash or check to the class along with their driver's license and valid AARP card (if a member).

The Bob Gates Welcome Center is located at 92 Sunset Lane, Shalimar. Info: 651-3766.

**Concerto winners perform**

The Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra will present "The Stars of Tomorrow" at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Elementary, middle, high school and college winners of the 2011 Concerto Competition will be the featured soloists. The show will also include a tribute to the Old West. Tickets are \$22.50.

Info: 729-6000 or mattiekellyartscenter.org.

**String quartet to perform**

Sinfonia Gulf Coast presents the Parker String Quartet, Feb. 17 and 18, 7:30 p.m. at Rosemary Beach Town Hall, 48 S. Barrett Square, Panama City. Tickets are \$35. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit SinfoniaGulfCoast.org or call 269-7129.

**3-day backpacking trip**

The Florida Trail Association plans a three-day, two-night backpacking trip on the Nokuse section of Walton County, Feb. 17-19, beginning at 9 a.m.

Info: 492-8258 or 865-7075 or choctaw.floridatrail.org

**Church hosts kids' night**

Radiant Life Church is holding a Radiant Kids Celebration night, Feb. 17, 6-10 p.m. The event is free for kids ages 5 through fifth grade.

Sign-up is encouraged in the front office, 100 Hart St., Niceville.

Info: 729-8600.

**A Night in Naples**

A Neapolitan dining experience

featuring a pasta dinner with live performers and a silent auction to benefit the Niceville High School Chorus Program, Feb. 18 5:30-8:30 p.m. Niceville First United Methodist Fellowship Hall. Reservations accepted through Feb. 10. \$20 per person, or \$35 per couple.

Reservations must be placed with Betsy Gunn at 428-2831 or e-mail bgunn@cox.net.

**Doo-Wah Riders to perform**

The Doo-Wah Riders will perform at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m. After the concert, the audience is invited to a reception at the Magnolia Grill in Fort Walton Beach where they can meet all the band members. Tickets, \$22 per person, are available at Kitchenuke, Destin/Sandestin; P.S. Gifts, Fort Walton Beach; Connect with Flowers, Shalimar; and Artful Things, Niceville.

Info: 362-9356. Tickets at the door will be \$25 per person.

**Tri-Delta alumni meeting**

The quarterly luncheon meeting of the Delta Delta Delta Alumnae of the Emerald Coast will be Feb. 18, 10:30 a.m., at the Sandestin Beach Club. The hostesses will be Gertie Sheaffer, Judy LaMarche and Margaret Carlen.

For reservations, gate code and directions, contact Margaret Carlen, 654-5008 or robincar@cox.net.

**Wild game dinner**

The Cinco Baptist Church Men's Ministry will hold a wild game dinner Feb. 18. Whitetail deer seminar, 4 p.m., wild game dinner, 5 p.m., and "Life & Death" adventures, 6 p.m., by guest speaker Wade Nolan. Tickets: \$10.

Info: 243-7656.

**Lifeguard class**

This 30-hour course includes certification in life guarding, CPR, and first aid. Cost is \$80 and includes manual, pocket mask, certification cards, Red Cross provider fee and supplies.

The class will be Feb. 18-19, and Feb. 25-26. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Bring a swimsuit, towel and goggles. Sign up at Destin YMCA, 4645 Commons Drive, Destin.

Info: 837-8440.

**Men's baseball league**

The Okaloosa Men's Baseball League is kicking off its season with registration Feb. 19-26, 3 p.m., Twin Oaks baseball field, Niceville. These sessions are for 18 and older, and 30 and older divisions. Info: www.ombl.org, 864-7529.

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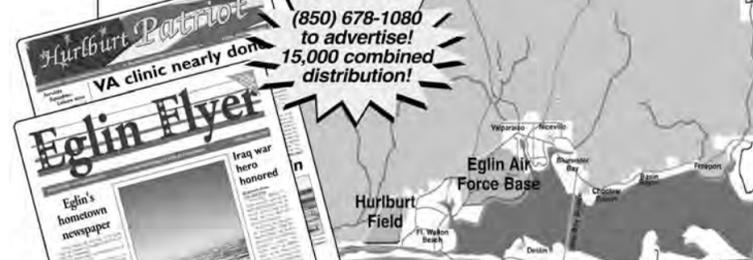
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Beacon photo by Norman Wolf

## NHS drops a heartbreaker

Aaron Nipper launches the ball away from the Niceville High School goal during Friday's Region 1-5A semifinal game. Chiles won the game 3-2 on penalty kicks after two scoreless overtime periods.

# Niceville girl wins Innisbrook tourney

Ten-year-old Lauren Miller, of Niceville, showed no signs of intimidation in her first U.S. Kids Golf Regional Championship, as she finished atop the Girls 10 leader board to claim the title of Copperhead Classic champion.

The Copperhead Classic is one of seven regional championships on the 2012 U.S. Kids Golf calendar. The tournament was held Jan. 14-15 at Innisbrook Golf Resort, Palm Harbor, and featured 288 players from 29 states and nine countries. The Girls 10 age group played two 18-hole rounds on the North Course from 4,037 yards.

Weather conditions were cold and windy during Saturday's first round, and the scores reflected that. Lauren recorded an 8-over-par 80 in the first round and entered the final day in third place, two strokes behind leader Michaela Morard of Huntsville, Ala., and one stroke behind Caroline Curtis of Glen Allen, Va.

# Eagle wrestlers finish second in Districts; end 11-year streak

By Kenneth Books  
Beacon Staff Writer

Niceville High School finished second in the District 1-3A wrestling tournament in Gulf Breeze over the weekend, ending an 11-year streak of first-place finishes. But the drop to second place isn't a major concern for coach Morrie Geselter.

"Finishing second in District was a big, big victory for us," Geselter said. "We certainly weren't the favorite going in."

Gulf Breeze High School won the tournament.

The reason the Eagles weren't favored this year has less to do with skill and more to do with experience. Only two wrestlers returned from last year: 145-pounder Tanner Aull, captain of the Niceville team,

### More sports, B-3

31-12 on the season, and Sam Wilcox, 17-9, a 126-pounder who placed second in his weight class. Aull, who was seeded No. 1, was upset in the semifinals and had to settle for a second-place finish.

Meanwhile, Taylor Bartleson won the district crown at the 160-pound level after going 35-5 in the regular season.

"He's probably the best kid I have on my team," Geselter said. "He's done a really, really good job. He's won the last two tournaments he's been in."

The coach said Bartleson broke his hand early in the year and was out for three weeks, lost his early matches, and had to go undefeated thereafter to post his record.

Freshman Eric Altreche,

won his district crown at 106 pounds. Altreche, who transferred from Colorado, had an overall regular season record of 31-7.

Other Eagles who will head to the Regionals are:

—Matt Berger, sophomore, who upset the No. 1 wrestler in districts, but lost to a wrestler he had previously beaten to take second.

—Trenton Miller, junior, 132, took second "and did a real nice job, had a real good match in the finals," Geselter said.

—Zack Jenkins, who wrestled heavyweight most of the year, but went down to 220 for Districts, finished second.

The Regionals will be Friday and Saturday at Lincoln High School, Tallahassee.

"I'd like to get two or three kids to state," Geselter said.



Lauren Miller displays her trophy and a big smile after winning the U.S. Kids Golf Regional Championship.

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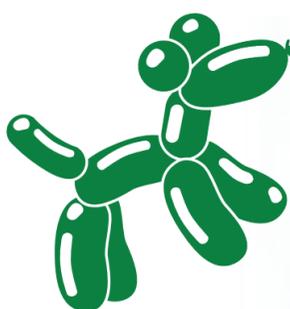
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