

# The Bay Beacon

14 Pages, 2 Sections, 6 Inserts

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

50¢

**UP**  
**COMING**

**Thursday, noon**



The Valparaiso Community Library invites family and friends to **Summer Family**

**Movie Days.** The library will kick off the summer with "Journey 2." Snacks and drinks will be provided. Bring your own lunch.

**Friday, 7 a.m.-noon**



**Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church**, Niceville, will hold its semi-annual **rummage sale**. Items available will include electronics, clothing, jewelry, books, furniture, sports equipment, housewares and miscellaneous treasures. The sale will also be held Saturday, from 7 a.m.-noon. Info: 678-7813.

**Saturday, 10 a.m.**

The **Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County** will meet at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso. Gina Marini, manager of the Heritage Museum, will discuss the activities and programs of the Museum. Following the program, there will be a Dutch treat lunch at a local restaurant. **The public is invited.** Info: 678-2023.

**Saturday, 2:30 p.m.**

The **Bluewater Bay Tennis Center** will host a **Round Robin** for all skill levels and a pro exhibition featuring Wil Spencer, a touring professional. The pro exhibition will begin at 5 p.m. Cost: \$20 per person, \$50 per family. All proceeds will benefit construction of the Eagle Ram Tennis Facility. Info: registration@eagleramtennis.com.

Calendar, B-3

## Values fall a 5th year Niceville, Bluewater Bay buck trend

By Del Lessard  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

For the fifth year in a row taxable property values in Okaloosa County fell, although the rate of decline slowed.

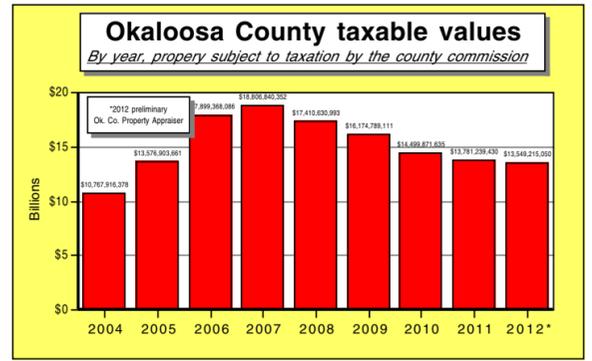
According to preliminary property tax rolls prepared by

Okaloosa County Property Appraiser Pete Smith, the value of real estate and business property taxed by the county commission was \$13,549,215,050 as of Jan. 1, down \$232 million, or about 1.7 percent, from final values a year earlier.

Bucking the countywide decline, the taxable value of property in the Niceville area rose last year, according to the appraiser's figures.

Taxable values are calculated

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



## Paddling into summer



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Temperatures rising into the low 90s heralded the unofficial advent of summer, as three people and two dogs filled a canoe for a trip down the cool, spring-fed waters of Turkey Creek, Niceville. The thermometer is expected to moderate today.

## Schools superintendent candidates face off

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

Both candidates for Okaloosa Schools Superintendent said they favor public, government-run schools over private, charter or home schools, during a candidate forum.

Candidates for Okaloosa Schools Superintendent debated each other and answered questions during a candidate forum held May 24, at the American Legion Hall in Fort Walton Beach, sponsored by the Republican Club of Okaloosa County.

**Union PAC opposes Tibbetts, A-3.**

If no other candidates join the race, the election would be decided during the Republican primary on Aug. 14. In the case of such an "open primary," registered Okaloosa County voters of all party affiliations, or none, may vote.

Candidates for schools superintendent are incumbent Alexis Tibbetts

Please see **FACE OFF**, page A-4



Alexis Tibbetts



Mary Beth Jackson

## Valp. planners study school-zoning issue

By Del Lessard  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

The Valparaiso Planning Commission Monday "recessed" for two more weeks a rezoning recommendation on the former Valparaiso Elementary School property after a former city commissioner inundated the panel with "exhibits" and warned of litigation if zoning changes under consideration were enacted.

The planning commission, an advisory panel, had been asked by

the city commission to consider rezoning the former elementary school property.

In October 2011, the city commission, on a 3-2 vote, had changed the zoning of the former elementary school from C1 commercial to a newly created zoning district called Public Institution/Elementary School (PI/ES).

The zoning change to PI/ES had been driven by former Valparaiso City Commissioner Neal Shermer.

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

# Three candidates vie in Niceville election

By Del Lessard  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

Voters in Niceville's July 17 special election will choose from three candidates for a vacant seat on the city council:

- Judy Boudreaux, 69, of 2423 Duncan Drive.
- Robert Edwards, 41, of 110 22nd St.
- Barry Reed, 47, of 2020 Kildare



Judy Boudreaux

Circle.

The special election was called to fill the vacancy created when William Thomas resigned May 8. The winner will serve the remainder of Thomas' term, which ends July 2015.

If no one candidate receives a majority, a runoff election will be held July 31.



Robert Edwards

Boudreaux is a Niceville business owner who has lived in the city for 32 years. She is married and has three grown children. Boudreaux previously served on the Niceville City Council from 1994 until 2011, when she lost to challenger Heath Rominger.

"I am running for office



Barry Reed

because I wish to serve the people of Niceville, be their spokesperson, represent their needs and protect their services on a daily basis," said Boudreaux.

Edwards a logistics contractor at Eglin Air Force Base for the past six years, has lived in Niceville 23 years. He is married with two daughters, ages 18 and 16. He

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

## OK sought to put store nearer homes

By Del Lessard  
and Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Staff*

Niceville may get another auto-parts store if city officials approve a property owner's petition for waivers of city land-use rules that would allow the store to be built closer to residences.

The Niceville Planning Commission is considering a request by Anna Radford, who is seeking two setback exceptions for her commercially-zoned property at 751 E. John Sims Parkway, a vacant lot on the south

side of John Sims Parkway between Partin Drive and Cedar Street.

The planning commission tabled the request Monday for technical reasons, but is expected to consider it again. All planning commission decisions are subject to final action by the city council.

The Radford property, situated to the east of Bank of America, formerly was the site of Bill Bullfrog's, an automotive repair business. The vacant lot backs up to Helms Street. Homes face the

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



## LeMieux campaigns in Niceville

Former U.S. Sen. George LeMieux campaigned for the U.S. Senate in Niceville yesterday at a Tea Party meeting at Niceville City Hall. Escorted Tuesday by Florida House Rep. Matt Gaetz, R., Fort Walton Beach, LeMieux, 43, is seeking the Republican nomination Aug. 14 to face Sen. Bill Nelson, a Democrat, Nov. 6. LeMieux served 16 months in the Senate, having been appointed upon the resignation of Sen. Mel Martinez, who resigned in August 2009. His most prominent GOP primary opponent is Rep. Connie Mack IV. Pictured, Nora Chase, of Valparaiso, greets LeMieux, center, and Gaetz. Between 75 and 100 people attended the Niceville event.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard

# NFL cheerleaders drop in on Valp.

By Mike Griffith  
Beacon Correspondent

If you had patronized the Compass Rose restaurant in Valparaiso last Wednesday evening, May 30, you might have thought you'd stumbled upon a convention of pro cheerleaders.

Close. Restaurant manager Kay Hamilton said she invited 17 NFL Tennessee Titans cheerleaders to her restaurant upon learning that they would be in Northwest Florida to shoot a swimsuit photo feature along the beaches near Destin. So they came to supper.

Hamilton said her niece, Stacie Kinder, is director of cheerleading for the Nashville-based Tennessee Titans football team. When Kinder told her that the cheerleaders would be passing through the Twin Cities on their way to Destin, Hamilton invited them for a free buffet meal.

Hamilton, a Valparaiso city

commissioner, said she did it to help her niece's team better enjoy their long road trip and also to help focus public attention on Valparaiso as a place to visit.

"The beachfront communities like Destin usually get all the public attention," Hamilton told the Beacon, "but people should know that there is also a community on the north shore of Choctawhatchee Bay, with calm bayous and beaches of our own. I wanted to let people know that Valparaiso is more than just a bedroom community—that we are also worth visiting."

Hamilton said she also notified several local schools of the Titan cheerleaders' visit, in case any aspiring local cheerleaders wanted a chance to meet with professionals to discuss their mutual interests and learn what NFL cheerleading is like.

Among those who came out to meet the Titan cheerleaders were students Kamden Martin,



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

The Tennessee Titans cheerleaders were treated to a free meal at the Compass Rose restaurant, Valparaiso, May 30 on their way to a Destin photo shoot.

11, and Jaycee Malone, 13, who met with Titans cheerleaders "Jalanda" and "Tiffany." The Titans cheerleaders said they go only by first names when appear-

ing in public.

Jaycee, who will be a student at Niceville High School this fall, said she was a cheerleader at Ruckel Middle School and plans

to continue cheerleading at NHS.

Kamden recently completed Bluewater Elementary School and will enter Ruckel Middle School this fall. She said she

does not plan to become a cheerleader herself, but still enjoyed the chance to meet professional NFL cheerleaders and learn what they do.

## PLANNER

From page A-1

He wanted to bring a private charter school to the former Valparaiso Elementary School after the school district shuttered the school in May 2011 because of falling enrollment. The PI/ES was designed to limit the school board property to its long-standing use as an elementary school, whether operated by the school district or, as favored by a then-majority of the city commission, by a private company as a public charter school.

The school district sued the city over the new zoning change, saying it was illegal and unconstitutional. The school district also announced that it planned to use the Valparaiso

property to establish a science, technology, engineering, math and medical (STEMM) center. An inaugural class of sixth-grade STEMM students is slated to begin classes at the STEMM center in August.

Meantime, a charter school plan lost steam after opponents were elected to the city commission earlier this year.

After the election, in which the charter school's chief backer, Shermer, was defeated, city commissioners in April asked the planning commission to reconsider the PI/ES zoning.

In fact the planning commission in August 2011 had recommended that the school property be changed from Commercial to Public Institutional (PI), without any subcategory such as the elementary school limitation. It

was the city's former attorney, Doug Wyckoff, who developed and argued, with Shermer, for the zoning subcategory "ES," as a way to thwart school district plans and enable a charter school on the property instead.

At Monday's planning commission quasi-judicial hearing, Shermer presented 22 documents, including a DVD of a five-hour planning commission meeting last year, newspaper articles and city ordinances, as exhibits. As he described each document and brought them one by one to the chair he tested the patience of at least one planning commissioner, Pete King, who interrupted him at exhibit 19 and asked him to "get to the point."

Shermer told planning commissioners that they must consider the exhibits as evidence in

their deliberations and warned that changes to the current PI/ES zoning could result in lawsuits being filed by residents living near the school, including himself, who might feel their property values harmed by rezoning. He said surrounding homeowners had purchased their homes because there was an elementary school on the site. He told the planners their duty was to protect the safety and well being of Valparaiso residents, not to please the school district.

Martha Woodcock, chair of the planning commission, responded to Shermer's threat of litigation and said that she had been advised by the city's current attorney that a lawsuit could not be brought against the planning commission for making a recommendation to rezone. It's

the city commission that actually enacts zoning laws, she pointed out.

King said Shermer's contention that it would be illegal to change the zoning law was nonsense, that the city had previously changed zoning laws.

Attorney Jeff McInnis representing the school district, said that it had no objections to the planning commission's August 2011 recommendation of PI, without any subcategories, such as that currently limiting use of the property to elementary school.

After some discussion, commissioners voted unanimously to recess the hearing until June 19 to allow planning commissioners to review the voluminous material Shermer had introduced.

Separately, also on Monday, the director of the STEMM center, Rick Soria, outlined a busy schedule at the school to include:

—Hiring STEMM teachers next week. An inaugural class of sixth grade STEMM students is scheduled to begin in August.

—On June 11, a five-day workshop for education majors from Northwest Florida State College will help future teachers introduce STEMM topics in classrooms.

—On July 14, the Boeing Corp. will send several people to clean, paint and otherwise spruce up the school.

—Tentative plans call for Florida Gov. Rick Scott to officiate a ribbon cutting at the STEMM center in late July or early August.

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# Union PAC opposes reelection of Tibbetts as schools chief

## Education-worker group also backs 2 board candidates

By Del Lessard  
Beacon Staff Writer

The political action committee representing most Okaloosa County public-school teachers and educational support workers is backing Mary Beth Jackson, who is challenging incumbent Alexis Tibbetts for the post of Superintendent of Schools.

The teachers' PAC, Okaloosa TIGER (Together in Government and Education Reform) is also supporting two newcomers for seats on the school board during the Aug. 14 primary election.

Ninety-two percent of the teachers and support personnel who voted during the PAC's candidate forum May 21, voted to support Jackson over Tibbetts, according to Karen Peek, a fifth-grade teacher in Niceville who is president of the teachers union, Okaloosa County Education Association.

Tibbetts and Jackson are Republicans. No Democrats or other candidates have announced for the seat. If that remains the case, the Aug. 17 superintendent of schools primary will be open to all voters, and it will decide the election.

The teachers union is contesting a school board decision to not give teachers an annual "step pay" increase. The union contends the raise is required by contract. The school board and Tibbetts say the

district can't afford it this year. The school district also gave no raises to support personnel this year.

Peek said teachers are unhappy about the pay freeze, which was proposed by Tibbetts. The union president said there is \$14 million in the schools' budget for " s o m e - t h i n g ."

"I think we can do better," Peek said.

Peek said that 96 percent of PAC members voting supported Dewey Destin in the nonpartisan race for the District 2 School Board seat. No one else had filed for the seat as of Monday. Incumbent Chuck Kelley and others have until Friday to file papers to run.

This year, in the District 4 School Board race, the PAC is supporting JB Whitten, a retired teacher who faces incumbent Cathy Thigpen and challenger Rob English. Peek said Whitten drew support from 69 percent of those voting in the PAC.

Thigpen and Kelley backed the pay freeze this year.

Two years ago, Okaloosa TIGER endorsed incumbent

school board members Rodney Walker and Cindy Frakes. Walker won re-election. Frakes was unopposed.

Also in 2010, the PAC supported newcomer Melissa Thrush, who defeated incumbent Howard Hill, a veteran of 14 years on the board. Peek said she didn't know if the PAC endorsement of his opponent played a role in Hill's defeat.

Okaloosa TIGER is registered with the Florida Division of Elections as a committee of continuing existence. Its bylaws state that Okaloosa TIGER was "established to provide a process for the identification, screening, assessment, and recommendation of pro-education candidates for election to public office."

Membership in the PAC is separate from that of the teachers union, OCEA, or the Okaloosa County Educational Support Professional Association, OCES-PA, the union for noninstructional personnel such as bus drivers, janitorial and food service workers.

A PAC endorsement typically results in campaign contributions.

The education PAC is funded by voluntary payroll deductions, Peek said. Union members may opt out of the PAC, Peek said. PAC members need not belong to the union, she said.

Public documents indicate that

the Okaloosa PAC has about 1,500 members, and that it has collected more than \$95,000 since 1996.

Candidates for political office seeking endorsements from the teachers PAC fill out a questionnaire and are interviewed by a committee of nine headed by Carol Barlow, a teacher at Baker School and chairperson of the PAC. The committee interviews each candidate, then votes to recommend which candidates to support, Barlow said. Candidates return about a week later to speak to the general membership, Barlow said. This year candidates met the PAC membership May 21 at Niceville High School. After the candidates have spoken, the PAC committee gives their recommendations, then PAC members get to vote.

Barlow said the "vast majority" of teachers in OCEA are also in the PAC.

Endorsement by the PAC means those candidates can expect campaign contributions, if needed, in the amount of up to \$500 per quarter, Peek said.

Asked whether the money or endorsement was more important to candidates, Peek said: "I can't believe that the amount of money makes that much difference. They want to be appreciated or acknowledged by the people they will be working for."



Karon Peek



The owner of a vacant lot, left, fronting John Sims Parkway, Niceville, wants to build an auto-parts store closer to the back of the property line, which fronts Helms Street, shown. Homes are across the street.

Beacon photo

### STORE

From page A-1  
property on Helms.

One of Radford's requested special exceptions would allow for a zero-foot setback at the rear, where the commercial property abuts the residential district, as opposed to the required 30-foot setback. The other request was to allow for a zero rear setback, as opposed to the required 10-foot rear setback. In this context, Helms Street is considered the rear.

According to the city's building inspector, Darcy Chaney, the zero setbacks being sought by Radford are needed to allow an O'Reilly Auto Parts store to be built on the property and allow room for delivery vehicles to turn around.

On Monday, discussion of Radford's requests stalled when Niceville city staff member Frankie Revell informed the planning commission that the petitions had contained an incorrect deed and errors in the legal description of the property, thus making invalid the previously published legal advertisements concerning the matter.

Upon hearing this, the planning commissioners voted unanimously to table Radford's request until the correct data concerning the property is submitted and properly advertised.

Radford was not present at Monday's planning commission meeting, but was represented by land developer Pat Ogburn, who said he regretted the error, and would have the property surveyed to ensure the proper information is submitted in time for the next planning commission meeting, scheduled for July 2.

Separately, the city council is scheduled June 12 to consider a request by Doris Culver, 1704 Ivy St., who is seeking a special exception to allow a zero-foot front setback on her residential property, as opposed to the specified 25-foot setback. That request was approved by the planning commission Monday.

Revell told the commission that Culver made the request to allow for a carport to be added to her property. She also said that Culver is in poor health, and wants the carport to protect her large pickup truck, which she is unable to drive very often but wants to protect from the elements so it will remain in good condition and be available to her

when she does drive it. Revell also said that Culver's property ends about 10 feet from the street in front of her home, so even with zero setback from Culver's property line, the carport will not actually extend to the street.

After hearing the request, the commissioners voted 4-2 to recommend approval of Culver's request.

A brief discussion followed, in which commissioners Vickie Ritchson and Judy Byrne Riley, who had voted against approval, said approving such an exception sets a precedent for other property owners in Niceville who may want similar exceptions made for them, thus undermining the original purpose of

having setbacks in the city development code.

Commissioner Ed Sweeney, however, said that the development code allows for exceptions on a case-by-case basis, and that such an exception is warranted in this case because of Culver's health, the fact that there will still be a ten-foot space between Culver's carport and the street, and because there are no nearby neighbors who will be adversely affected by the carport.

The council will conduct a public hearing on the request, and hear the recommendations of the planning commission during their regular meeting June 12, at 7 p.m., in the council chambers, 208 N. Partin Drive.

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**Kiwanis Club awards scholarships**

The Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso awarded four Key Club Leadership scholarships for \$1,000 each to Thuyvi Luong, Chloe Schweitzer, Victoria Ross and Jeffrey Adams. Each earned recognition for demonstrated individual initiative, creativity, responsibility, cooperation and leadership ability. Jennifer Williams, Niceville High School, was also awarded the Danny Kittrell Memorial Scholarship. From left: Kiwanis Advisor Tim Parsons, Victoria Ross, Jennifer Williams, Thuyvi Luong and Chloe Schweitzer.

Courtesy photo

**FACE OFF**

From page A-1

and challenger Mary Beth Jackson.

In opening remarks, Tibbetts emphasized her efficient management of the Okaloosa School District. She said less than one percent of the district's money is spent on administration, with the rest going directly to education. Although the district couldn't afford a step raise for teachers this year, Okaloosa public school teachers are nevertheless the fifth highest paid in Florida. She said that school property tax rates have never increased during her tenure and said her efforts to establish a science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM) teacher and student education center in Valparaiso are essential to helping America compete with such nations as China, Pakistan and India. She said Okaloosa County high school students have the highest American College Test (ACT) scores and the lowest dropout rate in Florida.

Jackson agreed that Okaloosa schools have high performance compared to the rest of the state, but said the superintendent cannot claim much credit for that. Okaloosa students perform well, Jackson said, "because we live where we live, in a district blessed with well-educated parents and supportive communities who help prepare children to learn before they come to school."

Jackson said she has worked as "the career/technical person in the Okaloosa School District—

with one of the smallest budgets in the district," but has succeeded "because we run the department like a business." She said she has "a special love for struggling students," and will do all she can to help them as superintendent.

Both candidates were asked whether public schools should be run by government, or whether such alternatives as private and charter schools or home schooling should be encouraged in order to bring more competition and diversity of ideas to education. In response, both candidates affirmed their support for government control of education.

"Public education levels the playing field for all kids," said Jackson. "I believe in equality of education. Public schools provide equal opportunity for both the 'have' and 'have-not' students." Society, she said, "needs an educated group of people. I support public education absolutely."

Tibbetts agreed, and said that there should be more government regulation of charter, private and home schooling. "There is a for-profit charter movement in Florida," she said, "and it has produced some fine schools, like Liza Jackson Preparatory School."

But, Tibbetts added, "We need regulation that controls exactly what students learn. America is at a crossroads—we are about to elect a president and we need to have a more educated population. Without government regulation," said Tibbetts, "we will have a bigger mess in education than we have now."

Regarding private and charter

schools, said Tibbetts, "We need oversight of people who just want to make a profit on it."

As for home schooling, Tibbetts said, "We need oversight and regulation." Although some families do a good job of home schooling their children, she said, "I have seen many home-schooled children enter our middle and high schools who can't read past the second grade level."

The candidates disagreed about implementing earlier start times for high school students.

Tibbetts said she has read the research that supports later starts for high schoolers in order to better accommodate teenage biological rhythms, but "What you need to understand is that we must bus all students who live more than two miles from their zone school and this already costs us more than \$5.5 million," and the district needs to spend money on many other things.

In addition, Tibbetts said, later starts for high schoolers would mean earlier starts for younger kids and "I don't want to put our youngest, most vulnerable children out at bus stops in the dark at six in the morning, or have them come home to empty houses as their parents are at work and their older siblings are no longer available to watch them until their parents get home."

Jackson said she favors more effort to change start times.

"The research is extensive and compelling," she said, and supports later starts for teens. "We need to talk more about it." In addition, said Jackson, staggered start times could help relieve classroom overcrowding. High school students, she said "aren't awake at six a.m."

Both candidates support keeping seventh periods for high school students, if that is possible despite budget constraints. The state requires only six periods of instruction. Elsewhere in Florida, some districts, to fund rising payrolls, have cut or eliminated the seventh period.

Seventh period, said Jackson, "is a sacred thing." Eliminating seventh periods, she said, "would eliminate career and technical education" for many students, as well as making it difficult or impossible for students to participate in sports, music, or art programs.

Tibbetts agreed, although warning that keeping seventh

periods will be "a very expensive proposition." She said that despite the expense, "seventh periods are important to protect," because they also help protect sports, music, art and other school programs that help motivate students to come to school in the first place.

"Think of your own most memorable moments in high school," she said. "They probably aren't about the equations you solved in math," or other academic subjects, but memories of other, life-enhancing programs at school.

Asked about their connection with politically powerful teachers unions, both candidates said they have been members of the Okaloosa County Education Association (OCEA), the local branch of the Florida Education Association (FEA), and the National Education Association (NEA), an AFL-CIO affiliate. Tibbetts said she was an OCEA member when she was a classroom teacher and has been endorsed by the OCEA during previous elections, but was disappointed at reports that an FEA official recently came to Okaloosa County to support Jackson. A local union official later said the FEA official endorsed no one in the race.

Here in Okaloosa County, Tibbetts said, "We can't be intimidated, and we know who to vote for without outside interference." She added that many individual teachers support her candidacy despite the union position.

Jackson said she too was an OCEA member as a teacher, "and proudly so." She recalled seeing a statewide teacher strike when she was a young student growing up in Florida and saw the results of a subsequent state law mandating collective bargaining for teachers. The illegal strike, organized by the FEA in an attempt to boost legislative funding for public schools, occurred in 1968.

"I watched teaching conditions improve after the law passed," she said.

"I'm not seeking the support of any union," Jackson said, "and I didn't know the state union representative would endorse me, but I do want the support of the people I lead. I know what they've been through. I'm coming out swinging to make things better for teachers."

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**THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER** —by Mike Griffith



*What do you think about President Barack Obama's announcement that he now supports gay marriage?*

Location:  
Walmart



"He was once against it, then changed his mind. That's odd to me. I think he did it to help his re-election campaign."

Lonnie Currington, 39, Valparaiso, maintenance



"I think it's a political ploy."

Bill Andersen, 52, Valparaiso, materiel handler



"I think it's a pawn for his re-election. I certainly hope people see through that, and make educated choices in the coming election."

Jennifer Hansen, 28, Niceville, photographer



"There is a religious aspect and a political aspect to the issue. So, while I understand why he did it—to please a large group of people — I do not support it from a religious aspect."

Colby Fontenot, 29, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, personal trainer



"I'm fine with it."

Fred Molz, 44, Birmingham, Alabama, engineer



"I disagree with that because I believe the Bible—the word of God. I'm hoping his declaration of support for gays will be his political downfall."

Joy Love, Niceville, business owner

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

**VALUES**

From page A-1

as of Jan. 1, 2012. Local taxing authorities will levy property taxes on the new property rolls in the upcoming fiscal year, which for most entities starts Oct. 1.

Smith's office sent the first draft of property values out to 19 local taxing authorities May 25, including the county, the school board, local municipalities and

fire districts that levy property taxes. These preliminary projected rolls are provided now to help local governments begin planning their next fiscal year's budget. Smith's office will certify taxable values later this month, then send out Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notices in early August.

Although countywide taxable property values declined for the fifth straight year, the rate of decline slowed to about 2 percent. That compares with a 5 percent

drop in 2011, a 10 percent drop in 2010, and 7 percent declines in both 2009 and 2008. Since peaking in 2007 at \$18.8 billion, Okaloosa County's taxable property tax rolls have dropped \$5,257,625,302, about 28 percent.

The figures released last week are aggregate numbers. Individual property owners may see increases in taxable value, or declines greater than the county average, depending on their par-

ticular circumstances.

As has been the case since 2008, when values began contracting as the housing boom imploded, many taxing authorities face the prospect of less property-tax revenue—or raising the millage rate they levy on owners.

Three of the four taxing authorities where taxable values increased this year are in the Twin Cities area. The city of Niceville grew by \$21.2 million, or 2.8 percent more than last year—second

only to tiny Laurel Hill, which grew by 3.9 percent, or \$558,000.

The East Niceville and North Bay fire districts also saw increases in their taxable property rolls.

The East Niceville Fire District, which serves unincorporated parts of Niceville north and west of Rocky Bayou, posted a \$2.5 million gain this year, a 0.9 increase.

The North Bay Fire District, which services Bluewater Bay, Seminole and nearby neighbor-

hoods, saw its rolls rise by \$1.7 million or 0.2 percent over the previous year.

Valparaiso's property tax rolls fell by half a percent, or \$938,000.

The biggest shrinkage was in the south part of the county, with Destin, Mary Esther, Cinco Bayou, Fort Walton Beach, and the Destin and Okaloosa Island fire districts, suffering declines of between 3.3 percent to 4.6 percent.

**THREE**

From page A-1

served in the Army for seven years. Edwards has taken classes at Okaloosa-Walton Community College, Central Texas College and Troy State.

"I am running for office because I want to ensure Niceville continues to be one of the top places in Florida to live, work and raise a family," said Edwards. "My military training has taught me to be able to deal with people from all aspects of life and to handle stressful situations calmly and professionally. I was a contract manager for four years. This will help me to be able to deal with budgets and personnel issues. I will use all information provided to me to make decisions that will best serve the residents of Niceville."

Reed retired from Hurlburt Field after a career in the Air Force in 2008 and is employed as the Director of Emergency Service Programs at Northwest Florida State College. He has a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor of science in nursing. He is a trained paramedic, and is married with two children, ages 7 and 4.

Reed, who lived in Bluewater Bay for seven years before moving to Niceville in 2010, served as a commissioner of the North Bay Fire Control District from 2008 to 2010.

Reed said he is running "to serve the community and ensure Niceville remains a growing community focused on the needs of the citizens."

The four-day qualification

period for candidates for the Group 3 vacancy on the five-seat council ended at noon Friday.

Niceville's special election is scheduled for July 17, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the city council chambers, 208 N. Partin Drive, the only polling place for this election, said Dan Doucet, Niceville city clerk. Voter registration books will close June 18, he said.

Niceville will hold another special council election sometime in January, Doucet said. That's

because Councilman Bill Smith has submitted his resignation effective Nov. 20, 2012.

Smith is running for Okaloosa County Commission. Under election rules, he had to submit his resignation papers to his current elective post on the Niceville council no later than May 25 in order to qualify for the commission race.

After this summer's special election, the city will hold its next regular election in July 2013.

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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

Randall Keith Patrick, 33, of 1339 Treasure Cove, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies May 18 on a charge of failure to appear on original charges of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Cynthia Lynn Lawson, unemployed, 23, of 1011 Everglade Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies May 21 on a charge of failure to appear on an original misdemeanor worthless check charge.

Angel Vallonette Soanes, unemployed, 20, of 4000 Gulf Terrace Drive, #113, Destin, was arrested by sheriff's deputies May 21 on charges of petit theft, larceny of a credit card, fraudulent use of a credit card and obtaining credit card through fraudulent means.

On March 19, a Niceville resident who attended a business meeting at the Cracker Barrel restaurant in Destin reported she either lost her credit card or didn't receive the card back after paying at the restaurant. The victim's bank reported suspicious transactions that the victim denied making. Soanes was the cashier on duty at the restaurant and later allegedly stated that she had seen the victim input her PIN number during the transaction, kept the credit card and subsequently used the card at a Destin ATM to withdraw \$200 three times.

Richard Allen Ingalsbe, 51, of 31 Balmoral Drive, Niceville, was

arrested by sheriff's deputies May 19 on a charge of domestic violence battery that allegedly occurred May 5.

Marcus Waymon Powell Jr., unemployed, 26, of 634 Long Drive, Crestview, was arrested by sheriff's deputies May 20 on a charge of burglary with assault or battery, domestic violence related, that allegedly occurred at an address in Niceville.

Cody Williams Hall, a mover, 20, of 103 Aurora Street, Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies, subsequent to a traffic stop for careless driving, May 21, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. Hall, the driver, allegedly asked his passenger to throw a marijuana pipe out of the passenger-side window while the car was still in motion, which the deputy observed.

Brett Michael Young, unemployed, 48, of 4220 Shadow Lane, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies May 21 on a charge of violating a domestic violence injunction.

Jason Clark Carroll, unemployed, 28, of 5892 Jack Stokes Road, Baker, was arrested by Niceville police, subsequent to a traffic stop in which Carroll was a passenger, May 22, on charges of possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Carroll was also arrested the same day by sheriff's deputies on a warrant on a charge of failure to

appear on the original charge of driving while license suspended or revoked. Carroll's address listed on the warrant was 319 Okaloosa Ave., Valparaiso.

Kevin Sean Menne, unemployed, 31, of 111 Sasser St., Niceville, and Brandy Lynne Reeves, 30, of the same address were arrested by sheriff's deputies May 24, each charged with failure to appear on the original misdemeanor charge of permitting an unauthorized person to drive.

Lisa Marie Fowler, unemployed, 29, of 1743 23rd St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies May 20 on charges of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug paraphernalia and tampering with evidence. While talking with a deputy on an unrelated call the deputy asked Fowler what she was hiding in one hand that she kept balled in a fist. Fowler then allegedly placed whatever was in her left hand into her right hand and showed her empty left hand while placing a pill of Tylenol with codeine from her right hand into her mouth.

Benjamin Charles Patterson, 22, of 307 Bimini Way, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies May 25 on a violation of probation charge on the original charge of possession of a controlled substance.

Michael Anthony Stefan, 21, of 380 Rosewood Drive, Mary Esther, was arrested by sheriff's deputies May 25 on charges of dealing in stolen property and giving false ownership statements to a second-hand dealer, more than \$300.



Michael A. Stefan

A deputy was present in a Niceville precious-metals purchasing store, 1126 John Sims Parkway, May 25, when Stefan agreed to sell, for \$8,000, a diamond ring he claimed he purchased for \$7,000. After the deputy appeared and arrested him, Stefan allegedly changed his story twice, first saying he found the ring on the beach, then saying he bought it in a bowling alley three weeks prior for \$700.

The diamond ring, appraised at \$32,000, was reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle in Mary Esther May 24. That same day

Stefan allegedly tried to sell the ring at the Niceville company's office in the Santa Rosa Mall, where his age, the value of the ring and a laser inscription on the diamond matched the stolen ring, raising suspicions. He was subsequently directed to contact the store's owner in Niceville.

Joshua T. Bernhart, an electrician, 32, of 7196 Tivoli Lane, Cordova, Tenn., was arrested by Niceville police May 28 on a charge of battery, domestic violence, which allegedly occurred on John Sims Parkway subsequent to a disturbance that began inside Bernhart's vehicle.

A 15-year-old Niceville boy was arrested by Niceville police May 28 on a charge of battery, domestic violence.

Ryan Parker Kimbrell, a mover, 22, of 48 Hemlock Drive, NW, Fort Walton Beach, was arrested by Niceville police, subsequent to a traffic stop, May 30, on charges of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, a tablet of hydrocodone, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Tara Lee Stokes, 25, of 614 Crestview Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police May 25 on charges of burglary and grand theft. On Nov. 4, 2011, Stokes allegedly burglarized an unoccupied home in the 100 block of 22nd Street and stole six coffee cans containing an estimated \$2,400 in loose change, four rings valued at \$1,600, U.S. silver certificates valued at \$200 and \$300 in miscellaneous items.

Guy Marlin Kazmer, a fencing installer, 50, of 83rd St., #8, Shalimar, was arrested May 19 by sheriff's deputies, subsequent to a traffic stop in Niceville for a tag that expired October 2010, May 19, on charges of driving while license suspended or revoked, third or subsequent conviction, and on a financial responsibility charge for no vehicle insurance.

## DUI arrests

Cameron Scott Fisher, 23, of 1207 Shipley Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies for DUI on State Road 293, Niceville, May 29 at 11 p.m. Fisher was also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

## Thefts

Niceville residents from the 1000 block of East Troon Drive reported that sometime while they were out of town May 11-20 their

home was burglarized, with dresser drawers opened and rummaged through. The victim reported all her jewelry was missing.

A Niceville resident from the 1500 block of Pinehurst Cove reported that sometime May 10-15 unknown person(s) stole a \$400 level from the back of his work trailer. The victim said he worked several jobs in Fort Walton Beach during the time frame.

The daughter of a woman staying at a Niceville nursing home, 1500 N. White Point Road, reported that two of her mother's rings were missing. The rings were valued at \$200 each.

A resident of a Niceville nursing home, 1500 N. White Point Road, reported May 10 that she was missing a bag of quarters, about \$13 worth, that she had won in bingo.

A guest at a May 19 wedding party held at 2000 Bluewater Blvd., Niceville, reported that unknown person(s) stole her

iPhone when everyone went outside for a sparkler show near the end of the proceedings.

A Niceville resident from the 800 block of Linden Avenue reported that sometime May 21-26 unknown person(s) stole his .40-caliber semi-automatic handgun from the center console of his pickup truck. Deputies found no evidence of forced entry to the truck.

## Other

Julie M. Nelson, an instructor, 46, of 508 Garden Oaks Cove, Niceville, was issued a criminal summons by sheriff's deputies May 18 on a misdemeanor charge of assault.

Michael Steven Wojciechowski, a restaurant busser, 21, of 1929 Benton Ave., Niceville, was issued a criminal summons by sheriff's deputies May 17 on a charge of retail theft. Wojciechowski was allegedly observed concealing three shirts without paying the \$189 cost of the items at the Dillard's store, 300 Mary Esther Blvd., Mary Esther.

# Fire Department Reports

## Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from May 25, 2012 through June 3, 2012.

0 Structure Fire	26 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	5 Vehicle Crash
1 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
1 Illegal Burn	2 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	2 Hazardous Conditions

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Linden Avenue	Medical	05/25/12	07:28
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	05/25/12	13:56
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	05/25/12	15:44
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	05/25/12	18:12
N. Partin Drive	Medical	05/25/12	19:55
McEwen Drive	Medical	05/25/12	22:39
Linden Avenue	Medical	05/26/12	08:16
Fox Head Branch Trail	Gas leak	05/26/12	09:40
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	05/26/12	20:31
Island Lane	Medical	05/27/12	10:51
Coral Drive	Medical	05/27/12	11:06
Als Drive	Medical	05/27/12	12:42
N. Partin Drive	Medical	05/27/12	21:34
Als Drive	Medical	05/27/12	22:43
N. Partin Drive	Medical	05/27/12	23:27
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	05/28/12	11:48
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	05/28/12	19:39
Reeves Street	Medical	05/29/12	15:14
State Road 85 North	Medical	05/29/12	17:29
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	05/29/12	20:18
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	05/30/12	04:24
Martin Luther King Blvd.	Brush fire	05/30/12	07:40
S. Cedar Avenue	Medical	05/30/12	09:18
Marquette Street	Illegal burning	05/30/12	10:53
E. College Blvd.	Vehicle crash	05/30/12	15:31
23rd Street	Medical	05/30/12	15:40
Reeves Street	Cancelled en route	05/31/12	00:42
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Service call	05/31/12	14:24
Rooky Shores Drive	Power line down	06/01/12	15:05
Fall Street	Medical	06/02/12	05:14
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	06/02/12	09:39
21st Street	Medical	06/02/12	11:43
N. Partin Drive	Vehicle crash	06/02/12	18:17
27th Street	Medical	06/02/12	19:47
Royal Palm Drive	Medical	06/02/12	20:29
23rd Street	Medical	06/02/12	21:25
23rd Street	Medical	06/03/12	09:50

Weekly Safety Tip: National Fire Protection Association reports state that in a typical year on Independence Day, far more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for most of those fires. Please visit the Niceville Fire Department website on Facebook.

## Valparaiso Volunteer

Location	Situation	Date	Time
Valparaiso Parkway	External Hazmat	05/02/12	08:34
Valparaiso Parkway	Motor Vehicle Accident	05/04/12	08:32
Valparaiso Parkway	Structure Fire	05/04/12	20:05
Aurora Avenue	Motor Vehicle Accident	05/05/12	14:56
Washington Avenue	Sick Call	05/05/12	23:43
Washington Avenue	Fire Alarm	05/06/12	05:12
Washington Avenue	Fire Alarm	05/06/12	05:41
Lincoln Avenue	Medical Alarm	05/06/12	09:35
Springwood Avenue	Sick Call	05/08/12	10:50
Willow Avenue	Breathing Problem	05/08/12	10:54
Lincoln Avenue	CVA/Stroke	05/11/12	16:25
North Bayshore Drive	Structure Fire	05/11/12	21:38
Valparaiso Parkway	Sick Call	05/12/12	17:25
West College Boulevard	Motor Vehicle Accident	05/14/12	21:56
West College Boulevard	Fire Service Call	05/15/12	02:55
Mississippi Avenue	Unconscious	05/15/12	09:29
Washington Avenue	Seizures	05/16/12	23:11
Lincoln Avenue	Sick Call	05/17/12	12:35
Carie Way	Psychiatric	05/18/12	09:53
North John Sims Parkway	Heart Problem	05/19/12	16:56
Kinsey Court	Unconscious	05/21/12	17:41
Valparaiso Parkway	Abdominal	05/22/12	13:20
Judith Avenue	CVA/Stroke	05/24/12	08:14
Jasmine Avenue	Fire Alarm	05/25/12	13:57
Chicago Avenue	Psychiatric	05/26/12	20:27
Edge Avenue	Fire Alarm	05/26/12	21:30
Jasmine Avenue	Fire Alarm	05/28/12	13:21
Washington Avenue	Unconscious	05/28/12	14:04
Carolyn Avenue	Structure Fire	05/30/12	10:53
Judith Avenue	Diabetic	05/30/12	14:15

Contact the Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department at 729-5410 if you have questions or concerns.

## North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from May 25, 2012 through June 3, 2012.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
North White Point Road	EMS call	05/25/12	19:46
Rosewood Cove	EMS call	05/26/12	02:01
White Point Road	Rescue, EMS incident	05/27/12	18:23
Parkside Lane	Dispatched and canceled	05/27/12	23:08
Calinda Lane	Alarm system sounded	05/28/12	08:24
Cat Mar Road	EMS call	05/28/12	11:54
East Highway 20	EMS call	05/28/12	15:41
Bay Drive	EMS call	05/28/12	16:36
Ridge lane	EMS call	05/28/12	23:49
Bluewater Point Road	Medical assist	05/29/12	09:10
East Highway 20	Motor vehicle accident	05/29/12	16:23
MLK Blvd.	Special type of incident	05/30/12	08:00
Carolyn & Marquette St.	Dispatched and canceled	05/30/12	10:57
Cat Mar Road	Dispatched and canceled	05/30/12	14:05
Oaklake Lane	EMS call	05/30/12	15:35
East Bermuda Circle	Medical assist	05/30/12	22:29
Hickory Street	Medical assist	05/31/12	07:33
Whitetail Circle	EMS call	05/31/12	18:15
North White Point Road	EMS call	05/31/12	18:37
Oakmont Circle	Smoke detector activation	05/31/12	20:33
White Point Road	EMS call	06/01/12	01:09
North White Point Road	EMS call	06/02/12	02:19
Moore Street	EMS call	06/02/12	07:54
Cat Mar Road	EMS call	06/02/12	08:34
Saint Croix Cove	EMS call	06/02/12	09:14
Yacht Club Drive	Rescue, EMS incident	06/02/12	20:42
East Highway 20	Motor vehicle accident	06/03/12	13:57
Rosewood Way	EMS call	06/03/12	17:43

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

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## 5th grader earns soccer scholarship

By Kenneth Books  
Beacon Staff Writer

A Bluewater Elementary student won the first of five planned Teutenberg Memorial Soccer Scholarships at Friday's fifth-grade awards program.

"I was really surprised," said Caleigh Lloyd, who will turn 11 on June 25. "I'm like 'wow.' I can't explain it. It was big."

The \$150 scholarship was established in memory of Ellie, Brendon and Will Teutenberg, who, with their two sisters and parents, perished in a plane crash in July 2011.

Bluewater Elementary teachers donated the money to create the scholarship.

Caleigh won the scholarship on the strength of an essay, "Is soccer more than just a sport?" The Teutenbergs were avid soccer fans and supporters. Teacher Kay Mason, who was Will Teutenberg's teacher last year, presented the award.

The award will be presented to a student in each of the next



Beacon photo by Kenneth Books  
**Caleigh Lloyd, flanked by her father, Adam, and mother, Jennifer, won the first of five Teutenberg soccer scholarships at Bluewater Elementary School Friday.**

four years, during which time the youngest Teutenberg child would have attended Bluewater Elementary.

Caleigh said she got a little help from her mother, Jennifer.

"My mom was looking at it before I turned it in," she said. "It was thanks to her."

Caleigh said she has played soccer for three years, mainly as a

forward or midfielder. Her essay described how all her concerns melt away when she's on the field.

"I'm happy playing sports," she said. "It's a really good thing."

Caleigh said she would use the scholarship to attend the FC Dallas Soccer Camp this summer at Twin Oaks.

## Ruckel takes tennis titles



Above, the county champion Ruckel Middle School girls tennis team, from left: Anna Freeman, Hatten Huff, Lauren Chaney, Jacqueline Hruby, Callie Smith and Cece Vacarro. Left, the county champion Ruckel Middle School boys tennis team, from left: Dominic Vacarro, Ryan Ansell, PJ Shaw, Karl Skipper, Wesley Krist and Brycen Musser.

Ruckel Middle School boys and girls tennis teams won the 2012 County Middle School Championships Monday, April 30. Ten middle schools participated: Bruner, Davidson, Destin, Lewis, Liza Jackson, Meigs, Pryor, Ruckel, Shoal River and St. Mary.

The boys won with final points of 31, for a six-point

lead over Meigs. PJ Shaw, Karl Skipper and Ryan Ansell were overall champions in their divisions. Dominic Vacarro and Wesley Krist each won overall champion in the consolation bracket in their divisions.

The girls won with final points of 35, for a 12-point lead over Liza Jackson. Hatten Huff, Jacqueline Hruby and Cece

Vacarro were overall champions in their divisions. Lauren Chaney was runner-up in her division.

The following day, a separate tournament was played, with PJ Shaw emerging as overall county champion for the boys and Hatten Huff as overall county champion runner-up.



## Beacon team wins Angel honors

The Bay Beacon team in the Valparaiso Niceville Girls Softball Association won the Angel division championship this year. At right, head coach Samantha Gatlin and assistant coach Chris Troutman flank Bay Beacon publisher Steve Kent, holding the championship trophy. Above, from left: Troutman, Jada Helmstetter, Samantha Barnes, Emma Sites, Storm Segers, Rowan Franklin, McKenzie Janssen, Keyli Gatlin-Troutman, Krissa Gatlin-Troutman, Samantha Gatlin and coach Diane Gatlin.



## Team FPA goes undefeated

Valparaiso-Niceville Girls Softball Association Minors squad Team FPA went undefeated in the 2012 season and tournament for the championship. From left: rear, head coach Lonney Melton, Jacey Smith, Felicity Francis, Ashley Atkinson, coach Tim Francis, Katie Harris, Sierra Burkett, Bailey Bullard, Janessa Shorts, Taylor Linton and sponsor Gary Bullard; front, Kayla Heig and Maya Volz.



## 14U Mustangs prevail in tourney

The 14U Florida Mustangs won the eighth annual Memorial Day Baseball Beach Blast at Frank Brown Park in Panama City Beach. The Mustangs outscored four opponents, 48-5. They won 30 games, lost four and tied one on their way to winning six of the eight tournaments they have entered. From left: front, manager Mike McDorman, Jacob McDorman, Blake Johnson, Grant Stewart, Dillon Brown and Grayson Brooks; rear, Travis Wiljakaenin, Jake Smith, Coach Bill West, Matt French, Will West, Colby Mullins, Wesley Brooks, Andrew Howell, coach Ricky Howell, Denver Dangerfield and Jake Daffin.

## Students win karate crowns



Josh Grubba, 14-year-old 3rd degree black belt, and Kelby Barfield, 10-year-old 2nd degree black belt, excelled in the Gulf Coast Martial Arts Tournament in Gulf Breeze May 5. Josh won first place in weapons and Kata in his respective age division, advancing to the grand championship and bringing home the top award in weapons. Kelby won first place in sparring and Kata in her respective age division, advancing to the grand championship and bringing home the top award in Kata. Both are students of C.D. Williamson Karate & Kickboxing, Niceville.

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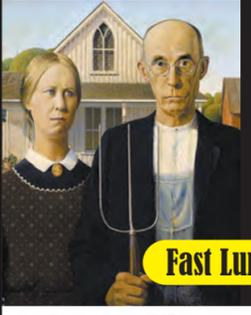


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### Advertising Feature

One Hour Air Conditioning and Heating is North America's largest provider of residential home air conditioning service. With their solid on time guarantees and expert technicians, it is hard to disagree.

One Hour Air has been in business for more than 17 years serving the Emerald Coast.

"Customer satisfaction is actually the most important thing to us," said Lenny Siers, owner of One Hour Air.

One Hour Air has the same great service with their promise of "Always on time or you don't pay a dime," with the ultimate concern for the customers no matter what the need may be. Their new television commercials have this same idea for the technicians to not only fix their air conditioning concerns, but also to go above and beyond to make it a more personal experience.

"We want our customers to know us by first name and be able to call and know who they will be speaking with and know who's coming to their home. We are here for our customers to help them, make them comfortable by ensuring their AC is in proper working order and to know

that our techs and company are trustworthy," said Cecelia Walker, marketing assistant for One Hour Air.

One Hour Air technicians are not only superb with excellent customer service skills but are also North American Technician Excellence (NATE) certified. One Hour Air has a team of 10 maintenance and service technicians with more than 70 years of combined experience available 24 hours a day. Their technicians will promptly, courteously and reliably provide excellent HVAC customer service, 100 percent guaranteed.

"One Hour Air is here to help service or repair your air conditioning unit," Cecelia said.

One Hour Air goes one step further than great customer service and satisfaction guarantees by creating a new interactive website called ScheduleSomeHelp.Com to better serve their customers. Schedulesomehelp.com is a brand new way for customers to bring One Hour Air straight to their own living room without picking up a phone. This website will allow customers to schedule some help at any time of the day or night. The interactive techni-

cians on the page will help you through any questions you may have and schedule an appointment to fix pesky maintenance problems without having to move a muscle even on weekends and holidays.

Also, Ben Franklin Plumbing technicians are always ready to help you with repairs such as

water heaters, leaky faucets, pipes or toilet issues.

If the need for an air conditioning repair does arise, One Hour Air has exclusive discounts on their Facebook page at facebook.com/one-hour-air-niceville. Visit OneHourAir.com, or call 850-389-3611 to schedule an appointment.



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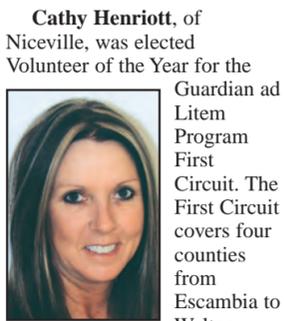
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## Who's News



**Cathy Henriott**, of Niceville, was elected Volunteer of the Year for the Guardian ad Litem Program First Circuit. The First Circuit covers four counties from Escambia to Walton counties. A Guardian ad Litem is a person who has been appointed by the court to advocate for the best interest of a child, because of alleged abuse or neglect, and makes recommendations to the court to help ensure a safe, stable and permanent environment for the child. Cathy has been a GAL for four years and has worked with 19 children in the program. She is also the owner of Eyewear Unlimited in Niceville.

\*\*\*

**Gerrod Voigt**, a 2012 graduate of Niceville High School, received the Hugh Harris Scholarship Award for \$1,000. Gerrod graduated in the top 1 percent of a class of 423 students with a 4.97 GPA. He was a member of the Varsity baseball team, National Honor Society, Junior Classical League, Spirit Club and Key Club. He will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall.

\*\*\*

**Malik Williams**, a 2012 Niceville High School graduate, received the Hugh Harris Scholarship Award for \$1,000. Malik was a scholar-athlete, who participated in basketball, track and was the captain of the football team for his junior and senior years. Malik will attend Birmingham Southern College in the fall.

\*\*\*

**Dr. Kristin Cocchiarella**, of Niceville, graduated from Regis University, Ruchert-Hartman College for Health Professions in Denver on May 4. She was awarded a Doctorate of Physical Therapy. Kristin is the

\*\*\*

**Kristin Cocchiarella**

\*\*\*

Please see WHO'S, page B-4

# Donations make hearts warm

By Tess Hollis  
Beacon Staff Writer

In a joint effort with Eglin Air Force Base and the Blue Star Mothers of Northwest Florida, fifth graders at Edge Elementary School combed their neighborhoods and even dug into their toy boxes to collect donations for deployed Eglin Air Force Base airmen.

Cathy Boswell's fifth graders teamed up and donated enough supplies to send 25 care packages to Thule Air Force Base, Greenland. The care packages were part of "Operation Arctic Welcome," the brainchild of Blue Star Mother Debra Hutto.

Blue Star Mothers is an organization made up of local chapters of women who have children who serve or have served in the United States military.

Hutto, along with Cindy Maney, president of Blue Star Mothers of Northwest Florida, presented Boswell and her class with a certificate of appreciation on May 30 for their generous efforts.

"Remember how I tell you the

most important thing is to be kind to people?" Boswell asked her class during the presentation. "Well that's what you did—you did a very good thing. You make my heart smile."

Several of the students went door-to-door in their neighborhoods to collect donations, Hutto said, and some even sent their favorite stuffed animals to airmen to "show that someone loved them."

Toiletries, snacks, candies and games were among the many items the children donated for the care packages. The students even donated enough items to send 12 stockings to deployed troops in other countries as part of "Stockings for Soldiers."

"I'm so proud of them," Boswell said. "It's amazing how one child can make a difference. We will definitely do this again next year."

Hutto first presented the project to the Eglin Chapel as a way to support deployed airmen. She also presented the idea to

Please see DONATION, page B-4



Beacon photo by Tess Hollis

Students from Cathy Boswell's fifth grade class at Edge Elementary School show off their certificate of appreciation from the Blue Star Mothers of Northwest Florida. The fifth graders donated enough items to ship 25 care packages to deployed Eglin airmen at Thule Air Force Base, Greenland.

## Niceville High ranks in top 10 percent

Special to the Beacon

The Washington Post recently ranked Niceville High School in the top 10 percent of schools in the nation.

Jay Mathews, author, education columnist and blogger with the Post ranked Niceville High No. 163 out of 1,898 schools across the country. Mathews created the annual Challenge Index rankings of high schools, which were released on May 21.

"I'm very excited that Niceville High School has been placed in the top tier of schools across the country," said Principal Marcus Chambers. "It's just one more element of proof that we have the best staff and students around."

The Washington Post Challenge Index score is the number of college-level tests given at a school in 2011, divided by the number of graduates that year. Also noted are the percentage of students who come from families that qualify for lunch subsidies and the percentage of graduates who passed at least one college-level test during their high school career.

Niceville High School has no enrollment policies and does not screen students for admission. More than 970 students at Niceville took more than 2,000 Advanced Placement and Cambridge exams during May and June. The Class of 2012 consisted of 423 students.



## Cultures come together at Ruckel

Ruckel Middle School students from Hayley Close's sixth grade World Cultures class gathered on May 30 to show off their made-up cultures. The "Mammoth Clan," left, incorporated several pre-historic aspects into their culture. From left: Michael Bruzzini, Nathaniel Willard, Alex Tate, Matthew Hotaling and Ryan Cuevas. See page B-4 for the story.

Beacon photo by Tess Hollis

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**WinShape Camps**

Registration is ongoing for WinShape Camps, Niceville Baptist Church June 18-22, Monday-Thursday, from 7:45 a.m.-5 p.m., and Friday, 7:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Grades 1-6. The camp will offer sports, arts, Bible study and worship. Info: 678-4621, or winshapecamps.org.

**DAC Chapter**

A new Daughters of the American Colonists (DAC) Chapter is being organized in the Niceville-Valparaiso area. The DAC is a volunteer, non-profit organization that promotes interest in the history and deeds of the American Colonists prior to 1776. Women who are interested in patriotism and American history, and can document lineal descent from ancestors who provided service to the colonies prior to 1776 are eligible for membership. Info: 897-1278.

**Food for children**

The Okaloosa County School District will participate in the Summer Food Service Program

which provides nutritionally balanced meals to children regardless of race, sex, disability, age or national origin during summer vacation. All children 18 and younger are eligible for meals at no charge. The following sites in Niceville will participate in the program: Bluewater Elementary, June 7-29, breakfast from 7:30-8:30 a.m., lunch from 11 a.m.-noon; Edge Elementary, through Aug. 10, breakfast from 7-8:30 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Ruckel Middle School, June 11-29, breakfast from 7-8 a.m., lunch from 11 a.m.-noon.

**Essay contest**

The Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce's Multi-Cultural Committee will hold a patriotic essay contest. Students enrolled in Okaloosa County School District, as well as home-schooled students residing in Okaloosa County are eligible to participate. The theme is "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." All entries must be submitted to the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce by June 17. Announcement of the winners will be made at the June 26 monthly meeting. Info: fwbchamber.org.

**King of Courts basketball**

The King of Courts Basketball Camp, hosted by John Runyon, will be June 25-28, from 12:30-3:30 p.m., at Ruckel Middle School gym. Registration is open to boys and girls entering 3-5 grade in the upcoming school year. Registration is due by June 15, and the camp is

limited to the first 50 campers. Cost: \$100 per camper. Info: 502-9372, or j.runyon@cox.net. Registration can be sent to 4433 Southminister Circle, Niceville, FL 32578.

**Animal adoption specials**

The Panhandle Animal Welfare Society is running a cat adoption special until June 30. Adult cats who are already spayed/neutered are \$50, and kittens less than a year old are \$75. The adoption fee includes your new family member being spayed/neutered, tested for feline AIDS and leukemia, current shots and micro chipping. PAWS is also offering reduced adoption fees through the end of June for six select Chihuahuas, who are between one- and two-years-old, and their adoption fee is \$75. Visit paws-shelter.com to see these animals and for adoption information.



**Summer story time**

Summer story time will begin in June at the Valparaiso Community Library every Monday at 1:30 p.m. The library will hold a story and craft time for ages 5-9. Regular preschool story times will continue Monday, Tuesday and Friday at 9:45 a.m., ages 0-5.

**Senior activities**

The Walton-Okaloosa County Council on Aging Senior Program will offer the following for people 60 and older. Seminole Community Center, Cedar Street, 833-9291: June 7, bingo, 10 a.m.; June 12, bingo, 10 a.m. Valparaiso Community Center, 268 Glenview Ave., 833-9291: June 6, trivia, 10 a.m.; June 7, Wii bowling, 9:30 a.m.; June 8, bingo, 9:30 a.m.; June 11, dominoes and socializing, 9:30 a.m.; June 12, bingo, 9:30 a.m.

**Panhandle Patriots**

The Florida Panhandle Patriots will hold a meeting on June 7, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Elk's Lodge, 1335 Miracle Strip Parkway, Okaloosa Island. Wendell Brock will present U.S. Constitution 101, a refresher course. Info: Brenda, 865-8777, or info@panhandlepatriots.com.

**Summer movie days**

The Valparaiso Community Library invites family and friends to Summer Family Movie Days. The library will kick off the summer with "Journey 2" on June 7 at noon. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Bring your own lunch.

**Lawn questions answered**

Have questions about your lawn? Okaloosa County Master Gardener Robert Fultyn will visit Okaloosa County residents on June 8 in the southern areas of Okaloosa County. Appointments: Joyce Waters-Smith, 269-2170 or joycews@cox.net.

**Church dinner**

Rosemont Baptist Church, Niceville, is accepting reservations for "Dinner with Nida," from Nida's Thai and More. The dinner will be June 8, at 5:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. Info and reservations: RBCNiceville.org, or 678-1611.

**Rummage sale**

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 1200 Valparaiso Blvd., Niceville, will hold its semi-annual rummage sale June 8 and 9, 7 a.m.-noon. Philippine food will be sold on June 9. Items available will include electronics, clothing, jewelry, books, furniture, sports equipment, housewares and miscellaneous treasures. Info: 678-7813.



File photo

**Golf clinics for area youth**

The Golf Club at Bluewater Bay will offer a summer Junior Golf Clinic for boys and girls, ages 8-15. The format will encompass rules, etiquette, long game, short game and putting. The cost is \$75 and covers six, one-hour clinics over a two week period. The clinics will be June 11-22 and July 9-20. Info and registration: 897-3241.

**'Dixie Swim Club'**

StageCrafters will present "The Dixie Swim Club," on June 8 at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium, Miracle Strip Parkway. The show will also run on June 9-10 and 15-17. Curtain times will be 7:30 p.m. for the Friday and Saturday night shows, and 2 p.m. for the two Sunday matinees. Cost: \$15. Tickets may be purchased at P.S. Gifts, Fort Walton Beach, or Bayou Book Co., Niceville. Info: StageCrafters.com.

**Round Robin**

The Bluewater Bay Tennis Center will host a Round Robin for all skill levels and a pro exhibition featuring Wil Spencer, a touring professional who played #1 at UGA. The Round Robin will be June 9, and will begin at 2:30 p.m., along with clinics for youth 12 and under. The pro exhibition will be at 5 p.m. Hamburgers, snacks and beverages will be included in a registration fee of \$20 per person, or \$50 per family. All donations will benefit construction of the Eagle Ram Tennis Facility for students and the community. Info: registration@eagleramtennis.com, or 897-8010.

**Genealogical Society**

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County will meet June 9, at 10 a.m., at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso. Gina Marini, Docent of the Heritage Museum, will discuss the activities and programs of the Museum. Following the program, there will be a Dutch treat lunch at a local restaurant. The public is invited. Info: 678-2023.

**Gospel concert**

Libby and Friends Gospel Concert Ministry will present in concert Bama Blu-Grace of Cullman, Ala., on June 9, at 6 p.m., Central Baptist Church, 951 S. Feron Blvd., Crestview. A love offering will be received. Info: LibbyAndFriendsGospelConcerts.com, or 496-7106.

**Nonie's Ark**

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center will present Nonie and her ark of animals on June 9, at 11 a.m.

and 2 p.m. Nonie will give a hands-on approach to understanding the important roles animals play in our environment. Standard admission rates apply.

**First Baptist Valp VBS**

First Baptist Church of Valparaiso will hold its vacation Bible school June 10-14, from 6-8:30 p.m. The theme this year is "Amazing Wonders Aviation." Kids will "fly" to some of the world's greatest natural wonders and also hear Bible stories about God's power. First-8 graders are welcome. Info: 678-4822. Pre-registration is not required, but forms are available at the church.

**Eglin youth program**

Come ride the wave this summer with Eglin Protestant Youth of the Chapel, for youth grades 4-12. Dates: June 10, July 8 and August 12 at the Eglin Youth Center. There will be lessons at each grade level, crafts, bonding activities, fun games and more. Doors open at noon, lunch served at 12:30 p.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. Info: Weyana Cook, weyana.cook@cox.net.

**Science Center programs**

The Emerald Coast Science Center, 139 Brooks St., will offer several summer science programs for junior and intermediate scientists. Camps run from June 11-Aug. 9, from 9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m. Cost: \$90 for ECSC members, \$100 for non-members. Info: 664-1261 or ecscience.org.

**Football camp**

A football camp will be held on the Rocky Bayou Christian School field June 11-13, Monday-Wednesday, from 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. Boys grades 3-8. Info: Rocky Bayou Summer Program Office, 729-7227, ext. 273.

**Sheriff's Youth Week**

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office will hold its Youth Week June 11-15, from 8 a.m.-noon. Youth Week will be held at Crestview High School, Niceville High School and Bruner Middle School. Free. Info: 833-4142, or 833-3300.

**Volleyball camp**

A volleyball camp will be held in the Rocky Bayou Christian School

gym June 18-22, Monday-Friday, from 8-11:30 a.m. Girls grades 3-7.

Cost: \$80. Register and pay by 4 p.m. on June 11 to avoid a \$10 late fee.

**Crazy Scientist 1 camp**

Students will observe the secrets of living things and everyday matter unfolding before their eyes. The camp will be from June 11-15, Monday-Friday, 12:30-4 p.m. Cost: \$77. Ages 7-15. Info: Rocky Bayou Summer Program Office, 729-7227, ext. 273.

**Niceville UMC VBS**

The Niceville United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School will be June 11-15, from 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Niceville UMC welcomes children ages 4 through completed 5th grade to join them for a week of fun. Daily activities will include teaching lessons, music, crafts, snacks and recreation. Register online at nicevilleumc.org/children. Fees are \$15 per child. Scholarships are available. Info: 678-4411, ext. 187.

**Remedial Reading**

This camp will help students to increase their reading skills so they can read smarter, June 11-15, Monday-Friday, from 12:30-4 p.m. Grades 4-8. Info: Rocky Bayou Summer Program Office, 729-7227, ext. 273.

**Okaloosa Democrats**

The Okaloosa County Democratic Executive Committee will meet on June 12 at Democrat Headquarters at 60 2nd St., Suite 305, Shalimar. There will be a social time at 6 p.m., followed by the business meeting at 6:30 p.m. Info: Jerry Mallory, 897-5246.

**Paddle trip**

Join the Florida Trail Association on June 13, at 9 a.m., for a paddle trip on Ecofina Creek. Info: 334-858-6448, or 302-528-2824, or choctaw.floridatrail.org.

**Teen movie days**

The Valparaiso Community Library would like to invite all teens to Summer Teen Movie Days and TGIF Hangout Days. On June 13, at 3 p.m., the library will show "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows." Hangout days will begin every Friday at noon, with Wii, games, crafts and snacks.

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Courtesy photo

**Chaplains to offer prayer services**

Unity in Fort Walton Beach recently completed training of 10 Prayer Chaplains who will provide prayer support for its members, friends and the community. The prayer service is available after each Sunday service at the Unity center on Hurlburt Road. Three Niceville residents were named as Prayer Chaplains—Pamela Sands, Beverly Cuddy and Gloria Mayo. Back row, from left: Kabe Woods, Barbara Schmidt, Jim Vasquez, the Rev. George Schmidt, Ron Sonnier and Deb Marshall. Front row: Gloria Mayo, Jo Altman, Deanna Altman, Pamela Sands, Beverly Cuddy and Jennifer Sonnier.

# Arts Fest, poster contest a success

*Special to the Beacon*

The fifth annual Okaloosa Arts Alliance Family Fun Arts Fest was held on May 12, at Henderson Beach State Park in Destin.

Poster submitted in the fourth annual OAA Okaloosa County School Poster Contest were also displayed at the festival. The theme of the poster contest was "Summer Fun." There were first, second and third place winners for elementary school (K-4 grade), middle school (5-8 grade) and high school (9-12 grade).

Two of the poster contest winners were from Niceville. Karlee Preyatt, a seventh grader at Ruckel Middle School, won second place in the middle school division. Jordan Pearson, a ninth grader at Niceville High School, won second place for the high school division.

The winners each received gift cards ranging from \$25 to



\$75. The first place winners' artwork will be on all 2013 promotional materials for the sixth annual Family Fun Arts Fest.

Participating schools included: Niceville High School, Crestview High School, Laurel

Hill School, Ruckel Middle School, Baker Elementary, Plew Elementary, Shalimar Elementary, Youth Village, Meigs Middle School, Pryor Middle School, Bruner Middle School, Liza Jackson Prep

School, Rocky Bayou Christian School, Homeschool, Edwins Elementary, Wright Elementary, Antioch Elementary, Walker Elementary, Mary Esther Elementary and Calvary Christian School.

The first place high school winner's poster, left, at the Okaloosa Arts Alliance Family Fun Fest that was held on May 12. Daniel Reid, 11th grade, Crestview High School, was the artist. There were winners from each category—elementary school, middle school and high school.

Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Colby Dewiliter, a junior at Niceville High School, won the superlative 2-D award at the Okaloosa County District Art Show on May 10. He was a student in Kim Nihill-Taylor's AP Drawing portfolio. All schools in the district were allowed to submit 100 pieces, and artwork was judged by category.

## Students get colorful

*Special to the Beacon*

The Okaloosa County School District and the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation sponsored the 2012 Okaloosa County kindergarten through 12th grade Student Art Show on May 9 and 10.

The art show was held at the C.H. Bull Rigdon Fairgrounds in Fort Walton Beach. The annual event exhibited more than 3,000 pieces of student artwork from more than 22 elementary schools and 15 middle and high schools.

The elementary division was displayed colorfully, and all elementary students were recognized at their schools for participating in this year's show.

Middle and high school pieces were judged separately by local community members for first, second, third and honorable mention places. Best of Show winners were then selected by the secondary art teachers—mid-

dle school selected high school winners, and high school selected middle school winners.

Best of Show winners were: 2-D: Michaela Mogensen, 7th grade, Ruckel Middle School; Mandy Hart, 11th grade, Rocky Bayou Christian School. 3-D: Taylor Toth, 8th grade, Ruckel Middle School; Casey Jensen, 12th grade, Fort Walton Beach High School. These students were recognized at a reception that closed the art show, and were awarded savings bonds.

Middle school teachers recognized two high school students for their exceptional art and were awarded anonymous cash awards: 2-D: Colby Detwiler, 11th grade, Niceville High School; 3-D: Danielle Stephens, 11th grade, Crestview High School.

Ruckel Middle School artists won 43 awards at the art show.



Photo by Haley Hendrix

## Cotillion introduces class of 2012

The Blue Ribbon Senior Cotillion Class of 2012 at the Grand Spring Ball held at the Emerald Coast Convention Center. Front row, from left: Wendy Kent, Sara Witkos, Sarah Lynch, Rachel Struziński, Alaina McClum, Katherine Stone, Kenzie Hendrix and Sarah Stogsdill. Back row, from left: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Knight, Joe Vazquez, Robert Amunds, Josh Turner, Mr. Jerry Melvin, Nicholas Howell and AbuBakr Cristobal.



## Lucky winner

Deborah Carbonneau, a 1995 Niceville High School graduate, was the lucky winner of the Niceville High School Tech-Knowledge-Y Win-a-Car Sweepstakes. She drove away on June 1, in a 2008 Dodge Nitro, which was donated by Thrifty Car Rental owner Joe Fagundes. Proceeds from the ticket sales directly support the "Quest for Tech-Knowledge-Y" campaign in progress at Niceville High School. Carbonneau, pictured with her new car and Niceville High School Principal Marcus Chambers.

Courtesy photo

## In the Service

Air Force Airman **Tyler J. Hill**, son of Travis Hill, of Niceville, and Lynne Smith, of Crawfordville, graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio. 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. Hill is a 2010 graduate of Wakulla High School, Crawfordville.

Army Pvt. **Joseph T. Perez**, a 2011 graduate of Niceville High School, graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and

bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches and field training exercises. Perez is the son of Daniel Perez, of Valparaiso.

Air Force Airman **Mason D. Hart** 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. Hart is the son of Ronnie Hart and stepson of Laura Hart, of Niceville, and grandson of Buddy and Betty Hart of Monroe, La. He is a 2010 graduate of Sterlington High School, Monroe.

Navy Seaman Recruit **Joshua R. Bridgeman**, son of Tammy and Joe Stevens of Niceville, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command,

Great Lakes, Ill. Bridgeman is a 2005 graduate of Niceville High School.

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Marc B. Green** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio. 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. Green earned distinction as an honor graduate. He is a 2002 graduate of Niceville High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in 2008 from the University of Central Florida, Orlando.

Cadet **Cale Alexander Hansen**, son of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Michael Hansen, of Niceville, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy on May 26. Hansen is a 2008 graduate of Niceville High School. While at West Point, he concentrated his studies in U.S. History. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army within the Army Aviation branch.

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Political advertisement paid for and approved by Bill Roberts, Republican for Okaloosa County Tax Collector.

WHO'S

From page B-1

daughter of Jack and Diane Cocchiarella, and a 2005 Niceville High School graduate and a 2009 Western Kentucky graduate with a bachelor of science in exercise science. She plans to practice in the field of inpatient neurological rehabilitation in the Florida panhandle.

\*\*\*

**Rachael Elizabeth Farrell**, of Niceville, was honored for her academic excellence during the spring semester of the 2011-2012 academic year at The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. Dean's List recognition is given to those students registered for 12 or more semester hours, whose grade point ratio is 3.2 or higher, with no grade below a C for the previous semester's work.

\*\*\*

**David Haynes and Lindsay Haynes**, son and daughter of James and Barbara Haynes, of Niceville, were among 179 undergraduates named to the Bryan College Dean's List for the spring 2012 semester. Students earn Dean's List recognition by recording a grade average in the top 25 percent of grades by students in the undergraduate program for that semester.

\*\*\*

**Ryan Tabor**, a 2003 graduate of Niceville High School, graduated on May 5 with a Juris Doctorate from the Florida State University College of Law. He graduated with a distinguished award for his pro bono service. He earned his bachelor of science degree from Florida State University. Ryan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Tabor, of Niceville.

\*\*\*

**Scott Hartman**, of Niceville, made the Dean's List at DePaul University for the winter quarter of 2012. In order to qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn above a 3.0 grade point average on the four-point scale.

\*\*\*

**Will Davis**, of Niceville, was selected by the Huntingdon College Office of Admission to serve as a Huntingdon Host for the 2012-13 academic year. The office selected 30 students to serve in the role. Huntingdon Hosts greet prospective students and families, give campus tours and correspond with future Huntingdon students. Hosts are chosen on the basis of leadership and involvement, character, enthusiasm and academic achievement. Huntingdon College is located in Montgomery, Ala.

\*\*\*

The Niceville Exchange Club recognized **Eddie Owens**



Eddie Owens

as the A.C.E. (Accepting the Challenge of Excellence) Student of the Month. Eddie, a 2012 Rocky Bayou Christian School graduate, was honored for his determination to excel in academics and athletics, despite his struggle with ADHD. He graduated with a GPA of 3.86 and will attend Northwest Florida State College in the fall.

\*\*\*

Rollins College graduate **Kara Trapp**, a 2008 Collegiate High School graduate, recently received the award for Outstanding Achievement in Biology. This award was bestowed in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and meaningful contribution to the Rollins community.



Kara Trapp

Students get cultural at museum



Beacon photo by Tess Hollis

Members of the "Gemini" culture pose with their flag that has the culture's official colors—red, white and gold. Sixth graders at Ruckel Middle School learned about world cultures, then created their own cultures that they shared with students and parents on May 30. From left: Julia Wojnarek, Brenna Berghoff, Ashley Wilson and Stephanie Fuentes.

By Tess Hollis  
Beacon Staff Writer

White mammoth gods, hunting animals for food and sport, chariots as transportation and jelly beans as currency all seem like something out of a fictional movie—but they are just a small slice of Ruckel Middle School students' Culture Museum projects.

Sixth graders in Hayley Close's World Cultures classes showed off their made-up cultures on May 30 in the Ruckel library. The projects were part of the students' study of ancient world cultures and the aspects that make up cultures and societies.

"We studied different cultures all year long and I thought this would be a good culminating project, so they can see all of the aspects of culture brought together," Close said.

Students were split into 26 groups and asked to come up with a culture involving 17 aspects including religion, transportation, food, currency and games. The students started the projects in January and were required to pick a time period in which their culture

existed. Then, students acted as "archaeologists" who discovered their made-up ancient civilizations.

One group dubbed themselves the "Ms. Close Clan," also known as the "Suck-Ups."

"Our culture is run by a monarchy-dictatorship," said Matt Deyong. "It is ruled by Ms. Close the Great, who is the chief of our society."

Matt added that in the "Ms. Close Clan" families are matrilineal and jelly beans are the currency. Each time a child is born, people within the clan are required to give the baby 1,000 jelly beans.

Another group named their culture "Gemini," based on the constellations. The culture was set in the space age.

"Our culture is very religious," said group member Stephanie Fuentes. "But there are all sorts of religions, not just one."

The "Gemini" culture also boasted its three basic colors—red, symbolizing the blood of the body, white for purity and gold for strength.

"It was really fun and everything turned out just how we

wanted it," said group member Julia Wojnarek.

From space ages to medieval cultures, there was something for everyone to enjoy at the culture museum.

The "Mammoth Clan" started in Europe and Asia, but later moved to North America, according to group member Michael Bruzzini.

In the "Mammoth Clan," houses are made out of leather and bones and drums supply entertainment. A bowl is used to "crunch" grain and wheat and a spear is used to hunt food. Michael described a game in the "Mammoth Clan" known as the "Hungry Games," a twist on the popular movie and book series, "The Hunger Games."

"There are trials, and it includes throwing spears and arrows and running," he said. "The winner gets a giant cornucopia of food."

The group also came up with leather ball, a game that mimics ultimate Frisbee.

"In the beginning I was just interested to see what they could come up with," Close said. "They have really seemed to enjoy it."

11 to compete for Distinguished Young Women scholarships

Special to the Beacon

Eleven young women from Okaloosa County have been chosen to participate in the Distinguished Young Women Scholarship Program. Five of the young women are Niceville High School Students and two are Collegiate High School students.



Ally Young



Anna Hall



Ronette Kortbein



Madeline Kirkpatrick



Kellie Higley

The girls will compete for college scholarships in a program that will be held at Niceville High School on Aug. 11, which will feature performing talents, participation in a fitness routine and speaking to the audience. Also factored into the scoring are the girls' school grades and test scores, as well as a private interview with judges prior to the program. The three-female, two male panel of judges will come from other states and include varying ages and areas of expertise.

"Distinguished Young Women is the same program formerly called Junior Miss," said DYW Chairman Carole Byrd. "It is not a beauty pageant, it is a scholarship program for high-achieving girls entering their senior year in high school to compete for college scholarship money."

Scholarships are funded solely by tax-deductible donations from the community, Byrd said. Ten scholarships will be awarded to the winner, the first and second runners-up, the highest scorer in each of the five competitive categories, the spirit winner and an essay winner.

"We feel that Okaloosa County is a strong community that pulls together to perpetuate the grandeur of our area," Byrd said. "We are certainly successful enough to support this valuable program that will represent us well at the state and national level. These girls are our future leaders, of course."

The contestants for this year's program include: Niceville High School: Ally Young, Anna Hall, Ronette Kortbein, Madeline Kirkpatrick and Kellie Higley; Choctaw High School: Courtney Peters, Mary Gates and Holly Geissel; Collegiate High School: Sonata Valaitis and Arden Robertson.

DYW of Okaloosa County is produced by a five-member board of directors, along with a team of 20 helpers.

"Our local program is governed by the state program, which is governed by the nationals office in Mobile, Ala.," Byrd said. "Our local winner will advance to state, and the state winner will advance to nationals held in Mobile every year. This is a nationally, highly-respected and elite program."



Courtney Peters



Mary Gates



Holly Geissel



Sidney Boyd



Sonata Valaitis



Arden Robertson

Engagements

Wells-Hollis



Kimberly Wells and Ferdinand Hollis

Steven and Anna Wells, of Niceville, announce the engagement of their daughter Kimberly Wells to Ferdinand Hollis, son of Mike and Clarita Hollis, of San Diego, Calif.

The future bride is a graduate of the University of North Florida with a bachelor of science degree, and is currently employed as an infant and toddler developmental specialist for the state of Florida.

Her fiancé is a former Naval Air crewman and Rescue Swimmer, and is currently employed with Mayo Clinic and pursuing a bachelor of science degree in organizational security and management.

An April 2013 wedding is planned in Jacksonville Beach at the Casa Bella Village "In the Garden."

\*\*\*

Halvorson-Woods

Teri and Tom Halvorson, of Hillsborough, N.J., announce the engagement of their daughter, Shannon Lynn Halvorson, to

Derek Joseph Woods, son of Beth Anne and Barry Woods, of Niceville.



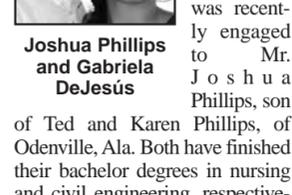
Derek Woods and Shannon Halvorson

Shannon is a graduate of Immaculate High School and Virginia Tech. Derek is a 2003 Niceville High School graduate currently stationed with the U.S. Coast Guard in Elizabeth City, N.C., and will move to Barbers Point, Hawaii, in July. A June 29, 2013, wedding is planned at the Whalehead Club in Corolla, N.C., in the Outer Banks.

\*\*\*

DeJesus-Phillips

Mis Gabriela DeJesus, daughter of Pablo and Alm de Jesus, of Niceville, was recently engaged to Mr. Joshua Phillips, son of Ted and Karen Phillips, of Odenville, Ala. Both have finished their bachelor degrees in nursing and civil engineering, respectively. Plans are for a fall wedding in Niceville. The couple will make Birmingham, Ala., their permanent residence.



Joshua Phillips and Gabriela DeJesus

Chorus ends year with concert, awards

Special to the Beacon

The recipients of the Niceville High School Chorus 2012 awards were recently announced during the Spring Concert.

The concert was held at First Baptist Church of Niceville on May 15, and was the last of more than 30 public performances by seven Niceville High ensembles this academic year. The concert included a senior class recognition ceremony and awards presentations to the following students for their leadership and contributions to their

ensembles and to the overall success of the Chorus.

Kantorai Award: Rebecca Johnson; Bel Canto Award: Taylor Nelson; Camerata Award: Anthony Provost; Select Women Award: Katie Pickler and Marisa Hancock; Opus One Award: E.J. Huston; Niceville Singers Award: Haley Leibach and Sivu Schlegel; Service Award: Zach Pecore; Director's Cup Award: Gisselle Morrobel; Niceville Chorus Award: E.J. Huston.

In addition to the individual awards, Danielle Fox,

Marisa Hancock, E.J. Huston and Haley Leibach were added to the Chorus Wall of Fame.

Kantorai is the ninth grade women's ensemble, while Bel Canto is the 10th grade women's ensemble. Camerata is the men's chorus and Select Women is the 11th and 12th grade women's ensemble. Niceville Singers, Niceville Chamber Singers and Opus One are audition-based mixed ensembles, with Opus One the most select, consisting of 17, 11th and 12th grade members.

DONATION

From page B-1

Boswell, a personal friend, as a class project.

"These airmen are 50 miles north of the Arctic Circle and the closest village is 35 miles away," Hutto said. "For some of these airmen, it is their first deployment or even their first assignment and their first time alone, away from their friends and families."

The Blue Star Mothers shipped 10 additional care packages, along with the 25 from

Edge students, just before Christmas 2011. The packages arrived a week after Christmas and were waiting for each of the airmen in their rooms as soon as they stepped off the plane at Thule.

"We included things like hot chocolate, coffee mugs and popcorn," Hutto said. "Anything to keep warm."

In addition to the care packages, each airmen was given a fleece blanket made by members of Niceville Assembly of God.

"We understand that there are

men and women in harms' way in other countries," Maney said. "Although these airmen may not be in harms' way, they are still serving our country and many of them are alone for the first time."

"We are just doing what we would want someone to do for our kids," added Hutto, who has a son in the Air Force. Maney has two sons in the Army.

Blue Star Mothers meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Shalimar.

Choral students E.J. Huston and Olivia Scruggs presented Opus mementos to Choral Director Michael Dye and Choral Assistant Jennifer Vest.

Courtesy photo

## Literacy program gives scholarships

Niceville High School student Samantha Coughlin, left, and Lydia Husfelt, Choctawhatchee High School, each received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated, as part of the club's Literacy Program.

Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

## Lewis sings way to 'Superior'

The Lewis School Mixed Encore Chorus received the highest rating of Superior for stage performance and sight-reading at the recent Florida Vocal Association Music Performance Assessment on March 30. The adjudicated event was held at First Baptist Church, Niceville.



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BWB • 10-5, Tues-Sat

### ADVERTISE HERE!

**AT YOUR SERVICE**  
advertising makes sense!  
With prices starting at only \$19.55 per week, advertising in **At Your Service** is easy AND affordable! Call us at 678-1080 or stop by the office at 1181 E. John Sims Pkwy., Niceville, FL 32578 to take advantage of this incredible bargain!

### HOME REPAIR

**ADVANCED HOME REPAIR**  
• Vinyl Siding, Soffit, & Fascia  
• Screen Rooms & Patio Covers  
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Lic# RX0066839

### HOME REPAIR

**Bart's Home Repair & Maintenance**  
• Plumbing  
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• Security Lighting  
• Lawn Sprinkler Repair  
• Free Estimates  
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No job too small or large  
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**JERRY D. DUNCAN Irrigation Systems**  
• Repairs  
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• Well/Pump Repair  
• Professional Installation  
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### IRRIGATION

**KBES**  
specializing in **Irrigation Pump Repair**  
Pool Pumps • Lift Pumps  
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Most cases, Same Day Service  
CALL KENT BENNETT  
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Servicing Okaloosa County

### IRRIGATION

**Advanced Irrigation Systems, Inc.**  
Licensed & Insured  
• Sprinkler System  
• Pump Replacement or Repair  
• New Installations  
• Extensions  
• Landscaping  
• Design  
• Free Estimates  
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**LAWN Professional Services**  
• Mowing  
• New Sod  
• Yard Cleaning  
• Gardening  
• Trimming  
(850) **225-6157**  
FREE ESTIMATES  
Licensed & Insured

### LAWN CARE

**Less Stress Lawn & Landscaping**  
FREE ESTIMATES  
RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL  
R.J: (850) 699-1617  
Bryan: (850) 259-1981  
Licensed & Insured

### MINI STORAGE

W.R. Harden, Inc. dba  
**Kelly Rd. MINI STORAGE**  
Jan C. Bogan  
General Manager  
**(850) 729-1005**  
204 KELLY RD.  
NICEVILLE, FL 32578

### MINI STORAGE

**Nice-Villa Mini Storage**  
2 miles east of Bluewater Bay on Hwy. 20  
(Drive A Little, Save A Lot)  
Block Buildings  
**897-2280**

### ADVERTISE HERE!

Advertise your business in this size space for only \$19.55 per week. (Minimum 8 weeks.)  
CALL US at 678-1080  
Ad design & layout no extra charge.

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**Tisa's Pizzeria**  
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**E&D Pressure Washing**  
"No Job Too Small!"  
• Houses • Docks  
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• Fencing • Decks  
Licensed & Insured  
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### PRESSURE WASHING

**25% OFF**  
Call for details  
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• SIDEWALKS  
• WINDOWS  
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### ROOFING

**HENDERSON Contracting Services, LLC**  
• Re-Roof  
• New Roofs  
• Repairs  
• Remodeling  
• Additions  
• Homes  
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### SALON

**Lily Nails DAY SPA**  
Celebrating 13 yrs. in the Niceville Area  
Gift Certificates Available  
• Massage  
• Facials  
• Speciality Nail Arts  
• Waxing (Eyebrows, Legs)  
• Pedicures/Manicures  
• Full Body Detox  
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### TREE SERVICE

**Country Roads Tree Service**  
"We cut so you don't have to"  
Residential/Commercial  
• Tree removal, trimming, & thinning  
• Storm damage clean up  
• 24-Hour Emergency Service  
• Fully Licensed/Insured  
• Call today for a Free Estimate!  
Ask for Joe the Tree Man!  
(850) **461-7170**

### TREE SERVICE

**Bayou! The Saw Shoppe Tree Service**  
Don't be fooled by False Ads... Demand Proof of Comp & Liability!  
Actually Licensed & Insured  
**678-9339**

# "Where Buyers and Sellers Meet!" Beacon CLASSIFIEDS

## CONVENIENT WAYS TO PLACE YOUR BEACON CLASSIFIED AD!

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.)

### BEACON CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE 2:00 P.M. FRIDAY FOR WEDNESDAY

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
	\$11.60	\$11.80
	\$12.20	\$12.40
	\$12.80	\$13.00
	Base price includes \$5 weekly discount or walk-in or mail-in prepaid ads.	

50% discount for additional weeks or papers. Check publications to publish ad:  
 Bay Beacon (Number of weeks) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eglin Flyer (Number of weeks) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hurlburt Patriot (Number of weeks) \_\_\_\_\_

Ads are non-refundable.  
 Price of First Run .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 + Price of subsequent runs .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 = Total Price .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information (Will not appear in ad):  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Beacon Newspapers.  
**BEACON NEWSPAPERS | (850) 678-1080**  
 1181 E. JOHN SIMS PKWY., NICEVILLE, FL

### Help Wanted

**Newspaper Reporter**  
The Bay Beacon has an opening for a full-time reporter. The job requires a hardworking, self-starting, organized journalist with high standards for accuracy, the ability to meet deadlines, a nose for news, and concern for readers. Some evening and occasional weekend work. Paid holidays, paid vacation, IRA plan. Applicants should have reporting experience. Apply at the Beacon's office 1181 E. John Sims Pkwy, Niceville. Bring copies of samples of your written work.

### 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)

### Homes for Rent

Electrician helps needed for summer and possibly permanent. No experience necessary. If you are dependable, hard working and drug free, we will train. Call 729-3044.

### Homes for Rent

Beautifully upgraded brick home in Niceville. 3-bdrm, 2-bath, 2-car garage. Fully fenced back yard. New appliances & HVAC. Quiet neighborhood. \$950/mo., \$950/DD. Call 850-678-2948.

### Homes for Rent

You saw it in the Beacon!

### Homes for Rent

3-Bdrm, 2-Bath house in Niceville, garage, \$1200, 678-2324 or 830-7879.

### Homes for Sale

Niceville, 3/1, 1300+SqFt., fenced yard, 20'X12' workshop, 3 blocks from middle and high school. \$95,000. Call 850-865-6920

### Jewelry

We pay the most for gold, diamonds and jewelry. 700 Beal Parkway, Fort Walton Beach, 850-974-2462, Tom.

### Items for Sale

BWB-Furniture for sale. Cherry traditional dining room set. \$500. 3-pc wall entertainment set, \$300. Leather reclining chair w/stool, \$100. Small antique writing desk, \$90. Chair hammock, New, \$40. Lg stainless steel grill, \$125. 897-1330 for direction.

### Services

Caregiver services offered. Experienced with Alzheimers/dementia. Medical background. Full or part-time. 333-2053 or 835-3185.

## Bluewater Bay Resort Realty - RENTALS -

**Marquette Street - 2/1 - Unfurnished - \$685**  
Quiet neighborhood, across from park, duplex community, washer & dryer included  
**Florida Club - 1/1 - Furnished - \$1400**  
Includes washer/dryer, cable, internet and utilities, community pool, hot tub, sauna, overlooking golf course  
**Glen Eagles 2/2 - Furnished - \$1700**  
1 car garage, fireplace, large Florida Room, end unit, split plan, high ceilings, includes utilities, cable & internet.  
**Long Term Rentals Needed**  
Homes, townhomes, patio homes, condos needed in Bluewater Bay Resort for our booming long-term rental program. Experienced, professional real estate management program available to meet your investment/ involvement needs.  
**850-897-1443**

## RENTALS AVAILABLE!

**Niceville, Crestview, Fort Walton and Navarre!**  
**One bedroom to five bedrooms from \$450-\$2500!**  
 Search online at: **OurLocalRental.com**  
**Century 21 Wilson Minger Agency**  
 Niceville's Top Selling Real Estate Office  
**729-6504**

## PRIME WAREHOUSE OR OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

**WISE AVE. Niceville Offices**  
 500SF-1,000SF  
**Warehouses**  
 1,000SF-6,000SF  
 For more information call **897-6464**  
 1484 Hickory St. Niceville  
**SEE NEWS HAPPENING?**  
 Call the Beacon Newspapers at 678-1080



Courtesy photo

### Bluewater Garden Club elects officers

The Bluewater Bay Garden Club held their installation of new officers for the coming year on May 10, with a luncheon at Rutherford's. New officers are: Karen Williams, first vice president; Joan McCarthy, treasurer; Esther Pursell, president; Marge Free, corresponding secretary; Tulay Hathord, second vice president. Not present was Audrey Hains, recording secretary.



Courtesy photo

### Advocacy Center receives donation

Joann Dunnam, left, and Sammie Davis from Twin Cities Woman's Club presented a club donation to Julie Hurst, center, executive director of the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center in Niceville.

### Niceville Garden Club plants 'seeds'

Valparaiso Garden Club's AnnaBelle James, right, presents a check for \$250 to Beth Bish, treasurer of the newly formed Niceville Garden Club. Funds will be used for "seed" money to help start up the Niceville Garden Club.



Courtesy photo



### Gamma Epsilon presents Ritual of Jewels

Gamma Epsilon Master's Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, Niceville, recently presented Carol Thrombley with the Ritual of Jewels. The Ritual of Jewels was presented by President Doris Olig, Jo Ann Jones, Margaret Hulley and Susan Velter.

Courtesy photo



### Lewis student rocks festival

Lewis Jazz Band member and bass player Josh Banaszak was awarded the Most Outstanding Rhythm Section Musician from the Middle Honor band at the Northwest Florida State College Jazz Festival.

Courtesy photo

### Sandy & Ray: Realtors of Few Words



**Selling? Call Sandy & Ray DiTirro**  
850/897-5839

[SandyandRay@SandyandRay.com](mailto:SandyandRay@SandyandRay.com)

Sandra James DiTirro PA, RE/MAX Southern at Bluewater Realty

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