

The Bay Beacon

12 Pages, 2 Sections, 5 Inserts

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

50¢

**UP
COMING**

Wednesday, 10 a.m.



Friends of the Niceville Library will host a book discussion for adults. "The Night Strangers" by Chris Bohjalian will be discussed. Limited supplies of books are available through the Okaloosa Library system, readokaloosa.org. Call the Niceville Library at 279-4863, ext. 1504, to reserve a seat.

Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

Alzheimer's Family Services will provide a support group at First United Methodist Church, Chandler Center, 215 S. Partin Drive. The support group is free and respite care is available. Info and registration: 478-7790, or AlzFamServ.org.

Wednesday, 3:30 p.m.



The Valparaiso Community Library would like to invite teens and their families to **Teen Movie Day**. The Library will show "Wrath of the Titans." Snacks and drinks will be provided. The film is rated PG-13.

Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



Sign up for **recreation soccer** will be in the Niceville High School cafeteria. The league is for players 5 to 18, with separate girls' teams for U8 to U19. Cost: \$60 for residents, \$70 for non-residents. Uniforms and accident insurance included. Info: 678-2182, or nicevillepalsoccer.org.

Calendar, B-2

College costs to jump 6.5%, topping \$100 a credit hour

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

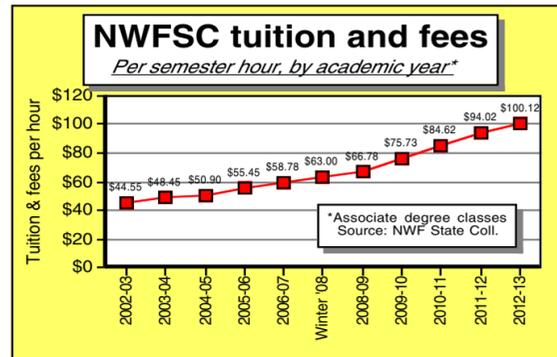
The cost of getting an education at Northwest Florida State College (NWFS) will rise 6.5 percent, and pay for college employees 1.5 percent.

The increase in tuition and fees for the 2012-13 academic year was below that proposed by the college president. It will boost the cost per credit hour for Florida residents above \$100 for the first time.

For an associate-degree stu-

dent taking 12 credit hours per semester, the increase boosts the cost to \$2,402 a year, assuming two semesters. For many, the cost is defrayed by federal, state or private scholarships.

Please see COLLEGE, page A-5



Remembering the Khobar fallen



Eglin Air Force Base held its 16th annual Khobar Towers memorial service Monday, attended by about 125 airmen, relatives of the deceased and others. Nineteen U.S. airmen, 12 of them from Eglin's 33rd Fighter Wing, died in the terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia June 25, 1996. Here, Alyssa Rinkus points to the picture of her uncle, Airman 1st Class Joseph Rinkus, of Bluewater Bay, who died in the bombing at the age of 22. With Alyssa is Dari Bradley, Rinkus' aunt.

Beacon photo by Kenneth Books

Gas station eyed for Walmart center

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Murphy Oil, a high-volume, low-price gas station chain often associated with Walmart, has submitted preliminary site plans for a new Murphy Express outlet in Niceville, according to city Building Inspector Darcy Chaney.

The gas station and convenience store would be built near the entrance to the Walmart shopping center off John Sims Parkway, between the Chick-fil-A restaurant and Regions Bank.

Since opening its first station near a Sam's Club store in Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1996, Murphy has expanded to more than 1,100 outlets in 23 states. In November 2006, the Arkansas-based company opened its first Murphy Express, featuring a convenience store larger than its

older kiosks. Now, 93 Murphy Express stores operate in 11 states.

The site plan submitted to Niceville indicates that the proposed outlet would not have direct access to John Sims Parkway. Instead, motorists would follow the main Walmart entrance road to an existing traffic circle, go around the circle, and enter the Murphy lot from the Walmart exit road.

The design shown in the preliminary site plan indicates that the store could fuel 16 to 20 vehicles at a time.

A spokesman for Valparaiso Realty, which owns the property, confirmed it was in negotiations with Murphy Oil, but had not finalized a contract. Murphy did not respond to a request for comment by press time.



For cops, dealing with teeth and beak all in a day's work

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

Niceville police officers handled two very different animal problems June 12.

The first call came in at 12:52 p.m. from a resident of the 1200 block of Bayshore Drive who reported an alligator had appeared in his back yard.

At 1:08 p.m., the responding officer assured the police dispatcher by radio that "all is 10-4."

The officer stated that the gator had slipped back into Boggy Bayou and no further alarm was called for.

Separately, police received a call at 7:20 p.m. the same day, from a resident of the 500 block of 23rd Street who complained that a chicken was running loose in his front yard.

Another police officer shooed the fowl into a small cage, and by 7:44 p.m. reported to the dispatcher that he was returning to the station, bird in hand.

Police said the chicken was detained overnight at headquarters and handed over the next day to the Panhandle Animal Welfare Society in Fort Walton

Please see TEETH, page A-6

Utility hikes rates for gas

By Tess Hollis
Beacon Staff Writer

Okaloosa Gas District customers will soon see a 1.3 percent increase in their bills.

The increase, which comes despite continued declines in the price of U.S. natural gas, was blamed on new government safety rules.

The Valparaiso-based utility announced changes to its rate structure because of more strin-

gent safety compliance regulations imposed on the natural gas industry.

The July 1 rate increase will mean "pennies to a dollar" more each month for customers, said Okaloosa Gas District Marketing Vice President Gary Long. He said the "average" customer will pay about 49 cents more per

Please see HIKES, page A-3



Span posts higher traffic

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Toll revenue from traffic over the Mid-Bay Bridge is slowly reviving, and construction of the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector continues to progress on time and within budget, officials said.

There is still no word, however, from British Petroleum about compensating the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA) for toll revenue lost during 2011 because of the BP oil spill in 2010.

During the June 21 meeting of

the MBBA governing board in Destin, MBBA Executive Director Jim Vest told the five-member board that toll revenue from traffic over the Mid-Bay Bridge, the 3.5-mile toll span over Choctawhatchee Bay that connects the Niceville and Destin areas, increased 2.4 percent in May, compared with the same month in 2011.

Vest said that cash revenue from tolls increased by about 5.4 percent, while revenue from the lower tolls paid via "Sunpass" electronic transponders increased

by only 0.2 percent. Daily traffic figures presented by Vest indicated that in May 2012, an unaudited average of 625,382 vehicles crossed the bridge—12,068 more than in May 2011. An average of 20,174 vehicles crossed the bridge in May 2012 compared to 19,784. However, the daily number of vehicles using Sunpass during May decreased by 27 vehicles—from 12,605 to 12,578.

What those figures seem to mean, Vest told the MBBA

Please see TRAFFIC, page A-3



Storm Debby spurs thirst for fuel

As Tropical Storm Debby drifted in the Gulf Monday, a "heavier than normal" number of tanker trucks were waiting to fill up at the Citgo fuel terminal on Bayshore Drive, Niceville, according to Jay Goss, the terminal manager. At least 11 were lined up Monday near noon, waiting to take on their cargoes before distributing them to busy filling stations throughout the area. Debby dropped 0.91 inches of rain over the weekend at the regional sewer plant in Niceville. On Monday Gov. Rick Scott declared Florida in a state of emergency because of Debby.

Beacon photo by Del Lessard



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'Camp Glee' showcases young talent

High school students at Northwest Florida State College's Camp Glee 2012 summer musical workshop rehearse a number on June 14. The 37 Camp Glee students from area schools, ages 13 through 18, have been working on vocal, dance and acting techniques since June 4. The camp is named after a popular television comedy-drama that focuses on a high school glee club. There will be two performances July 3, at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., in the college's Sprint Theater. Admission to the free show is on a first-come, first-served basis due to limited seating.

Beacon photo by Tess Hollis

School rezoning clears hurdle

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

On July 9, Valparaiso city commissioners will hold the second and final public hearing on a series of ordinances aimed at rezoning

the former Valparaiso Elementary School property.

The measures are aimed at ending a dispute between the city and the Okaloosa County School District over use of the school,

which closed in May 2011 because of declining enrollment.

The city commission, with two new members elected this year, has moved to allow the school district to open a planned science-and-math magnet school on the property in August. The measures would revise actions by the previous commission, which rezoned the site to bar its use for anything but an elementary school.

On Monday night, city commissioners held the first public hearing on ordinances that would rezone the school board property to a new zoning category of Public Institutional—without any limiting subcategories. The proposed zoning, PI, would allow the property to be used for public uses such as educational facilities, public buildings and grounds, parks, playgrounds, libraries museums, art galleries, auditoriums, gymnasiums, sports complexes, swimming pools and civic centers.

Last October, the city had rezoned the same property to a category of PI, with a subcategory of Elementary School. The Okaloosa County School Board, which owns the property, sued the city over the P/ES zoning.

Planning Commission Chair Martha Woodcock told commissioners Monday that the advisory panel June 19 had unanimously recommended the PI zoning district by a 5-0 vote.

That's the same recommended zoning district the planning commission had recommended to the city commission in August 2011. Instead, city commissioners last year listened to the recommendation of its former city attorney Doug Wyckoff and former City Commissioner Neal Sherner to add the subcategory limiting the property to use as an elementary school. The zoning action was aimed to facilitate a charter school company, invited by Sherner, to open a public charter school on the property.

In April, with two newly elected commissioners, the Valparaiso City Commission asked the planning commission to reconsider the P/ES zoning on the school property.

On June 4, the planning commission held a quasi-judicial hearing on the issue, a meeting that "recessed" so that planning com-

Please see SCHOOL, page A-6

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TRAFFIC

From page A-1
board, is that tourism is increasing this year along the Gulf of Mexico, bringing a boost to the local economy along with more revenue to the MBBA, but that commuter traffic by local residents, who are most likely to have Sunpass devices in their vehicles, still lags, possibly indicating that Gulf-front employment and construction activity has not yet expanded to accommodate the increase in visitors to the area.



Mid-Bay Bridge Authority
Planned terminus of the 11-mile Mid-Bay Bridge Connector Road will be at Highway 85, just north of Niceville. It is scheduled to open in early 2014.

Also during Thursday's meeting, Vest told the MBBA board that he has still not received a reply from BP to the MBBA's claim for compensation for traffic revenue lost during 2011, the year following the oil spill.

In another MBBA meeting earlier this year, Vest had told the MBBA board that the 2011 claim is for \$440,000, but the amount of money, if any, actually received from BP may be subject to negotiation.

Vest said much of the lost revenue during 2011 was probably the result of businesses that closed permanently because of the oil spill, leading to loss of jobs and a resulting reduction of commuter traffic over the bridge in 2011.

The company has already paid

the bridge authority \$763,026 for losses during 2010, when the oil spill occurred.

In other business, James VanSteenburg, of HDR Engineering, gave his monthly briefing on progress in constructing the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector. The new 11-mile toll road will connect the north end of the bridge with State Road 85 just north of Niceville, allowing tourists and other motorists to

bypass downtown Niceville and Bluewater Bay enroute to and from the bridge. The \$180 million project, VanSteenburg said, is still on schedule and within budget, and he expects the entire road to open for traffic in early 2014. The portion from the bridge to Range Road near Bluewater Bay opened earlier.

Vest told the MBBA that he has arranged for a new billboard sign to be posted along State Road 85 between Crestview and Niceville, advertising the coming connector road to visitors so that they will become aware of it well in advance. The new sign will replace an existing billboard that advertises the Mid-Bay Bridge itself as the fastest route to Destin.

In response to a question from MBBA Chairman Gordon Fornell, Vest said that the planned expansion of the State Road 331 bridge in neighboring Walton County is not expected to pose much competition for the Mid-Bay Bridge. He also said, however, that the State Road 331 bridge, which also spans Choctawhatchee Bay, connecting the Freeport area with beachfront communities east of Destin, will not be a toll bridge. Walton County residents recently voted a sales tax, rather than tolls, to help pay to four-lane the bridge.

Vest also informed the MBBA board that Okaloosa County has requested a modification to its agreement with the MBBA allowing the county to place fiber optic communications cables within the Mid-Bay Bridge as part of the county's high-speed data transmission system. Originally, Vest said, the county had told the MBBA that the fiber optic cable would not have any commercial use, but the county is now considering leasing some of its transmission capacity to commercial users.

The MBBA board then voted unanimously to have MBBA legal counsel Mary Kraemer draft language to modify the agreement with the county, to ensure that if the cable is ever used for commercial purposes, the MBBA will get a reasonable share of the revenue received by the county. No specific monetary figures related to the possible cable leasing were discussed during Thursday's meeting.

The next MBBA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 19, at 9 a.m., at Niceville City Hall. The Aug. 16 MBBA meeting will be held at Destin City Hall, and will be followed by a bus tour of the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector route for MBBA members and other community leaders.

HIKES

From page A-1

month, or \$4 more annually.

Although natural gas is abundant and prices have fallen sharply in recent years, the higher utility rates are a result of the federal Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty and Job Creation Act signed into law in January, according to Long.

The new law raises the maximum fine for pipeline safety violations to \$2 million, authorizes more pipeline inspectors and requires automatic shut-off valves on new or replaced pipelines. Compliance will cost Okaloosa Gas about \$1.3 million in fiscal year 2013, money it must recoup from customers, Long said.

The law was proposed by a Pennsylvania Congressman in September 2011, a year after a gas-transmission line exploded in flames in a San Francisco suburb, killing eight and leveling 35 houses.

As of July 1, Okaloosa Gas customers' increased monthly bills will be a combination of line items that include a customer charge—\$11.64; the gas cost—38 cents per therm; a therm distribution charge—45 cents per therm; and the new regulatory compliance cost—8 cents per therm. The compliance charge will more than offset a fall in the cost-of-gas portion of the bills stemming from continue declines in natural-gas costs.

Long said the average Okaloosa Gas customer uses about 28 therms per month, mainly from water heaters and gas ranges.

"Twenty-eight therms per customer is kind of like a moving target," Long said. "People keep using less and less every year, and are constantly replacing appliances, which saves money in the future. The long term trend is that people are using less and less therms."

In January, the average customer, using 28 therms per month, paid a total of \$37.11 a month, or \$445.32 annually. With the rate hike, such a customer

will pay about \$37.61 per month, or about \$451.32 annually. The prices don't include taxes.

To determine how to fund the compliance efforts, Okaloosa Gas retained Kan Huston Associates to prepare a comprehensive study of its natural gas cost of service and alternative rate design.

Kan Huston proposed a Regulatory Compliance Charge to recover actual compliance costs on a dollar-per-dollar basis, according to Long.

Long said the gas utility, a state agency, made the decision to not "stick" the rate hike into its base rate.

"What we wanted to do is isolate it, so when we get over this hump and things get back to normal, that rate will disappear," he said. "We've always had to do maintenance and compliance work, but the volume has shot up."

Compliance efforts by Okaloosa Gas will include:

—Increased inspection to the district's 139 miles of transmission lines annually.

—Replacing bridge and river crossings to allow measurement instruments to travel within its pipe to verify internal conditions electronically.

—Meet federally mandated distribution integrity management regulations that include activities, such as Pipeline Public Awareness to educate the public about lines that run in their neighborhoods.

—Replacing 26 miles of cast iron mains and associated steel service lines, much of it located under existing infrastructure.

—Creation of Risk Management programs to address other aspects of the aging natural gas pipelines within the system, including more frequent inspection intervals.

—Strict guidelines for training and recording the qualifications of employees and supporting contractors.

The rate hike will not only factor in compliance costs, but an increased customer charge, as well. Each Okaloosa Gas customer pays a \$10.80 per month customer charge. Beginning July

1, however, that rate will go up to \$11.64, an 84 cent difference.

According to Long, the new customer charge will allow Okaloosa Gas to receive lost revenue, recently a result of an unseasonable winter.

"It was a very mild winter and customers were not using as much heat, therefore they had much lower bills," he said. "But the gas district wasn't getting the revenue we needed."

Because of the customer rate increase, the distribution rate will go down from 48 cents to 45 cents per therm each month.

"We took the customer charge and distribution charge and flipped them," Long said.

Customers who use more therms per month, such as businesses, will not notice the increase as much as the average customer. Some larger customers may even notice a decrease in their monthly bill.

"The customer charge went up, so every customer is paying a flat rate every month," Long said.

"Since the distribution charge decreased, they pretty much offset each other. The more gas you use, the smaller percent that customer charge is on your bill. The more the customer uses, the less the impact will be."

Long said the customer charge will remain the same until another rate study is conducted and it's determined that the charge needs to be changed.

"One rate you can count on going both directions is the cost of gas," he said. "Natural gas is at a low because of all the reserves. It has definitely surprised us at the gas district."

Since it peaked in July 2008, the wellhead price of U.S. natural gas has plummeted 77 percent, according to the Energy Information Administration.

Okaloosa Gas serves 37,000 residential, commercial, military and industrial customers and is based in Valparaiso. Customers can calculate their monthly utility rate at okaloosagas.com/rate-information.aspx.

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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

Fredrick Louis Dingler Jr., 44, of 4503 Bristol Court, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 11 on a violation of probation charge on the original charges of burglary and grand theft.

Marcy Ranae King, 29, of 1137 47th St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 11 on a contempt of court charge on the original charge of domestic violence battery.

Guy Lee Thompson, 35, of 606 Hickory Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 11 on a charge of child cruelty without great harm, domestic violence related.

Courtney Carol Miller, a restaurant server, 28, of 434 Valparaiso Parkway, Room 7, Valparaiso, was arrested by Niceville police June 13 on a Washington County warrant for violation of probation on the original charge of possession of MDMA (Ecstasy).

Michael Wayne Barrows Jr., 41, of 222 Fir Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police June 12 on a charge of domestic violence battery.

Omar Maurice Terrell, 28, of 511-C Landview Drive, Fort Walton Beach, was arrested by Niceville police June 16 on a charge of felony battery, domestic violence, prior conviction.

A 15-year-old Niceville girl was arrested by Niceville police June 16 on a charge of affray. The girl and another student at Rocky Bayou Christian School allegedly fought each other in the school gym Jan. 19, a fight that resulted in the suspect receiving lacerations that required seven sutures to close.

Jackie Lauren Spillar, 23, of 638 Sailboat Drive, Niceville, was arrested June 15 by Niceville police, subsequent to a traffic stop for speeding in which Spillar was a passenger, on charges of possession of Schedule II controlled substance with intent to sell, four counts, and one count each for possession of Schedule III controlled substance, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

After arresting the driver, police prepared to search the car and asked Spillar if she had anything that would get her into trouble. She allegedly told police



Niceville Fire Dept.

Cyclist hurt in crash

A bicyclist was flown to a Pensacola hospital Monday after he was struck by a car at about 5 p.m. at Cedar Avenue and North Partin Drive, Niceville. Tony Lohman, city assistant fire chief, said two vehicles had collided at the intersection, and one of them then collided with a 22-year-old bicyclist. No one in either vehicle was hurt, but the cyclist suffered head injuries and a possible broken femur, Lohman said.

"there is a bag of marijuana under my seat." After finding the marijuana, police found several pills in Spillar's purse, including 78 amphetamine pills in one container and other amphetamines in another bottle, plus two different types of oxycodone pills.

A third bottle contained additional oxycodone pills, as well as three unopened Schedule III Suboxone packages and \$6,615 in cash. While in the Niceville police holding cell, Spillar allegedly told police she had concealed additional drugs in her body and willingly removed seven additional oxycodone pills.

Spillar, who was released from the Okaloosa County Jail on \$10,000 bail, was booked at the jail, listing an address of 4274 Calinda Lane, Niceville.

Betty Pauline Palmer, 58, of 4243 Otter Lake Cove, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 17 on a charge of battery, domestic violence.

Angelo Kriengsak Vogel, 21, of 1541 Valparaiso Blvd. Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 15 on a charge of failure to appear on the original charges of possession of new legend drug without a prescription, burglary, petit theft and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.



Jackie Lauren Spillar

Haley Lindy Elyse Walters, unemployed, 20, of 1041 48th St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 17 on a charge of grand theft. On May 30, Walters allegedly quit her job as a waitress, 1030-A Miracle Strip Parkway, without paying \$386 in cash collected during her shift. Walters denied taking the money and stated she left it next to the cash register at the rear of the restaurant.

Jarvis Negil Mack, 26, of 304 Reeves St., Lot G-4, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 16 on a charge of failure to register as a sex offender, which allegedly occurred Oct. 13, 2009.

Adrian Rey Peralta, 30, of 1101 Hickory Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 16 on a charge of violation of probation on original felony drug charges.

Lisa Marie Fowler, a bookkeeper, 29, of 1743 23rd St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 16, on a violation of probation charge on an original charge of possession of a controlled substance.

Adam Gabriel Ulven, 18, of 2 Marina Cove Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 18 on charges of grand theft and dealing in stolen property. On May 11, Ulven allegedly stole a paddle board and paddle valued together at \$2,100, then sold the stolen items on Craigslist for \$1,100. Deputies later recovered the stolen items from the second victim, the online buyer.

James Peterson Stover, a resort housekeeper, 32, of 903 45th St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 17 on a felony violation of probation charge

Roshellie R. Wilson, 46, of 903-A 45th St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 18 on charges of domestic violence battery with prior conviction, and resisting an officer without violence.

Thefts

A Valparaiso business owner, 106 John Sims Parkway, reported that sometime overnight, June 12-13, unknown person(s) stole a 6-by-8-foot utility trailer and a 2002 Ford Focus engine from the rear parking lot of the business. The stolen items were valued at \$700 total.

The foreman of an Alabama roofing company reported June 16 that a company pickup truck was missing or stolen from the parking lot of a Valparaiso motel, 79 S. John Sims Parkway, where company employees were staying.

A man reported that unknown person(s) stole the registration tag off his boat trailer June 16 while the trailer was parked at Lincoln Park, Valparaiso.

After being gone from her

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from June 18, 2012 through June 24, 2012.

2 Structure Fire	17 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	3 Vehicle Crash
1 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
1 Illegal Burn	4 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	1 Hazardous Conditions

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
E. College Blvd.	False Call	06/18/12	11:51
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle Crash	06/18/12	15:32
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	06/18/12	16:44
Ellis Avenue	Medical	06/18/12	20:09
27th Street	Medical	06/19/12	09:27
N. Partin Drive	Medical	06/19/12	10:49
Valparaiso Blvd.	Medical	06/19/12	10:56
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle Crash	06/19/12	14:41
Madison Street	Medical	06/20/12	12:54
Ridge Lane/Bluewater Bay	Structure Fire	06/20/12	15:22
N. Partin Drive	Medical	06/20/12	15:36
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle Crash	06/20/12	17:37
E. College Blvd.	Medical	06/20/12	19:41
Hillside Drive	Medical	06/20/12	20:44
N. Partin Drive	Medical	06/21/12	14:33
State Road 85 North	Canceled	06/21/12	16:00
State Road 85 North	Canceled	06/22/12	02:12
Juniper Avenue	Medical	06/22/12	07:27
N. Partin Drive	Medical	06/22/12	10:42
Darlington Oak Drive	Illegal Burning	06/22/12	15:31
N. Partin Drive	Medical	06/22/12	16:45
Blossom Creek Run	Outside Fire	06/23/12	03:03
Pinoak Circle	Medical	06/23/12	05:42
S. Partin Drive	Alarm Activation	06/23/12	10:23
Government Avenue	Medical	06/24/12	01:46
Crestview Avenue	Structure Fire	06/24/12	03:18
Reeves Street	Medical	06/24/12	04:28
27th Street	Power Pole Response	06/24/12	18:23
Everglade Drive	Medical	06/24/12	20:11

Weekly Safety Tip: The NFPA reports for 2009 show fireworks caused an estimated 18,000 reported fires, including 1,300 total structure fires, 400 vehicle fires and 16,300 outside and other fires. These fires resulted in no reported civilian deaths, 30 civilian injuries and \$38 million in direct property damage. Visit the Niceville Fire Department's Web page on Facebook.

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from June 17, 2012 through June 25, 2012.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Samana Way	EMS call	06/17/12	04:29
Merchants Way	Medical assist.	06/17/12	17:25
Parkwood Place	Service call	06/17/12	18:59
Live Oak Street/Freeport	EMS call	06/17/12	19:07
Baywind Drive	Medical assist.	06/17/12	19:54
Pine Street	Motor vehicle accident	06/17/12	20:00
Dominica Way	EMS call	06/17/12	22:59
Merchants Way	Medical assist.	06/18/12	06:58
North White Point Road	EMS call	06/18/12	08:08
Cedar Street	Unintentional transmission	06/18/12	16:26
Curacao Way	EMS call	06/18/12	16:34
South Hampton Court	EMS call	06/18/12	16:54
Vardon Way	EMS call	06/18/12	17:53
Sunset Cove	EMS call	06/19/12	01:14
White Point Road	EMS call	06/19/12	17:51
Merchants Way	EMS call	06/19/12	17:51
Merchants Way	EMS call	06/20/12	02:58
Cat Mar Road	Medical assist.	06/20/12	09:27
Hagen Court	False alarm	06/20/12	10:03
Magnolia Plantation Blvd.	Passenger vehicle fire	06/20/12	14:57
Ridge Lane	No incident found on arrival	06/20/12	15:27
Marina Cove Drive	EMS call	06/20/12	20:36
Cat Mar Road	EMS call	06/21/12	08:32
Bolton Village Lane	Service call	06/21/12	13:39
North White Point Road	EMS call	06/21/12	15:17
Hickory Street	Dispatched and canceled	06/21/12	21:31
Bay Drive and Highway 20	Motor vehicle accident	06/22/12	06:35
Mark Street/Destin	Dispatched and canceled	06/23/12	08:07
North White Point Road	EMS call	06/23/12	12:42
E. Highway 20 and Bluewater	Motor vehicle accident	06/23/12	15:27
Just South of the toll plaza	Motor vehicle accident	06/23/12	15:34
E. Highway 20	EMS call	06/23/12	22:04
Crestview Avenue	Building fire	06/24/12	03:19
North White Point Road	EMS call	06/24/12	18:40
County Line Road	Dispatched and canceled	06/24/12	19:30
Saint Andrews Cove	EMS call	06/24/12	20:39
Dominica Circle	EMS call	06/24/12	22:16
Hickory Street	Assist invalid	06/25/12	02:34

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

home for about 45 minutes June 18, a Niceville resident from the 800 block of Linden Avenue reported coming home and finding three women in her garage. The women said they were trying to put air in the tires of their bicycles, then left on the bicycles. The resident subsequently discovered a laptop computer missing from the garage.

A Niceville resident from the 300 block of Grand Oak Drive reported that sometime June 14-15 unknown person(s) stole two kayaks from a lot near the water. The kayaks, one 14 feet long, the other 13 feet long, were valued at \$1,500 each.

On June 14, a Niceville resident from the 1200 block of Willow Lane reported that unknown person(s) stole four chrome rims for 20-inch tires from the garage. The rims were valued a \$4,000.

A man reported June 17 that unknown person(s) stole his bicycle from where he had parked it at Walmart, 1300 E. John Sims Parkway.

A Niceville woman reported that she forgot her wallet and left it on the counter of the liquor store, 1300 E. John Sims Parkway June 12, but the wallet was gone when she returned. Police reviewed store surveillance video that showed another female at the counter grab the wallet and slide it underneath her checkbook as the suspect was making a purchase. The victim said the wallet contained credit cards and other ID, but no cash.

A 14-year-old Niceville boy reported that someone stole his \$300 long board while he was swimming at Turkey Creek Park. The victim said he hid his long board under the deck of the building while he and his friends went swimming.

A Niceville resident from the 4200 block of Armadillo Trail reported that unknown person(s) burglarized her unlocked vehicle sometime overnight June 14-15 and stole a \$250 pair of sunglasses.

Criminal Mischief

A man reported that his girlfriend kicked dents in his vehicle June 11 following a dispute between the Niceville couple.

Other

Taylor Ray Roberts, a convenience store clerk, 21, of 2115 Bayshore Drive, Niceville, was issued a criminal summons by sheriff's deputies June 17 on a charge of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana.

Rodolfo Prado, a landscaper, 48, of 1409 Cape Lane, Niceville, was issued a criminal summons by sheriff's deputies June 16 on a charge of petit retail theft. Prado was allegedly observed concealing two bottles of cologne, one bottle of perfume and three tank tops without paying the \$184 value of the items at Sears, 300 Mary Esther Blvd., Mary Esther.

Kelsey N. White, 19, of 4483 Woodbridge Road, Niceville, was issued a notice to appear by sheriff's deputies in Destin, June 10, for underage possession of alcoholic beverage, two cases of beer.

Brandon Edward Zembsch, 21, of 1508 27th St., Niceville, was issued a criminal summons by Niceville police June 12 on a charge of trespassing at the city's Turkey Creek Park.

The Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department lost a portable radio in the area of Perrine Park June 19. The fire chief said the radio, which had been turned on at least once Saturday, has been deactivated from the network. He requested return of the radio, "no questions asked," at city hall or the fire department.

PAL Soccer LEAGUE

Fun Recreational Soccer! Ages 5-18

Regular Registrations

Sat., June 30, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., NHS Cafeteria
 Sat., July 14, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., NHS Cafeteria
 Resident: \$60*; Non-Resident: \$70**

(*Includes \$10 user fee that goes to City of Niceville.)
 (**Includes \$10 user fee plus \$10 fee for players residing outside city limits of Niceville or Valparaiso; both fees go to City of Niceville.)

Late Registration

Sat., August 4, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. NHS Cafeteria
 \$25 extra for late registration (after July 14)

Waiting list after August 4

Copy of state-issued birth certificate required for players not registered with PAL Soccer in Fall 2011.

Age Group

Birthdates

VIP (Children w/ disabilities)	Aug 1, 93-Dec 31, 07
U6	Aug 1, 06-Sep 1, 07*
U8	Aug 1, 04-Jul 31, 06
U10	Aug 1, 02-Jul 31, 04
U12	Aug 1, 00-Jul 31, 02
U14	Aug 1, 98-Jul 31, 00
U19	Aug 1, 93-Jul 31, 98

*Contingent registration for Sep 2-Dec 31, 07. Call for details.

- U6 and VIP teams are co-ed. Separate girls' and boys' teams in U8, U10, U12, U14 and U19.
- Uniforms provided (jersey, shorts, socks for VIP & U6 through U14; shirt only for U19). Players keep uniforms.
- Accidental Medical Insurance for all players included.

COACHES NEEDED

Sign up at registration

TEAM SPONSORS NEEDED

\$200 for U6 through U14;
 \$100 for Each Subsequent Team. \$100 for U19

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

What do you think about outlawing the use of cell phones while driving?

Location:
Niceville Public Library



"I'm all for it, definitely. With Bluetooth and other hands-free methods of communication, there is no reason to have a cell phone in your hand while driving."

Tom Gray, 62, Bluewater Bay, accountant



"That's good. Phones are a major distraction while driving."

Jared Mahoney, 28, Bluewater Bay, security guard



"It's a great idea. It's dangerous—anything that takes your attention from driving is not a good thing."

Karen Valdes, 67, Niceville, part time teacher



"It's a good idea. It will save lives."

Charles Farris, 78, Niceville, retired



"You should outlaw driving and talking on a cell phone or texting, so you can stay alive and not die."

Braxton Smith, 8, Niceville, Plew Elementary School student



"Hands-free devices should be allowed, but regular cell phones should not be allowed while driving."

Don Atkins, 41, Niceville, engineer

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

COLLEGE

From page A-1

During a June 19 meeting in Niceville, the NWFSC Board of Trustees approved tuition and fee hikes they decided are needed to balance the college budget, while maintaining the quality of education provided by the college.

In other business during the meeting, the trustees approved purchase of a \$7.6 million computer-software system for the college, and agreed to borrow \$5 million to help finance it.

The board also approved a teacher-education agreement with the University of West Florida, named a new chairman and vice chairman for the board, and made other organizational changes for the college.



Ty Handy

The trustees approved a \$33,341,509 annual operating budget for the fiscal year that will begin July 1.

The general operating budget for the college's 2012-13 fiscal year is \$33,341,509, an increase of \$93,185 over the college's current fiscal year. The total college budget in all funds, including construction, student financial aid, auxiliary operations and other categories for 2012-13 is \$49,018,687—a decrease from \$66,431,676 in 2011-12.

Under the budget, NWFSC credit classes, at in-state rates, will cost \$100.12 per credit hour for associate-degree courses, and \$118.59 per credit hour for bachelor's degree courses.

During the meeting, college President Ty Handy said that NWFSC received less money than expected from the state, because legislators chose to give more money to nine other public colleges. He said NWFSC had received about \$638,000 less in state funding for the coming fiscal year than it normally would have under Florida's "traditional" funding model, since about \$36 million was allocated to nine of Florida's 28 colleges via special appropriations.

"The effect of the legislative process used this year," Handy

told the trustees, "was to subsidize one third of the colleges with state funding from the other two thirds of the colleges. As one of the colleges with the lowest tuition cost per student, we have less flexibility to absorb this impact, resulting in the need to request a modest increase in student tuition and fees."

In any case, he said, NWFSC tuition and fees will still be among the lowest in the state, and will remain the lowest among other state colleges that offer comparable educational programs. He also said that about 70 percent of NWFSC students currently receive one or more forms of financial aid, such as scholarships and veteran's assistance.

In past years NWFSC itself has benefited from some special state appropriations spearheaded by friendly legislators, particularly in the realm of construction funds.

In other business, the board of trustees approved an articulation agreement with the University of West Florida, allowing students in the NWFSC teacher education baccalaureate degree program to be eligible to receive credit for up to six credit hours as they enter the master's in education program at UWF.

NWFSC offers teacher education bachelor's degree programs in elementary education, middle grades science education and middle grades math education. Handy said the collaborative effort is an example for the state in joint partnerships and noted that the two institutions had recently received \$200,000 in state grants to develop a hospital-ity education program leading to an eventual bachelor's degree in hospitality.

The trustees also approved the purchase of a new college computer operations system—the Ellucian "Banner" product used by colleges across the nation to control finance, registration and all college operational processes. NWFSC spent 18 months researching a system and selected the Banner product at a cost of \$7.6 million. Trustees approved a financing plan at a fixed rate of 1.712 percent through SunTrust Equipment Finance & Leasing Corp. to finance \$5 million of the total cost over a seven-year period. The new system will replace a 15-year-old product that had been

developed and maintained through a consortium of state and community colleges that is no longer adequate for the needs of the college for the coming decades.

Handy told the trustees that installing and learning to operate with the new computer software "will require all hands on deck" for NWFSC faculty and staff members, as any such new system requires a learning process to operate it, and to correct any problems that appear as the new system is implemented.

Trustees also chose trustee Brian Pennington, of Shalimar, as the board's new chairman, succeeding Sandy Sims. Paul Foster, of Fort Walton Beach, was named vice chairman.



Brian Pennington

Some organizational changes to the NWFSC president's office were also approved by the trustees. The changes include naming of Cristie Kedroski, current director of college advancement and of the NWFSC Foundation, to the post of vice president for college advancement.

The trustees also approved separating the dean of students and athletic director functions, which had formerly been in a combined position held by the recently-retired Mickey Englett, into separate athletic director and dean of students posts. The college is currently conducting a job search for a new athletic director, and Christine Bishop, the current dean of enrollment services, was named to fill the dean of students post in addition to her current enrollment services role.

The annual contract for the college president was also amended to comply with new laws related to severance pay and to clarify retirement contributions. Handy will now be eligible for no more than 20 weeks of severance pay, and his retirement will be based on his total compensation rather than on his base pay only. Handy will receive a 1.5 percent salary hike this year, as will all other NWFSC faculty and staff, accord-

ing to the new budget.

Handy's annual pay will rise to \$201,985, up \$2,985.

Sims said she is pleased with Handy's performance as college president. He was hired in 2010, the college's third permanent president in its 49-year history.

"We have a bargain with Dr. Handy—his pay is near the bottom of the scale for Florida," Sims said.

Handy replied that, "This is the best job I've ever had—no doubt."

Trustees also approved a retirement resolution honoring the more than 33 years of service of Maxine Randolph, of Niceville, who served in variety of roles including most recently Student Services specialist at the college's Fort Walton Beach campus.

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- 1420 William Faulkner Drive..MLS#578129...\$589,000

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SCHOOL

From page A-2

missioners had time to consider a voluminous amount of evidence that Shermer had entered into the record. When the planning commission reconvened the quasi-judicial hearing June 19, it took just about 10 minutes to vote to recommend the PI zoning without subcategories. Shermer did not attend the second portion of the hearing.

The city commission Monday considered ordinances that would rezone the school property to PI as well as amend the city's Land Development Codes and its Future Land Use Map. No vote was taken on first reading. The city commission will vote at the second and final public hearing on the ordinances July 9 during their regular monthly meeting that starts at 6 p.m. in the city's commission chambers.

The school board—which plans to use the former elementary school as a teacher training center and middle

school for science, technology, engineering, math and medicine (STEMM)—sued the city over the PI/ES zoning which restricts the property's use to elementary schools. The school board's attorney, Jeff McInnis, has previously stated that the PI zoning with no restrictive sub-categories was an acceptable zoning district.

The school board purchased the Valparaiso property in 1957 and opened Valparaiso Elementary School there in 1958, according to school district records.

TEETH

From page A-1

Beach. PAWS sent it to a farm, where its fate is unknown.

Separately, PAWS dispatcher Tina Felde reported that on June 19 the animal-control agency was alerted to a pig running down 23rd Street, Niceville, the same street where the loose chicken call originated a week earlier. A PAWS officer corralled a 200-pound black pot-bellied hog

which the agency later learned was named Barbie.

Felde said thanks to a "fluke" telephone call, the porker was reunited with her owner a few days later.

The reunion was the product of a call by a Niceville woman living a few blocks from 23rd Street who called PAWS to report an alligator in a pond behind her house. The same caller told the PAWS dispatcher that, by the way, she had lost her pet pig.

Barbie rejoined her owner on Friday.



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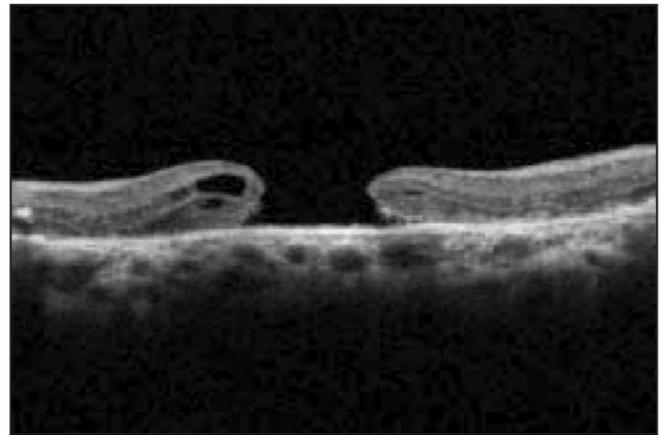
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Valp. duathlon to kick off Fourth

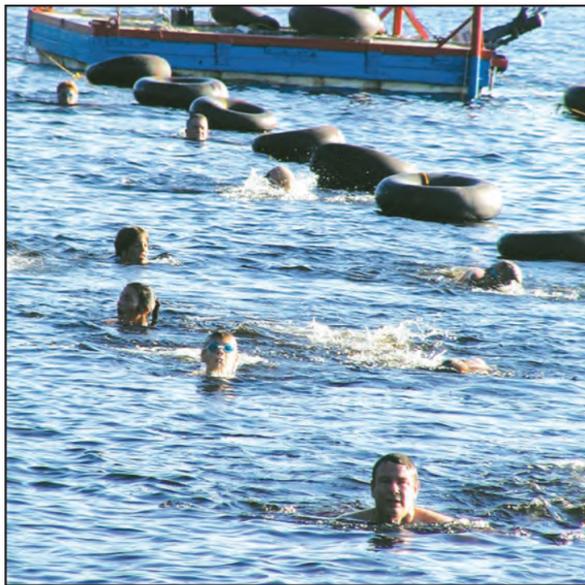
By Tess Hollis
Beacon Staff Writer

The City of Valparaiso will have something to offer the young and old alike at its annual Fourth of July festivities. The day full of patriotic fun will begin with Valparaiso's 34th Anniversary Duathlon. Activities will wind down that evening and conclude with the City of Niceville's fireworks display over Boggy Bayou.

The duathlon race is a 5-kilometer run, or 3.1 miles, followed by a 200-meter swim in Boggy Bayou. This year, a 5-kilometer walk has been added to the event. Valparaiso Community Library Director David Weatherford said he expects between 90 and 120 participants.

"This is our first year for walkers, and that could be bigger than the actual run," he said. "With the holiday being on a Wednesday you just never know how many people will show up."

Although Valparaiso Mayor Bruce Arnold will not participate in the duathlon this year, he said



File photo

Participants in a past Valparaiso Duathlon finish the swimming leg of the race. This year's 34th Anniversary Duathlon will kick off the City of Valparaiso's Fourth of July activities. Games for children, music, dancing and food will keep crowds entertained until the fireworks display by the City of Niceville at 8:30 p.m.

he will be on hand as the "race master," ensuring everything flows smoothly. Arnold, an avid runner, has participated in 32 of the 34 duathlons.

The duathlon will begin at Lincoln Park, and participants should assemble at 6:45 a.m. The race will begin at 7 a.m., with the walkers beginning their course shortly after the runners. Both runners and walkers will have overall winners, with the duathlon winners divided between first and third place in four age-group categories. All winners will receive an award and all participants will receive a T-shirt.

After the duathlon, the Fourth of July festivities will begin at Lincoln Park.

Nonie's Ark Animal Encounters will present an educational program at noon, Weatherford said, in which children can experience a "close encounter" with her animal friends, including Carmen the tarantula, Smokey the ferret, and

Please see DUATHLON, page B-3

Who's News

Marhsall Mosley, a junior at Niceville High School, will compete at the NAACP National Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) competition in Houston July 5-7. Marshall advanced to nationals after winning the Okaloosa County ACT-SO competition for the classical music category.



Marshall Mosley

He played the clarinet and was accompanied by St. Paul Lutheran Church pianist Bonita Clark. For the national competition, Marshall will play clarinet before six judges who will score him. He is a member of Niceville High School Marching Band and Wind Ensemble.

J. Parker Hathaway, a 2007 graduate of Niceville High School, graduated on May 12 from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. He received a bachelor of arts in Biblical languages.



J. Parker Hathaway

While at Moody, he served as the president of the Student Theological Society. Parker has been selected for a position at Moody Publishers in Chicago as an audience development

manager. He is the son of Camille and Jimmy Hathaway, of Niceville, and Wendy and Ron Spencer, of Tallahassee.

Andrew Ellis Watson, of Niceville, has been named to the Dean's List at Clemson University for the spring 2012 semester. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must have achieved a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.99 on a 4.0 scale. Andrew is majoring in chemistry.

Alexander Fager, a junior at Niceville High School, has been awarded one of more than 600 National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarships for 2012-13. The NSLI-Y program is funded by the U.S.

Department of State and provides merit-based scholarships for eligible high school students to learn less commonly-taught languages in summer and academic-year overseas immersion programs. Alex will study Hindi in India for six weeks this summer. He also recently earned the rank of Eagle in Boy Scouts, and is a member of Troop 157. He is on the academic team, as well as the All-County Academic team, and is a member of the NHS swim team and track and field team.



Alexander Fager

Goodwill, Valparaiso, hosted a hospitality job fair on June 15, where Hospitality Solutions was looking to fill open positions on the spot. There were more than 35 positions avail-

Please see WHO'S, page B-3

Niceville grad leaves sea for air

By Kenneth Books
Beacon Staff Writer

Tom Brittingham got his feet wet with the Coast Guard. Now he's aiming for a headier atmosphere with the Air Force.

The 2002 Niceville High School graduate earned his bachelor's degree from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 2006, New London, Conn., and set out to serve his required service period, during which he commanded the U.S. Coast Guard ship Haddock as a lieutenant (O-3). But his ambition had wings.

With five months remaining in his obligated five-year Coast Guard service, he was permitted to transfer to the Air Force, there to learn how to fly.

"I put in for flight training

in the Air Force and got selected, Brittingham said.

"Rules were that an officer couldn't enter flight school if he had been commissioned for more than five years and I wrote a memo with all the information and references. It went up to the personnel folks at Coast Guard Command and they approved it."

Was he surprised? You bet. "That's something that doesn't happen too often," he said.



Tom Brittingham

Brittingham is the son of Tom and Melanie Brittingham of Valparaiso. The senior Brittingham is a retired Coast Guard chief warrant officer.

Despite his service with the Coast Guard, young Brittingham always felt drawn more to the sky than to the sea. "I wanted to do it ever since I was in high school," he said, "but when I graduated high school, I had 20/400 vision. I got appointed to the Air Force Academy, but not for flight training."

A person with 20/400 vision will see an object 20 feet away only as clearly as a person with normal vision will see the object at 400 feet.

In college, he got a chance to spend a semester at the Air

Force Academy in an exchange program between the schools. There, he earned his jump wings ("I was absolutely scared out of my mind," he said) and got training as a glider pilot. That only served to whet his interest in flying.

Soon, eye surgery became available. After Brittingham graduated from the Coast Guard Academy, he had a civilian doctor perform the procedure.

The doctors performed Photorefractive Keratectomy

Please see GRAD, page B-3

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for K-4, and 2:30-3:30 p.m. for grades 5-6. Info: 368-2769.

Pre-K tap dance

A Pre-K introduction to tap dance, rhythm and movement for younger children is being taught at the YMCA, Niceville, Palm Plaza. Classes are taught by Ms. McGinnis on Monday and Wednesday, from 3-3:30 p.m. Info: 368-2769.

Summer story time

Summer story time will run through July 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.

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

Nicotine Anonymous

If you desire to stop using nicotine, or stay stopped, join Nicotine Anonymous on Thursdays at 7 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 1800 John Sims Parkway. Info: 897-4721.

Yoshukai Karate class

The YMCA, Niceville, Palm Plaza, is offering Yoshukai Karate classes, which encompasses traditional weapons, self-defense, forms and Japanese Kumite. Class times are Monday/Wednesday, 7-8 p.m.; Tuesday/Thursday, 6-8 p.m. Classes are taught by McGinnis Sensei and Master Macon. Ages 8-adult, though younger children will be assessed. Info: 368-2769.



Martial arts

The YMCA, Niceville, Palm Plaza, is offering traditional martial arts for younger children. The purpose is to teach focus, kinesthetic awareness, self-defense and athletic conditioning. Classes are taught by McGinnis Sensei. Class times are Tuesday/Thursday, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

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Courtesy photo

First Baptist Men's Choir to perform

The 70 voice Men's Choir of First Baptist Church of Niceville will present "Stand Tall—A Call to Christian Commitment" on Sunday, July 1, at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The concert is free, and the public is invited. First Baptist Church is located at 622 Bayshore Drive, Niceville. Info: 678-4621.

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, through June 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, through June 29, breakfast from 7-8 a.m., lunch from 11 a.m.-noon.

Patriotic essay contest

The Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce's Multi-Cultural Committee is holding a patriotic essay contest. Students enrolled in Okaloosa County School District schools, including public, private, charter, parochial schools, as well as home-schooled students residing in Okaloosa County are eligible to participate. The theme is "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." Prizes will be awarded for 6-8 grades (350-400 words) and 9-12 grades (450-500 words). All entries must be submitted to the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce by July 1. The selection committee will convene on July 1, and the winners will be notified via phone on July 4. Info: fwbchamber.org.

CHELCO photo contest

CHELCO is holding its first-ever photo contest. The categories include nature, architecture, landscape and human interest. Black and white, or color photos will be accepted, and photos may be submitted as prints or as email attachments. More than one photo may be submitted. Each category will be awarded first, second and third place. The first place winner will receive a \$25 power bill credit, second place will receive a \$15 credit and third place will receive a \$10 credit. The deadline is July 6. Photos may be submitted to communications@chelco.com, or mailed to CHELCO Photo Contest, P.O. Box 512, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435. Include: name, address and phone number on each entry, and give each photo an identifying name. Info: communications@chelco.com, or 892-2111, or 800-342-0990.

First Baptist VBS

Registration is ongoing for First Baptist Church of Niceville vacation Bible school July 9-13, from 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. The theme this year is "Amazing Wonders." Ages 4-completed 5th grade. There will be worship, music, recreation, snacks and crafts. Info: fbcniceville.org/vbs, or 678-4621.

'Night at the Museum'

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida is accepting reservations for "Night at the Museum," a guided tour with food and wine tasting. The tour will be July 14, at 7 p.m., at the Museum, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso. All proceeds will benefit the collection and exhibits of the Heritage Museum. Cost: \$30, or \$25 for Museum Members. Group packages are also available: 6 for \$168; 8 for \$216; and 10 for \$260. Info and reservations: 678-2615, or heritage-museum.org.

Summer recreation

Registration is ongoing for summer recreation for kids entering grades 1-5 at Niceville United Methodist Church. The summer recreation program will end Aug. 2. Info: nicevilleumc.org/recreation, or 678-4411, ext. 145.

Heritage Museum camp

Registration is ongoing for the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida's "Raiders of the Lost Artifact" summer history camp, Aug. 6-10, from 9 a.m.-noon. Cost: \$60 per Raider for the week, or \$50 per Raider for Museum Family Members. Raiders can also participate for \$15 per day, or \$12 for Museum Family Members. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Info: 678-2615.

Art display

Eighteen members of the Local Color Artists Club are displaying their work at the Niceville Public Library through Aug. 26. Art work includes oils, pastels, water colors, acrylics, photography, wood-turned, porcelain and jewelry.

Book discussion

Friends of the Niceville Library will host a book discussion for adults on June 27, at 10 a.m., at the Niceville Library. "Night Strangers" by Chris Bohjalian will be discussed. Limited supplies of books are available through the Okaloosa Library system, readokaloosa.org. Call the Niceville Library at 279-4863, ext. 1504, to reserve a seat.

Senior activities

The Walton-Okaloosa County Council on Aging will offer the following for people 60 and older at Seminole Community Center, Cedar Street, 833-9291: June 28, bingo, 10 a.m.; July 3, bingo, 10 a.m. The following activities will be offered at the Valparaiso Community Center, 268 Glenview Ave., 833-9291: June 27, bingo, 9:30 a.m.; June 28, Wii bowling, 9:30 a.m.; June 29, bingo, 9:30 a.m.; July 1, dominoes and socializing, 9:30 a.m.; July 3, bingo, 9:30 a.m.

Alzheimer's support group

Alzheimer's Family Services will provide a support group on June 27, at 10:30 a.m., at First United Methodist Church, Chandler Center, 214 S. Partin Drive, Niceville. The support group is free and respite care is available. Info and registration: 478-7790, or AlzFamServ.org.

Softball camp

Northwest Florida State College will hold a fast-pitch softball camp on the Niceville campus June 27-30 for girls ages 7-14, from 8 a.m.-noon. Cost: \$75. Info: 729-5397.

Boating safety class

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Destin, will host a boating safety class at USCG Station on 2000 Miracle Strip Parkway, Destin. The class will be June 30, with registration at 8:15 a.m. The class will run from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required by June 27. Cost: \$35, which includes the course, exam, FWC Safe Boating ID card, lunch, line handling and knots demo

and tour of the station. Topics will include introduction to boating, different uses of boats and family boating basics. Info: 623-980-8782, or ryanjohnj@hotmail.com.

Teen Movie Day

The Valparaiso Community Library would like to invite teens and their families to Teen Movie Day on June 27, at 3:30 p.m. The Library will show "Wrath of the Titans," and will serve snacks and drinks. The film is rated PG-13.

Tackle football

Destin Youth Tackle Football will have registration until July 31. Register at cityofdestin.com, or in person at the Morgan Sports Center, or the Destin Community Center Monday-Thursday, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost: \$67 for Destin residents, \$77 for non-Destin residents. The tackle football program is for youth ages 5-12, as of July 31, 2012. A birth certificate is required for all participants. A mandatory meeting for persons interested in coaching will be June 28, at 6 p.m., at Morgan Sports Center's Office. Info: 650-1241, or recreation@cityofdestin.com.

Embroiderers' Guild

The Sand Dunes Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America will meet for a summer stitch-in June 28, from 6-9 p.m., at Niceville United Methodist Church, room 703. Visitors are welcome. Info: 496-3466.

Meet-and-Greet

Tom Murphy, candidate for First District Circuit Judge, will hold a meet-and-greet on June 29, from 4-7 p.m., at the Northwest Florida Fairgrounds on Lewis Turner Boulevard, Fort Walton Beach. There will be a cookout, as well as time to meet with the citizens of Okaloosa County. The event is free and open to the public.

Paddle trip

Join the Adventure Club on June 30, at 10 a.m., for a kayak/canoe trip on the upper, narrower section of Blackwater River. The group will paddle from Kennedy Bridge to Peaden Bridge. You must have your own kayak or canoe. Meet at the small park on State Road 4, west of Baker. Bring a picnic lunch and plenty of drinking water. Contact Bruce and Pat, 301-9452, if you plan to participate.

Marine life presentation

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center will present Mike Kay with Marine Touch Tanks on June 30, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Mike Kay is a saltwater fish expert and will present on the importance of aquaculture and its influence on the conservation of coral reefs. Standard admission rates apply. The Biophilia Center is located at 4956 State Highway 20 East, Freeport. Info: eowilsoncenter.org, or 835-1824.

Recreation soccer sign up

Sign up for recreation soccer will be June 30, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Niceville High School cafeteria. The league is for players 5-18, with separate girls' teams for U8 to U19. Cost: \$60 for residents, \$70 for non-resi-

dents. Uniforms and accidental medical insurance included. Coaches needed. Clinics and access to online soccer training programs will be provided. Info: Howard Hill, 678-2182, or nicevillepalsoccer.org.

Red, White & Blue races

The American Red Cross will host its annual Red, White & Blue 5K and paddle board race on June 30, in Fort Walton Beach. This year participants can take part in both races, and walkers are welcome. There will also be a children's half-mile fun run that does not require registration. Registration is ongoing and will continue until 7 a.m. the day of the race. Cost: \$25 for one race, \$30 on race day. It is an additional \$10 to participate in both races. Proceeds will benefit the American Red Cross of Northwest Florida. Info: yourredcross.org.



Trail hike on Eglin

Join the Florida Trail Association on June 30, at 9 a.m., for a short hike on Eglin near Crestview to view old Longleaf pines with cat faces. Lunch will follow. Eglin recreation permit required. Info: 492-8258, or choctaw.floridatrail.org.

State Marine Camp

Registration is ongoing until June 30 for the State Marine Camp at Camp Timpoochee, Niceville. The camp will be July 30-Aug. 3, for children ages 8-13. This camp will allow children to gain first-hand experience with Florida's marine environment from above and below the waterline. Cost: \$220/week for 4-H members, \$230/week for non-4-H members. Info: florida4h.org/camps, or 897-2224.

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. Visit paws-shelter.com to see these animals and for adoption information.

Family Story Time

The Niceville Public Library will present Family Story Time on June 30, at 10:30 a.m. The library will read "To the Moon." Info: cityofniceville.org/library.html.

Wildlife presentation

Henderson Beach State Park, Destin, will host a wildlife presentation on June 30, from 11-11:30 a.m. The Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge will present their rehabilitated wildlife. Event is free to the public with paid park entrance fee. Weather permitting. Info: 837-7550.

High School Success

This camp is for underclassmen in grades 9-11. Students will work on their high school resumes, college searches, upcoming testing and prep for those tests. The camp will be July 9-13, Monday-Friday, from 12:30-4 p.m. Register and pay by 4 p.m. on July 2 to avoid a \$10 late fee. Info: Rocky Bayou Summer Program Office, 729-7227, ext. 273.

Cheerleading camp

There will be a cheerleading camp in the Rocky Bayou Christian School gym July 9-13, Monday-Friday, from 8-11:30 a.m. Grades K5-6. Cost: \$60. Register by 4 p.m. on July 2 to avoid a \$10 late fee. Info: Rocky Bayou Summer Program Office, 729-7227, ext. 273.

Soccer camp

A soccer camp will be held on the Rocky Bayou Christian School field July 9-12, Monday-Thursday, 2-4 p.m. Boys/girls grades 3-8. Cost: \$80. Register and pay by 4 p.m. on July 2 to avoid a \$10 late fee. Info: Rocky Bayou Summer Program Office, 729-7227, ext. 273.

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Courtesy photo

Golfing for Fisher House

Bob Blake, Air Force Academy Association of Graduates, presented a check to Kim Henderson, executive director of Fisher House of the Emerald Coast, from a recent golf tournament that raised money for the organization. The Fisher House provides a home, free of charge, for military families when a member of their family is undergoing medical treatment at a local facility.

DUATHLON

From page B-1

Selena the red rat snake. Following Nonie's Ark, the children's games will begin at 1 p.m. "We're going to have all kinds of games and the kids can win cash this year," Weatherford said. "First place winners receive \$3, while second place receives \$2, and third place receives \$1. It gets them really involved in the games." This year's games will include, but are not limited to, tug-of-war, a hula hoop contest, sack races, a watermelon eating contest, a watermelon seed spitting contest and a splash-a-thon in Boggy Bayou. Games will be open to kids ages 5 to 12. For smaller children, a miniature train ride around Lincoln Park and a bounce house will also be available. After the children's events wrap up, activities for adults will begin at 4 p.m., as D.J. Glen from Life Tunes provides a variety of music for everyone. He will include line-dancing and karaoke in his set. Also at 4 p.m., Weatherford said, a city-sponsored food booth will open with snacks and drinks. The booth will stay open until the fireworks display at 8:30 p.m. Spectators can enjoy the display at Lincoln Park, which will be launched over Boggy Bayou from North Light Marina. Weatherford encourages spectators to bring blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy the music and fireworks. He said the public is also welcome to bring coolers and food, however there will be no power outlets or water hoses available, as there have been in year's past. All activities are free, save the duathlon and food. The cost for the duathlon is \$20, and will increase to \$25 after today. To register, visit the Valparaiso Community Library or Valparaiso City Hall to obtain an application. Applications are also available on the city's website, valp.org.

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Niceville Masons give back

Oscar Ferrell, Senior Warden of Okaloosa Lodge No. 312, Niceville, presented a \$200 check to Delle Diamon, president of Sharing & Caring, Niceville.

GRAD

From page B-1

(PRK) and Brittingham's vision improved radically. That paved the way for him to get his pilot's license while he was stationed in San Diego. He slipped into the Air Force as a captain, equivalent to a Coast Guard lieutenant, a rank he achieved Nov. 16, 2010. "They let me keep the rank, so that was nice," Brittingham said. In March, the Air Force sent Brittingham to Shepherd Air Force Base, Texas, to learn how to fly jets. There, he learned that his instructor was Chris Miller, a fellow NHS graduate, class of 2001. "It's definitely a challenge," Brittingham said, "but it's fun at the same time. Nothing

worthwhile is ever easy." The course will last until about May 2013. Afterward, Brittingham may be sent for further training to Shepherd or another base. It's the challenge, not a daredevil spirit that excites Brittingham. He says he's not a risk-taker. "I don't think so," he said. "I would never run a motorcycle on the highway. I think (flight school) is probably one of the biggest mental and physical challenges. You have to push yourself. That's appealing. I've always been interested in engineering." Meanwhile, he's keeping his options open. "It's a long way off and I'd be happy just to be a pilot," Brittingham said, "but if I had the chance to go to test pilot school or NASA, that's something I'd be interested in."

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Blood Drives



The following are blood drives sponsored by Northwest Florida Blood Services.

- July 10** -Northwest Florida State College, Niceville, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free movie ticket for all donors.
- July 11** -Northwest Florida State College, Niceville, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free movie ticket for all donors.
- July 16** -Eglin Freeman Lab, 201 W. Eglin Blvd. Building 280, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. -Hurlburt 1st Special Ops CE, 415 Independence Road, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- July 18** -Hurlburt TACP, 413 Cody Ave., 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
- July 19** -Duke Field, bus will be by the shoppette, 1-5 p.m. -Eglin AFRL, 101 W. Eglin Blvd., 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- July 25** -Eglin Naval EOD School, 100 McCarthy Ave. Building 845, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- July 26** -Eglin 780th Test Squadron/SEEK Eagle Office, 205 W. D Ave. Building 350, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



Courtesy photo

Students receive health care scholarships

Twin Cities Hospital Auxiliary presented \$15,000 in scholarships for students in the health care field. A reception was held in the Hospital Wellness Center on May 15. Front row, from left: Taylor Stein, Matthew Newton and John Aldridge. Second row: Sasha Makarova, Emma Francone, Jillian Roy, Correen Smith, Kaili Johnson, Jordan Jensen, Amber Crouch.

Engagements

Durrenberger-McCann
Mr. And Mrs. Tom Durrenberger, of Niceville, announce the engagement of their daughter, Ann Renae, to

Seth James McCann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Shawn McCann, of Milton. Ann and Seth will both graduate from the University of Florida in May 2013. Ann will graduate with a degree in industrial engineering, and Seth will graduate with an aeronautical and mechanical engineering degree. The couple will tie the knot May 2013.



Ann Durrenberger and Seth McCann

In the Service

Navy Seaman Apprentice **David C. Batchelor**, a 2008

graduate of Niceville High School, was recently promoted to his current rank upon graduation from recruit training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Batchelor received early promotion for outstanding perform-

ance during all phases of the training cycle. Training included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, fire fighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

work force. Eighty people attended the fair and 50 were accepted and sent to an interview. **Will Davis**, of Niceville, was selected to serve as a Huntingdon College Orientation Leader this summer. To prepare for this role,

Will participated in more than a week of planning and training. Orientation Leaders welcome members of the Class of 2016 and their families to campus during Summer Orientation sessions. Will is majoring in biochemistry at the Montgomery, Ala., college.

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BEACONSPORTS



Rocky strength coach sees solid athletic future



By Kenneth Books
Beacon Staff Writer

Steve Mandreger doesn't mince words.

"I expect perfection," he said. Mandreger is the new strength coach at Rocky Bayou Christian School.

"I believe the Lord brought me here for a reason," said Mandreger, who sprinkles his conversation with Christian references.

On a recent Thursday afternoon, Mandreger was putting a handful of female athletes, some as young as seventh grade, through their paces, supervising exercises that got the heart pumping and improved the fitness of the students' legs and hearts.

The girls' dedication to improving their strength was evident from gritted teeth, knitted brows and a determination to excel.

"This is a really good learning technique," said sophomore Hannah Stoner. "I'm learning a lot about Christ as well as getting stronger."

Mandreger, who will be 64 in August, has worked on strength training with Notre Dame, Purdue and Eastern Michigan universities, the National Football League and several other high-profile organizations. He previously worked with Niceville High School students as a consultant for the football team, but decided that school, with its history of solid and talented athletic teams, didn't need him.

"I needed a place I could call home again," he said.

His pastor, the Rev. T.J. Kollar, called Robert Grete at Rocky Bayou, who, in turn, suggested to Athletic Director Lisa Eaves that she talk to him.

To prove his mettle, Mandreger worked as the school strength coach for four months as a volunteer. The athletic program, he said, took off during that time.

"I fell in love with the kids and the kids fell in love with me," he said. "When you love people unconditionally, that's when people get involved." In May, he was

hired as a full-time strength coach.

But Mandreger doesn't confine his duties to simply working toward strengthening the students' bodies. He also takes pains to strengthen their spirituality.

"I've learned a lot about the Christian life and good morals," said seventh-grader Kaylee Orr, a volleyball and softball player. "I'm getting physically stronger and stronger in my faith."

In addition to coaching the students on how to build up their bodies, Mandreger wants to set up a National Rifle Association unit and a hunting safety program on the Rocky Bayou campus.

"I believe in our Second Amendment," he said. "I'm going to teach these kids to stand on their own two feet and don't let anyone take from them the gift that others provided."

Mandreger has tremendous confidence in Rocky Bayou's student-athletes.

"I believe, No. 1, we're going to win games," he said of the

school football team, which has struggled since its inception in 2008, compiling an overall record of 6-34, including a 1-9 record last season. But this year, Mandreger said, will be different.

"We have the kids, the coaches and the spirit to make the playoffs," he said, boldly.

Mandreger said it's critical that Rocky Bayou perform on the field in order to attract athletic students.

"We have to do it better than the next guy because we have an academic program that's off the charts," he said.

Getting stronger, winning games and understanding that you're as solid an athlete as your opponent are all important to a successful athletic program. Mandreger sees the students becoming more confident.

"I love teaching," he said. "I'm passionate about what I do and wanting to help the kids do things the right way. It's not about the accolades. My greatest focus is to put Christ first and to serve these kids."

Beacon photo by Kenneth Books
Rocky Bayou Christian School seventh-grader Kaylee Orr performs a squat in the Rocky Bayou weight room as freshman Samantha Holcomb spots her and school strength coach Steve Mandreger calls out encouragement.



Team Black takes NVLL crown

Niceville-Valparaiso Little League's 7-9 year-old all-star machine pitch softball team, Team Black, beat Destin, 9-0, to claim the district title. From left, back, coach Linda Griffith, Mady Chavez, Savannah Willingham, coach Kathleen Davis, Riley Gibson, Amara Shorts, coach Becca Childress, Heather Adams, Caitlyn Stringfellow, Melania Bryant and manager Sherri Cadenhead; front row, Emma Langston, Kelby Barfield, Chloe Christianson, Michaela Brocato and Emily Cary.



9U Travel Eagles win tournament

The 9U Travel Eagles won the Nations Baseball's 2012 Wave Memorial Day Classic at Shoreline Park in Gulf Breeze, beating the New Orleans Monarchs in the championship game. From left: front, Dominic Mahoney, Derek Matthews, Brenly Laird, Brady Koger and Jacob Topel; center, Jack Mills, Care Johnston, Zane Steele, Nathan Tiller, Kayden Geisler and Luke Loftis; rear, coach Eric Topel, manager Greg Dunning and coach Jim Loftis.

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USO celebrates 2 years at VPS

Special to the Beacon

The USO Freedom Lounge, located at the Northwest Florida Regional Airport, Eglin Air Force Base, will celebrate its second anniversary on June 29. The Freedom Lounge opened its doors on June 29, 2010, to serve military personnel by recreating the comforts of home.

The USO Freedom Lounge has served more than 55,000 guests in the past two years. The USO staff and volunteers have also joined in homecomings, provided a comfortable place for retired military, and even assisted families of the fallen to ease their travels. "Our accomplishments are nowhere near possible without the tremendous support we

receive from the Northwest Florida Regional Airport," Freeman said. The 100 volunteers at the center are the most important part of the operation, Freeman said. "They have high expectations in providing assistance and great customer service to anyone who comes through our door," she said. "They never

fail to exceed and they are the heart of our home away from home." The Freedom Lounge is open seven days a week. Anyone holding a Department of Defense military ID. (active duty, retired, dependent, reserve) is welcome to use the facility. For more information, visit the USO website at uso.org.

Anniversary

Poore

Tom and Mayette Poore, of Niceville, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on March 25. The couple celebrated their silver anniversary by renewing their vows in front of 200 close friends and family members at Holy Name of Jesus Christ Catholic Church in Niceville.



Tom and Mayette Poore

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Community Band supports Hospice

The Emerald Coast Community Band recently contributed \$1,476 to Covenant Hospice. The proceeds were from the Band's "Evening in the Wild West" concert on May 18. The Emerald Coast Community Band is a group of musicians who represent Niceville, Crestview, Fort Walton Beach and the surrounding areas. There are 50 members. Band Director Nancy Thiele, left, presented the check to Jenni Perkins, development manager for Covenant Hospice.

Courtesy photo

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Niceville students get to work in NOLA

Thirty-eight Niceville High School students and seven chaperones traveled to New Orleans on May 19, to help build a Habitat for Humanity home. All of the exterior walls and some of the interior walls of the home on their work site were completed. All of the hurricane straps were attached and two-thirds of the walls for a home down the street were constructed by the group. The volunteer efforts by the students were part of an ongoing construction project.

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