

The Bay Beacon

12 Pages, 2 Sections, 3 Inserts

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

50¢

**UP
COMING**

Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Join **Friends of the Niceville Library** for a discussion on "**Olive Kitteridge**" by Elizabeth Strout.



Limited supplies of the books are available through the Okaloosa Library system, readokaloosa.org. Info: 279-4863, ext. 1504.

Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

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

Wednesday, 3:30-5 p.m.



The **Valparaiso Community Library** would like to invite children and teens to a **Nintendo Wii party**. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Thursday, 6-9 p.m.

The Sand Dunes Chapter of the **Embroiderer's Guild of America** will meet for their next **stitch-in** at Niceville

United Methodist Church, Room 400. Visitors are welcome. Info: 496-3466.

Calendar, B-3

Retiring base commander finds Niceville ideal

By **Kenneth Books**
Beacon Staff Writer

When Col. Sal Nodjomian, who served as the final commander of the 96th Air Base Wing at Eglin before it became the 96th Test Wing, retires Friday, he won't have to go far to go home.

"When we first got here two years ago, we were absolutely enamored of the area," Nodjomian said. "I

love the area—the people, the atmosphere, the proximity of the water, the pace."

So the Baltimore native decided to stay, purchasing a home in the Swift Creek Preserve in Niceville and a condominium in Destin.

One of the aspects of Emerald Coast living that impressed Nodjomian was the educational quality in Niceville High School,



Col. Sal Nodjomian

where his sons, Adam, a senior, and Jason, a freshman, have established their presence.

"I discovered the best academic experience you could ask for," Nodjomian said of the school. He said his older son is the captain of the cross-country team, runs track and holds an elective office in the school. His younger brother is prepared to follow in his footsteps.

But most of all, Nodjomian, the son of immigrant parents, his father from Iran and his mother from Cyprus, said he fell in love with the people of the Twin Cities.

"You can't walk into Walmart or Chick-fil-A without seeing someone you know," he said. "It's a great feeling."

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

Overcoming obstacles



Lt. James Gatchell, of the Florida Army National Guard, helps youngsters conquer a fear of heights. The kids, many of them children of deployed military members, attended Operation Military Kid, a weeklong camp at Camp Timpoochee last week. Story, page B-1.

Beacon photo by Kenneth Books

Boudreaux takes office in Niceville

Wins council seat in 3-way race

By **Del Lessard**
Beacon Staff Writer

Judy Boudreaux took office as a Niceville City Council member last week after winning a three-way special election that attracted only one voter out of every 16.

Boudreaux returned to the council a year after being defeated in a re-election bid.

"My main focus will be on safety," Boudreaux said, citing

the need to preserve safety on the city's streets, in its neighborhoods and in municipal services such as the water supply.

"I'll be working with the city staff to maintain its excellent services to the people," she said. Preserving Niceville's quality of life—which she described as "premier"—is a priority, she said.

Boudreaux said she hoped to respond to people's concerns—such as addressing complaints that too-short timing of some stoplights on John Sims Parkway made it hard for drivers to get onto the thoroughfare from side



Judy Boudreaux

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

Five nabbed as cocaine dealers in Valparaiso

By **Del Lessard**
Beacon Staff Writer

Five people were charged with selling cocaine at a Valparaiso motel July 13 in a sheriff's undercover "sting" operation.

According to Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office reports, arrested by deputies July 13 were:

—Deshaun Roosevelt Frazier, an auto detailer, 26, of 656 McClelland, Crestview, charged with sale of cocaine, trafficking between 28 grams and 150 kilograms of cocaine

Authorities seize postal drug shipment, A-4.

and possession of drug paraphernalia.

—Roderick Derill McKinnon, unemployed, 19, of 934 Emily Circle, Fort Walton Beach, charged with sale of cocaine, possession of controlled substance without a prescription and driving while license suspended.

—Rasheem Shadee Posey, a house cleaner, 33, of 4075

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

Okaloosa County eyes \$257 million in spending

By **Mike Griffith**
Beacon Correspondent

The Okaloosa County Commission discussed a proposed budget of \$257,175,311 for fiscal year 2012-13 during the first of several budget reviews slated to take place between now and the start of the coming budget year that will begin Oct. 1. The proposed FY 2013 bud-

et, discussed at a commission meeting Thursday in Crestview, is about 1.7 percent lower than the current, FY 2012 budget of \$261,624,931.

The proposed budget also calls for county property tax millage rate to remain at the current level of 3.2899. This means that Okaloosa property owners pay just under \$3.29 in property tax

for every \$1,000 of appraised taxable value, after homestead exemptions and other discounts. For example, the owner of a home appraised at \$200,000 taxable value would pay \$657.98 in county property tax, in addition to other property taxes for the Okaloosa School District, local fire districts and other property taxing entities.

The county millage rate has remained steady since 2010, after declining for several years from a peak of 5.5 in 1993-94. Property tax revenue has declined steadily since 2007, the last year before the national recession started the continuing decline in property values.

According to a graph presented by County Administrator Jim

Curry and Finance Director Gary Stanford, Okaloosa County has the lowest property tax millage among 12 adjoining or similarly-sized counties in Florida.

The reason for the lower budget this year, they told the commission, is the lower amount of revenue available to the county government during a declining economy. Since the national

recession began in 2008, property values have declined every year.

Thus, said Stanford, the "rollback" millage rate—at which the same property tax revenue would be obtained in FY 2013 as in FY 2012, is 3.3826.

In addition to regular property tax, Okaloosa County also

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

Schools chief candidates face off in forum

By **Mike Griffith**
Beacon Correspondent

Challenger Mary Beth Jackson came out ahead of incumbent Okaloosa County Schools Superintendent Alexis Tibbetts in a straw poll that followed a candidates' forum at Niceville City Hall Monday.



Alexis Tibbetts

During the forum between the two schools superintendent candidates, each took turns answering

questions from Tea Party Leader Dave Scholl and from The Bay Beacon.

The first question asked candidates about their general qualifications and reasons for running for office. Tibbetts cited her experience as a school teacher and principal, and as schools superintendent. During her tenure in office, she said, she has balanced the school district budget, demon-



Mary Beth Jackson

strated her leadership abilities, and "made tough decisions" such as when and where to close schools, cut costs, and withhold longevity or "step" pay increases from Okaloosa teachers.

Jackson said she has also been a teacher and school administrator in the Okaloosa district, and in addition, has 10 years experience in private sector business.

"I am not a spin doctor," she told the audience of about 40 Tea Party members and visitors. "I am an ethical person," she said, "and I won't present a new half-cent sales tax" for approval by the school board.

Please see **FACE OFF**, page A-2



The two candidates for Okaloosa County Superintendent of Schools answered questions during a Tea Party forum in Niceville Monday.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith



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BOUDREAUX

From page A-1

streets. And she vowed to work to keep taxes low.

Mayor Randall Wise administered the oath of office to Boudreaux minutes after the canvassing committee had tabulated the results after the polls closed at 7 p.m. election night, July 17.

The special election was called to fill a vacancy on the five-member council created when Councilman William Thomas abruptly resigned May 8. Boudreaux will serve out the remainder of Thomas' second term, which ends July 2015.

Boudreaux won 309 of the 591 ballots cast, giving her 52.3 percent of the total cast. That was enough to win office outright and avoid a runoff election with her closest runner-up, Barry Reed.

Reed won a total of 179 votes, 30.3 percent of the total, while Robert Edwards received 103 votes, or 17.4 percent of the total cast.

City Clerk Dan Doucet said there were a total of 9,567 registered voters eligible to vote in the election. Turnout was only 6.2 percent. A total of 40 votes were by absentee ballots with 551 voters casting ballots at the city's council chambers.

Boudreaux, 69, a Niceville business owner, previously served on the Niceville City Council from 1994 until July 2011, when she lost her seat to challenger Heath Rominger, whose term will expire in 2015.

Niceville council members are elected at-large in nonpartisan elections and serve without pay.

Edwards congratulated Boudreaux after the results were announced. He said he plans to run for city council in the next special election to serve out the term of councilman Bill Smith who was forced to resign in order to run for a seat on the county commission. That election is expected in January.

This was the first time that Niceville election officials used



Beacon photo by Del Lessard
Niceville Mayor Randall Wise administers oath of office to Judy Boudreaux July 17 at City Hall. She defeated two opponents to win a special election for city council.

optical scan voting machines to tabulate the ballots. In past elections, Niceville voters put an X on paper ballots and the ballots, were then manually counted.

Niceville is the only city in Okaloosa County that conducts its own elections. Those of the other eight cities, as well as all local spe-

cial districts, are conducted by the county elections supervisor.

Eighteen of the 40 Niceville absentee ballots were too wide to be read by the scanning machine. Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections Paul Lux said the city used a printer with no previous ballot printing experience and the absentee ballots were printed on slightly thicker paper and cut slightly wider, but within specifications. He said the humidity probably caused the ballots to swell just enough to not fit the optical scanning machine.

Lux said the county ran into similar problems when it first introduced optically scannable ballots several years ago.

The Niceville canvassing committee—made up of the mayor and three city council members—tabulated the 18 unscannable absentee ballots and made duplicate ballots that were then scanned. The canvassing committee could have also chosen to manually count the problem ballots, Lux said.

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FACE OFF

From page A-1

Jackson said local teachers and principals have told her they are discouraged by the current administration, and that she is running to "offer hope" to teachers and others.

Tibbetts responded by saying that the proposal for a half-cent sales tax originally came from local parents and voters, and that at their request she presented it to the school board to be put before voters in a referendum.

Asked about the proper role of government in education, both candidates said they favor keeping most control of schools at the local school district level, but agreed that when local school districts seek state and federal grants and other financial aid, such help always comes with strings attached, in the form of

compliance with state and federal regulations and programs.

Tibbetts said she has done her best to represent the interests of the Okaloosa School District in Tallahassee and in Washington, D.C., and that when dealing with other levels of government, relationship-building with key officials is essential.

Jackson, however, criticized Tibbetts' efforts to influence state and federal officials. If elected, she said, "I'll be here in Okaloosa County, not in Washington or Tallahassee. I won't use this office as a building block for myself."

Tibbetts responded that she only made one trip per year to Washington and one per semester to Tallahassee, to look after the Okaloosa district's interests.

Asked their opinions of school vouchers and other school choice programs, both candidates offered qualified support for such programs.

"I absolutely support parental choice," said Jackson. If public schools are doing a good job, she said, they need not fear competition from private or charter schools.

Tibbetts said, "I support

school choice," citing local public school zoning waivers as an example. However, she added, the school district cannot afford to provide bus transportation for students who attend private schools, so parents who choose such options must arrange their own transportation.

Both candidates also said they support later start times for high school students, at least in principle. Tibbetts, however, said the extra costs of transportation do not allow such a program to start at present, and other problems, such as the need for some high school students to get home early to babysit younger siblings, make it hard to adopt later high school start times.

Jackson was more enthusiastic about later start times, saying she supports starting a pilot program at once, using new software to adjust bus schedules as necessary, and then expand the program if the pilot program succeeds.

The candidates somewhat differed over how to provide Science, Technology, Mathematics and Medical (STEMM) education. Tibbetts cited recent plans to open a spe-

cial STEMM teacher training center and STEMM academy for between 80 and 90 selected middle school students at the former Valparaiso Elementary School. That program, done in partnership with the Air Force Research Lab and other organizations, she said, will help the school district's "best and brightest" students "to get hooked on science" early in their academic careers.

Jackson, however, favored a more egalitarian approach. "STEMM education should be provided in every school for every child," she said, and criticized Tibbetts for first closing Valparaiso Elementary because it couldn't operate in the black with 400 students, then reopening it for 90 middle schoolers and a teacher training program.

Following the forum, Scholl conducted a secret-ballot straw poll among audience members. It produced 19 votes for Jackson and 11 for Tibbetts.

Both candidates are Republicans. However, because no one else is running, the race will be decided in the Aug. 14 primary election, when all registered voters, regardless of affiliation, may cast ballots.



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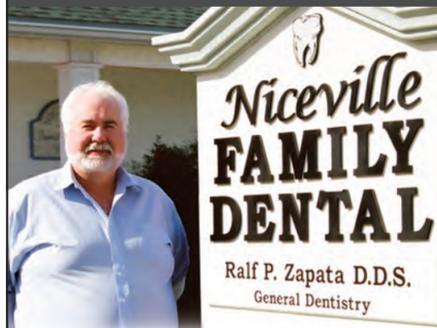


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Record Saturdays for bridge

Tourism picks up

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

On two successive Saturdays—on either side of this year's Independence Day holiday—record numbers of vehicles crossed the Mid-Bay Bridge, suggesting that the area's tourism industry is recovering after the economic slowdown and BP oil spill two years ago.

On June 30, a total of 30,414 vehicles traveled the 19-year-old toll bridge between Niceville and Destin, breaking the previous one-day record of 30,039 vehicles set seven years ago, according to bridge officials.

A week later, on July 7, the new record was shattered when 31,514 vehicles used the span.

The record-breaking traffic highlights what bridge officials themselves say is the worst time to cross the span—between 3 and 5 p.m. on Saturdays during the summer beach season.

Southbound vacationers heading to Destin and Sandestin lodgings seem chiefly to arrive between 2 and 6 p.m. on Saturday, said Jim Vest, executive director of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA). With four southbound tollbooths' total capacity of 1,300 cars per hour, whenever significantly more cars try to cross the Mid-Bay Bridge during the same hour, there will be backups, he said.

The toll plaza has eight toll lanes, four in each direction—including two automated, SunPass



Two record-breaking Saturdays for the Mid-Bay Bridge in the past month have revived hopes that tourism is beginning to reverse its recession-spawned decline.

Beacon photo

lanes—funneling into the two-lane bridge. Vest said that when the plaza is operating at capacity, each toll collector can each handle more than 300 transactions an hour.

While Saturday is the most common day for vacationers to check in or out of rented condos and motels, those leaving the area and heading north do so at all hours of the day, Vest said, causing little if any delay in northbound traffic on the bridge.

While there's some congestion for southbound motorists at the toll plaza during peak hours, Vest said there are also occasions when U.S. Highway 98 on the Destin side of the toll bridge turns into a "parking lot," even backing up southbound traffic on to the bridge.

Vest and at least two other members of the MBBA related stories about traffic delays they've encountered because of congestion.

Niceville resident and MBBA

chairman Gordon Fornell related how he has taken visiting guests to the Sandestin area and encountered lengthy delays because of the congestion. He suggested the problem could be alleviated by adding more lanes to Highway 98.

But MBBA Director Jim Nielson said he lives on Highway 98 and thinks the congestion on the federal thoroughfare is often caused by inattentive motorists rear-ending others while they're distracted by cell phones and other activities.

In other business before the MBBA at their July 19 meeting in Niceville:

—Vest said traffic revenue in June exceeded revenues collected during the same time frame last year by about 1.4 percent. Revenue from SunPass users continues to shrink, he said, indicating that mostly local commuters have fewer reasons to cross the bridge for jobs in construction and tourism-related occupations. He said 648,904 vehicles (unaudited

figures) crossed the toll span last month compared to 637,165 vehicles a year ago, a 1.8 percent increase. Totals remain well below the pre-recession peak year of 2006, however.

—Supervising engineer James Van Steenburg told the board that construction on phases 2 and 3 of the 11-mile bridge connector road the authority is building between the northern terminus of the bridge and Highway 85 north of Niceville was on schedule and due to be completed by December 2013. He said pavement has been added to sections of the roadway and piling and girder work was taking place on several bridges along the route, including bridges over Rocky, Turkey and Mill creeks.

The MBBA will meet next on Aug. 16 in Destin at Destin City Hall at 9 a.m., followed by a tour of the bridge connector road to view construction progress, then lunch at the Niceville office of HDR, the engineering contractor to the Authority.

RETIRING

From page A-1

Nodjoman also gets a warm feeling from the positive sentiments local folks have for the military. "You can't go down John Sims Parkway without seeing signs that say 'We support our military' or 'Military, 10 percent discount.'" He said that is far different from the attitude he has encountered at some other duty stations.

Other than a dispute between the City of Valparaiso and Eglin a few years ago over projected noise levels from the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, Nodjoman said, "the community support has been tremendous. I've never been on an installation that enjoyed so much community support. There are very strong local bonds between the community and the military."

"(My wife) Carla and the boys are extremely excited to be part of the Niceville community and not be transients," he said.

Nodjoman's post-Air Force career is still up in the air, he said, although he expects to serve as a consultant for one firm or another. "I haven't decided yet who to align with," he said. "The most important factor in my consideration is that they let me work out of Niceville."

The colonel's decision to retire had everything to do with his family and his desire, after serving 23 years, to put down roots in Niceville, he said. If he had remained in the service, he said, he could have earned a star, but he would likely be sent overseas. His family would remain

here so his sons could complete their high school education at NHS.

Nodjoman leaves Eglin with a good feeling about the base, the airmen and his time there.

"My proudest moment came when we got our Operational Readiness Inspection results," he said. "It showed me how ready we are to go to war. Eglin performed magnificently. We got the highest score given in the inspectors' collective memory. It validated everything we do here. It was our crowning achievement."

Even the biggest challenge Nodjoman faced during his tenure—dealing with very restrictive budgets—had a silver lining.

"Between the two years of my command, we probably saw a 40 percent reduction in discretionary funds," he said. It's a tribute to the team how they came together. We became better stewards of the taxpayers' dollars. During that time, we twice won the commander-in-chief's excellence award. That award is the highest a military installation can receive.

Nodjoman said the changes taking place on Eglin have already started, but aren't likely to have a significant impact on the local economy.

Local economic shrinkage because of the shifting of titles from Eglin to Edwards Air Force Base in California and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, he said, "is a misconception. What we've done is simply a realignment of support chairs. All the work that has been performed here will continue to be

performed here. It's just an organizational chart issue."

Nor does Nodjoman expect any continuing fallout from the dispute between the city of Valparaiso and Eglin over the F-35 noise issue.

"I think that's all in the past," he said. "We've worked very hard to get past some ill will and we're working very hard to minimize the impact we have on the local communities."

While Nodjoman and his

family are looking forward to becoming part of the Niceville community, leaving the military that has been his home for more than two decades is somewhat bittersweet.

"I'll miss the day-to-day contact with the airmen," he said. "A day didn't go by that I wasn't amazed by with the ingenuity of the airmen. That's something I don't know if I'll find in future endeavors. That's going to be the hardest thing when I retire."

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COCAINE

From page A-1

Dancing Cloud Court, #198, Destin, was charged with selling cocaine, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

—Joseph Stephen Bennison, 25, of 12 NE Racetrack Road, Fort Walton Beach, was charged with selling cocaine.

—Terra Rene Smith, a cleaner, 21, of 710 Tuxedo Drive, Fort

Walton Beach, was charged with selling cocaine, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Sheriff's arrest reports gave the following accounts:

At 9:11 p.m., July 13, the sheriff's Street Crimes unit conducted a controlled buy of crack cocaine at the Hilltop Motel, 434 Valparaiso Parkway, Valparaiso.

A confidential informant was used to negotiate the purchase of crack from Deshaun Frazier.

Frazier arrived at the motel in an orange Cadillac, driven by Roderick McKinnon. The police informant got inside the Cadillac and purchased 10 grams of crack with police drug buy money.

Once a "take down" signal was given, Frazier and McKinnon were detained. As Frazier was removed from the vehicle, a digital scale and \$60 of police drug money fell to the ground. The digital scale tested positive for cocaine.

During a search of Frazier, 20

grams of powder cocaine was found in Frazier's pocket. Additionally, \$340 of police recorded drug buy money was found in the vehicle where Frazier was seated.

Deputies also found a "corner bag" containing cocaine in the center console, within immediate reach of McKinnon.

Later the same night, at about 11 p.m., Street Crimes deputies conducted another controlled buy of crack cocaine at the same motel. A

confidential informant placed an audio-recorded phone call requesting \$400 worth of crack cocaine.

Rasheem Shadee Posey arrived at the motel in a silver Cadillac driven by Joseph Bennison. The owner of the car, Terra Rene Smith, was in the passenger seat. The confidential police informant exchanged the documented police money for the crack cocaine. The transaction was

captured with a recording device.

After the three occupants of the car were taken into custody, deputies found a marijuana cigarette where Smith was seated and a digital scale with cocaine residue located on the floor board where Smith was seated.

Deputies said Smith answered the phone for Posey when the confidential informant arranged the drug transaction. Bennison was in the car when the call was made.

All five suspects are free after posting the following bail: Frazier, \$35,500; McKinnon, \$8,000; Posey, \$11,500; Smith \$6,000; and Bennison, \$5,000.



Deshaun R. Frazier



Roderick D. McKinnon



Rasheem S. Posey



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- ETD 2364C Solidworks I
- ETD 2368C Solidworks II

Mechanical Design & Fabrication (MDF) Specialization:

TECHNICAL ELECTIVES Select from courses below to achieve 24 credits

- ETD 2364C Solidworks I
- ETD 2368C Solidworks II
- ETI 1211 Quality Tools II
- ETI 1411 Advanced Manufacturing Processes
- ETI 1414C Intro to CNC Machines & CNC Machining Practices
- ETI 2411 CNC Machining (MASTERCAM/LATHE)
- ETI 2412 CNC Machining II (MASTERCAM/ROUTER)
- ETI 2414 CNC Machining III (MASTERCAM/MILL)
- ETI 2419C Adv CNC Machines & CNC Machining Practices
- PMT 2406 Production Technology
- PMT 2512 Production Technology II

CNC Machinist:

(College Credit Certificate) 12 credits required

- ETI 1414C Intro to CNC Machines & CNC Machining Practices
- ETI 2411 CNC Machining I (MASTERCAM/LATHE)
- ETI 2412 CNC Machining II (MASTERCAM/ROUTER)
- ETI 2419C Adv CNC Machines & CNC Machining Practice

Computer-Aided Design & Drafting:

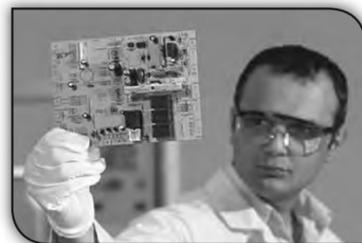
(College Credit Certificate) 24 credits required

- ETD 1340C AutoCAD II
- ETD 1350C AutoCAD 3D I
- ETD 2350C AutoCAD III
- ETD 2357C Inventor I
- ETD 2358C Inventor II
- ETD 2360C AutoCAD 3D II
- ETD 2364C Solidworks I
- ETD 2368C Solidworks II

Engineering Technology Support Specialist:

(College Credit Certificate) 18 credits required

- EET 1084C Introduction to Electronics
- ETD 1320C AutoCAD I
- ETI 2110 Total Quality Tools
- ETI 1420 Properties of Materials & Cutting Tools
- ETI 1710 Occupational Safety
- ETM 1010C Mechanical Measurement & Instrumentation



Law enforcement officials said they found this marijuana in a package which a Niceville woman picked up at the post office.

Postal parcel results in drug arrest

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

A Niceville woman was arrested on a felony drug charge Monday after she picked up a package at the Niceville Post Office containing marijuana mailed from California, according to arrest reports from the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

Karen S. Cuchens, a business owner, 48, of 1604 18th St., Niceville, was charged by agents of the Okaloosa County Multi-Agency Drug Task Force with possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

The Drug Task Force assisted agents of the U.S. Postal Service in an intercepted drug delivery destined for Niceville, according to a report from the sheriff's office.

Sheriff's arrest reports gave the following account:

A member of the Drug Task Force stopped Cuchens in the parking lot of the Niceville Post Office, 90 N. Palm Boulevard, at 1:37 p.m. as she walked to her vehicle with a parcel she had picked up at the post office.

Cuchens allegedly said the package contained motorcycle parts for her son, although the parcel was addressed neither to Cuchens nor her sons. The lawman asked Cuchens to open the package to verify it contained motorcycle parts.

Inside the parcel were two jars containing an estimated 76 grams of marijuana.

The Drug Task Force is comprised of members of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, the Niceville Police Department and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.



Karen S. Cuchens

PARALEGAL STUDIES (A.S. Degree)

NWFSC offers a new Associate in Science degree program in Paralegal Studies starting Fall 2012! Those in the Paralegal (Legal Assistant) career field assists attorneys by researching legal precedents, investigating facts, or preparing legal documents. Paralegals conduct research to support legal proceedings, and help initiate legal action. The new NWFSC Paralegal program prepares graduates in vital career skills areas such as preparing affidavits or other documents, such as legal correspondence; trial preparation such as organizing exhibits; preparation of legal documents, including briefs, pleadings, appeals, wills, contracts, and real estate closing statements; filing pleadings; legal research and analysis of statutes, decisions, and legal articles, codes, and documents; research of pertinent sources, such as public records; and coordination of law office activity, including delivery of subpoenas. Paralegal Studies is a growing career field with a variety of career options. In the local market, the entry level salary averages \$30,014 to \$36,712 with more experienced Paralegals earning an average of \$40,040 or more annually. In addition to legal offices, Paralegals are often employed in local government, public administration or legal services fields. **Info: Criminal Justice/Paralegal Studies, 729-5378, Dr. Lynne Wetzell at wetzelll@nwfsc.edu or Sean Lynch at lynch1@nwfsc.edu.**



A.S. Degree 64 total credits

GENERAL EDUCATION 18 Credits Required

The A.S. degree requires 18 credits from Math, Communication Skills, Humanities, Social Science, Science and General Education Electives to meet the 18 credit hour GE course requirement.

CORE COURSES 21 Credits Required

- BUL 2241 Business Law
- PLA 1003 Introduction to Paralegal Studies
- PLA 1005 Legal Terminology
- PLA 1013 Introduction to Legal System
- PLA 1203 Introduction to Civil Law
- PLA 1114 Case Analysis and Writing
- PLA 1800 Introduction to Family Law

TECHNICAL ELECTIVES Select from courses below to achieve 25 credits

- CJL 1100 Criminal Law
- CJL 1400 Criminal Procedures
- CJL 2500 Courts and the Judicial Process
- CCJ 1000 Introduction to Criminology
- CCJ 1020 Introduction to Criminal Justice
- CJC 2000 Introduction to Corrections
- OST 2335 Business Communications
- PLA 1600 Wills, Trusts, and Probate
- PLA 2273 Tort Law
- PSY 2012 Psychology
- Other Approved College Credits (PLA, CJL, CCJ preferred)

EA/E0

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

Duane Andrew Jemison, unemployed, 45, of 111 Teresa Court, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 11 on a charge of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, two Lyrica pills.

Benny Parsons, a business owner/manager, 55, of 207-A Jones Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 10 on a charge of battery.

Heather Michaelle Riedel, unemployed, 29, of 284 Montana Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by Niceville police, subsequent to a traffic stop for a broken windshield, July 11, on charges of possession of controlled substance without a prescription, seven pills of methylphenidate, a schedule II narcotic, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

John Earl Vick, unemployed, 47, of 358 Illinois Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by Niceville police July 13 on a charge of possession of crack cocaine. Police discovered a bag containing a rock of crack cocaine in Vick's wallet during a consensual search subsequent to a traffic stop on Vick, who was riding a bicycle without a rear light at 2:40 a.m.

William J. Patterson, an EOD instructor, 36, of 263 Grandview Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by Valparaiso police July 13 on charges of battery and assault, both domestic violence related.

Michael Paul Hagan, a metal installer, 27, of 1493 Pine St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 11 on a battery charge. Hagan, who deputies said was extremely intoxicated, allegedly punched another man in the face in the parking lot of a nightclub on Okaloosa Island, 1450-A Miracle Strip Parkway.

A 13-year-old Niceville boy was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 23 on a charge of aggravated assault, domestic violence related. The boy and his 15-year-old brother got into a physical altercation, and the younger boy ran into his mother's bedroom and tried to grab a rifle from under the bed. The younger brother allegedly told the victim "I've been waiting to do this for a long time." When the 15-year-old asked his younger brother what he meant, the 13-year-old allegedly said he was going to kill

him. When the older brother grabbed the boy to stop him from getting the rifle, the 13-year-old ran into the living room and tried to open a gun case that contained an AR-15 rifle with loaded magazines next to it. Again the older brother prevented his younger brother from getting the weapon.

Timothy Scott Lyon, 45, of 305 23rd St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 9 on a violation of probation charge on the original misdemeanor charges of driving while license suspended or revoked, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

A 16-year-old Valparaiso boy was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 11 on charges of grand theft auto and grand theft. Also arrested on the same charges were a 14-year-old Niceville boy July 12, a 16-year-old DeFuniak Springs boy July 14, and a 17-year-old Fort Walton Beach boy July 11.

The four youngsters were picked up in Irondale, Ala., May 16 in a 1992 Lexus that had been stolen from a Niceville residence the same day. The victim reported items valued at \$314 were missing from the car after it was recovered.

One of the boys admitted that with the aid of two of the other suspects he stole the unlocked car, then picked up the Valparaiso 16-year-old, telling him that the car had been stolen. The keys to the Lexus had been left inside the vehicle at the time of the theft.

Robert Scott Whitehead, an attorney, 41, of 171 Shadow Moss Drive, Eufaula, Ala., was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 11 on a charge of driving while license suspended or revoked. On June 20, deputies responded to 1678 Magnolia Drive, just inside the gate to Magnolia Plantation, where a black Lexus with Alabama tags was destroyed by fire. The Lexus got stuck in the sand with dry shrubbery underneath and the heat from the vehicle apparently ignited dry gas and destroyed the car, contents and some shrubs, an estimated \$55,000 in damage.



Robert S. Whitehead

Whitehead advised that his license was suspended and claimed he was not driving the Lexus, but no one else was with him during the incident. According to a witness and a surveillance video, Whitehead was the driver of the car before and up to the time of the incident.

Jonathan Duke Maraman, 42, of 4398 Windlake Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 14 on a charge of failure to appear on the original charge of worthless check.

DUI arrests
Kenneth Warren Howard, 59, of 4087 Rocky Drive, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI on 21st Street at Palm Boulevard, July 15 at 7:49 p.m.

Thefts
A Niceville resident from the 400 block of 17th Street reported that unknown person(s) stole several items of jewelry from a jewelry box and another box containing earrings sometime July 12-13. Five of the stolen items were valued together at \$9,500, while several other items were also reported stolen, but the victim was unable to give a description or value.

A Niceville man who lost his wallet in Niceville sometime July 11-13 reported that unknown person(s) had used a debit card in the wallet to purchase two items valued at more than \$342 from an online phone company.

A Niceville woman reported that someone tried to scam her after she posted an online advertisement for part-time work. She received an email response to her Craigslist ad from someone who said he needed someone to drive his mother around, and that he would supply the car, \$400 a week plus \$130 for gas.

The scammer express mailed a check for \$2,450, instructing the woman to deposit the check into her checking account and keep \$400, then send the remainder to a person in Brooklyn, N.Y., who would have a car delivered to the Niceville woman.

When the intended victim took the check to a Niceville bank, she was asked what the check was intended for, and, after explaining the situation, was told the check was not real. The victim telephoned the bank that issued the check and was told it was a copy of a check and that she was being scammed.

The intended victim did not lose any money in the attempted scam.

Criminal Mischief
Niceville police responded to Ruckel Middle School July 13 after someone noticed graffiti

spray painted on four areas of the school, including the band room and on a baseball concession stand. School officials were checking video surveillance systems and working up an estimate of the damage.

Niceville police responded to Plew Elementary School July 10 where a staff member discovered that unknown person(s) had forced open a door to one of the buildings and thrown paint all over the walls, ceiling floor and some cabinets. School officials were reviewing surveillance video to determine if some students were responsible for the damage.

Other
Joanna Leann Jackson, 20, of 205 Reeves St., Lot 20, Niceville, and a 15-year-old Niceville boy were each issued criminal summons by Niceville police July 16, each charged with possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. Niceville police made a traffic stop for no rear brake lights on the vehicle that Jackson was driving, in which the 15-year-old was a passenger. During a consensual search of the vehicle police found marijuana in a smokeless tobacco tin on the passenger side floorboard. Both denied ownership of the marijuana but had knowledge that it was in the vehicle.

Samuel Danell McKnight, 36, of 409 31st St., Niceville, was issued a criminal summons by Niceville police July 14 on a charge of driving while license suspended or revoked, subsequent to a traffic crash in the parking lot of Palm Plaza that caused \$16,500 damage when he drove into two parked vehicles. McKnight was also cited for careless driving.

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from July 16, 2012 through July 22, 2012.

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

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
28th Street	Medical	07/16/12	07:12
N. Partin Drive	Vehicle Crash	07/16/12	09:12
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Canceled	07/16/12	16:19
Honeysuckle Way	Medical	07/16/12	19:05
Hickory Avenue	Medical	07/17/12	00:32
Cottonwood Court	Medical	07/17/12	06:00
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle Crash	07/17/12	17:18
King Street	Medical	07/18/12	11:53
Canal Drive	Medical	07/18/12	19:49
College Blvd.	Medical	07/18/12	22:17
Hickory Ave.	Medical	07/20/12	10:29
Hillside Drive	Medical	07/20/12	10:48
State Road 123	Vehicle Crash	07/20/12	12:23
Cherrywood Court	Medical	07/20/12	13:41
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle Crash	07/20/12	14:39
Black Bear Circle	Service Call	07/20/12	13:53
304 Reeves St.	Medical	07/21/12	21:44
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	07/21/12	07:18
Spencer Place	Medical	07/21/12	15:34
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle Crash	07/21/12	16:42
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle Crash	07/21/12	17:27
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	07/21/12	19:39
Rocky Bayou Bridge	Medical	07/22/12	09:23
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Service Call	07/22/12	12:30
Bayshore Drive	Medical	07/22/12	16:34
N. Highway 85	Medical	07/22/12	23:32

Weekly Safety Tip: Dispose of old newspapers, magazines and rags properly. If possible, have them recycled. Do not store them near gasoline, cleaning fluid or kerosene. Keep all flammable materials in a cool, vented place away from your main living areas. Visit the Niceville Fire Department's Web page on Facebook.

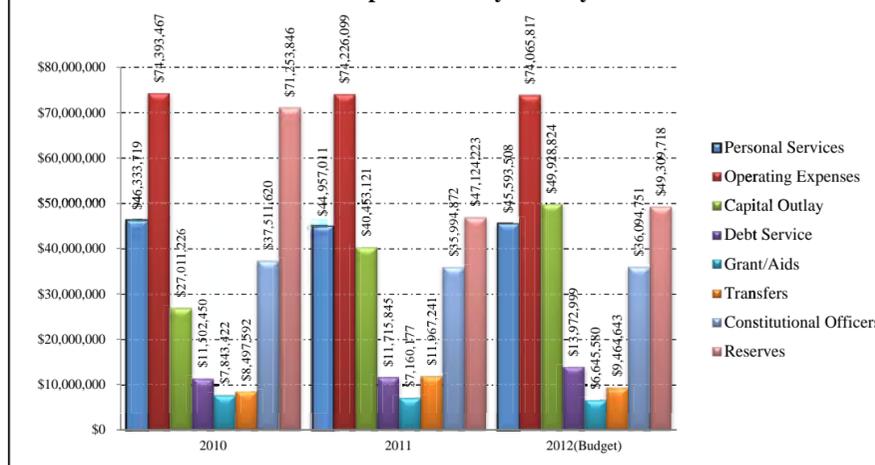
North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from July 16, 2012 through July 23, 2012.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Balmoral Drive	EMS call	07/16/12	04:23
Calinda Lane	EMS call	07/16/12	09:46
North White Point Road	EMS call	07/16/12	17:22
Olde Post Road	Dispatched & canceled	07/16/12	22:35
North White Point Road	Medical assist	07/17/12	21:51
Calinda Lane	EMS call	07/18/12	13:41
Blue Pine Lane	EMS call	07/19/12	12:48
West Parkwood Lane	Unintentional transmission	07/19/12	17:05
North White Point Road	EMS call	07/19/12	17:25
Otterlake Cove	EMS call	07/20/12	08:39
Oak Lake Lane	Medical assist	07/20/12	12:48
North White Point Road	EMS call	07/20/12	17:44
Highway 20 & Chippewa	Dispatched & canceled	07/21/12	12:04
Windward Lane	Alarm system activation	07/21/12	12:14
North White Point Road	EMS call	07/21/12	16:29
E. Highway 20	Dispatched & canceled	07/22/12	09:26
North White Point Road	Medical assist	07/22/12	13:43

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

Expenditures by Activity



Okaloosa County

Spending by Okaloosa County government, by category, for the past three fiscal years. The current fiscal year, 2012, will end Sept. 30. The county commission will hold a series of meetings in coming weeks to craft a FY 2013 budget and property-tax rate.

SPENDING

From page A-1
charges a tax of 0.18 mills to residents of unincorporated parts of the county to pay for parks and recreation. That millage rate is also expected to remain the same in FY 2013, meaning that the hypothetical property owner mentioned above would pay an additional \$36 for parks and recreation.

Property taxes, said Curry and Stanford, provide only \$257,175,311 budget, with additional revenue provided to the county from other sources, including state and federal aid, grants, and user fees for such county "enterprise" services as water and sewer service. The county also levies motor-fuels taxes, a telephone tax, and a lodgings tax. It receives 8.3 percent of state six-percent sales tax. It receives funds from court-imposed fines and fees.

About 52 percent of the county budget is derived from "governmental" funds, which can be used for any lawful purpose, while the remainder is from "non-discretionary" funds, such as those from enterprise funds, which can only be spent on the activities from which revenue is derived. For example, water and sewer fees may only be spent on the county water and sewer system.

Within the county budget, said Stanford and Curry, about 59.5 percent is spent on "essential services" such as road maintenance, about 20.8 percent on "public safety" functions like police protection and emergency medical

BUDGET

From page A-6

this year because taxable values dropped again in Valparaiso.

Monday night, Mayor Bruce Arnold was the only official to propose specific cuts to lower the \$244,986 deficit. Arnold recommended eliminating conversion of part-time employees to full-time status in administration and in the library, (\$35,000); eliminating raises for outstanding administrative employees (\$4,000); eliminating a new full-time police officer (\$47,000); and, eliminating a proposed conversion of one city employee position to purchase the services of an eight-man work crew from the state corrections work camp (\$33,230). On the other hand, the mayor proposed adding a 2 percent across-the-board increase for city employees, adding back \$31,803 in new costs to the budget.

The net effect of Arnold's recommendations would be to lower the deficit by \$87,350, leaving red ink of about \$157,636. If no further budget cuts are forthcoming at next week's final budget workshop, the city would have to raise the millage rate by nearly 1 mill, to about 5 mills, to balance the budget.

In addition to the general fund budget—the only part of the city's budget that uses local property taxes—Valparaiso has

budgets for stormwater, streets, water and sewer, cable TV and sanitation. Those funds rely primarily on customer fees. That puts Valparaiso's overall budget total at \$6,880,395.

The final budget workshop is set for July 30 at 6 p.m. at Valparaiso City Commission chambers.

One of the most contentious discussions Monday night was a change made by Commissioner Heyward Strong in the cable TV budget. Strong moved \$416,000 from the city's Pole Attachment Fund to the Cable Reserve Fund, then used \$36,110 out of the Cable Reserve fund to pay for a short-fall in the proposed cable TV budget.

The city established the Pole Attachment Fee about 10 years ago when Gulf Power sharply increased the annual fee it charges the city's cable TV system to hang cables on its power poles. While waiting on a decision by the Federal Communications Commission, and later the courts, the city continued to pay Gulf Power the older rate of about \$7.13 per pole annually, while it charged its customers the Gulf Power rate of about \$40 per pole annually. The city put the difference in escrow, in case it lost its case and had to pay Gulf Power the higher rate retroactively. To date rulings by the Federal Communications Commission and the courts

have ruled against Gulf Power.

Earlier this year the city's new attorney said that it was unlikely, although not impossible, that Gulf Power would win its case for the increased pole attachment fee. He recommended the city no longer hold the \$400,000-plus in escrow.

But Commissioner Kay Hamilton objected to Strong's use of the escrowed funds. "We've been billing people for services they never received," she said. "In my mind it's a fiduciary fund we've taken from people."

Commissioner Diane Kelley and Arnold agreed with Hamilton. "At the time we said we would give it back (to cable customers) in some form," the mayor said.

"I don't remember that," said Strong. "We can give free service for a month if you want to deplete the (cable) reserves," he said.

Strong said by taking the \$36,110 out of the reserves the cable system was able to avoid raising the base cable rate to customers.

City Clerk Tammy Johnson said the city is still charging its cable customers the higher pole attachment fee.

City cable system manager, Burt Bennett, said he would have to raise customer rates if the city lowered the pole attachment fee.

Commissioners agreed to consider the issue Aug. 13.

Valparaiso and Niceville, will be entirely turned over to the Twin Cities.

Other departments discussed at Thursday's review included county airports, transportation, solid waste and recycling, growth management, and public safety.

Several more budget reviews are scheduled from now through September. Times and places will be:

—July 31, at 8:30 a.m., in Fort Walton Beach.

—Aug. 7, at 1 p.m., at the county courthouse in Crestview.

—Aug. 9, at 6 p.m., in Fort Walton Beach.

Final public hearings on the proposed FY 2013 budget will be held at 6 p.m., Sept. 6, in Crestview, and at 6 p.m., Sept. 18, in Fort Walton Beach.

Information about the Okaloosa County budget and county government is available at OkaloosaFL.com.



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Valparaiso struggles to balance its budget

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

The Valparaiso City Commission plans to eliminate a \$245,000 shortfall in its proposed budget before the spending plan is completed.

On Monday the commission considered a \$2,980,645 general fund budget based on a tenta-

tive property-tax rate of 4.0993 mills that would yield the same revenue (\$700,174) as the current budget.

But the proposed rate would leave a \$244,986 hole in the budget. To fill it, the city could either cut expenses, raise the property tax rate, or both. A balanced budget is required by

law before the fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

The general fund budget pays for day-to-day government operations, such as providing police and fire protection, library, parks and some public works services and administration.

Valparaiso's current property

tax rate is 4.0644 mills, meaning property owners in the city pay a little more than \$4.06 on each \$1,000 of taxable value. For example, the owner of a home with a taxable value of \$100,000, after taking all applicable exemptions, pays the city \$406.44 in property taxes, in addition to property taxes

levied by the county, school board and water management district.

The rolled-back rate is the property tax rate that would generate the same amount of property tax revenue as the current year. The rolled-back rate rose by about a third of a mill

Please see BUDGET, page A-5



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S. Grant Williams owner of Niceville Hearing Center, was nominated as "The Best of 2011 Hearing Healthcare Professionals" by The Hearing Review publication. This program highlights outstanding individuals, practices that "go above and beyond" the call of duty to serve the needs of people with hearing impairment.

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PoFolks

Guests can expect to see a different quality of service

Advertising Feature

PoFolks restaurant in Niceville has been known for 18 years as having the best food and service in the area. Recently, the restaurant received honors in the "Finest on The Emerald Coast" competition sponsored by the Northwest Florida Daily News. PoFolks won Finest on The Emerald Coast in four categories, including fried chicken, catering, service, and dessert. Operating Partner Paul Snow gave us insight on how things have improved in the restaurant since August of 2011.

"Our mission statement at PoFolks has always been service-based," says Snow. "A business that has a good product cannot thrive without excellent guest service and relations. At PoFolks, we have refocused our team around that single fact, and the results speak for themselves." PoFolks has seen a dramatic turnaround in both business and guest satisfaction in the past months and Snow believes it is just the beginning. "Our guests are the most important part of our business. We want them to feel that way when they come in or get take out with us."

PoFolks has won several honors for its fried chicken in the past. Nationwide competitions in the 80s



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

and 90s saw PoFolks fried chicken constantly gaining top votes in major cities. The "Finest on The Emerald Coast" honor is just the latest to show that PoFolks' fried chicken is the best around. "We're not fancy about how we do it," claims Snow. "It's a product that is simple to make and uses the natural flavor of the chicken to give it appeal. It's also the best value in town. Guests can pick up 8 pieces of mixed chicken for just \$7.99, and we have family and bulk packs available as well."

Catering is a great example of how PoFolks branches out to

guests who have a party to throw or just a gathering to feed. "A lot of folks still don't know that we cater just about anything they need. All they have to do is give us a call and we can help them put something together that will make their function a hit," Snow says. The restaurant was active in preparing meals daily for the BP Cleanup crews in 2011, and is counted on each year for several annual events in the area.

Finally, PoFolks took home the finest honor for desserts. "We have Mississippi mud pie, strawberry shortcakes, cobblers, and other desserts you would expect to find in a homestyle cooking establishment," Snow adds. "We have

guests who come in just for dessert because it's hard to find room for it when they come in for a complete meal."

"Winning honors from The Finest On The Emerald Coast competition is humbling," says Snow. It shows us that the work our team has put in to getting PoFolks back to how it should be is paying off. We are thankful for each and every guest who chooses us daily, and look forward to meeting new ones."

PoFolks is located at 1170 John Sims Parkway in Niceville. They are open from 10:30am to 9:00pm 7 days a week. Call them at (850)-729-2262 for information or stop in to say, "HOWDY!"

Fast Folks LUNCH PUNCH CARD

Purchase Five PoFolks Lunch Specials and a drink (between 10:30am and 3pm, Mon.-Sat.) and your Sixth lunch & beverage are **FREE!**
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850-729-2262



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Kids bond at Camp Timpoochee



Beacon photo by Kenneth Books

Pfc. Wendell Slater and Spc. Chris Kerr of the Florida National Guard Crestview branch display military devices such as mines and mine detectors to a rapt group of youngsters.

By Kenneth Books
Beacon Staff Writer

Ninety-five youngsters from Florida and Georgia spent the week at Camp Timpoochee, on the east end of Okaloosa

County, doing what every kid does at camp. They kayaked, fished, shot arrows and generally used up their energy having fun and meeting others who are in the same situation.

The situation? All are military kids. Many of their parents are deployed. Others have recently returned or will deploy soon.

Dubbed "True Hero Day," representatives of military and

police units visited campers July 18 with intriguing equipment, new play techniques and, usually, big smiles.

"Our primary focus is to build resiliency in these kids," said Cliff Lewis, Operation Military Kid Coordinator, who was in charge of the camp. "There's no more resilient kid than a military kid."

The youngsters seemed to get along with one another, despite differing backgrounds and ages.

"I get to interact with all the people who do the same things I do every day," said Paige Massie, 10, of St. Mary's, Ga., who

was learning how to ascend on a climbing wall.

Russell Lieberman, 10, of Niceville, said he "thought it would be fun and I could learn how other military kids think and learn neat military stuff." He said the week was a success as he "made new friends, had fun and did fun games."

The camp cost \$55 for the week, which included all activities and room and board. The cost is kept minimal through a grant from the Department of the Army, through the Florida Department of Agriculture and administered by the University of Florida, said Lewis, who spent 29 years in the Army as a bandsman, retiring as a sergeant major.

"There's nothing better for these kids," Lewis said. "They make friends immediately."



Paige Massie



Russell Lieberman

Chambers to hold RESTORE seminar

Special to the Beacon

The public is invited to attend a Business Leaders Seminar sponsored by the Crestview Area, Destin, Greater Fort Walton Beach and Niceville-Valparaiso Chambers of Commerce.

The seminar will be held Thursday, July 26, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., to discuss the area business climate in view of the passage of the RESTORE Act and the Oil Spill Economic Recovery Act. The meeting will be held at the Costa Leadership Institute at Northwest Florida State College in Niceville.

Under the RESTORE Act, 80 percent of the penalties

levied against British Petroleum (BP) are earmarked for the five Gulf Coast States—Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana—effected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The Oil Spill Economic Recovery Act, authored by Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, allocates \$30 million over three years to the Northwest Florida counties effected by the oil spill. Those counties include: Okaloosa, Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Bay, Franklin, Gulf and Wakulla. The purpose of the Recovery Act is to create jobs and attract businesses to

Northwest Florida.

Speakers at Thursday's seminar will include Okaloosa County Commissioner Dave Parisot; Dr. Rick Harper, director of the Office of Economic Development and Engagement, University of West Florida; and Larry Sassano, CEO of the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County.

For more information, contact the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, 244-8191.



Courtesy photo

Donations 'Cram the Van'

Angela Wilson, left, her son Drew and Bobby Price donate school supplies during Sharing and Caring's "Cram the Van." The school supply drive was held Saturday, July 21, at the Niceville Walmart, and 2,257 supplies were collected. Sharing and Caring will accept donations until Aug. 3, then the supplies will be distributed to area students in need as part of the "Tools for Schools" campaign.

Summer rec heats up

Joseph Fagundes, left, and Anthony Luciano go head-to-head in a game of tether ball at Niceville United Methodist Church's Summer Recreation program. The program is held daily until Aug. 2, at the Community Life Center, 214 S. Partin Drive. Each day, first through fifth graders engage in various activities including cookie decorating, open gym, martial arts, cooking, road trips, games, and arts and crafts.

Beacon photo by Tess Hollis



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Rotary awards college money

The Niceville-Valparaiso Rotary Club, on June 14, presented checks to its scholarship recipients. Each of the recipients spoke to the club and presented their resumes. From left, Rotarians and scholarship recipients: 2011-12 Rotary President Allen Tucker, students Ashlei Dang, Chloe Schweitzer, Elizabeth Sober, Sarah Witkos, and Bill Ready, scholarship committee chairman.

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70 holes for 70th birthday

Mid-Bay Rotarian Jim Miller challenged himself to 70 holes of golf in one day to celebrate his 70th birthday, and to raise money for Shelter Box. Miller donated all the pledges he received, \$4,835, on behalf of the Mid-Bay Rotary Club to Shelter Box, an international disaster relief charity. Miller, right, is pictured with fellow Rotarian Art Jean.



Niceville student receives KFC scholarship

Brittany Rudd, an employee at KFC, Niceville, was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship July 18 from KFC Corporate, the fried chicken restaurant franchise. Out of 1,600 applicants who were required to write an essay, Brittany was one of 300 chosen as a recipient of the scholarship. Brittany is a 2012 Niceville High School graduate, and will attend the University of West Florida, Pensacola, in the fall. From left: General Manager, Tracie Osmolak; franchisee owner John Pankratz; and scholarship winner Brittany Rudd.

Courtesy photo

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NOTICE TO OKALOOSA COUNTY VOTERS

Pursuant to Section 101.71(2) Florida Statutes, this is to advise that the Supervisor of Elections has made the following changes to Okaloosa County polling places:

1. **Precinct 15**, formerly at the Mitchell Center Community Room, Valparaiso, has been moved to **First Baptist Church of Valparaiso, 444 Valparaiso Pkwy, Valparaiso**. Voting will take place in the fellowship hall.
2. **Precincts 22 and 41**, both formerly at the Fred Hedrick Recreation Building, Fort Walton Beach, have been moved to **St. Mary Catholic Church, 110 St. Mary Ave SW, Fort Walton Beach**. Voting will take place in the Parish Life Center.
3. **Precincts 25** (formerly at Rosemont Baptist Church, Niceville), **36** (Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Niceville), and **43** (formerly at First Baptist Church of Niceville) have been combined. All voters living in these precincts will vote at **Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 1200 Valparaiso Blvd, Niceville**. Voting will take place in the Life Center east of the church. Parking is available in either the east or west parking lot.
4. **Precincts 26** (formerly at North Bay Baptist Church, Niceville) and **40** (Christ Our Redeemer Catholic Church) have been combined. All voters living in these precincts will vote at **Christ Our Redeemer Catholic Church, 1028 White Point Rd, Niceville**. Voting will take place in the Parish Hall located behind the church.
5. **Precincts 34** (St. Peter Catholic Church) and **47** (formerly at Florosa Baptist Church, Mary Esther) have been combined. All voters living in these precincts will vote at **St. Peter Catholic Church, 100 Francis St, Mary Esther**.
6. **Precincts 49** (Destin City Hall Annex) and **50** (formerly at Village Baptist Church, Destin) have been combined. All voters living in these precincts will vote at the **Destin City Hall Annex, 4100 Indian Bayou Trail, Destin**.

New voter information cards have been mailed to all voters affected by these changes. Voters may use the Voter Lookup tool at www.govote-okaloosa.com to find their precinct, check their voter registration status, and view absentee requests and sample ballots. Voters with questions may call the Supervisor of Elections office at 689-5600 or 651-7272.

July 25, 2012

Paul Lux
Supervisor of Elections
Okaloosa County, FL

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In the Service

Air Force Airman **Steven K. Bowman** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

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

Bowman is the son of Steven Bowman, of Niceville.

He is a 2006 graduate of Lakewood High School, St. Petersburg.



Oktoberfest seeks artists

The 18th annual Oktoberfest and Crafts Festival at Winn-Dixie Plaza in Bluewater Bay is looking for artists and craftsmen interested in selling their work. The festival, sponsored by the Mid-Bay Rotary Club, will be Sept. 28, from 5-10 p.m., and Sept. 29, from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Cost for both days: \$75. Info: Bert, 897-3190.

PAL Soccer

A late fee has been waived for PAL Soccer's final registration, Aug. 4, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in the Niceville High School cafeteria. Info: nicevillepalsoccer.org, or Howard Hill, 678-2182.

'Have a Heart' run/walk

Registration is ongoing for the Okaloosa County "Have a Heart" 5K run/walk, Sept. 1, at the 911 Emergency Operations Center. The course will loop around the Northwest Florida State College Campus, Niceville. Early registration through Aug. 20 is \$15, and late registration, Aug. 21-Sept. 1 is \$20. T-shirts will be presented to the first 200 entries. Info: Ken Wolfe, kwolfe@co.okaloosa.fl.us, or newftc.com/racecalendar. All proceeds benefit the American Heart Association.

3v3 soccer tournament

Registration is ongoing for the FC Dallas Emerald Coast Traveling Soccer Club's 3v3 soccer tournament, Aug. 11, at Twin Oaks soccer complex. The tournament is open to male and female teams, U6-adult. Parents or coaches can organize and coach 3v3 teams, and each team can have up to 6 players. All teams are guaranteed a minimum of four games. Medals will be awarded to players on the top three teams in each division. The top four teams in each division are qualified to play in all the 3v3 Live Regional Championship Tournaments. Registration fee: \$170 per team. Info and registration: Travis, 602-492-3919, or 3v3live.com.

UMC Men's Basketball

Registration is ongoing until Aug. 23 for Niceville United Methodist Church Men's Basketball League, ages 17 and up. Cost: \$50 until Aug. 14. One game per week will be played on a Tuesday or Thursday evening. Registration: nicevilleumc.org/recreation, or the Community Life Center of Niceville UMC.

Co-ed league

The city of Niceville Recreation Department is now accepting teams for its fall co-ed softball league. Entry is \$275 per team, plus individual user fees of \$10 for residents, and \$30 for non-residents. Play will begin Aug. 13. Games will be held on Monday nights. Info: Jim Baughman, 729-4062, or jbaughman@niceville.org.

Soccer referees needed

Registration is ongoing until Aug. 4 for the USSF Entry Level Referee Course. The Florida State Referees, Inc. (FSR) has established this class for the beginning referee that consists of online education modules and 12 hours of classroom training and participation. The course is offered annually in Okaloosa County. The 2012 class will be held at Comfort Suites, Niceville, Aug. 8, 9, 13, and 14, from 6-9 p.m. You must attend all four sessions. Info: fsr-inc.com. Cost: \$100. Please contact Al Haberbusch, habersp64@cox.net, or 678-9084; Howard Hill, 678-2182; howard_hill@cox.net, or 678-2182;



File photo

Marina to hold fishing tourney

Bluewater Bay Marina and Paradise Paddle Boards will present the first-ever kayak and standup paddle board fishing tournament, July 28, first light-3 p.m. Entry fee: \$30 per person on kayak or SUP. Late entry July 28, from 8-10 a.m. Divisions will include: trout, redfish and trash fish (any fish other than trout or redfish). Registration and info: Bluewater Bay Marina, 290 Yacht Club Drive, Niceville; 897-2821.

or Bernie Busovne, busovnefamily@cox.net, or 897-9497 if you are interested in this class.

'Painting with a Twist'

Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida is bringing "Painting with a Twist" to the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church Aug. 9, at 6:30 p.m. A talented artist will lead the class through step-by-step completion of the painting, while the participants enjoy snacks and beverages. Participants are welcome to bring a bottle of wine. Cost: \$35 per person, which includes snacks and materials. Advance registration is required. Registration: Evelyn or Kelly, 244-2825; mail or drop off a check to Catholic Charities, 11 First St., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548. Participants must be at least 17 years old. Proceeds from the event will help fund Catholic Charities' emergency assistance programs.

Spanish class

The Spanish language class at the Valparaiso Community Library is accepting registration for its new session, which will begin Aug. 9, at 3 p.m. The class is limited to 15 people. Registration: 729-5406.

School supplies needed

Niceville Sharing & Caring is collecting school supplies for children of families who are not able to purchase necessary back-to-school items. School supplies or monetary donations can be dropped off at 104 Bullock Blvd., Niceville. The office is open from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and 9 a.m.-noon, Friday. The drive will end Aug. 3, and supplies will be distributed to the students Aug. 11. Students may register for supplies until Aug. 3. Students must be registered for the 2012-13 school year and have identification on file at Sharing & Caring. Info: 678-8459.

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.

Library storyteller

The Niceville Public Library will present Storyteller Pat Nease on July 25, at 11 a.m., at the Niceville Community Center. Program is free. Info: 279-4863, ext. 1514.

Senior activities

The following programs will be offered by the Walton-Okaloosa County Council on Aging for people 60 and older at Seminole Community Center, Cedar Street, 833-9291: July 26, bingo, 10 a.m.; July 31, bingo, 10 a.m. The following activities will be offered at the Valparaiso Community Center, 268 Glenview Ave., 833-9291: July 25, bingo, 9:30 a.m.; July 26, Wii bowling, 9:30 a.m.; July 27, bingo, 9:30 a.m.; July 30, dominoes and socializing, 9:30 a.m.; July 31, bingo, 9:30 a.m.

Alzheimer's Support

Alzheimer's Family Services will provide a support group July 25, at 10:30 a.m., at Niceville United Methodist Church, Chandler Center, 214 S. Partin Drive. The support group is free and respite care is available. Info: 478-7790, or AlzFamServ.org.

Wii party

The Valparaiso Community Library would like to invite children and teens to a Nintendo Wii party July 25, from 3:30-5 p.m. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Summer book discussion

Join Friends of the Niceville Library July 25, at 10 a.m., in the library for a discussion on "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Stroud. Limited supplies of the books are available through the Okaloosa Library system, readokaloosa.org. To reserve a seat, call the library at 279-4863, ext. 1504.

Sheriff candidate forum

The Okaloosa Republicans will hold a candidate forum for Sheriff July 26, at 7 p.m., at American Legion Hall, Hollywood Boulevard, Fort Walton Beach. Social hour will begin at 6:15 p.m. Info: President Marvin Brigman, 609-3341.

Volleyball summer camp

Niceville United Methodist Church will hold a volleyball summer camp for youth entering grades 6-8. The camp will be Aug. 9-11. Cost: \$65 until July 26. This is an intense 3-day skills camp that will prepare participants for further advancement. Lunch will be provided and each play-

er will receive a T-shirt. Registration: nicevilleumc.org, or the Community Life Center of Niceville UMC.

Embroiderer's Guild

The Sand Dunes Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America will meet for their next stitch-in July 26, from 6-9 p.m., at Niceville United Methodist Church Room 400. Visitors are welcome. Info: 496-3466.

RESTORE Act Seminar

The public is invited to attend a Business Leaders Seminar sponsored by the Crestview Area, Destin, Greater Fort Walton Beach and Niceville-Valparaiso Chambers of Commerce July 26, from 8:30-9:30 a.m., on the area business climate in view of the passage of the RESTORE Act and the Oil Spill Economic Recovery Act. The meeting will be at the Costa Leadership Institute at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville. Info: Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, 244-8191.

RWOF meeting and forum

The Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated are taking reservations until noon, July 27, for their meeting Aug. 1 at the Holiday Inn Resort, Okaloosa Island. Socializing will begin at 11:30 a.m., lunch will be served at noon. There will be a forum of candidates for Okaloosa County Superintendent of Schools and the School Board. As part of the club's Americanism project, attendees are asked to bring cocktail size napkins for the USO. Empty ink cartridges to be recycled for cash will also be accepted. Reservations: Donna Pattison, 651-5416, or donna-pattison@cox.net. Cost: \$16, members, and \$18, guests. Info: rwof.org.

Writing seminar

The Niceville Library will host a writing seminar for aspiring authors with full-time author and speaker Dr. Anne Haw Holt July 28, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. This seminar is for writers at any level. Cost: \$40, cash or check at the door, which includes a packet of helpful handouts. The program will be held at the library. To pre-register, send contact information to aholt@aholt.com, with an attached copy of the first three pages of a piece of your writing (no poetry) typewritten and double-spaced. Dr. Holt will read, comment on how to improve and return the document at the seminar. You can also register at the door, however you will not receive your document until several days later by mail. Info: Dr. Holt, 576-0721, or the library at 279-4863, ext. 1504.

Alligator presentation

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center will present Alligator Adventures with Gator Beach July 28, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Learn about alligators and what to do if you come in contact with these reptiles in the wild. Standard admission rates apply. Info: 835-1824, or eowilsoncenter.org.

25th Anniversary Celebration

Bluewater Community Church Pastor Haywood Day and wife Gail would like to invite past members and new members to the 25th Anniversary Celebration July 29, at 10:30 a.m., 4580 Range Road, Niceville. Guest speaker will be Cam McIntyre. Fellowship will be at 10 a.m., followed by speakers and lunch.

MS Cake Challenge fundraiser

Just Think Cake will present the first-ever Multiple Sclerosis Cake Challenge and Show "Mission Impossible," July 29, from noon-5 p.m. at 215 Green Acres Road, Moose Lodge 2193, Fort Walton Beach. All ages and skills welcome, categories include: professional, advanced, novice, youth, children, cake pops, taste. All proceeds of this event will benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Challenge Walk MS. Info and applications: Please see CALENDAR, page B-6

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The Bay Beacon and Beacon Express, incorporating the Bluewater Breeze, is published every Wednesday by Bayou Enterprises Inc. Free total-market home delivery to Niceville, Valparaiso, Bluewater Bay and Seminole, as well as mid-Walton County from Villa Tasso to Basin Bayou, including Choctaw Beach. Subscriptions: One year, mail, \$104. One year, electronic subscription, \$52.

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

Location: Kmart

What should be done to prevent mass shootings?



"I think they should outlaw automatic weapons. There is no reason for the average citizen to have an assault weapon."

Linda Mabrey, 56, Niceville, security contractor



"If we had harsher consequences, we'd have less crime."

Heather Johnson, 33, Crestview, home child care provider



"Anyone who buys a lot of weapons should be reported immediately. Weapon purchasers should sign for their weapons and state how they intend to use them."

Marilyn Hunt, 72, Niceville, retired



"No more than what's already being done."

Archie Wahl, 58, Choctaw Beach



"There's too much violence in movies and television. Unstable people get ideas from it."

Joe Lessard, 51, Niceville, civil servant



"Teach tolerance, at home as well as at school."

Richard Hernandez, 60, Niceville, high school teacher

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

BEACONSPORTS

Advertisement for First Baptist Church of Niceville, including service times (9:00 AM Traditional, 10:30 AM Contemporary, 5:30 PM Bible Study) and contact information (622 Bayshore Drive, 678-4621).

Advertisement for Immanuel Anglican Church, listing Sunday Morning Services (9 a.m. Traditional, 11:01 a.m. Contemporary) and Wednesday Nights (6:30-8 p.m.).

Advertisement for First Baptist Church of Valparaiso, featuring the slogan 'ENGAGING GOD, CONNECTING WITH OTHERS, SERVING ALL' and service times.

Advertisement for New Hope Baptist Church, with Morning Worship at 10:45 and contact info: (850) 678-4399.

Advertisement for St. Paul Lutheran & Preschool, highlighting Sunday Services and preschool enrollment.



Courtesy photo

All-Stars sweep district tourney

The Niceville Little League 9/10-year-old All-Stars swept the district tournament to become Florida District 1 Champions. They went 3-0 for the week scoring 39 runs and allowing 10.



FDD cagers finish 4th among 44

Faithfulness, Discipline, Diligence, Inc. (FDD), for the second straight year finished in the top five at AAU Nationals 11th Grade Girls Division II July 10-15.

Briefs

Late soccer fee waived

The late fee is waived for PAL Soccer's final registration, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 4, in the Niceville High School cafeteria.

3v3 soccer tournament

Registration is ongoing for the FC Dallas Emerald Coast Traveling Soccer Club's 3v3 soccer tournament Aug. 11, at Twin Oaks soccer complex.

in each division are qualified to play in all the 3v3 Live Regional Championship Tournaments. Registration fee: \$170 per team.

UMC men's basketball

Registration is ongoing until Aug. 23 for Niceville United Methodist Church Men's Basketball League, ages 17 and up.

nicevilleumc.org/recreation, or the Community Life Center of Niceville UMC.

Co-ed league

The city of Niceville Recreation Department is now accepting teams for its fall softball co-ed league. Entry is \$275 per team, plus individual user fees of \$10 for residents, and \$30 for non-residents.

Obituary

Christine Barger
1928-2012

Christine Allala Barger, age 83, of Niceville, Fla., passed away on Sunday, July 15, 2012, with her family by her side. She was born on Sept. 30, 1928, in Samson, Ala., to William and Minnie Owens. She was a life-

long resident of Niceville, and a member of First Baptist Church of Niceville as well.

Christine loved crocheting, jewelry making, ceramics, gardening, and keeping up with her family as it expanded.



Christine Barger

preceded in death by her husband, Guy Barger, her parents; son, Timothy Barger, one sister, and four brothers.

She is survived by her two daughters; Deborah Commander (Frank), and Doris Mansfield (Greg), and two sons; Richard Allala (JoAnn), and Randle Allala (Mitsey), and one daughter-in-law, Robin Barger. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Senior lunch menu

The following is the Valparaiso Senior Center lunch menu for July 25-31. Please call the center at 833-9291, or come by, 268 Glenview Ave., to make a lunch reservation. The cost is a voluntary donation, and lunch is served on weekdays at 11 a.m.

Wednesday

Barbecue rib patty, baked pinto beans, corn O'Brien, hamburger bun, fresh fruit, birthday cake,

chocolate frosting with sprinkles, milk, margarine.

Thursday

Chicken and dumplings, spring vegetables, green beans, wheat bread, fresh fruit, milk.

Friday

Hamburger patty, tater tot casserole, let/tom/onion, hamburger bun, peach cobbler, milk, ketchup, mustard.

Monday

Country fried steak, country gravy, whipped potatoes, mixed vegetables, wheat bread, fresh fruit, milk, margarine.

Tuesday

Tuna salad, green pea salad, tossed salad, saltine crackers, peaches/pineapple, assorted dressing, milk.

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Driver needed for local taxi company, part-time, must be 25 or older; clean driving record, call John at 259-6990.
Residential electricians needed. Pay based on experience. Call 729-3044.
HRBlock needs 2012 Taxpros. Niceville classes start 13Aug. Info 850-502-6609.
ASSISTANT EDITOR
Beacon Newspapers (The Bay Beacon, The Eglin Flyer, The Hurlburt Patriot, and The Green Beret) seeks an editorial assistant who will work in the office to help compile, write, and edit news items, assist the editor in preparing the newspapers for publication, and perform other clerical and administrative duties under the direction of the editor. Applicants must be familiar with desktop computers, able to write quickly and accurately, and possess proofreading and editing skills. Candidates must be detail-oriented, and able to adapt to a fast-paced editorial environment. Nonsmoking office. Competitive pay, commensurate with experience and aptitude. Benefits include paid vacation and holidays, and IRA plan. Apply at The Bay Beacon, 1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, FL 32578.

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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)

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Engagements

Smith-Ross

Mrs. Rhonda Dandrea Smith, of Hahira, Ga., announces the engagement of her daughter, Kristen Nicole Smith, to James

Frederick Ross, son of Mark and Vickie Ross, of Niceville. Kristen is also the daughter of Ashley Smith, of Valdosta, Ga. A fall wedding is planned for Oct. 20, 2012, at Horse Creek Winery in Nashville, Ga.

The bride-elect graduated from Valdosta High School and receive bachelor's degrees in mar-



Kristen Smith and James Ross

keting and early childhood education from Valdosta State University, and a master's degree in education from Walden University. She is employed by Walton County School as a third grade teacher at Van R. Butler Elementary. Her maternal grandparents are Pete and Laverne Dandrea of Valdosta, and paternal

grandparents are Velma Smith and the late Maitland Smith of Homerville, Ga.

The prospective groom graduated from Niceville High School and receive bachelor's degrees in business administration and marketing from Methodist University in Fayetteville, N.C., and a master's degree in educational leader-

ship from American College of Education. He is employed by Walton County schools as assistant principal in training at South Walton High School. He is the grandson of the late Tollie and Lona Mae Ross of Tryon, N.C., and the late Victor and Eileen Abrams of Riverside County, Calif.

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Jill Thompson, D.C.



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CALENDAR

From page B-3

NWFLightsMS.org, or Carrie Knife, 376-1391.

Marching Band camp

In this camp students will learn discipline, leadership and marching skills, while improving their musical qualities. This camp is mandatory for anyone who is going to be part of the Rocky Bayou Christian School Marching Knights Band or Symphonic Band. The camp will be July 30-Aug. 3, Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Grades 7-12. Info: Rocky Bayou Summer Program Office, 729-7227, ext. 273.

Camp College

This camp is designed for rising seniors to get their college applications completed during the summer to be ready to submit to colleges in the early fall. Camp College meets for three, half-day seminars, July 31-Aug. 2, Tuesday-Thursday from 12:30-4 p.m. Grade 12. Info: Rocky Bayou Summer Program Office, 729-7227, ext. 273.

Audubon Society

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will meet Aug. 2 at Northwest Florida State College, Room 132, Student Services Center, Niceville. Jeff Waldorff, one of the Emerald Coast's finest bird and nature photographers, will present a program featuring his work. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m., with socializing and refreshments, and the program will start at 7 p.m. The meeting and program are free and open to the public. Info: Walt Spence, 582-7064.

Local Color Artists Club

The Local Color Artists Club announces that Fuller Brown will speak to the group Aug. 3, at Rutherford's Regatta Bay. Fuller is an experience teacher with a master of fine arts degree from the University of Memphis. Other interested artists are welcome to join the group by making a reservation for lunch with Amy Jo Rosati, 678-4813.

School Board forum

The candidates for Okaloosa County School Board, District 4, will participate in a public forum hosted by Niceville's Silver Sands Republican Women. The forum will be Aug. 6, at 5:30 p.m., at Bluewater Bay's Clubhouse. The event will include dinner at 6 p.m., for \$12. The candidates are Cathy Thigpen who holds the District 4 seat, and challenges Rob English and JB Whitten. Dewey Destin, who claimed the District 1 seat without opposition, has also been invited. Guests are welcome. Reservations: Libby Hill, 678-2182.

Archaeology camp

The Heritage Park and Cultural Center, Fort Walton Beach, will offer an archaeology kids museum summer camp. Kids will explore archaeology in a museum setting at real archaeological sites. Students going into grades 3-6 are invited to explore at the Indian Mound Temple Museum. The camp will be Aug. 6-9, from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Cost: \$60. Info: 883-9595.

Wildlife presentation

Henderson Beach State Park will host a wildlife presentation on Aug. 9, 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.

Ruckel Readiness Day

Ruckel Middle School Readiness Day for all upcoming 6th graders will be Aug. 9, from 9 a.m.-noon, in the cafeteria. Students can come at any point during this period.

Destin Middle 'Readiness Day'

Destin Middle School will hold its "Readiness Day" Aug. 10, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Parents will have the opportunity to purchase school T-shirts and agenda books, deposit money into school lunch accounts, drop off medication, sign up for volleyball and cross country, pick up bus schedules and much more. Parents can also enjoy hot dogs, chips and a drink for \$3.

DYW Scholarship Program

The Distinguished Young Women Scholarship Program will be held at Niceville High School on Aug. 11, at 7 p.m. Eleven girls from across the county will compete for college scholarships in a program that will feature performing talents, participation in a fitness routine and speaking to the audience. Cost: \$5.

