

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter
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12 Pages, 2 Sections, 4 Inserts

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

50c

**UP
COMING**

Friday, 7:30 p.m.



See a free screening of the surfing documentary "Florida's Surfing History-Part One: The Panhandle" at the **Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville.**

Saturday, 4:30 p.m.



Bring new and old telescopes for a free **telescope workshop** with the Northwest Florida Astronomy Association at **Northwest Florida State College, Niceville.**

Saturday, 9-11 a.m.



Enjoy a free **Bible seminar** "Why Biblical Counseling?" with Dr. Abercrombie at **Rocky Bayou Baptist Church, Niceville.**

Saturday, 10-11 a.m.

Learn hand appliqué and create a wall hanging in a **hand-quilting workshop** for \$35 or \$30 for members at the **Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Niceville.**

Saturday, 9-11 a.m.



Children ages 9-18 can **try out** for the FC Dallas Emerald Coast Travel Soccer team for \$10 at the **Twin Oaks Soccer Complex, Niceville.**

See Calendar, B-2.

\$19 million retiree center planned

Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

An independent-living facility for retired residents is planned for construction near the intersection of State Road 20 and White Point Road, Bluewater Bay, according to developer Raimund Herden.

Herden, one of the original developers of Bluewater Bay, and his company, Bluewater Commercial Developers, said he is working in conjunction with Superior Residences to finalize

plans for the center, which would be on currently vacant commercial land next to Bluewater Fitness, on the southeast side of the intersection.

Herden said the estimated \$19 million facility, tentatively named Independent Living Facility at Bluewater Bay, will contain 97 or 98 rental apartments in five stories, with a sixth story devoted to amenities.

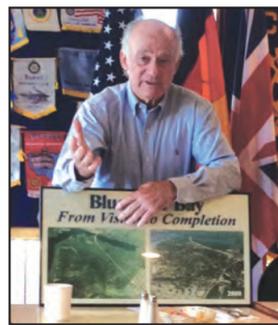
Herden says the amenities are what would distinguish the inde-

pendent-living facility from assisted-living facilities and regular apartment complexes.

"Apartment complexes don't have all the amenities," Herden said. "This will have a library, home theater, putting green, restaurant. It is an inclusive facility for people who are still active."

Shelly Normand, executive director of Superior Residences,

Please see RETIREE, page A-2



Raimund Herden explains his proposal for a six-story retirement center near the intersection of State Road 20 and White Point Road, Bluewater Bay.

Beacon photo

Standing guard



Clara Thomas, an Okaloosa County deputy sheriff, patrols Plew Elementary School, Niceville, Jan. 16. Thomas and other sheriff's deputies were placed in 26 Okaloosa elementary schools at the request of the county school board beginning the first day after Christmas break in response to the school shootings in Newtown, Conn., Dec. 14. Sheriff Larry Ashley asked the county commission to fund half the extra cost. The school board agreed to pay the other half. Deputies have been stationed in county middle and high schools for years, chiefly to deter student crime rather than violence by outsiders.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

DOT seeks to tap bridge tolls

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

Governance and control of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority would be transferred to a new

Okaloosa-Bay Regional Tollway Authority under a bill to be proposed in the 2013 state legislative session.

The transfer, if approved, would put the locally governed authority under regional control, and allow



Ananth Prasad

Please see DOT, page A-3

Foreclosures surge after 2-year decline

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

Okaloosa County foreclosures almost doubled from 2011 to 2012 but were down slightly from 2010.

According to county figures, 1,650 real-estate foreclosure lawsuits were filed last year. This number is up significantly from the 957 recorded in 2011, when many banks slowed foreclosure proceedings after national reports of "robo-signing" filings surfaced.

Okaloosa County Clerk of Court Don Howard said apprehension about potentially filing fraudulent foreclosures slowed foreclosure action in 2011, artificially depressing real estate repossessions sparked by the nationwide housing crash.

"That decrease was due to problems in the [banking] industry," Howard said. "Things went on hold in that industry for a long time."

Howard said foreclosure action picked

up at the end of 2011 largely due to state efforts.

"The state devoted a lot of resources to clear up what they called 'foreclosure backlog,'" Howard said.

The total 2,445 foreclosure actions filed in 2009 represented a county record.

Howard attributes the slowing to several factors, including the fact that the high volume of foreclosures filed 2009-10 left fewer properties left to foreclose on.

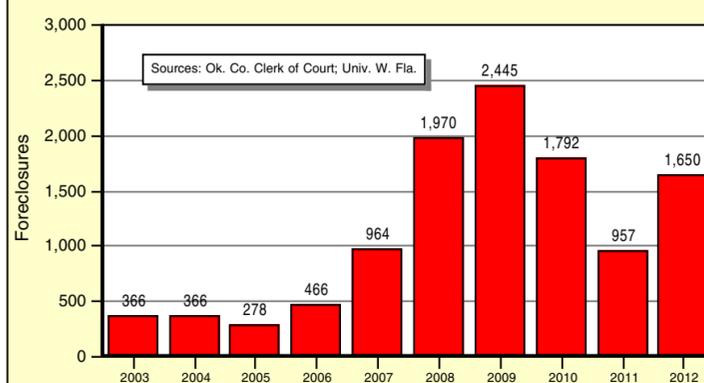
Howard said another reason for the slight decline is an effort by the banking industry to resolve debts using methods other than repossession.

"Banks really started working with people to find other ways to resolve problems," Howard said. "Often times they worked to get properties into the hands of people who were able to make

Please see FORECLOSE, page A-3

Foreclosures since 2003

Foreclosure actions filed, Okaloosa County



Four-way stop put on White Point Rd.

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

Work was completed Friday on a four-way stop at White Point Road and Woodlands Drive, placed to discourage motorists from using White Point as a shortcut to and from the Mid-Bay Bridge.

While the main access to the new Mid-Bay Bridge Connector intersects State Road 20 approximately one mile east of White Point's intersection with S.R. 20, many drivers use White Point, the former bridge access road, to get to the Lakeshore Drive interchange with the new connector.

At a cost of \$10,000, funded by the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, Okaloosa County workers placed four stop signs at the intersection and built concrete medians to separate north-south traffic on White Point. The medians are intended to slow left-turning traffic from White Point onto Woodlands.

In October, bridge authority Chairman Gordon Fornell said citizens informed him about dangerous driving conditions resulting from motorists turning at the intersection of White Point and Lakeshore.

Please see FOUR-WAY, page A-3



Work was completed Friday on a four-way stop at the intersection of White Point Road and Woodlands Drive. It is intended to discourage drivers from using Lakeshore Drive by way of White Point as a shortcut to the Mid-Bay Bridge.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

What do you think about Notre Dame football player Manti Te'o and his vanishing virtual girlfriend?

Location: KMart



"I think he was a sucker. A lot of people get roped into online scams. He has a big heart and was taken advantage of."

Clarence Garrett, 31,
DeFuniak Springs,
tech support specialist



"I feel sorry for him, and the embarrassment he's suffering. He deserves to have a good relationship with somebody."

Sharon Junco, 59,
Valparaiso,
Registered Nurse



"It's a crying shame what people will do to get ahead of others. People will feel sorry for him, and he'll move up in the NFL draft. He knew what he was doing."

Chester Cooper,
Crestview,
mail carrier



"I just saw her in KMart. She was looking at the Alabama National Championship T-shirts."

T.J. Marshall, 24,
Niceville,
military



"If he was part of the hoax, it will drop his draft status for lack of integrity. If not, he's the most gullible man in the world."

Scott Cawthron, 46,
Crestview,
commercial pressure washer



"It shows that people are gullible, and vulnerable to attacks by media."

Bre Jensen, 17,
Niceville,
cashier

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



Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

NHS runner earns Gatorade award

Thomas Howell, a Niceville High School cross country runner, won the Gatorade Florida boys cross country 2012 runner of the year award, given to students who display athletic and academic achievement along with exemplary character. Howell, a junior, won the class 3A individual state championship this past season, while maintaining a 3.94 GPA.

RETIREE

From page A-1

said the age of the Bluewater Bay development partly accounts for the need for a senior living center such as the one planned.

"Bluewater Bay was developed in the late '70s," Normand said. "Many of the residents are getting older. This facility is essentially upscale living for

those 65 and older who live independently but maybe don't want to care for a house or a yard."

Normand said the facility will offer a shuttle service to cater to seniors who no longer drive.

Normand said Herden and Bluewater Commercial Development will be owning partners in the project, but Superior Residences will handle the management and operation

of the facility.

Separately, Normand said Superior Residences is also planning to build an assisted-living center near its memory-care facility on North Partin Drive, Niceville.

Herden said plans for the Bluewater Bay center should be finalized in two weeks, soon after which he and his associates will submit plans to Okaloosa County.

Assuming approval, Herden said construction on the project should begin at the end of March or beginning of April.

Herden said he believes this would be the first entirely independent senior living facility in Northwest Florida.

Superior Residences, a Hernando County-based operator of senior residential centers, operates a memory-care facility on State Road 20, Niceville.

Storm Sandy fundraiser set Saturday

Mary Quinn of Niceville has a special connection to the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

When the super storm roared ashore along the Eastern Seaboard on Oct. 29, it wreaked havoc on homes and lives throughout the area, including the New York City neighborhoods, known as The Rockaways. That evening as the storm surge crashed against her split level ranch in East Rockaway, Quinn's cousin, Nancy Sorenson, a teacher in the borough of Queens, rushed into her basement to try to salvage some valuables.

Quinn blinks back tears as she recounts what happened next.

"As I understand it, as Nancy rushed to her street level basement, a large piece of boardwalk from the shore a block away broke away and lodged between a telephone pole and a tree," Quinn said. "It caused the storm surge to be funneled directly into her house."

Quinn said a large mirror fell

off the wall and shattered, and one of the pieces sliced Sorenson's arm, causing it to bleed heavily.

When Sorenson screamed, her husband, Tom, ran downstairs and had to dive under the water that was filling the basement to find her. He grabbed her and carried her upstairs, trying frantically to stop the bleeding.

"They called 911, but it was the height of the storm and the emergency personnel couldn't come out to help," Quinn recalled. "Her husband and two of her three teenagers just had to stand by helplessly while she bled to death."

The trauma of losing her beloved cousin, who had served as



Mary Quinn

a bridesmaid in her wedding, prompted Quinn to action. Eager to do something to aid the survivors of the storm, she contacted the Fort Walton Beach regional office of Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida to see if they would be willing to help.

The result of the collaboration is "Grab a Fork, Lend a Hand," an international tasting fair scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 26 at 6 p.m. at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church's Parish Life Center in Niceville.

Quinn said there will be several booths featuring food from Italy, Poland, Mexico, the Philippines, Turkey, Korea and of course America. There will also be Southern favorites like pulled pork and New York classics like hot dogs, as well as desserts and other favorites. Wine beer and soft drinks be available. There will be a drawing for door prizes, Quinn added.

Prices for each food item will

range from \$1 to \$5, with all proceeds benefitting Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens, which has been on the front lines of disaster relief since the day after the storm.

The whole idea of the fundraiser is to raise awareness and money, Quinn said. People don't realize just how devastated that area really is and that they will need help for a long time, Quinn added.

"Those of us who live in Florida hear that it was a Category 1 storm, and we think, that's nothing," Quinn said. "But being a native New Yorker myself, I know not only how densely populated the area that was affected is, but that most of the homes there are more than 50 years old and were never built to sustain this kind of damage."

For more information about "Grab a Fork, Lend a Hand," call Catholic Charities at 850-737-0864.

DOT

From page A-1

diversion of toll revenues to projects not related to the 3.5-mile span over Choctawhatchee Bay.

The Florida Department of Transportation, which drafted the proposal, has asked the Legislature several times in recent years for permission to take over the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, but has been turned down, largely due to opposition by lawmakers in central and south Florida.

In a speech at a transportation symposium held at the Emerald Coast Convention Center Jan. 16, DOT Secretary Ananth Prasad said decreasing gasoline tax revenues resulting from more-efficient cars and less driving has put pressure on the state transportation trust fund, which is funded by user fees in the form of per-gallon taxes levied on motor fuels. Part of the solution, he said, would be to tap the revenue streams of independent highway and bridge authorities such as the one that owns the 19-year-old Mid-Bay Bridge.

Prasad said the state would reach a "gas cliff" in about 10 years if state officials do not find an alternate source of funds or raise the motor-fuels tax. Prasad said the new bill would create the Florida Regional Tollway Authority Act, which in turn would create three regional tollway authorities to help the state generate funds to counter decreasing gas tax revenues.

"Creating local tollway authorities allows the state the flexibility to place tolls," Prasad said. "Tolls are a user fee. If you use the road, you pay for it. If you don't use the road, you don't pay for it. This method is as close to making an equitable user connection as possible."

Two of the three new tollway authorities created by the bill



Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Ananth Prasad speaks at a transportation symposium on Okaloosa Island Jan. 16. Prasad said a bill to be proposed by the DOT for the upcoming state legislative session would create three regional tollway authorities in Florida and transfer control of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority to one of them.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

would be in Northwest Florida: the Northwest Florida Regional Tollway Authority, which would serve Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, and Okaloosa-Bay, which would serve Okaloosa, Bay and Walton counties. The third, the Suncoast Regional Tollway Authority, would serve Citrus, Levy, Marion and Alachua counties.

The only existing independent authority mentioned by name for a state-sponsored takeover in a DOT summary of the bill is the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, which built the bridge and is constructing a 10-mile highway bypassing Niceville—a project similar to that envisioned by the DOT in the 1990s but shot down by political opposition. Under the proposed bill, the DOT, not toll authorities, would build and operate the toll-financed bridges and highways.

James Neilson, a member of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority's governing board, said he is concerned about the legislation, partially because it would take away the authority's ability to accept bids and award contracts for new projects. Neilson said the authority is capable of functioning with-

out a state takeover.

"This authority has been operating extremely well for years with no political input whatsoever," Neilson said.

Neilson also expressed concerns that excess toll money, if any, from the Mid-Bay Bridge would be used to fund projects in Walton and Bay counties under the bill.

"That's one of our worries, tolls that used to be ours could be going over to Bay County," Neilson said.

Mid-Bay Bridge Authority Chairman Gordon Fornell suggested if the gas tax is not sufficient to support DOT projects then the state legislature should raise the tax. Fornell said there was no need to alter the operation of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority to fund other projects.

"[Prasad's] proposal has no merit," Fornell said. "Our little entity has done quite well, our guys are right on schedule, and we're viewed as a model across the country in terms of local transportation."

Fornell added that using Mid-Bay Bridge tolls for outside developments runs counter to the intent of the project.

"We don't want to go across the county," Fornell said. "We don't need any more projects. We did toll expansion, and the connector to 85, and that's it, we don't need any more."

Mid-Bay Bridge Authority Executive Director Jim Vest said the creation of regional tollway authorities complicates an efficient system.

"If the creation of regional tollway authorities will just hand control to the DOT, then why create the authorities?" Vest said. "The Mid-Bay Bridge authority has been successful in terms of managing projects and maintaining a capital program, and it seems unnecessary to transfer it under DOT control."

At the symposium, Prasad answered a question from Neilson after his speech, saying the bill would not place the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority or any other toll authority under the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, as was proposed in previous takeover legislation.

The Florida Senate will convene March 5. The proposed bill is expected to be voted on sometime in late April.

had stop signs for traffic on Woodlands and traffic lights flashing red towards traffic on Woodlands and yellow to traffic on White Point. All traffic lights at the intersection now flash red.

White Point Road changed from being a state highway to a county road after completion of the first phase of the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector. Creation of a four-way stop, requested by the bridge authority, required coun-

ty approval.

White Point Road, which was built as a local county road, was transformed into a busy

state highway in 1993, when the bridge opened, and remained so until the direct S.R. 20 access opened last year.

FOUR-WAY

From page A-1

Fornell said the stop signs are primarily intended to encourage non-local drivers to view White Point as a less attractive access way to the Mid-Bay Bridge. Fornell hopes this will lessen dangerous transitions, protecting drivers and bicyclists on White Point.

Previously, the intersection

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College enrollment down 7.9%

Improving economy seen as cause

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Enrollment for the spring semester at Northwest Florida State College is down about 7.9 percent from last spring. NWFSC President Ty Handy said last week that the magnitude of the decline is "about the middle" of the range experienced by Florida's other community colleges, where enrollments are down from 4 to 8.2 percent.

Handy told college trustees during a meeting in Niceville Jan. 15 that the enrollment drop is typical of what usually happens when the economy begins to recover from a recession, and some potential students are able to find jobs rather than continue their education in order to help prepare for seeking employment.

He said this is the fourth semester of declining enrollment for the college, and that while "We're OK for this year," continued enrollment decline could make it more difficult to forecast college budgets in future years.

In other business during the trustees meeting, the board approved a revised 2012-13 budget for the college-run Collegiate High School. Included in the revised budget, said CHS Principal Anthony Boyer, are increased textbook costs. Textbook publishers have raised fees, he said, including the fees for accessing



Spring-term enrollment has fallen nearly 8 percent at Northwest Florida State College. Pictured, students outside the college's new Student Activities Center, which held a grand opening Jan. 16.

Beacon photo by Anna Kavanaugh

the online resources associated with the textbooks themselves. He also announced that CHS is one of 13 schools in Florida recently nominated for national designation as "Blue Ribbon" schools.

The trustees also heard a briefing by Greg Eller, the college's chief information officer, concerning the Ellucian Banner project, a multiyear, \$7.6 million project to replace existing administrative computer software and hardware throughout the college with a new, more modern and powerful system.

Eller told the trustees that

about 80 percent of the hardware for the new system has now been installed and that software installation will be done from now through the rest of 2013. At the same time, he said, training of college staff members is underway and will also continue throughout the coming year. Complete activation of the new system is expected to take place some time in 2015, he said.

Eller said that "process mapping" of the college's student, financial, and human resources administrative processes will take place over the next 30 months, and will include exercises in which the system will be tested as it is prepared for implementation. He also said the new system will include the "strongest possible" security systems, and that installation and implementation will include a series of security

workshops in the coming year.

Eller also said, however, that the fall 2012 incident in which outside hackers accessed personal information of some NWFSC employees was not connected to the new Banner system. That data theft, he said, was done through the link between the college's existing computer systems and its interface with the global Internet which connects internal college computer systems with the outside world.

Eller told the Beacon that a number of steps have since been taken to fix the vulnerabilities that allowed last year's hack, making future incursions very unlikely. He acknowledged, however, that the battle between computer security and the ingenuity of hackers is an ongoing struggle with no ultimate end in sight.

Among the advantages of

the new system being installed, said Eller, will be document imaging, which will reduce the amount of physical paperwork processed by the college. Documents such as student forms will be imaged so they can be electronically transferred among college departments and stored on computers, presumably reducing the need for paper.

The college's system will also be integrated with that of the NWFSC Foundation, the college's fundraising organization, allowing seamless information and document transfer between both organizations.

Physical security for the new system will also be an improvement, he said. The most critical hardware of the new system will be housed within the same on-campus building as the Okaloosa County emergency operations

center, a Niceville-campus building that is hardened to withstand hurricanes and other disasters.

Eller said he currently expects the new system to "go live" with college finances by July 2014, with human resources and payroll administration by January 2015, and with student records administration by April 2015.

The end result, said Eller, will be "a fantastic system," although he assured the trustees that he has not "drunk the Kool-Aid" of the Ellucian Banner system, and is keeping a close eye on the installation and implementation of the new system to ensure that it does, in fact live up to expectations.

Trustee Sandy Sims congratulated Eller on his work thus far with the Banner system. The new system, she said, will be as important to the college as the construction of a new building.

Handy said the next meeting of the NWFSC trustees will be held at the college's branch in DeFuniak Springs. The board normally meets every other month at 4:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday, in the Student Services Center, room 302, on the college's Niceville campus, except twice a year when the meeting rotates to an alternate location among the college's seven campuses and centers.

The Board of Trustees is also the governing board of the Collegiate High School at NWFSC and normally meets at the Collegiate High School's board for a regular business session immediately prior to meeting as the college's board. Trustees meetings are open to the public. For information, see www.nwfsc.edu/BoardofTrustees.



Ty Handy

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E. Niceville firefighters rebuild quarters

Firehouse bedrooms get more privacy

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

East Niceville Fire District firefighters said they saved taxpayers in the district approximately \$20,000 by forgoing contracted work and making renovations to their living quarters themselves.

Capt. Dennis Mark said men worked while on shift for two weeks from the end of November to the beginning of December to complete the renovations.

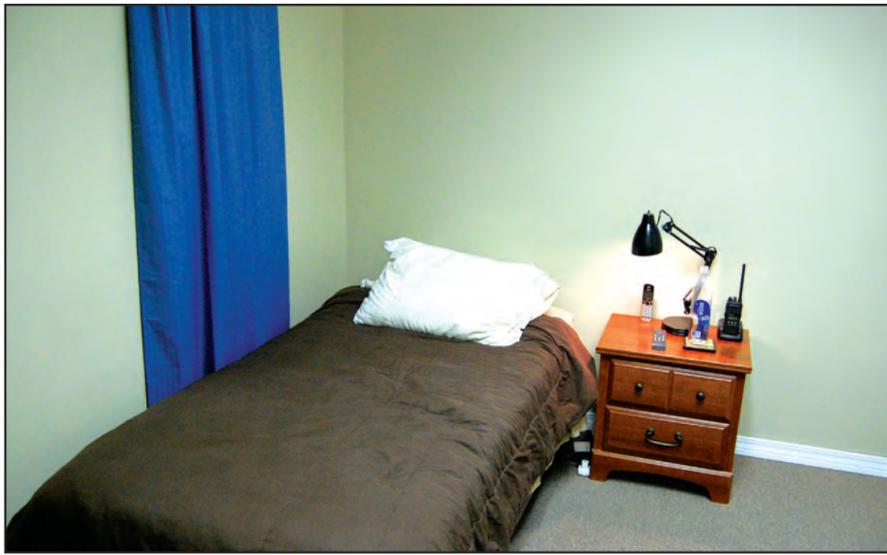
The main changes were the creation of three bedrooms to the fire district's living quarters. Previously, the living quarters had

three beds separated by five-foot-high wooden lockers.

The quarters now have one bedroom for each of the three firefighters on shift at any given time, as well as a common area containing a pingpong table, flat-screen television and three recliners.

Mark said the furniture was paid for by the firemen, and the television was donated to the district.

"Getting all the work done was a pain," Mark said. "But when you're able to save that much money for the department, it's worth it."



The living quarters at the East Niceville Fire District, which now contains three bedrooms separated by solid walls and locking doors, previously held beds separated by tall wooden lockers. Firefighters estimate they saved the district \$20,000 in labor costs by making the renovations themselves.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

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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

Ikyia Tyrone Shaw, 37, of 255 Edge Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by Valparaiso police Jan. 11 on a charge of battery domestic violence. Shaw's required court appearance is scheduled Jan. 29.

Dishawn Carlton Shaw, a skilled laborer, 36, of 255 Edge Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by Valparaiso police Jan. 11 on a charge of felony battery, domestic battery by strangulation. Shaw's required court appearance is scheduled Feb. 26.

Season Brie-Anne Ammons, a self-employed singer/songwriter, 34, of 3117 Pinot Way, Crestview, was arrested by Valparaiso police Jan. 10 on charges of two counts of child abuse without great bodily harm and one count of DUI.

A Valparaiso officer stopped a woman later identified as Ammons for driving without

headlights while it was dark and raining on S.R. 397 at Cutts Drive. While speaking to Ammons, the officer smelled alcohol on her breath. Ammons was driving with her 8- and 10-year-old sons in the truck. Ammons' required court appearance is scheduled Feb. 26.

Jack Henry Neils Jensen, 18, of 1504 Ruckel Drive, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 16 on possession of marijuana less than 20 grams and drug equipment possession.

An officer pulled over a car driven by a man later identified as Jensen for having an inoperable tag light. The officer smelled marijuana coming from the car and asked Jensen if he was in possession of any. Jensen allegedly admitted to having approximately one gram of marijuana and a marijuana smoking device in his car's driver's side door panel. Jensen's required court appearance is scheduled Feb. 5.

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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



Name: Danny Eugene Llewellyn
Wanted for: Failure to Register as a Sexual Offender
Height: 6-feet, 2-inches
Weight: 190
Age: 43
Date of birth: 12-19-1969
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Blue



Name: Arron Deering Odle
Wanted for: VOP-Grand Theft/Trafficking in Stolen Property/Providing False Info to Metal Recycler
Height: 6-feet, 3-inches
Weight: 180
Age: 26
Date of birth: 09-08-1986
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown

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

Jordan Drew Harris, a construction worker, 24, of 331 Sailfish Circle, Destin, was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 9 on a charge of drug equipment possession.

Harris was passenger in a car stopped by an officer for running a red light. After the officer learned the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office had an active warrant for the driver, the officer searched the car and found three hypodermic needles, four metal spoons, two cut straws, a medical band and clear plastic bags containing white residue. The officer also found bottles of amphetamine salts prescribed to the driver.

The officer found an additional pack of needles in the glove box, which Harris allegedly admitted to knowing the location of. Harris' required court appearance is scheduled Jan. 29.

Phyllis Francis Clock, a housewife, 69, of 3806 Cherrywood Court, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 8 on a charge of simple battery domestic violence.

Allegedly, Clock was engaged in a physical argument with someone which started when she began yelling at someone for snoring. Clock's required court appearance is scheduled Jan. 29.

Athena A. Goins, unemployed, 36, of 149 Black Bear Circle, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 9 on a charge of battery domestic violence. Goins' required court appearance is scheduled Jan. 29.

Christopher Michael Campbell, 38, of 304 Reeves St. Lot B, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 11 on a charge of possession of cocaine (crack).

An officer stopped a man later identified as Campbell for riding a bicycle

without a light and saw Campbell pull a bag from his pocket and drop it on the ground. The officer recovered the bag, which contained three rocks of what later field tested positive for cocaine. Campbell's required court appearance is scheduled Feb. 26.

A 17-year-old boy was arrested by Niceville police on a charge of affray for an incident that occurred Oct. 21, 2011. Allegedly, the boy was involved in a fight at the Boggy Bayou Mullet Festival near the children's carnival rides.

Scott Eason Bacheller, unemployed, 55, of 2425 Robert Drive, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 15 on a charge of disorderly intoxication.

An officer allegedly found Bacheller yelling profanities in the parking lot at 1140 E. John Sims Parkway. The officer smelled alcohol on Bacheller and attempted to calm him down but Bacheller continued yelling profanities. The officer searched him and found an opened bottled of vodka in his right rear pocket. Bacheller's required court appearance is scheduled Feb. 5.

Evin Farrel Pace, 28, of 823 St. Pierre Cove, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Jan. 9 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and Jan. 16 on charges of uttering a forged prescription, obtaining a controlled substance by fraud and trafficking in hydromorphone over 4 grams. Following two tips, an officer responded to the CVS pharmacy at 4562 S.R. 20, Niceville, Jan. 7, where employees told him Pace had used a prescription Jan. 6 supposedly written by a doctor in Milton. The officer interviewed the doctor, who said he had not written the prescription and had no record of seeing Pace as a patient. On Jan.



Evin Farrel Pace



Christopher M. Campbell

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from January 14, 2013 through January 17, 2013.

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 0 Structure Fire | 12 Emergency Medical Calls |
| 0 Vehicle Fire | 1 Vehicle Crash |
| 0 Other Fire | 0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication |
| 0 Illegal Burn | 1 Other Emergency Calls |
| 0 False Alarms | 1 Hazardous Conditions |

| STREET | SITUATION | DATE | TIME |
|--------------------|------------------|---------|-------|
| Twin Cities Blvd | Medical | 1/14/13 | 12:33 |
| 26th Street | Medical | 1/14/13 | 17:55 |
| Goldenrod Ct. | Alarm activation | 1/14/13 | 18:02 |
| 20th Street | Medical | 1/14/13 | 20:33 |
| N. Partin Dr. | Medical | 1/15/13 | 05:23 |
| Reeves St. | Medical | 1/15/13 | 08:01 |
| 23rd Street | Medical | 1/15/13 | 11:19 |
| E. John Sims Pkwy. | Fuel spill | 1/15/13 | 17:37 |
| Cedar Ridge Way | Medical | 1/15/13 | 18:28 |
| N. Partin Dr. | Medical | 1/15/13 | 21:59 |
| E. John Sims Pkwy. | Vehicle crash | 1/16/13 | 14:54 |
| Lincolnshire Dr. | Medical | 1/17/13 | 09:03 |
| E. John Sims Pkwy. | Medical | 1/17/13 | 12:13 |
| Reeves St. | Medical | 1/17/13 | 20:39 |
| E. John Sims Pkwy. | Medical | 1/17/13 | 23:48 |

Weekly Safety Tip: Replace all smoke alarm batteries immediately upon moving into a new home. Test smoke alarms at least once a month and clean the unit according to the manufacturer's instructions. Regularly vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarm following manufacturer's instructions can help keep it working properly.

Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from January 14, 2013 through January 18, 2013.

| Street | Situation | Date | Time |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| Glen Eagles Dr. | Medical | 1/14/13 | 11:13 |
| N. White Point Rd. | Medical | 1/14/13 | 17:22 |
| Sunset Beach Cir. | Medical | 1/15/13 | 16:28 |
| N. White Point Rd. | Medical | 1/15/13 | 23:00 |
| Highway 20 East | Vehicle fire | 1/16/13 | 04:06 |
| Range Rd/E. Hwy. 20 | Dispatched & cancelled | 1/16/13 | 14:21 |
| Cat Mar Rd. | Medical | 1/16/13 | 16:44 |
| Treasure Cove | Medical | 1/16/13 | 18:15 |
| Cedar Street | Medical | 1/17/13 | 05:15 |
| Parkside Lane | Medical | 1/17/13 | 19:39 |
| Merchants Way | Medical | 1/17/13 | 20:34 |
| Antiqua Way | Medical alarm activation | 1/18/13 | 10:38 |
| Parkwood Place | Medical | 1/18/13 | 14:50 |

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

9, an employee of the pharmacy called the officer and said Pace was in the store. Pace was arrested on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription for an incident unrelated to the one which occurred Jan. 7.

Holly Nicole Tharp, a locksmith employee, 29, of 107 Quince Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Jan. 11 on charges of petit theft and resisting property recovery of a retail merchant. Employees of the Walmart at 748 N. Beal Parkway, Fort Walton Beach, reported Tharp attempted to leave the store without paying for \$116.46 worth of merchandise. Tharp allegedly became combative when detained by Walmart loss prevention workers. Tharp's required court appearance is scheduled Jan. 29.

Sean Wayne Bradley, a chef, 39, of 107 Harding Road Lot E, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Jan. 11 on a Bay County warrant for misdemeanor violation of probation on the original charge of domestic violence battery.

Barbara Lawson Allen, 69, of 1693 Sycamore Ave., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Jan. 11 on a charge of driving while license suspended. Allen's required court appearance is scheduled Jan. 29.

DUI arrests

Matthew Warren Sweeney, 32, 75 Palmetto St., Freeport, was arrested by Valparaiso police for DUI at S.R. 397 at Chicago Ave., Valparaiso, Jan. 10 at 2:31 a.m. Sweeney was also arrested for driving while license suspended or revoked and cited for speeding. Sweeney's required court appearance is scheduled Jan. 29.

Megan L. Chaffee, 28, of 309 Okaloosa Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI at S.R. 85 at Evans St., Niceville, Jan. 12 at 12:15 a.m.

Chaffee was also cited for failure to drive within a single lane.

Kimberly April Griffin, 37, of 101 Harding Road Lot C, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies for DUI at Beuge Boulevard, Fort Walton Beach, Jan. 13 at 1:31 a.m.

Thefts

A Niceville resident of the 500 block of Bayshore Drive reported Jan. 14 an unknown person stole his green kayak from his dock.

Criminal mischief

A Niceville resident of the 2000 block of Kildare Circle reported Jan. 10 someone broke her brick mailbox in half.

Other

A Niceville resident reported her son was bitten on the hand by a red-nosed pit bull while walking on Reeves Street Jan. 9. The dog had no collar or tags. The boy was taken to Twin Cities Hospital emergency room.

A Niceville resident of the 300 block of Evergreen Avenue reported a bear attempted to enter his house through the back door Jan. 13.

A Niceville resident of the 400 block of Springwood Way reported she saw a black bear in her yard while she was in her car Jan. 14. She reported the bear would leave but come back when she tried to exit her car. An officer responded and reported the woman was able to get into her house without the bear returning.

Florida wildlife officer Heath Nichols and Reserve Officer Richard Strong were notified by the staff of Rocky Bayou State Park that a truck had been driven into Little Rocky Creek and was stuck on Eglin property. The 4x4 truck was upstream from the boat ramp when the officers arrived. The driver was cited for driving off the designated roadway. Eglin security forces responded as well.

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Plew students receive trees for Arbor Day

By Anna Kavanaugh
Beacon Staff Writer

More than 40 Plew Elementary School fourth graders received tree seedlings to take home and plant in honor of Arbor Day Jan. 17 from Frank Walker, a local State Farm Insurance agent.

Walker donated more than 80 sabal palm tree seedlings, Florida's state tree, to fourth grade students at Plew and Lisa Jackson School to honor Florida's Arbor Day, which fell on Jan. 18 this year, by encouraging students to plant the seedlings at their homes to help the environment.

"The biggest thing we are trying to promote as an organization is the involvement that a child can have in the environment,"

Walker said. "If we start them at this age, it will stick with them in the future."

The students were eager to ask questions about planting trees during Walker's presentation.

"Is it a special kind of tree, or just a regular tree?," a student asked.

Walker explained to the students that sabal palm trees can grow up to 50 feet.

Walker was able to donate the seedlings through Fourth Grade Foresters USA, a group that strives to observe Arbor Day in schools across the nation by encouraging individuals, businesses and organizations to sponsor trees for fourth graders to impact the forests in their area.

Please see PLEW, page B-4



State Farm Insurance agent Frank Walker, right, donated more than 40 tree seedlings to Plew Elementary fourth graders to plant in honor of Arbor Day Jan. 17 at the school.



David Costa, founder and president of Costa Enterprises-McDonald's, presented a \$2,000 check to benefit the Taylor Haugen Foundation in October. From left: David Costa Sr., Helen Costa, Taylor's parents, Kathy and Brian Haugen, and David Costa Jr.

McDonald's give \$2,000 to Taylor Haugen Foundation

Costa Enterprises, which operates McDonald's restaurants from Port St. Joe to Navarre, hosts the Taylor Haugen Foundation Helmet Campaign each year in honor of Taylor Haugen, a 15-year-old Niceville High School football player who passed away after an injury sustained during a football game in 2008.

The campaign raised \$1,000 for 2012 selling \$1 donation paper helmets at McDonald's to support the foundation. That amount was matched by Costa Enterprises raising the dona-

tion to \$2,000. Nearly \$10,000 has been collected and matched since the campaign began in 2008.

The proceeds from the Helmet Campaign go directly to support the four arms of the Taylor Haugen Foundation: Taylor Haugen Trophy, Youth Corps, scholarships for Okaloosa County and the YESS (Youth Equipment for Sports Safety) program that assists schools and community sports teams in education and acquisition of innovative safety equipment for youth athletes.

The foundation has provid-

ed 12 Scholarships, four Taylor Haugen Trophies, and five YESS grants to schools in the area.

"We are touched and honored by the outreach of the Costa's and their team at McDonald's," Taylor's mother Kathy Haugen said. "Through their generosity, we are able to keep Taylor's legacy alive through scholarships, and help in our goal to better educate and equip our middle school and high school athletes of protective sports gear often worn by the pros, but rarely known to our youth athletes."



Rocky Bayou students meet Clifford

Rocky Bayou Christian School's Early Intervention Development class, Mrs. Sandiford, Mr. Allredge, and parent Keya Headen enjoyed the Niceville Library's story time with a special visit from storybook Clifford, the Big Red Dog, Jan. 10.



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Fireworks fundraiser

The Twin Cities Fireworks Committee is raising funds for the Boggy Bayou Fireworks by selling Boston Butts until Feb. 1, at the Niceville Library. The cost is \$25 each or three for \$65. Tickets can be purchased at the library and the Butts can be picked up at the Niceville Community Center Feb. 1, 4-7 p.m., and Feb. 2, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The original Doris' BBA Sauce will also be available for purchase at time of pick up.

Junior Golf tournament

The Emerald Coast Junior Golf Tour will host its 2013 Opening Day tournament Jan. 27, 10 a.m. check in, 10:45 a.m. start, at Rocky Bayou Country Club, Niceville. The 9-hole, 3-club, par 3 tournament costs \$40 to enter and open to children ages 10-18. Register by Jan. 24 at www.ecjrgolf.com or contact Michele Poate at 585-9080.

NUMC Volleyball registration

The Niceville United Methodist Church is accepting participants for its adult/teen volleyball league until Feb. 22. Ages 16 and up can register for \$45 per person with the Recreation Ministry at the Community Life Center or nicevilleumc.org/recreation. All games take place Mondays March 4-April 22, 6 p.m., at the Community Life Center, Niceville. United Methodist Church. Games begin March 4 and end on April 22.

Republican Club meeting

The Okaloosa County Republican Club will install its officers Jan. 24, 7 p.m., at the American Legion Hall on Racetrack Road, Fort Walton Beach. President Marvin Brigman, first vice president Don Adams, second vice

president Corey Aittama, corresponding secretary Carol Koch, recording secretary Melissa Windes and treasurer Ron Webb will be inducted.

County Commissioners Wayne Harris and Kelly Windes will speak along with property appraiser Pete Smith and Don Howard. A social hour will begin at 6:15 p.m. Contact Jane Dale at 651-5049 for dinner reservations for \$12.00. All county Republicans are invited to attend.

Embroiderers' Guild meeting

The Sand Dunes Chapter of Embroiderers' Guild of America will meet Jan. 24, 6-8:30 p.m., and Jan. 28, 9:30 a.m.-noon, room 400, First United Methodist Church of Niceville. Visitors are welcome.

Violin Concert

Sinfonia Gulf Coast presents Grammy-nominated violinist Caroline Goulding performing "Sibelius and the 7th (of Beethoven)" Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m., Destiny Worship center, Miramar Beach. Tickets are \$29.50-\$42.50 and can be purchased at 269-7129 or sifoniagulfcoast.com

Surfing documentary

The Mattie Kelly Fine and Performing Arts Center will present a free public screening of the new documentary, "Florida's Surfing History-Part One: The Panhandle" on Friday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m., in the Sprint Theater, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville. Contact 384-1484 or feipcola@bellsouth.net.

Telescope workshop

Bring new and old telescopes for an evening of instruction and advice with the Northwest Florida Astronomy Association Jan. 26, 4:30 p.m., on the driving pad adjacent to the observatory (S-2), Northwest Florida State College, Niceville. Bring a red filter for your flashlight, a fresh set of batteries and any instructions/manuals that come with the equipment. Contact Tom Haugh at 678-6483 or www.nwfastro.org.

RBBC seminar

Rocky Bayou Baptist Church will host a free seminar titled "Why Biblical Counseling?" with Dr. Abercrombie Saturday, Jan. 26, 9-11 a.m., at the church, Niceville. Contact 678-6062.

Hurricane Sandy fundraiser

Catholic Charities will host an international tasting fair fundraiser for victims of Hurricane Sandy, "Grab a Fork, Lend a Hand," Jan. 26, 6 p.m., at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church's Parish Life Center, Niceville.

Taste food from Italy, Poland, Mexico, the Philippines, Turkey, Korea and America ranging from \$1 to \$5, with all proceeds benefiting Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens, which has been on the front lines of disaster relief since the day after the storm. Contact Catholic Charities at 737.0864.

Boat safety class

The Coast Guard Auxiliary will host a boat safety class Jan. 26, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Coast Guard Station, 2000 Miracle Strip Pkwy, Destin. The class is \$35 and includes the course, book, exam, FWC Safe Boating ID Card, lunch, line handling and knots demo, tour of the station and safety whistle. Contact Joe G. Moffitt at 497-2071 or joemoffitt@att.net to register by Jan. 23.

Junior Orchestra rehearsal

The Northwest Florida State College Junior Orchestra, a string ensemble, is accepting students for its second semester at its first rehearsal Jan. 26, 10 a.m.-noon, room 304 of the music wing, NWFSC, Niceville, for \$125. The program is open to string students (violin, viola, cello and string bass) grades 3-9 in Okaloosa and Walton Counties, with at least two years of experience. The group is a stepping-stone to the more advanced Northwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra, both directed by Liz Aylor, and meets Saturday mornings. Contact 651-4308.

Hand quilting workshop

Join the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida for a hand-quilting workshop Saturdays, Jan. 26 to March 2, 10-11 a.m., at 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso. Beginners and experienced quilters will learn hand appliqué and create a wall hanging for \$35 or \$30 for museum members.

Travel soccer team tryouts

The FC Dallas Emerald Coast



Photo by Brian Lowe

'Ricky Nelson Remembered' concert

The Emerald Coast Concert Association presents a "Ricky Nelson Remembered" tribute performed by the Nelson Twins, Gunnar and Matthew, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m., at the Emerald Coast Conference Center. Advance tickets are \$30.

Travel Soccer team will host tryouts for its competitive travel teams on Jan. 26, 9-11:30 a.m., at the Twin Oaks Soccer Complex, Niceville. Ages 9-12 will tryout at 9 a.m. and ages 13-18 will tryout at 10:15 a.m. There is a \$10 tryout fee. Contact Maria Jordan 496-9183 or rec@fcdallas-ec.com.

Tea Party meeting

The Niceville-Valparaiso Tea Party will meet Monday, Jan. 28, 6 p.m., at Niceville City Hall, 208 North Partin Drive. The guest speaker will be David Goetsch, partner in the firm HR Solutions, Inc., and retired college

professor and vice-president. Dr. Goetsch is a best-selling author of 75 books in the fields of business, technology, and political commentary. His topic will be "How the Tea Party can save America." Guests are welcome. Contact 729-2874 or visit www.emeraldcoastpatriots.com.

Academic tournament

The Communications/Okaloosa School District Academic Tournament will begin Jan. 29, 3:30 p.m., in the Media Center at the Choctawhatchee High School. The tournament will be a dou-

ble-elimination tournament bracket similar to the College Baseball World Series bracket, with seven teams. Match 1 will be Crestview vs. Choctaw, 3:30 p.m., match 2, Rocky Bayou vs. Laurel Hill, 4 p.m., and match 3, Fort Walton Beach vs. Niceville, 4:30 p.m.

Ricky Nelson tribute

The Emerald Coast Concert Association presents a "Ricky Nelson Remembered" tribute performed by the Nelson Twins, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m., at the Emerald Coast Conference Center, Fort Walton Beach. Ricky Nelson, who died 25 years ago in a plane crash, grew from a teen idol to a rock legend. Nelson's twin sons, Mathew and Gunnar Nelson, take the stage in this tribute to their father. Contact 362-9356 to order advance tickets for \$30.

Legislative hearing

Members of the Okaloosa County state legislative delegation will hold a public hearing Jan. 30, 5-6:30 p.m., at Niceville City Hall, 208 N. Partin Drive. Public comments will be heard on proposals for the 2013 regular session of the Florida Legislature. To be placed on the agenda or submit handouts, contact Lauren Williams at 833-9328 or Lauren.williams@myflorida-house.gov by Jan. 25, 5 p.m.

Gun safety course

Northwest Florida State College's Criminal Justice Department will hold a two-day public Firearms Safety and Concealed Carry course Jan. 30, 6-10 p.m., and Feb. 1, 8 a.m.-noon, at the college. The first session will be in the classroom and second session will take place on the gun range.

The cost is \$156 and includes the use of college firearms. Personal firearms are not permitted in the class or on campus.

Customized class times are available for groups. Successful completion of the course satisfies state requirements for a firearms safety course and may be used as part of an individual's application for a concealed carry permit. Contact Sean Lynch at 729-6088 or lynch1@nwfsc.edu to register.

'Hair' the musical

The Tony Award winning musical production "Hair" will take place Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., at Mattie Kelly Arts Center, 100 College Blvd., Niceville. The musical is about a group of young Americans searching for peace and love in a turbulent time that has struck a resonant chord with audiences young and old.

The show is for mature audiences and parental discretion is advised. Tickets are \$45 each, with a group discount of \$5 off per ticket for 10 or more people. Group sales are by phone or in-person only. To purchase tickets contact the box-office at 729-6000 or www.mattiekellyartscenter.org.

Adventure Club bike ride

The Adventure Club will host a bike ride Jan. 31, 3 p.m., in the Bluewater Bay Resort subdivision, Niceville. Meet at the parking area of the golf course clubhouse. Dinner will be at a nearby restaurant after the ride. Contact Jim and Maria at 897-6756.

Grief support group

Covenant Hospice will offer a free six-week grief support group Thursdays, Jan. 31-March 7, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Covenant Hospice office, 220 Eglin Pkwy. N.E., Fort Walton Beach. Those who attend will have the opportunity to explore their grief in a safe and caring environment. Registration is required by Jan 25. Contact Chris Krebs at 729-1800 or chris.krebs@covenanthospice.org.

All County Band concert

The Okaloosa All County Middle School Band concert will take place Feb. 1, 7 p.m., at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville. Band students chosen from Lewis School and Ruckel Middle School will perform.

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Lewis band performs winter concert

The Lewis School band performed a mixture of holiday and wind band literature in its annual winter concert Dec. 18 in the Taylor Haugen gym.

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Who's News

Keith Lee of Niceville earned highest honors on the Dakota State University president's academic honors list for the fall 2012 semester. To qualify for highest honors the student must have a 4.0 grade point average.



Keith Lee

Dr. Darby Proctor, a 1998 Niceville High School graduate, earned a doctorate in psychology/animal behavior from Georgia State University, Atlanta. She is the daughter of retired U.S. Air Force Col. Cort Proctor and Lona Proctor of Niceville. Her dissertation work involved researching the origins of human gambling behavior by testing gambling-like behavior in two species of non-human primates: chimpanzees and capuchin monkeys.



Darby Proctor

Upon graduation, Dr. Proctor received an NIH-funded post-doctoral fellowship in research, science and teaching at Emory University and the Yerkes National Primate Research Center.

Samantha Horn, daughter of Jessica and Jeffrey Horn of Niceville, was named to the dean's list of Macalester

College for academic achievement during the 2012 fall semester.

She is a graduate of Collegiate High School at Northwest Florida State College. To be eligible for the dean's list a student must achieve a semester grade point average of at least 3.75.

Sarah G. Lynch of Niceville was named to the honor roll at Gardner-Webb University for the 2012 fall semester. To qualify for the honor roll students must achieve a grade point average between 3.2 and 3.7 for the semester.



Sarah Lynch

Elizabeth Hover of Valparaiso was named to the fall 2012 president's list at Armstrong Atlantic State University. Hover is a senior majoring in English at the college.

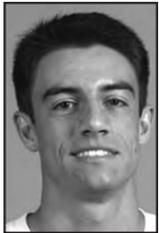
Zachary Gadzinski of Niceville has been named to the Northwest Florida State College president's list for the 2012 fall semester. He is a 2011 Rocky Bayou Christian School graduate and the son of Len and Pam Gadzinski of Niceville.



Zachary Gadzinski

He will graduate from NWFSC in May and plans to attend the University of Central Florida in September majoring in digital media and game design.

Barry Dylewski of Valparaiso was named to the Florida Institute of Technology dean's list for the 2012 fall semester. He is majoring in electrical engineering and to qualify for the dean's list the student must receive a grade point average of at least 3.4.



Barry Dylewski

Rachael Elizabeth Farrell of Niceville was named to The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, dean's list for the 2012 fall semester. She is a cadet seeking a bachelor's degree in physical education and sports management. To qualify the student must receive a grade point average of 3.2 or higher.

Andrew Ellis Watson of Niceville, was named to the Clemson University dean's list for the 2012 fall semester. He is majoring in wildlife and fisheries biology. To qualify the student must achieve a grade point average between 3.50 and 3.99 on a 4.0 scale.

Brittani E. Phillips of Niceville was named to the LBW Community College president's list for the 2012 fall semester. To qualify the student must receive a 4.0 grade point average.

Kathryn Kilbey of Niceville made the Georgia Institute of Technology dean's list for the 2012 fall semester. Students must earn a grade point average of 3.0 or higher to qualify.

Jennifer Michelle Meyers of Niceville graduated with a bachelor of arts and sciences degree from Dallas Baptist University. She is the daughter of Rick and Bonnie Appleby, Niceville.

Ryan J. Duplechin of Niceville became a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, National Leadership Honors Organization at Florida State University. He is a 2011 Niceville High School graduate.



Ryan Duplechin

Plew Elementary students participated in a school wide holiday canned food drive to coincide with its December theme of caring. Students collected 2,205 units of nonperishable foods and toiletry items and donated them to Sharing and Caring, Niceville.

Bobbie Nedoroscik of Niceville was selected by her peers as Plew Elementary's Support Person of the Year.



Bobbie Nedoroscik

The **USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 1-4** Fort Walton Beach-Destin elected its 2013 officers Flotilla commander John Beebe, who served as vice commander in 2012, and Flotilla vice commander John Ryan, who served as public affairs staff officer and public education staff officer in 2012.

In the Service

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class **Nicholas J. Rinke** 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



Nicholas Rinke

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.

Rinke is the son of Kurt Rinke of Toftrees Lane, Springboro, Ohio, and Suzanne Wilson of Glenwood Court, Niceville. He is a 2010 graduate of Springboro High School, Ohio.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. **Daniel Walley** of Niceville and LSU and Manhattan School of Music alumni, was selected as a member of the U.S. Air Force Band. He also performed as part of the 57th Presidential Inauguration Jan. 21.

Navy Seaman Apprentice **Nathan Elliott** graduated from Naval basic military training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Elliott is currently attending the Naval Special Warfare preliminary course at Great Lakes and will transfer to Coronado California for SWCC training.



Nathan Elliott

He is the son of Ken and Rhonda Elliott of Bluewater Bay, and a 2012 Niceville High School graduate.

Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class **Jaron I. Snyder** 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.



Jaron Snyder

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

Snyder earned distinction as an honor graduate. He is a 2006 Niceville High School graduate and the son of Barbara Snyder of Niceville and Jack Snyder of Manassa, Va.

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If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

*CenturyLink Internet Basics Program - Residential customers only who qualify based on meeting income level or program participation eligibility requirements, and requires remaining eligible for the entire offer period. First bill will include charges for the first full month of service billed in advance, prorated charges for service from the date of installation to bill date, and one-time charges and fees described above. Qualifying customers may keep this program for a maximum of 60 months after service activation provided customer still qualifies during that time. Listed High-Speed Internet rate of \$9.95/mo. applies for first 12 months of service (after which the rate reverts to \$14.95/mo. for the next 48 months of service), and requires a 12-month term agreement. Customer must either lease a modem/router from CenturyLink for an additional monthly charge or independently purchase a modem/router, and a one-time High-Speed Internet activation fee applies. A one-time professional installation charge (if selected by customer) and a one-time shipping and handling fee applies to customer's modem/router. General - Services not available everywhere. CenturyLink may change or cancel services or substitute similar services at its sole discretion without notice. Offer, plans, and stated rates are subject to change and may vary by service area. Deposit may be required. Additional restrictions apply. Terms and Conditions - All products and services listed are governed by tariffs, terms of service, or terms and conditions posted at centurylink.com. Taxes, Fees, and Surcharges - Applicable taxes, fees, and surcharges include a carrier Universal Service charge, carrier cost recovery surcharges, state and local fees that vary by area and certain in-state surcharges. Cost recovery fees are not taxes or government-required charges for use. Taxes, fees, and surcharges apply based on standard monthly, not promotional, rates.



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PLEW

From page B-1

The group packages the seedlings and ships them to the donor at no cost to the school, teachers or students.

"It costs about \$200 a school," Walker said. "I hope to do more schools next year."

Walker hopes to donate to six or seven schools next year to encourage kids in school to become involved in the environment.

Students also learned about the history of Arbor Day at the presentation and were excited to receive their seedling.

"I'm going to try to find somewhere to plant it in my yard," fourth grader Javier Lucio said.

Arbor Day was first established in Nebraska by J. Sterling Morton on April 10, 1872, to encourage people to plant and care for trees all over the world. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, an estimated one million trees were planted in Nebraska that day.

Since then each state and countries all over the world have planted trees in honor of Arbor Day.

Walker said about 5,000-6,000 trees will be planted by fourth graders throughout the U.S. this year.

The National Arbor Day is usually the last Friday in April, but many states observe it on different dates according to the state's best tree-planting times. The state Arbor Day in Florida is celebrated on the third Friday in January each year.



Beacon photo by Anna Kavanaugh
Plew Elementary fourth graders Hailey Moriarty, Clara Bradley, Colton Wolf, Jacob Perry and Javier Lucio each received sabal palm tree seedlings to plant in honor of Arbor Day Jan. 17.

Engagement

Halbert-Van Decar

Frank and Kerry Halbert announce the engagement of their daughter, Lauren Michelle Halbert to James Tyler Van Decar, son of James and Tama Van Decar, also of Niceville.

Both are honor graduates of Niceville High School and serve their country as second lieutenants in the United States Air Force.

Lauren graduated from the University of Central Florida where she played division one soccer and Tyler graduated from the University of Florida and ROTC.



Lauren Michelle Halbert and James Tyler Van Decar

Lauren is a second year medical student stationed at the National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Md.

Tyler is enrolled in undergraduate pilot training and stationed at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. The wedding date is to be determined.



Sisters complete Bone Island triathlon

Niceville High School graduates and sisters Rachel Lacertosa, Jenica Kelly and Lynn Horrigan completed the Bone Island Ironman half distance triathlon Jan. 12, Key West. They are the daughters of Gayle and David Chastain of Niceville.



DAR/CAR members lay wreath

Snowden-Horne Chapter, Children of the American Revolution, and Choctawhatchee Bay Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, members Margaret Nichols, Laura Gamble, Dorothy Frangioni, and Susan VanderZeyde laid a wreath at ancestor Joab Horne's grave in northern Okaloosa County to celebrate his 259th birthday Dec. 30.

KOC free throw champs



The Knights of Columbus Councils 7667 and 13527 basketball free throw winners are: Dominic Mahoney, Lauren Miller, Kevin Quinn, Isaiah Craft, Richard Brown, Kamrin Mahoney, Drew Knebl and Will West.

The Knights of Columbus Councils 7667 and 13527 held their annual basketball free throw competition Jan. 12, at the Family Life Center of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Niceville.

The combined winners in the respective age groups are: Dominic Mahoney, age 10 boys first place; Lauren Miller, age 11 girls first place; age 12 boys, Isaiah Craft, first place, Richard Brown second place, and Kevin Quinn third place; age 13 boys first place Kamrin Mahoney,

second place Drew Knebl; and age 14 boys first place Will West.

The first place winners will move on to the District Level Championship Jan. 27, 2 p.m., at the Crestview City Youth Center, 100 Hathaway Street.



Rocky Bayou students issued iPads

Rocky Bayou Christian School bought several sets of iPads fourth graders Lake Marthis and Dhimitri Simpkins use in their language arts classes to make puppet shows of Bible stories, write biographies, take virtual tours, write and record songs, and create infomercials.

NHS Science Fair winners

The Niceville High School Science Fair first place winners will move on to the East Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair Feb. 7, at the Northwest Florida Fairgrounds, 1958, Lewis Turner Blvd., Fort Walton Beach.

The NHS first place winners are: Nicholas Lopez, Tyler Russell, Matthew Klein, Brianna Means, Matthew Marks, Mary Claire Cockrum and Lanie Ely, Michael Sementilli, Evan Etheridge, Kyle Saleeby, Brayton Miles, Amanda Wilson and Kristen Santasier, Wesley Wilkes and William West, Erin Ringel, P.J. Shaw, Stephen Herrera, Katrina Sherwin and Claire Pondera.

Okaloosa Heart & Vascular Center

ANNOUNCEMENT
Dr. Joseph Pedone has received Board Certification from the International Board of Heart Rhythm Examiners (formerly NASPE) for Cardiac Rhythm Device Therapy (Defibrillator/ICD Placement and Cardiac Pacing).

ANNOUNCEMENT
Dr. Joseph Pedone and Dr. Michael Yandel have completed training in RADIAL ARTERY ACCESS FOR CARDIAC CATHETERIZATIONS AND ANGIOPLASTY (CARDIAC STENTS); and are experiencing good outcomes, and increased patient satisfaction.

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