

The Bay Beacon

10 Pages, 2 Sections, 4 Inserts

Wednesday, January 30, 2013

50¢

**UP
COMING**Thursday, 3 p.m.

Enjoy the outdoors and take a scenic **bike ride** with the Adventure Club in the **Bluewater Bay Resort** subdivision, Niceville.

Friday, 7 p.m.

Enjoy the free Okaloosa All County Middle School **Band concert** at the **Mattie Kelly Arts Center**, Niceville.

Monday, 1:30 p.m.

Learn Spanish for free with Carmen Cameron at the **Valparaiso Community Library**.

Monday, 6:30 p.m.

Explore Mac systems and apps at a **Mac Users meeting** at **Northwest Florida State College**, Niceville.

Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.

Listen and learn at the free, public, classical **music study** series, "Better Listening," at the **Unitarian Church Fellowship Hall**, Valparaiso.

See Calendar, B-3.

Murphy offers new plans for gas station

Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

Murphy Oil Corp. submitted updated site plans Friday for a gasoline station and convenience store near the entrance of the Walmart at 1300 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville. The company plans to begin construction in February, according to Niceville Building Inspector Darcy Chaney.

Murphy Oil, based in El Dorado, Ark., operates high-volume, low-priced gas stations and associated convenience stores, typically near Walmart or Sam's Club stores.

The plans indicate that the Niceville installation would be

Firefighters train for plane crash

Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

Eglin Air Force Base firefighters will conduct a plane-crash drill with the Valparaiso, Niceville and East Niceville fire departments in Valparaiso today.

Valparaiso Fire Chief Mark Norris said the drill, called a major accident response exercise, is intended to help civilian firefighters work with their Air Force counterparts in the event.

"This will be an integrated training exercise," Norris said. "We want to learn how to integrate our firefighters with Eglin, and we hope to learn each other's capabilities and limitations."

Norris said the exercise, which is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. at the city public works yard on Valastics Avenue, under the air approach to one of Eglin's two runways, will simulate a situation in which a plane crashes into a building and ignites a fire. A building at the works yard will be filled with fake smoke from a theatrical smoke machine.

Norris said there would be an unspecified number of people playing the roles of injured or dead victims of the mock crash. The site is a few hundred feet from where a real Eglin jet crashed in 2003, severely damaging two houses. No one was seriously hurt in that accident.

According to Norris, a flashing light will indicate that a "fire" is burning, and the light will stop flashing when the mock blaze has been extinguished. The exercise will assume the

pilot and co-pilot of the F-16 approached Eglin Air Force Base for a landing, lost control and ejected before impact.

Norris said two victims will be dressed as pilots, complete with deployed parachutes, and that emergency workers will care for them accordingly.

Norris said it is important to involve nearby fire departments in the exercise, because in a real air crash off base, Valparaiso, Niceville and East Niceville fire

Please see TRAIN, page A-4

Fire Chief Mark Norris

DOT to attend meeting on highway noise

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

Florida Department of Transportation representatives will attend a meeting Thursday of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority and residents of two neighborhoods to discuss noise from the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector road.

Meantime, workers this month are planting hundreds of trees in a second attempt to block traffic sounds and headlights from the four-lane highway east of Bluewater Bay.

Residents of Chardonnay Estates and White Point Village, both neighborhoods just west of the busy state road, have told the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority their quality of life has decreased significantly due to traffic noise. Representatives of the neighborhoods have requested that the DOT conduct a study, which they believe will justify installation of a noise-

Please see NOISE, page A-3

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser
Workers place an irrigation system next to a new vegetation barrier between houses and the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector Jan. 23. Plants in a previous barrier died, prompting complaints about noise and lights from the highway.

Students take flight in new lab



The Okaloosa STEMM Academy began its second semester with a new flight lab paid for by Boeing Co. Here, students Allison Rodas and Sam Scholl learn how to take off, fly and land planes with simulators at the science-and-math magnet middle school, which opened in August in Valparaiso. Story, page B-1.

Auditor to present TDC findings

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

Members of the Okaloosa County state legislative delegation will hold a public hearing today from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Niceville City Hall, 208 N. Partin Drive.

The delegation will offer a forum for public comment on proposals for the 2013 regular session of the Florida Legislature, which will begin March 5 and last 60 days.

Rep. Matt Gaetz, a Fort Walton Beach Republican whose district includes Niceville and Valparaiso, said the Florida Auditor General's office will present plans to prevent further misuse of county tax funds, including discussion of the auditor's recent audit of the Okaloosa Tourist Development Council.

The audit criticized the Okaloosa County Commission for failing to notice the embezzlement of hundreds



Rep. Matt Gaetz

of thousands of dollars by former TDC director Mark Bellinger, who bought a house with the money. He killed himself last year after the scheme came to light.

Gaetz said it is important that citizens attend the hearings to better understand the issue and learn how the legislature intends to prevent such thefts from occurring again.

"It is in the interest of the legislature to see whether we need to embed

ethics reforms at the county and local levels," Gaetz said.

Gaetz said Okaloosa County Commissioner Dave Parisot will be present to provide the county response to the proposals.

Gaetz said that after the auditor general's presentation, municipalities and other organizations and individuals will make proposals for the

Please see TDC, page A-3

Collision cleanup

Niceville police officers move a motorcycle off John Sims Parkway after it collided with the rear of a Cadillac Escalade at John Sims and Redwood Avenue Jan. 24. The motorcyclist, whose name was not available, was airlifted via helicopter ambulance to Baptist Hospital, Pensacola, according to the Niceville Fire Department.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

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Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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



Name: **Chad Alford**
Wanted for: **Aggravated Assault (DOMV) & Animal Cruelty**
Height: 6-feet, 4-inches
Weight: 240
Age: 36
Date of birth: 04-26-1976
Hair: Black
Eyes: Blue



Name: **Eugene Charles Lafferty**
Wanted for: **VOP-Burglary**
Height: 6-feet, 1-inches
Weight: 215
Age: 34
Date of birth: 06-13-1978
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Blue

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)

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from January 18, 2013 through January 27, 2013.

0 Structure Fire	22 Emergency Medical Calls	DATE	TIME
0 Vehicle Fire	1 Vehicle Crash	1/18/13	10:11
0 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication	1/18/13	12:04
1 Illegal Burn	5 Other Emergency Calls	1/18/13	22:36
0 False Alarms	1 Hazardous Conditions	1/19/13	23:48
		1/20/13	13:30
		1/20/13	14:41
		1/20/13	23:07
		1/21/13	11:13
		1/21/13	13:07
		1/21/13	17:12
		1/22/13	16:41
		1/22/13	21:40
		1/23/13	07:36
		1/24/13	08:54
		1/24/13	11:50
		1/24/13	16:16
		1/24/13	16:45
		1/25/13	03:54
		1/25/13	08:05
		1/25/13	12:54
		1/26/13	04:12
		1/26/13	07:00
		1/26/13	07:25
		1/26/13	11:01
		1/26/13	14:23
		1/26/13	22:41
		1/27/13	08:53
		1/27/13	09:26
		1/27/13	11:30

Weekly Safety Tip: The National Fire Protection Association recommends that people with hearing impairments install smoke alarms with louder signals and/or strobe lights to alert them to a fire. Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from January 18, 2013 through January 27, 2013.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Hwy. 20 E.	Medical	1/18/13	16:47
State Rd. 293	Dispatched & cancelled	1/18/13	19:24
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	1/18/13	21:47
Glenlake Cir.	Medical	1/19/13	03:55
N. White Point Rd.	Mischiefous false alarm	1/19/13	15:37
Hwy. 20/White Point Rd.	Dispatched & cancelled	1/19/13	16:28
N. White Point Rd.	Unintentional transmission	1/19/13	16:53
W. Parkwood Lane	Medical	1/19/13	20:57
N. White Point Rd.	EMS call	1/20/13	10:27
Glenlake Cir.	EMS call	1/20/13	10:45
E. Hwy. 20	EMS call	1/20/13	17:27
Pine Street	EMS call	1/20/13	19:38
Hickory St.	Public assist	1/21/13	07:46
Meadowbrook Ct.	Medical assist	1/21/13	11:16
Evans Ct.	Medical	1/21/13	13:09
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	1/21/13	16:41
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	1/22/13	03:13
E. Hwy. 20	Vehicle accident	1/22/13	10:43
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	1/22/13	16:46
Ida Coon Cir.	Medical	1/23/13	00:05
Olde Post Rd.	Medical	1/23/13	03:46
Hwy. 20 E.	Electrical wiring	1/23/13	12:36
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	1/23/13	16:07
Norwich Cir.	Medical	1/23/13	20:15
Parkwood Cir.	Medical	1/23/13	20:21
Southlake Ct.	Dispatched & cancelled	1/24/13	01:49
Southwind Ct.	Medical	1/24/13	04:31
Bay Drive	Medical	1/24/13	08:30
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	1/24/13	13:19
Lancaster Dr.	Vehilce/Ped. Accident	1/24/13	18:16
Merchants Way	Medical	1/25/13	19:10
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	1/25/13	22:38
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	1/26/13	08:28
Hwy. 20 E.	Medical	1/26/13	15:11
Troon Dr. W.	Medical	1/27/13	08:49
White Point Rd.	Medical	1/27/13	09:20

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

E. Niceville

The East Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls during the month of December, 2012.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Valparaiso Blvd.	EMS call	12/1/12	12:03 PM
Bahia Vista Dr.	EMS call	12/2/12	03:38 AM
Pine Ave.	EMS call	12/2/12	04:00 AM
Redwood Ave.	Building fire	12/2/12	08:36 PM
18th Street	Police matter	12/3/12	11:48 AM
Lake Way Dr.	EMS call	12/6/12	03:06 PM
25th Street	EMS call	12/8/12	08:41 AM
Stephen Dr.	Assist invalid	12/11/12	03:42 PM
Bond Circle	EMS call	12/12/12	03:17 AM
Valparaiso Blvd.	Person in distress	12/14/12	09:07 AM
Balsam Dr.	Smoke or odor removal	12/15/12	11:28 AM
Hudson Cir.	Sprinkler activation	12/17/12	07:30 AM
Huntington Rd.	EMS call	12/17/12	08:57 AM
Sharon Dr.	EMS call	12/17/12	05:34 PM
Kristin Cir.	Assist invalid	12/20/12	10:42 AM
Wava Ave.	EMS call	12/21/12	02:45 PM
N. Partin Dr.	Smoke or odor removal	12/21/12	10:50 PM
Jamaica Way	Dispatched & cancelled	12/22/12	06:09 PM
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Dispatched & cancelled	12/22/12	11:16 PM
18th Street	EMS call	12/23/12	12:45 PM
E. Hwy. 20	Excessive Heat	12/23/12	05:01 PM
Stephen Dr.	EMS call	12/24/12	04:48 PM
Jason Dr.	EMS call	12/24/12	05:11 PM
Marion Dr.	EMS call	12/27/12	09:41 PM
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Dispatched & cancelled	12/30/12	09:40 PM
E. John Sims Pkwy.	EMS call	12/30/12	09:47 PM
Rockwood Lane	Water or steam leak	12/31/12	05:04 PM

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Niceville councilman takes his oath

Sal Nodjoman, right, former commander of the 96th Air Base Wing at Eglin, speaks to audience as he is sworn in as the newest Niceville City Council member by Mayor Randall Wise Jan. 22. Nodjoman, whose term will end July 16, was the only candidate who filed to run in a special election to fill the unexpired term of Bill Smith, who resigned last year to run, unsuccessfully, for the Okaloosa County Commission.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser



NOISE

From page A-1

abatement wall at the bridge authority's expense.

Darlane Landsberger, Chardonnay Estates association manager, said the neighborhoods, while welcoming the new planted buffer, are seeking construction of such a wall.

Mid-Bay Bridge Authority Executive Director Jim Vest said the connector met all DOT noise standards for 2008, the year it was designed. Vest said the authority is not required to install any noise abatement, including the vegetation barrier which is now being planted.

The original planted buffer died after the road opened in May

2011. A new barrier, which will contain 470 fast-growing wax myrtle trees, is being planted. Workers are also installing an irrigation system to prevent the vegetation from dying again. According to Clemson University, the wax myrtle typically grows three to five feet a year.

The vegetation barrier extends from near the Mid-Bay Bridge toll plaza to North Lakeshore Drive, growing between both Chardonnay Estates and White Point Village and the connector.

Jim Vest, executive director of the bridge authority, which is paying for the new buffer, said no cost figures were immediately available.

Landsberger said the neighborhoods will formally request the a

new noise study by the DOT at the meeting, to be held Thursday, at 6 p.m., at Niceville City Hall. She said she hopes the new meeting will if nothing else improve communication between the neighborhoods and the bridge authority.

"I hope to get more clarity from the meeting," Landsberger said. "More clarity on what they propose to do. This also gives homeowners a forum to voice their opinions on what they want to happen."

Landsberger said she is optimistic but is not expecting drastic changes to result from the meeting.

"Do I think they're going to build a \$10 million sound wall?" Landsberger said. "No. Not from this meeting anyway."

the 300 block of Reeves Street, Niceville, Jan. 17 on a suspicious person call. An officer found a 16-year-old boy passed out the back yard of the residence, due to what the officer observed to be the influence of a narcotic. The boy allegedly refused to answer clearly when the officer asked what drug he had taken. Two Niceville officers helped EMS transport the boy to Twin Cities Hospital. Police made no arrests.

Thomas Anthony Szymanski, 18, was issued a notice to appear by sheriff's deputies Jan. 16 on a charge of possession of marijuana less than 20 grams.

On Jan. 16, Niceville police received a request to assist Eglin security forces at Anderson Pond on Eglin Air Force Base

regarding two people possessing a green leafy substance which later field tested as marijuana. Niceville police detained Szymanski and transported him to the Niceville police station.

Niceville police requested the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office take over the case due to jurisdictional issues. The deputy performed his own test and found the substance to be positive for THC, and he weighed it at 2.5 grams.

A Niceville resident of the 300 block of Sabal Palm Drive reported a large coyote roaming in his area Jan. 17.

A Niceville resident from Cedar Avenue reported a possibly sick coyote in the area.

BLOTTER

From page A-2

The complainant said he received a letter from the Florida Department of Transportation saying he owed \$62.50 in fines for crossing the Mid-Bay Bridge several times Nov. 28-Dec. 8.

A Valparaiso officer interviewed the auto technician, who said he sold the car and forgot to remove the tag. The technician said he no longer had the contact information from the person who bought the car.

A Valparaiso resident reported an unknown person stole the license plate from his motorcycle while it was parked at the business at 434 Valparaiso Parkway sometime 8 p.m. Jan. 16-6 p.m. Jan. 17.

A Valparaiso resident of the 200 block of Glenview Avenue reported someone stole cash from her outdoor "tiki" bar Jan. 16.

The complainant said her friends had stapled \$1 and \$5 bills with notes written on them to the door frame and walls of the bar.

The complainant said she didn't know the exact amount that had been on the walls. The complainant said she talked to the manager of the Valparaiso Tom Thumb, who reported receiving dollar bills with handwritten notes on them.

TDC

From page A-1

2013 legislative session.

Rep. Gaetz, the county legislative delegation chair, will be joined by Rep. Doug Broxson, R-Midway, and Sens. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, and Greg Evers, R-Baker.

Sen. Gaetz, who is the father of Rep. Gaetz, has begun a two-year term as president of the Florida Senate, one of the three most powerful political posts in state government.

A Niceville resident of the 1300 block of Keturah Street reported someone stole \$681 of his property Jan. 16.

A Niceville resident of the 1400 block of 22nd Street reported someone stole \$500 of her property Jan. 18.

Criminal Mischief

A Niceville resident of the 1100 block of 27th St., Niceville, reported someone caused \$310 in damage to their property Jan. 17.

Other

Niceville police responded to

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TRAIN

From page A-1
fighters would all respond, along with those of the Air Force.

East Niceville Assistant Fire Chief David Birch echoed Norris' opinions on integrating with Eglin.

"Due to the complexity of the situation, and dealing with the Department of Defense, it's good to have an exercise like this to understand each other's gaps and shortfalls," Birch said. "The U.S. Air Force has their own set of agendas, and those can be slightly different from ours, and we need to learn how to play together."

Birch said that East Niceville and Eglin firefighters use different radio

systems, and that he hopes the exercise will help bridge that gap and any others that may come to light.

Mark Giuliano, Eglin Air Force Base fire chief, said that while response protocol is an important part of the exercise, the main objective is to strengthen the compatibility of the several fire departments.

The drill "is designed to validate emergency-response plans but more importantly, to test the inter-operability between local and base emergency-response forces as we collectively manage the simulated aircraft crash," Giuliano said. "We have always had an excellent working relationship with the Valparaiso Fire Department. We respond to their community for assistance many

THE BAY BEACON

Wednesday, January 30, 2013

times throughout the year. I expect the result of this exercise will simply showcase how seamlessly we work together during emergency situations."

In recent years, Valparaiso has seen one crash, and one emergency landing, of aircraft approaching Eglin.

On March 8, 2003, a T-38 trainer jet crashed in Valparaiso after it flew too slowly on approach, causing the plane to stall. The jet struck two occupied houses on Andrew Drive. The pilot ejected and received minor injuries.

More recently, Valparaiso municipal officials have expressed safety concerns as Eglin's 33rd Fighter Wing prepares to train hundreds of

fliers for the nation's newest warplane, the F-35 Lightning II.

The public works yard is in what the Air Force calls "Accident Potential Zone I," a rectangle about three-quarters of a mile in area, extending northward from Eglin's north-south runway, that includes dozens of houses and part of a school.

Norris said he has publicized the exercise in part to assuage potential worries citizens might have upon seeing many fire engines converge on the public works yard this afternoon.

"I'm hoping we don't get too many people calling about a fire at the yard," Norris said. "We also don't want people showing with their fire extinguisher."

Eglin slates tests over bay

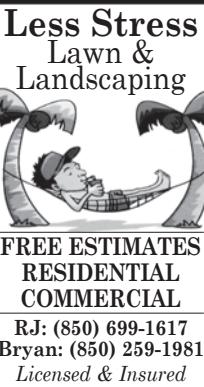
Boats operated by Eglin Air Force Base will be used as targets by unarmed warplanes in Choctawhatchee Bay on Feb. 6 and during the week of Feb. 11-15.

Some 30 boats will be used by 53rd Wing F-15 and F-16 test aircraft as visual targets. No weapons or ammunition will be involved, according to a base spokesman.

The boats will operate between the Mid-Bay Bridge and the Highway 331 bridge.

Operations the week of Feb. 11 will also be conducted in the Gulf of Mexico, south of Destin.

Tests will be conducted between 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

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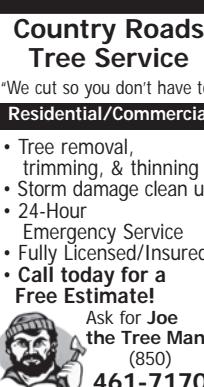
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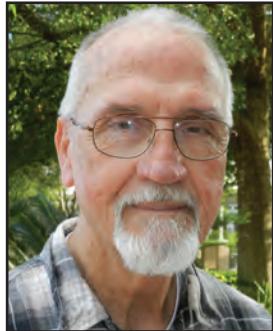
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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

What do you think about military women serving in front-line combat units?

Location: Niceville Public Library



"I would reluctantly say OK. It's untraditional, but if they can make the grade, more power to them."

*Ken Edwards, 67,
Niceville,
retired engineer*



"I think women can do whatever men can. Those women who are qualified should have the option."

*Mikayla McCready, 14,
Niceville,
Ruckel Middle School
student*



"If women can pass the same tests, they should be allowed to serve. However, I fear for the types of abuse women could suffer if they are taken prisoner."

*Jessie Robbins, 29,
Laurel Hill,
nurse*



"If women want to join combat units, they should serve just like the men."

*Laurie Knight, 49,
Niceville,
homemaker*



"If they are physically qualified, do it."

*Ken Garrison, 65,
Valparaiso,
retired*



"If they volunteer and can qualify, OK, but they should not be forced to do so."

*Ralph Daymer, 51,
Fort Walton Beach,
cook*

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

MURPHY

From page A-1

station and convenience store would be built between the Chick-fil-A restaurant and Regions Bank near the Walmart.

Chaney said Murphy has applied for a building permit, and they will receive it in the next few days if he and Niceville Fire Inspector Mike Valenzuela approve the new plans.

The design shown in the preliminary site plan indicates that the store could fuel as many as 20 vehicles at a time, siting

eight traditional fuel-pump islands and two diesel islands, each of which can accommodate two vehicles.

The station will have two 20,000-gallon underground fuel-storage tanks.

A spokesman for Valparaiso Realty, which owns the property,

said it would have to approve aspects of the plan not checked by Chaney or Valenzuela, including landscaping plans, before construction begins.

Since opening its first station near a Sam's Club store in Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1996, Murphy has expanded to more

than 1,100 outlets in 23 states. In November 2006, the Arkansas-based company opened its first Murphy Express, featuring a convenience store larger than its older kiosks. Now, 93 Murphy Express stores operate in 11 states. The Niceville outlet will be such a store.



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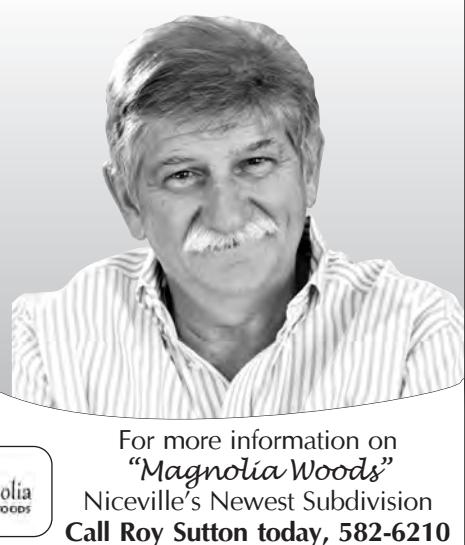
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Valp. seeks pact on lawsuit

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

After a brief closed-door meeting with their attorneys on Jan. 23, members of the Valparaiso City Commission voted to authorize one of their attorneys to attempt to negotiate a settlement to a lawsuit against the city by Valparaiso resident Keith R. Roberts, rather than appeal a previous judgment against the city.

On Dec. 10, the commission

had voted 3-1 to appeal a Nov. 20 judgment against the city by Circuit Court Judge Thomas Remington, in the Roberts suit.

Roberts sought title to a small parcel of land abutting his property, and also abutting Tom's Bayou, that had been platted as part of "Bayshore Drive" in a survey dated July 12, 1919. The city claimed it had an easement on that property, although Valparaiso was not incorporated until May 6,

1921.

Remington ruled that the city had not proved its original intent to dedicate the disputed property to public use, and had abandoned the property. He granted title to Roberts.

During the Dec. 10 meeting, Valparaiso City Attorney Hayward Dykes told commissioners that he and Bruce Bowman, a fellow attorney in Dykes' law firm of Bowman,

Conerly and Dykes, thought an appeal of Remington's ruling could be successful. After some discussion, the commission then voted 3-1 to go ahead with an appeal, with Commissioner Kay Hamilton absent and Commissioner Joe Morgan dissenting. Commissioners Diane Kelley and H.H. Strong, and Mayor Bruce Arnold, voted to appeal.

Morgan on Dec. 10 said he

thought the case was "not worth fighting" any further. Strong, however, said the final outcome of the case would "affect the whole plat," including other waterfront land throughout the city, and was therefore worth appealing.

At the Jan. 23 meeting, however, the commission appeared to backtrack.

Following the private, half-

Please see VALP, page A-3

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We offer our guests a specialized Redken Chemistry System treatment at the salon that revitalizes and renews hair in just one treatment. This is a conditioning treatment that is customized to every guest's individual hair care needs. It is a revolutionary new treatment that truly strengthens the hair from the inside out.

Additionally, we provide an at-home porosity filler maintenance kit that extends and maintains the benefits of the salon treatment until your next visit to us.

We also offer some great treatments that combat the signs of aging hair. If you are experiencing any combination of the signs of chronological or hormonal aging, the new Time Reset Salon Service offered here at Summit II can help. It improves your hair density, shine, and



Come meet the Summit in Hair II staff: Correna, Susan, Julie, Debbie & Ron.

manageability. This treatment has proven age-correcting results.

If you want youthful body and shine restored to your hair, come in to see us for this luxurious new

service expertly applied by one of our highly trained professional stylists.

If color correction is your goal we provide another new Redken treatment that provides great natural looking coverage without drying your hair out. In 35 minutes you will see natural, conditioned and shiny results that are vibrant and youthful from the New Cover Fusion Hair Color treatment. This is a low odor, low ammonia formula that fortifies hair and delivers superior conditioning with rice protein and cationic conditioning polymers. It defends aging hair with argan oil, which is rich in antioxidants and known to neutralize free radicals.

Do you want just partial hair color coverage? In addition to highlights, we perform low-lights to your hair. Whereas highlights continually lighten hair over time from repeated applications, low-lights put depth and original color back to your hair by darkening deeper layers or making the highlights more of a champagne color.

The staff at Summit II is always looking for new looks for their

guests in Niceville and they stay in touch with all the current hair techniques. You can trust the 37 years of experience and professionally industry-trained stylists to expertly meet your hair's unique needs as well as your individuality for expression through your hair.

Our salon has semi-private rooms for each stylist so that you have privacy as well as individually focused attention without interruption from your hair care professional. This is your opportunity to discuss your lifestyle and preferences so that your stylist can give you the best possible cut and treatment for your individual needs.

Summit II is located on the corner of the Bayshore Drive and John Sims Parkway in Niceville. The address is 101 East John Sims Parkway. Walk-ins are accepted on a space available basis. We are open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday. For information or an appointment, call 678-1977. We look forward to seeing you at Summit II.

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STEMM students learn about flight

By Anna Kavanaugh
Beacon Staff Writer

The Okaloosa STEMM Academy students can't seem to sit still as they power up their laptops, yet this time it's not to do a PowerPoint presentation or access their homework. They are about to "fly" a plane.

In conjunction with its regular courses of math, science, language arts and social studies, STEMM, operated by the Okaloosa County School District, will start one of its second semester electives, aviation, which includes learning how to fly a plane on a simulator in its new flight lab classroom.

The academy, which opened in August 2012 in Valparaiso at the former Valparaiso Elementary School, is the first

STEMM middle school in Florida, according to state Sen. Don Gatzel.

It has 83 sixth grade students from Okaloosa County and will add grades seven and eight by 2015. It gives students the opportunity to train and focus at an advanced level for STEMM-related jobs in the future.

STEMM stands for science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine.

"It's not just a basic edu-

tion," Bernard Johnson of Gulf Power said. "It's more hands on."

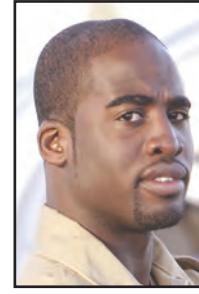
Gulf Power, one of the school's sponsors, and Soria have invited Barrington Irving, the youngest person to fly solo around the world, to speak to Okaloosa County students about aviation at Choctawhatchee High School Feb. 5.

In 2007 Irving, then 23 years old, flew 30,000 miles in a single-engine aircraft on a 97-day journey around the world.

At 15 years old attending an inner-city school in Miami, Irving didn't think he was smart enough to become a pilot someday, but then a pilot let him sit in a cockpit and he was hooked.

"There are probably millions

Please see STEMM, page B-3



Barrington Irving



Lee Arsenault, right, teaches earth/space science and the new research elective class, aviation, at Okaloosa STEMM Academy.



Sailors race on bayous

The Bluewater Bay Sailing Club held its Bluenose Fun Race Jan. 19 from Rocky Bayou to Boggy Bayou. Deborah Wilusz, on Myasasaur, finished first, David Vaughn, 2 Pot Screamer, finished second and Bill Demi, Pandemonium, finished third.

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Lee Arsenault, right, teaches earth/space science and the new research elective class, aviation, at Okaloosa STEMM Academy.

Tibetan sand painting set Tuesday

By Anna Kavanaugh
Beacon Staff Writer

Eleven Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery in Atlanta will begin a five-day construction of a mandala sand painting Tuesday, Feb. 5, at noon, in the McIlroy Gallery, at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Northwest Florida State College, Niceville.

This is the fourth time the Mystical Arts of Tibet tour will visit the college to make the painting. The last exhibit was held in 2008.

The monks will paint with millions of grains of colored sand that will be laid into place on a flat platform from Feb. 5-9, to form the image of mandala, a Sanskrit word meaning sacred cosmogram or "world in harmony." These cosmograms can be created in various media, such as watercolor on canvas and wood carvings, but the most popular are made from colored sand.

The monks, using traditional metal funnels called chakpurs, have created these paintings in more than 100 museums, art centers, and colleges and universities in the U.S. and Europe.



Monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery will begin a five-day construction of a mandala sand painting as part of the Mystical Arts of Tibet tour Feb. 5 in the McIlroy Gallery at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville.

The purpose of the tour, endorsed by the Dalai Lama and under the direct guidance of Drepung Loseling Monastery in India, is to make a contribution to world peace and healing through sacred art, generate a greater awareness of the endangered Tibetan civilization, and to raise support for the Tibetan refugee community in India.

Geshe Yeshe Phelgey, a Drepung Loseling Monastery monk living in Atlanta, has been part of the sand painting tours for more than 20 years.

"It really helps the awareness of what is going on in Tibet," Phelgey said. "The show keeps our culture alive, even though the Chinese tried to destroy it."

The 11 artists were chosen for the tour from the Drepung Loseling Monastery, originally in Tibet, but re-established in

Please see TIBETAN, page B-4

HERE'S TO YOUR Health 2013 Free Community Seminars

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Vitamin D: The Most Powerful Hormone in Your Body

Wednesday, February 6, 11:30 am
Twin Cities Hospital Wellness Center

Dr. Thomas McKnight will discuss the importance of Vitamin D and how it affects your body. Learn the latest news about the benefits of Vitamin D and problems often caused by a deficiency.



Staying Hip: Fractures, Prevention, and Treatment

Wednesday, February 20, 11:30 am
Twin Cities Hospital Wellness Center

Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr. Bradley Goeke, will share prevention and treatment options for hip fractures and injuries. He will also cover the importance of proper follow-up as it applies to successful healing and your overall health.

For average wait times, text ER to 23000.*

*Wait time defined as arrival time until seen by a qualified medical professional.

Reservations required, call 850.729.9463
Complimentary lunch provided.

TWIN CITIES HOSPITAL

Who's News

Joe Michetti of Niceville was elected as treasurer of the Okaloosa County Master Gardner Executive Board for 2013.



Joe Michetti

John Bauer of Valparaiso was elected as president of the Okaloosa County Master Gardner Executive Board for 2013.



John Bauer

Stephen Francis Farrell of Niceville was named to the Baylor University dean's academic honor list for the 2012 fall semester. The student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.7 to qualify.

Joshua J. Schultz of Bluewater Bay was selected for membership in the National Society of Leadership and

Matthew Avery was elected chairman of the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors for 2013.

Avery is the vice president of engineering for CHELCO, a member of the Niceville United Methodist Church and serves on the Staff Parish Relations Committee, All Sports Association member and was an honorary commander with the 16th Electronic Warfare Squadron, 53rd Wing. Avery lives in Bluewater Bay with his wife, Jamie, and their two children, Deacon and Miller.

David Jefferson of Niceville was elected to the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors for 2013. He is the vice president of operations at Simple HR.

David Jefferson

**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.

Donate blood

Northwest Florida Blood Services will host a blood drive Jan. 30, 3-8:30 p.m., Niceville United Methodist Church, 214 South Partin Drive. Snacks and drinks will be provided to donors as well as a free t-shirt. Contact Lynda Krupka with questions, 862-4216 or Lynda.Krupka@oneblood.org.

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.

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.

**'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 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@nwfc.edu to register.

Fundraiser for Bailey

The North Light Marina will host a fundraiser to benefit Bailey Coates, a

locate where they are when flying and listen to a live pilot radio and learn how pilots communicate.

Student Cody Seward couldn't wait to get his plane off the ground. "This is so cool," Soria said, as Soria informs him he's about to run out of gas.

"I could try and explain it to you, or you can just try it," Soria said of learning STEMM skills.

Doing hands on experiments is how STEMM students learn and retain knowledge. By the end of the semester students will not only know how to fly the planes, but will understand why they fly.

The lab was funded completely by Boeing, one of the academy's sponsors. Most high schools and colleges don't possess labs like these because of the expense, Soria said.

The parts for the lab were bought piece by piece over the years and stored in a hangar at the Air Force Armament Museum in Shalimar, one of the

Students can pick their plane, destination, time of day and season to fly in. They will be able to

locate where they are when flying and listen to a live pilot radio and learn how pilots communicate.

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**'In the Mood' swings into Niceville Saturday**

See "In the Mood," a concert featuring music from the 1940's swing era, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m., at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, 100 College Blvd., Niceville. Tickers are \$35 each.

3-month-old baby girl from a military family who suffered a perinatal stroke, Feb. 11-15, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., at Dockside Oyster Bar and Cafe, Niceville. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids. There will be a Cajun buffet, DJ, bounce houses and raffle prizes. The proceeds will go to Bailey's fund to help pay for medical bills.

Church indoor yard sale

Rosemont Baptist Church will hold an indoor yard sale Feb. 2, 7 a.m., at the church, 1601 27th St., Niceville. Clothes, dishes and more will be available for sale.

'Stitch in Public'

The Sand Dunes Chapter of Embroiderers' Guild of America will host "Stitch in Public" Feb. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Destin Books-a-Million. The hand embroidery group will celebrate February as the National Embroidery month. Contact 496-3466.

'In the Mood'

Enjoy the sounds of "In the Mood," a concert featuring music from the 1940's swing era, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m., at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, 100 College Blvd., Niceville.

The show features singing and dancing with the String of Pearls Big Band Orchestra. Tickets are \$35 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.

Edge Elementary book fair

Families, faculty, and the community are invited to attend the Edge

Elementary Scholastic book fair Feb. 11-15, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., at the school, 300 Highway 85 North Niceville.

Funds raised will help purchase books for the media center, classroom libraries, along with other supplies needed for students. Books can also be purchased online at www.okaloosaschools.com/edge Feb. 3-23. All on-line purchases will be sent to the students at school with free shipping.

Learn Spanish

The Valparaiso Community Library is offering a new Spanish class Feb. 4, 1:30 p.m., at the library. Carmen Cameron will teach the class every Monday and Wednesday for free. To register contact the library at 729-5406.

Mac Users Group meeting

Come to the Mac Users Group monthly meeting Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m., at the Student Services Building, Room 132, Northwest Florida State College, Niceville. Ray Muston will present "Why I Love my iPad: Essential Lessons about System Setups and Favorite Apps." Attendees can share information and/or ask questions about their computer, iPhone or iPad. Contact Jean Dutton at 862-3327 or jeancdutton@mac.com.

Tibetan art exhibit

The Tibetan Lamas of Drepung Loseling Monastery will create a sand mandala Feb. 5-9, in the McIlroy Gallery, Northwest Florida State College, 100 College Blvd., Niceville. Millions of grains of sand are laid into place on a flat platform over a period of days to form the image. The exhibit is free and open to the public. The opening ceremony is Feb. 5, noon, the

gallery reception is Feb. 8, 6 p.m., and the closing ceremony is Feb. 9, 2 p.m. The gallery hours will be Feb. 6-8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Feb. 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Music study series

The Unitarian Church's free, public, classical music study series, "Better Listening," will begin Feb. 5, 7-9 p.m., at the Unitarian Church Fellowship Hall, 1295 Bayshore Drive, Valparaiso. Dr. David



Ott, internationally recognized composer and conductor, will present "An Evening in Vienna," to include CD samples from Mozart and Beethoven. Other returning professional speakers for the weekly series include NFSO Director Jeffrey Rink, Dr. Jeremy Ribando and retired humanities professor Dr. Robert Larson. The programs will be held Tuesdays until March 26. Contact Lou Johnson at musicstudy@uufec.com.

Basket weaving class

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida will offer a two-part pine needle basket weaving class Feb. 5 and 12, 5-7 p.m., at 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso. The class is \$55 or \$50 for museum members. Space is limited. To register contact 678-2615.

Republican Women meeting

The Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated will meet Feb. 6, 11:30 a.m. socializing and noon lunch, at the Compass Rose Restaurant, Valparaiso. Cristie Kedroski, vice president for college advancement at Northwest Florida State College, will provide news, updates and information regarding the college and its foundation. As part of the club's Americanism project, attendees are asked to bring empty ink cartridges that will be sent in to a recycling partner for cash, and donated to the USO.

To register contact Donna Pattison at 651-5416 or donnappattison@cox.net by noon, Feb. 1. Lunch is \$18 or \$16 for members.

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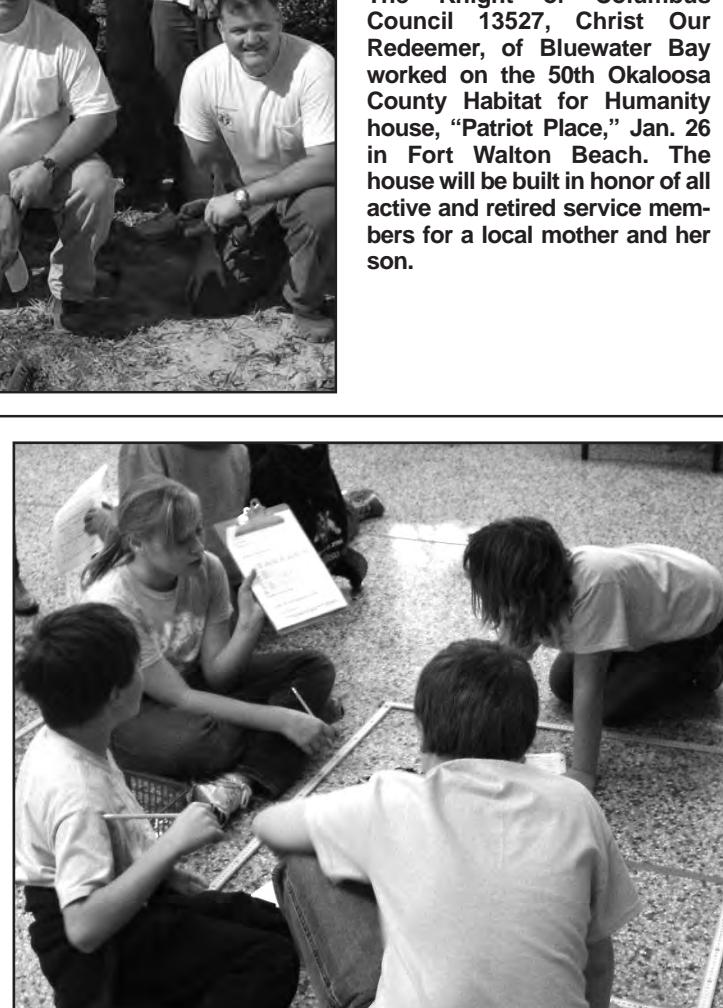
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ACTIVE MEMBER FLORIDA PRESS
The Bay Beacon and Beacon Express, incorporating the Bluewater Breeze, is published every Wednesday by Bayou Enterprises Inc. Free total-market home delivery to Niceville, Valparaiso, Bluewater Bay and Seminole, as well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



Okalooa STEMM Academy students conduct an experiment in class using rulers.

academy's partners.

"The lab is a magnificent example of corporate and educational partnership to aggressively advance teacher and STEM education and training," Soria said.

The parts for the lab were bought piece by piece over the years and stored in a hangar at the Air Force Armament Museum in Shalimar, one of the

Students can pick their plane, destination, time of day and season to fly in. They will be able to

locate where they are when flying and listen to a live pilot radio and learn how pilots communicate.

Student Cody Seward couldn't wait to get his plane off the ground. "This is so cool," Soria said, as Soria informs him he's about to run out of gas.

"I could try and explain it to you, or you can just try it," Soria said of learning STEMM skills.

Doing hands on experiments is how STEMM students learn and retain knowledge. By the end of the semester students will not only know how to fly the planes, but will understand why they fly.

The lab was funded completely by Boeing, one of the academy's sponsors. Most high schools and colleges don't possess labs like these because of the expense, Soria said.

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Garden club donates tree for Arbor Day

The Bluewater Bay Garden Club donated and planted a bottle brush tree at Bluewater Bay Elementary School in honor of Arbor Day with kindergarteners, teachers and club members.

Biophilia Center receives \$115,000

The St. Joe Community Foundation presented a \$115,000 check Jan. 24 to the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center, Freeport, for its recycling program, which educated more than 6,500 students and 4,000 visitors in 2012. From left: M.C. Davis, Stella Davis, the center's director Christy Scally, Janet Greeno and Jorge Gonzalez.



Republicans collect \$100 for USO

The Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated presented a \$100 check to the USO, located at the Northwest Florida Regional Airport. The funds came from a year-long project of collecting recycling printer cartridges. From left: USO volunteer Jim Rabourn, USO center manager Diane Freeman, RWOF members Anna Peele and Patricia Perri.



TIBETAN

From page B-1

south India after being forced into exile from the Chinese.

Twenty monks take time off from their life-long devotion to contemplation and study to participate in tours all over the country for 10 months. It's considered an honor to be selected.

The monks will share their cultural traditions during the exhibit, hoping to make a small contribution toward world peace and toward greater awareness of the Tibetan situation. At the end of the tour the monks will return to India to continue their vocation.

The original Drepung Monastery was established near Lhasa, Tibet, in 1416 by Choje Tashi Palden. It had four departments, which housed 10-15,000 monks.

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In 1969, 250 of the monks escaped and re-established the monastery in refugee camps in Karnataka State, India. They continue their traditional training program there and now more than 2,500 monks live in the monastery.

"During the relocation it was hard times," Phelgey said. "Things are improving now in India."

Phelgey added that about 70 percent of the monks in India are from Tibet, with the rest from surrounding areas.

In 1991 the Drepung Loseling Monastery, Inc., was formed in Atlanta, affiliated with Emory University, with the objective of promoting trans-cultural understanding and scholarly exchange. The affiliation was inaugurated by the Dalai Lama May 12, 1998.

Phelgey has been back a few

times to the monastery in India, but his business is here right now, but things can always change, he said.

The monks will begin with an opening ceremony Feb. 5 at noon, that involves chanting and an outline of the mandala on a wooden platform. The public can view the monks work on the painting from Feb. 6-8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Feb. 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., with a closing ceremony at 2 p.m. There will also be a public reception Feb. 8, 6-8 p.m.

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