

# The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter  
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10 Pages, 2 Sections, 4 Inserts

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

50¢

**UP**  
**COMING**

**Wed., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**



Northwest Florida State College and University of West Florida will host a **career and job fair** at the joint **college campus**, Fort Walton Beach.

**Thursday, 6 p.m.**



Enjoy a "Hunting Heritage Banquet" to benefit the National Wild Turkey Federation featuring raffles, an auction and games at the **North Light Yacht Club**, Niceville.

**Friday, 2-4 p.m.**



Bring the kids to play games at a giant **board game party** at the **Valparaiso Community Library**.

**Friday, 7:30 p.m.**

Come hear the **Okaloosa Chamber Singers** perform "Now Let Us Sing" in a free, public concert at **St. Paul Lutheran Church**, Niceville.

**Saturday, 7:30 a.m.**



Embark on a free **bird and nature walk** with the Choctawhatchee Audubon Society in the Upland Hardwoods of Walton County. Meet at **Food World**, Niceville.

See Calendar, B-2.

## Niceville OKs \$1.3 million water-meter pact

By Daniel Elsesser  
Beacon Staff Writer

The Niceville City Council approved a plan at its meeting March 12 to install new water meter reading technology to monitor the city's residential and commercial water usage.

The council approved a \$1,315,177 project to install an automatic metering infrastructure (AMI) which sends data

from meters to a database by radio transmission.

City Clerk Dan Doucet said the previous system needed replacement because some transmitters had failed, requiring the city to go out and read the amounts manually instead of through a database.

The city awarded the contract to Innovative Metering Solutions, a distributor of meter

products. Doucet said the new meter reading system they offer is of greater quality than the one currently used by the city.

Doucet said the new system would eventually allow all meters to be read through the database, requiring no manual field readings. Doucet said this is important because field readings can be delayed due to inclement

weather, leading to water bills for city customers that include an extra week of billing. Doucet said this confusion can be eliminated with an improved meter-reading system.

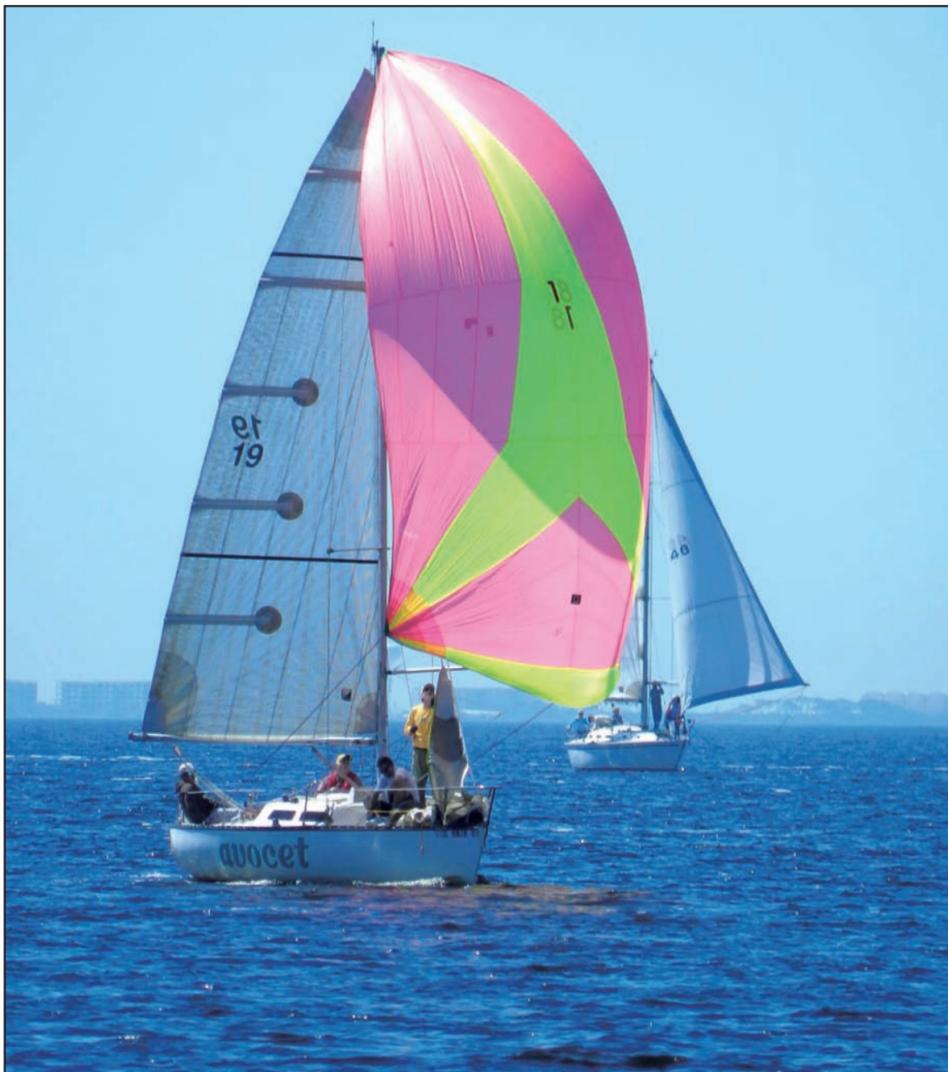
Innovative Metering Solutions is a distributor for Badger Meter, a Wisconsin company that manufactures the reading equipment.

Please see WATER, page A-5



New radio-controlled water meter.

## The wind's song



On Saturday, the Bluewater Bay Sailing Club held its fourth regatta, or sailboat race, of the 2013 season. Clear weather, calm water on Choctawhatchee Bay, and a moderate breeze made an ideal day for sailing. The boat Avocet, pictured, finished fifth in the second spinnaker race, which was won by Shenanigan. Other winners were: Maverick (first spinnaker race), and Pandemonium (nonspinnaker/cruiser race).

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

## MSBU votes to explore options for landscaping

By Mike Griffith  
Beacon Correspondent

On a split vote, the Bluewater Bay Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) governing board has decided to seek proposals to spruce up the community.

During a meeting March 12, board member Judy Griffin said that a landscape workshop held Feb. 22 was successful, with over 30 people in attendance. She recommended that the tax-supported MSBU follow up that workshop by seeking bids from landscape designers who might be able to come up with a master landscaping plan for Bluewater Bay.

Fellow board member Dale Blanchard, however, disagreed with Griffin's statement that the landscape workshop had been a success. "I was there," he said, "and I didn't get that impression."

Griffin, however, persisted in saying that Bluewater

Please see MSBU, page A-3

## Valp. mayor urges change in govt. form

By Mike Griffith  
Beacon Correspondent

Valparaiso Mayor Bruce Arnold has called for replacing the city commission form of government that he has long headed with a city council that delegates administrative functions to either an elected mayor or a hired city manager.

Any such change would require voter approval.

In a two-hour nonvoting workshop meeting held Monday, city commissioners discussed whether, and if so, how, to change the form of the city's government. The meeting produced little agreement, except to hold another workshop on April 1.

The meeting began with a presentation by Arnold of his position paper advocating a change in the form of

Please see VALP., page A-3



Mayor Bruce Arnold

# Theft charge against airline is dropped

By Daniel Elsesser  
Beacon Staff Writer

First Judicial Circuit State Attorney Bill Eddins announced last week that the state has dropped a theft charge against Vision Airlines after the company paid \$160,000 in restitution and costs.

The state attorney's office has previously charged the Las Vegas-based airline, formerly a tenant at Northwest Florida Regional Airport, with first degree grand theft for its

alleged failure to remit more than \$100,000 in passenger facility charges (PFCs) to the county-operated airport.

According to the state attorney's office, Vision paid about \$117,000 in PFC restitution after being charged. On March 11, Vision paid an additional \$43,477 in costs and legal fees owed to Okaloosa County and the airport. This payment includes \$13,783 in legal fees to Okaloosa County and \$29,694 in interest and delin-

quent fees.

According to the original probable cause affidavit filed against Vision, the airline collected a \$4.50 PFC for every passenger. It was permitted to retain 11 cents and remit the rest to the county monthly. Vision allegedly failed to do this frequently, according to the affidavit filed in Okaloosa County Circuit Court.

Vision began offering flights out of the Northwest Florida Regional Airport in December

2010, and was evicted by Okaloosa County for nonpayment in July 2012, according to officials.

According to Eddins, Vision has agreed to cooperate with the state attorney and the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office in the ongoing investigation of the misuse of county funds by the Tourist Development Council.

Eddins said March 12 that Vision's cooperation led to the dropping of the charge.

"Vision paid the required PFC money immediately after they were charged, and they've paid late fees, Okaloosa's attorney's fees, and they've agreed to cooperate in our investigation," Eddins said. "Because of those three things, we felt that there would be no useful purpose in pursuing the charges and that justice will be properly served by disposing of the situation the way that we have."

Eddins said his office is no

longer involved in the dispute between Okaloosa County and Vision because the airline has made all required payments regarding PFCs. He said a county dispute with the airline over certain utility payments is a civil matter and therefore does not involve his office.

Attempts to reach Vision Airline were unsuccessful. Previously the company had denied any wrongdoing and alleged that the county owed it money.

## YMCA seeks cheaper home

By Daniel Elsesser  
Beacon Staff Writer

The Niceville YMCA may have to move, but it's not shutting down, according to Michael Rojas, chief executive of YMCA of Florida's Emerald Coast.

Rojas said Ruckel Properties, landlord for the YMCA branch at Palm Plaza in Niceville, wants

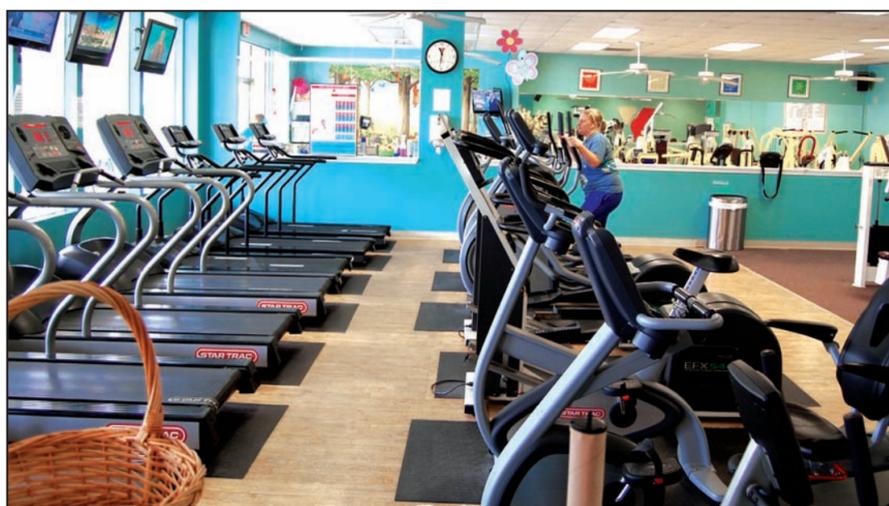
the YMCA to begin paying the market rent for its space in Niceville or else relocate.

Rojas said that given the market rate of about \$10 per square foot per year, the 13,000-square-foot Niceville YMCA cannot afford to stay in Palm Plaza, its home since the branch opened in 2006.

Please see YMCA, page A-2



Michael Rojas



Kellie Morris, 31, of Niceville, exercises at the Niceville YMCA March 18. She said she hopes the Niceville Y will stay open in some capacity in the Twin Cities. The non-profit health club will likely have to move from Palm Plaza because of a rent increase.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

# YMCA

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Ruckel Properties has given the Y several rent decreases since 2006. Rojas said the current rent is just under \$3 per square foot.

Rojas said the Niceville branch of the Fort Walton Beach-based YMCA will likely have to move. In addition to the Niceville facility, the YMCA of Florida's Emerald Coast also operates its main facility in Fort Walton Beach, and a branch in Destin. All three have swimming pools.

"We're not closing down" the Niceville branch, Rojas said. "We'll find some other facility in the Niceville or Valparaiso area, but we won't shut down completely."

Rojas said he is looking for space in the Twin Cities area that the YMCA can afford to rent. He said if necessary he will move into a facility as small as 8,000



The room containing the swimming pool at the Niceville YMCA takes up about 5,000 square feet of the 13,000-square-foot facility. If the Niceville Y moves to a new location, it likely will not have a pool.

square feet.

Rojas said he knows of no other available facility in the area with a swimming pool. So users

of the branch's pool in Palm Plaza would likely have to find another place to swim.

To offset that loss, Rojas said,

Beacon photo by Daniel Elssesser

he would like to find property with outdoor space which would allow the YMCA to hold organized youth sports, something not

possible at the current site.

The YMCA's lease term expires June 30. Steve Ruckel of Ruckel Properties said the YMCA won't be required to leave immediately after the lease expires, but he is working with the organization to set a date on which it would be required to either begin paying the market rate or relocate.

"We're not going to kick them out June 30," Ruckel said. "We'll probably come up with some letter agreement with them where they'll be required to renew the lease by the end of the year or some date sooner, or else relocate."

Ruckel said his company has made great efforts to assist the Niceville YMCA.

"We've done extraordinary things to help keep them here," Ruckel said. "Now we've got to start making plans to get the rent for that property back up to the market rate."

Ruckel said he hasn't spoken with any other potential tenant about moving in to the Palm Plaza space.

Rojas said the Niceville YMCA currently has about 1,400 members. At least a few of them aren't sure what they would do if the Niceville YMCA went away.

Matt French, Niceville, said he prefers working out at the Y to either of the two for-profit gyms in Niceville.

"I don't know where I'd go if they went away," French said. "I like this atmosphere."

Likewise, Kellie Morris, Niceville, said she uses the YMCA's pool to exercise due to a leg injury, and she doesn't know where else she would do water exercises.

"I don't know of any other pools around here," Morris said. "If they leave here, I don't know if I'd go all the way to the 'Y' in Fort Walton. I'm not sure what I'd do."

# A year after swindle, fire district lauded on reforms

By Mike Griffith

Beacon Correspondent

At the March 12 meeting of the North Bay Fire Commission, the commissioners heard a preliminary report from Bruce Averett, a partner in the Carr, Riggs and Ingram accounting firm, concerning a recent audit of the fire district's finances.

In his preliminary report, Averett told the commissioners that the audit report for this year "is much more pleasant than the one for last year." It contrasts with last year's report, he said, in which that audit discovered that an administrator for the fire district had stolen about \$81,000 from the district. That administrator, Ralph Banegas, has since been fired and prosecuted, and the missing money has been mostly replaced through an insurance policy held by the fire commission.

Averett said he will present a final version of the report at the

fire commission's next meeting in April.

In his preliminary report for this year, Averett told the fire commission that the most recent audit produced no significant findings of problems or recommendations for corrections in how the fire district manages its finances.

Averett also noted some improvements made in the district's financial management since last year's audit. Now, said Averett, financial records are maintained by more than one person, and in addition, Fire Chief Joseph Miller has taken a more direct personal role in overseeing the fire district's finances. This, said Averett, will help to prevent any further opportunities for theft or misuse of funds in the future.

Averett also told the commission that their current level of about five months worth of non-capital operating expenditures held in reserve is "about right" for

a first response organization of their size. He also told the commission that with a 69 percent fund ratio, the fire district's pension plan is probably better managed than those of many other similar fire districts in Florida. He concluded by congratulating Chief Miller and his staff for the improvements they have made to fire district finances during the past year.

Also during the March 12 meeting, commissioners discussed the draft 10 year plan submitted last month by Chief Miller. The commissioners suggested some minor changes and corrections to figures in the plan, but otherwise said they expect to give it final approval during their next meeting in April.

Chief Miller told the fire commission that a recent state inspection of the North Bay fire district's advanced life support program produced complements from the state inspector, who said that

North Bay's firefighter-paramedics were among the most informed that the inspector had encountered. Zero deficiencies were found during the inspection.

Division Chief Joseph Parker showed fire commissioners a copy of an award he recently presented to the fire department's "A" shift, citing them as Shift of the Quarter. Parker commended members of the shift for their

ingenuity in making self-help repairs to several key items of fire department equipment. Those repairs, he said, saved the fire district hundreds of dollars that would otherwise have had to come out of the annual budget.

Reporting on recent local emergency calls, Chief Miller told the commission that one such call was to a convenience store where smoke been reported inside the

structure. Upon arrival, fire crews found a light haze of smoke throughout the store. The source was traced back to a set of drink coolers that were being powered by an extension cord, which had shorted out.

The next meeting of the board of North Bay fire commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, at 7 p.m. at the North Bay fire station on White Point Road.



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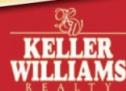
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**VALP.**

From page A-1

the city's government.

Arnold suggested that the city consider adopting one of two alternative forms of city government. One of these is the "city manager" form of government, in which the elected city commission or council would act much as a board of directors in a private business, hiring a professionally-trained city manager to exercise executive oversight of city departments. The mayor would chair city commission meetings and serve various ceremonial functions without exercising much executive authority.

Another alternative is the "strong mayor" form of city government, in which the elected mayor serves as the city's chief executive, while the city council or commission acts as a legislative body - much like the relationship between the president and congress at the federal level, or between the governor and state legislature at state level.

According to Arnold's paper: "In Valparaiso's Commission Government, there is a total lack of executive leadership, there is no single individual comparable to the Mayor in a Mayor-Council City or a City Manager in a Council-City Manager, who is responsible for the overall administration of all city departments."

Valparaiso currently has a "city commission" form of government, in which each of the city's five city commissioners is responsible for executive oversight of one or more city departments, as well as for legislative functions such as enacting city ordinances. The mayor serves as chairman of the city commission, as well as a voting commission member. He also appoints himself and fellow commissioners to head various departments within the city.

Among Valparaiso's current commissioners, department supervision is allocated as follows:

—Mayor Arnold: police, finance, publicity, personnel, and miscellaneous functions.

—Commissioner Hayward Strong: utilities, and cable TV, Internet, and communication system.

—Commissioner Joe Morgan: street maintenance and fire protection.

—Commissioner Diane Kelley: public library and parks.

—Commissioner Kay Hamilton: garbage and sanitation, and city cemetery.

The responsibilities are assigned by the mayor, who is also a voting member of the city commission.

Valparaiso also employs Carl Scott as city administrator. Scott's



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

**Valparaiso Mayor Bruce Arnold, second from left, meeting with the rest of the city commission on proposed governmental changes Monday.**

functions include code enforcement, writing grant applications to state and federal agencies, and oversight of some of the city's administrative functions. He does not, however, directly supervise any city departments.

In his paper, Arnold, who has served as the city's elected mayor since 1964, outlined reasons why he thinks the current commission form of government should be replaced by something else. These included:

"No mechanism exists for resolving conflicting direction to the public works director when conflicting Commissioner orders are given. Also, there is no method for setting work priorities."

"Giving both legislative and executive powers to the same group of elected officials conflicts with the fundamental concept of separation of government powers."

"Accountability is vague—no single person is accountable for achieving city goals."

"Big picture vision may be lacking because commissioners, by definition, are divided groups, with each Commissioner is more concerned with his/her own turf when voting on city matters."

"Very few cities in Florida today no longer have the commission form of local government as outdated in today's complex environment," wrote Arnold. "Federal and state legislative activities coupled with technical developments and social reforms mandate the necessity for professional expertise, which is seldom found in elected officials. Our society of today is far more complex than that of 1921 and our residents' expectation of municipal service and functions are much more demanding. We need our charter updated to the new century to maximize services to our residents."

During the discussion that followed, Arnold's presentation, commissioners Kelley and Hamilton appeared to favor Arnold's proposal to change the form of city government.

Commissioner Strong appeared to oppose it, while Commissioner

Morgan seemed skeptical.

Kelly said that city departments don't always have the personnel or resources to fulfill the requests of every commissioner. She also said that under Florida's Sunshine law, it is difficult for commissioners to coordinate one another's requests and priorities, except during formal public commission meetings.

Hamilton seemed to agree with Kelly, saying, "Valparaiso needs a central oversight manager." She said such a change could help Valparaiso keep up with modern times. "Every successful business needs a CEO," she said. "The city manager would be the boss." City managers, she said, are trained professionally for their positions, much like the CEOs of large corporations.

Strong, the longest serving commissioner, spoke against the proposed change. "We were elected to take care of the people of Valparaiso," he said. "I've never had the problems everyone's talking about." He also urged those advocating a change in city government to "quantify, not just generalize," about the problems they claim the city faces with its current form of government. He said he has never heard any complaints from residents, or from city workers, about the current arrangement.

Strong also said that under the current form of government, Valparaiso is actually doing better than most similar cities. "Our taxes and overhead are lower here than anywhere else," he said. "This is the perfect form for our little city. Our individual department heads have the authority to run their departments and to program budget money as necessary." Strong said that such departments as water and sewage treatment are run more efficiently and at lower cost in Valparaiso than in comparable cities. He repeatedly asked his fellow commissioners to specifically quantify the gains they think a new form of government would produce.

Morgan said, "I'm happy with the flexibility of what the current city charter allows us to do." He said that priorities can be set by

voted against the motion.

After the motion passed, Burgess said that the only legal way to solicit landscapers for proposals would be to write a formal Request For Proposals (RFP) and post it in local newspapers. He offered to draft such a proposal himself.

The MSBU board also discussed how to improve the condition of local street signs. MSBU management consultant Archie Jernigan said that he has recently done a tour of Bluewater Bay, checking on the condition and ownership of street signs throughout the community. Some such signs are under the jurisdiction of the MSBU, he said, while others belong to neighborhood homeowners associations or to various commercial entities such as Bluewater Bay Resort.

Jernigan said that a list of which signs belong to the MSBU and which belong to other entities is posted on the MSBU website at BluewaterBay.org. Jernigan said

he is also obtaining estimates of the prices for repairing or refurbishing individual signs.

Board member Doug Burgess suggested that the MSBU also contact local commercial companies and neighborhood homeowners associations to encourage them to voluntarily improve their own signs as necessary.

Dale Blanchard suggested that companies and HOAs also be asked to voluntarily maintain the common blue-and-white color scheme now used on most such signs in Bluewater Bay.

In other business March 12, the MSBU briefly discussed how to improve drainage along Southwind Drive. Burgess said that the area along Southwind Drive is often flooded by storm water and that mosquito growth, there is a potential problem. He said the problem is made worse by some local teenagers who use trucks to pull each other on wave boards the ponds created by standing water after heavy rains.

commissioners during their public meetings. He also said that his own prior experiences helped to equip him for supervising certain city departments. "I ran partly because of my construction experience and my experience as a volunteer fireman. That has value, especially in a small city like ours," he said. "There is value in our system."

Nevertheless, said Morgan, he is willing to consider further the possibility of changing the city government. He suggested that future workshops on the subject should include participation by city department heads as well as commissioners.

Arnold expressed disappointment with the lack of a consensus among commissioners. He said he had hoped to schedule a public referendum on a possible new form of city government during the city elections scheduled for March 2014. However, he said, passage of such a change in a city referendum would be unlikely "if there are two commissioners talking against it."

As Monday's workshop drew to a close, Hamilton offered to bring a point paper of her own to the next workshop on the subject. Her paper, she said, will include bullet points outlining the pros and cons of each of three alternative forms of city government: the commission form, the strong mayor form, and the city manager form.

Also, Arnold said that he would be willing to write a "straw man" version of a possible change to the city charter, so that commissioners could discuss it. Commissioners then agreed to hold another workshop at 6 p.m. on April 1.

In other business at Monday's workshop, Arnold announced that an executive meeting of the city commission originally scheduled for Thursday, March 21, would be postponed because Strong would not be able to attend the meeting at that time. The purpose of that session will be to meet with city attorneys to discuss a possible settlement to a lawsuit brought against the city by Valparaiso resident Keith Roberts. A new time for the executive session will be determined later this week.

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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**

Edwin Chamberlin Williams, 19, of 615 Cypress Drive, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police March 7 on a charge of retail theft shoplifting.

The loss prevention officer at the Walmart at 1300 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, reported he observed Williams put movies from the store's toy department inside a backpack and conceal them. Williams allegedly then went to the grocery section, selected groceries and paid for them at a register. Williams later admitted to the theft of the movies.

Williams' required court date is scheduled March 26.

Andrew Joseph Cooper, a technician, 27, of 203 Kelley Road Apt. 12, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police March 6 on a charge of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia.

An officer stopped a car driven by someone later identified as Cooper for driving 55 mph in a 35 mph zone on SR 85.

Cooper gave the officer consent to search his vehicle, and upon searching, the officer found a black cigarette case in plain view in the driver's door handle.

The case contained two pills which Cooper admitted to owning. Cooper said the pills were Naproxen and he had a prescription for them. Poison control later determined the pills were eight milligrams of Dilaudid, which Cooper did not have a prescription for. Police also found two syringes and a straw with residue in it located in the driver's side panel.

Cooper's required court appearance is scheduled April 9.

Travis Adam-Lee Lampert, 22, of 1002 Valparaiso Blvd., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police March 3 on a charge of disorderly intoxication.

An officer responded to a disturbance call on Bullock Boulevard, Niceville, and upon arrival was directed by three people to 23rd Street.

The officer saw someone later identified as Lampert bleeding from his head onto his face, shoulders and chest, and walking erratically. Lampert began walking toward the three people who had directed the officer to 23rd Street, and three Niceville officers placed themselves between Lampert and the three people.

Lampert attempted to walk through one of the officers, who placed his hand on Lampert's chest. The officer told Lampert to walk toward the police car, and Lampert backed up and then walked toward the officers again. Two officers trained their Tasers on Lampert, and a third told Lampert he would be Tased if he showed an act of aggression. Lampert allegedly backed up, said "That's just life," and walked toward the officers again.

One officer then grabbed Lampert's left arm and told him to put the other behind his back, and

another officer handcuffed Lampert. An officer asked Lampert if he had been drinking, to which Lampert allegedly replied, "Yea I've been drinking and doing weed, crack, cocaine, heroin and meth."

Lampert's required court appearance is scheduled March 26.

Stephanie Lea Freeman, a retail salesperson, 31, of 201 B Camellia Place, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police March 9 on a charge of child abuse.

Freeman allegedly threw a small laptop computer at someone, causing a laceration to the victim's forehead.

Freeman's required court appearance is scheduled April 9.

Scott Eason Bacheller, unemployed, 55, at large, was arrested by Niceville police March 9 on a charge of disorderly intoxication and resisting and officer without violence.

Bacheller was allegedly yelling profanities in a parking lot at 201 E. College Blvd., Niceville. When an officer attempted to handcuff him, Bacheller twisted his hand to avoid being handcuffed.

Bacheller's required court appearance is scheduled March 26.

Michael Jesse Duvall, 19, of 222 Hudson Circle, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police March 9 on a charge of possession of marijuana less than 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia.

An officer observed a car occupied by two males parked at the Taco Bell at 110 W. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, at around 2 a.m.

The officer approached the car to ask what the occupants were doing, and while talking to them, smelled the odor of marijuana. Both occupants denied knowledge of marijuana in the vehicle. The officer searched both subjects, finding nothing of evidentiary value. The officer searched the vehicle, finding a plastic bag containing approximately two grams of marijuana and two glass smoking pipes in the center console. Both occupants denied knowledge of the marijuana and pipes.

Later, Duvall, the owner of the vehicle, exited the restaurant and claimed ownership of all of the contraband and said the other two occupants did not know it was there.

Duvall's required court appearance is scheduled March 26.

Ashlyn Nadine Gibson, unemployed, 18, of 211 Evans St. C, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police March 9 on a charge of simple battery domestic violence.

Gibson allegedly scratched someone on the chest, back and neck and bit him on the shoulder and back.

Gibson's required court appearance is scheduled March 26.

**Fire Department Reports**

**Niceville**

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from March 11, 2013 through March 17, 2013.

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

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	3/11/13	06:01
20th Street	Medical	3/12/13	07:05
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Cancelled	3/12/13	15:59
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	3/13/13	06:12
Bayshore Dr.	Medical	3/13/13	09:01
Azalea Dr.	Medical	3/13/13	15:31
Sean Lane	Medical	3/14/13	01:38
Balsam Dr.	Medical	3/14/13	08:03
Pine Lake Dr.	Medical	3/14/13	12:44
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	3/14/13	15:27
22nd Street	Medical	3/14/13	18:31
23rd Street	Medical	3/14/13	18:32
27th Street	Medical	3/14/13	22:49
Date Palm Dr.	Medical	3/15/13	09:42
Mulry Drive	Medical	3/15/13	10:42
Als Drive	Service call	3/15/13	12:49
Als Drive	Medical	3/15/13	18:54
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	3/16/13	00:44
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	3/16/13	16:20
Nutmeg Ave.	Medical	3/16/13	20:34
College Blvd.	Medical	3/16/13	20:43
Sean Lane	Cancelled	3/17/13	01:49
Boxer Ave.	Cancelled	3/17/13	07:34
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	3/17/13	10:03
Bayshore Dr.	Medical	3/17/13	11:44
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	3/17/13	12:28

Weekly Safety Tip: Keep candles at least one foot away from anything that can burn and put them out when you leave the room or go to sleep. Never leave lit candles unattended around children

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**North Bay**

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from March 11, 2013 through March 17, 2013.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Merchants Way	Medical	3/11/13	00:20
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/11/13	14:09
Windward Way	Medical	3/11/13	14:56
Hwy.20 E/Bay Dr.	Vehicle accident	3/11/13	14:59
Cedar Street	Public assist	3/12/13	09:33
Cedar Street	Public assist	3/12/13	11:43
Glenlake Circle	EMS call	3/12/13	12:33
Parkwood Ln.	Medical alarm activation	3/12/13	14:16
Live Oak Street	Public assist	3/12/13	14:32
Nancy Ward Ln.	Dispatched & cancelled	3/12/13	22:03
Lake Drive	EMS call	3/13/13	07:31
E. Hwy. 20	Dispatched & cancelled	3/13/13	10:24
Pine Street	Public assist	3/13/13	16:42
Pine Street	Medical	3/13/13	18:09
Castlewood Ln.	Medical	3/13/13	19:08
Cedar Street	Medical	3/13/13	20:23
Cat Mar Rd.	Medical	3/13/13	20:46
Live Oak St.	Medical	3/13/13	23:11
W. Choctawhatchee	Dispatched & cancelled	3/14/13	11:18
Range Rd.	Medical	3/14/13	13:41
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/14/13	23:33
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/15/13	07:52
Merchants Way	Medical	3/15/13	08:14
Hwy. 20 E.	EMS call	3/15/13	17:05
N. White Point Rd.	EMS call	3/16/13	02:05
Putter Dr.	Medical	3/16/13	13:48
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/16/13	17:13
Cougar Circle	Smoke detector activation	3/17/13	09:12
Travers Ct.	Medical	3/17/13	09:43
W. Parkwood Ln.	Medical alarm activation	3/17/13	16:32
Merchants Way	Medical	3/17/13	16:59
S. Ridgewood Cove	Medical	3/17/13	19:41

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

Michela Ann Jensen, a restaurant employee, 28, of 107 E. Capri Cove, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies March 10 on charges of battery second or subsequent offense and assault.

Jensen allegedly attempted to hit someone with a shoe and struck another person several times. The occurrence resulted from a conversation about the ownership of a dog.

Jensen's required court appearance is scheduled April 23.

**DUI arrests**

Royce Gustaf Anderson, a painter's helper, 21, of 23 Norwich Circle, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies for DUI at 4425 E. Commons Drive, Destin, March 9 at 4:19 a.m. Anderson was also charged with driving while license suspended first offense.

Anderson's required court appearance is scheduled March 6.

**Thefts**

A Niceville resident of the 1600 block of Date Palm Drive reported March 10 someone stole his camouflage four-wheeler vehicle, worth about \$6,000 new and equipped with about \$3,000 in accessories.

A Niceville resident of the 200

block of Honeysuckle Way reported March 9 someone stole one of the wheel covers off of her van and seven plastic lug nut covers off of her husband's car.

A Valparaiso resident of the 300 block of Edge Avenue reported

March 11 someone had made withdrawals without her knowledge or consent four times for a total of \$287 from Feb. 13-March 5.

**Criminal Mischief**

A Niceville resident of the 700 block of Powell Drive reported March 10 someone cut the brake lines on his motorcycle, which was parked in his garage.

Niceville police received a call March 11 reporting someone knocked over a mailbox at 200 N. Partin Drive, Niceville.

**Other**

Niceville police received a call March 9 reporting a bear in the area at Twin Cities Hospital at 2190 N. Highway 85.

A Niceville resident of Monette Avenue reported March 8 there was a bear on the end of the street. Responding officers reported the bear was gone by the time they got there.

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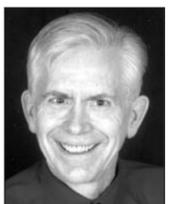


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Kurt Heitman, 46, Niceville, retired Air Force



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Viola Farris, 43, Seattle, Washington, aviation security



"Run background checks on public officials, and keep an eye on them."

Kristine Vargas, 21, Eglin, veterinary technician



"Through a series of checks and balances."

Jeff Bryant, 52, Niceville, civil-service



"Elect new officials."

David Lawson, 80, Bluewater Bay, retired

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

**WATER**

From page A-1

Doucet said water customers will not see and increase in rates. He said the city had budgeted \$150,000 per year for the maintenance of the water system, and this money will now be shifted to debt service to pay new loan. The

new contract includes maintenance by Badger and Innovative Metering Solutions.

The new contract includes a 20-year warranty and field training of city employees by employees of Badger and Innovative Metering Solutions.

All of Niceville's over 8,000 water meters will eventually use this new transmission system.

The contract calls for the removal of 3,688 meter radios and replacement with new ones, and the retrofitting of 5,100 other radios.

The old meter radios are Data Matic radios, and the new ones are Badger Galaxy radios. Doucet said the Galaxy meters are superior to the current Data Matic radios and will experience far less failures.

Doucet said 341 of the current transmitters have failed and require manual readings. He said these failures have all happened since 2010.

Doucet said the new products are expected to arrive in six weeks and the entire system will be installed in 90 days.

Please see **METER**, page A-6

**Letters to the Editor**

**Changes to SR 20 intersection make matters worse**

By Eddie McAllister, Niceville

Editor:

Regarding the changes to White Point Road ("Intersection update confuses motorists," Bay Beacon, March 13), I don't know whether to be amused or angry at the statement by the county traffic engineers that "many motorists are apparently confused."

I can tell you from personal experience that we motorists are not confused. On the contrary, most of the people who continue to turn left on SR 20 from the middle lane are just willfully disregarding the new markings.

Why? Because they are a solution in search of a problem and they make the traffic situation at that intersection worse.

I would like to see what data the county used to decide to restrict the middle lane traffic to going straight across SR 20. Did they do a traffic survey to count how many cars turn left?

Whenever I use that intersection, the overwhelming majority

of the cars are turning left. If there are 10 cars, eight are turning left and one or two may be going straight. Many of those that turning left are then turning right onto Bluewater Boulevard (one block down SR 20).

In the current configuration, those of us who obey the current markings find ourselves making an almost immediate lane change from the left lane to the right lane to be in a position to turn on Bluewater Boulevard.

By my observation, the current routing creates more congestion and I predict there will be more accidents as people are trying to make that right turn on Bluewater Blvd. The only confusion I have is why they felt it necessary to change something that seemed to be working.

**Where is the evidence?**

By Rob Kraus, Niceville

Editor:

I just read your article on the new traffic flow on White Point Road. I have lived off of that road for 6 years now, and it is true that the traffic flow is significantly reduced, so the new bridge access was successful in one of the objectives stated in the article.

However, was there a study done on the actual needs and traffic patterns in that area? While the flow is reduced, it is still relatively busy at certain times of day—for instance when everyone is going

to school and work.

The effect of having one turning lane into the direction that most of the traffic is trying to go (at least at certain times of day) is that if people follow the new flow, some of them will wind up sitting at the light for two cycles. Not the end of the world, but is there an actual associated benefit to traffic flowing in other directions, or is it simply an in-office analysis?.

There appears to be low need to go straight across 20 on White Point, and there is low traffic coming out of the north side in most cases. That is just the observation of one person who travels it every day at least once.

Perhaps I am wrong. If I am, the traffic studies that should have been done before deciding on a solution to a perceived problem should prove me to be wrong.

**Dangerous condition**

By Edward J. Breslin, Niceville

Editor:

A dangerous condition precipitated by the change in traffic flow exists at SR 20 and White Point Road. Drivers are breaking the rules out of necessity, not because of confusion. The inherent danger created by the recent change is exacerbated by several factors:

—Drivers turning left (heading West) from White Point Road onto SR 20 have less than the distance required to establish themselves in the left lane before

changing lanes to access major businesses on the right side of SR 20 immediately adjacent to the intersection (Verizon, McDonald's).

—The change created the opportunity for drivers heading West to avail themselves of a right turn on red from North White Point Road, placing them directly in the path of the once legal extra turn lane and in direct conflict with drivers trying to gain access to high volume businesses on SR 20.

—There is no STOP sign at the road between the gas station and Verizon that intersects with SR 20, thus allowing drivers to use their own judgment in accessing SR 20 with its now inherent conflicts.

—All 7,500 hundred cars that daily traverse the intersection have a tendency to arrive there at the same time going to work, and therefore fueling a need for the extra turn lane.

—All this activity takes place in a 45 MPH speed zone in which it is likely that an otherwise simple fender-bender can be converted to a fatality.

These factors and the unexpected nature of lane changes required by the recent lane markings make accidents inevitable. Previously, when no straight ahead only arrow and sign existed, there was no problem whatsoever navigating this intersection. As a driver who must use this intersection daily I can afford to wait four seconds for safety. The signage should be put back the way it was.

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**METER**

From page A-5

The council opted not to choose a second option offered by Badger which would have left installation of the system up to the city but cost \$1,294,292.

The approved contract calls for the purchase of 2,458 Galaxy radios at \$112.50 each. The city will receive 1,230 Galaxy radios at no charge. The second option did not include any discounts.

The current system was

installed in 2000 for about \$440,000, Doucet said. In 2010, the city traded old transmitters for the current Data Matic ones at no additional charge. The 341 transmitters that have since failed were received in this trade in, he said.

Doucet said each failed meter must be read manually every month.

According to Doucet, the poles holding "enhanced repeaters" that transmit meter reading data will be removed.

They will be replaced with as many as six "gateways," or wireless transmitters. These must be placed 35 feet above ground level, and a topographical study will be conducted to determine the ideal location for these gateways. Doucet said one will likely be placed on top of the water tower at the Niceville Softball Complex, but he is unsure about the location of the others.

The city did not seek competitive bids from other companies for the new meters. City

Attorney Dixie Powell said contracts may be awarded without competitive bidding if products or services are not available from other contract or service providers.

Powell wrote a legal opinion stating the upgrade, installation and implementation of the system can only be provided by Innovative Metering Solutions, as they are the exclusive Florida distributor of Badger products, which are compatible with the current system.

Powell also stated in his opinion that the city may consider exclusion of other vendors because Badger meters provide the highest revenue-generating potential for the longest duration of time compared to other water meters. He added that the meters are rated above the minimum performance requirements of the American Water Works Association.

The council also voted to seek competitive bids for lease purchase agreements from

banks to finance the project. The lease purchase will be a loan in which the city uses the Badger product as collateral. Doucet said the bidding will be for the lowest interest rate. He expects the city to pay approximately \$150,000 a year for ten years to pay of the lease purchase agreement. He said Innovative Metering Solutions will begin installation before financing is secured. The deadline for the financing bids is April 3, Doucet said.



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Volunteers removed and stacked pavers as part of the Eagle Ram Tennis Center project Feb. 23.

## Volunteers dig for Tennis Center

The Niceville High School tennis team, coaches, parents, and Eagle Ram Tennis Center Capital Campaign members put on their work gloves to dig and move 5,100 square feet of pavers Feb. 23 to be used for the future Eagle Ram Tennis Center.

Volunteers, landscape architect Landon Wise, tennis center project engineer Matt Parker and Johnny Sims

Construction Services spent the rainy Saturday digging and stacking the pavers and wrapping them in plastic. The pavers, donated by Jonathan Spears of White Sands Realty, will stay at the tennis center location on Ruckel Properties until the full amount is raised for phase one of the project.

The campaign has raised \$170,000 towards the

\$206,000 needed to complete phase one of the project.

To donate funds to the center, individual, family, and corporate bricks are available for purchase at [www.eagleramtennis.com](http://www.eagleramtennis.com) or at Ruckel Middle School and Niceville High School front offices. The proceeds will go directly toward the Eagle Ram Tennis Center Capital Campaign.



## Running team finishes first

The Emerald Coast Night Crawlers finished first in their division in the 180-mile Sunset-2-Sunrise Relay March 1-2, at Lakes Regional Park, Ft. Myers. From left: Tim Nast, Jeff Estep, Steve Pearce, team captain Dan Schenke, Christopher Caravello and Todd Harris.

## Irish dancers perform

Ruckel Middle School students Colleen Simpson, Chloe Kokenes, Eve Glenn and Caitlyn Hart performed March 10 in honor of St. Patrick's Day at Resurrection Catholic Church and Westwood Retirement Home, Fort Walton Beach. The girls study at the Drake Irish Dance School in Fort Walton Beach.



## Doolittle Raiders to visit college for reunion

A year-long 50th anniversary celebration of Northwest Florida State College officially begins with a festive Kick-Off Assembly on April 17, at 9 a.m. in the college's 2,100-seat Raiders Arena.

Free and open to the public, the event also features the dedication and opening of a permanent Doolittle Raiders historical exhibit that is being constructed in the lobby of the arena.

Three of the surviving WWII Doolittle Raiders crew members are scheduled to appear at the event and will be honored by the college, which has used the Raiders name for its athletics mascot since the early 1960's.

The NWFSFC event is also scheduled to feature a display of the Doolittle Raiders' silver goblets.

As a companion event to the Doolittle Raiders Reunion being hosted by the Fort Walton Beach Chamber, the appearance of the Doolittle Raiders at the April 17 college assembly will be the first public appearance by the WWII heroes during the reunion weekend and is free of charge.

The assembly on April 17 features the official opening for the 50th anniversary year, dedication of the Doolittle Raiders Exhibit, entertainment, display of college historical items and more. The doors for the public will open at 8 a.m. and admittance will continue until the arena reaches seating capacity.

Following the event, the new NWFSFC Doolittle Raiders Exhibit will be open to the public in the arena lobby and will remain open until 4:30 p.m. that day, followed by permanent hours Monday to Friday during regular college business hours and when the arena is used for athletic games or other college events.

The college, which was established by the Florida Legislature in April 1963 as Okaloosa-Walton Junior College, and first opened its doors to students in August 1964, will celebrate its golden anniversary with a series of events from April 2013 through August, 2014.

According to Jeffrey McInnis, 50th Anniversary Planning Committee chairman, the celebration is structured around a series of five "signature events," scheduled roughly once per academic semester during the celebration, as well as a series of other events and recognitions still being finalized. A 50th Anniversary website at

[www.nwfsfc.edu/50](http://www.nwfsfc.edu/50) will contain all anniversary news and information.

The permanent Doolittle Raiders Exhibit at NWFSFC will contain a variety of unique items from the college's collection of Doolittle Raiders memorabilia, including items owned by Raiders airmen and present on their historic WWII air raid on Tokyo, and two specially commissioned scale models of the USS Hornet and Jimmy Doolittle's B-25 bomber.

Additionally, a 50th Anniversary Gala is currently planned for October 12, featuring the spectacular national touring show "This Is The 60's," a live concert experience that combines film, lighting,

multi-media imagery and high-concept stage design with vocalists and the music of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Jefferson Airplane, the Supremes, the Monkees, Janis Joplin, the Temptations, Cream, the Mamas and the Papas, and Simon and Garfunkel.



Three of the surviving WWII Doolittle Raiders crew members will be honored at the Northwest Florida State College Kick-Off Assembly April 17, 9 a.m., at the college in Niceville.



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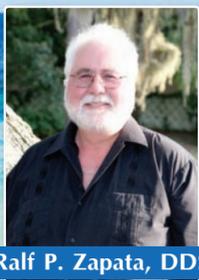
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Proverbs 29:18



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Friday: Closed





**Gospel concert**

The Niceville Christian Church will host a gospel concert featuring Lowell Mason, known as the world's smallest gospel singer, March 20, 6 p.m., at the church, on the corner of John Sims Parkway and Pine Avenue, Niceville. He will perform a variety of "Old Time" songs. The concert is open to the public and free, although an offering will be received.

**NHS Annual Art Show**

The Niceville High School 2D and 3D art students will display their artwork in a public viewing March 20, 5-7 p.m., in the NHS library.

**Area job fair**

The Northwest Florida State College and University of West Florida will host a career and job fair March 20, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the joint campus, 1170 Martin Luther King Blvd., Fort Walton Beach. Contact the NWFS Career Resource Center at 729-5227.

**Gun safety course**

Northwest Florida State College's Criminal Justice Department will hold a two-day public Firearms Safety and Concealed Carry course March 20, 6-10 p.m., and March 22, 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 lynchl@nwfs.edu to register.

**Church concert**

First United Pentecostal Church is hosting a free concert with the Terry Wilbanks Family March 20, 7 p.m., at 1217 Finck Road, Niceville. Contact Pastor Harley Moye at 678-1970.

**Women's history workshop**

Northwest Florida State College will host a free workshop in honor of Women's History Month March 21, 5-7 p.m., in Room 302 at the Student Services Center, at the college in Niceville. The keynote speaker will be Anna Rodriguez, long-time women's activist and founder of the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking. The event is free and open to the public. RSVP at www.ocsw.org/history no later than March 19.

**Sharing and Caring fundraiser**

Sharing and Caring of Niceville will host a fundraiser March 21, at Ruby Tuesdays, Niceville. The restaurant will donate 20 percent of the purchases to Sharing and Caring under their Community Give Back Program. Participants must bring in the flyer, found at www.sharing-caring.org/nicevillehome.htm or at Sharing and Caring, 104 Bullock Blvd., Niceville, to donate.

**Hunting Heritage Banquet**

The North Light Yacht Club will host a "Hunting Heritage Banquet" to benefit the National Wild Turkey Federation March 21, 6 p.m. doors open, dinner 7 p.m., at the club, 115 John Sims Parkway, Niceville. The banquet will feature raffles, auctions, games and more. Auction items will include fine guns, furniture, luggage,



Photo by Lori Phillips

**Niceville's tribute to Nevelson**

Niceville High School 3D art students combined their 20 Louise Nevelson inspired projects to make one unified wall sculpture for its annual art show March 20, 5-7 p.m., at the media center at Niceville High School.

collectable knives, clothing, hunting/fishing trips and artwork. Tickets for children 17 and under are \$20 and individual tickets are \$55, which includes dinner. Top purchase tickets contact T.C. Herman at 279-4731 or tcherman@cox.net

**Grief support group**

Covenant Hospice will offer a free six-week grief support group Tuesdays, March 26- April 30, 1-2:30 p.m., at the Covenant Hospice office, 220 Eglin Parkway, N.E., Fort Walton Beach. Spaces are limited and registration is required by March 21. Contact Chris Krebs at 729-1800 or chris.krebs@covenanthospice.org.

**Okaloosa Chamber Singers**

The Okaloosa Chamber Singers will perform "Now Let Us Sing" March 22, 7:30 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1407 East John Sims Parkway, Niceville, and March 24, 4 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, 599 8th Ave., Crestview. Under the direction of Marilyn

Overturf, accompanied by Keitha Bledsoe, the program will feature Renaissance a cappella motets and madrigals with a taste of Schubert, folk, and spirituals. The concert is free with a suggested donation of \$15 or \$25 per couple. Contact Marilyn Overturf at 682-9651.

**Audubon nature walk**

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will host a bird and nature walk in the Upland Hardwoods of Walton County March 23, 7:30 a.m., at Food World, Niceville, or the Walton County Extension Office, Hwy 83 North, 8 a.m. Dave Gordon, master gardener, will lead the walk and point out hawks, bluebirds and blooming mountain laurel. Contact Dave at 401-1578.

**Weavers meeting**

Strictly Weaver's of the Emerald Coast will hold its monthly meeting March 23, 10 a.m., at the Twin Cities Hospital Wellness Center, Niceville.

Study the art of hand woven cloth and color theory. Contact strictly-weavers@yahoo.com or Alice at 934-4403.

**'Oktoberfest im März'**

The Magnolia Grill will host a "Oktoberfest im März" fundraiser to benefit the Fisher House of the Emerald Coast and the Emerald Coast Chapter, Association of the United States Army, March 24, 1-4 p.m., at the restaurant 157 Brooks Street, Fort Walton Beach. Bratwurst and beer will be featured along with traditional fest music. The cost is \$10 per person. Contact Bill Van Hoesen at 225-2957 or Dave Pemberton at 226-6073.

**Palm Sunday concert**

The Niceville United Methodist Church will host a Palm Sunday Concert March 24, 6 p.m., in the Sanctuary, 214 Partin Drive South, Niceville. This year's concert, "Let the Veil Down, Let the Praise Go Up," is a great mix of music plus exciting dramatic effects. Contact 678-4411 or nicevilleumc.org.

**SAT/ACT workshop**

There will be a free SAT/ACT four-session workshop for Okaloosa County High School students taking the April 13 ACT or May 4 SAT April 11, 12, 17 and 18, 2-5 p.m., in the media center at Niceville High School. The workshop will provide 12 hours of instruction by Alice Hart. The registration deadline is March 25 and can be picked up at Okaloosa County High Schools. All materials, snacks and drinks will be provided, except for calculators. Contact Mrs. Hart at Amhart1966@aol.com or 615-585-2401.

**Embroiders meeting**

The Embroiders Guild of America will meet March 25, 9:30 a.m.-noon, and March 28, 6-8:30 p.m., room 400, First United Methodist Church of Niceville. Visitors are welcome.



The Niceville Garden Club chose **Jean Craven's** yard was chosen as the Niceville Garden Club's yard of the month for March. Craven's yard can be seen at 351 Evergreen Ave., Niceville.

**Jessica Erickson** of Niceville was named to the dean's list for the fall 2012 semester at Charleston Southern University. Students must have a 3.5 grade point average or above for the semester to qualify.

**Alexandra DeCaro** of Niceville earned dean's list honors for the fall 2012 semester at University of Central Florida. Alexandra is a junior at UCF and a 2012 graduate of the Collegiate High School at Northwest Florida State College.



Alexandra DeCaro

The 7th Annual Children in Crisis Charity Golf Classic raised \$20,000 to benefit **Children in Crisis** March 1. David Henderson, Tracy Jernigan, Don Reese and Tommy Serigne received first place in the tournament.

Retired Major General **Thomas Wright** of Niceville has been named the Niceville Family YMCA Branch Director on March 18. Major General Wright is a graduate of the Florida State University Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. He entered active duty in 1977 and has commanded a fighter test and evaluation squadron, an air operations group, a fighter wing and a reconnaissance wing.

**Basketball all stars**

The Pensacola Sports Association chose basketball players Nicholas Haynes, Connor Ellis, Brandon Mosley, Dani Douglas, and Amanda Demma of Niceville to play for the East Teams in the Subway High School All-Star Basketball game March 8 at Pensacola State College.



Four winners and two alternates were chosen Feb. 28 to travel to Washington, D.C., as part of Chelco's Youth Tour program. From left: JP Talty, Christopher Hammonds, Rachel Gold, Chelco CEO Steve Rhodes, Brandon Engler, Devin Herrington and Samantha Arvin.

**Student earns trip to capital**

Niceville High School student Rachel Gold earned a trip to Washington, D.C. as part of the Chelco Youth Tour education program. Collegiate High School student Samantha Arvin and Niceville High School JP Talty were chosen as alternates.

The Youth Tour, sponsored by Chelco, Inc., will

travel to Washington D.C. June 15-20. High school juniors and hundreds of others across the country served by electric cooperatives will be guests of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. They will meet federal lawmakers and visit the Smithsonian museums among many other activities.

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 March 28, 7:00 pm  
 Mass of the Lord's Supper  
 Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00pm  
 Good Friday  
 March 29, 3:00 pm  
 Passion of the Lord, Veneration of the Cross, Holy Communion  
 Living Stations of the Cross  
 Good Friday, March 29, 7:00 pm  
 Presented by the Youth Group,  
 Music by the Holy Name High School Seniors  
 Holy Saturday  
 March 30, 7:00 pm  
 Easter Vigil Mass  
 Easter Sunday  
 March 31, 8:00 am & 11:00 am  
 The Resurrection of the Lord  
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**MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28**  
 7:00pm Holy Communion  
 Stripping of the Altar  
**GOOD FRIDAY, March 29**  
 7:00pm Tenebrae Service-Seven Last Words - Sealing of the Tomb  
**EASTER SUNDAY, March 31**  
 6:00am Lutheran Sunrise Service  
 Beasley Park, Okaloosa Island  
**8:30 am Festival Worship**  
 9:45 am Bagel Breakfast  
 Children's Easter Egg Hunt  
**10:30 am Festival Worship**  
 1407 E. John Sims Pkwy.  
 Niceville, Florida  
 678-1298  
 www.stpaulniceville.com  
 Pastor John L. Underdahl

# Rocky Bayou students honored

Rocky Bayou Christian Academy senior Savannah West was honored with the President's Volunteer Service Award for her hundreds of hours spent volunteering both at Twin Cities Hospital and at the Rocky Bayou Christian School Summer Day Camp for children.



Savannah West



Ben Esses

participate at the state level of the National Geographic Bee April 5, at Jacksonville University.

One winner from each state will advance to the national competition, which will be held in May in Washington, D.C. The winner of the national competition will earn a \$25,000 college scholarship and a trip to the Galapagos Islands.



## Edge K-Kids donate dolls

Edge Elementary K-Kids, under the Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso, made and donated 64 trauma dolls to Sacred Heart Children's Hospital. From left: Jean Pulley, K-Kids advisor, Megan Kamau, Children's Hospital child life specialist, and Don Pulley, K-Kids advisor, dropping off the donated dolls.

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# NHS Chorus Grand Staff 5K results



Photo by Suzanne Herzog

Approximately 50 participants sprinted off the start line at the Niceville High School Chorus' Grand Staff 5K March 2 at the Niceville High School.

Approximately 50 participants ran and walked in the Niceville High School Chorus' Grand Staff 5K March 2 at the Niceville High School. Medals were awarded to the top three overall male and female winners, top master male and female, top grandmaster male and female, and top placers in 16 age brackets.

Top winners are: overall male, first place Jon Baun, second place Jared Herzog and third place Jason Nodjoman; overall female, first place Nicole Baun, second place Brenda Baun and third place Maci Maldonado; top master male Rob Crist and master female Melissa Yandel; grandmaster male Denis Samac and grandmaster female Debbie Simmons.

Running winners are: male ages 15-19, first place Zach Fralish, second place Ryan Arra and third place Benjamin Bryant-Glen; female ages 20-24, first place Amanda Moore and second place Norma Doria; male ages 25-29, first place Jarod Nieves and second place Anthony Doria; female ages 25-29, first place Rebecca Johansen

and second place Norma Doria; male and female ages 30-34, first place Brandon Sadler and first place Katie Sause; female ages 35-39, first place Trisha Dall; male ages 40-44, first place Nic Wolfgram; male ages 45-49, first place Paul Garvey; female ages 45-49, first place Wendy Winters and second place Rose Shatterly; male and female ages 50-54, first place Travis Peppler and first place Monica Peppler; male ages 55-59, first place Mark Hodges; male ages 60-64, first place Charles Bruce; and male ages 70 plus, first place Bob Miller.

Walking winners are: top male Johnny Dora and top female Danielle Fox; female ages 0-19, first place Kelsey Sisk and second place Anna Bills; female ages 20-29, first place Jami Williams and second place Charlene Haun; female ages 30-39, first place Janna Atwell-Doria; female ages 40-49, first place Bernadine Elan, second place Teresa Kaliski and third place Marie Summerlin; female ages 50-59, first place Kathy Gaubron, second place Janet Bills and third place Dalane Fox.

## Niceville tennis teams defeat Lincoln

The Niceville High School varsity tennis teams faced off against Lincoln High School March 2, in Tallahassee. The girls team defeated Lincoln 4-3 and the boys team shut out Lincoln 7-0.

Girl winners are: Kendall Junker, 6-3, 6-1; Alexis Hruby, 6-1, 6-0; Antonia Poate, 6-1, 6-2; doubles, Timea Kovacs and Jessica Markowski, 6-3, 6-3.

Boy winners are: Alex vonHilsheimer, 7-5, 6-1, PJ Shaw, 6-0, 6-0; Behrens Watkins, 6-3, 6-0, Max Van Belkum, 6-0, 6-0, Luke Chaney, 6-0, 6-1; doubles, Watkins/Grant Beattie, 6-2, 6-1; Shaw/Chaney, 6-0, 6-2.



## Realtors donate to Pavilion

Several members of the Coldwell Banker United Realtors in Destin visited with residents of Twin Cities Pavilion to donate a flat screen TV as part of its Coldwell Banker Cares program.



## Hospital workers honored

Twin Cities Hospital presented the 2012 Dr. Frist Humanitarian Awards to James Watson, MD, Lois Pellnitz (volunteer), and Richard Dunham (employee). The awards are given annually in recognition of the humanitarian spirit and philanthropic work of the late Dr. Thomas F. Frist, Sr.

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