

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter
Page A-4

12 Pages, 2 Sections, 5 Inserts

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

50¢

UP
COMING

Thurs., 3-5 p.m.
Emerald Coast Professionals will be honing their skills and making connections during a new **networking group** at the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce. Visit emeraldcoastprofessionals.com for details, Niceville.



Sat., 11 a.m.-5p.m.
Safe Haven Horse Rescue will host a celebration that includes live country music by **Ed Tanza**, arts and crafts vendors and an auction at 1 p.m. Horses available to adopt, Laurel Hill.

Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Scout-O-Rama will have plenty of free games, demonstrations and crafts at **Uptown Station**. Inflation entertainment can be enjoyed with purchase of an armband \$8 at the door, \$25 for families, Fort Walton Beach.



Sat., 6 p.m.
Choctaw Bay Music Club members perform on two new Yamaha grand pianos as it presents its 22nd annual duo piano concert at **Tyler Recital Hall**, Northwest Florida State College, Niceville.

Calendar, B-4

Man tries to buy coffee with fake \$100

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

A Niceville man allegedly presented a one-sided case as to the legitimacy of his cash. Edward Eugene Harrison tried to buy coffee from two Niceville stores with a fake \$100 bill that was printed on copier paper and was blank on one side, according to Niceville

police, who issued the following report:

Harrison, 51, of 102 Jones Ave. B, was arrested March 23 on two felony counts of fraud by passing a counterfeit note. Harrison allegedly attempted to buy coffee with a counterfeit \$100 bill at the Dollar Tree in the Palm Plaza, Niceville

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



This piece of copy paper allegedly presented as legal tender in two stores was blank on the reverse, a fact not lost on the cashiers who refused to accept it. A Niceville man was charged with passing a counterfeit.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

Hop to it



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

It was a cavalcade of cuteness Saturday morning at Valparaiso's Lincoln Park and at Niceville's softball complex, as each city held its annual Easter egg dash. Children in various age groups waited eagerly for the starting signal, before dashing out across sunlit grassy fields to gather up as many plastic Easter eggs, small toys, and pieces of candy as they could. Some 3,500 eggs were used in the Valparaiso event, pictured.

Debate on Valp. charter

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Valparaiso City Commission's second meeting on potential changes to the city charter, held Monday, produced no more agreement than a previous session on the same subject.

Another such workshop meeting will be held on April 22 at 6 p.m.

The commission does not have the authority to change the city's form of government on its own. The most the city commission can do, if commissioners eventually vote to do so, is to place a proposed change to the charter on the ballot for a referendum by Valparaiso voters.

During Monday night's discussion, Mayor John B. Arnold and Commissioner Kay Hamilton supported a change in the form of city government, while commissioners Hayward Strong and Joe Morgan preferred to leave the form of government

Please see **VALP.**, page A-2

Lawmaker eyes Gaetz seat

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

A member of the Florida House of Representatives has already launched his campaign for the District 1 state senate seat currently held by Don Gaetz, saying Gaetz might leave office before his term ends in 2016.



Don Gaetz

Gaetz, a Niceville Republican, said he doesn't plan to leave office prematurely.

Jimmy Patronis, a Panama City Republican from District 6, said his senate campaign is geared towards running for the District 1 senate seat, currently held by Gaetz, who is also serving as Senate President. Because of Florida term limits, Gaetz, who was first elected to

the senate 2006, cannot run for re-election when his current four-year term ends in November 2016.

Patronis said the possibility of Gaetz stepping down early, perhaps to pursue higher political office, was one reason he has begun campaigning now.

"I haven't spoken to the senator personally on this, but he might for some reason decide to leave office before his term is over," Patronis said. "In two years he'll go from being Senate President to being in a position of much less authority," he said, referring to the fact that Gaetz's Senate term will last two more years after his tenure as the body's president ends next year.



Jimmy Patronis

Patronis stated Gaetz may be

a candidate for appointment lieutenant governor, a seat that became vacant upon the March 12 resignation of Republican Jennifer Carroll amid questions about her financial dealings. Gov. Rick Scott said he would not appoint a new lieutenant governor until the current legislative session ends late this month.

Gaetz said last week that he has no intention of leaving his senate seat before his term ends in 2016.

"I intend to fulfill my responsibilities," Gaetz said. "I was elected to a four-year term, and I will serve every day of that term."

Gaetz also said he has no desire to be lieutenant governor, and declared that Patronis is getting "ahead of himself" if he expects the senator to leave office early.

"Rep. Patronis is the only politician in the state running for

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



Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

Blew by you

Landscaper Justin Kelley cleans the remnants of winter from the Niceville First United Methodist Church parking lot March 27 in preparation of the church's Holy Week services.



Big recycling cans are set out in test

Waste Management employees distribute 96-gallon recycling carts to houses on Black Bear Circle, Niceville, March 29. The carts will be used as part of a 90-day program which began Monday to determine whether the larger carts lead to an increase in recycling.

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

Niceville launched a pilot program Monday to determine the effectiveness of 96-gallon recycling carts, using two neighborhoods as guinea pigs.

City officials and garbage-company executives hope the three-month program will encourage residents to recycle more waste. If that proves to be the case, the program could be expanded citywide.

Waste Management Inc. delivered the wheeled, yellow-lidded carts Friday to homes on Kildare Circle, a 50-home



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

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VALP.

From page A-1
 Commissioner Diane Kelley was absent. 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, including the power to hire and fire all but department heads, 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 the operating

departments. Among Valparaiso's current commissioners, department supervision is allocated as follows:
 —Mayor Arnold: police, finance, publicity, personnel, and assorted miscellaneous functions.
 —Commissioner Strong: utilities, and cable TV, Internet, and communication system.
 —Commissioner Morgan: street maintenance and fire protection.
 —Commissioner Kelley: public library and parks.
 —Commissioner Hamilton: garbage and sanitation, and city cemetery.

Valparaiso. This form is the oldest form in the U.S., but exists today in less than 1 percent of American cities. It is found only in cities with populations below 100,000.
Council-Manager
 In this form of municipal government, the Mayor acts as the ceremonial head of government at public functions, and also presides over city council meetings. The mayor has little if any role in day-to-day municipal administration. His role is sometimes filled by election, and sometimes by council appointment.

The elected council decides on policies and creates city ordinances. A city manager is appointed by a majority vote of the Council for an indefinite term and is removable by a council majority vote. The manager is responsible for municipal administration, supervises and coordinates departments, makes recommendations to the council, and prepares draft budgets for its consideration. Niceville has a council-manager form of government.

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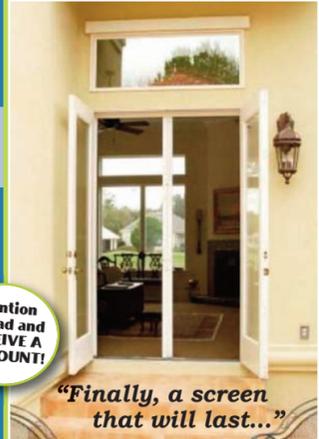
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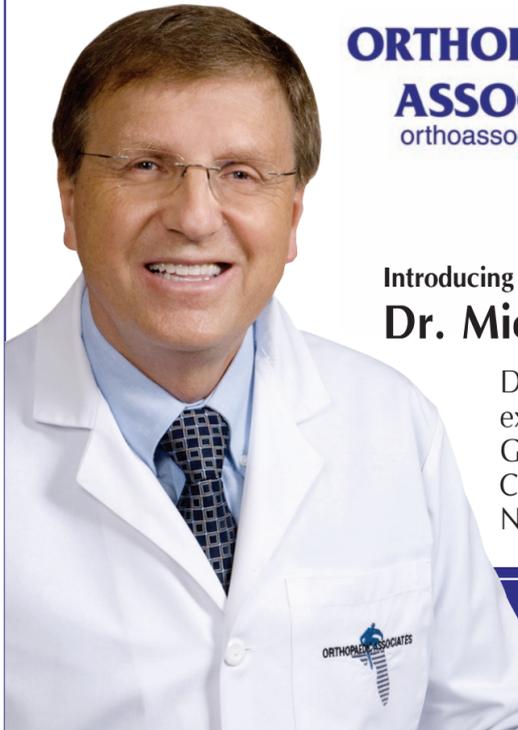
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Following Hamilton's briefing, Commissioner Morgan presented some slides of his own, illustrating his opposing viewpoint. Morgan agreed with Hamilton that the different forms of city government are now less distinct than they once were. He went on to say, however, that Valparaiso has in fact mixed its current form of government, but has done so through its current city charter and form of city staffing.

Council-Weak Mayor
 In this form of municipal government, an elected city council has collective oversight over city administration, including appointment and dismissal of municipal employees and appointments to boards and commissions. The council also decides on policies and creates ordinances.

Monday's workshop began with a slide presentation by Commissioner Hamilton, who said the slides had been prepared by Commissioner Kelley, who had asked her to present them, since Kelley was unable to attend. Hamilton said that she, like Kelley, supports the concept of potentially changing the city's charter to create a different form of municipal government than the commission form that Valparaiso has now.

The slides prepared by Kelley and presented by Hamilton included outlines of alternative forms of city government, along with key characteristics of each. These are:
Council-Strong Mayor
 In this form of government, said Hamilton, the mayor is elected separately from the council, and is often full-time and paid, with significant administrative and budgetary authority. The mayor may also have veto power over Council legislation. The mayor has executive power to carry out policies, while the council decides policy, but has no administrative power. The council is elected and maintains legislative powers only. The mayor prepares the budget, makes appointments, and manages daily operations.

According to Hamilton's briefing, this form of government occurs in about 34 percent of U.S. cities. It is found mostly in older, larger cities such as New York, or in very small cities, and is most popular in the mid-Atlantic and Midwest.
Commission
 This is the current form of municipal government in

Valparaiso. This is the current form of municipal government in Valparaiso. Morgan said that by having

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Joe Morgan

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CONVENIENT SCHEDULING
 Monday - Thursday 7:30am-5:30pm
 Friday: Closed



Patchwork



Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser
Acme Roofing workers patch the roof of Niceville High School March 25. Company spokesman Ken Reynolds said the work was commissioned after water leaked into a classroom. The three-day job was conducted under an Acme contract with the school.

FAKE

From page A-1

March 22. A cashier noticed the note was fake and refused to accept it. Harrison snatched the note from the cashier's hand and left the store.



Edward E. Harrison

On March 23, Harrison again attempted to use a fake \$100 bill to buy coffee, this time at the Food Depot supermarket, in the same shopping center. Again a cashier refused to take the note. The cashier notified her manager, who followed Harrison out of the store and into the Dollar Tree as police were called.

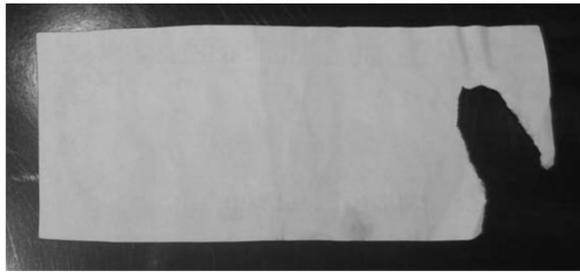
Niceville police reported that the bill Harrison tried to use is smaller than a real \$100 bill, is blank on one side and

was copied onto standard printing paper.

Niceville police believe the same bill was used in both instances because both cashiers saw a distinctive rip in the bill's lower left corner.

Harrison was booked at the Okaloosa County Jail March 23 on a \$3,500 bond, and was released March 25.

He faces a court appearance April 25.



The reverse of a counterfeit \$100 bill that resulted in a Niceville man's arrest.

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GAETZ

From page A-1

a job that doesn't start until 2016," Gaetz said.

Patronis cannot run for reelection to the House in 2014, due to term limits.

Last year, Gaetz became one of the senators benefited by a term-limit "lottery" which assigned term lengths to newly districted areas.

All 40 senate seats were up for reelection in 2012, as they are in every redistricting year. In the lottery, the districts were given either a two-or four-year designation for the next term. Senators, such as Gaetz, who had already served six years, gained the opportunity to serve a total of 10 years if their district received a four-year designation. Normally senators must step down after no more than eight years.

The Bay Beacon & Beacon Express

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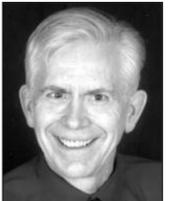
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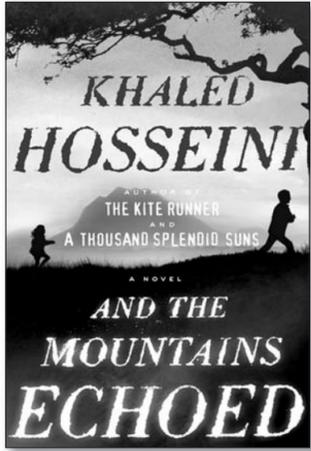
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Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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



Name: Joseph M. Gainey
Wanted for: VOP-Grand Theft
Height: 5-feet, 10-inches
Weight: 170
Age: 24
Date of birth: 01-29-1989
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Blue



Name: Apolonio Silva-Ramon
Wanted for: VOP-Battery & 2 Counts of Criminal Mischief
Height: 5-feet, 7-inches
Weight: 150
Age: 33
Date of birth: 04-10-1979
Hair: Black



Name: Aaron Bruce Corley
Wanted for: FTA-Poss. of a Controlled Substance Without a Prescription FTA-Dealing in Stolen Property
Height: 6-feet, 0-inches
Weight: 180
Age: 29
Date of birth: 11-19-1983
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown

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

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from March 25, 2013 through March 31, 2013.

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

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Rum Still Circle	Medical	3/25/13	07:58
Royal Palm Drive	Medical	3/25/13	12:21
Reeves St	Medical	3/26/13	05:04
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	3/26/13	08:54
SR 85	Vehicle crash	3/27/13	08:48
S. Cedar Ave.	Medical	3/27/13	12:26
Vincent Cir.	Medical	3/27/13	12:27
Marquette St.	Medical	3/27/13	20:14
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	3/28/13	08:03
SR 85	Vehicle crash	3/28/13	08:50
Sterling River Way	Medical	3/28/13	15:57
Lincolnshire Dr.	Medical	3/28/13	20:22
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	3/28/13	20:24
N. Partin Dr.	Alarm activation	3/29/13	07:02
Coldwater Creek Cir.	Medical	3/29/13	11:57
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	3/29/13	13:46
26th Street	Medical	3/29/13	22:46
Niceville Ave.	Medical	3/29/13	23:45
Bahia Vista Dr.	Medical	3/30/13	04:11
Kelly Road	Outside trash fire	3/30/13	04:24
Cedar Ave.	Medical	3/30/13	11:29
SR 85	Vehicle crash	3/30/13	14:20
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	3/31/13	09:07
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	3/31/13	14:49
Evans Street	Medical	3/31/13	16:03

Weekly Safety Tip: Test smoke detectors every month, following the manufacturer's directions, and replace batteries twice a year when you change your clocks or whenever a detector chirps to signal a low battery. Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from March 25, 2013 through March 31, 2013.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Olde Post Rd.	No incident found	3/25/13	01:00
Pine Street	Medical	3/25/13	05:33
White Point Rd.	Medical	3/25/13	10:11
Rosewood Way	Dispatched & cancelled	3/25/13	15:43
Commercial Dr.	False alarm	3/25/13	17:05
E. Rosewood Way	Public service assist.	3/26/13	03:34
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/26/13	14:10
Parkside Cir.	Public assist.	3/26/13	14:59
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/26/13	23:39
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/27/13	08:04
S. Cedar Ave.	Dispatched & cancelled	3/27/13	12:27
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/27/13	13:12
Ida Coon Cir.	Medical	3/28/13	11:52
N. White Point Rd.	Medical assist.	3/29/13	15:43
Hwy. 20 East	Dispatched & cancelled	3/29/13	17:44
Parkside Cir.	Medical	3/30/13	17:08
N. White Point Rd.	Dispatched & cancelled	3/31/13	11:24
Hickory Ave.	Dispatched & cancelled	3/31/13	15:21
N. White Point Rd.	Dispatched & cancelled	3/31/13	18:37
Bay Drive	Medical	3/31/13	19:05

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

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

Travis Michael Paul, a laborer, 36, of 304 Reeves St. Lot F-11, Niceville, was jailed March 25 on charges of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, carrying a concealed weapon and violation of probation/parole.

A Niceville police officer responded to the corner of Park Avenue and 4th Street, Niceville, in reference to a suspicious-person call.

Niceville officers approached a group of people in the area and asked why they were standing in the corner of the intersection. The people said they were looking for a spot to go fishing, but officers didn't see any fishing gear.

An officer again asked what the people were doing at the corner, and Paul said he had just moved to the area and the people were looking for a place to hang out.

The officer asked Paul if he "had anything on him," and Paul began to move away, keeping his back from the officer. The officer again asked if had anything on him, and Paul pulled out a Gerber

multi-tool, a multiple-function tool which holds sharp blades. He also pulled out a black magazine containing .45-caliber rounds from his pocket.

The officer asked Paul if he had a gun on him. When Paul hesitated, the officer drew his service pistol. Paul then said "the gun is tucked in my back."

The officer ordered Paul to the ground, and when he did not comply, two officers tackled him. Police yanked an unloaded .45-caliber Glock 21 semiautomatic pistol from Paul's pants near the small of his back.

Paul was found to be a convicted felon out of New York and on parole. Paul stated he found the gun in a lake.

On Monday, Paul was being held at the Okaloosa County Jail with no listed bond amount for the stated charges.

His required court appearance is May 14.

William Charles Covey, a landscaper, 27, of 419 Edge Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by Valparaiso police March 22 on charges of fraud by illegal use of credit card and grand theft.

Between Jan. 13 and March 5, Covey allegedly used someone's Coastal Bank and Trust ATM card without their knowledge or permission to make seven withdrawals from ATMs for a total of \$382.50.

Covey's required court appearance is April 23.

John Steven Smith, a brick mason, 29, of 52 Pine St., Niceville, was arrested by Valparaiso police March 24 on a charge of driving while license suspended or revoked habitual offender.

Smith's required court appearance is May 14.

Thomas Daniel Mix, a day laborer, 55, of 46 9th Ave, Lot 3, Shalimar, was arrested by Valparaiso police March 21 on charges of fraud illegal use of credit card and theft from persons aged 65 years or older.

Mix allegedly took an 85-year-old's credit card and used it at different locations, making 83 transactions for a total of \$8,135.01 from Nov. 8 to Feb. 4. Police reported the credit company will not reimburse the victim.

Mix was observed using the card on video surveillance.

Mix's required court appearance is April 23.

Scott Eugene Anderson, a caretaker, 50, of 1526 25th St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies March 25 on a charge of battery second or subsequent offense.

Anderson allegedly grabbed someone on the arm and neck, causing small, puncture-like

wounds with a small amount of bleeding on the victim's neck, and a scrape on the victim's arm.

Anderson's required court appearance is May 14.

Stephen Lun Henry, a landscaper, 35, of 222 Owen St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies March 24 on charges of expired motor vehicle registration, and driving while license suspended third or subsequent offense.

He was also cited for operating a motorcycle without a license.

Henry's required court appearance is April 9.

DUI arrests

Matthew Blase Ricchio, a tree cutter, 34, of 305 Kelly Road, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies for DUI at 1257 Airport Road, Destin, March 21 at 3:47 a.m.

Ricchio's required court appearance is April 9.

Thefts

A Niceville resident of the 200 block of Madison Avenue reported March 23 someone stole a blue Yamaha dirt bike from his residence. He reported someone used wire cutters to cut the cable securing the bike.

A Niceville resident reported March 20 someone stole a bicycle from a residence on the 600 block of Crestview Avenue.

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

What do you think about state and federal laws recognizing marriage as between one man and one woman?

Location: Niceville
Easter Egg Dash



"I just think people should be happy with whatever they need to do."

Chris Davis, 26, Niceville, military



"As a Christian, I think marriage should be between one man and one woman, but the government should not have anything to do with it."

Gail Waller, Niceville, branch office administrator



"God's plan is for a man and a woman to be united in marriage. Therefore as a Christian, that's what I believe."

Allison Sewell 40, Niceville, stay-home mom



"It's between individual people and God. It's not up to us to judge."

Norma Doria, 28, Niceville, communications officer



"Everybody has their own right to choose."

Chris Carter, 31, Niceville, real estate



"I believe you should marry whomever you wish. Whether it's man - man, woman - woman, or whatever, we shouldn't judge."

Karra Graber, 35, Niceville, CNA

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

CANS

From page A-1

street in the Rocky Bayou Country Club area. The company, which has an exclusive contract to pick up garbage and recyclables in Niceville, also delivered such carts to 40 homes on Black Bear Circle, the only street in the new Swift Creek Preserve development, west of North Partin Drive.

As elsewhere in Niceville, the test neighborhoods receive garbage pickup service twice a week and recycling pickup once a week. The schedule for the pilot program will remain the same. The only aspect that has changed is the switch from the familiar blue 18-gallon recycling bin to the 96-gallon cart, which is the same size

as a conventional garbage cart.

Waste Management has recorded the "set-out" rates of garbage and recycling for the test neighborhoods in the past month. After 90 days, the company will compare the amount of materials recycled before and during the program. This information, along with the results of a survey of participants, will be provided to the city council for consideration of a decision whether to expand the program to other neighborhoods.

One possible drawback is that homeowners have to find room for the new carts, in effect doubling the space they must dedicate to waste storage.

The 96-gallon recycling carts, which, excepting the yellow lid, look like current green plastic

Waste Management garbage carts, have instructions on what can be recycled printed on their lids.

Waste Management spokeswoman Domenica Farmer said the program's purpose is to increase the amount of recyclables set out for pickup, with a corresponding decline in sanitary-landfill usage for disposal of garbage. She said the program has worked well in other counties served by the company.

According to Farmer, 80 percent of the items Waste Management customers throw away are actually recyclable.

Farmer said the 96-gallon carts could be picked up by a truck's automated arm if the program is eventually implemented,

but in the pilot program it will be picked up using a rear-loading truck with tipplers.

The recycling and garbage will be picked up by separate trucks, though could possibly be picked up on the same day, Farmer said.

Pat Whitaker, a route manager for Waste Management, said he believes participants in the pilot

program will respond positively to the new bins because of the extra space for recyclables they provide, along with the convenience of wheeling the cart instead of carrying a bin to the street.

Waste Management will present results of the test to the Niceville City Council, which will decide whether to specify the larger cans for all city garbage

customers.

City Clerk Dan Doucet said the new carts will cost around \$50 each, and if the program is adopted citywide, the cost to Waste Management for Niceville's 5,000 customers would be around \$250,000. It was not immediately clear whether the company would bear the cost, or whether customer fees would rise.

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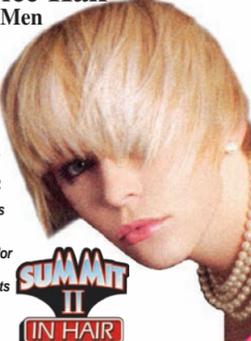
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Military Order of the Purple Heart gets first female commander

By Angela Yuriko Smith
Beacon Staff Writer

Meredith L. McQuagge understands what it means to thrive under adversity. In 2008 she was serving a tour in Iraq providing security for convoy vehicles at Tallil Airbase, Baghdad.

On July 5th a 105mm rocket exploded too close, peppering her face and head with shrapnel. She suffered third degree burns to her neck and damage to her teeth and mouth. A sizable piece of shrapnel barely missed lacerating her carotid artery by a mere ¼ inch.

Lucky as she was to be alive, she did not escape unscathed. The traumatic events from that day continues to effect her to this day in the form of memory losses, debilitating headaches

and vertigo.

McQuagge was well decorated for her sacrifice. She received a Meritorious Honor Award along with members of her platoon. Individually she received, among others, the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Purple Heart Army Achievement Medal. Because of her Purple Heart she was qualified to join the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 811 where she found others with similar experiences.

"Being in combat really changes a person and only those who have been there truly understand what it is like and how after you return, the world is never the same. I enjoy being a part of an organization who strives to see that veterans are

recognized for their service and are remembered," she said.

An active member of her chapter, McQuagge served as the Finance Officer and as Senior Vice Commander. On March 16 McQuagge was recognized for her dedicated service by being elected as the first female Chapter Commander in the State of Florida.

"To the best of my knowledge she's only the second woman ever to be awarded Chapter Commander." Says William "Bill" Everett, Region IV Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

A resident of Valparaiso, McQuagge continues to serve by working with veteran service organizations and as a member of the Individual Ready Reserve.



William "Bill" Everett, Region IV Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, congratulates Meredith L. McQuagge on her election as the first female Chapter Commander of MOPH in the State of Florida.

NHS grad to appear in CBS show, cast in major movie

Alan Ritchson (left) in character for a guest appearance on an episode of the CBS series "Hawaii Five-0," scheduled to air April 15. Ritchson, a Niceville High School graduate, was recently cast as one of the leads in the Paramount Pictures movie "Ninja Turtles."



By Daniel Elssesser
Beacon Staff Writer

Alan Ritchson, a 2001 Niceville High School graduate, is continuing to expand his already impressive acting resume.

Ritchson, 29, recently completed filming for a guest spot on an episode of the CBS series "Hawaii Five-0" slated to air April 15.

Ritchson, who has had recurring roles on shows such as Spike TV's "Blue Mountain State" and WB's "Smallville," said filming a single episode of a series was a unique and rewarding experience.

"This was a cool opportunity to explore a new character," Ritchson said. "Hawaii Five-0 is a legendary show, and this a great experience to be able to

bring something to it and observe the styles of everyone working on the show."

Ritchson said his appearance on the show occurs in a flashback plot in which he portrays the Navy SEAL friend of the show's main character, Steve McGarrett.

Ritchson has also recently added a few impressive film roles to his acting reel. He recently finished production on "Catching Fire," the newest installment of the "Hunger Games" movies series, scheduled for release in November. He portrays Gloss, who participates against the movie's protagonist in a fight-to-the-death survival game broadcast for public entertainment.

Ritchson's next role is the largest of his career this far.

He began filming Monday on "Ninja Turtles," a movie remake of the cartoon series. Ritchson will play Raphael, one of the four titular reptiles. He will portray the role through motion capture, a process in which an actor wears a suit covered in motion sensors and a digital image is superimposed over the actor's movements. Ritchson will also provide the character's voice.

"This is going to be an interesting experience," Ritchson said of the massive production, scheduled for release by Paramount Pictures June 6, 2014. "Any time you get to be a part of something this big it's an incredible opportunity. It's going to be an exciting six months."

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Lewis School honor choir selected

Fourteen 5th graders were selected to represent Lewis School in this year's Twin Cities Honor Choir. The concert was Tuesday, March 19 and featured singers from Niceville and Valparaiso's schools. They are Astrid Chojnowski, Cassie Christ, Emma Conley, La'Raina Courtoy, April Dutollo, Alexis Ellis, Katelynn Hemenway, Natalie Henry, Tre Hutchings, Sebastian Limo, Christian Schwartz, Kylie Szostek, Gabe Tobia and Valery Whitfield.



First place for regional science fair

Rocky Bayou Christian School is pleased to announce the results of the recent Regional Science Fair. Junior Connor Lynch tied for first place in Senior Energy and Transportation with his project entitled, "Back to the Future: Exploiting Active Laminar Flow Control to Improve Wing Efficiency". He won the United States Army Award outstanding project award, the United States Air Force Award for outstanding engineering projects, has been invited to I-Sweep, and is the alternate for the International Science and Engineering Fair. Junior Stefan Makarov and Senior Jessica Sandlin won first place in the Team Category with their project entitled, "Sound Defense for the F-35 at Eglin AFB". All three will be attending the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair on March 26-28, at the Lakeland Center, in Lakeland, Florida.



Rocky Bayou adds it up

On Saturday, March 9, Rocky Bayou Christian School, Aletheia Christian Academy and Washington County Christian School participated in the annual ACSI Math Olympics competition, held at RBCS. Pictured are Rocky Bayou students grades 3-8 and Elementary Principal, Mrs. Denise Bowers. Third grade students with ribbons are Joe Hudson 2nd, Elle Street 3rd, Trey Toups 5th and Keilana Quilit 5th. Fourth grade winners were Amanda Brannon 3rd and Tres Vance in 5th. Fifth grade winners were Alyssa Fredmonsky 1st, Wyatt Kirkpatrick 3rd, Vivian Mitchell 4th, Tyler Phillips 5th and Gideon Riches 5th. Sixth grade winners were Lydia Turner 2nd, Nick Bowers 2nd, Dylan Rodriguez 3rd and Jenna Lewis 4th. Seventh grade winners were Mary Brannon 1st, Devon Lewis 2nd, Hannah Augustin 3rd, Elisha Daughtry 3rd and Elizabeth Mackey 3rd. Eighth grade winners were Charis Allen 1st, Ariel Schesniak 1st, Ben Esses 2nd, Jin Kim 3rd and Lexi Kirkpatrick 4th.



Melody Zargari wins Miss NHS

Melody Zargari was recently crowned Miss Niceville High School for 2013. The Runner Ups were 1st Madison Booth, 2nd Ashley Meyer, and 3rd, Kalyn Worsham. Additional awards went to Cassie Roby as People's Choice, Meggie McCormick for Miss Sash, Genevieve Thompson for Miss GPA, Rebekah Frisbee for Miss Congeniality, Kiera Welch for Miss Talent, Mackenzie Kidd for Miss Evening Gown and Alayna Nixon for Miss Interview.



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A hole in one

11 year old Lauren Miller from Niceville had her 1st Hole In One at the Pensacola Country Club during an Emerald Coast Junior Golf Tournament.



First rate speller

On Friday, March 8, Rocky Bayou Christian School students grades 1 to 8, participated in the ACSI Spell Bee at East Hill Christian Academy in Pensacola, FL. Pictured is Dominic Mahoney, a 5th grader who finished 2nd in the overall competition. He is eligible to participate in the state spell bee March 22, in Dunedin, FL.

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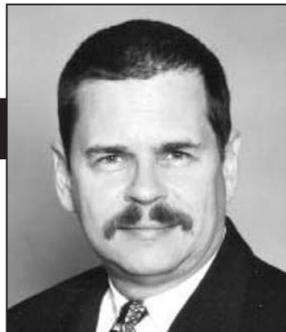
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ACE of the month

Brittany Dunn, daughter of Tom and Susie Dunn of Niceville, was selected as the Niceville Exchange Club's 'Accepting the Challenge of Excellence (ACE) of the Month. She was honored at the club's March 12 meeting, held at La Rumba's in Niceville. Brittany is a senior at Rocky Bayou Christian School and hopes to go on to Northwest Florida State College next year.



Lewis Band superior for five years

The Lewis Band earned all superior ratings from the Florida Bandmasters Association judges at the yearly Music Performance Assessment held on March 14th at Ft. Walton Beach High School. All superior is the highest rating possible and means the band was graded at an "A" level from each of the judges in both stage performance and sight reading. Since this is the band's 5th consecutive year to earn superior ratings, Lewis will also be presented with the FBA 5 Year Superior Award in January.



Dancers perform for St. Patrick's

Students from the Drake Irish Dance School in Fort Walton Beach perform at Resurrection Catholic Church and Westwood Retirement Home in honor of St. Patrick's Day. The four dancers are residents of Niceville and attend Ruckel Middle School. Pictured is Colleen Simpson (6th), Chloe Kokenes (6th), Eve Glenn (7th) and Caitlyn Hart (8th).

Bain brothers bring home first place

Adler and Major Bain recently took home first place team honors when they competed in the 2013 Florida State Men's Gymnastics Championship in Clearwater, Florida.



Art is alive at Lewis

On February 19th Lewis School held an Arts Alive Event sponsored by the Oval Art program in conjunction with Open House. Student artwork was displayed throughout the school and Oval Art volunteers led hands-on art activities for the students to work on that night. Pictured here is Oval Arts volunteer Elizabeth Bartlett with Fiona Nolan (left) and Charlie Olson, Ramzi Hamilton, and Carter Olson (right) working on a picture.

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Annual Cobia Tournament

The Bluewater Bay Marina will host its 18th Annual Cobia Tournament April 1-30. There will be a small boat division, 29 feet and under, and an open division, 30 feet and above. To register contact the marina at frontdesk@bwb-marina.com or 897-2821. Sponsorships are available. There will be a captain's meeting and awards dinner at LJ Schooners Dockside Restaurant and Oyster Bar, Bluewater Bay.

Audubon Society meeting

The Audubon Society will hold its free, public, monthly meeting April 4, 7 p.m., 6:30 p.m. refreshments, in Room 132, Student Services Center, Northwest Florida State College, Niceville. Walt Spence will present a program on his award-winning bird photography featuring both his recent work and that of his photo-paddling buddy, Douglas Buck. Contact Walt Spence at 582-7064.

Early release movie day

The Valparaiso Community Library will host an early release movie day on April 4, 1:30 p.m., at the library. The featured movie will be "Rise of the Guardians" and popcorn will be served.

Traveling Eagles golf tourney

The 2013 Traveling Eagles golf tournament will take place April 5, noon registration, 1 p.m. shotgun start, at the Bluewater Bay Country Club. The cost is \$350 for a team, \$90 for an individual. Register at www.travelingeagles.com.

Safe Haven Horse Rescue

Safe Haven Horse Rescue Center will hold its annual celebration on Saturday, April 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rain date will be Sunday, April 7. Activities for the whole family are planned. Festivities begin at 11 a.m. with \$5 lunch of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs including chips and soft drink. Children 6 years and under receive a free lunch. Gate admission for adults is \$5 (free to children 6 and under), which includes entry into the door prize drawings. For a beautiful weekend ride in the country, head to 8321 Stokes Rd., Laurel Hill, behind Gene Clary Park. Call 685-8417 for more information.

FREE Chair Yoga classes

Starting April 3 there will be free yoga classes for those with Multiple Sclerosis Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at Johnson Chiropractic Clinic 600 E. John Sims Parkway. For info, contact instructor Candace Miller at (812) 599-2887. Supported through a grant from the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation

Blood drive this week

Blood drives in the Niceville area this

Thursday April 4 at Niceville City Hall, 204 N Partin Drive from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Jobs Plus networking group

Jobs Plus is partnering with the Niceville and Valparaiso Chambers of Commerce to host a networking event to be held on Thursday, April 4 from 3-5 p.m. for Emerald Coast professionals. Event will be held at the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce at 1055 E John Sims Pkwy.

Rocky Bayou luau

Free food, live music, free hula lessons will be available for prospective and current families interested in learning what Rocky Bayou's Destin campus offers. A group campus tour will be offered as part of the event, so please come out enjoy the festivities and learn of the great opportunities available to K5 - 6th graders. Aloha shirts and Hawaiian attire encouraged but not required. The luau will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2013 from 3-6 p.m. at Rocky Bayou Christian School's Destin Campus at 201 Beach Dr. Please call the Destin campus at 837-7247 for more information and to RSVP as space is limited.



Have fun helping horses

Safe Haven Horse Rescue Center will hold its annual celebration on Saturday, April 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come enjoy the country music of keyboard artist Ed Tanza, visit the arts and crafts show or explore the new barn. There will be plenty of horses to pet and perhaps even take home from the Safe Haven Horse Rescue at 8321 Stokes Rd., behind Gene Clary Park in Laurel Hill.

Hill, behind Gene Clary Park. Call 685-8417 for more information.

Rodeo fundraiser

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast and the Professional Cowboy Association Bo Campbell Productions will host a rodeo fundraiser April 5-6, 5:30 p.m., at the Freepoint Sports Complex in Hammock Bay. There will be riding, roping, and racing from cowboys and cowgirls from all over the country.

Participants can sign up for rodeo events, such as bareback, saddle bronco riding, calf roping, barrel racing, steer wrestling, breakaway and team roping. There will be food available for purchase from Nick's Seafood and 4 C's BBQ. Kids can enjoy face painting, rodeo games and clowns. The proceeds will benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast. Purchase tickets for adults at \$12, and \$6 for children under 12 at bgccrodeo.eventbrite.com. Contact Yvonne Freeman at 217-4007 or yvonnefreeman@cox.net.

Museum education program

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida will host "Home School Fridays and Hands on History Saturdays" education program April 5 and 6, 10 a.m.-noon, on "Wagons, boats and oxen," at the museum, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso.

The program is for grades K-6 and for home school families on Friday and for families of the general public on Saturday. The cost is \$7 per child, or \$5 for museum family members. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Contact 678-2615.

Young girls seminar

The New Life Christian Ministries of Niceville will host a free "Pretty Girl S.W.A.G.," strength, wealth and adoration for God, seminar April 6, 10 a.m.-noon, at 130 North Partin Drive, Niceville.

The event is open to girls ages 7-18 and lunch will be served. Contact the church to register at 729-0733.

Boy Scout-O-Rama

The Cub and Boy Scout Scout-O-Rama Survivor 2013 will be held April 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Uptown Station, Fort Walton Beach. There will be free games, demonstrations, crafts and community booths. Kids can enjoy inflatable with purchase of an armband for \$7 per person or \$8 at the door, families are \$20 and \$25 at the door. There will be information booths for the Cub and Boy Scout units, a 911 station, EMS Ambulance, Eglin Fire Department and more. For more information go to Gulfcoastcouncil.org, the Choctawhatchee District page.

Biophilia trail day

Experience nature Saturday, April 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the E.O. Biophilia Center at 4956 State Hwy 20 East Freepoint. Call 835-1824 for more information.

CBMC Duo-piano concert

The Choctaw Bay Music Club will present its 22nd annual duo-piano concert April 7, 3 p.m., in Tyler Recital Hall, Northwest Florida State College, Niceville. The program will feature a variety of selections performed on two new Yamaha grand pianos. Performers will be members of the club. A donation of \$5-\$10 is requested at the door and following the program a reception will be held at 204 Ruckel Dr., Niceville. Contact Karen LeGrand at 664-6569.

Democrats meet

The Okaloosa County Democratic Executive Committee will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday April 9 at Democratic Headquarters, 60 2nd Street [suite 305 in Shalimar. A social hour will be held at 6 p.m. followed by the business meeting at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

For more information call Darlo Kiely at 609-3367

Twin Cities seniors meet

Celebrate Easter on April 11 at 1 p.m. with other seniors. There will be an Easter hat contest. Entrée provided, please bring a covered dish to share. Fifty plus welcome. For more info please call 543-0869

BWB Garden Club meeting

The Bluewater Bay Garden Club will host its monthly meeting April 11, 9:30 a.m., at the Bluewater Bay Clubhouse, Bluewater Bay Boulevard, Niceville. Maria Wilson, senior forester, will give a presentation on managing trees for Florida years to come. New members and guests are welcome, contact Karen Williams at 897-5560.

United Way fundraiser

Carrabba's Italian Grill will host a cooking class to benefit United Way of Okaloosa and Walton Counties April 12, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., at the restaurant, 10562 U.S. Highway 98, Sandestin. Carrabba's Chef Paul will demonstrate Italian dishes featuring food samples, a complimentary glass of wine, a raffle and recipes to take home. Tickets are \$45 per person. Seating is limited and registration is required. Contact Ronda Davenport at 243-0315 or rondad@united-way.org.

Ruckel cheer clinic

Ruckel Middle School cheerleaders will host a cheerleading clinic for girls K-6 grade April 13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in the Ruckel Middle School gymnasium. Participants will learn jumps, dance, cheers and chants. Grades 4-6 will participate in a mock trout and receive a critique sheet to help improve their skills. The cost is \$25 by April 1, and \$35 until April 13. Contact rmscheer@gmail.com for more information.

Dance Facets 2013

The Northwest Florida State College presents the annual dance concert, Dance Facets 2013, featuring original works and choreography April 12 and 13, 7:30 p.m., on the mainstage of the college's Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville.

Kelly Arts Center, Niceville.

Dancers will perform original presentations featuring classical ballet, contemporary, and modern dance. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for youth, ages 18 and under. Purchase tickets at www.mattiekellyartscenter.org or contact the box office at 729-6000. All proceeds go to support the Frances Smith Herron Dance Endowment at NWFSC.

Community Market Day

The Niceville Community Guild will host its Niceville Community Market Day April 13, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., in the parking lot behind Niceville City Hall. There will be crafters, garage sales, produce stands, fundraisers, food vendors, home businesses, and much more. Spaces are \$15. Contact 678-7595 or Nicevillechristmas@cox.net to reserve a spot.

Magnolia golf tournament

The Bluewater Bay Ladies Golf Association presents the Magnolia Classic Golf Tournament April 24 and 25, 9 a.m. shotgun, at the Bluewater Bay Golf Course, Niceville. Registration forms can be found at your individual golf club and returned to Sara Helen Lowe, 4384 Hagen Ct., Niceville, by April 15. The cost is \$120 per person and \$240 per team. Includes play with cart, cocktail party, breakfast and lunch for both days, and prizes. Contact Sara Helen Lowe at 897-1977 or Drivinggal@aol.com.

NWFSC Reads

The Northwest Florida State College will feature guest author Julianna Baggott during its annual literary event series, NWFSC Reads, April 15, 7 p.m., at the Sprint Theater, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville. Baggott will present an excerpt from her book, "Fuse." A reception and unveiling of the college's literary journal, the Blackwater Review, will be held immediately prior starting at 6 p.m., room 132 of the Student Services Center, Niceville.

Doolittle Raiders signing

The Doolittle Raiders will hold their 71st reunion April 17-20, in Fort Walton Beach. The surviving raiders will be at the Armament Museum for an interview/autograph session on Wednesday, April 17, 1-4 p.m., and April 19, 2-4 p.m. Books and posters will be available for sale from the reunion organizers. You may also purchase memorabilia from the AFAM Gift Shop to be autographed. For more information on community events go to www.fwbchamber.com/DoolittleRaide rs.

'Taste of North Bay' fundraiser

The second annual "Taste of North Bay" will take place April 25, 6 p.m., at the North Light Yacht Club, 113 John Sims Parkway West, Niceville. The event will benefit the Air Commando Association Foundation Endowment and That Others May Live Foundation. There will be culinary presentations by local chefs, tapas paired with wines, music, a guest speaker, silent auction and raffle. Tickets are \$50 until April 18, then they will advance to \$75. Register at www.aircommando.org/index.php?q=civircm/event/info&id=37&reset=1. Contact Nic Dezinski at 226-1561.

Doolittle Exhibit opening

The Northwest Florida State College will kick off its anniversary celebration with a free, public assembly April 17, doors open at 8 a.m., ceremony 9 a.m., at the Raider's Arena at the college, Niceville. The event will feature the dedication and opening of a permanent Doolittle Raiders historical exhibit in the lobby of the arena. Three of the surviving WWII Doolittle Raiders crew members are scheduled to appear and will be honored by the college, which has used the Raiders name for its athletics mascot since the early 1960's. The college will also feature a display of the Doolittle Raiders' silver goblets.

Church rummage sale

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church at 1200 Valparaiso Blvd. will hold a spring rummage sale Friday and Saturday, April 19 and 20, from 7 a.m. until 12 p.m. Filipino Food will be available Saturday only. Sale items will include electronics, house wares, furniture, appliances, kitchenware, books, clothing, jewelry, pictures and paintings, plants, bake sale, collectibles and a new item gift table. Donations accepted at the Parish Life Center Building, April 15-18. Proceeds benefit the parish building fund. For more information call 678-7813.

RBCS Cinderella musical

The Rocky Bayou Christian School drama presents Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella April 19 and 20, 7 p.m., at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium. Tickets will be on sale at the school in March and at the door. To donate or loan items contact the RBCS drama director Tom Hood at 678-7358 or hoodt@rbcsc.org.

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"Tootsie Roll" fund drive

Each spring, the Knights of Columbus chapter at Christ Our Redeemer Church sponsor their local "Tootsie Roll" fund drive to raise money for several organizations in Okaloosa and Walton County. These organizations focus on helping those with intellectual disabilities.



Friends of the Niceville Library

Wednesday March 20, Sterling House Bluewater Bay, a Brookdale Senior Living Assisted Living Community, hosted a luncheon for the Friends of the Niceville Library volunteers. Martha Hudson, Chairman, led the Friends of the Library as they honored one of our residents, Al Swihart, for his years of dedication and service to the Niceville Library. Please contact Martha Hudson at 729-4070 for more information on volunteer opportunities.



Humanitarian award recipients

Twin Cities Hospital recently announced their recipients of the 2012 Dr. Frist Humanitarian Awards. At a luncheon in Niceville, David Whalen, CEO, presented awards to James Watson, MD, Lois Pellnitz (volunteer), and Richard Dunham (employee). Twin Cities Hospital is located at 2190 Highway 85 N in Niceville. For more information please visit or call 678-4131.

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Goody baskets with a purpose

Sharing and Caring volunteers Gloria Price and David Conrad were on hand March 25 to receive a donation of 100 Easter baskets from Christ Our Redeemer Catholic Church. The church congregation, inspired by the late Deacon Mike Carucci, has held the basket drive for several years as a way of making the children of Sharing and Caring happy during the Easter season. Each basket contains a tooth brush and tooth paste, along with Easter candies and toys. Among the volunteers who put together the baskets were Rhonda Wercinski, Sue Marco, Tom Okuly and Paul Dooley of Christ Our Redeemer; Maria Lewis of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church; Gary and Gloria Witkos of St. Jude's Episcopal Church. Additional assistance came from Christ Our Redeemer congregants, Tricia and Tina-Marie Zermeno.



Party for St. Patrick's

Twin Cities Woman's Club hosted a St. Paddy's Day Bingo at the Pavilion. Prizes were given to winners and refreshments were enjoyed by all. Left to right front row Patty Mixon, Jean Waite, Gail Weaver. Back row Tristyn Nichols, guest bingo caller, Virginia Crisafulli, Diane Ballard, Annie Fair, and Jeanee Barr, Activity Director.

In Service

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Brittany N. McAnally** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.



A1C **Brittany N. McAnally**

McAnally is the daughter of Sonya Slater of William Faulkner Drive, Niceville, Fla., and Michael McAnally of Chartwell Lane, Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas. She is a 2011 graduate of Niceville High School, Fla.



Yard of the month winner

Niceville Garden Club chose **Walter Stevens' yard** at 118 Montrose Dr., Niceville, as Yard of the Month for April 2013. The Niceville Garden Club meets at 6:00 p.m. every 4th Tuesday of the month at the Niceville Public Library, 206 Partin Drive North Niceville.

Emerald Coast Professionals



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Niceville Chapter

First meeting will be **Thursday, April 4, 2013** from 3:00-5:00PM at the



Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, located at 1055 E. John Sims Parkway
Topic for the evening is "Keys to Federal Employment"

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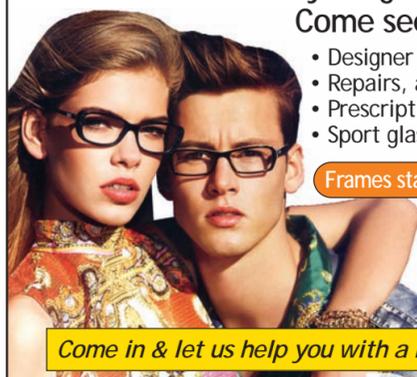
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