

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter
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12 Pages, 2 Sections, 4 Inserts

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

50¢

**UP
COMING**

Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.

The Niceville High School Drama Department will be presenting "Promedy" and "The Best Show Never Seen",



in the Niceville Auditorium on Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27. All shows begin at 7 p.m.. Tickets are \$5 at the door and may also be purchased prior to the performance at 217-8101.

Sun., 6:45 p.m.



The Baptist College of Florida Jazz Ensemble will perform at a spring concert Sunday, April 28, 6:45 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Niceville.

Mon., 7:30 p.m.

The Northwest Florida State College Soundsations Showchoir and Jazz Ensemble presents an end-of-year concert April 29, 7:30 p.m., in the mainstage theater of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, NWFSC, Niceville. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for youths 18 and younger. NWFSC students may obtain one free admission per ID, in person from the box office. Purchase tickets at 729-6000 or www.mattiekellyarts-center.org.



Calendar, B-3,5

Golf-course conversion bid withdrawn

BWB Resort drops plan to build homes on links

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

Bluewater Bay Resort Monday withdrew a request to redesignate part of its Magnolia golf course as land for residential development and announced it would close the nine-hole course to play beginning May 1 as a cost-cutting move.

Helmut Werner, chairman of the resort, withdrew the proposal

Monday afternoon amid mounting opposition to the development plan from Bluewater Bay homeowners.

In a statement, the resort also said it was working with community members in an effort to avoid the closure of an additional, unspecified, nine holes as well. The company operates four nine-hole courses in Bluewater Bay, all lined by houses.

Werner said the Magnolia development, proposed earlier this year, was withdrawn because Okaloosa County planners were "imposing unreasonable standards of review" on the petition to change Bluewater Bay's development of regional impact (DRI) plan, which broadly governs development in the 35-year-old community.

"There have been 13 changes

to the DRI made in the past 20 years or so," Werner said. "[The county] has never requested such detailed information."

Werner said the county requested plans for roads, setbacks and other details for the potential residential development on the golf course. He said the resort could not afford the additional time and money it would take to provide the information.

Werner said all nine holes of the Magnolia course would be closed indefinitely. He said the

resort would erect fences around the course and would not mow or otherwise maintain it.

Werner said the fences around the closed Magnolia course would bear "Private Property" signs, and residents would no longer be allowed on it, because of insurance concerns. He said that footbridges over water on the Magnolia course would be blocked as well.

Tom Hanks, resort general

Please see WITHDRAWN, page A-2

A final salute



Lt. Cols. Dick Cole and Edward Saylor and Staff Sgt. David Thatcher, three of the four surviving Doolittle Raiders, stand beside Medal of Honor recipient Col. Bud Day at a ceremony celebrating the 50th anniversary of Northwest Florida State College and the 71st anniversary of the Doolittle raid at the college's Raiders Arena, Niceville, April 17. The college mascot, a fox named Jimmy after the historic WWII air raid's leader, the late Gen. Jimmy Doolittle, attended as well. The 2013 reunion of the Doolittle raid veterans is said to be their last.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

Bridge receives BP funds

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

During a meeting of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority in Destin Thursday, Executive Director Jim Vest told the governing board that the MBBA has received its final settlement from BP.

The settlement, said Vest, is for \$200,000 and covers revenue lost during 2011 and later years as a result of tourists and other potential users of the Mid-Bay Bridge who stayed away after hearing about the BP oil spill in 2010. No significant amounts of oil reached Okaloosa County or Walton County shores, but bad publicity caused many vacationers to cancel their plans, hurting bridge toll revenue during the peak summer season.

The \$200,000 settlement from BP follows an earlier settlement from BP for Mid-Bay Bridge revenue lost during 2010, the year of the oil spill.

Vest also gave the board an update on pending state legislation that may affect the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority. He said House Bill 70127 has made it through committees and is due for a vote on the house floor

Please see BRIDGE, page A-3

County backtracks on turn-lane restriction

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

Okaloosa County traffic engineers have dropped a controversial plan to reduce the number of left-hand turn lanes from White Point Road to State Road, 20 in Bluewater Bay.

In late January, the county reconfigured the intersection so that north-facing vehicles emerging from White Point Road at SR 20 could no longer use the middle of three lanes to turn left.

In theory, the restriction

reduced the number of left-turn lanes to one for motorists leaving northbound White Point Road for westbound SR 20. But the change was widely ignored, and many motorists continued to use the middle lane to turn left.

Jason Autrey, Okaloosa County engineering division manager, said traffic had decreased so much on White Point Road since the opening of the Mid-Bay Bridge connector

Please see LANE, page A-6



The turn lanes at White Point Road and SR 20 have been repainted back to the way they looked before January. County traffic engineers changed the intersection in January to allow left turns from only one of three lanes, a reduction of one. The pattern was repainted to revert to two turn lanes earlier this month after many drivers ignored the new flow.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

Valp. officials split on change to city charter

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Valparaiso City Commission Monday held its third in a series of workshops to discuss potential changes to the municipal charter and to the city's form of government.

As during the previous two workshops, held March 18 and April 1, Mayor Bruce Arnold advocated changing the city's form of government from its current "commission" form to another form, such as a "strong mayor" or "city manager" type of government. Two commissioners opposed the idea.

The city commission does not

have the authority to change the form of government on its own. The most the commission can do, if it eventually votes to do so, is to place a proposed change to the city charter on the March 2014 ballot for a citywide referendum.

During Monday's discussion, Arnold and commissioners Diane Kelley and Kay Hamilton supported a change in the form of city government, while commissioners Hayward Strong and Joe Morgan preferred to leave Valparaiso's form of government as it is.

Strong and Morgan said that

Please see VALP., page A-2



Relay for Life

Neither rain nor cold nor darkness stopped a small but dedicated group of Relay for Life supporters from taking part in this year's event to fight cancer. This year's annual Relay for Life at the Niceville High School stadium began Friday evening despite constant rain, dropping temperatures, and darkening skies. The event began with an opening ceremony. This was followed by the "survivors' walk," in which cancer survivors paraded around the track at the stadium.



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The Bluewater Resort had requested the designation for commercial development of parts of four holes on its Magnolia golf course, including the seventh fairway, pictured. But the resort withdrew the request Monday and will shut all nine Magnolia holes May 1.

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WITHDRAWN

From page A-1

manager, said it costs the company about \$8,000 per acre per year to maintain the course. Resort officials had said they wanted to develop part of the course as housing in order to offset a decline in golf revenue.

Raimund Herden, one of the original developers of Bluewater Bay, said Magnolia homeowners would want to maintain the golf course themselves if it were shut down. Werner, however, said this would not be allowed.

The withdrawal of the development petition caused the Okaloosa County Commission to cancel a public hearing on the issue scheduled for Thursday, April 25, in the Emerald Coast Convention Center, Okaloosa Island. Critics of the development proposal said the meeting was expected to be attended by hundreds of residents opposed to the idea.

County Commissioner Nathan Boyles said he and other commissioners had received over 1,000 petitions from Bluewater Bay homeowners against the change.

The proposed change would have redesignated parts of Magnolia holes 4, 6, 7 and 9 for

the development of as many as 148 houses and apartments.

Hanks said the proposal to shorten some golf holes for commercial development was made to generate revenue to avoid the closure of an entire course. He said resort staffers are still looking for ways to increase revenue and membership while cutting costs.

"[W]e will continue to move forward and do our best to maintain a high-quality golf experience at Bluewater Bay and make our amenities more valuable to our potential members in the Bluewater community," Hanks said.

Werner added that the proposal was made to help the Bluewater community.

"When we filed our proposed plan, we sincerely believed that it would be in the best interest of all Bluewater Bay homeowners," Werner said. "We still believe this."

The county commission was scheduled to review the proposal and determine whether it constituted a substantial deviation from Bluewater Bay's original master plan, and then decide whether to approve the plan.

Incidentally, two separate agencies, the West Florida Regional Planning Council and

the state's Department of Economic Opportunity, recently decided that the proposed change did not constitute a substantial deviation from Bluewater's original Development of Regional Impact (DRI) and could advance to the county commissioners for approval.

A statement issued by the resort Monday stated it is working with members of the community to avoid closing an additional nine holes to cut costs further.

Jill Crew, a lawyer representing homeowners who oppose the proposal, said she does not know of any alternative proposals from homeowners to increase revenue for the golf course.

Crew said the homeowners in Magnolia Plantation bought into an idea of a neighborhood with areas designated for recreational open space, and the proposed change would have altered the neighborhood plan they paid for when they bought their homes.

The resort submitted the development plan in January in an effort to generate revenue for the money-losing course.

At that time, Hanks said he hoped the new residential development would infuse the area with "fresh blood," renewing interest in the area and the course.

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Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Thomas Miller, former Valparaiso city commissioner, expressed skepticism Monday about any plan to change to a city manager form of government. He addressed the city commission during a forum on possible changes to the city charter.

VALP.

From page A-1

whatever changes may be necessary to the way Valparaiso's government functions can be made within the scope of its current

form of government, under which each elected commissioner supervises one or more city operating departments directly.

Former City Commissioner Thomas G. Miller and his wife, Diane, also attended Monday's

workshop and addressed the commission in opposition to changing the form of government. "We've lived here since 1968," said Diane Miller. "And it has been wonderful knowing who to go to and how to get a response in the city government. That's what our town is made up of. I don't want to see that change."

Thomas Miller expressed skepticism about a proposed city manager form of government, one which Arnold had seemed to advocate during previous workshops. "To have the best city manager government," said Miller, "you would need the best city manager."

Arnold, however, along with commissioners Hamilton and Kelly, said the commission form of government is inefficient, and was designed for a simpler town in a simpler time. He said that the city's current charter originally took effect in 1921. He also said that by 1930, when the first U.S. census conducted after the city charter took effect, there were only 99 residents of Valparaiso, distributed among 38 households..

"That's what our original charter was directed to," said Arnold. "The original charter doesn't mention such things as our cable TV and communication system, the public library, or our current city legal services."

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Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Responders drill for hazmat crash

Northwest Florida State College's emergency training area was the site of an emergency response exercise Tuesday morning, involving firefighters and other first response agencies from Okaloosa and Escambia counties. The drill was designed to simulate the collision of two tanker trucks carrying toxic chemicals, according to Okaloosa Emergency Manager Randy McDaniel.

Publix submits final plans for store

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

Niceville Building Inspector Darcy Chaney said Monday that Publix Supermarkets Inc. submitted final building plans for the company's planned store northwest of the intersection of Rocky Bayou Drive and SR 20, Niceville.

Chaney said he and Niceville Fire Inspector Mike Valenzuela are reviewing the plans and should be able to grant Publix a permit to build within the next two weeks, in time for the grocer's desired groundbreaking in the second week of May.

The plans call for the construction of a 45,600-square-foot Publix building and up to 13 adjacent retail stores ranging from approximately 1,400 to 2,900 square feet to be occupied by retailers to be determined later.

The plans call for the Publix to be built adjacent to the land earmarked for but yet undeveloped by Home Depot. Chaney said he has not heard anything recently from Home Depot, but hopes the



Valparaiso Realty
A digital rendering of the planned Publix supermarket northwest of Rocky Bayou Drive and SR 20, Niceville. Publix submitted final building plans to the city of Niceville April 22, and Building Inspector Darcy Chaney expects to approve a building permit for the site by the second week in May.

Publix development will encourage Home Depot and other businesses to open in Niceville.

"This is a good thing for Niceville and people are pretty excited about it," Chaney said. "I'm hoping it will bring more commercial development, especially with the adjacent stores, and hopefully it'll push Home Depot to come in."

Chaney noted if the Publix construction encourages Home Depot and other businesses to build in Niceville, it would help make Niceville more "self sustaining," eliminating the need for Niceville residents to travel to

Destin or Fort Walton Beach for a major home improvement supplier.

Niceville Public Works Director Bruce Price said a roundabout will be constructed to connect Rocky Bayou Drive to the Publix shopping center. This roundabout will connect to a through boulevard that will travel west and connect to the Walmart shopping center by way of a bridge over Swift Creek.

The boulevard will be accessible from SR 20 through three right-turn entrances, one connecting to the CCB Bank parking lot. A representative of Valparaiso

Realty, the company that owns the land for the planned site, estimates the store will not be open until after Christmas 2013.

"[Publix] stores take 225 days to build," the representative said. "If they get started in late May, you're looking at finishing up in January."

The Valparaiso Realty representative noted, in his experience, grocery stores typically prefer to open after the holiday season, because it is difficult for the new and inexperienced staff to handle the onslaught of customers that comes with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

BRIDGE

From page A-1

sometime this week. The bill, said Vest, contains no provisions directly related to the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, although it does give counties the option of creating regional transportation financing authorities.

Vest also said that Senate Bill 1132 has changed. He said the Senate bill started out creating a regional tollway authority, which could have replaced the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority. Now, however, said Vest, the bill would create a Northwest Florida regional transportation finance authority similar to that in the House bill, and has also dropped previous references to U.S. Highway 98.

The Northwest Florida regional transportation finance authority, Vest said, would consist of Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, and Gulf counties, and would include some oversight of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority. He said the bill would also create a similar regional authority for Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Vest said that the Senate bill is currently headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

If both bills eventually pass in their houses, said Vest, they will then go to a joint conference committee where final language of the bills will be written. During that process, said Vest, either or both bills, or the

final version, may be amended. Vest said that state Rep. Matt Gaetz has been "instrumental in protecting the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority" while the House bill has been under consideration. Vest said that Gaetz's father, State Sen. Don Gaetz, has been "quiet and neutral" regarding the Senate version of the bill.

Vest also told the MBBA governing board that traffic and revenue figures from the Mid-Bay Bridge have varied less than 1% during the past month, compared with the same month last year.

In other business during last Thursday's meeting, HDR Engineering representative Jon Vannoy told the MBBA board that most of the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector road between State Highway 20 and Range Road is now more than 90 percent complete. Parts of the bridge connector road between Range Road and State Road 85 North of Niceville are mostly between 50 percent and 75 percent complete. Construction is currently underway on several bridges which cross creeks within the Eglin military reservation, and construction is also underway for the tolling point north of Niceville. The 11-mile highway, parts of which are already open, is scheduled to be completed in 2014.

Vannoy also told the board that paving is underway at the intersection of College

Boulevard and the new bridge connector. "A lot of people are glad to see work being done there," said Vannoy. A temporary roadway to allow the construction at College and Forest Road has been a traffic bottleneck since it was built by the highway contractors over a year ago.

The next meetings of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority will include a special public budget hearing on May 2, followed by the next regular meeting at 9 a.m. May 16. Both meetings will be held in the Niceville City Hall Council Chambers at 208 North Partin Drive.

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Body found in bayou is identified

By Daniel Elsesser
 Beacon Staff Writer

County investigators identified a body found in the Rocky Bayou waterway last week as that of 27-year-old Misty Renee Medrano of Fort Walton Beach.

Medrano's remains were found at the end of 11th Street, Niceville, by a resident who called Niceville police upon finding it at 7 a.m. April 14.

Michele Nicholson, spokeswoman for the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, said the medical examiner determined the body had been in the water for less than 12 hours and that Medrano had been deceased for approximately that long.

Nicholson said investigators are awaiting a toxicology report from the examiner

before they can determine a cause of death. Nicholson said the body bore no suspicious marks or injuries.

In seeking information, county investigators are trying to find the driver of a light-colored pickup truck seen at the end of 11th Street late April 13. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office reported the driver may have been fishing and may have had a small kayak on the back of his truck.

Investigators have requested public assistance in locating the driver or gaining any additional information about the circumstances surrounding the finding of Medrano's body.

Information may be phoned to the sheriff's office at 850-609-2000 or to Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers anonymously at 850-863-8477.

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

Christopher Levon Jackson, a cook, 29, of 507 23rd St. Unit A, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police April 16 on a charge of battery.

A Niceville officer responded to a suspicious person call on the 500 block of 23rd Street. There, someone reported they were "jumped" by Jackson and two unidentified people. The victim reported Jackson and the two others pulled him off his bike, hit him in the mouth and beat him on the back of the head and neck.

Jackson's required court appearance is May 7.

Tammie Michelle Johnson, unemployed, 39, of 282 Washington Ave. Apt. 4, Valparaiso, was arrested by Valparaiso police April 12 on a charge of battery domestic violence.

Johnson allegedly punched someone in the eye with her fist. Johnson's required court appearance is April 30.

Thadeus Elliott Matthews, a cashier, 19, of 201 Adams Creek Road, DeFuniak Springs, was arrested by Niceville police April 17 on a charge of possession of marijuana less than 20 grams.

Matthews allegedly called Niceville police to report someone was chasing him and had blocked his car into a dead end street.

Two officers responded and, upon approaching the passenger side of Matthews' vehicle, smelled marijuana. An officer asked Matthews if he had anything in the vehicle that could

"get him in trouble." Matthews said no and granted the officer consent to search the vehicle.

Before the officer searched the vehicle he again asked Matthews if there was anything troublesome in the car, and Matthews admitted to having "a couple of roaches." Matthews pulled a cigarette pack out of the vehicle, removed two marijuana "roaches" from the pack and gave them to the officer.

Matthews said there was nothing else troublesome in the car, but when the officer searched the car he found a clear plastic bag containing a seven grams of a green leafy substance that later tested positive for the presence of THC.

Matthews said he had forgotten the bag was in the car. His required court appearance is May 7.

George Robert Booth, retired, 65, Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies April 17 on a charge of violation of injunction for protection against domestic violence.

Allegedly, Booth is not allowed to go within 500 feet of a residence on the 4000 block of Parkside Lane, Niceville, per an April 4 injunction for protection against domestic violence.

A deputy allegedly saw Booth inside the residence.

Booth's required court appearance is May 7.

Stephanie Morgan Smith, a student, 21, of 210 S. Hampton Court, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies April 17 on charges of two counts of burglary of a conveyance unarmed without a person inside and two counts of petit larceny.

Smith allegedly entered two vehicles, one parked on the 1000 block of Airport Road and the other on the 200 block of Mattie Kelly Boulevard, Destin. Smith took a \$20 iPhone car

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from April 15, 2013 through April 21, 2013.

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

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Forest Lake Terrace	Medical	4/15/13	09:45
Reeves Street	Medical	4/15/13	10:10
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	4/16/13	01:39
White Street	Medical	4/16/13	07:41
Goldenrod Ct.	Medical	4/16/13	08:27
23rd Street	Medical	4/16/13	08:49
Camellia Pl.	Medical	4/16/13	14:02
SR 85 N.	Medical	4/16/13	19:19
Camellia Pl.	Medical	4/16/13	22:46
Beverly Dr.	Medical	4/16/13	23:52
Regatta Dr.	Medical	4/17/13	04:55
Finck Road	Medical	4/18/13	12:21
Crestview Ave.	Outside fire	4/18/13	19:30
Bally Way	Medical	4/18/13	20:02
N. Partin Dr.	Alarm activation	4/18/13	22:29
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	4/19/13	12:24
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	4/19/13	14:05
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	4/19/13	15:06
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	4/19/13	20:12
McKinney St.	Medical	4/19/13	21:22
29th Street	Vehicle crash	4/20/13	15:57
29th Street	Medical	4/20/13	17:14
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	4/20/13	23:11
Kilcullen Dr.	Medical	4/21/13	00:45
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	4/21/13	03:06
Hill Lane	Medical	4/21/13	11:45

Weekly Safety Tip: If an electrical appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it immediately and have it serviced before using it again. Replace any electrical cord that is cracked or frayed.

Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook

East Niceville

The East Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls during the month of March, 2013.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Perdido Cir.	Camper/RV fire	3/1/13	07:25 AM
E. Hwy. 20	Extrication from vehicle	3/1/13	06:45 PM
N. White Point Rd.	Dispatched & cancelled	3/5/13	03:45 AM
22nd Street	EMS call	3/8/13	10:54 AM
27th Street	Police matter	3/8/13	11:49 PM
Jason Drive	EMS call	3/9/13	06:24 AM
Edgewater Dr.	EMS call	3/9/13	09:48 AM
Kristin Cir.	EMS call	3/9/13	11:13 AM
Bond Cir.	EMS call	3/9/13	12:43 PM
Forrest Road	Bomb scare	3/11/13	09:42 AM
Harding Rd.	Medical assist.	3/12/13	05:58 AM
Ruckel Dr.	EMS call	3/12/13	12:52 PM
18th Street	EMS call	3/14/13	12:18 PM
23rd Street	EMS call	3/14/13	06:34 PM
Pine Court	EMS call	3/15/13	12:53 PM
Cougar Cir.	Detector activation	3/17/13	09:12 AM
E. John Sims Pkwy.	EMS call	3/17/13	12:28 PM
Jason Drive	Assist invalid	3/17/13	11:03 PM
Olde Post Rd.	Overheated motor	3/18/13	08:16 PM
E. John Sims Pkwy.	False alarm	3/20/13	04:41 PM
Lake Way Dr.	EMS call	3/21/13	08:11 AM
47th Street	EMS call	3/22/13	02:50 AM
N. SR 85	Dispatched & cancelled	3/22/13	09:22 PM
18th Street	EMS call	3/25/13	03:55 AM
Chase Dr.	EMS call	3/25/13	07:06 AM
47th Street	EMS call	3/25/13	04:20 PM
Commercial Dr.	Dispatched & cancelled	3/25/13	05:06 PM
Vincent Cir.	EMS call	3/27/13	12:33 PM
Ark Avenue	EMS call	3/28/13	12:50 AM
Parkview Dr.	Forest fire	3/28/13	07:25 PM
E. John Sims Pkwy.	EMS call	3/28/13	08:28 PM
Hickory Ave.	EMS call	3/31/13	03:22 PM

Visit our website at www.enfd.net.

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from April 15, 2013 through April 21, 2013.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Reeves St.	Dispatched & cancelled	4/15/13	10:13
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	4/15/13	13:08
Range Road	False alarm	4/15/13	13:18
Range Road	Service call	4/15/13	14:30
Balmoral Dr.	Medical	4/15/13	22:03
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	4/16/13	03:31
Muirfield Dr.	Medical	4/16/13	08:06
Evans Rd.	Medical	4/16/13	13:03
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	4/17/13	02:13
Shadow Lane	Smoke detector activation	4/17/13	07:54
White Point Rd.	Smoke detector activation	4/17/13	12:25
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	4/17/13	13:16
Merchants Way	Medical	4/17/13	14:48
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	4/18/13	01:21
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	4/18/13	09:27
Merchants Way	Medical	4/18/13	11:35
Hwy. 20 East	Medical	4/18/13	16:26
St. John Cove	Medical	4/18/13	17:58
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	4/19/13	06:00
Parkside Cir.	Public assist.	4/19/13	10:49
White Point Rd.	Vehicle accident	4/19/13	14:28
N. White Point Rd.	Unintentional transmission	4/19/13	16:49
Caribbean Way	Medical	4/19/13	22:05
E. Hwy. 20	Vehicle accident	4/20/13	02:06
Merchants Way	Medical	4/20/13	12:42

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

charger from the vehicle on Airport Road and a \$5 server's book and \$105 in cash from the vehicle on Mattie Kelly Boulevard. Smith was observed and stopped while attempting to leave Mattie Kelly Boulevard.

Smith's required court appearance is May 28.

Ryan Patrick Asbury, a construction worker, 26, of 1482 Live Oak St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies April 16 on a Walton County warrant.

Donna Marie Fenster, a manager, 30, of 365 Okaloosa St., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies April 15 on an

Escambia County warrant for violation of probation on the original charge of driving while license suspended or revoked.

Bryton Denver Holbrook, a restaurant worker, 20, of 341 Oaklake Lane, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies April 15 on a charge of failure to register motor vehicle.

Holbrook's required court appearance is May 7.

Jayne Alvin Aylesworth, a medical worker, 25, of 3002 E. Jackson St., Pensacola, was arrested by sheriff's deputies April 14 on a Santa Rosa

Please see BLOTTER, page A-5

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

—by Mike Griffith

What should be done to prevent terrorist attacks on so-called soft targets in the United States?

Location: Niceville civic complex and Children's Park



"Public awareness campaigns, and increased funding for local law enforcement."

Shannon Burke, 36, Niceville, homemaker



"Continue what's already being done, such as metal detectors."

Steve Guy, 34, Niceville, military



"Better scrutiny of people coming to the United States."

James Edwards, 51, Niceville, disabled



"More security measures such as metal detectors, and pat-downs of suspicious people, such as someone wearing a trench coat in warm weather."

Scott Heworth, 22, Crestview, restaurant manager



"More video cameras would help. Someone should watch public places 24 hours."

Jackson Crawford, 9, Niceville, Rocky Bayou Christian School student.



"The only way to really prevent terrorism is to pray for people's hearts to be changed from anger to prayer,"

Michelle Crawford, 43, Niceville, stay-home mom

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

BLOTTER

From page A-4

County warrant for failure to appear for the original charge of battery touch or strike.

A deputy responded to a suspicious activity call in the area of Magnolia Plantation Drive and Bay Drive, Niceville.

A deputy stopped Aylesworth, who matched the description of a suspicious person, checked his name against databases and found the active Santa Rosa County warrant against him.

Gwendolyn Gabrielle Fuller, a student, 20, of 105 Meadow Woods Lane, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies April 12 on charges of liquor possession by a person under 21 years, possession of marijuana less than 20 grams and drug equipment possession and or use.

A deputy stopped someone later identified as Fuller for speeding on Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach. The deputy smelled burned cannabis upon approaching the vehicle.

The deputy found rolling papers and cannabis ashes in the vehicle's glove box. The deputy also found a burned cannabis "joint" in the vehicle's center console and several cannabis "buds" in a purse found in the vehicle's backseat.

The deputy also found a cannabis grinder. All the found cannabis tested positive for a presence of THC.

The deputy found a flask of liquor in the vehicle's passenger side door.

Fuller's required court appearance is April 30.

Jessica Machuca Garza, 29, of 1105 Bailey Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies April 11 on a charge of driving without a valid license.

Machuca Garza's required court appearance is April 30.

DUI arrests

James Gietono Freimuth, 50, of 65 Eastview Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by Valparaiso police for DUI at Edge Avenue

at Washington Avenue, Valparaiso, April 12 at 1:45 a.m.

Freimuth was also cited for failure to stop at a stop sign and driving with an open container.

Freimuth's required court appearance is April 30.

Danny Ray Rose, 56, 116 Parkwood Drive, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI at SR 20 at Palm Boulevard, Niceville, April 16 at 6:11 p.m.

Rose was also cited for failure to use due care. His required court appearance is May 7.

Alan Mark Shuma, unemployed, 30, of 1200 White Wood Way, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies for DUI at White Point Road, Niceville April 11 at 12:24 a.m.

Shuma's required court appearance is April 30.

Thefts

A Niceville resident of the

200 block of Deer Street reported April 15 someone stole his unsecured motorized bicycle from his front porch.

A Niceville resident reported April 11 someone entered an unlocked car at the 3000 block of Peach Tree Way, Niceville, and stole his pack back, which contained clothes, hygiene items, a phone and a wallet. The wallet contained the complainant's Florida identification card and \$7.

Criminal Mischief

Valparaiso police responded to a call April 11 reporting someone had broken the front door of an office building at 500 Kelly Mill Road, Valparaiso.

An employee of the Holiday Inn at 106 Bayshore Drive, Niceville, reported April 7 someone caused gouge marks on the hotel wall, and made a hole in a bathroom wall, amounting to \$250 in damages.

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LANE

From page A-1 highway in 2011 that the extra left-turn lane was no longer needed. The changes were part of a plan to speed up stoplight cycles at the intersection by allowing left-turning traffic from north White Point and south White Point to proceed simultaneously. The vast majority of vehicles

come from the south, however, and an outcry by drivers ensued. The change, designed to make the intersection more efficient, wound up causing confusion, Autrey said. In the end, safety concerns persuaded the traffic engineer to change his mind. The intersection was repainted April 11 according to its previous layout. "Driving habits are very difficult to alter," Autrey said last

week. "Ultimately, the change in the traffic pattern was not being adapted to." "This change could have increased the efficiency of the intersection," Autrey said. "But we don't want to try to achieve that at the risk of decreasing driver safety." Autrey said negative public reaction was a factor in dropping the changes. He said the Okaloosa County Public Works

office received more public complaints from this traffic change than any other he has seen. Autrey said the plan for now is to keep the intersection as a "split-phase" intersection, or one in which left-turning traffic on either side of a roadway must wait for the other to turn. However, he said the county will continue to monitor the intersection.

"We'll keep looking at it," Autrey said. "If another method to increase the efficiency of the intersection comes up, we'll look into it." Jimmie Breslin, a Bluewater Bay resident who spoke out against the initial traffic change, is glad the intersection has reverted to its former configuration. "I congratulate the county engineers on using common

sense," Breslin said. The Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA) paid for the restriping on White Point Road done as part of the initial traffic change. Autrey said the MBBA will not be billed for the reversion back to the original striping. Cathy Demoreski of the MBBA said the county likely will not reimburse the MBBA for the payments on the work which has since been undone.



Advertisement for HVAC services: 'GIVE ME 55 Minutes with your Heat & AC system, and I Promise It Won't Break Down For 6 months. ... Or My Service is FREE!' Offer includes an 'Amazing Super Tune-Up' for \$55 (normally \$99) and 'ONE HOUR AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING' for \$389-4611.

Advertisement for 'SUPERIOR RESIDENCES of Niceville' specializing in memory care. Services include Assisted Living, Respite Stays, and Day Stays. Contact: (850) 897-2244, 2300 North Partin Drive, Niceville, FL 32578.

Advertisement for 'Bluewater Bay Dental' offering family and cosmetic dentistry. Services include crowns, bridges, root canals, and emergency services. Contact: 897-4488, www.BluewaterBayDentist.com.

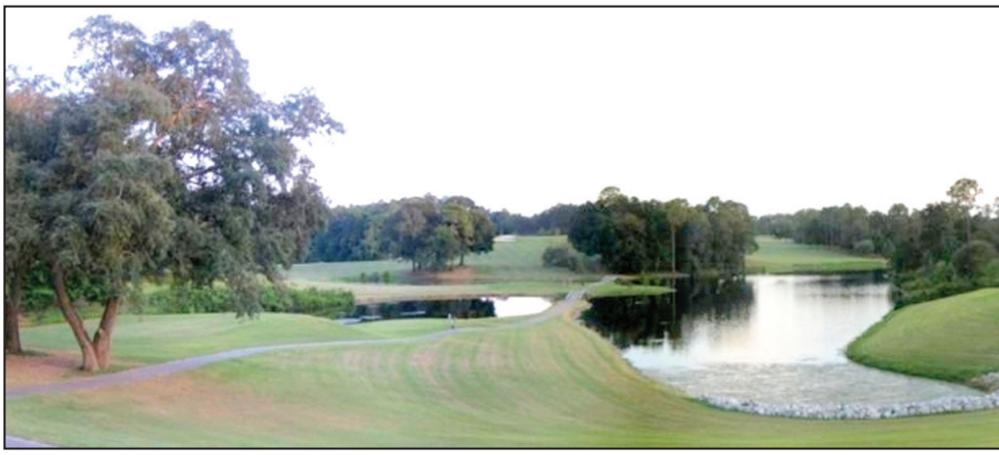
Advertisement for 'Beauty Careers Training Center' offering cosmetology training. 'START TRAINING NOW for a career in cosmetology ENROLL TODAY! 678-5176'. Location: 864 W. John Sims Pkwy., Niceville.

Advertisement for 'Full Service Hair For Ladies & Men' at Summit II In Hair. Services include hair styling, coloring, and perms. Contact: 678-1977, 101 John Sims Pkwy., Niceville.

Advertisement for 'Salon Services' at The Cutting Room Salon & Spa. Services include hair services, walk-ins, waxing, and massages. Contact: 850-279-6601, 4591 Hwy. 20 E. Suite 205 | Niceville.

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Advertising Feature Rocky Bayou Country Club in Niceville is the only member-owned private country club in the area. Founded in 1972, Rocky Bayou remains a fixture in Northwest Florida golf. The 18-hole Championship course is nestled among several lakes and sets itself apart with varying terrain and elevation changes seldom seen in Florida. It is one of the most well maintained courses within a day's drive. The course is forgiving off the tee, and while the housing development surrounds the course, homes are far enough away that they rarely come into play. The undulating greens are impressive and add depth and challenge to your round. Whether you are an ace or a beginner, young or old, you are sure to enjoy your round at Rocky Bayou Country Club. Tee time availability and pace of play are excellent at Rocky Bayou. Dues and fees are very reasonable, with many different membership categories to suit just about anyone. Most memberships include the entire family, so Rocky Bayou is a great place to enjoy time with your children. There is also a single membership option



Rocky Bayou's golf course is one of the best in the area. We have enough water hazards to keep it real interesting, lots of hills (yes, you really can get an uneven lie in Florida), and one of the best maintained courses anywhere within a day's ride.

and a limited golf option for those who can only get out once a week. All memberships now include range balls, and their practice facility has been recently updated to include a pitching area and a second practice bunker. A newly formed Men's Golf Association, Ladies Golf Night and the Corporate Challenge Golf League are creating a quite a buzz of activity at the club.

If golf is not your game, there are plenty of other activities always going on at Rocky Bayou. Regularly scheduled dinners and parties, happy hours, bridge groups, a swimming pool and even lake fishing are some of the many activities on the Rocky Bayou calendar. With their current membership options, there has never been a better time to join Rocky Bayou Country Club.

If you have ever considered membership at Rocky Bayou Country Club, now is the time to try it out. For course and club photos and other information visit www.rockybayoucc.com. For membership information, a \$30 trial round of golf, or a club tour, contact Club Manager and PGA Professional Andy Potter at (850) 678-3270 x4 or apotter@rockybayoucc.com.

Advertisement for Rocky Bayou Country Club restaurant: 'TOP 5 REASONS you should JOIN ROCKY BAYOU NOW! #3 Full Service Bar for after-round cocktails or social gatherings. For more information and a trial round, contact Andy Potter, Club Manager and PGA Professional 850-678-3270 x4, apotter@rockybayoucc.com. Visit our website at www.rockybayoucc.com.'



Rocky Bayou Country Club's goal is the satisfaction of our members. Tee time availability and pace of play are excellent. Dues and fees are reasonable. Most memberships include the entire family so it is a great place to get your children playing this wonderful game.

Advertisement for 'The BoatHouse Landing Restaurant' featuring waterfront dining, seafood, steak, and pasta. Includes 'EARLY BIRD SPECIALS' and 'NEWLY RENOVATED LOUNGE & ENCLOSED PATIO BAR'. Contact: 678-2805, www.TheBoatHouseLanding.com.

Advertisement for 'Freedom Boat Club' at Bluewater Bay Marina. 'JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE APRIL 27 10-4 FREE BOAT RIDES The Alternative To Boat Ownership.' Contact: (850) 218-8533, www.FreedomBoatClub.com.

Advertisement for 'EMERALD COAST FAMILY MEDICINE' with Dr. T. Castaneda, M.D. 'CARING FOR FAMILIES - NEWBORN TO ADULT'. Services include internal medicine, pediatrics, and weight loss management. Contact: 729-3300, 143 S. John Sims Pkwy. • Valparaiso.

Advertisement for 'TWIN CITIES TRANSMISSION and GENERAL REPAIR'. Services include brakes, water pumps, and timing belts. 'We Now Have General Motors FACTORY SCAN TOOL for Dealer Diagnostic'. Contact: (850) 729-6629.

Advertisement for 'KODIAK Tree Service' offering full tree service and mulch. 'Now is a great time to mulch your yard! Applying a 2" - 4" layer of MULCH: Helps prevent germination - reduces the need for weeding! Retains moisture in the ground - reduces watering needs! Most importantly...makes your flower beds LOOK GOOD!' Contact: 279-6999.

Advertisement for 'RhinoShield' home maintenance services. 'Never PAINT Your Home Again! It's not paint'. Offer: '\$575 OFF - OR - 6 Months Same as Cash'. Contact: (850) 424-6829, www.RhinoShieldFlorida.com.

Teachers take leap of faith for technology

Ruckel teachers fundraise for ipads

By Angela Yuriko Smith
Beacon Staff Writer

Teachers at Ruckel Middle School recently proved they are willing to do almost anything to give their students the tools they need, even jump out of a plane.

On April 13, four teachers at Ruckel did exactly that. Lisa Nall, Amanda Moore, Pat Martin and Kim Radford took to the skies to raise money for purchasing iPads for student use.

Much of FCAT testing is now required to be done on computer, according to the Okaloosa County School website, with paper tests only available to students with disabilities. For schools with limited access to computers this creates difficulties. That was the inspiration behind Jump For Technology.

For Nall, Moore and Martin this was their first time skydiving. Radford, a seasoned jumper with more than 900 experiences under her harness, took the others under her wing and arranged much of the trip details. The skydiving jumps took place at the Emerald Coast Skydiving Center in Alberta.

Katie Sause, a recent skydiving enthusiast herself, helped out with the project as well, including going to Alberta to give support. She has been one of the driving forces behind raising money for the iPads.

At present, Ruckel has one set of iPads for student use. That consists of 32 iPads, the covers to keep them from being damaged and the cart to store them all on. The cost for that set was nearly \$16,000 and was generously donated by the Ruckel PTO.

Members of the community

wishing to donate may drop off a check made out to Ruckel Middle School. Please note that it is for the Jump for Technology fundraiser.

The first time the new technology cart visited a classroom there was complete silence as the students were absorbed in their tasks. "You could have heard a pin drop," Sause said.

Due to insurance issues, the Jump for Technology fundraiser is being overseen by the teachers involved as individuals in support of Ruckel. The money is being raised as students pay a small fee to guess which of their teachers were brave enough to jump out of an airplane.

Students who guess correctly win special privileges such as VIP seating during the May 2 pep rally and permission to wear hats in school.

Technology is especially important for Ruckel Middle School students. Ruckel offers the Information Technology program for the CHOICE program for the CHOICE program here in Okaloosa county.

"Ruckel is one of the most successful middle school CHOICE programs in our district." Says April Branscome, the District IT Specialist, "The love of technology and the CHOICE program that the students have for this is apparent by the number of students who have signed up for IT classes next year—524 students, which is approximately half of their student population."

The money raised by the Jump for Technology teachers is sure to go to good use. Until the fundraiser is completed the teachers aren't sure how financially close to their next goal, another set of iPads, they are. What they can be sure of is that their fundraising attempt has been a positive and exciting experience for an important cause, their students.

The students have reacted with enthusiasm to both the fundraiser and the access to new technology. "They're ready for it," Sause said. "Now we just need the infrastructure."



First time jumpers were safely harnessed to seasoned professionals from Emerald Coast Skydiving Center in Alberta. Above, Pat Martin experiences the wind in her hair with her jump instructor.



Lisa Nall bravely gives the thumbs up before she plummets.



Afterwards the teachers were all smiles. From the left is Amanda Moore, Kim Radford, Pat Martin and Lisa Nall.



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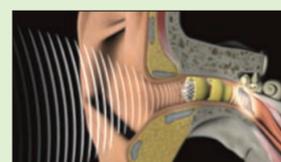




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Grant lives and works in the Niceville/ValP area and is Florida & Louisiana State Licensed in Hearing Instrument Sciences. A graduate of the American Council of Audio Prostology and the recent recipient of the "Best Of The Best" Hearing Healthcare Professionals for the past two years by The Hearing Review Journal. Grant is Certified to fit the Lyric™ Extended Wear hearing devices. Grant is very active in his community with Chamber of Commerce functions and a Life Time Member of the world-wide community service organization-Kiwanis International.

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Busy month for NHS track

The NHS track and field athletes deserve a break after participating in three meets back to back. The meets were held April 4 in Gulf Breeze, April 6 in Mobile and April 8 in Fort Walton Beach.

With the district and region meets quickly approaching later in the month in addition to the state meet on May 3, these student athletes have little time to rest and continue their training.

The team competed against 17 schools from throughout the Panhandle at the Andrew's Invitational during the first meet, over 100 schools at the Mobile Challenge of Champions at the second meet, and four Okaloosa schools at the third meet, which was also the County Championships.

At Andrew's Invitational Gulf Breeze, Aubrey West placed 1st in the long jump and 2nd place in the 100 meter dash. Sophia Bergmann took 3rd place at discus; Marsel Mosley took 1st place in the 800 meter run. The girls 4x800 meter relay team consisting of Anderson, Mosley, Haggerman and ASerpa took 1st place. Thomas Howell took 1st place with the 1600 meter run and Nick Morken took 1st place in the 800 meter run.

At the Challenge of

Champions in Mobile the girls 4x800 meter relay team consisting of Anderson, Mosley, Haggerman and Serpa took 3rd place. Thomas Howell took 2nd place in the 3200 meter run. Nick Morken took 2nd place in the 1600 meter run and the boys 4x800 meter relay team consisting of Davis, Massey, Morken and Howell took 3rd place.



At the Okaloosa County Championships Aubrey West took 3rd place in the 100 meter dash, 2nd place 200 meter dash, and 1st place in the long jump. Sophia Bergmann took 2nd place in the shot put and 1st place in the discus. Marsel Mosley took 1st place in the 800 meter run. Nickie Anderson took 1st place in the 400 meter dash. Katelyn Friesen took 2nd place in the 400 meter dash. Drew Haggerman took 3rd place in the 800 meter run. Hannah Schroeder took 3rd place in the 100 meter hurdles, 3rd place in the 300 meter hur-

dles and 2nd place in the triple jump. Courtney Testa took 1st place 300 in the meter hurdles. Sarah Trautman took 3rd place in the high jump and the girls 4x400 meter relay team consisting of Schroeder, West, Hunter, and Richardson took 1st place. The girls 4x800 meter relay team consisting of Anderson, Mosley, Haggerman and Serpa took 2nd place. Thomas Howell took 2nd place in the 1600 meter run. Nick Morken took 1st place in the 800 meter run. Jack Massey took 3rd place in the 800 meter run. Paris Alexander took 2nd place in the 400 meter dash. Bandon Mosley took 1st place in the high jump. Aaron McDuffie took 2nd place in the pole vault. Arthur Shields took 2nd place in the triple jump. Brent Johnson took 3rd place in the triple jump. Tyree McCants took 2nd place in the shot put. Garrett Olds took 1st place in the discus. The boys 4x800 meter relay team consisting of Davis, Massey, Morken and Howell took 2nd place. The boys 4x400 meter relay team of Mosley, Bobbitt, Alexander and DeBonis took 3rd place.

There will be a month off from structured training at the end of the track and field season in May. Cross country training begins again in June.



Traveling Eagles finish first

The 10U Niceville Traveling Eagles finished 1st in the 9th Annual "Grand Slam Spring Breaking at the Beach Baseball Bash" Tournament April 6-7 at Frank Brown Park, Panama City Beach. This was their 2nd tournament championship and have improved their overall record to 13-2 this season. Top row, left to right is Eric Topel and Manager Gerry McDermott Second row, Kaden Geisler, Trey Wainwright, Jay Marquardt, Cade Johnston and Nathan Tiller. Bottom row, Brady Koger, Keagen Norman, Hayden Hubbard, Brenley Laird, Jaxon Topel, Dominic Mahoney

Beach safety with Buddy

Okaloosa County Beach Safety recently visited Lewis School and presented the physical education classes with a fun and interactive beach safety program. With the help of Buddy, the organization reminded students how to stay safe at the beach and in the gulf waters. Pictured here are Mrs. Harrison's 6th graders with Buddy the dolphin and Senior Lifeguard James Stultz.



NHS ROTC march in Doolittle parade

The Niceville High School AFJROTC cadets were included in the parade Saturday, April 20 to celebrate the 71st Doolittle Raiders Reunion. ROTC members from honor flight carried the NHS banner. Pictured here are members from the saber team. The parade route ran down Eglin Parkway in Fort Walton Beach.

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ADSO juried exhibition

The Arts and Design Society of Fort Walton Beach will host its 21st regional juried exhibition April 21-May 31 in the McIlroy Gallery, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Northwest Florida State College, Niceville. The 2012 winner, Pat Kubicich, will be honored with a solo exhibition of her fiber works in the Holzhauser Gallery. The free awards reception will take place April 21, 2 p.m., at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center Galleries, open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Contact 729-6044 or www.mattiekellyartscenter.org.

High school drama

The Niceville High School Drama Department will be presenting "Promedy" and "The Best Show Never Seen", the first of two spring-time productions at the Niceville Auditorium on Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27. All shows begin at 7 p.m.. Tickets are \$5 at the door and may also be purchased prior to the performance through the Niceville High School Drama Director, Charlie Williams, at 217-8101. Come join us for an evening of diverse entertainment!

Shaping generation Y

United for a Good Cause is holding a leadership conference for area high school students on Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Keynote speaker will be Edward L. Hubbard, author and survivor of 6 1/2 years of captivity during the Vietnam conflict.

Tuition is \$10 and covers lunch and materials. Prizes will be given. Rhoda and Weck will be performing. Please call David Triana at 368-3505 for more information.

Toss your pills safely

On Saturday, April 27, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) are giving the public its sixth opportunity in three years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to any of the four area Wal-mart stores between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Uniformed Deputies will be present with collection points located at Wal-mart stores in Crestview, Destin, Fort Walton Beach, and Niceville. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Choctawhatchee festival

The 6th Annual Choctawhatchee Estuary Family Festival will take place April 27, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Fred Gannon/Rocky Bayou State Park, Niceville. The Audubon Society will sponsor a booth offering educational games and demonstrations with small prizes for the kids. Chapter members who want to volunteer contact Walt at 582-7064.

Free math help

Rocky Bayou Christian Academy's Mu Alpha Theta Club will offer free math tutoring from 8:30 am until 12:30 on Saturday, April 27th, at Rocky Bayou Christian School (Rm 802 in the modular by the soccer fields). Tutoring in basic math through AP Calculus will be available. This free service will be open to students from any of the local area schools or colleges. Please call Carla Alldredge at 279-3755 if you would like to reserve a tutor. Walk-ins are welcome. Bring your textbook, and any old tests and quizzes that you need help on.

Jazz performance

The Baptist College of Florida Jazz Ensemble will perform at a spring concert Sunday, April 28, 6:45 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Niceville. This group performs both in schools and churches all over the area, and frequently travels



Spring clean your medicine cabinet

Saturday, April 27, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) are giving the public an opportunity to turn in unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to any of the four area Wal-mart stores between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Deputies will be present with collection points located at Wal-mart stores in Crestview, Destin, Fort Walton Beach, and Niceville. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

representing the college throughout the south eastern United States. Please attend for a night of wonderful music.

H.E.A.R.T brunch benefit

Enjoy mimosas and brunch at Hibiscus Coffee & Guesthouse, 85 Defuniak St., Santa Rosa Beach, on April 28th from 11-2 p.m. Mimosas will be served for donations and live music will be provided by Drew Tilman. There will be animals on hand hoping to be adopted. Do a good deed while enjoying brunch. Proceeds go to support H.E.A.R.T. Animal Rescue in Niceville. To donate directly or find out more information please visit heartanimalrescue.com

NWFSC recital

The Performing Arts Division Honors recital will showcase the most successful Northwest Florida State College student performances of the semester in a free, public recital April 29, 3 p.m., in the Tyler Recital Hall, at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville. Participants will be voted on by NWFSC fine arts faculty.

NWFSC choir and jazz concert

The Northwest Florida State College Soundations Showchoir and Jazz Ensemble presents an end-of-year concert April 29, 7:30 p.m., in the mainstage theater of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, NWFSC, Niceville. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for youths 18 and younger. NWFSC students may obtain one free admission per ID, in person from the box office. Purchase tickets at 729-6000 or www.mattiekellyartscenter.org.

K-12 art exhibit

The Okaloosa County School District and the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation will present the 2013 Okaloosa County K-12 Student Art Show on May 1-2, at the C.H. "Bull" Rigdon Fairgrounds (aka Northwest Florida Fairgrounds) in Fort Walton Beach. This annual event exhibits over 3,000 pieces of student artwork from over 20 elementary and 17 middle and high schools. Admission is free and exhibit hours are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 1 and 2.

A reception will be held on Thursday evening, May 2, 6-7 p.m. Best of Show awards will be presented to middle school and high schools artists for 2-D and 3-D works. For more information, please contact the Okaloosa County School District at 833-3100 or the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation at 650-2226.

Sharpen business skills

UWF Small Business Development Center is offering the following workshops in May:

Starting a Business on Thursday May 2 from 1-4 p.m. at NWF/UWF FWB Campus, Bldg. 1 in room 156, FWB. \$35 fee.

Financial Statements You Can Read/Brown Bag Lunch on Friday May 10 from 12-1 p.m. at SBDC FWB Office, 922 Mar Walt Drive Suite 203. Free

How to Write a Business Plan on Thursday May 16 from 1-4 p.m. at

NWF/UWF FWB Campus, Bldg. 1, Room 156, FWB. \$40 fee

For additional workshops and program information, visit their website at: www.sbdc.uwf.edu. To pre-register call 833-9400.

Movie Day grand finale

The Valparaiso Community Library would like to invite friends and family to the last Early Release Movie Day of the school year on Thursday, May 2nd. There will be a double feature with Iron Man at 12:30 p.m. and Iron Man 2 at 3:00 p.m. For more information call 729-5406 or email eruff@valp.org.

Museum education program

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida will host "Home School Fridays and Hands on History Saturdays" education program May 3 and 4, 10 a.m.-noon, on "No TV? What will we do," 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.

Life Drawing Session

The Arts and Design Society offers a Life Drawing session on Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m.-noon. There will be no instructor, but the

session provides students the opportunity to draw from a live model. Cost, including model fee is \$10 for ADSO members; \$12 for non-members, based on a minimum of 10 participants. Payment in advance. Students should register by calling 244-1271 Tuesday-Friday 12 noon-4 pm. The Art Center is located at 17 First Street, SE, Fort Walton Beach.

Woman's bargain bonanza

Join Okaloosa-Walton Child Care Services for a weekend of bargain shopping at the Women's Semi-Annual \$2 Resale Clothing Event in Ft. Walton Beach at the Paradise Point Shopping Center, on the corner of Ferry Avenue and Miracle Strip Parkway.

4800 square feet of brand-named fashions donated by:
Encore Consignment Boutique
The Closet Swap
Twice is Nice
Fashion Exchange Consignment Boutique
Design, Consign, Revolve
Friday, May 3 from 3-7 p.m. \$10.00 entrance fee
Saturday, May 4 from 9-6 p.m. \$5.00 entrance fee
Sunday, May 5 from 1-5 p.m. free entrance

Cash only, no refunds, no men or children. 100% of proceeds benefit children and families of Okaloosa and Walton counties.

Mac meeting

The May meeting of the Mac Users Group will be held on Monday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the NWF State College Student Services Building — Room 132.

Warren Schilling will explain how you can use your Mac to borrow an eBook from the Okaloosa County Library System. In addition, Hilma Jenus will be sharing information from the genealogical programs she uses.

Attendees will be given an opportunity to share information and/or ask questions about their computer, iPhone or iPad.

There are no fees nor is a reservation required. For more information, visit www.FWBmug.com or contact Jean Dutton at jeandutton@mac.com or 862-3327.

Woman's wall of honor

The Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women (OCCSW) invites the public to attend a ceremony and reception recognizing the 2013 honorees for the Wall of Honor. Each year, the OCCSW holds a ceremony to honor these special women who have contributed to the

Please see CALENDAR, page B-5

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Niceville's Newspaper

Dana Topel, Broker Associate
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Good deed clean up

David Pearce and his family appreciate yard help Wednesday, April 17, from the youth at their church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Niceville. David, right, has been diagnosed with cancer.



Local students go Phi Kappa Phi

Six local students were granted an achievement for being inducted into Phi Kappa Phi at The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. The students are Lauren Berard, Ben Smith, Tracey Vause, Sarah Snyder and Stephanie Dooley of Niceville and Mary Cazenavette of Santa Rosa Beach.

Professionals network



Above, Sara Karnowski – ECP Facilitator speaks with Matthew Samuolis, one of the members of Emerald Coast Professionals.

The inaugural meeting of the Niceville-Valparaiso Emerald Coast Professionals had a successful start April 4.

Twenty members attended, including one of ECP's founding fathers, Don Holloway, Adrienne Larson and Deborah Mobley, both Jobs Plus personnel, were also in attendance.

The topic of the afternoon was "Keys to a Federal Resume" presented by ECP facilitator David Thomas. Veterans and former DoD employees were on

hand to provide insight and information regarding the Federal employment selection process.

Members were encouraged to network at the meeting conclusion. Meetings are held every second and fourth Thursday at the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, 1055 E John Sims Pkwy.

For more information contact David Thomas at dthomas@jobsplus02.com or Sara Karnowski at skarnowski@jobsplus02.com

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Whos' News

The Emerald Coast Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) is proud to announce Gail Waller of Edward Jones as the 2013 Woman of the Year. Gail, a Niceville resident, was recognized for her hard work and dedication to the Emerald Coast Chapter of ABWA and the national association.

Gail Waller

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"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"
John 14:6

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Click on "Summer Camp."

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In Service

Air Force Airman 1st Class Daniel R. Walley graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman is a 2007 graduate of Niceville High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in 2011 from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La. Walley earned distinction as an honor graduate. He is the son of Emma and Richard Walley of Bermuda Way, Niceville.

Airman 1st Class Daniel R. Walley

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The Beacon's and Base papers' Shopping for Mother's Day

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Visit www.RBCS.org/summer or Call Us at 850.279.3700

CALENDAR

From page B-3

well-being of children, families and the citizens of our community. This year, the ceremony to honor the nominees will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 7, in the Auditorium at the University of West Florida, Emerald Coast Campus, in Fort Walton Beach. The honorees' names are placed on a plaque located in the library at the Emerald Coast campus of the University of West Florida with a nearby book containing a biographical page for each woman. Individuals who would like to attend the ceremony and reception should RSVP to Valerie McLaughlin at 833-7587 ext. 205 or woh@ocsw.org

Fiber rush weaving class

Join the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida for a fiber rush weave class Tuesday, May 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at 115 Westview Ave.,

Valparaiso. Students will learn fiber rush weave and make their own foot stool for \$55 or \$50 for museum members. Register early at 678-2615 and stain or paint your stool to match your home décor.

Yard sale benefit

Collegiate High School at NWFSC is hosting a yard sale/bazaar on May 11 at the Twin Cities Pavilion Assisted Living Facility from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. We will also be taking donations for Hugs for Heroes as well as a Canned Food Drive.

For more information call or email Brianna Cupp at cuppb@nwsc.edu or 678-7312.

Ballet auditions

The Northwest Florida Ballet (NFB) is holding auditions for talented students seeking intensive pre-professional training in dance and performance on Saturday, May 11th. Dancers wishing to audition for

the Trainee Program must have three years of formal training and must be 10-13 years of age or a current NFB Académie fifth grader to audition for Trainee. Trainees will audition on May 11th from 9-10:30 a.m.

Dancers wishing to audition for the NFB Company and Pre-Professional Program must be at least 13 years of age and have at least 6 years of formal training, including 2 years of Pointe experience. Company and Pre-Professional auditions will be May 11th from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. There is a dress code.

Auditions will be held at the NFB studios at 310 Perry Ave. SE, Fort Walton Beach. There is an audition fee of \$20. Please arrive 30 minutes early to register. Call Rhonda Starnes for more information at 664-7787 or visit nfballet.org.

Raider Run

The 7th Annual Michele Hill Raider Run 5K Run/Walk, Free Kids

Fun Run, and Family Celebration is scheduled for 07:30 a.m. May 11 at Navarre Youth Sports Association. The proceeds from the Michele Hill Raider Run are used to award scholarships to high school seniors from Escambia, Okaloosa and Santa Rosa County. Prize giveaway, meal, and awards will take place in the air conditioned NYSA gym.



Cost is \$20 prior to May 1 and \$25 until Race Day. The kids run is free.

Students, NWFTC, PRA, and Active or Retired Military receive additional discounts. For more information call Joe Hill at 582-2946 or e-mail mhillaider-run@bellsouth.net. Register on line at http://www.active.com/running/navarre-fl/michele-hill-raider-run-2013?cmp=1745

Billy Bowlegs poker run

The 20th annual ABWA Billy Bowlegs Boat Poker Run is scheduled

for Saturday May 11. This event is sponsored by the Emerald Coast Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) and is their annual scholarship fundraiser. Participants cruise to several local ports with a goal of obtaining the best poker hand out of all participants. The Poker Run is not limited to just boats, motorcycles and cars are also welcome. Participants will have the opportunity to win great prizes with the top three poker hands winning valuable prize packages. Everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy the casino room at 2 p.m. at Shalimar Yacht Basin followed by a party at 3 p.m. where local restaurants provide their food specialties for the all to enjoy. For more information about how to participate in the ABWA Billy Bowlegs Boat Poker Run, contact Shareen Ketchum at 863-9082.

If you would like more information about being a sponsor or donat-

ing food, please call Jeanne Rief at 685-8027. You can also visit the website www.abwa-ecc.org. A sponsor form and the participant form are posted on the website.

Fused glass workshop

Linda Kindurys will teach the basics of fused glass in a workshop on Saturday, May 11, from 9-11 a.m., at the Arts and Design Society's Art Center. Students will create a pendant while learning the mysteries of glass and the fusing process. Cost is \$20 for members; \$25 for non-members. A supply fee, including firing, is \$10. The class is limited to 6 students, who are cautioned to wear long pants and closed shoes. For further information, visit the ADSO website at www.artsdesignsociety.org, or call 244-1271, Tuesday-Friday 12 noon-4 p.m., Saturday, 1p.m.-4 p.m. The Art Center is located at 17 First Street, SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL.

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Scouts achieve Eagle rank

These Eagle Scouts from Troop 157 Niceville were recognized by the BSA Gulf Coast Council for earning the highest rank in Scouting in 2012. Above are Blayne Ignasiak, Chad Foy, Matthew Jordan, Stefan Wheelless, Mark Jordan and Brandon Crowther. Troop 157 is chartered by the American Legion, Post 221. The troop meets every Monday, 6:45pm at St. Jude's Episcopal Church, 200 Partin Dr N, Niceville.



Top honors for Ruckel band and chorus

Ruckel Middle School's band and chorus made a great showing at the Southern Star Music Festival March 22-23 in Atlanta. The RMS Honor Band won the grand championship and the sweepstakes award. They had the highest numerical score regardless of category for all 29 groups. This included winning against the high school divisions also. Ruckel Middle School's chorus and advanced bands won 2nd place in their divisions.



Miss Florida junior

Student actress Alexa Johnsen of Niceville shows off her crown with with Toni Frana of Drama Kids International. Alexa is the reigning National American Miss Florida Junior Preteen at the HarborWalk Village SpringFest in Destin on April 5.

Summer fun poster contest

The Okaloosa Arts Alliance (OAA) would like to invite all Okaloosa County School students to participate in the 5th Annual OAA Okaloosa County School Poster Contest.

The OAA wants to know what you consider "Summer Fun". It can be anything you can create on paper with markers, pencils, paint, pastels, charcoal, or crayons.

There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner for three elementary school students (K-4), for three middle school students (5-8), and for three high school students (9-12) in Okaloosa County.

Each 1st place winner will receive a \$75 gift card, which is being donated by Eglin Federal Credit Union, each 2nd place winner will receive a \$50 gift card and each 3rd place winner will receive a \$25 gift card. Additionally, the 1st place winners' artwork will be on 2014 promotional materials for the 7th Annual Family Fun Arts Fest and on other OAA promotional materials.

All of the poster contest entries

will be on display at the Family Fun Arts Fest, which will be on Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19 at HarborWalk Village in Destin from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. both days.

Any Okaloosa County School student can enter; entries can be mailed through an Okaloosa County School or by an individual student. The poster contest dead-

line has been extended to April 30. Please submit only one entry per student. Posters should be standard size (8 1/2 x 11) for the contest and should include, the name of the artist, their grade, and the name of their school.

Please mail entries to the Okaloosa Arts Alliance, Attention: School Poster Contest, P.O. Box 4426, Ft Walton Bch, FL 32549. The winners will be chosen by a panel of judges and will be announced at the Family Fun Arts Fest.

For more information go to www.okaloosaarts.org or www.facebook.com/OkaloosaArtAlliance



The winning poster in the elementary grade from last year's OAA Okaloosa County School Poster Contest was Sarah Duckett, at the time a 4th grade student at Liza Jackson Prep School.



Covenant Hospice honors veterans

Covenant Hospice We Honor Veterans Volunteers, above, recently honored Mr. Sam Tinkler of Superior Residences of Niceville in a ceremony. Left, Tinkler receives a veteran appreciation certificate, a Navy veterans service pin and a Navy blanket from Shirley Earick, one of the volunteers, for his distinguished service in the Navy from 1943-1946. Along with the volunteers he is joined by his family, friends and staff.



Distinguished Young Women presentation

Sarah Sims, a student of Niceville High School, gives a presentation called "Be Your Best Self" to a Bluewater Bay Brownie troop. Sarah is a contestant in the Distinguished Young Women competition. To find out more about the Distinguished Young Women scholarship program please contact carolebyrd911@yahoo.com.

Howling with wolves

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Wolves are big, but not bad, says Cynthia Watkins, who lives with more than a dozen of the large predators on her farm north of Vernon, Florida.

"Little Red Riding Hood lied to us," says Watkins. "All the legends about wolves eating children and attacking people are no more than that—legends," she said.

"Real, wild wolves would almost never attack a person because wolves are instinctively

DAY TRIPPER

afraid of humans. If you were in a forest inhabited by wolves, you would probably never see them because they would smell, hear and see you long before you saw them, and would avoid you. When wild wolves encounter human beings, they run away rather than attack."

Watkins, along with her husband, Wayne, founded the Seacrest Wolf Preserve in 1999. Wayne is a retired U.S. Army helicopter pilot and Cynthia has long been an environmental activist and advocate for the preservation of wild species,

especially wolves.

Today, on their 430-acre ranch, they care for 35 full-blooded wolves of several species, plus four "wolf-dogs" - the cross-bred offspring of wolves and dogs which are often the abandoned pets of people who discovered that they had a bigger, less manageable animal than they could handle.

Winter and spring are ideal times to visit the Seacrest Wolf Preserve, said Watkins, because wolves are most active during cool weather, and most cubs are born during March, April and May.

Most of the wolves at Seacrest are used to being around and are respectful of humans, but they still tend to be shy and unpredictable. They are friendly but they are not "tame." The best way to meet one is to sit quietly, and let the wolf approach you, and then pet it gently as it sniffs you and gets to know you.

Allen Ward from Niceville has been volunteering at the preserve for nearly five years. He goes up as often as he can and



Wolves are really gentle creatures and now is one of the best times to visit them. Wolves are most active during cool weather, and most cubs are born during March, April and May.

assists with various projects, including giving the occasional tour.

"The thing I like most about volunteering at Seacrest is working with Wayne Watkins, Cynthia's husband. Wayne reminds me so much of my grandfather. I grew up across the cornfield from my grandparents and would spend every weekend with him on the farm. I would not know what we would be doing until I would walk to their house in the mornings. It is the same way with Wayne," Ward says.

His daughter Breanne often comes with him. She usually helps out in the small animal enclosure. "She loves Meekeo,

one of the gray foxes. She helps people interact with the foxes and also the skunks. When there are wolf puppies or babies of any kind Breanne is there helping to feed and clean up after them," Ward says.

Today, there is still less than a 0.2 percent difference between the DNA of wolves and dogs. All the variations in appearance, size, and even behavioral instincts (hunting, tracking, fetching, etc.) found in dog species, from toy poodles to Saint Bernards, still exist in the genes of wild wolves.

Wolves have a tightly knit "pack" or social structure, with pack members giving loyalty and obedience to the "alpha males" or leader of the pack. Dogs tend to regard their human owners as pack leaders and thus display loyalty and obedience to humans.

The alpha male, said Cynthia, is not always the biggest, but is the "baddest" wolf in the pack. The leadership position goes to whichever wolf is most aggressive and determined. Each pack also has an "alpha" female, who usually mates with the alpha male and bears most of the

pack's cubs, although the other females may help care for them.

Despite their shyness toward humans, Watkins said, wolves can be very ferocious toward each other. Alphas often "discipline" lower-ranking pack members, growling and sometimes biting them to maintain dominance. When two wolves with "alpha" aspirations meet and neither is willing to back down, the resulting fight can be bloody and even fatal.

The lives of these intriguing animals are every bit as fascinating as any reality show. Consider the story of Legend, a gray timber wolf that once led his pack was ousted as leader about a year ago. At ten years old he's had a full life for a wolf and is now in retirement with a beautiful female named Chama. Still keeping busy in his golden years, he fathered two new cubs last May named Yuma and Liberty. He is also the grandfather of Chaco, Ana and Zia, children of Chinook.

Far from being the oldest wolf in the preserve, Legend is still young compared to two of the park's patriarchs. Durango and Sakari are both 14 years old

and still quite healthy. It's no wonder when you see them in their beautiful home, shaded by a grand live oak.

Wolves dig dens, usually under the roots of large trees, but don't spend much time in them, instead preferring to sleep in the open. They use the dens for shelter from extreme weather, as a refuge from larger predators and as a safe place to bear and nurse cubs.

The dens do not seem to damage the trees under which they are built, as the wolves are careful to dig around, rather than through, the root structure and the living tree becomes part of the protective structure of the den.

Wolves once lived throughout North America and Europe, but were hunted almost to extinction. Today, wild, free wolves are found in only about a half-dozen states in the northern U.S. The rest are in zoos and preserves and some are kept as pets, although this is illegal in most cases.

Where wild wolves still exist, said Watkins, they are often in conflict with people, who may still see them as dangerous predators or a threat to livestock, although, she said, they actually do little damage to farm animals.

In Florida, said Watkins, the predominant native wolf was once the red wolf, somewhat smaller than the northern gray timberwolves. The red wolf, like its big gray cousins, was nearly hunted to extinction, and is still rare even in captivity. Seacrest, the only wolf preserve in southeastern United States, is still trying to acquire some red wolves so that Floridians can see and meet what once was one of our state's most powerful and interesting creatures.

Allen Ward sums up his experiences. "Being around the wolves is an awesome experience. It is something everybody should try and do. Sometimes it seems the wolves are looking into your soul with their eyes to see what type of person you are. The wolves will accept you for the person that you are, they are not judgmental and will love you regardless."



Seacrest Wolf Preserve cares for 35 full-blooded wolves of several species, plus four "wolf-dogs", the cross-bred offspring of wolves and dogs on their 430-acre ranch.