

# The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-4

10 Pages, 2 Sections, 5 Inserts

Wednesday, September 4, 2013

50¢

**UP  
COMING**

**Thurs., 1:30 p.m.**



The **Valparaiso Community Library** invites children and families to the first **Early Release Movie** of the school year. The free movie will be "Epic." Popcorn and beverages will be served.

**Fri., 7 - 11 p.m.**

Please feel free to come in and enjoy a fun evening of **free karaoke** with Bill and Rhonda at the **American Legion Post #221**, 444 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville.

**Sat., 8:30 a.m.**



The **Choctawhatchee Audubon Society** will be having a field trip to Point Washington State Forest led by biologist **Tom Greene**. Meet at the Tom Thumb at the intersection of Hwy. 98 and 331 in S. Walton County. Call 694-6403.

**Sat.-Sun.**



**Niceville United Methodist Church** will be celebrating the church's **100th birthday** in all worship services. For more information, please visit nicevilleumc.org. The community is invited.

Calendar, B-3

## Vince Gill signed for Mullet Festival

By **Daniel Elsesser**  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

County Music Hall-of-Famer Vince Gill will cap the slate of musical performances at this year's Boggy Bayou Mullet Festival, scheduled Oct. 18-20.

Gill will close out the Niceville festival on Sunday, Oct. 20, after performances on Oct. 18 by country star Justin Moore and Oct. 19

by the duo Thompson Square.

The festival, which will celebrate its 37th year in October, will be held in its traditional site at the corner of Highway 85 North and College Boulevard, Niceville.

According to Niceville City Manager Lannie Corbin, who arranges entertainment on behalf of the private Mullet Festival Committee, Gill will be paid



Vince Gill

\$70,000 to perform, Thompson Square \$55,000 and Moore \$35,000. Corbin said expenses come from festival revenues, not taxes.

Gill has been a staple in country music for over 30 years, starting his career singing and playing guitar for the country rock group Pure Prairie League before beginning a solo career in 1983. The songs "Go Rest

High on that Mountain," "Look at Us" and "Threaten Me with Heaven" are in the 20-time Grammy winner's repertoire.

Thompson Square, comprised of married couple Keifer and Shawna Thompson, will headline the festival's Saturday night show. Recent winners of the Academy of Country

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

## Summer's last hurrah



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Despite the occasional threat of a thunderstorm, weather during the Labor Day long weekend was mostly clear and hot, allowing local residents to enjoy the traditional last days of summer. Activities included golfing, taking a dip in a neighborhood pool, playing tennis, riding bikes, tubing down Niceville's Turkey Creek, and taking to the water in all shapes and sizes of boats, shown here at Bluewater Bay Marina.

## Low-key reception for TRIM notices

By **Daniel Elsesser**  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

Property Appraiser Pete



Pete Smith

Smith said this has been the quietest TRIM season his office has seen in the 21 years he's worked there.

S m i t h

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

## Arrest in theft of \$25K

By **Daniel Elsesser**  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

Niceville police arrested a DeFuniak Springs man who allegedly stole \$24,800 from an acquaintance's vehicle.



Later he **Jeffrey W. Harris**

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

## Niceville settles on budget plan

By **Daniel Elsesser**  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

The Niceville City Council completed its budget discussions at a meeting Aug. 27, setting up a proposed \$12.7 million municipal budget for final approval at a public hearing Sept. 12.

The city will enter the final

budget hearing with a proposed millage rate of 3.7 mills, unchanged from that of the fiscal year that will end Sept. 30.

One mill is a property tax of \$1 for each \$1,000 of assessed valuation. On property carried on the tax rolls at \$100,000 after all exemptions, a millage rate of 3.7 would result in a tax

of \$370.

With that rate, the city would bring in \$2.86 million in ad valorem tax revenue, up \$130,870 more than the previous fiscal year.

The city council discussed the budget with Niceville's city

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



The city of Niceville budget, set for final approval Sept. 12, allots \$284,000 for transportation projects such as the addition of asphalt paths like the one currently in place along Rocky Bayou Drive.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

## Council eyes 2 land petitions

By **Daniel Elsesser**  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

The Niceville City Council is scheduled to hear requests for an annexation, a rezoning and a special setback exception at its meeting Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Niceville City Council chambers. The council will hear a

**New restaurant, A-2.**

request from Larry Wright asking that two of his parcels at 1420 Bayshore Drive, Niceville, in an

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



The owner of the property at 1420 Bayshore Drive, Niceville, requested that his property be annexed by the city and zoned for single-family residential use.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser



## Clearing for development

Workers clear trees from land that will eventually be home to a Panda Express restaurant and three other businesses in front of the Walmart in Niceville. The building is expected to be completed in early spring. See story on A-2.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

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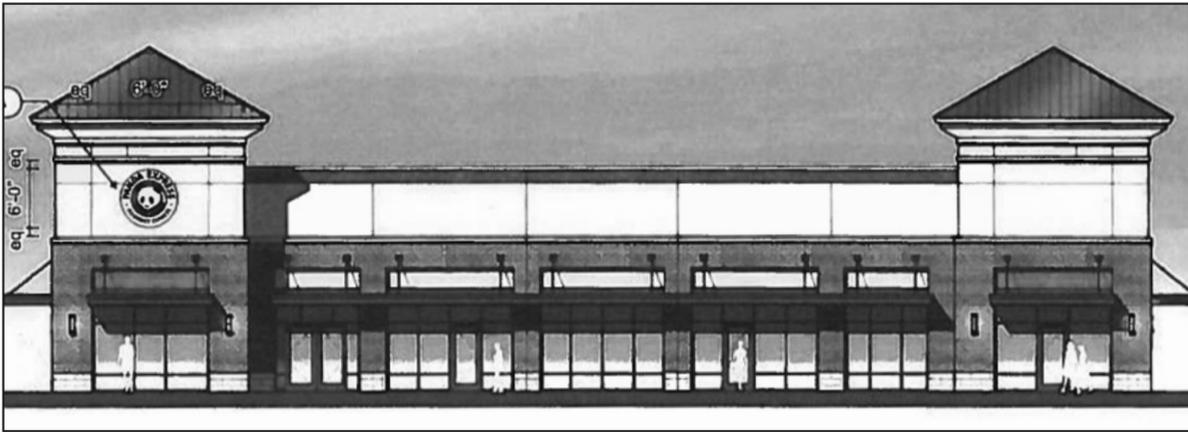
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# Eatery set for Niceville site



Rendering of a commercial building planned for land off East John Sims Parkway, Niceville, which will house a Panda Express restaurant and, possibly, a Firehouse Subs restaurant, along with two other businesses.

By Daniel Elsesser  
 Beacon Staff Writer

An Asian restaurant is preparing to set up shop on land in front of the Walmart on East John Sims Parkway, Niceville.

Workers began clearing land Aug. 30 for a 7,800-square-foot commercial building which will

eventually house four businesses, according to a representative of Valparaiso Realty, the company that owns the tract.

The land is just northeast of the Wilson Minger Century 21 office.

Panda Express has signed a lease with Valparaiso Realty for

space in the new building.

A second restaurant, Firehouse Subs, is in lease negotiations, according to Valparaiso Realty.

The other two spaces have yet to be leased, the landlord representative said, though they will not be restaurants, due partially to the extra parking required to

accommodate food service.

Panda Express is a fast casual restaurant chain based in Rosemead, Calif., that serves Chinese-American food.

Firehouse Subs, founded in 1994 by two former firefighters, is a chain based in Jacksonville, specializing in hot sandwiches.

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# Groundbreaking for tennis center

By Daniel Elsesser  
 Beacon Staff Writer

Ground will be broken for the Eagle Ram Tennis Center at a ceremony Sept. 12 at 2:30 p.m. at the center's planned site on the Ruckel Middle School campus near the intersection of Palm



Rendering of the Eagle Ram Tennis Center at Ruckel Middle School. The eight-court complex would be open for public use, according to fundraisers.

Boulevard and Partin Drive, Niceville.

Cici Hruby, a representative of the fund-raising committee for the project, said the center has received \$217,000 in donations, enough to begin construction.

Hruby said the committee is still working on raising an additional \$90,000 to add lights for the center's eight tennis courts.

The center is planned to provide a home court for the Niceville High School and

Ruckel Middle School tennis teams.

The Ruckel and Niceville tennis teams currently use privately operated tennis courts at Bluewater Bay to practice and host matches.

Hruby said the center is expected to be completed in time for the schools' tennis seasons, which will start in February.

"We are thrilled to be able to reach this amount [of funding] at this point," Hruby said. "We're just so excited to have these courts ready for next season."

The center will be open to the public during after-school hours when there are no Niceville or Ruckel tennis practices or matches.

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# BUDGET

From page A-1

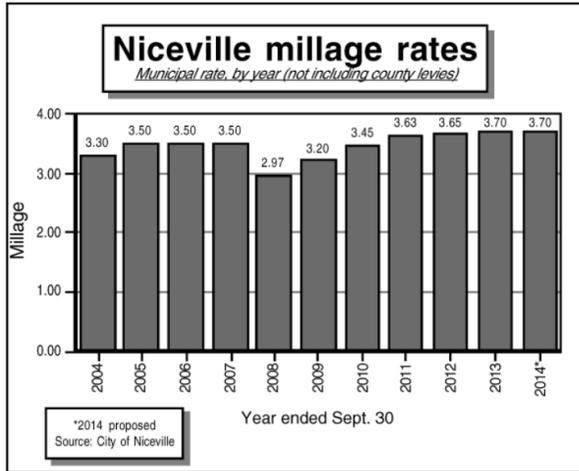
clerk and city manager, as well as the heads of the police, fire, library, public works and purchasing departments.

The group allowed the creation of an additional full-time employee for the Niceville Building Inspector's office, increasing the amount budgeted for salaries in the department by \$31,370. Cuts in other areas in the department would result in a total increase of \$23,710, from \$248,490 to \$224,780.

City Manager Lannie Corbin said one of the primary functions of the new employee would be to convert into computer files the extensive paper records kept by the Building Inspector's office.

Corbin said the city is required to keep the records of building permits purchased in the city for at least 10 years, but he said the department has hard copies of permits dating back 20 years. He added that the office also has records of occupational licenses and zoning records dating back almost as far.

Corbin said that the diverse nature of the building inspector's office would also require



the new employee to perform other tasks outside of digitizing records.

"That office answers all types of calls," Corbin said. "They answer calls for questions on stormwater, operation and maintenance, all kinds of things, so they have a lot to do. But we need someone over there to streamline the process, and it would be a full-time position."

The council also gave the go-ahead for \$284,000 in street-resurfacing projects in the next fiscal year.

The expenditures would

cover resurfacing projects adding 2,500 feet of concrete sidewalk along certain streets, as well as adding asphalt paths along others, while \$200,000 of the funding would go toward milling, resurfacing and modifying turn lanes on Rocky Bayou Drive. Most of the Rocky Bayou Drive work would be done near a planned roundabout to be constructed for entrance into the new Publix shopping center.

An additional \$8,000 of the funds would go to improvements to the intersection of

Cedar Avenue and John Sims Parkway.

Separately, Corbin also addressed concerns brought up by Councilman Sal Nodjomian at a budget meeting Aug. 22. Nodjomian expressed concern about the city of Niceville losing money from the annual Boggy Bayou Mullet Festival.

Nodjomian noted that revenues from the festival do not go to fund city projects, but go into a Mullet Festival fund. Nodjomian wanted to ensure that preparations done by city employees for the festival did not end up costing the city in loss of manpower.

Corbin said the festival is a "cost neutral event," and operates entirely on money from the Mullet Festival fund. Corbin said he believed the additional revenues brought to the city from visitors patronizing the city's restaurants, gas stations, hotels and other businesses provided more money than is lost by having city employees prepare for the event.

Corbin agreed to look into Nodjomian's request that the city be reimbursed from the Mullet Festival fund for work done by city employees in preparation for the festival.

# VINCE

From page A-1

Music and Country Music Association awards for top vocal duo, they are known best for their songs "Are You Gonna Kiss Me or Not" and "If I Didn't Have You."

Friday's headliner, Moore, performs such tracks as "Small Town USA" and "Backwoods." His third album, "Off the Beaten Path," is scheduled for release Sept. 17.

Corbin said he sought the headliners based on reputation and personal experience. He said he pursued Thompson Square after seeing them perform live.



Justin Moore

"They're great singers, but they're also great entertainers," Corbin said. "They know how to carry a stage, and I think they'll be a good draw for the Mullet Festival."



Thompson Square

Corbin said Gill and Moore were signed due to their bodies of work and strong reputations in the country music industry.

None of the headliners have previously performed at the Mullet Festival.

Among the additional acts scheduled to perform are the Swon Brothers, Blackjack Billy,

gospel group The Isaacs, Elvis Presley impersonator Ben Portsmouth and the Taking Care of Elvis Band, Doctor Zarr's

Amazing Funk Monster, the Tayo Reed Explosion and Niceville native Parker Willingham.

Advance tickets will be available for \$9 each or three for \$25 and can be purchased on the festival's website, boggybayoumulletfestival.info. Tickets purchased at the gate are \$10 Friday, Oct. 18, \$10 Saturday, Oct. 19 before 5 p.m. and \$15 afterward, and \$10 Sunday—all prices unchanged from last year.

The Mullet Festival site, at College Boulevard and State Road 85 North, Niceville, is on Eglin Air Force Base land leased to the city in exchange for the city's providing sewage services to the Eglin golf course and Jackson Guard. The city maintains the site and uses it for other recreational purposes throughout the year. The lease stipulates that Eglin may use it at any time.

# ARREST

From page A-1

claimed he earned the money in a lottery or selling methamphetamine, spent some of it at a zoo and lost the rest, according to police.

Jeffrey Weldon Harris, 43, of 553 Majestic Blvd., DeFuniak Springs, was arrested by Niceville police Aug. 23 on a charge of grand theft, according to a police report.

Harris allegedly stole money concealed in the pocket of jacket kept behind the seat of a vehicle in which he was passenger. Harris reportedly took the money when the driver stopped the vehicle and entered a supermarket in Palm Plaza, Niceville, July 31.

Harris reportedly told a

woman with whom he lives that he had won the money from a \$50 lottery ticket. The woman told police that when she later confronted Harris about the money, he said he had earned it by making and selling three batches of methamphetamine.

On Aug. 23, Harris told police he had taken the money to provide for his family, and that he had spent about \$1,500 to take them to a zoo and aquarium in New Orleans.

Harris told police he had been scared about having the money and had given it to another person, then couldn't get it back.

Harris was booked at the Okaloosa County Jail Aug. 23 and released Aug. 27 on a \$5,000 bond.

His required court appearance is Sept. 24.

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# Police Blotter

The following accounts of the activities of police are according to records of the Niceville and Valparaiso police departments, the Okaloosa County and Walton County sheriff's offices, other law-enforcement agencies, and the Okaloosa County and Walton County jails.

## Arrests

Shelley Astelle Reyes-Riego, unemployed, 34, of 139 2nd St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Aug. 25 on a charge of battery.

Reyes-Riego allegedly hit someone on the left side of the face and body during an argument. Her required court appearance is Sept. 17.

Kristopher Keith Decker, a restaurant manager, 27, of 320 23rd St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 27 on a Walton County warrant for violation of probation on a worthless check case.

Thomas Henry Pride, 18, of 1858 Edge Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Walton County Sheriff's deputies Aug. 26 on two counts of grand theft.

On Aug. 21, Pride was arrested by Okaloosa County sheriff's deputies on charges of reckless driving first offense, fleeing with disregard of safety to persons or property, petit theft and resisting an officer without violence. During the incident, Pride used a dirt bike to elude an Okaloosa County sheriff's

deputy.

In an interview at the Okaloosa County Jail Aug. 21, Pride allegedly admitted to having stolen the dirt bike he used to flee from a residence in Santa Rosa Beach.

He also admitted to spray painting the dirt bike and spray painting and helping steal a four-wheeler from the same people who owned the dirt bike.

Heather Michaelle Riedel, a kennel employee, 30, of 284 Montana Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies Aug. 24 on an Escambia County warrant for failure to appear on the charge of grand theft.

## DUI arrests

Matthew Scott McKenney, 22, of 433 Phillips Drive, Freeport, was arrested by Okaloosa County sheriff's deputies for DUI at East State Road 20, Aug. 25 at 2:08 a.m.

McKenney's required court appearance is Sept. 10.

Brandon Russell Lantz, 20, of 605 32nd St., Niceville, a retail employee, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI at Palm Boulevard and Dartmouth Way,

## Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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



**Name:** Carlos Urbina-Suarez  
**Wanted for:** Larceny & Burglary  
**Height:** 5-feet, 6-inches  
**Weight:** 150  
**Age:** 26  
**Date of birth:** 04-09-1987  
**Hair:** Black  
**Eyes:** Brown



**Name:** Roderick Derill McKinnon Jr.  
**Wanted for:** VOP-Possession of Cocaine  
**Height:** 5-feet, 8-inches  
**Weight:** 150  
**Age:** 20  
**Date of birth:** 04-22-1993  
**Hair:** Black  
**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)

Niceville, Aug. 25 at 6:29 a.m.

Lantz was also cited for driving with an expired tag and failure to maintain a single lane. His required court appearance is Sept. 17.

## Thefts

A Valparaiso resident of the 300 block of Glen Avenue reported Aug. 26 someone stole his iPad from a vehicle parked at the business at 127 S. John Sims Parkway, Valparaiso.

A Valparaiso resident of the first block of Carie Way reported Aug. 26 someone stole his military and EOD identification cards, his iPod and 50 compact disc cases from his unlocked vehicle parked at his residence. The complainant reported the stolen items were worth a total of \$50.

A Valparaiso resident of the first block of Westview Avenue

## Fire Department Reports

### Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from August 26, 2013 through August 29, 2013.

0 Structure Fire	5 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	2 Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	4 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	1 Hazardous Conditions



Street	Situation	Date	Time
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	8/26/13	00:41
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	8/26/13	07:06
N. Palm Blvd.	Medical	8/26/13	16:04
N. Partin Dr.	Cancelled	8/26/13	17:10
Galway Dr.	Medical	8/27/13	07:55
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/27/13	10:02
Maple Ave.	Good intent	8/27/13	11:12
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	8/27/13	18:17
N. Palm Blvd.	Fuel spill	8/27/13	22:29
SR 85 N.	Cancelled	8/28/13	07:01
3rd Street	Medical	8/28/13	19:17
22nd Street	Service call	8/29/13	01:04

Weekly Safety Tip: Have your stovetop and oven checked annually to be sure they are working properly. When using barbecue grills on decks, be sure to leave sufficient space from siding and eaves and always supervise a grill when in use.

Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook



### North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from August 26, 2013 through August 29, 2013.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	8/26/13	14:23
Berringer Dr.	Medical	8/27/13	18:36
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	8/27/13	22:54
Hickory St.	Medical assist	8/28/13	04:43
N. Lakeshore Dr.	Medical	8/28/13	09:05
E. Hwy. 20	Good intent	8/28/13	17:44
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	8/28/13	22:12
Hwy. 20 E.	Medical	8/29/13	10:20

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

reported Aug. 21 that someone stole two wedding rings worth a total of \$4,000, a set of dishes and silverware worth \$100, a purse worth \$200, a gold chain

worth \$300, 20 fluorescent light bulbs worth a total of \$100, and assorted towels, washcloths and sheets from her residence sometime June 1-Aug. 10.

# 20 years for driver in fatal hit-and-run

By Daniel Elsesser  
Beacon Staff Writer

Rhea Lynn Reynolds, a Niceville woman charged with leaving the scene of an accident involving death, was sentenced to 20 years in state prison followed by 10 years' probation, the state attorney announced.

Reynolds, 29, entered a plea of no contest to the charge in June. Circuit Judge John Brown imposed the sentence.

The charge resulted when Reynolds' vehicle allegedly struck and killed bicyclist Henry Robert Crawford, 63, of Destin, on the morning of April 8, 2012,

on Okaloosa Island. Crawford was riding to an Easter sunrise service.

Crawford was pronounced dead at the scene by Okaloosa County paramedics at 7 a.m.

According to an Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office report, there were no witnesses to the crash. Florida Highway Patrol troopers determined that the hit-and-run vehicle had been traveling west in the right lane of U.S. Highway 98, as was the bicyclist.

A Highway Patrol trooper collected pieces of the vehicle left at the crash scene and

obtained part numbers from the debris. A parts department employee at Hill-Kelly Chrysler in Pensacola determined that the parts were from a 2004 to 2006 gold Chrysler Pacifica.

The Highway Patrol released the vehicle's description to local media in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties.



Rhea L. Reynolds

On April 10, 2012, the patrol received a call reporting a gold 2004 Chrysler Pacifica with front right damage parked at the Wildwood Apartment Complex at 400 Kelly Road, Niceville.

Troopers determined the parts found at the crash scene matched the damage to the Chrysler. The car had damage to its wheel well splash shield, right headlamp and front bumper. A tire mark on the front right bumper cover matched the size of bicycle tires.

A trooper contacted Reynolds, the vehicle's owner,

who denied any knowledge of a hit-and-run involving the vehicle.

On April 11, 2012, investigators obtained a search warrant for the vehicle and informed Reynolds of its seizure. Reynolds was read her Miranda warning and agreed to give a sworn recorded interview.

Under questioning, Reynolds said she left work at the Nighttown club in Destin April 8, 2012, at about 5:30 a.m. She said she was very tired upon leaving, and had not consumed any alcoholic beverages.

Reynolds said that while

driving west on U.S. Highway 98 just west of Fort Walton Beach, she looked down to put out her cigarette and felt a "bump" at the front of her vehicle.

Reynolds said she looked in her rearview mirror, saw nothing and assumed she had hit a construction barrier or sign.

Reynolds stated she was unaware she struck a bicyclist.

On Oct. 25, 2012, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement reported that the car parts found at the crash scene were from Reynolds' vehicle.

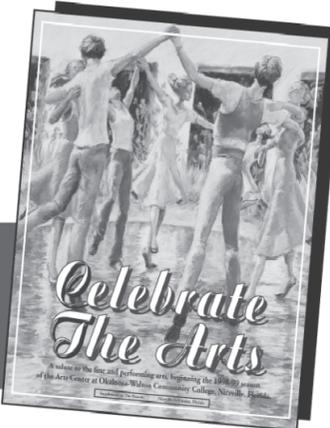
## BEACON ARTS GUIDE

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**THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER** —by Mike Griffith



Should the United States launch a military strike on Syria in response to that country's alleged use of nerve gas?

Location: Walmart



"Strike, yes. Invasion, no."

Craig Bidstrup, 25, Niceville, electrical engineer



"Something should be done, but I'm not sure what."

Jason Thompson, 38, Crestview, sales



"Not only no, but hell no!"

Robbie Comelek, 37, Niceville, software technician



"If it's necessary, yes, but I wouldn't recommend it. It will only make people in that region more hostile."

Jessica Buriak, 29, Niceville, unemployed



"No. I spent five years in the military, and it's a strategically bad idea."

Jodi Vetter, 37, Niceville, stay-home mom



"Yes, but with the understanding that there might be unexpected long-term consequences."

Rachel Furlong, 54, Niceville, teacher

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

**TRIM**

From page A-1

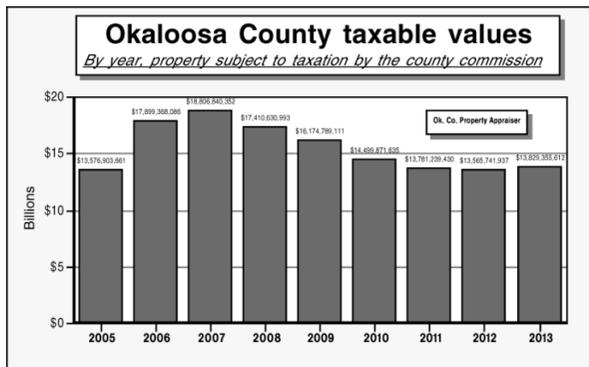
said shortly after TRIM ("truth in millage") notices are sent from the appraiser's office to Okaloosa County residents, as they were in the past week, his office will have typically received several petitions from owners requesting reductions in their property's taxable value.

As of Tuesday morning, not one petition has yet been filed for 2013, despite the increase in taxable values for nearly every Okaloosa taxing district for the first time in six years.

Countywide, tax rolls were up 2 percent this year, to \$13.8 billion, although they still remain more than 26 percent below their \$18.8 billion peak of 2007.

Smith said he believes the absence of complaints stems from the fact that the nose-dive in property values that began with the 2007 U.S. financial crisis appears to have ended, even if the result is higher taxes.

"I think people are just glad to hear the good news," Smith said. "It's good to see values go up, because that means the economy's improving. I don't think people mind having to pay



a little more tax because of that."

Smith noted that the tax-roll increases in most Okaloosa taxing districts were relatively small, with the exceptions of the Valparaiso and Niceville districts, which saw taxable values rise 3.34 percent and 4.85 percent, respectively.

Smith said those increases are indicative of the attractiveness of the Twin Cities, where values fell less than the county average during the five-year slump.

"The values in those areas held on, even through the crunch," Smith said. "I guess that just means people must really want to live there."

The total property values in Okaloosa County increased by 1.9 percent. Cinco Bayou is the only taxing district in Okaloosa County that saw property values decrease from last year.

Smith said he still expects some property owners to appeal their 2013 assessments, a practice that he welcomes as part of the taxing process.

"We'll have some people tell us there's something wrong with the way they're being taxed," Smith said. "We can explain the reasons to them, and if they have a legitimate reason why their taxes should be lower, we'll make sure to change it, because we want to be right, too."

Due to the recapture rule,

properties with previously accrued exemptions from the Save Our Homes Amendment will have their assessed value increased by 1.7 percent, this year's increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The 1992 amendment to the Florida Constitution states that the assessed value of home-steaded property can increase by no more than 3 percent or the rate of increase in the CPI over the previous year, whichever is less.

Petitions for market value issues must be submitted with a \$15 filing fee to the property appraiser's office and Okaloosa Clerk of Circuit Court within 25 days after the TRIM notice is mailed. If the petitioner provides sufficient evidence proving that the market value of their property is incorrect, the Okaloosa County Value Adjustment Board will alter the value.

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**LAND**

From page A-1

unincorporated area, be annexed by the city. Wright submitted a companion request for a third parcel at the address, which is already in the city, asking that it be rezoned from PUD (planned urban development) to R-1 (residential single family).

The two lots requested for annexation are zoned in Okaloosa County for single-family residential development. Wright has requested that the two lots, totaling two acres and occupied by a 4,180-square-foot home, be brought into the city as zoned R-1

(residential single family).

Wright requested that the third parcel, which is two acres, be rezoned because it is subject to two designations on Niceville's zoning map. Approximately one quarter of the property is zoned for planned urban development, while the rest is zoned for single-family residential use.

The entire four-acre tract will be zoned R-1 if the city council approves the requests.

Separately, Denise Ford requested that her property on 112 2nd St., Niceville, be given a special exception to the city's land development code to allow for a five-foot front setback, as opposed

to the required 25 feet.

Ford is requesting the setback change in order to construct an aluminum carport in front of her house. The 0.17-acre lot is occupied by a nearly 3,000-square-foot home.

The requests went before the Niceville Planning Commission for preliminary approval Sept. 3, and were recommended by the board for approval.

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# Eagles mark 50th with big win over Rutherford

**Beacon Correspondent**

Last Friday the Eagles kicked off their 2013 regular season with a 62-21 blowout over the Rutherford Rams while also celebrating the school's 50th anniversary at its current location.

The festivities started with an alumni parade and carried on throughout the game. Over 100 former Niceville Pride band members took the field at halftime to perform favorites from decades past.

The football game was action packed as well. The high-scoring opener gave a sneak peek into the team's potential, and it is promising. With shining moments from the offense, special teams, and defense, the Eagles racked up the points, and held the Rams back.

Starting quarterback Ashton Hooker led the team offensively with several teammates to rely on and a couple of touchdowns of his own.

Running back Shi Kim Coward got the lion's share of the yardage and touchdowns, while Tyree McCants had standout moments on offense, special teams, and defense.

The Niceville offense scored on nine out of 11 drives in the first three quarters alone, before bringing in the backups in the fourth quarter. The special teams managed to recover two kickoffs intended for Rutherford.

Head Coach John Hicks was pleased with the win. "Overall a really good effort," he said. "We ran the ball really well, and defensively I thought we played really good in spots."

The win sets the tone for the



Niceville running back Shi Kim Coward got the lion's share of the yardage in the Eagles' 62-21 route of Rutherford Friday.

Eagles' season and will hopefully provide momentum as they head to Pace High School this Friday to face the Patriots.

"It's always tough against Pace, we're going to have to be on our 'A' game", said Hicks. Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m.



An alumni parade, by decade, was a high point of 50th anniversary festivities preceding the Niceville High School football game Friday.



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Dr. Castaneda takes care of families from newborns to adults

**Advertising Feature**

Dr. Castaneda of Emerald Coast Family Medicine is a board-certified family physician dedicated to the comprehensive health care of the entire family. For more than 13 years, Dr. Castaneda has been ensuring the health of his patients, from newborns to seniors. During the past six years, he has developed an ongoing relationship with patients in Bluewater Bay, Valparaiso, Niceville and other surrounding communities. With an emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion, Dr. Castaneda aims to provide personal, inclusive and continuing care for individuals during all stages of life. Currently, his practice is accepting new patients.

As a physician who provides care for entire families, Dr. Castaneda goes above and beyond expectations to develop a respectful and trusting patient-doctor relationship. His sincere warmth, kindness and engaged commitment toward his patients enables him to connect to them on a personal level. Dr. Castaneda and the entire staff at ECFM get to know their patients by thoroughly listening to medical concerns and following through by assisting with health care decisions.

Trained in family medicine, Dr. Castaneda can provide diagnosis and treatment for a full range of health conditions and concerns. These include, but are not limited to, diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, cardio vascular screening, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, skin ailments, thyroid disorders, and mental health issues related to anxiety, depression or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. On-site ultrasound services provide added convenience to patients. In addition, well-child and adolescent check-ups are also available, to include school physicals, sports physicals and immunizations.

According to Dr. Castaneda, "Obesity leads to heart disease and diabetes and is closely approaching smoking as the leading cause of many cancers. Furthermore, due to genetic factors, obesity for most people is a chronic medical condition and should be treated as one." And for these reasons, helping his patients with weight management is an important concern of Dr. Castaneda's. ECFM provides weight-loss management under his careful supervision. Dr. Castaneda has been successful in assisting



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patients achieve weight-loss goals through individually customized programs. Gina is a patient of Dr. Castaneda's who has lost over 25lbs. Months after "graduating" from Dr. Castaneda's weight loss program she continues to maintain a healthy physique through diet and exercise. This physician-supervised weight-loss program Dr. Castaneda provides is an individually tailored, healthier alternative to yo-yo dieting on your own.

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Emerald Coast Family Medicine is located at 143 S. John Sims Parkway in Valparaiso between Lincoln and Washington avenues. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., and Friday 7 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Contact Dr. Castaneda's courteous and friendly staff at 729-3300 to make an appointment.

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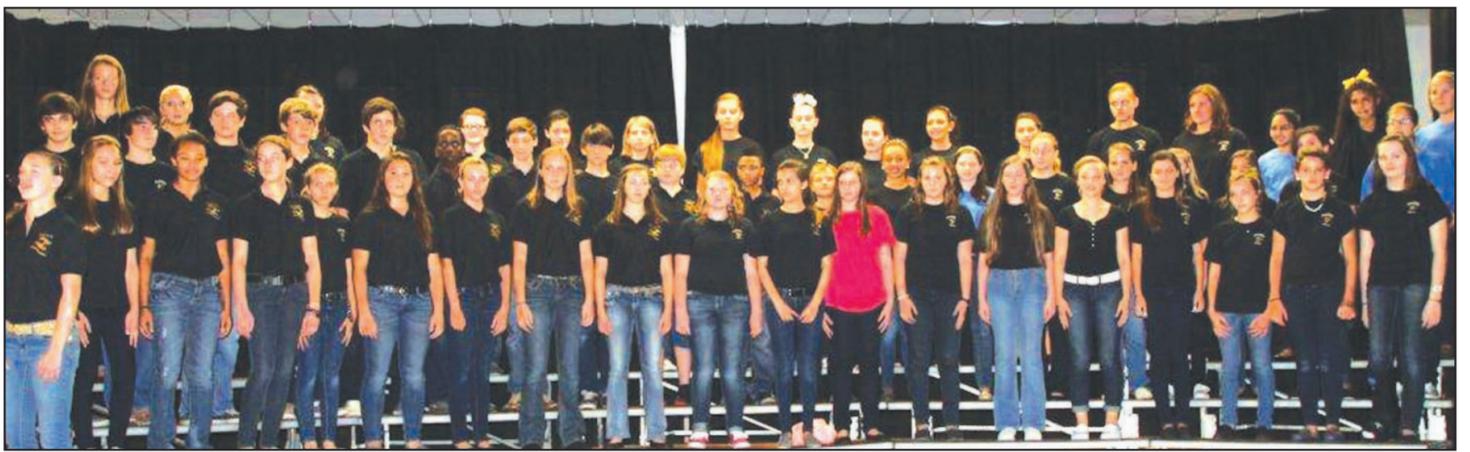
## In the Service

Air Force Reserve Airman **Nicole M. Ljungquist** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Ljungquist is the daughter of James Lampron of Niceville, and a 1997 graduate of Niceville High School. She received an associate degree in 2001 from the University of Florida, Gainesville.



Nicole M. Ljungquist



## Ruckel chorus groups perform

Ruckel Middle School auditorium was alive with music Tuesday, Aug. 27, courtesy of Ruckel's "Ambassadors" and "Chanson" choruses performing for the first Parent Information Meeting. The Ruckel choruses are directed by Michelle Tredway.

Please see SERVICE, page B-4



Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

Pictured from left, Ron Maddocks and Jim Howard install a pole on Duncan Drive, Niceville, as Jim Lindsay supervises. The homeowner, Bernie Busovne, far right, looks on. The team had 11 installations to complete Thursday, Aug 29.

## Kiwanis raises flags, funds

By Angela Yuriko Smith  
Beacon Staff Writer

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso make flying Old Glory maintenance free for area residents with their American Flag Program.

For a tax-deductible yearly

contribution of \$42, club members install poles and ensure that flags are flying before patriotic holidays through out the year. After the holiday, the flags will be removed and stored for the next use.

Club members install flags on President's Day, Memorial

Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day through Sept. 11, Veteran's Day and Martin Luther King Day.

For more info about the Kiwanis American Flag Program, call Bill Brunkow at 897-4396 or Jim Lindsay at 897-3068.

## Early NHS alums share meal, memories

Old friends Edna Kelley and Dewey Calfee share greetings and an embrace at a luncheon for the Niceville High School alumni from the school's original location, where Lula J. Edge Elementary School now stands. The NHS alumni

meet regularly for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Niceville Community Center, 1470 Cedar St, Niceville. All former students that attended NHS at the original site off Hwy. 85 are invited.



Edna Kelley

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

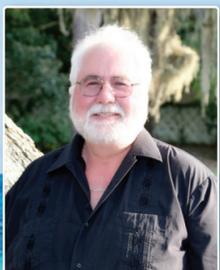


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The Rocky Bayou Christian School Cheerleading Squad has earned a bid to compete nationally in January. The eleven-member team placed in the top three teams in their division to win their spot at the 25th Anniversary FCC Nationals this Winter in Orlando.

### RBCS wins bid to compete nationally

A stellar performance at cheer camp this summer has earned the Rocky Bayou Christian School spirit and competition cheerleading squad a bid to compete nationally in January. While competing at the Fellowship of Christian Cheerleaders (FCC) camp in July, the eleven-member team placed in the top three teams in their division to win their spot at the 25th Anniversary FCC Nationals this Winter in Orlando.

Captained by RBCS seniors Alyssa Slagle of Miramar Beach and Payton Denbow of Hammock Bay, the team will take seven members to Orlando in hopes of winning the national

title for their division. Taking tumbling classes once a week and practicing their skills at home, the squad is already sharpening their moves in preparation to compete.

"We are incredibly proud of our squad," says Candice Montague, RBCS Cheerleading Coach. "Their dedication and diligence can be seen in this wonderful accomplishment. As a college-preparatory program, we are committed to helping them achieve whatever they aspire to this year and beyond high school."

Competitions like the FCC Nationals are stepping stones toward university team recruitment for seniors like Slagle and

Denbow, who both aspire to cheer collegiately. Not only is national competition an arena in which to take their talents to a higher level, it is also an opportunity for athletes to be seen by college coaches and recruiters who attend FCC Nationals looking for potential team members.

"I have been in contact with several college coaches to begin putting together highlight tapes of our senior team members," continues Montague. "National competition will be another way to help them reach their dreams of cheering in college. We want to do everything we can to help them realize their goals and prepare them for their future after high school."



### Lewis student in Junior Olympics

Kelisa McChester, a student at Lewis School, Valparaiso, participated in the 2013 AAU Junior Olympics held July 28-Aug. 3 at Eastern Michigan University over the summer. She won 7th place in the 200 Meter Dash and 6th place in the 100 Meter Dash. Prior, at the Ernie Sims Invitational on July 13, McChester was named "Most Outstanding Female Athlete for Invitational."



### Woman's Club sews good deeds

Twin Cities Woman's Club recently held a workshop to create 300 personal hygiene bags to be shared between the Mental Health Association of Okaloosa-Walton County and homeless vets. The bags will be used to hold toiletries and personal items of the recipients. Pictured, Dale Fuqua, Kay Laird, Camelia Clapp, Patty Mixon, Lillian Lewis and Sue Brown.

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### Honorary black belt

Harrison Mauldin, a 14 year old bronze medalist in the Special Olympics, visited Niceville to receive an honorary black belt in Calm Water Martial Arts. The belt was awarded to Harrison on Saturday, Aug. 10, by Master John Lee of the Martial Arts Combat Academy in Niceville.



### Food bank requests donations

Lynn Watson from Sharing and Caring of Niceville urges folks to "donate food to fill the empty shelves and meet the needs of struggling families in our community." Some of the items needed include canned meats, pasta sauce, laundry detergent and diapers. For more information visit the web site at sharing-n-caring.org. Items can be dropped off at Sharing and Caring, 104 Bullock Boulevard, Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.



Society will meet Thursday, Sept. 5 for a presentation by Biologist Tom Greene.

The meeting and program are free and open to the public. It will be held in room 130 of the Student Services Center (SSC 130), Niceville campus of Northwest Florida State College. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. with socializing, program begins at 7 p.m. For more information, please call Walt Spence at 582-7064.

enjoy a fun evening of karaoke with Bill and Rhonda Friday, Sept. 6 at the American Legion Post #221, 444 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville.

#### Give blood

Friday, Sept. 6, General Dynamics, 115 Hart Street, Niceville. Drive from 8-12 p.m. Donors will receive a T-shirt.

#### Audubon field trip

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will be having a field trip to Point Washington State Forest led by biologist, Tom Greene Sept. 7. Meet at the Tom Thumb at the intersection of Hwy. 98 and 331 in S. Walton County at 8:30 a.m. Call Tom at 694-6403.

#### Holly-day run

The 4th Annual "Holly" day 5K Fun Run is scheduled for 7:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 7, starting at the east pavilion at James Lee Park by the Crab Trap Restaurant on Scenic Hwy. 98 in Destin. Early registration is available for \$25 at active.com. Registration will be available the day of the race for \$30.

Proceeds will benefit Shred Out Cancer, a non-profit organization in memory of Holly Burke. For more info, call Cathy at 582-0806.

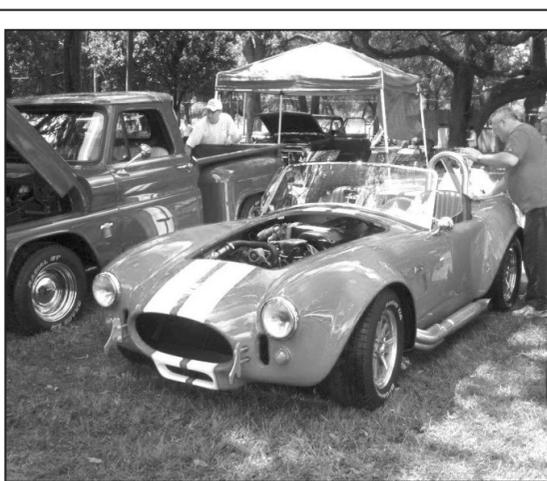
#### Emerald Coast Car Show

The 21st annual Emerald Coast Car Show, will be at the Mullet Festival site in Niceville on Sept. 7.

The event will be open to the public with free parking and admission for spectators. There will be a pre-registration fee of \$25 for those who will be exhibiting cars, or a registration fee of \$30 on the day of the show.

Food, drinks and door prizes will be available at the event, with proceeds benefitting local charities.

Registration forms may be downloaded online at emeraldcoast-carshow.com.



### Emerald Coast Car Show

The 21st annual Emerald Coast Car Show, will be at the Mullet Festival site in Niceville on Sept. 7. The event will be open to the public with free parking and admission for spectators. Vehicle check in and registration begins at 8 a.m. with judging and viewing from 12:30-3:30 p.m. See calendar for complete details.

#### 100 years old

On Sept. 7-8, Niceville United Methodist Church will be celebrating the church's 100th birthday in all worship services.

Join the festivities at one of nine services across two campuses at Niceville UMC, 214 Partin Drive S., and St. Mark UMC, 2250 PJ Adams Parkway, Crestview.

For more information, please visit nicevilleumc.org. The community is invited.

#### Dine for the pines

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center is hosting a fundraiser at Bud & Alley's from 5 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 8. The public is encouraged to attend to learn more about the E.O.

#### Wilson Biophilia Center.

Admission is \$20 per person when you register to purchase a ticket online at dineforthepines.eventbrite.com, or \$25 at the door and includes hors d'oeuvres, a taco bar and a cash bar. For further information, visit ewilsoncenter.org, or call 835-1824.

#### Mac users

The Mac Users Group will meet on Monday, Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northwest Florida State College Student Services building, Room 132. Bruce Aplin will be giving a short presentation on "Cloud Storage." Free, no reservation required. For more information, visit FWBMug.com or contact Jean Dutton at jeandutton@mac.com or 862-3327.

#### Language classes

Valparaiso Library is seeking new students for their French and Spanish classes this fall. The French class will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday, starting Tuesday, Sept. 10. The Spanish class will meet on Monday and Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., starting on Wednesday, Sept. 11.

Both language classes will have beginner and intermediate sessions and are free of charge and open to anyone over the age of 14. For more info, call the library at 729-5406.

#### Quit smoking

The Quit Smoking Now (QSN) program will be Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 5:30 p.m. at Twin Cities Hospital's Wellness Center, 2190 N Hwy 85, Niceville.

To receive more information about the QSN program or register for a class, please call 398-6965 or visiting westfloridaahec.org.

#### Mystery dinner

Join Act4Murder on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at The Compass Rose, 303 Glen Avenue, Valparaiso, to participate in a performance of "A Condo to Kill For." Cost is \$45 for the dinner and show, plus tax and tip. Call the Compass Rose at 389-2125 for reservations.

#### College night

College Night, a free annual event that features representatives from more than 60 colleges and universities from several states, will be held 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, in the Raider Arena on the Northwest Florida State College, 100 College Blvd., Niceville.

For more information, call 729-6467.

#### Give blood

Wednesday, Sept. 11, First Baptist Church of Niceville, 622 Bayshore Drive from 2:30-6:30 p.m. Donors will receive a T-shirt.

#### Open mic poetry night

Join fellow poets Sept. 4 for "Say the Word", an open mic poetry reading at the French Quarter Bar & Grill, 714 Howell Rd., Niceville, at 7 p.m.

The event is free of charge and all are welcome to take the mic. Each performer should plan to share about 2-3 pieces.

#### Audubon meets

The Choctawhatchee Audubon

#### Early release movie

The Valparaiso Community Library would like to invite children and families to the first Early Release Movie of the school year on Sept. 5 at 1:30 p.m. The movie will be "Epic." Popcorn and beverages will be served.

#### Free karaoke

Please feel free to come in and



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### Donna Elliott has Yard of the Month

Niceville Garden Club chose Donna Elliott's yard at 298 Bullock as Yard Of The Month for September. The Niceville Garden Club meets at 6 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at the Niceville Public Library, 206 Partin Dr.

### SERVICE

From page B-1

Air Force Airman James C. Balkcom graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, 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.



James C. Balkcom

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

Balkcom earned distinction as an honor graduate.

He is the son of James Balkcom of Niceville. The airman is a 2008 graduate of Niceville High School.



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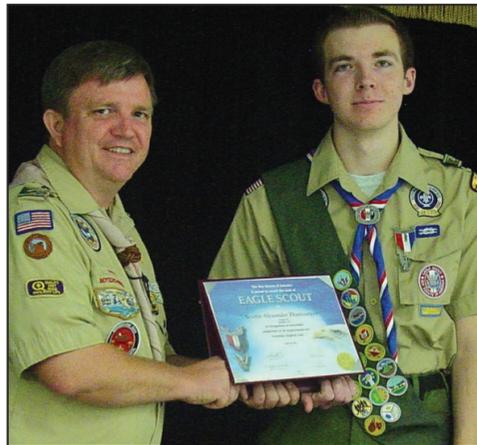
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### Getting a head start on school

Marcus Austin enjoys his breakfast at the Niceville Head Start during his first week of preschool. Okaloosa Early and Head Start is a federal program that provides school readiness for children ages 3 through age 5. For more information visit [okaloosaheadstart.org](http://okaloosaheadstart.org) or call 586-7727.

### College gets tables, scout gets Eagle



Scottie Thurwanger, a member of Boy Scout Troop 512, has been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. His accomplishment was celebrated in a Court of Honor where Scoutmaster Dover Bell presented Thurwanger with his Eagle Scout certificate on Aug. 5. For his service project, Thurwanger enlisted the help of his troop to build three large picnic tables for Northwest Florida State College. Scottie is a 2013 graduate of Collegiate High School of Niceville.

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