



12 Pages, 2 Sections, 4 Inserts

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

50¢

Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-7

UP COMING

Wed., 6:30 p.m.

The Lewis School Chorus will hold its free Winter Concert at the school. 833-4130.

Fri., 6-7:30 p.m.

Ruckel Middle School's Family Night FUNdraiser will be in the Ruckel Cafeteria. Bring your family and work together to create a **burlap snowman craft** for the holidays. \$35 for materials. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for dinner. All welcome. 585-281-0405.

Fri.-Sat. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

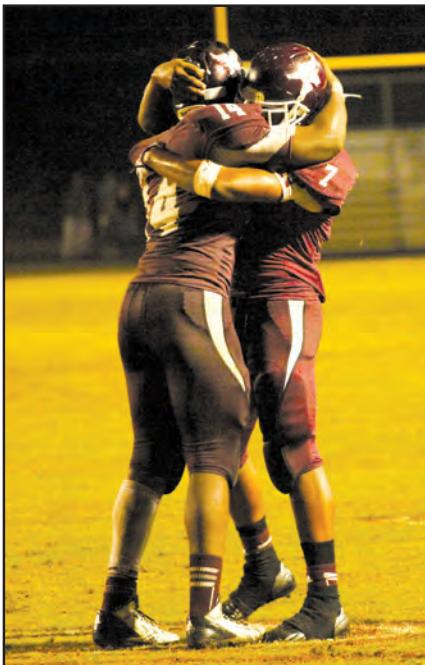
Take a free ride through the story of Christ at the **Valparaiso Assembly of God**, 571 Valparaiso Parkway. There will be cookies and hot cocoa as well as an interactive hayride and living Nativity that chronicles the life of Jesus. 678-4040.

Sat., 5-8 p.m.

The **Holiday Boggy Boat Parade** will be at the **Northlight Marina**, Niceville from 5-8 p.m. The event is free, and there will be a V.I.P viewing area with food and drinks for \$10. 259-4956.

Calendar, B-3

Niceville Eagles will play for state title Friday



The Niceville Eagles football team will travel to Orlando Thursday to play Palm Beach Gardens-Dwyer in the 7-A state championship game at Florida Citrus Bowl Stadium Friday. Many parents, students and community members are planning to travel and support the team. Game time is 7:07 p.m. Eastern Time (6:07 p.m. Niceville time.) The contest will be webcast live at www.thenewfishradio.com. Pictured: scenes from the Eagles' cliffhanger triumph over Kissimmee-Osceola at home Dec. 6 in the state semifinal playoff, which Niceville won in the final seconds with a 22-yard field goal. Story, B-4.

Beacon photos by Sarah Clauson

Schools official: Destin busing costs \$1,000 per student



Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

It costs a total of about \$39,000 a year to bus 39 students from the Bluewater Bay-Seminole area of Niceville to classes at Destin Middle School, according to a school board member who proposed, unsuccessfully, to end the practice in an economy move.

Three killed in boat crash

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

A speedboat crash took the lives of three Niceville residents last week, according to authorities.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office identified the three victims of the crash, which apparently occurred between Thursday night and Friday morning last week in Choctawhatchee Bay at the Mid-Bay Bridge.

The victims were identified as Robert Williams, 47, Jamilia Denise Beltz, 21, and Taylor M. Evanoff, 18.

According to FWC spokesman Stan Kirkland, his agency became aware of the crash, to which apparently there were no witnesses, after someone made a 911 call at about 2 p.m. Friday, reporting that they had spotted the body of a woman floating near the entrance to Boggy Bayou.

Please see CRASH, page A-3

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

It is costing taxpayers \$1,000 per student this year to bus 39 schoolchildren to Destin Middle School from the Bluewater Bay-Seminole area, outside the school's regular attendance zone, according to Okaloosa County School Board member Melissa Thrush.

Thrush says that money could be better spent elsewhere.

A proposal by Thrush, of Bluewater Bay, to abolish the shared student attendance zone between Ruckel and Destin middle schools, and to include that zone into the Ruckel attendance zone only, failed for lack of a second at a school board meeting Monday in Fort Walton

Beach.

Earlier, during a non-voting, discussion-only workshop held Dec. 5 in Fort Walton Beach, members of the school board discussed a proposal by Thrush to abolish the shared student attendance zone between Ruckel and Destin middle schools, and to



Melissa Thrush

include that zone exclusively in the Ruckel attendance zone, as it was for many years.

In a written statement and oral remarks to fellow board

members, Thrush noted that the dual transportation zone, apparently unique in the county, is provided to students living east of the Rocky Bayou bridge in the Bluewater Bay-Seminole area.

Using two bus routes, the district is providing free transportation to Destin Middle for 39 students who live in the dual zone north of Choctawhatchee Bay, according to Thrush.

She said the duplicative busing costs about \$1,000 per student.

"The removal of this zone of choice will impact 20 of these 39 students as the other 19 will be attending high school in the

Please see \$1000, page A-6



Parade kicks off holiday season

Musical notes soared along with spectators' spirits during the Niceville-Valparaiso Rotary Club's annual Christmas parade Saturday. Pictured, playing seasonal tunes, the Ruckel Middle School band was among those in the line of march. See photos, A-4 and A-5.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

Treed

Boy Scout Troop 546 held its annual Christmas tree sale last week in front of the Niceville Police Station. Pictured from left, Brayton Miles wrestles a Fraser fir out of the forest of waiting trees with the help of fellow troop members Mike Klinger and Hudson Pearce.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith



Valparaiso eyes condemnation for two houses deemed 'dangerous'

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Valparaiso city attorney presented the city commission with proposed letters to be sent to owners of two houses in Valparaiso that a city inspector has designated as "dangerous buildings."

The two buildings, at 406 Johnson St. and at 59 Kelly Way, are unoccupied and, according to the letters proposed to be sent to their owners, "have become, or are so dilapidated, so decayed, unsafe, unsanitary or which so utterly fail to provide the amenities essential to decent living that they are unfit for human habitation or are likely to cause sickness or disease, so as to work injury to the health, morals, safety, or general welfare of those living therein."

The letters, given to the city commission by City Attorney Heyward Dykes at a meeting Monday, would order the owners to repair or demolish the buildings within 30 days.

Commissioners agreed to hold hearings concerning the possible condemnation of each building at 6 p.m. Jan. 7, to allow the owners or other interested parties to present their side of the matter before the city takes further action.

Also during Monday's commission meeting, Sam Houston, Past Commander of the local chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, addressed the commission as current Commander Meredith McQuagge and Vice Commander Gus Siniinger presented a plaque to Valparaiso Mayor Bruce Arnold, declaring Valparaiso to be a "Purple Heart City." Houston said the plaque was awarded to the city as a way for wounded military veterans to "give back" to the city for the support the city has provided to local veterans, military personnel and their families. After the presentation, MOPH members shook hands with city officials.

In other business, Arnold presented the commission with a proclamation announcing that a general election will be held in the city of Valparaiso on March 11, 2014, with a polling place at the first Baptist Church of Valparaiso, 444 Valparaiso Pkwy., for the purpose of electing a mayor and two city commissioners.



This deteriorating house at 59 Kelly Way, Valparaiso, was one of two dwellings that are the subject of possible condemnation proceedings by the city of Valparaiso, according to proceedings during a city commission meeting Monday.

The proclamation also stated that any qualified elector of the city of Valparaiso may qualify to run for election to the above offices. Candidate qualification forms will be available at Valparaiso City Hall, and will be accepted by the city clerk from noon, Dec. 30, 2013, until noon, Jan. 3, 2014.

All residents desiring to vote in the election must be registered on the voter registration books of Okaloosa County no later than Feb. 10, 2014.

In addition to the mayoralty, commission seats on the ballot will include those currently held by Diane Kelley and Heyward Strong.

Valparaiso resident Joe Cobb also addressed the commission during Monday's meeting, briefing commissioners on recent activities of the city's planning commission and visioning committee. Cobb said that both organizations, made up of volunteer residents appointed by the city commission, are recommending that the city abolish or rezone the city's historical district and some residential areas along John Sims Parkway, to limited commercial or mixed-use zoning, in order to allow the owners of properties in those areas more flexibility in renovating their property, or to open small businesses, thus boosting the city's economy.

Cobb also commended visioning committee chairwoman Jill White and other committee members for their work in drafting a vision statement to guide the city's efforts to plan for the future. He said the visioning

committee has also prepared a survey to be sent to city residents in early 2014, to solicit input from residents about how they would like to see the city improve itself during the next 20 years or more.



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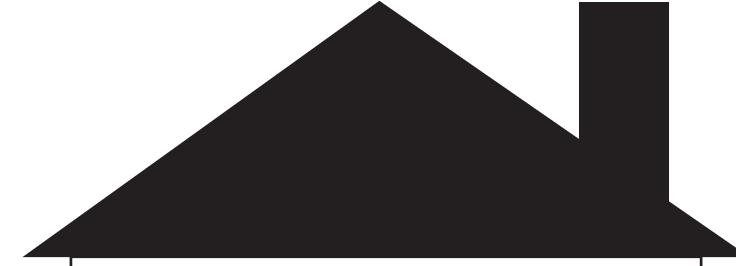
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CRASH

From page A-1

Kirkland said that the FWC responded to the incident, along with members of the Niceville Fire Department and the sheriff's office. They retrieved the body and found "quite a bit of debris consistent with a boat collision," Kirkland said. The wind had been from the south or south-east most of Friday and the

previous night.

Kirkland said that the dead woman first found was that of Evanoff. A taxi receipt was found in her pocket, indicating that a cab had dropped three people off at Legendary Marine on Thursday night.

Kirkland said that the Coast Guard also arrived on the scene Friday, and remained into Saturday.

A search of the area found a place where a vessel had apparently struck pilings on

the west side of the Mid-Bay Bridge just south of the channel. Kirkland said there have been no reports of structural damage to the bridge itself.

The FWC, said Kirkland, brought side-scan sonar equipment to the bridge and used it to find additional wreckage. A dive team from the FWC arrived Friday. Operating from a Coast Guard vessel, it located two more bodies just before sundown Saturday. One of those was that of Williams,

the boat's registered owner, who would have been 48 on Dec. 9, according to Kirkland. The third victim was Beltz, according to the FWC.

It was not known who was at the helm at the time of the crash.

Kirkland said search operations were terminated after the third body was found. He said that investigators are now trying to determine where the victims had been and what they had been doing prior to

the crash, along with weather conditions at the time of the accident and any other facts and circumstances that would help determine the cause.

Kirkland also said that the FWC is trying to recover computers that may have been installed in the engines of the boat, a 34-foot "Cobalt," which Kirkland described as a smaller version of a "go-fast" or "cigarette" boat, a type of recreational boat designed for speed. Kirkland said that

many modern boat engines come with computers installed inside them, which record data such as engine rpm, which might be useful in determining how the boat had been operated before and at the time of the crash, and other information useful to the investigation.

Kirkland said that in fatal boat accidents, a full investigation can often take months to complete and produce final conclusions.

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

What do you think about the Niceville Eagles winning the semi-final football playoff and going on to play in the state championship?

Location: NHS Stadium



"They worked hard this year, and had one tough loss, but their late comeback tonight proves they belong in the state championship."



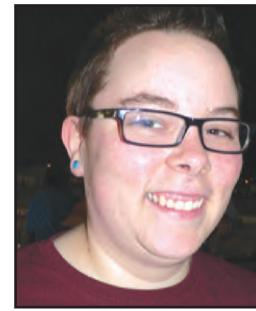
"I'm a 1986 Niceville High School graduate, and flew here tonight from Idaho, just to see this game and visit my family, in that order."



"I think Niceville's awesome, and we're going to win."



"I think it's awesome."



"I think it's pretty awesome. I graduated in 2003, and it's pretty nice to see them doing well."



"It's probably the greatest thing I've ever experienced. I'm just glad to be a part of the team."

Huston Myers, 48,
Niceville,
US Air Force

Michael Lawrence, 45,
Mountain Home Air
Force Base, Idaho,
U.S. Air Force

Ashley Lane, 14,
Niceville,
Niceville High School
student

Kathy Harper,
Niceville,
teacher

Tifney Ryals, 29,
Denver, Colorado,
veterinary technician

Kevin Cruz, 18,
Eglin Air Force Base,
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student and football player

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From page A-1

fall," Thrush said. "Removal of this zone of choice removes the requirement that the OCSD provide transportation for these students. It does not prevent any of the 20 students from continuing to attend Destin Middle School on an attendance waiver."

The Niceville dual zone was carved out of an exclusive Ruckel zone some years ago when it appeared that enrollment at then-new Destin Middle School by Destin students was too low to justify its existence.

Now, however, the picture has changed, Thrush stated. "Currently Destin Middle School has an enrollment over 650 students. Both Meigs and Pryor middle schools have lower enrollment. The cost avoidance from the removal of this zone of choice could be used toward the purchase of additional security cameras on buses or towards the purchase of a new standard bus that is more fuel-efficient, air-conditioned, and equipped with

improved safety features such as seatbelts."

Although Thrush's proposal could not be voted upon during last Thursday's discussion-only workshop, it was eligible to come to a vote during the regular school board meeting scheduled for Dec. 9, where it failed when no member seconded her motion.

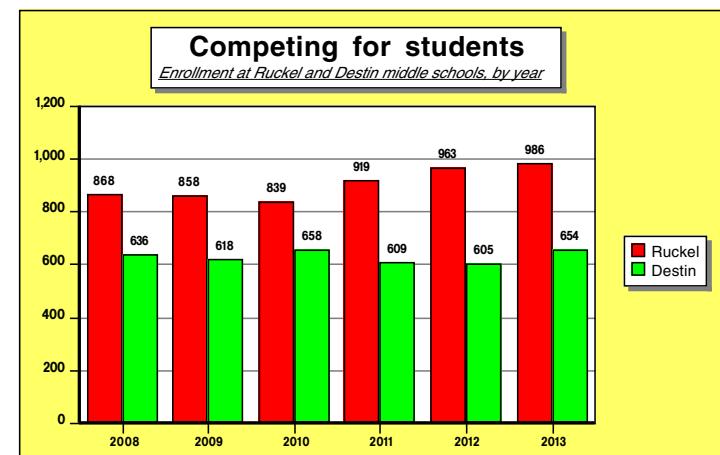
The proposal did not get a warm reception from fellow school board members when Thrush presented it Thursday, though no one disputed her cost estimates.

School board member Dewey Destin said that he had received no complaints about the current shared student attendance zone, and did not see a need for what he called "another disruption" for what he said would be small or no financial savings.

School board Chairman Rodney Walker said he thought such a decision should be left to Schools Superintendent Mary Beth Jackson, or at least not made by the school board without first consulting with Jackson. "It seems irregular and foolish to get into this until the superintendent and her staff recommend it," Walker said.

"Until the superintendent and her staff do a study, I'll be against it," said Walker, "because it doesn't make any sense. Maybe there would be a completely different plan after a study."

Thrush replied that she had already discussed the proposal with some members of the school district staff, and said, "I



have a hard time spending money when we already offer families a good choice."

In other business during last Thursday's workshop, Superintendent Jackson said that Dr. Diane Kelley, principal of Destin Middle School, will be moving to a new position as Principal Evaluation System and Aspiring Principal Program Director for the Okaloosa School District.

Following the workshop, Jackson explained to the Beacon that Kelley's new assignment will be to train serving and new principals on how to be better executives and evaluators of teachers. She said that it is often difficult for classroom teachers to make the transition to become school principals or administrators. That transition, she said, often requires additional training and education, as well as advice and guidance from someone with prior experience in such jobs.

Jackson said that in addition to training new principals and

administrators, Kelley's responsibilities will also include identifying and recruiting classroom teachers who are likely to make good administrators or principals in the future.

The consent agenda slated to be approved during the Dec. 9 regular school board meeting includes certification requirements and issuance of contracts to be presented by Karen Peek, the Okaloosa School District's Program Director of Teacher Evaluation/Certification. Peek is a former classroom teacher, and is also former president of the Okaloosa County Education Association, the school district's teachers union and local branch of the National Education Association.

Although Peek, of Bluewater Bay, did not attend last Thursday's workshop, Jackson said that she had left her post as union president last May, following the March election of Elaine Crump, a Niceville High School English and literature teacher, as the new president.

Jackson said that Peek had been moved to her new job in charge of teacher evaluation and certification because Peek "knows the concerns of Okaloosa teachers," and is well-qualified to manage the evaluation process for teachers throughout the district. Jackson said that Peek is a good "quality assurance person," who is well-qualified to ensure that teachers get the evaluation process they need.

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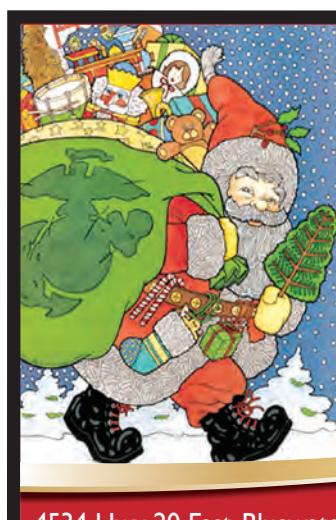
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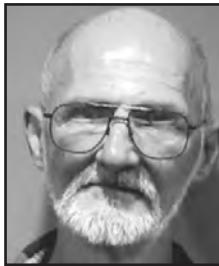
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Weight: 200 lbs
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Blue



Wanted as of: 11/18/2013
Failure to Register as a Sexual Offender
Name: Daniel Joseph Peterson
Sex: Male
Race: Caucasian
DOB: 03/09/1951
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Weight: 170 lbs
Hair: Gray
Eyes: Brown
Peterson's last known address was in Crestview.

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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

Robert Malcolm Johnson, Jr., 22, of 1208 Finck Rd., Niceville, was arrested Nov. 23 for knowingly driving while driver's license suspended/revoke, habitual offender. On Nov. 23, a Niceville police officer observed Johnson driving a black GMC pickup truck with an obscured license plate. The officer made a traffic stop, and discovered that the license plate was expired. When the officer requested Johnson's drivers license, Johnson volunteered that he did not have one, also stating that he is a habitual offender. A check of Johnson's driving record revealed that his last driver's license suspension was Oct. 22, 2013.

James Kevin Franklin, a brick mason, 34, of 347 Edge Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested Nov. 25 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription (eight counts), and possession of marijuana.

On Nov. 25, a Valparaiso police officer responded to the Hilltop Motel in reference to a possible drug overdose. Upon arrival, the officer detected the odor of burnt marijuana emitting from a motel room.



James Kevin Franklin
Franklin
the television was on, and also observed Franklin lying on the bed. The officer entered the room to check Franklin's welfare.

Franklin admitted to smoking marijuana earlier in the evening, but denied possessing any other illegal substances. However, Franklin gave verbal consent for a search of the room, which was recorded with audio and video on the police officer's body camera. A search revealed a plastic containing suspected marijuana, and six pills that were later identified as Xanax. The officer also found two small packages of Suboxone, identified as a prescription narcotic. The suspected marijuana, which weighed about 2.2 grams, was field tested and yielded a positive result for the presence of THC, the active ingredient in the drug.

On Nov. 27, Micheal Alexander Sherman, unemployed, 23, of 219 Deer St., Niceville, was arrested by Valparaiso police for furnishing a firearm to a minor under 18 years of age, and dealing in



Micheal A. Sherman

THE BAY BEACON

Fire Department Reports

Niceville



The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from Dec. 1, 2013 through Dec. 8, 2013.

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Grand Oak Dr.	Medical	12/1/13	01:12
White St.	Medical	12/1/13	02:38
Chicago Ave.	Cancelled en route	12/1/13	15:14
Date Palm Dr.	Medical	12/1/13	16:57
E. College Blvd.	Medical	12/1/13	18:31
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	12/1/13	19:13
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Smoke scare	12/1/13	21:03
Willow Ln.	Medical	12/2/13	05:40
Pine Ave.	Medical	12/2/13	09:35
Marquette St.	Medical	12/2/13	12:22
E. College Blvd.	Medical	12/2/13	13:23
3rd Street	Medical	12/3/13	01:02
Linda Ct.	Medical	12/3/13	01:15
Als Dr.	Medical	12/3/13	04:37
Niceville Ave.	Illegal burning	12/3/13	08:43
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	12/3/13	21:45
Peachtree Way	Medical	12/3/13	23:48
N. Partin/R. Palm Blvd.	Vehicle crash	12/4/13	07:48
Partin/Joh Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	12/4/13	17:18
N. SR 285	Vehicle crash	12/5/13	03:27
Longleaf Ct.	Alarm activation	12/5/13	05:03
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	12/5/13	09:03
Date Palm Dr.	Medical	12/5/13	12:18
Plumosa Palm Dr.	Alarm activation	12/5/13	16:06
Madison St.	Medical	12/6/13	21:22
23rd Street	Service call	12/6/13	05:04
Coldwater Creek Cr.	Alarm activation	12/6/13	08:19
SR 85/SR 123	Vehicle crash	12/6/13	09:31
Yacht Club Dr.	Medical	12/6/13	14:08
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	12/6/13	14:54
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	12/6/13	19:01
22nd Street	Medical	12/7/13	01:05
33rd Street	Medical	12/7/13	03:49
Campbell Dr.	Medical	12/7/13	13:51
Island Ln.	Medical	12/7/13	13:54
Bayshore Dr.	Medical	12/7/13	17:14
Nathay Ave.	Medical	12/8/13	04:54
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	12/8/13	09:21
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	12/8/13	09:24
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	12/8/13	22:33

Weekly Safety Tip: Keep decorations, lights, candles and plants out of the reach of children and pets. Plants such as holly, mistletoe and poinsettias can be harmful to children and pets.

Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook

North Bay



The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from December 2, 2013 through December 8, 2013.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Glenburn Ct.	Medical	12/2/13	02:49
Oakmont Pl.	Medical	12/2/13	08:41
Merchants Way	Medical	12/2/13	09:44
E. Hwy. 20	Medical	12/2/13	12:44
W. Parkwood Ln.	Medical alarm activation	12/2/13	13:04
Bay Dr.	Animal rescue	12/2/13	13:28
Skipjack Cove	Alarm system sounded	12/2/13	15:33
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	12/2/13	19:58
Hwy. 20 E.	Medical	12/2/13	23:08
48th Street	Dispatched & cancelled	12/3/13	01:28
Merchants Way	Medical	12/3/13	07:02
Water Treatment Plant	Gas leak	12/3/13	09:57
Garden Oaks Cove	Public assist	12/3/13	17:56
Caribbean Way	Public assist	12/3/13	18:32
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	12/3/13	21:31
Lancaster Dr/da Coon	Vehicle accident	12/4/13	08:02
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	12/4/13	15:48
Hwy. 20 E.	Medical	12/4/13	17:27
Bay Dr/Hwy. 20	Dispatched & cancelled	12/4/13	20:24
N. St. Andrews	Medical	12/5/13	09:21
W. Canterbury Cove	Smoke/Odor removal	12/5/13	11:16
E. Hwy 20	Dispatched & cancelled	12/5/13	14:23
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	12/5/13	15:25
Windward Cir.	Medical assist	12/6/13	10:21
N. White Point Rd.	Medical assist	12/6/13	13:46
N. White Point Rd.	Medical assist	12/6/13	16:05
Parkwood Ct.	EMS call	12/7/13	21:04
Windlake Dr.	EMS call	12/7/13	21:28
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	12/8/13	09:35
Emerald Coast Pkwy.	Dispatched & cancelled	12/8/13	21:11

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

Valparaiso



The Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department responded to the following calls during the month of November, 2013

Location	Situation	Date	Time
Glendale Ave.	Med. alert alarm	11/2/13	15:48
Jasmine Ave.	Animal bite	11/2/13	18:07
Mississippi Ave.	Traumatic injury	11/6/13	15:38
Kelly Mill Rd.	Chest pain	11/9/13	23:49
S. Nordberg Ave.	Abdominal	11/12/13	22:04
N. John Sims Pkwy.	Fire alarm	11/15/13	16:01
Iowa St.	Fire alarm	11/16/13	20:59
Washington Ave.	Abdominal	11/17/13	11:39
S. John Sims Pkwy.	Fall	11/18/13	10:02
Highland St.	Fire alarm	11/18/13	20:05
Eglin Gate(North)	Mutual Aid	11/21/13	15:55
N. John Sims Pkwy.	Fire alarm	11/25/13	15:42
S. John Sims Pkwy.	Sick call	11/25/13	17:46
Valparaiso Pkwy.	OD/Poison	11/25/13	22:55
Toms Bayou Bridge	Boat vs bridge	11/26/13	08:07
S. John Sims Pkwy.	Sick call	11/26/13	17:13
Edge Ave.	Unconscious	11/28/13	19:10
N. John Sims Pkwy.	Choking	11/29/13	18:35
Toms Bayou Bridge	Boat vs bridge	11/30/13	10:17
Edge Ave.	Unconscious	11/30/13	15:36



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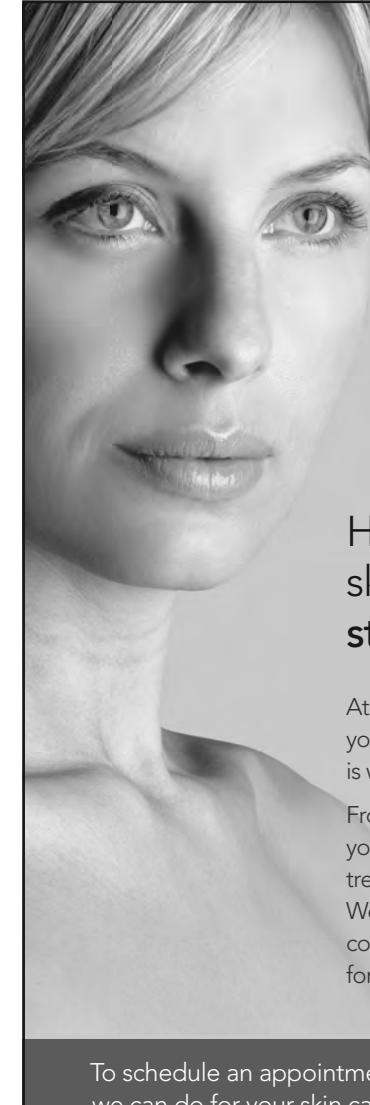
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Fungal Infections	Wrinkles

Okaloosa aims to buy more land for reservoir at Shoal River

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Okaloosa County Commission heard a briefing from county water and sewer director Jeff Littrell concerning plans to create a reservoir near the Shoal River, in order to use surface water as a supplemental source of drinking water for Okaloosa County in the future.

Currently, Littrell said, the county relies on wells drilled into

the underlying ground Floridan Aquifer, but that source is becoming depleted and will not be adequate to meet all the county's future needs.

Speaking at a commission



Jeff Littrell

meeting Dec. 3 in Crestview, Littrell said the county is planning a land purchase of about 700 acres along the Shoal River; land currently owned by the Highfield Timber Company.

Originally, he said, the deal was to be funded by the Northwest Florida Water Management District, but the money for the purchase was recently cut from the budget by the district's new director.

Littrell said he thinks Okaloosa

County can still fund the purchase with defense infrastructure grant money from Enterprise Florida. He said he hopes to obtain help from Eglin Air Force Base officials in obtaining the grants, since the land purchase will also benefit the Air Force's desire to protect Eglin Air Force Base and Duke Field from encroachment by other forms of development.

He said the county already owns about 350 acres along the

Shoal River, and that he hopes to receive enough grant money to fund the 700-acre purchase, which he estimated will cost between \$800,000 and \$1.2 million. He did not give costs for development of the reservoir itself.

In addition to obtaining grant money, said Littrell, the county must also obtain appraisals of the targeted land, and negotiate a purchase price with the timber company.

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

Superior Residences of Niceville

The area's community for memory care

Advertising Feature

After opening their doors in December 2009, Superior Residences of Niceville has made a name for themselves as the area's community of choice for Alzheimer's and dementia care. "It takes time to build trust and foster relationships", says Elizabeth Rambow, Superior's Senior Solutions Director. Today, Superior is recognized by the healthcare community at large as the community of choice when it comes to caring for those with memory care needs.

Superior's staff is specially trained to care for those with dementia. Their community was specifically designed to create a residential environment that is both comfortable and soothing to their memory care residents. Notably, Superior Residences is the only assisted living community in the area that has a nurse on duty 24/7 to administer medication and monitor their residents' care. "By specializing in memory care on every level, we are recognized as the best at what we do. We are proud of the reputation that we have earned," states Shelley Kaiser, Area Senior Executive Director.

As the area leader in memory



Superior Residences of Niceville has made a name for themselves as the area's community of choice for Alzheimer's and dementia care.

care, Superior Residences of Niceville offers various programs to their families and to the community. Superior Residences hosts a Spouses Support Group which meets at Joey Tomato's on the second Tuesday of every month at 3 p.m. Elizabeth Rambow stated,

"After attending other support group meetings, I saw the need to offer a special support group to the spouses of those living with dementia. Their needs were different than their children's needs and were not being met at these general support groups. With this new group, they were able to have conversations specific to issues between husbands and wives without having their grown children at the meeting. The spouses support group has meant so much to them, and it has helped to ease the suffering and guilt that so many of them are going through." We welcome any spouses needing support to attend.

Superior Residences of Niceville is hosting an eight part Caregivers Seminar which meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at Superior Residences at 6 p.m. These Caregiver Seminar Series meetings have been so heavily

attended that we are now requiring RSVP's to guarantee space for attendance. Attendees learn about all the different aspects of Alzheimer's and dementia care, so they can better understand how to help their loved one and understand the disease process.

These meetings are open to the public, and we welcome you to come and learn.

December 20th Superior Residences is hosting a Christmas Open House

from 1-4 p.m. We are inviting the community to come and learn more about our services and how we can help those affected with Alzheimer's and dementia. For more information or to RSVP for the Christmas Open House, please contact us at 897-2244.

Superior Residences of Niceville is proud to be a part of the Niceville community, and we look forward to helping those affected with all types of memory care needs.



"We are proud of the reputation that we have earned," states Shelley Kaiser, Area Senior Executive Director.

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Lewis All-County Band selectees

All-County Honor Band auditions were held Nov. 20 for Okaloosa County middle school students and Lewis School, with the smallest middle school population in the district, had the second highest number of students selected to the All-County Honor Band with a total of 17. Twelve of them placed in the top five of their sections, and seven of those in the top three. Pictured in first row from left, Jadyn Richardson, Faith Fry, Tacy Colón, Grayson Kramer, Jasmine Richardson, Noah Shaw, Danielle Davis, Jessica Jones and Haley Pratt. Second row from left, Randy Roberts, Derrick Mason, Andrew Colón, Bella Devoid, Ian Zegouros, Jacob Hohman, Peregrine Conroy-Baarsch and Clay Williams. The Lewis band director is Robert Colón. Lewis Band will be performing their annual winter concert on Dec. 17 at 6 p.m.

RBCS students surpass shoebox goal

Rocky Bayou Christian School's chapters of the National Senior and Junior Beta Clubs have finished their fall service project. They joined with Samaritan's Purse and collected 171 boxes for Operation Christmas Child which were delivered to a local distribution center before Thanksgiving. Senior Beta President, Alyssa Slagle set the goal to double the amount of boxes collected last year, and was very pleased that the school surpassed that mark. Pictured from left, Izabella Foreman, Laura Hudson and Alyssa Slagle.



NWFC recognizes summer term graduates

Northwest Florida State College would like to recognize summer term 2013 graduates, including honors graduates. Three hundred sixty-one (361) individuals completed studies at the college during the summer term that ended in August.

For students enrolled in a degree program (Baccalaureate and Associate) at the time of graduation, a student's total academic record is reviewed to determine eligibility for recognition of outstanding academic achievement. The levels of recognition for stu-

Associate in Arts Degree
Freeport: Katelyn Beatty
Graduates earning Cum Laude, a grade point average of 3.50-3.79 include:

Bachelor of Science

Niceville: Brittany Michelle Smith.

Associate in Arts Degree

Niceville: Luiana Denise Airosa Livulo, Cody Michael Anderson, Janice J. Anglin, Kyle McDorman, Cullen Joseph Schmitz, Rebecca J. Stacey, Elizabeth Mary Wilson.

Graduates earning Highest Honors, a grade point average of 4.0, include:

Applied Technology

Diploma

Valparaiso: Tara A. Lord.
Technical Certificate
Niceville: Amie M. Parker. Graduates earning Honors, a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.79, include:

Technical Certificate

Niceville: Rebecca L. Jones.
Vocational Certificate

Niceville: Jacob Lynn Racer, Brent Wesley Thurman.

Students who successfully completed the requirements for a Degree or Certificate include:

Bachelor of Applied Science

Niceville: Robert Michael Austin, Jeffery Wade Braget, Catherine Marie Remar.

Bachelor of Science

Niceville: Cathleen C. Hoffman.

Associate in Applied Science

Niceville: Kristen Losinger.

Associate in Arts Degree

Niceville: Patrick Timothy

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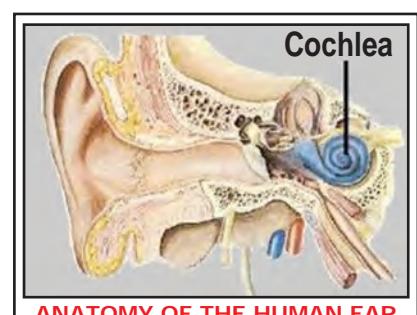
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Seniors with hearing loss are significantly more likely to develop dementia over time than those who retain their hearing, a study by Johns Hopkins and the National Institute on Aging researchers suggests. "Researchers have looked at what affects hearing loss, but few have looked at how hearing loss affects cognitive brain function," says study leader Frank Lin, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor in the Division of Otolaryngology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

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NWFSC Raiders visit Bluewater

Mrs. Koger and Mrs. Lafitte's first graders from Bluewater Elementary School had special guests from Northwest Florida College's baseball team right before Thanksgiving holiday break. The players came and read stories to the students and talked with the students about the importance of working hard and getting good grades and being involved in sports.



Parrot Head Clubs donate scholarships

The Emerald Coast Parrot Head Club presented two \$1,000 scholarships Nov. 11 to students at Northwest Florida State College. Pictured from left, scholarship recipient Dana Wright, Carla Reinlie, the Associate Director of College Advancement at Northwest Florida State College; Parrot Head President Hank Bittmann and scholarship recipient Caleb King.



New resource officer at Edge

Deputy Danny Dean is the new resource officer at Edge Elementary. He has also taken over the safety patrol and has named Zoe Habblett as this year's Captain of the Squad.

EAGLES

From page B-4

tion to McCants, and then an impressive play that had McCants in as quarterback who handed it back off to Hooker so he could fire it to Willis just seconds before the end of the half, giving them a 21-9 lead.

The Cowboys came back with more grit and determination and narrowed the gap in the third quarter. Eagle's defense, another crucial ingredient to this season's success, held them off, even within four yards, several times, but they still managed to tighten the game. Another big pass completion from Hooker to Stove pushed the Eagles up 28-24 midway through the fourth, but a clock burning drive by

Osceola that ended with a touchdown gave them a 30-28 lead with just two minutes remaining.

They kicked off to the Eagles and Stove gave an explosive return that landed the ball on the Osceola 25 with just under two minutes to go. The offense worked their way to the four yard line before bringing in Zach Bailey for the field goal. His kick gave them the lead, and then he came back out on the field for a critical kick off that had to ensure that the Cowboys did not run it back for the game. The special teams were able to bring down the receiver mid-field, and the game was over.

Head Coach John Hicks spoke to the back and forth nature of the game:

"What a game, they hit us, we hit them, our guys just never quit, and we made the last big play," said Head Coach John Hicks. "They've done everything we've asked them to do, they've met every challenge, we've got one more, we're certainly not content, we're going down there to play our best."

The Eagles will travel to Orlando this Friday to play in the State Championship at the Orange Bowl Stadium in a rematch against Dwyer High School. The two teams faced off in 2009 for the title, but the Eagles came home runner up. This year, the Eagles plan on a different outcome, one that results in a State Title, the first in 25 years for Niceville. Kick off is at 7:07 EST.

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Correction

Two calendar entries published Dec. 4 for the Lewis School Band winter concert and the Lewis School Chorus concert contained incorrect dates. The date for the band concert should have read Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. The date for the chorus concert should have read Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

CALENDAR
E-mail items to
info@baybeacon.com**Got fines?**

Do you have library fines? Start the new year off right with a clean conscience.

The Niceville Public Library will be accepting canned goods and non-perishable food items in December for Sharing & Caring in lieu of fines. These items will help families in our community enjoy this holiday season.

The value of the canned goods and non-perishable food items should be close to the amount of the fine owed.

Sharing & Caring

Sharing & Caring is accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys for children ages 5 through 12. New bicycles and bicycle helmets are always very much appreciated. Also, families are available to adopt for Christmas and children's gifts.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to Noon on Friday.

Call 678-8459 for more information.

Play ball

Register for baseball and softball online with a \$10 discount from now through Dec. 13 at nvllb.net. On sight registration will be Dec. 14 and Jan. 11 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Edge Elementary School. This is a new registration location.

Benefit book sale

The Friends of the Niceville Library book store will be having a half price sale during the month of

December. The book store is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Books and audio will be half price for the month. Book store will be closed Dec. 24 and 31. Proceeds from sales benefit the Niceville Public Library.

Niceville Library Christmas

The Friends of the Niceville Public Library and staff will host a patron appreciation party Dec. 11, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at the library, 206 Partin Drive N, Niceville.

There will be finger foods, goodies and punch.

Lewis School Chorus concert

The Lewis School Chorus will hold its Winter Concert Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m., in the Taylor Haugen Gym, at the Lewis School. This concert has been rescheduled from the 17 due to a conflict with district sports schedules. Contact 833-4130.

Seniors meet

Twin Cities Senior Citizens Club 268 Glenview Ave., Valparaiso. Will meet Dec. 12 at 1 p.m.

Entrée is provided. Please bring a covered dish to share. We have games, good food and fun.

For information call 543-0869.

Health insurance tutorial

The Niceville Public Library will have a representative on site Dec. 12 and 18, to assist individuals with questions concerning Health Insurance Marketplace.

Prior appointment needed. To schedule an appointment please call Ms. Brown at 888-390-5131 or by email navigator@familiescount.net.

DAR meets

Choctawhatchee Bay Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will meet at the First Presbyterian Church, 134 Beal Parkway S.W., Fort Walton Beach at 10 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 12.

Program will be a patriotic tribute to the flag, with guest musicians. DAR is open to all women who are lineally descended from a Revolutionary War Patriot. 796-0783.

Aglow meets

Aglow will have its December meeting on Thursday, Dec. 12, at Marina Bay Resort, 80 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach. Coffee and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10 a.m., a time of food, fellowship, and ministry. Please bring a dish to share.

For more information contact Robin Williamson at 862-4867 or Debra Kearney at 678-7213.

Associate in Science

Niceville: Talina Juanita Garcia.

Applied Technology Diploma

Niceville: Leah M. Hebert. Technical Certificate

Niceville: Nicholas A. Brunial, Patrick Dermody, Colby Fanto, Cary Dawn Kennedy, Chelsey Leugers, Charles Edward Mays, Jose Manuel Negron, Robert Ty Reid, Jany Marques Youngs. Valparaiso: Samantha A. Forrester.

Vocational Certificate

Niceville: Caitlyn Casal; Jacob I. Hamilton.

Valparaiso: Jonathan William Mol.

Freeport: Jordan Varner.

were her gallant comrades. The loss of her mother this last year made things exceptionally difficult for her.

As her mother was her life long companion, the two were devoted to each other. They were inseparable. Their love and devotion for one another was unrivaled. Now they are forever together in that which lies beyond.

Miss Broussard is predeceased by her mother, Talmadge Delano Hart Broussard; Maternal grandparents Farris J. and Talmadge S. Hart of Florida; Paternal grandparents Louis Edwin Broussard Sr. and Gloria Mae Owings Broussard of Texas.

Miss Broussard is survived by her father, Louis Edwin Broussard II and Maxine of Youngstown, Ohio, her sister Heather D. Garner and husband Michael W. Sr.; nephews Brice E. Kyzer and Michael W. Garner Jr., all of Gulf Breeze, along with several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Miss Broussard's wishes were to be cremated. A memorial service will be held at Turkey Creek Pavilion, Niceville, on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 11 a.m.



Laura Eve Broussard

Obituary**Laura Eve Broussard**
1972-2013

Miss Laura Eve Broussard was welcomed into our world on Aug. 16, 1972 in Fulton County, Ga. by her parents Talmadge Delano Hart Broussard and Louis Edwin Broussard II. She departed from us on Dec. 1, in Gulf Breeze.

Miss Broussard, affectionately known by her friends as "Evie," was known for her love of art and animals. Although she had suffered since the age of five with rheumatoid arthritis, she never stopped trying to sketch and paint what she felt in her heart. Much of her art portrayed her perception of the world. Her continuous array of pets

THE BAY BEACON**Yule of Yesterday celebration**

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida will present the Yule of Yesteryear, a traditional holiday celebration, Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The VivaFlorida 500 time capsule will be ceremonially sealed at 1 p.m. and there will be Christmas shopping with craft vendors, Christmas choirs and food vendors, crafts for kids and pictures with Santa. 678-2615.

Living nativity and hayride

Take a ride through the story of Christ on Dec. 13-15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Valparaiso Assembly of God, 571 Valparaiso Parkway.

There will be cookies and hot cocoa for participants as well as an interactive hayride that chronicles the life of Jesus. This event is free.

For more info, please contact 678-4040.

Ruckel family night

Register now for our Ruckel Middle School's Family Night FUNdraiser Friday, Dec. 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the

Ruckel Cafeteria. \$30 for craft, pre-register \$35 at the door. Pizza and subs for small charge

Bring your family and work together to create a wonderful burlap snowman craft for the holidays. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for dinner. Everyone welcome.

Contact Angela Reigelsperger at 585-281-0405 for information.

Holiday Pops'

Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra will perform its annual "Holiday Pops" concert Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center at Northwest Florida State College, 100 College Blvd.,

Niceville.

Tickets are \$22.50 each for adults, \$16 for Active Duty Military and children 18 and under. NWFS students may obtain one free admission per ID, in person from the box office.

Purchase tickets at mattiekellyartscenter.org, 729-6000 or at the box office Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sweet tea and laughter lunch

Join Melinda Rainey Thompson at a "Southern Christmas Humor" luncheon at Northwest Florida State College's Costa Leadership Room on Friday, Dec. 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to benefit Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center (ECCAC).

Sponsored by Gulf Power, the limited seating luncheon is \$20 per person. The Costa Leadership Institute is located in the Student Services Building on the NWFSU campus. Please call 833-9237, Ext. 222 for reservations. For further information on ECCAC, visit eccac.org.

Author signing

Local author Charles Williams will be signing copies of his book "In Close Proximity" at Bayou Book Co. on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 11-2 p.m. For more info, 678-1593.

Genealogy Society meets

The December Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County meeting and Christmas luncheon will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14, 10:30-12, at the Coach -N- Four Restaurant, 114 John King Rd., Crestview.

For more information call Val Moreland 243 0352.

Magical performance

A return engagement of magic, illusion and more by one of the world's best illusionist teams, "Spencers Art of Illusion" appears Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. as a special family-friendly national touring event at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center of Northwest Florida State College in Niceville.

Tickets are \$25 adults and \$20 for youth age 18 and younger.

Contact the Box Office at 729-6000 or mattiekellyartscenter.org. There is a \$2 per ticket Box Office processing fee.

Yule of Yesteryear

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida will present the Yule of Yesteryear, a traditional holiday celebration, Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The VivaFlorida 500 time cap-

sule will be ceremonially sealed at 1 p.m. Victorian Teas will be at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., preregistration required for teas, as well as Christmas shopping with craft vendors, Christmas choirs and food vendors, crafts for kids, and pictures with Santa.

Call 678-2615 for more info.

Boggy boat parade

The Holiday Boggy Boat Parade will be Dec. 14 at the Northlight Marina from 5-8 p.m. The event is free, and there will be a special V.I.P viewing area with food and drinks for \$10.

For more info call 259-4956 or visit northlightmarina.com.

Chorus carols

The Niceville High School Chorus will present their annual holiday concert, "A Wreath of Carols," on Monday, Dec. 16, at Rocky Bayou Baptist Church. Tickets are \$10. Performance time is 7 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at Bayou Books or Southern Agenda. Contact the Chorus Dept. at 833-4262 for more information.

The Bay Beacon & Beacon Express

1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, Florida 32578
(850) 678-1080
info@baybeacon.com
Fax 1-888-520-9323

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Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

NHS has six sign for scholarships

The Niceville High School girls softball team had six young women signing for college scholarships Dec. 4. Pictured, from left, Alexis Brunson, Christina Ramirez, Audrey Diekmann, Libby Davis, Jessie Mullen and Aja Brechtel.

Niceville Eagles edge out Osceola Cowboys 31-30, head to State Championship

By Sarah Clauson
Beacon Correspondent

Friday night the Eagles edged out the Osceola Cowboys and earned a spot in the State Championship with a victory that will go down as one of the most exciting games in Niceville history. The winning field goal with seven seconds left in the game kicked by Zach Bailey sealed the victory after a hard fought effort by the entire team, and community.

The Eagles will travel to Orlando this Friday to play in the State Championship at the Orange Bowl Stadium in a rematch against Dwyer High School.

The dedication, talent, and heart of the 2013 team earned championship buzz from the start of their season. After 12 wins and one loss, the Eagles faced off against the Osceola Cowboys, just one last opponent before a ticket to State. Both teams came to play and they fought tooth and nail for the coveted spot in the final.

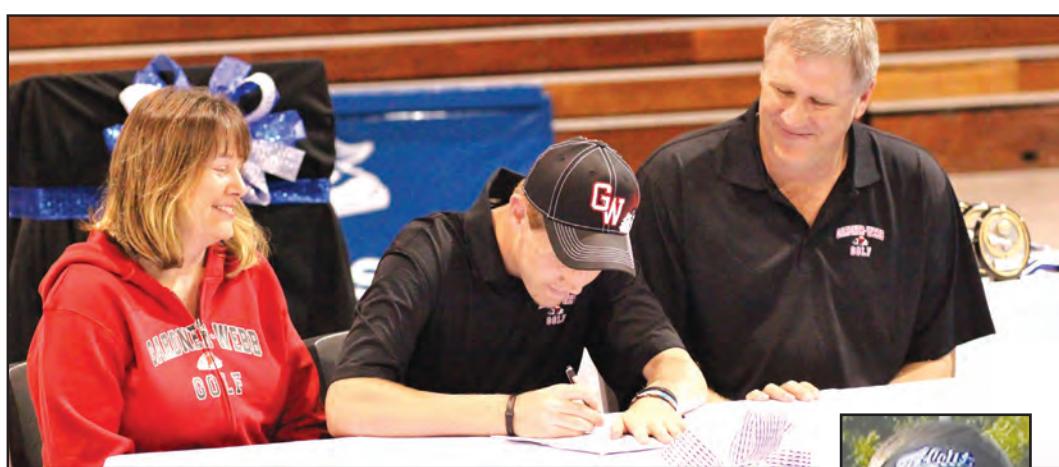
Soon into the game the Cowboys keyed in on a couple of Niceville's major players, Tyree McCants and Tayjon



The Niceville Eagles rolled over Osceola last Friday as the last obstacle that stood between them and the State Championships. The Eagles will be heading to Orlando to play in the Florida State Championship Football game Friday, Dec. 13. Pictured, Tyree McCants steps in as quarterback, reverses back to Chandler Hooker, who connects with Aaron Willis for a touchdown with 18 seconds left in the half to bring the Eagle lead up to 21-9.

Culley, but one of the critical keys to this team's success has been the depth of talent. When one player is immobilized, by either injury or an opponent, another steps up. In this game, it was sophomore receiver Eli Stove and junior receiver Aaron Willis. Osceola earned the first points of the game with a field goal in the second quarter, but the Eagles responded just seconds later with a huge completion from Ashton Hooker to

Please see EAGLES, page B-2



Rocky senior signs golf scholarship

Rocky Bayou Christian School golf team captain, Jason Rogers, recently signed with the NCAA Division 1 Gardner Webb University golf team for the fall of 2014. Jason visited GWU this past summer and found it a perfect fit for him and for his academic goals. He plans to major in chemistry and then attend dental school.

RBCS seniors to play in All-Star

Rocky Bayou Christian School is pleased to announce that the Pensacola Sports Association has selected seniors Levi Derry and Tyler Paskell to participate in the 2013 Pensacola Sports Association High School All-Star Football Game.

Levi Derry



Tyler Paskell

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