

# The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-4

10 Pages, 2 Sections, 5 Inserts

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

50¢

**UP COMING**

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**Sat., 7 a.m.-5 p.m.**



The 2013 **Nature's Fury Challenge** will be held at the **Northwest Florida State College, Student Services Center, Niceville**. 729-5202. Story on B-1.

**Mon., 6 p.m.**

The **Niceville-Valparaiso Tea Party** and the Okaloosa County Republican Executive Committee will hold a joint meeting at Niceville City Hall. The speaker will be **State Sen. Don Gaetz**.



**Tues., 5-8 p.m.**

Learn to make a **woven rush chair seat** in a class at the **Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso**. Cost is \$55 or \$50 for members, materials included. Space is limited. 678-2615.



Calendar, B-2.

## President: College must change with times

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

Northwest Florida State College President Ty Handy spoke about his vision for the college during a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Florida State College Foundation. The foundation is the fundraising arm of the college.

The college's overall vision and strategy for the future, said Handy during a meeting Jan. 7 in Niceville, has changed during recent years. Five to 10 years ago, he said, Northwest Florida State College, like many other state colleges in Florida, was on a tra-

jectory to becoming a "quasi-university."

There was a trend for community colleges to develop and offer more four-year degree programs, he said, as Florida's regular four-year universities were reaching capacity. Some community colleges, including NWFSC, were even making plans to build dormitories to house full-time students on campus.

Today, Handy told the foundation directors, that vision is substantially different.



Ty Handy

"We are fortunate that we didn't actually build any residence halls," he said. "Those colleges that did are now struggling." Handy said that he was hired in 2010 as NWFSC president at about the same time as the "deconstruction" of the previous vision was taking place at the state level.

Now, Handy said, the college has a different vision. "We improve lives," he said, "and we focus on Okaloosa and Walton counties."

Today's emphasis, he said, is to make the programs offered by community col-

leges "relevant to students' wishes and to community needs." He also said that it is necessary for community colleges to make their programs "accessible to students from all walks of life." Some community and state colleges, he added, are even considering establishing academic programs within prisons.

A key to future success for community colleges such as NWFSC will lie in "engaging" students. "Active learning is successful learning," Handy said.

Handy told the foundation directors

Please see COLLEGE, page A-3

## Preparing for trash-schedule overhaul



Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

The city of Niceville's garbage-pickup contractor, Waste Management, is preparing to drop off yellow-topped, 96-gallon, wheeled recycling carts next month to homes in preparation for a reduced pickup schedule. With the new "Enhanced Recycling Program," garbage collection will be cut to once a week (from twice), with recyclables picked up on another day, also once a week, in the new yellow-topped carts. Customers may request smaller recycling carts, instead, by calling 729-4000. The new carts are scheduled for delivery the latter part of February, with a tentative implementation of March 1, according to the city. Residents may keep their old hand-carried recycling bins or put them out for pickup in late February. Valparaiso and unincorporated areas such as Bluewater Bay are not affected.

## Valp. man dies on base

Beacon Staff

A 31-year-old Valparaiso man died Jan. 8 after firefighting equipment dispensed foam in a hangar at Eglin Air Force Base.

Three other men were injured. All four men were civilian contractors working on the base when the foam accident occurred in the giant King Hangar.

Defense Support Services (DS2), which employs the contractors, identified the man who was killed as Jonathan "JD" Lord.

Two of the three injured were treated on base and released, according to base officials. The third was transported to a civilian clinic, treated, and released.

Lord, a tool and parts attendant, had been a contract

Please see DIES, page A-5

## City acts to postpone referendum

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

The Valparaiso City Commission tentatively postponed a referendum on a new city charter from March 11 to Aug. 26.

During a meeting Jan. 7, commissioners voted to reschedule the election. The new city ordinance rescheduling the election stated several reasons for doing so:

—When the election was originally scheduled for March 11, it was done so under the assumption that at least one of the candidate races in

Please see CITY, page A-3

## Design work for sidewalks on Rocky Bayou Dr. OK'd

### Commission also approves new airport police HQ

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

The Okaloosa County Commission has approved a grant agreement to fund design of a new sidewalk in Rocky Bayou.

During a meeting in Crestview Jan. 7, the commission also approved plans to build a police station at Northwest Florida Regional Airport but tabled a proposal to install a \$500,000 automated exit-security system at the county-operated airport. It also authorized an agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation to help fund the county transit system.

According to documents, the FDOT will pay \$26,213 toward design of the Rocky Bayou Drive Sidewalk Improvements Project. Design must be completed by Dec. 31. No county money will be required for the design phase.

The project was first submitted to the West Florida Regional Planning Council in 2000. It will consist of adding five-foot-wide

sidewalk along the south side of Rocky Bayou Drive from Forest Road to Huntington Circle in Niceville. The mile-long walkway would be built on county right of way, much of it adjacent to houses.

On the north side of the road is a vacant 1,100-acre tract, owned by Ruckel Properties, which is expected to be developed as homes and businesses in future years.

No timetable or costs were given for actual construction of the sidewalk, nor was there information on who would pay them.

The new airport police station, according to documents presented by county airports director Sunil Harman, "is to be located within the ticket lobby area of the existing terminal at the Northwest Florida Regional Airport for the purpose of providing a visible and accessible presence and serve as the location to file police complaints and obtain reports as well as to serve



Beacon photo

as the 'Lost and Found'."

Harman informed the commission that four bids were received for the project. Lord & Son Construction Inc., at \$82,850, was deemed to have submitted the lowest bid that was considered to be responsive and qualified, although its proposal was not, on its face, the

lowest submitted.

A lower bid in the amount of \$73,500, from Joy Gordon Construction LLC, was disqualified because, Harman said, it did not meet county requirements.

At Harman's request, commissioners tabled until Jan. 21 consideration of a project to install an automated "exit lane

control system" at the airport.

According to a report from Harman, "Due to anticipated and eventual changes in Transportation Security Administration (TSA) rules for funding personnel to monitor and deter access to the secured areas of the airport through the exit lane, Northwest Florida Regional

Money for design of a planned mile-long sidewalk on Rocky Bayou Drive, from Forest Road to Huntington Circle, was approved by the Okaloosa County Commission. The five-foot-wide walkway would be built on the south side of the street, right.

Airport has identified a need to develop a more effective technological solution to monitor and control the passenger exit lanes located at the security check point in the terminal."

Currently, arriving passengers exit the secured area through a

Please see DESIGN, page A-3

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**CITY**

From page A-1

Valparaiso's municipal election would be contested. It later turned out that neither the mayor's race or the race for either of the two commission seats up for reelection have more than one candidate.

—With no contested races for city office, the only remaining issue to be decided in this year's municipal election will be a proposal to make changes to the city charter. The effective date of the proposed charter amendment (if passed) would be Oct. 1, 2014. Thus, it is prudent for the city commission to hold the referendum in conjunction with the countywide primary election scheduled for Aug. 26.

—Holding the municipal election in conjunction with the county primary election would reduce the city's cost for holding the election from \$4,500 to \$1,000, the amount needed to cover the cost of legal advertising.

During the discussion of whether to postpone the election, Commissioner Joe Morgan

initially expressed doubts about doing so, saying he would prefer to go ahead and hold the election in March and "have it over with."

Mayor Bruce Arnold, however, said he prefers the August election date, because more people are likely to turn out for the election if it is held in conjunction with the county primary. "I like the idea of greater voter participation," said Arnold, who drafted the proposed new charter.



Bruce Arnold

After some further discussion, a vote was taken in which all four commissioners present, including Morgan, voted in favor of rescheduling the election. Commissioner Kay Hamilton was absent.

The decision, however, remains tentative, as it was only the first of two required readings of the ordinance before it

becomes official. The proposal to reschedule the election will be voted on again at a city commission meeting scheduled for Jan. 22.

Commissioners also held a quasi-judicial hearing and then approved the first reading of a pair of proposed ordinances to change the city's comprehensive plan and zoning map to rezone a lot at 306 Okaloosa Ave. from low density residential to commercial. The rezoning would allow the Tom Thumb gas station and convenience store on John Sims Parkway to remove an unoccupied house from an adjacent lot and convert that lot for additional parking space for the gas station and store.

In other action, commissioners voted unanimously to declare two empty houses as "dangerous buildings," and to take initial steps toward having them demolished. One of the two houses is at 59 Kelly Way, and the other is at 406 Johnson St.

City Administrator Carl Scott briefed the commission on the status of both houses, saying that neither house has been

occupied for several years, that both are in such deteriorated condition as to be uninhabitable and unrepairable without great expense, and that if left unattended, each house could potentially pose a danger to children or other people who attempt to enter them. Scott said that attempts to contact and work with the owners of the properties to either repair or remove the houses have been underway since 2010, and have been unsuccessful.

After some discussion, the commissioners unanimously agreed to declare both houses as dangerous buildings, and to give the owners notice that they have 30 days to inform the city of their intentions regarding the houses, and 60 days in which to initiate either demolition or repair of the structures. If no such action is underway after 90 days, the city may then have the houses demolished, and place liens on the properties until the owners reimburse the city for the cost of demolition, which Scott estimated at about \$80,000 each.

**COLLEGE**

From page A-1

that there are three main "threads" of his personal vision for the college:

—Student success: The college must meet students' needs at their level of ability, and help each student to persist to reach their educational goal. Handy added that about 60% of today's community college students need some form of "developmental education" in order to help them meet the academic challenges of earning a degree or occupational certificate from a community college.

—Economic Impact: Handy said that he wants NWFSC to

become "the most important economic engine in the community." One way of doing this, he said, will be to emphasize technical education. "That's why we're building a machine shop on campus," he said, as the college tries to help find industrial jobs for its graduates.

—Community Impact: Handy said that he wants NWFSC to help make Okaloosa and Walton counties "a great place to work or study," and to become "the go-to partner" for other organizations that help people to improve their lives.

In addition to presenting his vision statement, Handy also spoke to clarify the "commitment statement" that he asked foundation members to sign dur-

ing last month's meeting of the foundation's financial and executive committees. The commitment statement asked foundation members to, among other things:

—"Represent and promote NWF State College and the Foundation in the community in order to expand the institution's circle of friends and supporters, including opening doors to potential individual, business and foundation donors; cultivating prospective donors; and asking for contributions."

—"Provide leadership in determining the foundation's annual capital fundraising priorities, determining accountability for goals.

—"Consider NWF State

College Foundation to be one of your top three charities of choice and donate accordingly."

Handy told the foundation directors that by asking them to sign the commitment statement, he was not trying to be "presumptive." He said he views the commitment statement not as a requirement to be imposed on foundation members, but as a form of "self-commitment." He also said that the commitment statement he provided to the NWFSC foundation is not as demanding as similar commitment statements at some other colleges, which he said, for example, "specify \$2000 gifts, etc." expected of their fundraisers.

Please see PRESIDENT, page A-6

**DESIGN**

From page A-1

lane just north of the security checkpoint, manned by a TSA officer who prevents re-entry through the lane.

"The airport in coordination with the TSA and airlines has designed and bid an exit lane control system that fulfills the TSA security requirements without the need for onsite monitoring personnel," Harman stated.

Two bids for the exit lane control system improvements were opened Dec. 4. Cathey Construction and Development LLC was the lowest responsive bidder at \$496,846, according to Harman.

Harman did not disclose further details of the security monitoring project, which he said were secret.

Commissioners also approved the appointment of a new member to the county's Aviation Advisory Committee. According to a report from Harman, "The Aviation Advisory Committee is comprised of eleven members. The Committee has a vacant position due to the death of the former Chairman, Mr. Stanley Bloyer who perished in an airplane accident in March 2013. Mr. Frederick Carnes has notified the Airport that he is interested in becoming a member and has provided his resume." The commission approved his appointment.

In other business, commissioners approved some changes to the communications policy within the county's human resources policy manual. According to documents submitted by the county HR department, "As technology continually changes, the policies for cellular and mobile devices have been updated."

"Changes to the cell phone policy provide a streamlined solution for employee reimbursement of personal calls. Employees will authorize a flat-rate payroll deduction to cover personal calls to or from a county cell phone. Standardized guidelines are also proposed for issue and use of cell phones and

other mobile devices."

The commission also authorized the commission chairman to sign documents related to Okaloosa County's application for a Florida Department of Transportation grant to help operate the Okaloosa County Transit (OCT) system, especially in rural parts of the county.

According to documentation provided by the county Department of Growth Management, "This application is a request for up to \$344,309 to supplement transportation operating costs in rural areas of the county. Funds will be used to purchase paratransit trips and to operate the WAVE in northern areas of the County.

The "WAVE" is the name of the county's fixed-route public bus service, and "paratransit" is a door-to-door service provided to people, such as those with disabilities, who cannot use the regular fixed-route bus service.

The grant requires a 50 percent local match. Paratransit trip costs will be matched with funds from the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund and sponsoring agencies. WAVE operating costs will be matched with local funds, if available. FDOT will generate a Notification of Funding grant award, at which time OCT will be issued a Task Order for the grant amount to provide public transportation services."

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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

On Dec. 16, Angela Dawn Hubatka, 35, of 242 Madison Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police on one count of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (a knife) without the intent to kill, one count of battery/DOMV, and one count of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

On Dec. 25, Niceville police arrested Michelle Lynn Stoflet, 42, a student, 229 Chateaugay St., Fort Walton Beach, for one count each of disorderly intoxication and criminal mischief under \$1,000. The arrest was made on a warrant stemming from an incident on Aug. 5, 2013, in which Stoflet allegedly kicked the door at another person's home after drinking at a local bar.

On Dec. 30, Valparaiso police arrested Douglas William Hobbs, 46, 337 Chicago Ave., Valparaiso, for one count of resisting arrest without violence. According to the police report, police approached Hobbs in connection with a report of a theft from the Tom Thumb store on John Sims Parkway. When told to stop by police, Hobbs continued traveling north on his bicycle while being chased by police. Police located him 1.5 hours later, hiding in thick brush.

On Dec. 30, Niceville police arrested Rolland Joseph Haydt, 41, a marine electrician, 1530 Center St., Green Cove Springs, for one count of driving while license suspended. Police made a traffic stop on Haydt after observing that the license tag was not properly attached to his truck, and discovered that he did not have a driver's license in his possession. Haydt told the arresting officer that his driver's license had been suspended for 60 months.

On Jan. 2, Niceville police arrested Jeremiah Daniel Ketchum, 27, of 282 Washington St., Valparaiso, for one count of trespass to an occupied structure. The arrest was made on a warrant stemming from an incident on Dec. 2, in which Ketchum allegedly entered the home of another person uninvited and refused to leave after she ordered him to do so approximately five times.

On Jan. 2, Niceville police arrested Jason Douglas Hendershot, 31, no known address or occupation, for one count of burglary to an unoccupied conveyance, and one count of theft. The arrest was made on a warrant stemming from an incident on Oct. 14, in which Hendershot allegedly entered the victim's vehicle and removed a cell phone valued at \$100, a charger, and \$10. He was tracked down after the phone's owner provided police with numbers that were dialed from the phone after it was stolen. One of the numbers proved to be that of Hendershot's grandfather. Hendershot denied stealing the phone.

On Jan. 4, Valparaiso police arrested Jeremy James Whitfield, 31, a laborer, 429 Government St., Niceville, for one count of possession of cannabis (less than 20 grams).

An officer responded to Johnson Street near Kelly Road in order to conduct a welfare check on an individual that appeared to be passed out on the side of the road. Upon arrival, the officer was able to wake the man.

Due to the man's level of intoxication, the officer offered him a ride home, which he accepted. The officer then conducted a pat-down of the man for weapons, and noticed a large bulge in his left front pants pocket. When asked what was in his pocket, Whitfield stated that he had a bag of rolling tobacco, along with his wallet and cell phone.

Whitfield voluntarily retrieved the bag from his pocket and the officer was able to observe a green leafy substance, which the officer

suspected to be cannabis. Upon being detained for a narcotics investigation, Whitfield spontaneously uttered, "You're going to arrest me for a small bag of weed?" and "This will be my 12th arrest for weed." The suspected cannabis, which weighed approximately 1.5 grams, yielded a positive result for the presence of THC.

On Jan. 5, Niceville police arrested Keyontray Daran Henry, 21, of 1853 Whispering Oaks Lane, Fort Walton Beach, for one count of domestic violence battery by strangulation, and one count of resisting an officer without violence. According to the police report, Henry was a passenger in a vehicle driven by the alleged victim, and while the vehicle was in motion physically struck the victim and snatched the steering wheel from her hands, causing the vehicle to nearly lose control.

Once the vehicle was stopped, Henry struck the victim several times about the head and face with an open hand, and began to damage the victim's DVD player and tore the mirror from the front windshield. He then allegedly choked her until she could not scream for help.

When a police officer arrived and attempted to detain Henry, Henry lunged toward the victim with clenched fists, and the officer had to wrestle Henry to the ground, where he continued to fight and resist the officer's efforts to handcuff him. After a short struggle, the officer was able to gain control of Henry until other officers arrived.

On Dec. 26, Valparaiso police arrested a 14-year-old male for one count of battery, in connection with an incident that took place on Dec. 17. According to the police report, the alleged victim reported that the 14-year-old rode up on his bicycle, jumped off and struck him above his left eye with a closed fist, knocking him to the ground. The victim then reported that while on the ground, he was struck, kicked or stomped several more times on the left side of his head by the 14-year-old as he was trying to get back to his feet.

The 14-year-old reported that he was home when his little brother arrived home and indicated he was beat up by the alleged victim while playing football. The 14-year-old reported that after he found out about his brother, he left the house on his bicycle, located the victim and struck him in the face, head and body several times with his fist.

### DUI

On Dec. 24, Valparaiso police arrested Dorothea Lee Clinton, 50, of 208 Kelly Rd., Niceville, for DUI. Police responded to 470 College Blvd., Niceville, in reference to an agency assist from the Niceville Police Department in reference to a reckless driver and possible traffic crash. Upon arrival, contact was made with Clinton and two witnesses who reported they had followed her vehicle for several miles. Clinton was taken to the Valparaiso Police Department after she refused treatment from EMS, to conduct a DUI investigation. The DUI citation issued to Clinton stated that she refused a blood or breath alcohol test.

### Summonses

On Dec. 16, Niceville police issued a summons to Daniel Eugene Wood, 39, a store clerk, 313 23rd St., Niceville, for shoplifting. According to the police report, an asset protection employee at Walmart saw Wood drink a Dr. Pepper in the store, then attempt to exit the store. The employee detained Wood until police arrived. During a search of Wood, a black cell phone case was located on his person. A review of video footage showed Wood taking the cell phone case from the store.

On Dec. 31, Niceville police issued a summons to Drew Matthew McCandless, 26, no

## Fire Department Reports

### Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from Jan. 6, 2014 through Jan. 12, 2014.

0 Structure Fire	11	Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	4	Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire	1	Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	16	Other Emergency Calls
1 False Alarms	0	Hazardous Conditions



STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Peachtree Way	Medical	1/6/14	09:14
Als Drive	Service call	1/6/14	09:16
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	1/6/14	09:21
Florida St.	Medical	1/6/14	14:22
S.R. 85 N.	Cancelled	1/6/14	15:58
N. Partin Dr.	Cancelled	1/6/14	16:24
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	1/7/14	08:13
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	1/7/14	11:11
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	1/7/14	13:33
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	1/7/14	21:18
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	1/7/14	23:04
S.R. 85 N.	Alarm activation	1/8/14	08:25
SR 85/SR 123	Vehicle crash	1/8/14	08:54
S.R. 85 N.	Alarm activation	1/8/14	11:08
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Cancelled	1/8/14	11:58
Als Drive	Service call	1/8/14	13:37
Scott St.	Cancelled	1/8/14	15:48
Lanman Rd.	Medical	1/9/14	07:02
SR 85/SR 123	Extrication	1/9/14	15:09
SR 85/SR 123	Cancelled	1/9/14	15:27
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Cancelled	1/9/14	15:43
Magnolia Shores Dr.	Service call	1/9/14	22:31
Duke Dr.	Medical	1/10/14	10:02
Yacht Club Dr.	Cancelled	1/10/14	12:34
Drew Court	Alarm activation	1/10/14	13:17
Island Ln.	Medical	1/10/14	15:14
Everglade Dr.	Medical	1/10/14	19:11
Regatta Dr.	False call	1/10/14	21:34
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle vs Pedestrian	1/11/14	01:51
Magnolia Shores	Service call	1/11/14	15:17
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	1/11/14	18:40
Valparaiso Blvd.	Service call	1/11/14	21:30
Galway Dr.	Cancelled	1/12/14	18:51

Weekly Safety Tip: Replace all smoke alarm batteries immediately upon moving into a new home. Test smoke alarms at least once a month and clean the unit according to the manufacturer's instructions. Regularly vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarm following maintenance instructions can help keep it working properly.

Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook

### North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from Jan. 6, 2014 through January 12, 2014.



STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
E. Hwy. 20	Medical assist	1/6/14	08:18
N. Partin Dr.	Dispatched & cancelled	1/6/14	09:24
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	1/6/14	13:09
Meadow Woods Ln.	Medical	1/6/14	16:56
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	1/7/14	07:48
Parkwood Cir.	Medical	1/7/14	09:34
Aruba Way	Electrical wiring	1/7/14	10:18
Anselvy Dr/Hwy. 20	Medical	1/8/14	05:08
N. Hwy. 85	Dispatched & cancelled	1/8/14	08:26
Scenic Hwy. 98	Dispatched & cancelled	1/8/14	11:36
Windward Way	Medical	1/8/14	12:17
Calinda Ln.	Overpressure rupture	1/8/14	13:15
Hwy. 20 E.	Sprinkler activation	1/8/14	13:20
Cougar Cir.	Medical	1/8/14	14:34
Ridgewood Way	Medical	1/8/14	17:55
Turtle Crossing	Water problem	1/8/14	18:39
Sunset Beach Cir.	CO detector activation	1/9/14	10:34
S. R. 293	Dispatched & cancelled	1/9/14	21:03
Bluewater Point Rd.	Medical	1/10/14	04:05
Greenwood Way	Medical	1/10/14	11:11
Caribbean Way	Public assist	1/10/14	12:19
Yacht Club Dr.	Medical	1/10/14	12:35
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	1/10/14	15:01
Hwy. 20/Bluewater Blvd.	Vehicle accident	1/11/14	15:05
Hwy. 20/S.R. 293	Vehicle accident	1/11/14	18:21
Ide Coon Cir.	Medical assist	1/11/14	20:12
Blue Pine Ln.	Medical	1/12/14	10:26

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

address given, for marijuana possession, not more than 20 grams. According to the police report, law enforcement were summoned to the Quality Inn in reference to a disturbance in progress. Police officers responded to a room in the Quality Inn where a woman asked if the police could look for her cell phone which was in a vehicle when McCandless left. The vehicle was found parked outside the room. While looking for the cell phone in the vehicle at the request of the registered owner, police located a plastic zip lock bag containing a green leafy substance, consistent with marijuana, in the center console. McCandless said the marijuana was his. The last person to drive the vehicle, according to the police report, was McCandless. The suspected marijuana was tested and yielded a positive result for the presence of THC.

### Wild animals

On Dec. 29, Niceville police responded to a report of a large black bear seen walking up Big Oaks Lane near Walton Avenue and Nathey Avenue, knocking over garbage cans.

On Dec. 30, Niceville police responded to a reported bear sighting on Mulry Drive near Galway Drive. The bear was seen again later, and was reported to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as it appeared that the bear was not afraid of people. A trap has been set and moved according to the bear's movements. FFWCC believes someone is feeding the bear, and will move the trap according to the last sighting, but still wants any and all sightings to be called in.

On Dec. 31, Niceville police received a report that a man had spotted a black bear weighing approximately 130 pounds near the intersection of Hillside Drive and Rocky Bayou Drive.

On Jan. 2, Niceville police responded to a report of a fox

sighted near an address on Winding Waters Way. According to the police report, "Complainant advised there is a fox just sitting on the sidewalk at the entrance to Swift Creek and Swift Creek Plantation. The fox ran off into the woods. He would not tell me what the fox says."

On Jan. 2, Niceville police responded to a report of a coyote under a house. The responding officer observed the coyote under the house, but had no way to get the animal out. He advised the complainant to check with PAWS to see if they might have a trap big enough to catch the animal.

On Jan. 3, Niceville police received a report of a bear knocking over trash cans and scattering trash at an address on Charles Street. The caller said the bear seemed unafraid and appeared to weigh over 400 pounds and stand about 7 feet tall. Niceville police reported the incident to FFWCC.

On Jan. 1, Niceville police received a report from a woman who called from an address on Azalea Drive to say that she was outside and a black bear was after her. She said she was taking out her trash, and the bear was right there. She stated that the bear chased her from her trash can back into her residence, and was aggressive. A responding police officer also saw the bear on Nathey Drive. The officer turned on his lights and blew his air horn, but then lost sight of the bear. The police report stated that the bear is apparently not afraid of humans, refuses to retreat, and approaches people.

On Jan. 3, a Niceville police officer was stopped by a woman on Charles Street, advising that there was a bear in her backyard, and she wanted assistance getting into her home.

### Other

On Dec. 9, an Okaloosa deputy responded to a report that some-

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

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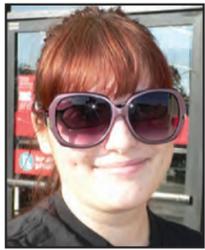
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What do you think about the opening of the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector?

Location: Kmart



"It hasn't affected me. I stay mostly in the Niceville/Fort Walton Beach area. I'm sure it will be better for tourists, but I'm good."

Brea House, 23, Niceville, customer service representative



"It will make it easier for people to commute back and forth."

Steve Webster, 43, Freeport, shipfitter



"I think it's a good thing. It frees up the traffic a lot. I know they'll be happy about that in Bluewater Bay."

Jessie Kimble, 45, DeFuniak Springs, golf course maintenance



"It's great for those who need it. When hurricane season comes, I'm sure it will be even more needed."

Linda Boone, 61, Niceville, office nurse



"I think it cost a lot of money that we could have used for other things."

Jim Webb, 78, Niceville, retired drug company representative



"It will reduce traffic congestion in the Niceville area, but it may also hurt local businesses."

Deanna Schoenherr, 42, Crestview, emergency room technician and nursing student

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

BLOTTER

From page A-4

one was driving in Blue Pine Village in excess of 50 mph with children in the vehicle. The speed limit is 15 mph. Upon arrival, the officer was told by a witness that the incident had occurred in connection with a domestic dispute. When contacted by police, the alleged driver denied going that fast, and denied harming anyone.

On Dec. 17, an Okaloosa deputy responded to a report of a burglary to a residence on 23rd Street, Niceville.

On Dec. 18, Niceville police responded to a report that some tools and numerous other items had been stolen from the back of a truck.

On Dec. 27, Niceville police responded to a report that an older man had approached two girls near the Walmart parking lot and attempted to lure them into his van. According to a witness, the girls ran away, and later told him that a man tried to get them to come with him in a van.

On Dec. 27, an Okaloosa deputy responded to reports of multiple thefts of mail from resi-

dential mailboxes on Baywind Drive in Bluewater Bay. Upon arrival, the officer made contact with a security guard who stated that a local resident was walking his dog on Baywind Drive that morning and found a pile of mail on the golf cart trail near his home. The resident collected the mail and brought it to the security shack. The mail filled half a trash bag and was addressed to different residences on Baywind Drive. It included bills, insurance information, Christmas cards, and miscellaneous items.

The officer contacted the resident at his home, where the resident stated that while he was walking his dog he observed a broken exterior light near the roadway at 206 Baywind Dr. The officer contacted the homeowner at that address, and the homeowner observed one glass ball that covers a light to the exterior of his property broken.

The officer returned to the guard shack, where he contacted a second person who had been walking that morning and who had dropped off a second half trash bag full of found mail. The case was referred to the U.S. Postal Service for further investigation.

On Dec. 29, Niceville police responded to the Niceville youth

center, to a report of kids trying to start a fire in the parking lot. Upon arrival, police discovered some kids who had set fire to a handful of pine straw in order to keep their hands warm until their ride arrived. They were advised to put it out.

On Dec. 30, Niceville police responded to a report of a theft on Teresa Court. They met with a woman who said a gold or beige jeep had followed her and her husband home. The woman said a man got out of the vehicle, walked up to her at her residence and asked if she was okay. When she said yes, he snatched her purse, ran off, got back into the vehicle and drove away.

On Dec. 31, Niceville police responded to the Tom Thumb on Palm Boulevard, where a woman said she had locked her keys in the office, and an employee went behind a wall to try to open the door, but had become stuck behind the wall. The fire department was notified and assisted in getting the man out from behind the wall.

On Jan. 1, Niceville police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle from an address on Phyllis Avenue.

On Jan. 1, Niceville police

responded to a report that a 9 mm Ruger handgun had been stolen from the center console of a vehicle at an address on Emmett Drive.

On Jan. 3, Niceville police responded to a report that someone had stolen a bankcard from a home on North Partin Drive and used it to make unauthorized purchases and withdraw money from an ATM.

On Jan. 4, an Okaloosa deputy responded to an address on Thomas Street in Niceville in regard to a burglary that had already occurred.

DIES

From page A-1

employee at Eglin since 2006, according to a base spokeswoman. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

The incident occurred at approximately noon, according to the spokeswoman. The cause was under investigation. Five aircraft were in the 90,000-square-foot hangar at the time.

When activated, the hangar's automated fire-suppression system, which employs 24 foam generators suspended from the

ceiling, rapidly releases vast amounts of suppressant similar to soap suds.

A similar incident occurred in May 2012 without serious injury, according to base officials.

In addition to his wife, Tara, and daughter, Kenna, Lord is survived by his parents, Cal and Teri (Teresa) Lord; a brother, Calvin and his wife Kayla; nephews Connor and Joseph; and grandmother Thelma McMillan.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at Heritage Gardens Funeral Home, Niceville.

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Stephanie Bruner

Jeff Allen and Stephanie Bruner, Owners  
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Anna Grace

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**PRESIDENT**

From page A-3

ing organization members. In other business at the foundation directors meeting: —The directors agreed to dates for the annual 2014 and 2015 foundation meetings, at which

donor recognition will be provided for each year. An annual meeting will be held on February 21, 2014, with donor recognition to cover the fiscal year from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013, and the next annual meeting will be held August 21, 2015, covering the two fiscal years from October 1,

2013 through June 30, 2015. —Foundation executive director Cristie Kedroski explained that the new schedule will help to synchronize board terms with the foundation's new fiscal year, which spans July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, and cancels a previously scheduled annual board meeting that had

been slated for June 30, 2014, and which would have caused two annual meetings to be held in the same year. —The NWFS Foundation's incoming President, Dewayne Youngblood, told fellow board members that this year's "Rising Star" award will be presented to Ian Wallace, a graduate of the

NWFS class of 2007, and the foundations "Distinguished Alumnus" award will be presented to Gary Dietzen, a graduate of the NWFS class of 1976. The award recipients will be invited to the foundation's annual dinner on February 21, 2014. It was also announced that Youngblood will give a presenta-

tion on the foundation and its activities to the NWFS Board of Trustees during the trustees meeting scheduled for Jan. 21. The next meeting of the NWFS Foundation board of directors is scheduled for 7:30 a.m., March 4, in room 302 of the college's student services building.



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*Advertising Feature*

The excitement of the holidays has worn off and families are settling back into their daily routines. Although the holidays are often very stressful for families, stress is a daily part of life. Coping with stress if often difficult and can negatively impact your health. Research has shown that 60 to 90% of physician visits are related to stress. The following tips are ways to handle your daily stress.

- 1. Manage your perspective.**  
"In life we often cannot control the situations and stressors we face; what we can control is how we perceive the situation," Dr. Michael Tallman, licensed psychologist says. Choose to be optimistic. Interpersonally, expect goodwill from the other person, not to be offended. Count your blessings versus focusing on what you do not have. Seeing life from a more positive perspective can greatly increase your ability to handle stress.
- 2. Maintain healthy boundaries.**  
Joy Damen Makela, licensed mental health counselor and

licensed school psychologist recommends, "It is important to say no to commitments to prevent feelings of resentment and being overwhelmed." She advises saying yes to requests that really matter to you and your family. At work, prioritize your to-do list, delegate tasks as you can, and speak up before you cannot see a way out of the workload. Saying yes to everything can lead to internal conflict and often increases stress.

- 3. Take time for yourself.**  
Carlise Downie, a licensed clinical social worker, stated research results show that approximately ten minutes of quiet relaxation time daily may have an effect on stress reduction over time. Some of Ms. Downie's recommended stress relieving activities include morning or evening meditation, deep breathing exercises, and muscle relaxation.
- 4. Connect with others.**  
It is important to maintain your relationships with close family members and friends. Jennifer Tallman, registered clinical social work intern

recommends eating dinner with your family and calling friends to check-in. Relationships can generate stress. However, strong relationships provide support and help get you through life's ups and downs. Additionally, get connected in the community – attend a local church, coach a little league team, or volunteer at an area charity. Studies have found that volunteering can have positive effects on your mental and physical health.

- 5. Eat right.**  
A balanced diet helps provide you with the energy to complete the tasks needed throughout the day. Eating regular meals and planning meals in advance can reduce stress. Drinking water and eating fruits and vegetables and cutting back on sugar, caffeine, alcohol, and chocolate has also been found to improve mental health.
- 6. Be active.**  
Exercise and physical activity release endorphins, which help increase your sense of well-being. Exercise is sometimes called meditation in motion. By keeping a singular focus while exercising, you often can forget the day's stressors. Additionally, physical activity can improve sleep quality.
- 7. Get enough rest.**  
The National Sleep Foundation recommends 7 to 9 hours of sleep a night for adults. To help do so, maintain a regular sleep schedule with wake-up and bedtimes. Create a relaxing bedtime routine and avoid bright lights, including electronic screens, just before bedtime.

So as you aim to achieve new goals and vow not to get overwhelmed this year, utilize these tips to help manage your stress. And if you would like to learn more stress management techniques or need someone to help you navigate through life's stressors, do not hesitate to contact Bay Area Psychological Consultants at 850-729-0303.

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## Robotics tournament to be at NWFSC Saturday

By Angela Yuriko Smith  
Beacon Staff Writer

The Doolittle Institute's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Outreach Program, located at the Okaloosa County STEMM Center, Valparaiso, is sending a team to compete in a robotics tournament at Northwest Florida State College, Saturday, Jan. 18 as part of the "2013 Nature's Fury Challenge." This is the first time NWFSC will be hosting such an event. The free event is open to the public.

"This is a tournament for middle schoolers," said Wanjiku Jackson, one of the tournament's organizers. "Each year they have a different theme. This year's is 'Nature's Fury.' It's about natural disasters."

The Doolittle Institute is a non-profit corporation that promotes science and technology, and their robotics team is one of 16 FIRST LEGO League teams of regional middle school stu-

dents gathered for the competition.

The purpose of Doolittle Institute is to "create an innovative environment for bringing together the best minds... to collaborate and find solutions to the toughest S&T challenges while championing science, technology, engineering and mathematics education for all levels of society," says their charter statement. Their STEM Education Outreach Program is an extension of this mission.

"We are interested in collaborating with our local community to help raise up the next generation of scientists and engineers," said Beth Hanning, the lead for Doolittle Institute's education outreach. "Students who participate learn the engineering design process as early as 6th grade."

FIRST LEGO League is a robotics program for 9 to 14 year olds designed to get children excited about science and technology as well as teaching them valuable employment and life

skills. The program is designed to build community support and engagement; promote STEM; and foster innovation.

According to the FIRST LEGO League website, teams will be "programming an autonomous robot (using the LEGO MINDSTORMS robot set) to score points on a thematic playing surface, creating an innovative solution to a problem as part of their project." Teams also fundraise, create a team identity and go on field trips.

Winning teams from this tournament will go on to compete in state and national competitions.

The 2013 Nature's Fury Challenge will be held Saturday, Jan. 18 from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Northwest Florida State College, Student Services Center in Niceville.

Volunteers are needed as judges, referees and support. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ms. Wanjiku Jackson at [jacksonw@nwfsc.edu](mailto:jacksonw@nwfsc.edu) or 729-5202.



The Doolittle Institute's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Outreach Program, located at the Okaloosa County STEMM Center, Valparaiso, is sending a team to the "2013 Nature's Fury Challenge," a robotics tournament at Northwest Florida State College, Saturday, Jan. 18. Pictured, the Doolittle Institute team, first row from left, Chris Loffler, Cameron Benoit, Indira Mishra, Jasmine Mishra, Livia Hughes and Ben Baltz. Second row from left, Robin Wynn, Natalie Cross, Mary Mason White, Coach Rob Jernigan (OSA), Coach Beth Hanning (Doolittle Institute).

### Who's News

Jennifer Barsky, Niceville, was recognized at Northwest Florida State College's pinning ceremony Dec. 10 to recognize students who completed a Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education with reading and ESOL endorsement.



Jennifer Barsky

She was presented with a pin and the Pre-Professional

Please see WHO'S, page B-3



### Fountain freezes during recent cold snap

Bluewater Bay resident Jerry Brown woke up Jan. 7 to find the fountain on his back porch completely frozen creating an impromptu ice sculpture.

Photo courtesy of Jerry Brown



### Niceville residents help make spirits bright

Dr. Gary Hall and Judy Wiseman, both of Niceville, have helped Santa provide toys and new clothes for needy and abused children in the local area for 19 years. The gifts are provided each year through angel trees set up through out the area as well as direct donations. Inset, Dr. Patricia Francisco, pictured with visiting niece Lucy Lenhardt, has worked every Christmas for the last eight years to gather toys and clothes for the same purpose.

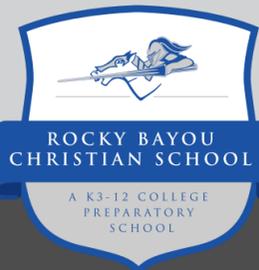


## ROCKY BAYOU CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S Welcome Wednesday 2014

**K3-12 ENROLLMENT OPEN HOUSE**  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Academy Band Room, Niceville Campus • 2101 N. Partin Drive

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Richard Hughes, MD

# Science fair winners at Ruckel



The Ruckel Middle School science fair winners during an awards presentation Dec. 16.

Ruckel Middle School held its Science and Engineering Fair Dec. 3. The awards were presented Dec. 16. The winners are as follows:

- Engineering: Materials and Bioengineering**  
1st Jade Ward
- Engineering: Electrical and Mechanical**  
1st Ryan Murphey  
2nd Bayley McMenimen

- 3rd Parker Walsh  
Medicine and Health**
- 1st Emily Chisholm**
- 2nd Kaitlyn Edwards**
- 3rd Mason Swanick**
- Physics and Astronomy**  
1st Steven "Preston" Hendricks
- 2nd Christopher Halprin**
- 3rd Lauren Nix**
- Earth Science**  
1st Matt Deyong

- 2nd Rachel Smith**
- 3rd Meredith Freeman**
- Biochemistry**  
1st John Hencinski
- 2nd Raiven Bryant**
- Environmental Science**  
1st Lilly Bolin
- Cellular and Molecular Biology**  
1st Olivia Reneau  
2nd James Evan  
3rd Jillian Sturim

- Microbiology**  
1st Kate Duricy  
2nd Ashley Wilson
- Environmental Management**  
1st Zachary Verzwylt  
2nd Michael Escoffier  
3rd Jordan Richardson
- Energy and Transportation**  
1st Camille Miles  
2nd Daniel Bobbitt  
3rd Jonny Parr

- Chemistry**  
1st Eshaan Sharma  
2nd Drake Ward  
3rd Grant Ransom
- Mathematics**  
1st Samuel Stahl  
2nd Geoffrey Hall  
3rd Kimberlyn Porter
- Behavioral and Social Science**  
1st Eve Glenn  
2nd Julia Freeman

- 3rd Joey Gianelloni**
- Computer**  
1st Steven Kuhn  
2nd Jacob Wargo
- Animal Science**  
1st Jackson Cook  
2nd Kinsley Pendleton
- Plants**  
1st David Ott  
2nd Ryan Tuper  
3rd Mandy Martin

2014  
CALENDAR  
E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com

### Vendors wanted

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, seeks art, craft and antique vendors for the upcoming 38th Saturday in the Park Heritage Festival that will be April 26 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Craft vendors must produce quality, hand-crafted, original items only. To register, visit heritage-museum.org or call 678-2615.

### Tri-County Horticulture

The Tri-County Horticulture Studies Group meets on Jan. 16 from 10 a.m.-noon at the Okaloosa County Road Department training room located at 1759 S. Ferdon Blvd., Crestview.

Participants will learn about container gardening and be invited to participate in the upcoming Valparaiso Garden Club's Standard Flower Show. Snacks to share wel-

come, drinks will be provided. Following the lecture there will be a field trip to Crestview Hydroponics at 2916 Aplin Road.

For more info call 678-2842 or e-mail marieharrison@valp.net.

### Ruckel family night

Register now for our Ruckel Middle School's Family Night FUNdraiser Friday, Jan. 17 with dinner served from 5:30-8 p.m. and craft from 6-7:30 p.m. \$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. Everyone welcome.

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

### Girl Scout cookie competition

Two Niceville chefs, Tucker Dukes Lunchbox and Dawnelle Northcutt of Catering To You, will compete with four other chefs for the crown of 2014 Destin Desserts Champion on Jan. 17 at the Links Ballroom, Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, 9300 US Highway 98 West, Miramar Beach. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Tickets are available at each chef's business, as well as Southern Agenda in Niceville, Hair for You in Miramar Beach and Shear Twist in Niceville.

Tickets can also be purchased at any of the three Girl Scout Service Centers or by calling toll free 1-888-271-8778.

### Robotics tourney

The 2013 Nature's Fury Challenge will be held Saturday, Jan. 18 from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Northwest Florida State College, Student Services Center in Niceville.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ms. Wanjiku Jackson at jacksonw@nwfsc.edu or 729-5202.

### Tea Party meets

The Niceville-Valparaiso Tea Party and the Okaloosa County Republican Executive Committee will hold a joint meeting on Monday, Jan. 20, at 6 p.m. at Niceville City Hall.

The speaker will be Sen. Don Gaetz. Please come with researched questions - focus on the budget and states' rights.

### Democrats meet

The Okaloosa County Democratic Executive Committee will meet at headquarters, 60 Second Street, suite 305 in Shalimar on Monday Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. Visitors are invited. Call Darlo Kiely 609-3367 for more information.

### Boating safety class

There will be a boating safety class at the Coast Guard Station Destin, 2000 Miracle Strip Pkwy., Destin Saturday, Jan. 25. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. Class runs 8:30 a.m.-4:30



## Adventurous author visits

Appalachian Trail adventure hiker and 2012 National Geographic Adventurer of the year, Jennifer Pharr Davis will be speaking at the Niceville Community Center, 204 Partin Drive N., on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 10 a.m. Books will be available for sale and signing. Hosted by the Friends of the Niceville Library, light refreshments will be served. Reserve your seat at Niceville Library at 279-4863 x1507.

p.m. Pre-registration is required by Jan. 20.

### ADSO luncheon

Thalia Newton will be the featured speaker at the ADSO luncheon on Wednesday, Jan. 22. Newton will

explain crash glass mosaics at the Art Center Gallery, 17 First Street, Fort Walton Beach.

The luncheon, which is open to the public, will begin at 11:30 a.m. Cost of the luncheon is \$12 until Monday,

Jan. 20. After that date it will be \$15 for the lunch. Please send reservations to adsoluncheon@yahoo.com or call Stephanie at 682-8827.

### Fiber rush weave

Rushes were an abundant natural resource in our region and chairs with rush seats were commonly found on the front porch of Florida cracker cabins.

Learn to make your own chair seats in this class, Jan. 21 from 5-8 p.m., offered at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso.

Cost is \$55 or \$50 for members, materials included. Space is limited. Please call to pre-register at 678-2615.

### Public hearing

Members of Okaloosa County state legislative delegation will hold a public hearing on Monday, Jan. 27 from 5-6:30 p.m. at Niceville City Hall, 208 N. Partin Drive.

Public comments will be heard on proposals for the 2014 Regular Session of the Florida State Legislature. If you would like to be placed on the agenda or submit hand-outs, please contact Amanda Needl, legislative aide to Representative Matt Gaetz at 833-9328 or by email at Amanda.Needl@myfloridahouse.gov no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday Jan. 22. Any member of the public is welcome to attend and participate.

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## Poetry slam warms up despite freeze

The "Say the Word" poetry slam drew a good crowd Dec. 8 despite rescheduling from the holidays and freezing temperatures. Participants were invited to take the microphone at the French Quarter Bar and Grill, Niceville, and read poetry authored by themselves or others. Pictured, "Say the Word" coordinator Sarah Clauson reads Kipling.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith



## Students compete in annual spelling bee

Council 13527 of the Knights of Columbus from Christ Our Redeemer Catholic Church along with Council 7667 from Holy Name, both of Niceville, co-hosted the annual Spelling Bee Contest for area

students on Nov. 5 at Lewis School in Valparaiso. Over 50 students in grades fifth through tenth represented Bluewater Elementary School, Destin Elementary School, Edge Elementary School, Lewis

School, Meigs Middle School, Niceville High School, Plew Elementary School, Rocky Bayou Christian School and the Okaloosa STEM Academy. Students competed for awards and gift cards.

The ninth and tenth grade winners, from left, Kier Teves, Niceville, won second place, Morgan Hambleton, Niceville, won first place and Ariel Schesniak, Rocky Bayou, won third place.



The seventh and eighth grade winners, from left, Mary Brennon, Rocky Bayou, won second place, Hannah Suh, Rocky Bayou, won first place and George Hass, Meigs, won third place.

The fifth and sixth grade winners, from left, Jacin Anderson, Lewis, won third place, Megan Koch, STEM, won second place and Alex Phipps, STEM, won first place.



## Okaloosa Gas awards

Okaloosa Gas District CEO, Jose Lozano, announced the 2013 Award Winners to the Board of Directors and Employees of the District at the Awards Banquet held in December.

"The Award Winners represent the best of the District in 2013 and earned these honors by standing out in a group of very impressive contenders" said Jose Lozano, CEO of Okaloosa Gas District.

Audrey Cooper of the Accounting & Finance

Department is the District's Employee of the Year. Cooper supports several functions within the department, including payroll. The Employee of the Year is the top honor for district employees.

The District's CEO Award was presented to Kyle Cox of the Operations Department. Cox is the District's Construction Supervisor. The nominations for this special award are submitted by the Okaloosa Gas Executive Team based on the nominee's con-

tributions to the District's mission.

Sylvia Register of the Marketing Department's Residential New Construction Team received the Community Service Award, recognizing her volunteer work with many local charities and civic organizations. In addition, Register was a member of the District's 2013 HeartWalk team as well as a second year Loaned Executive to the United Way.



Kyle Cox



Sylvia Register

## Obituary

### Chief Master Sergeant Joseph W. Hubbard

1972-2014

Chief Master Sergeant Joseph W. Hubbard, United States Air Force, passed away unexpectedly on the afternoon of Jan. 6 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Chief Hubbard was 41 years old, born on May 29, 1972 in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Joe faithfully served his Lord and Savior, loved and adored his family, and invested his career in serving America and caring for Airmen. He is survived by his wife Karen, his daughter Katherine, and his son Joey. He is also survived by his father, his mother, two brothers, and two sisters.

Chief Hubbard entered the Air Force on August 21, 1990, initially serving as a security specialist at Barksdale AFB, La. In 1994, he transitioned into communications and computer system operations. Chief Hubbard's service included duty at Kunsan Air Base, Korea;



Joseph W. Hubbard

KI Sawyer AFB, Mich.; Robins AFB, Ga.; Malmstrom AFB, Mont.; Heidelberg, Germany; and Fairchild AFB, Wash. Additionally, he served as the Superintendent of the Secretary of the Air Force's Legislative Liaison Office at the Pentagon, and as the Superintendent of the 53d Test Management Group at Eglin. Chief Hubbard earned a Bachelor of Science degree, cum laude, in Management from Park University and a Master of Business Administration degree, with honors, from Webster University. As Chief Hubbard does every day, he had spent Monday focusing his time, energy, and attention caring for the Airmen of the 53d Test Management Group.

A viewing and visitation was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 13, at the First Baptist Church of Niceville with a memorial service following. An additional visitation and memorial service is at the Loudon Funeral Home in Loudon, Tenn. Jan. 15 at 11 a.m. followed immediately by a burial with full military honors at Lakeview Cemetery in Lenoir City, Tenn.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations in Chief Hubbard's name to the Fisher House Foundation, fisherhouse.org, or the Bob Hope Volunteer Agency, afenlistedwidows.org/BHV.html

You may go online to offer condolences to the family and sign the guestbook at heritagegardens-funeralhome.com. Heritage Gardens Funeral Home of Niceville is entrusted with the arrangements.

## WHO'S

From page B-1

Educators Association (PEA) presented First-Year Teacher Survival Kits.

\*\*\*

Don Collins has been selected to the position of Vice-President/Commercial Lender at First Florida Bank. Based in First Florida Bank's Niceville branch, he will provide service to Walton and Okaloosa counties.

A graduate of Ohio's Bluffton University, Collins and his wife Linda are the parents of two sons, one of whom, Danny, was recently drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates

baseball organization.

A member of the All Sports Association and the Emerald Coast Military Affairs Committee, he also serves on the board of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes of Okaloosa and Walton County and as a trustee of both the Heritage Museum and Twin Cities Hospital.



Don Collins

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### NEWSPAPER REPORTER

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Looking for a home or a job? Be sure to check the classified section every Wednesday in the Beacon.

### Help Wanted

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The Beacon Newspapers (The Bay Beacon, The Eglin Flyer, The Hurlburt Patriot) have an opening for a career-minded, full-time person to sell customers the benefits of newspaper advertising. Candidates should be upbeat, energetic, organized, self-starting and detail-oriented. Salary plus incentive. Mileage allowance. Benefits include IRA plan and paid vacation and holidays. Candidates must be available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and have a reliable vehicle. We will train the right person. Apply in person at the Beacon, 1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville.

#### FREELANCE NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENT

The Bay Beacon, Niceville, FL, seeks a freelance reporter to write human interest features or cover meetings of government agencies in Niceville, Valparaiso, and elsewhere in Okaloosa County. You must be available most nights, most days, or both. We pay \$30 per story and \$5 per photo, when published. Writing experience is essential, as are use of a home computer and a reliable vehicle. Some reporting and photo experience is helpful, but not required. This a great chance to learn more about your community. E-mail cover letter, a statement of qualifications, and info on whether you are available most days, most evenings, or both, to hrdept@baybeacon.com

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# BEACONSPORTS



## Hawks win U14 soccer tourney

The Hawks, coached by Juan Anzures, won the end-of-season soccer tournament for the U14 boys in the PALS league. Pictured, the team was presented their medals for winning the tournament on Nov. 14.



## All-Star football team comes in second at 'Brickhouse Classic'

The Niceville Dynasty 10U All-Star Football team came in second place Nov. 30 in the Brickhouse Classic Tournament at Niceville High School. Pictured, front row from left, Preston Cumbie, Dominic Prestarri, Chance Harper, Jack Messmore, Chase Waters, Braden Parker, Brenley Laird and Kolbie Inns. In middle row from left, Kaleb Carter, Christian Culberson, Jamil Bowles, Colby Distaso, Alec Morvay, Jared Bartz, Jacob Ammons, Nicholas Ruiz, Alex Reichel and Caden Geisler. Back row from left, coaches Ramiro Ruiz, Mike Prestarri, Bruce Ammons, Joe Morvay and Pete Reichel.



## Eagles play Knights, win

Niceville High School varsity soccer beat Rocky Bayou Christian School Jan. 10 with a score of 4-0. Pictured, Stephen Herrera, right, takes control of the ball to move it down field and away from Daniel Demarra. Next up, the Eagles will play Crestview High School Jan. 16 at a home game.

Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson



## Rocky girls soccer wins first district title

The Rocky Bayou Christian School girls soccer team won the NWFMSA Conference Championship Dec. 14, their first title win in the history of the school. They beat Emerald Coast Middle School 2-0 in the North Florida Middle School Athletics Conference championship to earn their new title.



### 14240 Hwy 20

Niceville, Florida \$379,500



Two for the price of one! This immaculate 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom, 2,733 sq ft home with unobstructed views of Choctawhatchee Bay and a separate lot on the Bay could be yours! Inside offers an all-new kitchen including granite countertops, glass tile backsplash, tile floors, and never-been-used stainless appliances. The master bath has plenty of light with a relaxing whirlpool tub, separate shower, double sinks, and a very large walk-in closet. The 23'x23' bonus room could fit almost any need imaginable and the beautiful backyard includes mature trees, a workshop wired for electricity, and a 215 sq ft covered porch perfect for watching boats pass on the bay.

This property is offered by Prudential PenFed Realty  
Cathy Alley, Realtor®  
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eracj@cox.net



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Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

## NHS girls soccer beats Navarre

Niceville High School junior varsity girls soccer beat Navarre High School Jan. 10 with a score of 2-0. Pictured, Hannah Borrero takes control and kicks the ball towards the goal.

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