



10 Pages, 2 Sections, 5 Inserts

Wednesday, February 26, 2014

50¢

Police Blotter, page A-4

**UP
COMING****Thurs., 7:30 p.m.**There will be a **free****recital**with
Boyan
Boney, a
profes-
sionalcellist performing with
five regional orchestras,
in the Tyler Recital Hall at
the **Mattie Kelly Arts**
Center, Niceville.**Sat., 7:30 a.m.****The Choctawhatchee**
Audubon Society is
sponsoring a bird walk
in theBluewater/Raintree/Whit
e Point
area.
Meet
at theWinn
Dixie on Highway 20,
Bluewater Bay. 897-2666.**Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.****The Friends of the**
Niceville Library are
having their annual
Pamper Me event at theNiceville Community
Center. Admission is \$3.
Local
busi-
nesses
will be
pamper-
ing par-
ticipants with massages,
seminars, food, door
prizes and more. 279-
4863 x 1504.**Sat., 7 a.m.**
There will be a **tour-**
nament for younger
wrestlers from five years
to eighth grade in the
Niceville High School
gym. 279-4640.

Calendar, B-2

Valp. welcome signs may get a new look

By Angela Yuriko Smith
Beacon Staff Writer

New signs welcoming motorists to Valparaiso may be in the future, according to Carl Scott, city administrator.

Earlier this month, Scott showed



the city commission images he had made to give an idea of what new signs might look like.

One of the signs that may be replaced currently stands on a patch of grassy area where Government

Please see SIGNS, page A-2

Valparaiso City Administrator Carl Scott with an image of a possible new look for the city's 'welcome' signs.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

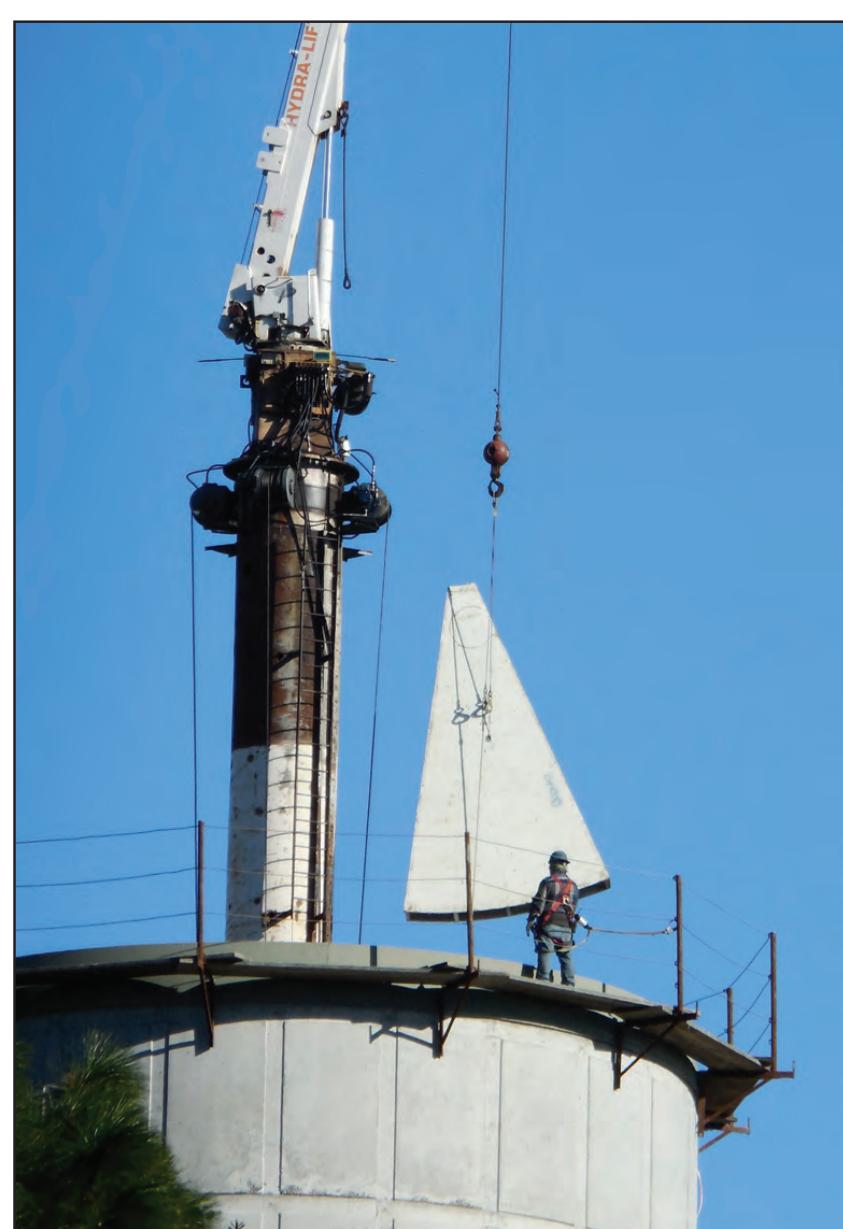
Winding up road work

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Although major construction activity of the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector, a road linking the north end of the Mid-Bay Bridge to State Road 85 north of Niceville, is now complete, some related construction projects are still underway, according to briefings given to Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA) board members during their Feb. 20 meeting in Destin.

Jon Vannoy, of HDR Engineering,

the contractor managing the connector road construction project, said that although the connector road is complete and open to traffic, there are still "some asphalt issues to be fixed," as well as some drainage improvements still being made around some of the bridges along the new route. Vannoy said that HDR wants to see those final projects completed by the end of February, but that it may not all be done by then. He said that HDR has been

Please see WORK, page A-3

Freezing northern temps put Marysa tower ahead

The column of a new water tower being built on Marysa Drive, Niceville, is nearly complete and crews will soon arrive to build the 750,000-gallon storage tank that will sit atop the column. The project is ahead of schedule because similar projects up north have been hampered by winter storms. "The weather in the northern U.S. has prevented the tank contractor from working in those areas, thus allowing those crews to mobilize and complete this project ahead of schedule," said Bruce Price, Niceville Director of Public Works. The tank will replace a much smaller 100,000-gallon tank that has been demolished. Planned development of the nearby 1,100-acre Ruckel tract is expected to boost water demand.

Photo courtesy of Steve Davis



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SIGNS

From page A-1

Avenue and Valparaiso Parkway diverge. Another is on a median dividing John Sims Parkway across from Doolittle Park.

"This is still a proposal," said Scott. "We have to get a blessing" from the commission.

The catalyst behind changing the signs was a conversation between Scott and civic leader Walter Spence at the end of last year, Scott said. Spence passed away in January.

The conversation was about finding a project to benefit Valparaiso, said Scott. Scott suggested new signs that reflected more of the city's personality, and Spence liked the idea.

Spence, prior to his demise, pledged to help Scott "raise the money," said Scott.

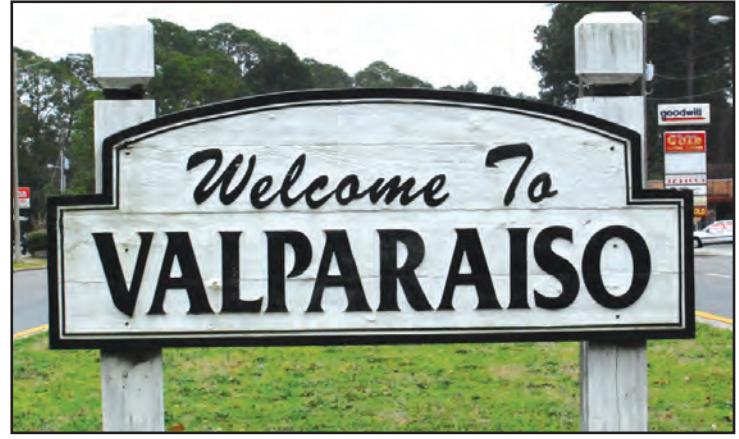
Scott estimated the city

would need to raise \$10,000 to \$20,000 "to get that ball rolling."

Scott said there is a possibility that Spence may be recognized in some way on the new signs, should they become a reality.

"He loved the military and he loved Valparaiso," said Scott.

At top right, one of the signs that City Administrator Carl Scott proposes to change, stands in a median on John Sims Parkway across from Doolittle Park. Bottom is an example of what a new sign might look like.



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Fraud and Scam: Don't be a Target

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Wednesday, March 5th | 11:30 a.m.

Twin Cities Hospital Wellness Center • 2190 Highway 85 North, Niceville

Ashley Bailey, Crime Prevention Manager with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, will teach you how to recognize and prevent yourself from becoming a victim of a fraud or scam.

Diagnosis and Treatment of Acid Reflux or GERD

Mauri Lunderman, MD, General Surgeon

Thursday, March 6th | 12 p.m.

Fort Walton Beach Medical Center, 3rd Floor PCU Classroom A
1000 Mar Walt Drive, Fort Walton Beach

Join Dr. Mauri Lunderman to learn more about the diagnosis and treatment of Acid Reflux and Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease.

Are You Too Sweet?

Deanna Howard-Gonzalez, MBA, RD, LD, CDE

Friday, March 14th | 11:30 a.m.

Twin Cities Hospital Wellness Center • 2190 Highway 85 North, Niceville

Certified Diabetes Educator, Deanna Howard-Gonzalez, MBA, RD, LD, CDE, will explain the meaning of high and borderline blood sugars, hemoglobin, and A1C levels and teach you how to manage risk factors to prevent and control diabetes.

Spring Fever: Maintaining Healthy Ears, Nose & Throat

Joseph Siefker, MD, ENT Surgeon

Tuesday, March 18th | 12 p.m.

Fort Walton Beach Medical Center, 3rd Floor PCU Classroom A
1000 Mar Walt Drive, Fort Walton Beach

Join Dr. Joseph Siefker to learn more about the best ways to manage your seasonal allergies!

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PRINCIPAL

From page A-1

Palmer said that he does not plan any big changes upon taking over as principal. "Niceville High School is already a flagship school, highly effective and with high achievements in all areas. I'll wait to see for myself, before making any tweaks to what is already there."

"I'm super excited to be part of Niceville High School and its community," said Palmer.

In addition to appointing Palmer as the incoming principal of Niceville High School, the school board also appointed Dexter Day to become the new principal of Crestview High School, and appointed Michael Martello as the new principal of Baker School during Monday's meeting. The current principals,

of those schools, Bob Jones and Tom Shipp, are retiring.

In other business, the school board accepted a check for \$40,000 from Okaloosa Sheriff Larry Ashley, to be used to help fund the installation of video surveillance camera systems on more school buses. Ashley said the \$40,000 had been obtained, "courtesy of some of our unsuccessful would-be drug dealers in Okaloosa County," referring to money derived from the seizure of assets belonging to such drug dealers.

Ashley said the video system, once operational, will be useful for protecting children against bullying, and for allowing bus drivers to focus their attention on safe driving rather than having to deal with disciplinary issues on their buses. He said it would also help the Sheriff's Office to investigate any incidents that do occur on buses, and will provide additional accountability for students, bus drivers, and anyone else aboard the buses.

Ashley said the system will be "a big, fat, huge deterrent" to all forms of misbehavior aboard school buses.

In addition to Ashley's presentation, school board member Cindy Frakes said that she is adding \$25,000 to the school bus video system fund, from discretionary "capital funds" allocated by the school district to each school board member to be used on projects they deem important.

Frakes told the Beacon that additional fundraising efforts are underway to help meet the expected total cost of installing the video surveillance system, which she said is expected to be about \$155,000.

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Workers replacing a culvert carrying a creek under the roadway near the east end of Rocky Bayou Drive, Niceville. The work is being done at the expense of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, which was directed to do the work as partial compensation for the use of Air Force land to build the recently completed 11-mile Mid-Bay Bridge Connector highway.

Mid-Bay Bridge Authority

WORK

From page A-1

"putting pressure" on Anderson Columbia, the contractor in charge of most of the actual construction.

MBBA Assistant Executive Director Rolin Sayler also briefed the board, concerning some other construction projects being done by the MBBA as part of an agreement with Eglin Air Force Base to mitigate the environmental impact of the new connector road, most of which is on Air Force controlled land. Those projects, he said, include replacing some culverts within the Eglin military reservation, and also replacing a culvert under Rocky Bayou Drive in Niceville. He said that utilities along Rocky Bayou Drive were successfully relocated, and that actual culvert construction has recently been underway.

Sayler was hired Feb. 1. MBBA Executive Director Jim Vest is scheduled to retire Sept. 30. Vest's successor has not been announced.

Also at the meeting Vest

briefed the board on recent activities along the new connector route. He said that a run walk event celebrating the opening of the new route in January netted about \$29,299, of which about \$8,000 will be given to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. The rest of the funds, said Vest, will go to the track club that sponsored the event, and will be used to construct a rubberized track at Fort Walton Beach High School. The new running track, Vest said, "will benefit the whole county" because it will be used by other school track teams as well as the team from Fort Walton Beach High School.

Vest said that traffic continues to increase along the new connector road, and that the road currently carries about 4,100 paying vehicles per day and climbing. The bridge authority counts only connector traffic passing under the single automated tolling point between the Range Road and Forest Drive exits. Other motorists using only other parts of the 11-mile highway are not counted.

Vest said that about 71 per-

cent of the vehicles using the new road use electronic Sunpass transponders to pay their connector tolls, with the remainder being charged tolls by having their license plates photographed and monthly bills sent to them by the Florida Turnpike Authority, a program called Toll by Plate.

Vest said that he is currently "working some issues with the Turnpike Authority," to improve the accounting of toll revenue derived from both the new connector road and from the Mid-Bay Bridge itself. He said that all such revenues have recently been accounted for as a single figure, but that he is seeking to obtain a more specific breakdown of where toll revenue is coming from. "We are seeking separate revenue reports," he said, "but we expect a lag in Toll by Plate figures."

Vest estimated that traffic and toll revenue from the Mid-Bay Bridge itself continues to creep upward from the depressed levels of previous years, and that he expects a significant increase in traffic with the arrival of spring break next month.

MBBA chairman Gordon E.

Fornell sent a letter to the Bay Beacon Feb. 14, in which he addressed some questions concerning tolls and electronic tolling, particularly along the connector road. Fornell's letter included some discussion of the \$2.50 monthly "administrative fee" included with the bills the Florida Turnpike Authority sends to motorists whose tolls are paid through the Toll-by-Plate photo system.

"The monthly \$2.50 administrative fee is included with Toll-by-Plate invoices," Fornell wrote. "This is a processing fee collected by Florida's Turnpike Enterprise for administering the Toll-by-Plate collection process and does not go to the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority."

Subsequently, Turnpike spokeswoman Christa Deason said the Florida Department of Transportation has suspended the \$2.50 monthly administrative fee for Toll-By-Plate customers using the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector, but will reinstate it April 7, after signs have been erected along the connector route informing motorists of the charge.

purse had been stolen from a shopping cart.

On Feb. 13, Niceville police received a report that a license tag had been discovered to be missing from a trailer.

On Feb. 13, Niceville police received a complaint from someone who said that his tree cutting equipment had been stolen.

On Feb. 13, Niceville police received a report from a representative of the Living Faith Church on Partin Drive, stating that he had been notified of some teenagers soliciting, stating that they are affiliated with the church. The complainant told police that the church does not do such a thing, and if police get calls about the teenagers, it is a scam.

On Feb. 13, Niceville police responded to a report from the Walmart Supercenter that a

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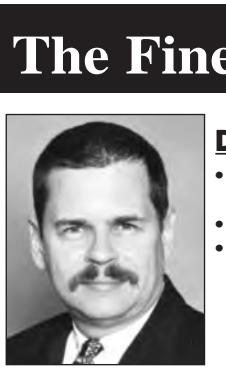
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Fire Department Reports**Niceville**

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from Feb. 17, 2014 through Feb. 23, 2014.

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	2/17/14	00:57
Everglade Dr.	Medical	2/17/14	05:20
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	2/17/14	09:41
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	2/17/14	14:33
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	2/17/14	21:34
Boyd Cir.	Medical	2/18/14	09:10
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	2/18/14	12:25
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	2/18/14	13:50
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	2/18/14	14:50
College Blvd.	Smoke scare	2/18/14	16:38
Edgewater Dr.	Medical	2/18/14	18:49
SR 85 N.	Medical	2/18/14	22:17
Regatta Dr.	Medical	2/19/14	02:10
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	2/20/14	06:16
Edgewater Dr.	Medical	2/21/14	07:31
College Blvd.	Medical	2/21/14	10:44
Reeves St.	Medical	2/21/14	22:10
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	2/22/14	04:01
Lanman Rd.	Medical	2/23/14	06:15
Tarpon Ln.	Medical	2/23/14	07:42
College Blvd.	Power line down	2/23/14	08:55
Als Dr.	Medical	2/23/14	19:28
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	2/23/14	19:42



Weekly Safety Tip: Watch what you heat. Stay with the stove when you are cooking. The reason most cooking fires happen is that someone leaves the kitchen when there is something cooking on the stove. Watch the stove, so you'll be able to respond quickly if food bubbles up or something goes wrong.

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North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from Feb. 17, 2014 through Feb. 23, 2014.

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Bay Dr.	Dispatched & cancelled	2/17/14	09:35
Hwy 20 E.	Medical	2/17/14	15:27
Merchants Way	Medical	2/17/14	22:11
Windlake Dr.	Public assist	2/17/14	22:47
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	2/18/14	06:51
Glenburn Ct.	Dispatched & cancelled	2/18/14	07:03
John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	2/18/14	13:55
Bay Dr.	Medical	2/18/14	22:50
N. White Point Rd.	Dispatched & cancelled	2/19/14	01:01
Parkwood Cir.	Medical	2/19/14	17:13
Marina Cove Dr.	Public assist	2/19/14	22:31
Caribbean Way	EMS call	2/20/14	09:14
Prestwick Dr.	Medical	2/20/14	09:35
Marina Cove/Bay	Dispatched & cancelled	2/20/14	13:11
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	2/20/14	13:59
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	2/20/14	16:00
Treasure Cove	Smoke detector activation	2/20/14	19:38
Windrush Cove	Medical	2/21/14	21:25
W. Choctawhatchee	Medical	2/22/14	09:10
Cat Mar Rd.	Medical	2/22/14	16:26
Pine St.	Medical	2/23/14	21:48

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GUIDE FOR NEW RESIDENTS

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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

Joel Warren Sinclair, 50, of 103 Mason St., Niceville, was arrested on a warrant issued Feb. 9 for improper exhibition of a firearm. The warrant stemmed from an incident on Jan. 15, in which Sinclair allegedly exhibited a .357 pistol firearm in a careless or threatening manner, by pointing it toward his driver side vehicle window while the weapon was in his lap. Sinclair did so in the presence of another person who said that he feared for his safety.

On Feb. 6, Valparaiso police arrested Sean Michael Fox, 39, of 950 Rue de Palms, W., Niceville, for one count of disorderly conduct. The arrest was made on an outstanding warrant from Holmes County.

On Feb. 8, Niceville police arrested Skyler Michelle Anderson, 23, of 6090 Clear Creek Rd., Crestview, for one count of resisting arrest. Anderson resisted arrest by pulling away from an officer while she was being lawfully detained, because she was in the middle of the street yelling and ran at the officer. Anderson would not back up after being instructed by the officer to step back. The report stated that Anderson appeared to be "under the influence" at the time of the incident.

On Feb. 10, Niceville police arrested Maghan Vонcile Bean,

26, of 1200 E. James Lee Blvd., Crestview, for one count of grand theft \$300 less than \$5,000. The arrest was made on a warrant stemming from an incident on December 19, 2012, in which Bean allegedly stole a purse from an unattended shopping cart inside Walmart. The purse was valued at around \$500.

On Feb. 10, Niceville police arrested Justin D. Redick, 18, of 1778 Thomas St., Niceville, for three counts of burglary / unoccupied and unarmed, and three counts of grand theft, between \$300 and \$5,000. According to the police report, Redick admitted that he broke a glass door and entered a filling station on Feb. 2, with the intent of committing burglary and theft with three other suspects. The business reported that approximately \$4,000 worth of merchandise was stolen.

On Feb. 7, a 16-year-old Niceville boy entered the Niceville Police Department with his parents and confessed to the burglary of a business. The juvenile admitted post Miranda that he was a party to a burglary in which approximately \$4,000 worth of merchandise was taken by the juvenile and other suspects who were adults.

On Feb. 16, Niceville police arrested Blake Elliott Hinley, 22, of 2420 Duncan Dr., Niceville, for DUI. According to the traffic cita-

tion, Hinley's blood alcohol level was at or above 0.243.

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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



Wanted As Of: 02/03/2014
VOP-Grand Theft & Failure to Appear
Name: Ted Reagan Driscoll
Sex: Male Race: Caucasian
Age: 50 DOB: 07/13/1964
Height: 6ft 4in Weight: 210 lbs
Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown



Wanted As Of: 01/27/2014
VOP-Trafficking in Stolen Property/Providing False Information/Grand Theft
Name: Andrew Jared Martin
Sex: Male Race: Caucasian
Age: 26 DOB: 04/03/1988
Height: 6ft 0in Weight: 175 lbs
Hair: Brown Eyes: Blue
Martin's last known address was on Manchester Road in Fort Walton Beach.

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

Twin Cities Hospital, and then Life Flighted to Pensacola.

Other

On Feb. 1, Valparaiso police responded to an apparent burglary at an address on Grandview Avenue.

On Feb. 2, Valparaiso police responded to a report of criminal mischief at a restaurant on Glen Avenue. Upon arrival, an officer observed the window of the restaurant's front door to have been shattered by rocks thrown at it, and a table located on the rear deck had been tipped over, and the glass top broken. Damages were estimated at between \$600 and \$1,100.

On Feb. 5, Niceville police responded to a report from a resident who said she had received threatening phone calls in which the caller used racial slurs and threatened that there would be a bomb at the victim's door.

On Feb. 6, Niceville police responded to a report of a possible burglary at an address on East College Boulevard. Upon further investigation it was determined that nothing had been stolen, and it appeared that the complainant may not have shut the door all the way when he initially departed the residence.

On Feb. 7, Niceville police responded to a call from the Twin Cities Pavilion reporting some vandalism to the facility's cooling system.

On Feb. 7, Niceville police responded to an address on Fox Head Branch Trail that someone had stolen some lumber from a job site.

On Feb. 8, Niceville police responded to an address on Lincolnshire Drive, where the complainant advised that someone had stolen his Vespa scooter.

On Feb. 8, Niceville police responded to a report that someone had thrown a rock at the windshield and damaged the front tires of a truck at an address on 27th Street.

On Feb. 8, Niceville police responded to an address on 21st Street regarding a report of a stolen bicycle.

On Feb. 9, Niceville police responded to an address on Bailey Drive regarding a report of a stolen bicycle.

On Feb. 10, Valparaiso police Please see BLOTTED, page A-3

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

What movie should win "Best Motion Picture" at the Academy Awards?

Location: Kmart



"The Hobbit.' It shows adventure – and that treasure can be more than just gold and silver."



"The Lego Movie.' It's like a mix of childhood dreams with adult humor, has a good story line, and is very, very funny."



"Frozen.' It's a good family values movie."



"I haven't been to any movies in the past year. I prefer the older classics."



"Saving Mr. Banks.' It's a positive, feel-good movie, and Tom Hanks is outstanding."



"The Lone Ranger.' I like anything with Johnny Depp in it. I loved the Lone Ranger as a child, and actually got to see him with Silver when I was nine."

David Scarborough, 15,
Niceville,
Niceville High School
student

Ryan Arra, 17,
Niceville,
Niceville High School
student

Josh Obholz, 28,
Niceville,
U.S. Air Force

Jim Dillard, 63,
Niceville,
retired

Helen Dillard, 61,
Niceville,
retired teacher

Patti Overholt, 65,
Choctaw Beach,
artist

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

FOAM

From page A-1

unconscious after being trapped for an hour and 19 minutes inside the foam-filled hangar, and was later pronounced dead at the Eglin Air Force Base hospital.

Maj. Gen. Arnold Bunch, Commander of the Air Force Test Center headquartered at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., and Col. Robert F. Weaver II, who led the investigation into the fatal accident, held a press conference Feb. 18 to brief reporters on the findings and recommendations of the accident investigation report.

As the largest building on Eglin Air Force Base, King Hangar is sometimes used for civilian public events, such as the annual "Marsville" habitat engineering project for area schoolchildren.

Bunch began the briefing by expressing his condolences to

Lord's wife and family, who were not at the briefing.

According to the accident investigation report, freezing weather in early January, along with some corroded valves in the King Hangar fire suppression water sprinkler system, caused a water line to burst inside the hangar on Jan. 8. That, in turn, triggered sensors in the hangar's High-



Col. Robert Weaver

Expansion Foam (HEF) fire suppression system, which is designed to automatically activate whenever sensors detect water flowing through the sprinkler system.

Sixteen ceiling-mounted High-Expansion Foam generators filled the hangar with foam to a depth of 17 feet, as designed, within a matter of minutes.

Lord and other personnel working in the hangar were able to evacuate successfully, and most went to Building 129, an administrative and maintenance structure adjacent to the hangar. All personnel were accounted for after the evacuation.

Eglin Air Force Base firefighters responded to the scene to ensure that there was no fire, to contain the foam and prevent it from contaminating the local environment, and to begin work to clear the foam out of the hangar. Firefighters also informed all of the evacuated personnel to remain outside of King Hangar until clearing operations were completed.

However, Lord and as many as 11 other workers disregarded those instructions and reentered King Hangar, via a third-floor catwalk which connected the towering hangar with Building



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

King Hangar, a landmark on Eglin Air Force Base, was the scene of a tragic industrial accident Jan. 8 that killed Air Force contractor Jonathan Lord, 31, of Valparaiso. An Air Force report released last week stated that Lord died after re-entering the building against the instructions of emergency workers who were called to the scene to deal with the accidental flooding of the building by a blanket of fire-fighting foam from an automated system.

129. According to the report, the workers were apparently motivated by curiosity and a desire to take photographs, apparently unaware of the potential danger posed by the foam, which resembled bubble bath suds in appearance.

After observing the foam from the third floor, Lord and three companions decided to get a closer look by taking an elevator to the ground floor. However, once the elevator doors opened at the ground floor, foam immediately began to enter the elevator and engulf the workers. The foam also blocked the electric eye sensor in the elevator door, making it impossible to close the door or move the elevator.

The workers initially attempted to exit through the ceiling of the elevator, but that proved futile, and they were rapidly engulfed. The workers

then attempted to make their way out of the hangar while staying in touch with each other by holding hands. That plan also failed, as workers had to use their hands to keep foam away from their faces, and the foam blocked vision and muffled sound, preventing them from seeing each other or communicating by voice.

One contractor, using a hood to cover his face, managed to feel his way along a wall and get out of the hangar safely. Another found his way to a window, which he broke in order to escape from the hangar. A third did not escape, but sat down, turned his head toward the ground, and waved his arms and hands in front of his face in order to maintain an air bubble for himself, until he was found by a rescue team who entered the hangar and found him within a few minutes.

Lord, however, was not so fortunate. He did not escape from the hangar, and rescue teams were unable to find him until an hour and 19 minutes after he had entered the foam. He was found unconscious, and taken to the Eglin hospital, where he was pronounced dead after attempts to revive him were unsuccessful.

Both the contractors who escaped and the rescuers who entered the hangar to search for the missing men told investigators that once they were inside the foam, they found it to be extremely disorienting and frightening. Even the professional rescue team members found it difficult to avoid panic or to move through the foam successfully, as it completely blocked vision and muffled sound, making voice communication impossible even within a few inches of another person.

Weaver's report contained recommendations for preventing a recurrence of such an accident in the future. These include improvements to the HEF system configuration, bet-

ter training for personnel who work in buildings equipped with HEF fire suppression systems, and improved procedures for incident response and rescue operations by emergency personnel responding to foam discharges.

The report said that personnel working in the hangar had been given very little training about the HEF system, how it operated, or the hazards it might present. During the evacuation, some personnel attempted to activate an abort mechanism for the HEF discharge system, but did not know enough about the system or the abort mechanism to stop the discharge successfully.

The report also stated that uncertainty remains about the exact cause of Lord's death, as the autopsy report has not yet become available. The report stated that Lord is presumed to have "died as a result of being rendered unconscious, either from a blow to the back of the head or as a result of panic or asphyxiation. He ended up on his back, unconscious, under 17 feet of HEF, and apparently 'drowned' or 'suffocated' as a direct result."

The report also stated that it is not known whether the foam itself may be toxic to human beings through skin contact or inhalation, or capable of causing drowning or suffocation. "There is surprisingly little knowledge on HEF," said Weaver's report, "specifically in the areas of conducting rescue operations, environmental impacts, and suffocation/respiratory/contact hazard. HEF is being installed in more aircraft hangers every day."

Discussion with professionals at Eglin, Edwards, Wright-Patterson and Tyndall (Air Force bases) revealed significant knowledge gaps. Online searches exploring HEF manufacturer sites and fire suppression installers—even Google Internet searches—turn up little useful information."

The accident investigation report concluded: "The main reason for the fatality and injuries suffered as a result of the mishap was the entering of Hangar 130, a building known to be off-limits following the release of HEF, by Contractor 1 (Lord), and the accompanying contractors. Their unfamiliarity with the facility led to a loss of situational awareness, and they made the extremely poor decision to take the elevator from the third floor to the first floor of Hangar 130. The mishap chain had many links that, if broken, may have prevented the accidental release of foam and immersion of maintainers. Recommendations and possible mitigations focus on these links."

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ARRANGEMENTS



S. Grant Williams, owner of Niceville Hearing Center, was nominated as "The Best of 2012, and again for 2013, Hearing Healthcare Professionals" by The Hearing Review publication. The Hearing Review publishers established the "Best Of The Best" program to recognize those hearing instrument specialist, audiologists, ear, nose & throat medical doctors and others who exemplify quality hearing health care. This program highlights outstanding individuals, practices, facilities and companies that "go above and beyond" the call of duty to serve the needs of people with hearing impairment.



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Michael D. Weinstock, P.A.

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Once more, thank you for your professionalism, consideration, and support.

Sincerely,
Michael D. Weinstock

County panel mulls distribution of BP damages

Okaloosa officials await award in federal oil-spill trial

By Rich Byrd
Beacon Correspondent

Litigation in the BP oil spill civil trial is still going on, with no date for scheduled completion.

If BP is found to have additional liability for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in the trial in federal court in New Orleans, the expectation is that Okaloosa County and other Florida localities that claim to not have been adequately compensated for effects of the spill would be allocated millions of dollars in additional damages.

In preparation of any such fiscal windfall, the Okaloosa RESTORE Advisory Committee (ORAC), which is comprised of 11 volunteer community leaders and citizens, is developing a comprehensive evaluation process to assess projects submitted for

ORAC funding consideration.

The county-appointed advisory panel meets regularly, most recently Feb. 13 in Niceville.

ORAC's "evaluation tool development" is being lead by the Matrix Design Group, which has been hired for support by the panel. The intent of the evaluation tool is to provide a method to evaluate and rank competing claims on the county's share of any damage.

"Allowable activities," a RESTORE Act term used to describe the types of projects, will generate an overall score based on the proposed quantitative and qualitative weighted factors. The RESTORE Act is a 2011 federal law funneling some of any BP penalties recovered under the Clean Water Act to Gulf Coast states. Florida, in turn, has prom-



Beacon photo by Rich Byrd

During a meeting in Niceville, consultants Sal Nodjomian and Lee Lewis led an Okaloosa RESTORE Advisory Committee discussion on how to award BP oil-spill penalties among competing interest groups in Okaloosa County.

ised to pass along some of the monies to localities.

Qualitative factors in the Okaloosa rankings have been consolidated into three categories: economic, general, or environmental factors.

Previous meetings led by Sal

Nodjomian, of the Matrix Design Group, reviewed the economic and general factors. The majority of the Feb. 13 meeting was dedicated to review of the environmental factors.

A secondary topic of discussion that generated spirited dia-

logue was the application of funding thresholds in order to support various sized projects.

Gary Jarvis, the board's fishing and seafood representative, expressed concern that bigger projects would squeeze out smaller ones in their bids for funding.

Jack Azzareto, Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, echoed the concern regarding the ability of smaller projects being able to compete against the larger projects. He stated that without some type of differentiation it would be unfair and place the smaller projects in a "disadvantaged" position.

Sam Seevers, board chair, recommended that further discussion be tabled until the committee was a little further in the process.

Jim Breitenfeld, another board member, raised another issue that he would like considered at some point. He asked if they could use some small portion of this money "to encourage or induce students

to get involved in this process." As an example he stated there may be an environmental science class at local high school that has an idea for a project that \$5,000 would have a profound impact.

Nodjomian indicated this was a viable consideration if the parameters of the project complied with funding specifications.

The meeting concluded with public comments from Jessica Koelsch, National Wildlife Federation. She asked the committee that if a project had a "negative environmental impact, should it even be considered?"

Koelsch also pointed out that the environmental factor review itself was five pages in an already-lengthy application. She said that would be a hurdle for those submitting for small community projects. She recommended that the committee may want to use a "mini-grant" type construct with a set-aside for smaller projects.

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business, including an expansion to its building. The new "General Repair" side has three lifts dedicated to general repairs. And, we now have General Motors Factory Scan Tool for Dealer Level Diagnostic and Reprogramming Capabilities. All makes and models, both foreign and domestic, are welcome. Even diesel engines can find all their solutions at Twin Cities Transmission. This expansion supplements the four lifts dedicated to transmission work.

Twin Cities Transmission is independently and locally owned by Adam Marthis. Along with manager Brandy Pirc, he prides himself on being a family-owned, hometown operation that has gladly served the Twin Cities area since 2000.

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Remembering Sgt. Joshua Born

Sunday marked the second year since Sgt. Joshua Born, a 2005 graduate of Niceville High School, was killed in action in 2012 when an Afghan soldier turned his gun on Born and another soldier outside a U.S. base in Nangarhar Province. A bench and plaque were placed last July in memory of Born at the "Triangle," the Y shaped park and fountain area where John Sims Parkway veers off to Hwy. 85 N. in Niceville. "We need to support our boys," said Craig Born of Niceville, his father. "The ones still over there and the ones that are coming back injured."

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith



Engagement

Litchfield-Adkins

Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Adkins of Niceville are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura A. Adkins to Stephen J.

Litchfield, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Litchfield of Metairie, La.

Laura is a graduate of Niceville High School and the

University of South Alabama where she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing.

Stephen is a graduate of Louisiana State University where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems Decision Science. He then attended Louisiana State University Law School and obtained a Juris Doctorate and Diploma of Civil Law.

A wedding in Pensacola is planned for May 31, after which the couple will reside in Atlanta, Ga.



Stephen J. Litchfield and Laura A. Adkins



Campout adventures for Scouts

Sam Scholl, Liam Ordner and Zane French from Troop 157 make faces before taste testing a camp style breakfast at a recent campout at Adventures Unlimited in Milton. Families interested in scouting may call Guy Wills 420-7417 for more information. Troop 157 meets every Monday in Niceville.

"Generations: A Collection of Black American Music" appears for one night only Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mainstage theater of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center on the Niceville campus of Northwest Florida State College. The unique stage production pays homage to some of the most influential African American artists of the past, present and future and features the songs of Aretha Franklin, The Jacksons and Earth, Wind and Fire among others.

The production begins its

journey of discovery with a pre-1900's negro-spiritual and progresses all the way to the this century, making a stop at each

about and accomplishments of Black society during the specific eras.

Advance tickets are on sale now for \$20 from the show's production team at 499-3627 or for \$25 from the Mattie Kelly Arts Center Box Office in-person or by phone at 729-6000. Box Office phone and in-person hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday and 90 minutes prior to productions held at the center.

For more information see the "Generations: A Collection of Black American Music" page on Facebook or call 499-3627.



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Dr. Amanda Brenci, O.D.

**Alzheimer's support group**

A support group for those affected by Alzheimer's will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Niceville United Methodist Church, Chandler Center, 214 S. Partin Drive. The support group is free and limited respite care is available, reserve in advance by calling 866-478-7790.

Taylor Haugen fundraiser

The 3rd annual TradeWinds Wine and Dinner Fundraiser benefiting the Taylor Haugen Foundation will be Wednesday, Feb. 26.



This six course dining experience will pair wines from Washington, California and Italy, with hard to find boutique wines. Tradewinds is located at 205 Government Ave., Niceville.

Tickets are \$125 per person and can be purchased from the foundation website, taylorhaugen.org.

Growing tomatoes

The Friends of the Niceville Library will be hosting a free program on practical tips for tomato gardening for our area with Dennis Gilson, author of Front Yard Farmer frontyardfarmer.com at the Niceville Community Center on Feb. 26 at 10:30 a.m.

For questions please call the library at 279-4863 x 1504 or email us at ncvllibrary@okaloosa.lib.fl.us. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

Cello recital

There will be a free Cello Recital Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. Boyan Bonev, professional cellist with 5 regional orchestras, performs in the Tyler Recital Hall at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville.

Braiding class

Learn the art of Kumihimo Japanese braiding on Feb. 27, with and without beads. Class meets from noon-3 p.m. Cost: \$30 members, \$35 non-members. Materials fee is \$15.

For further info and to sign up for this workshop, visit the ADSO website at artsdesignsociety.org or call 244-1271.

Republicans meet

The Okaloosa County Republican Club will host their monthly meeting on Feb. 27, at American Legion Post 235, 105 S.W. Hollywood Blvd., Fort Walton Beach. Social hour at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.

Mr. Bruce Miller, Public Defender for the 1st Judicial Circuit of Florida will be the guest speaker. Dinner is \$15 and includes drinks and gratuity. All welcome, for more information call President Don Adams at 586-1325.

Food bank fundraiser

Enjoy a meal or a drink at Ruby Tuesday in Niceville on Feb. 27-28, and Ruby Tuesday will give back 20% of your purchase to Niceville Sharing and Caring.

You need to present the event flyer to your server for Sharing and Caring to receive the donation. You can pick up a flyer at Sharing and Caring or print one from their web site at www.sharing-n-caring.org. For more information, call Sharing and Caring at 678-8459.

Night of music

"Generations: A Collection of Black American Music" appears for one night only Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mainstage Theater of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville. The unique stage production pays homage

to some of the most influential African American artists of the past.

Advance tickets are on sale now for \$20 from the show's production team at 499-3627 or for \$25 from the Mattie Kelly Arts Center Box Office in-person or by phone at 729-6000.

Bird walk

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society is sponsoring a bird walk conducted by Carole Goodyear March 1 in the Bluewater/Raintree/White Point area. See raptors, woodpeckers, wading birds, and spring migrants with an experienced birder. Meet at the Winn Dixie on Hwy. 20 in Bluewater Bay at 7:30 a.m. Call Carole at 897-2666 for more information.

Yard sale fundraiser

First Presbyterian Church of Niceville, 1800 John Sims Parkway, will hold a yard sale March 1 from 7-11:30 a.m. inside the church's Gathering Grounds and Fellowship Hall. Proceeds go to benefit the Cavaillon Orphanage in Haiti.

Quilt retreat

The Flying Needles Quilt Guild in Niceville will host its annual quilt retreat "Off 2 Quilt" Feb. 28-March 1 at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville campus.

Flying Needles Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month for a general business meeting, show and tell, door prizes, munchies, and a program, starting at 9:30 a.m. for social time and 10 a.m. for the business meeting at Niceville Church of Christ, 801 East John Sims Parkway, Niceville. Visitors are always welcome.

For more information and retreat registration forms, visit flyingneedlesquiltguild.org or call 240-1081.

Pamper party

Join the Friends of the Niceville Library for the annual Pamper Me

**Bloodmobile this Sunday**

The Bloodmobile will be in the parking lot at St. Jude's Episcopal Church, 200 N. Partin Drive, Niceville, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free T-shirts will be given to all donors and a free fellowship breakfast will be served from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. 678-7013.

event on March 1 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Niceville Community Center. Admission is \$3. Local businesses will be pampering participants with massages, seminars, food, door prizes and more.

For more info call 279-4863 x 1504. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Niceville Library helping with the needs of the library.

Wrestling tournament

There will be a tournament for younger wrestlers from five years to 8th grade in the Niceville High School gym March 1 beginning at 7 a.m. with weigh in and the tournament beginning at 9 a.m.

For more information contact Coach Morrie Geselter at 279-4640 or email grappler1435@cox.net.

Tribute concert

The Emerald Coast Concert

Association is bringing back Ted Vigil's tribute to his great idol, John Denver in "Rocky Mountain High" March 1, at 7:30 at Ft. Walton Beach High School Auditorium.

Advance tickets \$25 per person, \$30 at the door and \$10 for students are available at Artful Things in Niceville 729-2600. For additional information call 362-9356.

Golf gala

The Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center (ECCAC) is hosting their Children's Advocacy Kieran May Memorial Golf and Gala Weekend starting on March 1- at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa.

The golf tournament follows on Sunday, March 2, at Kelly Plantation

Golf Club with a noon tee time. Kieran May Memorial Golf tournament cost per person is \$400, which includes two tickets to the Galia. Gala tickets are \$100 per person.

Please call 833-9237, Ext. 222 to make reservations, or go to GolfdandGala2014.charityhappenings.org to purchase tickets online. For further information on ECCAC, visit eccac.org.

History weekend

Make history part of your future with "Home School Fridays" and "Hands-On History Saturdays," a monthly program based on the Florida core standards for education for children ages 5-12 at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso.

March's program will be "Can you 'Dig It'" on March 1 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for \$7 per child or \$5 for museum family members. Special deal for new family members. Groups welcome, space is limited so please pre-register at 678-2615.

Mac users meet

The Mac Users Group will meet March 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northwest Florida State College Student Services Building, room 132.

Ray Muston will be presenting a two-part program, how to use the Contacts application and Pages for Mac.

For more information, visit FWBMug.com or contact Jean Dutton at 862-3327 or jcndutton@mac.com

Classical commentary

At the community classical music study series, "Better Listening," Lars Runar will present "The History of the Symphony," with CD examples, on Tuesday, March 4 from 7-9 p.m. at the Unitarian Church Fellowship Hall, 1295 Bayshore Drive, Valparaiso. All sessions are free and open to the public. No reservations required.

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Soldiers get treats from Beta Sigma

The Niceville chapter of Beta Sigma, XI BETA PI, sent a Super Bowl Party package to military members from Niceville that are stationed in Afghanistan. Pictured from left, Adrienne Coley, Cyndi Anderson, Carol Heubusch, Dee Purka, Cathy Hess, Marja Wilson, Dottie Kime.



Niceville girl replaces horse lost to recent fire

Maggie Bowers has a new horse nicknamed Cash. Maggie lost her last horse, Elvis, in a barn fire Jan. 19. "Elvis would not want her to sit around and cry all the time," said her mom, Cynthia Bowers. "He would want her to put on her big girl boots and cowgirl up."

'Name that Garden' contest

The Valparaiso Garden Club is conducting a "Name That Garden" contest for their upcoming new garden exhibit in the backyard of the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida.

The garden will provide additional opportunities for education and enhance the museum's mission to promote the rich heritage of our region by featuring native Florida plants and herbs that have been important in the history of our state.

Men, women and children are encouraged to "Name That Garden" and email their idea with their name, address, and phone number to backyardgarden2014@gmail.com before April 1.

The winner will receive a \$100 gift card, compliments of Walmart-Niceville, and be recognized at the exhibit opening during the Museum's annual Saturday in the Park Heritage Festival on April 26. For more information, call the museum 678-2615.

NWFSC South Walton Education Center gets SACS accreditation

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS) has approved materials submitted by Northwest Florida State College seeking SACS approval of the South Walton Education Center.

Local demand for classes at this existing location prompted NWF State College to increase offerings to 50% or more of the existing general Associate of Arts degree, which is currently offered at six other approved NWF State College sites.

"Being accredited by SACS means that people living in this area can count on a solid higher-educational experience for their children and themselves through NWF State College," said Holley Langille, Campus Specialist, South Walton Center. "This endorsement shows that there is an intentional and consistent desire for the educational quality to improve, be relevant and keep pace with technology. It also means that NWF State College is willing to submit to objective and expert scrutiny to ensure ongoing educational excellence. I love being able to directly interact with students and others in the community bringing opportunities provided by NWF State College to the area."

Library and learning resources will be provided by the Learning Resource Center located on the main campus of NWF State College, which is open to students weekdays and Saturdays.

The Center holds approximately 100,000 books, nearly 400 subscriptions to journals and periodicals, 10,000 audiovisual materials, and 100 online databases.

Students also have access to the University of West Florida's (UWF) library located on the NWF-UWF joint campus in Ft. Walton Beach. Student services are provided on-site, including registration, advising, financial aid, testing and academic support services.

The NWF State College South Walton Campus hosts six classrooms/instructional lab spaces, with adequate administrative offices and other non-instructional space. Students have access to computer labs, wireless Internet access and other technology. The expansion fits the institution's mission of accessible programs, as this change provides courses within 30 miles of residents' homes.

For more information on NWF State College's South Walton Education Center, please call 267-2888 or visit <http://www.nwfsc.edu/SWC/>.

children Ethan Backs, Stephen Hill, Sophia Hill, Sara Hill and Mina Hill.

John nor Sandra had any life insurance and with both funeral so close together the family is in need of any support that our community can provide.

Please contact their son at Idlanning13@gmail.com. The family would also like for you in the community to keep them in your prayers.

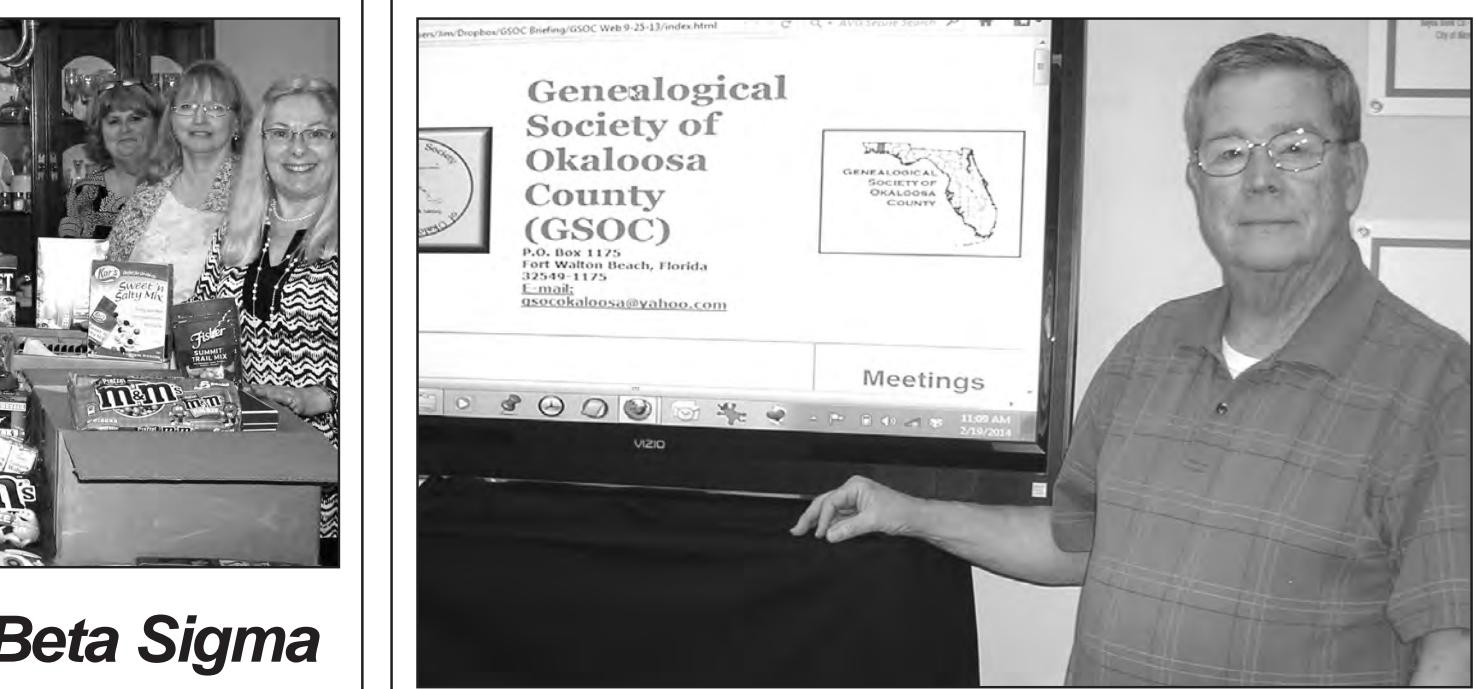
Obituary



Sandra Lanning

Sandra Lanning had been fighting COPD for the last few years and finally succumbed to it on Feb. 17. She has gone to be with her beloved husband John who passed away on Feb. 1.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She is survived by her son, Larry Lanning, daughter Suetta Hill, grandchildren SeAndria Duckworth, Steven Hill, Shayne Hill, and her great-grand-



Museum gets new television as gift

Jim Young, on behalf of the Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County (GSOC), donated a 47 inch television to the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida recently. The television will be used for presentations during public programs, events and organization meetings.



Niceville Eagle Scouts honored

Six Niceville High School students were honored Saturday, Feb. 22, at a banquet held in Pensacola celebrating the Gulf Coast Council of the Boy Scouts of America's Eagle Class of 2013. Pictured from front left are Brayton Miles, Troop 546; Matt Nelson, Troop 52; Brad Berryman, Troop 508; Chance Riley, Andrew Knight, and Hudson Pearce, Troop 546.

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Rocky Knights flex muscles at meet

The Rocky Bayou Christian School weightlifters competed at a meet Feb. 12 at Crestview High School. Josh Jarrell and Levi Derry, pictured right, both placed first in their class. Team mate Seth Waldron lifted a total of 430 in the 119 pound class to secure first place. Pictured left, Maria Denbow competed in the ladies weightlifting division and won third place. Senior Mackenzie Davis won the district in her division and earned fourth place at state. This is the first season for ladies weightlifting at RBCS and the second season for men.

Photos courtesy of Kristen Maxwell



First FHSAA championship for RBCS

Rocky Bayou Christian School girls basketball beat North Bay Haven 43-42 Feb. 1, securing the first Florida High School Athletic Association championship in the history of the school. Pictured, back row from left, Coach Tatisha Bowles, Melanie Ouma, Mackenzie Davis, Laura Hudson, Megan Slagle and Lauren Wright. Front row, from left, Brie Smith, Emmaly Smith, Saleana Craine, Claire Gunter, Keegan McSheehy. Kneeling down, Manager Boom Suepkdee.



Lewis student receives black belt

Andrew Colón, an eighth grader at Lewis School, recently tested for and received his first degree black belt in Taekwondo. Andrew studies Taekwondo under Master Chick Mathis in Bluewater.



Ruckel Rockettes place 5th in nation

Ruckel Rockettes placed fifth in the nation during their competition in Orlando at the UDA National Dance Team Competition. The girls competed in the junior jazz division. Pictured, from back row left, Maddie Correll, Bethany Cherenzia, Kirsten Jones, Kimberlyn Porter, Coach Kendall Brown and Anna Piccorossi. Middle row from left, Aubrey Hinley, Mariah McLaren, Ansley Wright, Jodie Miceli and Blakely Huff. Front row from left, Hadleigh Robbins, Kalli Trawick and Alissa Parr.

The Bay Beacon & Beacon Express

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