

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-4

10 Pages, 2 Sections, 6 Inserts

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

50¢

UP
COMING

Fri., 12 p.m.



There will be a **free lunchtime lecture** at the **Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida**, Valparaiso, about the cultural history of Destin. 678-2615.

Sat., 7 a.m.-noon



The **Niceville-Valparaiso Kiwanis Club** will host a pancake breakfast and silent auction at the Niceville High School cafeteria. Breakfast is \$4 at the door. Admittance to the silent auction is free.

Sat., 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



Girls from kindergarten through 7th grade are invited to learn from the **Ruckel Middle School cheerleaders** in the **Ruckel gym**. Cost is \$35 and includes a t-shirt, lunch, individual and group photo. 833-4142.

Sun., 2 p.m.

The **Madrigals and Belle Voci vocal ensembles** of Northwest Florida State College present a free Spring Concert in the Tyler Recital Hall of the **Mattie Kelly Arts Center**, Niceville. Free, donations welcome. 729-5382.

Calendar, B-2

Okaloosa high schools begin a new sport

Flag football season to begin Thursday

By Rich Byrd
Beacon Correspondent

Tomorrow, Niceville High School and three other high schools will begin the inaugural year of Okaloosa County's newest interscholastic sport, flag football.

Although new to the area, flag football has been a Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA)-recognized noncontact sport for girls since 2002.

Introduction of flag football was an action associated with Title IX, the 1972 federal law that mandated equal opportunities for boys and girls in school education and athletics. It was enacted, in part, in response to a perception that girls' sports had been shortchanged.

Natalie Strappy, director of compliance for FHSAA, said the growth of girls' flag football has surpassed expectations.

In the 2002-03 school year, there were 75 high schools fielding flag football teams in the Sunshine State. For the 2014

season, there are about 222 teams and more than 3,000 players.

Adron Robinson, NHS flag football coach, stated that the addition of the sport has been pursued for the past several years by Principal Rodney Nobles and Athletic Director John Hicks.

Flag football is relatively inexpensive and offered more opportunities for girls of all backgrounds and skill sets, Robinson said.

Robinson stated that his focus is to "develop a program that teaches his players the fundamentals of flag football in order to compete competitively, but also to establish a construct that assists in the physical and mental development of each player."

Given the challenges associated with establishing a new sports program, NHS will be operating under a probation period for the first two years. In the third year, NHS will be assigned to a district by the FHSAA and eligible to

Please see FOOTBALL, page A-3



Far left, Jennifer Smith, quarterback for the inaugural Niceville High School flag football team, displays her passing form. Near left, team members include Aubrey West, M.C. Cockrum, Smith and Eli Craft. The Eagles will face Crestview in the season opener Thursday, at Crestview.

Beacon photos by Rich Byrd

Cold winter boosts natural-gas rates

Okaloosa Gas sets price hike

Beacon Staff

The effect of this year's unusually chilly weather has reached far beyond Northwest Florida, as the nation is experiencing one of its coldest winters in recent memory.

With this, the demand for natural gas has increased and consequently due to the increase in demand has come an increase in the cost of gas which will be passed along to customers, according to the Okaloosa Gas District.

"The increase in the cost of gas is directly related to the excessive demand for natural gas nationwide," said Okaloosa Gas spokesman Eddie Springle. "The extremely cold winter is driving up the demand for natural gas which in turn is driving up the prices in the energy market."

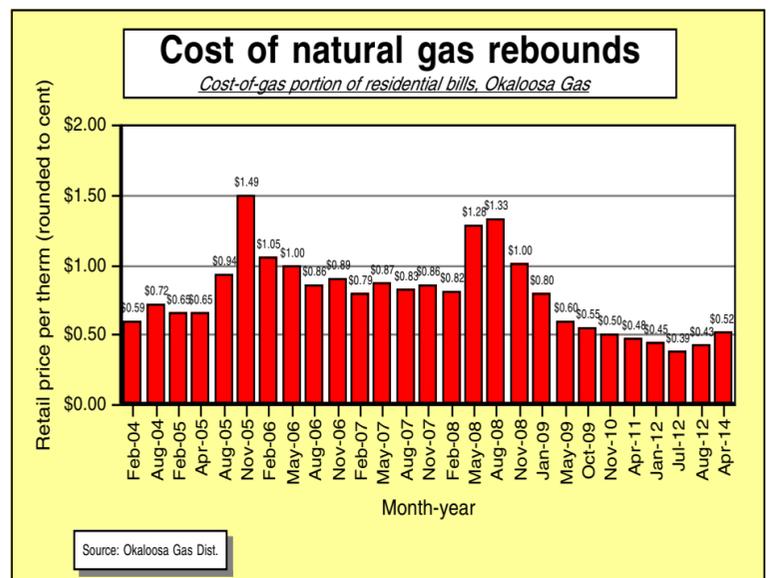
Effective April 1, Okaloosa Gas will be raising the cost-of-gas portion of customer bills by 23 percent, from 42.5¢ per therm to 52.5¢ per therm. The average

residential customer will see an increase of \$1.41 a month during the spring and summer months, when less gas is used, according to Springle.

An Okaloosa Gas bill is divided into four components (not including city, county, state and federal taxes): a customer charge, cost-of-gas charge, compliance charge and delivery charge. Only the cost-of-gas portion will rise April 1, under a measure approved Feb. 26 by the directors of the Valparaiso-based gas utility, a self-governing state agency.

The cost-of-gas rate represents the actual price paid by Okaloosa Gas to purchase natural gas and have it delivered into the district's system for use by customers. The cost is passed through to customers without markup.

"It is the goal of the district to maintain or even lower the cost of gas in months to come once the weather warms and the market becomes less volatile," Springle added.



School board members' say over capital spending is questioned

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

An Okaloosa County School Board meeting held March 6 included discussion of whether individual board members should continue to have say over how to spend certain capital-improvement funds.

The board was also briefed on construction of a tennis complex at Ruckel Middle School, Niceville.

During the nonvoting meeting in Fort Walton Beach, school board member Melissa Thrush, Bluewater Bay, questioned whether individual school board members should continue to exercise authority over part of the district's capital improvements budget within their election district.

Although the five school board members are elected at large countywide, no more than one at a time may live within any of the defined five districts.

Each board member has traditionally had discretion over how some capital improvement funds are spent at schools within his or her district.



Melissa Thrush

"No other school district," Thrush said, "gives individual school board members up to 20 percent of the district (capital improvements) budget."

She said the current system in Okaloosa County pits school board members against one another, and encourages individual administrators to approach individual school board members to seek funding for favored projects.

Thrush said the school district needs "a prioritized system" in which capital improvement funds would be allocated districtwide according to which projects are most needed at each school.

Board member Cathy Thigpen, Crestview, asked Thrush how she had been using her own fund allocations, saying, "You have carryover from last year."

Thrush replied that she usually allocates her own portion of school district funding among

Please see QUESTIONED, page A-3

Progress on sewer projects

By Rich Byrd
Beacon Correspondent

Favorable news regarding capital projects was presented to the Niceville-Valparaiso Regional Sewer Board (NVRSB) during a meeting March 5.

Rick Helms, NVRSB Plant Manager, reported that the reroofing project has been completed. This was a long overdue concern that had been put off for too long. Project oversight was executed by Ameritech Enterprises LLC and completed in two months.

Helms stated that even with the delays experienced as a result of winter inclement weather and the unexpected challenge of replacing "light-weight" concrete that was located



Beacon photo by Rich Byrd

The Niceville-Valparaiso Regional Sewer Board building in Niceville has a new roof at a cost of \$102,700.

ed on the lower portions of the roof, the work was completed in a satisfactory timeframe.

Board member Lannie Corbin, Niceville city manager, was concerned about the war-

ranty associated with the project and asked for specific details.

Helms stated that the

Please see SEWER, page A-5

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FOOTBALL

From page A-1

compete in postseason playoffs for the state title, which has been dominated by teams from south Florida.

Last year, FHSAA recognized no high school flag football teams west of Tallahassee. Robinson said that Okaloosa County is "taking the lead in establishing this new sport on the Panhandle."

To assist in the development of the county flag football program, coaches from participating high schools (Crestview, Choctaw, and Fort Walton Beach) will meet periodically.

The sport still favors attributes such as speed, flexibility, and concentration.

In most ways, flag football is comparable to standard football, but with notable differences. A game consists of four 12-minute quarters, compared with 15-minute quarters in standard football. There are seven players per team, compared with 11. The field is 80 yards long (versus 100 yards) and teams have to advance the ball 20 yards (versus 10 yards, in four downs



Beacon photo by Rich Byrd

Members of Niceville High School's first interscholastic flag football team practice their offense.

to achieve a first down.

Instead of tackling the ball carrier to end a play, a defensive player must pull a detachable flag attached to her waist.

Physical blocking is not allowed, but players may impede the progress of opponents by setting up position screens and blocks similar to the strategies used in basketball, another theoretically "noncontact" sport that nevertheless results in a fair amount of contact.

Standard football protective equipment such as helmets or

shoulder pads are not authorized. Players must wear mouthpieces, however.

The interest in flag football at NHS was overwhelming, Robinson said. "Over 100 girls" signed up to participate. There were no cuts, but through practices the team has settled in at 35 players.

There are only two seniors and five juniors on the Niceville team, making the inaugural squad. But senior Aubrey West said the team's youth isn't a problem. "It is the responsibility of the seniors and juniors to provide the leadership needed to succeed," she said.

The Eagles offense will be lead by quarterback Jennifer Smith, whom Robinson called a "natural leader". Her strong arm, ability to read defenses and speed make her a credible threat against any defense, he said.

Smith said she is "eager to start the season and has high expectations of winning." As a senior, Smith would like to leave "a legacy of success" compara-

ble to the boys' football program.

The Niceville team is loaded with speed that will challenge any defense they face. Eli Craft, sophomore running back/receiver, is agile and has superior maneuverability, not to mention a 4.7-second 40-yard dash.

As slot receiver, West is set to display her 4.6-second 40-yard dash speed.

When it comes to football, it's said that defenses win championships. The Niceville defense will be young, but determined. The NHS defense will be lead by sophomore M.C. Cockrum. As the "blitzer or rush end," her aggressive nature will be vital to putting pressure on opposing offenses. Cockrum said that she has "always wanted to play football" and would "make the most of this opportunity".

The establishment of the girls flag football team has been fully embraced by members of the NHS state runner-up boys' championship football team. In order to assess the flag team's progress, Robinson has set up periodic scrimmages against the boys, which has paid huge dividends. Not only have the scrimmages assisted in refining the girls' skills, the boys have acted as "on-field coaches" providing real-time position advice.

At present, flag football is only played at the club or intramural level in college. As more schools and states integrate flag football into their female student athletic programs, there is hope that the NCAA will eventually sanction the sport and offer scholarships.

Niceville High School flag football 2014

March 13.....at Crestview High School
 March 20.....at Choctaw High School
 April 3.....vs Fort Walton Beach High School
 April 10.....vs Crestview High School
 April 17.....vs Choctaw High School
 April 24.....at Fort Walton Beach High School
 All games start at 6:30 p.m.

QUESTIONED

From page A-1

various schools depending on enrollment.

Board member Dewey Destin, Destin, said there had been previous attempts to discontinue the policy of allowing individual board members to allocate portions of the district budget, but that all such previous motions had failed.

Nevertheless, Destin said, Thrush is welcome to bring such a motion before the board at a regular meeting, so that it can be voted upon.

In other business, Bill Smith, the district's director of facilities, gave a short briefing on construction of the Eagle-Ram Tennis Court Project at



Tennis courts under construction at Ruckel Middle School will be available for public use.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Ruckel Middle School. He said construction of the privately funded center is underway, with four tennis courts currently being built. He said the proj-

ect would move into phase II, which will include the construction of two more courts.

When completed later this year, the courts will be used by

the Niceville High School and Ruckel tennis teams. They will be open to the public when the schools are not using them.

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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 Feb. 21, Jay Harold Mikkelsen, 58, a tile fitter, 1107 South Cedar Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police for violation of an injunction.

On Feb. 26, Lilac Lavender Boskila, 34, of 512 Garden Cove, Niceville, was booked into the Walton County Jail. She had been arrested on an Okaloosa County warrant.

On Feb. 27, an Okaloosa County deputy sheriff arrested Thomas Allen Mealer, 49, of 193 Magnolia St., Eglin Air Force Base, for aggravated battery. He allegedly struck another man on the head with a shovel during an argument.

On Feb. 28, Valparaiso police arrested Brittany A. Bond, 21, unemployed, of 11564 Cypress Bend Ct., Jacksonville, on a warrant from Clay County for contempt of court on an original charge of no valid driver's license.

On Feb. 28, Niceville police arrested Donald Hubert Waltman, 28, a landscaper, 10 Cypress St., Freeport, for one count of fleeing or attempting to elude law enforcement, and one count of knowingly operating a motor vehicle without a valid license.

On March 1, Niceville police arrested Levy Huston Lucas, 53, of 609 29th St., Niceville, for one count of breach of peace, disorderly conduct. Police stated that Lucas was arrested after cursing loudly and causing a disturbance at the Niceville Children's Park.

On March 2, Niceville police arrested Taylor Douglas Curry, 27, of 721 Powell Drive, Niceville, for one count of aggravated battery. The victim required five stitches to close her wound.

DUI

On Feb. 26, Valparaiso police arrested Eric Alan Zisk, 42, for DUI. A police officer responded to an address on Iowa Street in reference to a traffic crash. The officer found Zisk, the driver of the vehicle, swaying while he was standing, having slurred speech, and giving off a moderate odor of an alcoholic beverage.

Notice to appear

On Feb. 19, a Walton County deputy issued a notice to appear to Adrienne Michelle Myers, 25, self-employed, of 1084 Forest Lake Terrace, Niceville, for marijuana possession, not more than 20 grams.

Other

On Feb. 23, Valparaiso police responded to an address on John Sims Parkway in reference to juveniles setting off explosions. Two juveniles were found placing cleaner and foil in two liter soda bottles and throwing them, creating an explosion. The fire department responded and cleared the scene, and the youngsters were released to their parents.

On March 1, a person came to the Valparaiso Police Department to report that while monitoring credit card transactions, she discovered that someone had used her American Express card at a store in Los Angeles without her authorization. She said she had

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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



Wanted As Of: 12/03/2013
Burglary & Larceny
Name: Jason Thomas Hildebrandt
Sex: Male, Race: Caucasian
Age: 35
DOB: 11/24/1978
Height: 5ft 9in
Weight: 170 lbs
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Hazel



Wanted As Of: 01/03/2014
Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Resisting Arrest Without Violence and Misdemeanor VOP-Petit Theft
Name: Jordan Maxwell Bishop
Sex: Male, Race: Caucasian
Age: 25, DOB: 11/22/1988
Height: 5ft 7in, Weight: 145 lbs
Hair: Brown, Eyes: Brown

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

On March 2, Niceville police responded to the sewage-effluent sprayfield near Highway 285 regarding a report that two utility John Deere vehicles had been stolen from the field. The case was turned over to Eglin Air Force Base Security Forces.

On March 3, Niceville police responded to an address on Hickory Avenue, regarding the theft of a wooden box from someone's porch.

On March 3, Niceville police responded to an address on Kathleen Court, where a complainant said he had arrived home to find his vehicle damaged. Some taillight pieces were on the ground.

On March 3, Niceville police responded to a complaint of a mailbox knocked down at the First Presbyterian Church on John Sims Parkway near Rocky Bayou Road.

On March 3, Niceville police received a report of a vehicle burglarized on March 1 at Lions Park.

On March 3, Niceville police received a report from a complainant who said someone had placed something under the hood of his car, which he believed to be burned food. It appeared that someone had put a steak on the battery.

On March 5, Niceville police received a report from a complainant who said that there had been an unauthorized charge on his credit card. The unauthorized purchase was made in Michigan.

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from Mar. 3, 2014 through Mar. 9, 2014.

1 Structure Fire	14 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	1 Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	8 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	0 Hazardous Conditions



STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Oak St.	Service call	3/3/14	06:17
Glenview Ave.	Cancelled	3/3/14	12:17
29th Street	Medical	3/3/14	19:00
Valparaiso Blvd.	Medical	3/4/14	13:50
Linden Ave.	Medical	3/4/14	13:59
N. Partin Dr.	Cancelled	3/4/14	14:43
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	3/4/14	16:27
27th Street	Structure fire	3/4/14	18:16
17th Street	Cancelled	3/4/14	20:32
Woodlow Rd.	Medical	3/5/14	15:14
S. Palm Blvd.	Cancelled	3/5/14	18:29
Kelly Rd.	Medical	3/5/14	18:41
Lincolnshire Dr.	Medical	3/5/14	19:38
Nathey Ave.	Cancelled	3/6/14	02:29
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	3/6/14	10:27
Lincolnshire Dr.	Medical	3/7/14	09:23
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Service call	3/7/14	13:07
Reeves St.	Medical	3/7/14	21:07
Roscommon Blvd.	Service call	3/8/14	05:41
E. John Sims	Medical	3/8/14	11:18
College Blvd.	Vehicle crash	3/8/14	12:27
Bayshore Dr.	Medical	3/8/14	18:45
Sweetgum Ct.	Medical	3/9/14	08:30
Reeves St.	Medical	3/9/14	12:43

Weekly Safety Tip: Carbon Monoxide (CO). You can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a long period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter period of time. CO is an invisible, odorless and colorless gas created when fuels (such as: gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of CO.

Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from Mar. 3, 2014 through Mar. 9, 2014.



STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Bay Dr.	Medical	3/3/14	10:45
Westlake Ct.	Medical	3/3/14	15:36
E. Rosewood Way	Medical	3/3/14	19:02
Westlake Ct.	Public assist.	3/4/14	07:22
E. Hwy. 20	Medical	3/4/14	09:58
Cypress St.	Smoke scare	3/4/14	18:05
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/4/14	20:48
N. White Point Rd.	Dispatched & cancelled	3/6/14	00:38
MidBay Bridge Con.	Vehicle accident	3/7/14	05:53
E. Hwy. 20	Medical	3/7/14	09:11
Merchants Way	Medical	3/7/14	12:11
N. White Point Rd.	Dispatched & cancelled	3/8/14	22:48
W. Birkdale Cir.	Public assist.	3/9/14	03:41
Troon Dr. W.	Medical	3/9/14	13:21
Meadowbrook Ct.	Medical	3/9/14	15:17

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

SURVEY

From page A-6

sive survey that contained questions related to city operations was sent earlier this year to residents to solicit their feedback.

Over 230 surveys had been returned by mid-February, said Beth Millsaps at the City of Valparaiso.

Panel member Derek

Hoffnung stated it was important to assess the comments that were provided to determine "what weaknesses or biggest complaints" were identified so that they can be included in the strategic plan and prioritized for action accordingly.

White reminded members that according to committee by-laws, it was an annual

requirement to conduct elections for committee chairperson and vice-chairperson.

There were no nominations submitted for chairperson, but there were two nominations for vice chairperson: Brian Campbell and Hoffnung.

Additional discussions regarding committee elections will be discussed at the meeting March 13.

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- ♥ 1212 Cedar Avenue South 3 bed / 4.5 bath 3,430 sq.ft. \$475,000 Powerhouse Group 259-3886
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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

What should be done about Russia seizing the Crimea region of Ukraine?

Location: Niceville softball complex



"Russia and Ukraine should settle it between themselves and leave us out of it."

Taylor Thorne, 15, Niceville, Niceville High School student



"I don't think there's anything we should be doing about it at this point."

Dawn Heald, 37, Niceville, teacher



"We should stay completely out of it. We're spread pretty thin throughout the rest of the world."

Steve Burkett, 43, Niceville, auto service manager



"I think we have the wrong man in office to handle it. I fear for my children's future every day."

Jeremy Morris, 35, Niceville, paramedic



"Russia is building up, while we are downsizing our military. We should do right by Americans."

Dave Cole, 52, Niceville, truck driver



"Russia is already starting to back out on their own, from what I saw on the news."

Stan Gordon, 61, Fort Walton Beach, equipment operator

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

SEWER

From page A-1

warranty provided a 20-year guarantee on roofing material and that he negotiated labor coverage for any repair actions for the first five years.

The total cost of the project was approximately \$102,700, which included the initial contract award of \$82,700 and \$20,000 for the lightweight concrete modification.

The upgrade project for the wastewater treatment plant was proceeding as planned. Glenn Stephens, the board's contract engineer, stated actions have been taken to implement the \$420,000 headworks screen resolution proposal that was approved at the NVRASB special session meeting held Feb. 13.

Stephens reported that the 3 millimeter screens are targeted for delivery in August with the installation of the screens starting around Oct. 1

Helms stated that he would be forwarding a copy of the projects schedule timeline to ensure compliance with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) requirements.

As a secondary issue related to the upgrade project, Helms raised a new concern regarding the plant's operations manual. He reminded board members that the upgrade project is the result of modernization requirements directed by the FDEP regarding waste water treatment standards, which the sewer

authority has been cited for repeatedly violating. The current manual is dated 1982 when the plant opened and is significantly outdated. It has been cut and pasted throughout the years, but was still not applicable in many areas "since the process is totally different," Helms said.



Beacon photo by Rich Byrd

Niceville-Valparaiso Regional Sewer Board members discuss capital projects during a meeting March 5 in Niceville.



NHS Hall of Fame inductees

The following students were recently inducted into the Niceville High School Hall of Fame: Pictured, back row from left, Connor McJunkin, Reagan Hobbs, Alex Fager, J. P. Talty and Brock Schaefer. Middle row from left, Aja Brechtel, Monica Hsiang, Rachel Gold and Kayla Henrie. Front row from left, Christina Ramirez, Alayna Nixon, Rebekah Frisbee, Anna Herrera and Regan McAllister.

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Valparaiso residents respond to survey on future

By Rich Byrd
Beacon Correspondent

Continuing efforts to develop a strategic plan for the future direction of the city of Valparaiso will be discussed by the city's Visioning Committee, which will convene Thursday at 4 p.m.

During a meeting of the citizen advisory panel Feb. 13, the focus

centered on the development of goals that would provide the foundation for the Visioning Committee's plan.

Jill White, Chairperson, presented a draft set of goals as a starting point that could be expanded as required. She stated that the draft goals are meant to be "future oriented."

White asked members to review



Jill White

the goals and to be prepared to discuss in detail at the next meeting.

Goal areas included:

- Recreation, culture and entertainment.
- Finance and fiscal stability.
- Economic development (new and existing business and industry).
- Infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, power).

—Communication (cable, phone, Internet).

—Community (neighboring cities, military relations)

—Safety and emergency services, including disaster preparedness.

A key component of the visioning strategic plan is direct input from Valparaiso residents. A comprehensive

Please see SURVEY, page A-4



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Dr. Olivier Broutin believes that when he creates relationships based on trust in his dental practice, he and his team can offer the best solutions to his patients. He knows that people who are suffering the discomfort and embarrassment of losing a tooth feel like there's no hope and the only answer is wearing a bridge or dentures forever.

Having a tooth extracted can be a devastating experience. It affects how you look, speak, eat, and feel about yourself. What many people do not know is that losing a tooth can also begin a domino effect of ill health and aging. The negative results go far deeper than what you see on the surface.

When a tooth is extracted, another process begins under the surface—the loss of bone. As soon as a tooth is lost, the bone that held it in place begins to deteriorate - up to 25 percent of bone mass is lost the first year! This bone is so essential to the structure and balance of your

smile and your face, that without it, your lips will look thinner, your nose longer, you will lose more teeth and will very likely develop TMJ disorder.

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Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Little League season begins

Little League opening games last Saturday were for players from four to 12 years of age with the youngest players learning the fundamentals with plenty of hands-on help from coaches. Pictured, a pint sized player studies the field. More photos on B-4.

NHS speller wins 2nd in state

Morgan Hambleton, a freshman at Niceville High School, recently won 2nd place at the Knights of Columbus State Spelling Bee in Kissimmee.



Twin Cities Honor Choir to perform Tuesday

The Twin Cities Honor Choir will be hosting its 18th Annual concert on Tuesday, March 18 at Rocky Bayou Baptist Church. The choir was created in 1995 when a grant was given to create the program.

This year the choir is larger than ever at 100 fifth grade voices from public elementary schools in and around Niceville and Valparaiso.

Students will come together from Bluewater Elementary, Edge Elementary, Plev Elementary and Lewis Elementary schools. The members of this elite, multi school choir were selected through auditions.

Joining them will be choirs from Ruckel Middle School, Lewis School, Niceville High School and Northwest Florida State College.

Michelle Tredway will be the guest clinician for the



A few of the singers in the 100 plus member Twin Cities Honor Choir practice at Bluewater Elementary in preparation for their performance March 18.

TCHC. Now in her 26th year of teaching, Tredway has taught music to all levels from elementary through college and currently teaches chorus classes at Ruckel.

Organizers of the event are music specialists Kara Bell,

Shirley Andrews, Kristen Bowne and Katie McGuire from local schools.

The concert is free and open to the public, but donations are highly encouraged. All proceeds will support next year's concert.

Niceville man stars in Neil Simon Comedy March 12-15

By Angela Yuriko Smith
Beacon Staff Writer

Zachary Phillips of Niceville will be playing Mel Edison in the starring role of the Northwest Florida State College's production of the Neil Simon comedy "The Prisoner of Second Avenue" which will be in the Sprint Theater at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center in Niceville for four nights, Wednesday, March 12 through Saturday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. each night.

Produced by the college's Fine and Performing Arts Division and directed by theater professor Clint Mahle, the work centers around a middle-aged married couple who must face the trivial and relentless vexations of New York life when the husband, Mel, played by Phillips, loses not just his job, but also his confidence.

"I think it's going to freak people out a little bit to see how relative what's going on in the play is to what's going on now," said Phillips, referring to his character's struggle with joblessness and financial pain. "This was written in the 70s, but the same stuff is happening now. History repeating itself and all that."

Mel Edison is a high earning executive of a prestigious Manhattan firm which is hit with a sudden need to down size, causing Mel to be let go. Mel's



Zachary Phillips of Niceville, plays the lead role in the Neil Simon comedy "The Prisoner of Second Avenue" at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville, from March 12-15. Pictured, he reprises his role as Mel Edison, a well-paid executive of a high-end firm besieged by job loss, neighborly dramas and air pollution.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

job stress is compounded by the air-pollution killing Mel's plants, overheard neighbor dramas and robbery, resulting in a nervous breakdown for Mel which is ultimately beneficial.

Phillips enjoys playing the character of Mel, even if they have little in common, he said.

"This character is not like me at all," said Phillips. "I can't really sympathize, but I can empathize."

Tickets for the NWFSC production of "The Prisoner of Second Avenue" are \$15 adults

and \$10 for youth age 18 or younger and are on sale now by phone, web or in-person from the Box Office at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center. Call 729-6000 or purchase online at MattieKellyArtsCenter.org. NWFSC students may receive one free ticket per student ID in person from the Box Office.

The Box Office will open at 6 p.m. March 12 to 15 for any remaining tickets, subject to availability. Doors open at 7 p.m. for general admission seating.

Engagements

Fantaski-Hawkins

Mike and Cheryl Fantaski of Niceville are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kaylynn M. Fantaski to Matt W. Hawkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Hawkins of Pensacola.

Kaylynn is a 2006 graduate of Niceville High School and obtained her Bachelor of Science in Psychology at Florida University.

Matt is a graduate of University of West Florida where he obtained his Bachelor of Science in Communication Arts.

A May 10 wedding is planned in Pensacola, after which the couple will reside in Pensacola.



Kaylynn M. Fantaski and Matt W. Hawkins

Who's News

Michelle Earls was selected as the Niceville Exchange Club's February Youth of the Month. Michelle is a senior at Rocky Bayou Christian School and the daughter of Laura and Richard Earls of Crestview.



Michelle Earls is the Service Prefect at Rocky Bayou, has logged over 600 hours of community service hour during her high school

Please see WHO'S, page B-3

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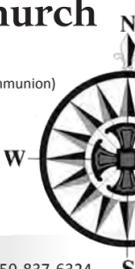
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2014 CALENDAR

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com

College theater

"The Prisoner of Second Avenue" will be presented March 12-15 at 7:30 p.m. by the Northwest Florida State College's Fine and Performing Arts Division in the Sprint Theater. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for youth age 18 and younger. NWFSO students receive one free ticket with ID. The Sprint Theater is at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center at Northwest Florida State College and is directly adjacent to the Mainstage Theater at 100 College Blvd., Niceville. Box Office, 729-6000 or mattiekellyarts-center.org.

Second Wednesday Breakfast

Join the Chamber for the March Second Wednesday Breakfast, March 12 at 7:30 a.m. at the Niceville Community Center. March's breakfast is sponsored by Waste Management of Gulf Coast. The breakfast is \$5 cash or \$6 Credit Card at the door. Chamber members can purchase a Breakfast Punch Card for \$50, valid through 2014. Call the Chamber, 678-2323, for more information.

Author appearance

The Niceville Library will host a book signing with local author, Anne Sanders on Wednesday, March 12 at the Niceville Library from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. She is the author of a new Christian novel, "Behind the Stage" which will be available for purchase at the book signing. She has written for newspapers, magazines, and websites. Mark your calendars to come in and meet Anne Sanders.

Aglow meets

The Aglow meeting will be March 13 at Marina Bay Resort, 80 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach. Coffee and Fellowship at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10 a.m. The speaker is Claire Ogle. For more information contact Robin at 862-4867 or Debra at 678-7213.

Garden club meets

The Bluewater Bay Garden Club will meet on March 14 at the Bluewater Bay Clubhouse on Bluewater Boulevard at 9 a.m. for social time, meeting starting at 9:30. Guest speaker will be Jim Moore, a local Crestview attorney portraying "Andrew Jackson -

Florida's First Governor." Guests are welcome, for information, call Karen Williams at 897-5560.

Free lunch and learn

There will be a free lunchtime lecture at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, March 14, 12 p.m.

Ronald Gibson, author of "Faith & Fishtells," will talk about the cultural history of Destin.

Bring a sandwich and have lunch at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida for History Sandwiched-In, an informal lunchtime education program. Space is limited. Please call to reserve a seat. 678-2615.

Charity golf tourney

The 8th annual Children in Crisis Charity Golf Tournament will be at the Fort Walton Beach Golf Club on March 14 with lunch beginning at 11 a.m. and a shotgun start at noon. \$100 per player, \$400 per team. For more information call 864-4242.

Community yard sale

The 4th annual Shop and Sing Community Yard Sale will be Saturday, March 15. There will be free bouncy houses, bands, hot dogs, popcorn and beverages. Free tables for yard sale vendors need to be reserved by Friday, March 14. Contact the church office at 678-1611 or online RBCNiceville.org. Limited spots available.

Ruckel cheer clinic

Girls from kindergarten through 7th grade are invited to learn jumps, dance, cheers and chants from the Ruckel Middle School cheerleaders March 15 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Ruckel gym.

Cost is \$35 and includes a t-shirt, lunch, individual and group photo. Have notarized athletics permission form. For more information, call Coach Waldhour at 833-4142.

Bird walk

Join local ornithologist, Lenny Fenimore, March 15 on a birding excursion to the Okaloosa County Landfill.

This location consistently provides the highest species counts of any place in the county, and is a good spot to see spring migrants.

Meet at the Coach and 4 Restaurant, 1313 Lewis Turner Blvd. at 7:30 a.m. Call Lenny at 863-2039 for more info.

Pancakes and auction

The Niceville-Valparaiso Kiwanis Club will host a pancake breakfast and silent auction March 15, 7 a.m. to noon, at the Niceville High School cafeteria. Breakfast is \$4 at the door. Admittance to the silent auction is free.



Shop and Sing yard sale

Rosemont Baptist Church, 1601 27th Street, Niceville, will host their 4th annual Shop and Sing Community Yard Sale Saturday, March 15. There will be free bouncy houses, bands, hot dogs, popcorn and beverages. Free tables for yard sale vendors need to be reserved by Friday, March 14. Contact the church office at 678-1611 or online RBCNiceville.org. Limited spots available.

Piano recital

Lois Van Dam, a music professor at Northwest Florida State College, will perform a piano recital featuring the music of Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms on Saturday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Tyler Recital Hall at the college's Mattie Kelly Arts Center in Niceville.

The recital is free of charge with donations accepted at the door. For more information, contact the NWF State College Fine and Performing Arts Division office at 729-5382 or the center's website at MattieKellyArtsCenter.org.

Preparation workshop

The bereavement ministry at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 1200 Valparaiso Boulevard, Niceville, will present a workshop titled "Life and Death: Preparing the Way," on Saturday, March 15 from 8:30-11:45 a.m. in the church's Parish Life Center.

The program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Charlotte at bereavement-ministry@holynamechurch.org or call the church office 678-7813.

Spring melodies

The Madrigals and Belle Voci vocal ensembles of Northwest Florida State College present a free Spring Concert on Sunday, March 16 at 2 p.m. in the Tyler Recital Hall of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center on college's Niceville campus.

The recital is free of charge with donations accepted at the door. For more information, contact the NWF State College Fine and Performing Arts Division office at 729-5382 or the center's website at MattieKellyArtsCenter.org.

Classical commentary

Jeremy Ribando, professor and Director of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts Program of the Northwest Florida State College, will address the Better Listening classical music study group on March 18.

"Better Listening" programs combine commentaries on classical music and related CD selections. The programs will be held each Tuesday evening through March 25 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.

Knitting class

Learn the fun and useful craft of knitting at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida during a "Heritage Alive!" craft class with instructor Carol Burkhard, Tuesday, March 18, 6 - 8 p.m. Learn basic stitches and begin a project of your choice. Bring your own yarn and size 8 needles. \$20 for non members, \$15 for members. Space is limited. Pre-registration required. Call 678-2615.

Gaming tourney

The Niceville Public Library invites teens to get their game on during the Super Smash Bros. Brawl tournament to be held in their Teen Space on Wednesday, March 19 at 2:30 p.m. The tournament is open to all teens 13-17. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place and refreshments will be served. Call Youth Services at 279-4863 x1514 to register for this free program.

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Poetry night raises funds for children

Melanie Lane, a senior at Collegiate High School at Northwest Florida State College, organized a benefit Open Mic Night Jan. 16 for her Capstone project, a requirement for graduation. A total of \$260 was raised through entry fees and donations with 25 poets and musicians performing. The money raised was donated to the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center. Pictured third from left, Melanie stands next to Julie Hurst from the CAC center.



Kiwanis receives community service grant

Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso President, Stan Claypool, receives a community service grant from Northrop Grumman Corporation employee Tim Parsons. Parsons is also the Kiwanis advisor for the Niceville High School Key Club. Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. Kiwanis meets Thursdays at 7 a.m. at Northwest Florida State College, Student Services Center, room 130, Niceville.

WHO'S

From page B-1

career, including a mission trip to Belize and two trips to Haiti. Michelle has also volunteered over 100 hours each year with the Heights Tutoring Program.

Jennifer Sullivan Davis has become promoted as a shareholder of Guilday, Schwartz, Simpson, West, Hatch & Lowe, P.A. in Tallahassee in January. Davis is a 1996 graduate of Niceville Senior High School.



Jennifer Sullivan Davis

Lewis School Band earns medals

Congratulations to the following Lewis School Falcon Band members for earning Superior Rating Medals at the Solo-Ensemble Festival held at Gulf Breeze High School on Saturday, Feb. 22:

The soloists were: Gabriella Vega, clarinet; Jasmine Richardson, clarinet; Haley Pratt, bass clarinet; Tristan Martin, saxophone; Matthew Bentley, trombone; Adrian Johnson, trumpet; Bella Devoid, trumpet; Peregrine Conroy-Baarsch, trumpet; Cutis Parker, tuba; Tacy Col n, clarinet; Faith Fry, flute; Grayson Kramer, clarinet; Jady Richardson, flute; Noah Shaw, clarinet; Tyler Miller, clarinet; Elijah Mosely, euphonium; Ian Zegouros, French horn; and Andrew Col n, tuba.

The ensembles were: Danielle Davis and Jasmine Richardson, clarinet duet; Grayson Kramer and Marissa Martinez, clarinet duet; Andrew Col n, Peregrine Conroy-Baarsch, Bella Devoid, John Welsh and Clay Williams, brass quintet; Keelan Bowers and Ivy Brewer, flute duet; Evan Kelley and Micah Leach, flute duet; Faith Fry and Jady Richardson, flute duet; Derrick Mason and Andrew Col n, tuba duet; and Tacy Col n, Grayson Kramer, Jasmine Richardson and Noah Shaw; clarinet quartet.

Falcon Band members brought home a total of 39 solo and ensemble medals. Kim Daniels was pianist for all soloists.



Artists in their prime

Loretta Menendian, center front row, sits surrounded by her students from the Prime Time Artists class after the opening of the group's show on Feb. 27 held on the Niceville campus of Northwest Florida State College. Students displayed work completed through the course. Prime Time, a continuing education program, began in December and serves four NWFSCLC locations.

Obituary

Margaret Zoe Harvey Bush

Margaret Zoe Harvey Bush, 75, of Birmingham, died Feb. 7. She is survived by her husband, The Reverend Arnold A. Bush Jr., an Episcopal priest. She is also survived by five children and ten grandchildren. A



Margaret Zoe Harvey Bush

Jude's is located at 200 Partin Drive N. Niceville.

memorial and burial service will be held on Saturday, March 15, at 3 p.m. at St. Jude's Episcopal Church with a reception to follow. St.

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Miscellaneous
FREE Square Dance Open House. Tuesday, April 1st, 7-9PM, Pasarda Hall, 17 Industrial St., FWB. No experience necessary. Jeans or casual. Dancing Dolphins Square Dance Club. A smoke-free and alcohol free environment. Call Roy at 651-6356 or email rpbemier@cox.net for information.

Yard Sales
Garage Sale/Estate Sale. March 15 & 16. 7am-12pm. 841 Ruckel Dr. Yard furniture, pictures, clothes, tools. All must go.

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BEACONSPORTS



Eagles remain undefeated

Niceville High School baseball beat Fort Walton Beach 3-1 last Friday, their fourth straight win this season. Pictured, Drew Dungan dominates the mound, striking out four on five hits. The Eagles will face off against Navarre in a home game March 14 at 7 p.m.

Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson



Niceville runners start season strong

The Niceville High School track and field team traveled to Pensacola on March 1 to compete in the Steven Garst Memorial Invitational.

"It was another strong showing for the NHS Track teams Saturday," said Coach Jamie LaFollette. "With similar results from the previous week, the girls' team was the invitational champions while the boys' team was runner up.

"Also, like last week, Nick Morken and Sophia Bergmann each brought home two individual victories. Nick bested the old meet record in the 1600m by eight seconds.

"Bringing home an individual victory was Thomas Howell and the boys 4x800, which destroyed the old meet record by 16 seconds and currently holds the 2nd fastest time in the state. The girls also had victories in the 4x400m relay and the 4x800 relay."

Results for the athletes:
 Claire Crist, 2nd place 3200m

(11:51.31); Annie Serpa, 3rd place 800m (2:30.72); Sophia Bergman, 1st place discus and shot-put (119-09.00, 36-05.50); Aubrey West, 2nd place long



jump (15-09.00); Hannah Schroeder, 2nd place triple jump (32-07.00); girls 4x400m relay, 1st place Nickie Anderson, Cenedy Crum, Drew Haggerman and Cheyenne Woodard (4:21.56); girls 4x800m relay, 1st place Claire Crist, Cenedy Crum, Drew Haggerman and Annie Serpa (10:08.70); Nick Morken, 1st place 1600m and 800m (4:21.45, 2:00.51); Thomas Howell, 1st place 3200m

(9:40.17); Caden Ewing, 3rd place 800m (2:01.99), boys 4x800 relay, 1st place Nick Morken, Thomas Howell, Caden Ewing and Tripp Davis (8:03.70).

The athletes that set a personal record are: W. Higgins, K. Cruz, B. Higgins, N. Morken, T. Davis, T. Hamer, A. Royal, E. Schneidewind, J. Massey, C. Ewing, E. Shelicoff, H. Boilini, A. Boswell, Z. Kish, I. Hunter, C. Woodard, M. Shinnick, J. Lawson, H. Schroeder, C. Crist, J. Moreno, C. Crum, A. Serpa, M. Guter and J. Lawrenz.

The athletes that set a season best: N. Morken, T. Howell, M. Hunter, N. Escoffier, H. Schroeder, N. Anderson, Y. Gulley, D. Haggerma, S. Bergman and M. Guter.

The team will be back in Pensacola on March 15 for the Vince Whibbs Invitational.

Please check peanotpic.com for up to date information on the NHS track and field team.



Little League kicks off

Opening ceremonies for the 2014 Niceville-Valparaiso Little League Baseball season were held Saturday at the Twin Oaks sports complex in Niceville. The ceremonies included presentation of colors by some local Boy Scouts, as young baseball players attempted, with varying degrees of success, to focus their attention on the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance. Information about the Little League is available online at nvlb.net.

Beacon photos by Mike Griffith



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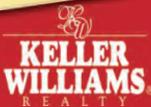


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