

# The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-5

12 Pages, 2 Sections, 6 Inserts

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

50¢

**UP**  
**COMING**

**Wed., 5:30 p.m.**

The public is invited to the **Okaloosa County Commission Candidate Forum** in the Fiesta Room at **El Matador Condominium**, 909 Santa Rosa Boulevard, Fort Walton Beach. Free with complimentary light refreshments. 865-8777.



**Thurs., 2 p.m.**

The **Valparaiso Community Library**



invites teens to a spring break showing of **"The Hunger Games: Catching Fire,"** rated PG-13. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Popcorn will be served.

**Mon. 6:30 p.m.**

The **Captain's Meeting** for the **19th annual Cobia Tournament** will be at LJ Schooners Dockside Restaurant and Oyster Bar. The tournament runs from April 1-30. 897-2821.



**Tues. 7-9 p.m.**

A free introduction to **modern square dancing** will be held at **Pasarda Hall**, 17 Industrial Street, Fort Walton Beach. 651-6356.

Calendar B-2

## County renews pact for convict labor

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

Okaloosa County is renewing a contract with the Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC) to provide convict labor on county roads.

According to county spokeswoman Kathy Newby, the contract, approved by the Okaloosa County Commission March 18, does not require the county to pay the FDOC for the road squads, and prisoners themselves are not

paid for their work for the county.

"The program is set up to be voluntary," said Newby. "This offers the inmates a chance to break the monotony of jailhouse rules and can also teach them some valuable skills."

A typical shift runs, Newby said, from around 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. However, on rare occasions, the county Public Works Department has requested longer hours based

Please see COUNTY, page A-4



State prisoners regularly work on Okaloosa County roads.

Beacon photo

## For those who serve



Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

Niceville High School thanked members of the U.S. armed forces March 18 with a Military Appreciation night during a Lady Eagles' softball game in Niceville. Pictured, Ashley Lacey, widow of Army Sgt. First Class William "Kelly" Lacey, a NHS alumnus who was killed in action Jan. 4 in Afghanistan, tosses the first pitch with help from their daughter, Lily. Niceville defeated Fort Walton Beach 10-0. More photos on B-4.

## F-35 runway decision expected as early as April

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

During a community networking luncheon held March 18 at Tradewinds restaurant in Niceville, members of the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce heard a briefing on present and future activities at Eglin Air Force Base from Dennis Mattson, the civilian vice director of the 96th Test Wing.



Dennis Mattson

Mattson described the job of the test wing as testing and evaluating new weapon systems for the Air Force. "We are responsible for testing anything that comes off an airplane and hits the ground or goes boom," Mattson said.

Mattson covered five topics during his talk; housing privatization, force shaping, Air Force community partnership, the final supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the F-35 program, and a "landscape initiative" for using state forests for

Please see F-35, page A-6



Air Force photo

An Air Force decision governing rules for operation of F-35 fighter planes based at Eglin Air Force Base, and which civilian areas they will routinely overfly, is expected as early as next month.

## Valp. commission closes meeting on suit

By Rich Byrd  
*Beacon Correspondent*

The Valparaiso City Commission convened a special meeting March 18 to apportion responsibilities, and to discuss in private matters relating to a lawsuit.

In accordance with the Valparaiso city charter, an organizational meeting is required as soon as possible after the oath of offices is administered to new

members of the commission; which was conducted at noon, six hours before the special commission meeting.

The newest member of the commission is Tom Browning.

Integral to the city charter process was the identification of each commissioner's position and delineation of associated duties.

Mayor Bruce Arnold confirmed each commissioner's assignment and provided a list of

responsibilities that corresponded to each position.

Commissioner assignments are as follows:

—Commissioner of Public Institutions: Kay Hamilton.

—Commissioner of Health and Sanitation: Tom Browning.

—Commissioner of Streets: Joe Morgan.

—Commissioner of Municipal Utilities: Heyward Strong Jr.

—Mayor and Commissioner-

At-Large: John B. Arnold Jr. The mayor supervises finance, police and personnel.

The other focus of the special meeting was to meet in executive session regarding pending litigation in which the city is represented by City Attorney Bruce Bowman. That portion of the meeting, which lasted just over an hour, was closed to the public and press.

Please see VALP., page A-3



Beacon photo by Rich Byrd

The Valparaiso City Commission March 18 before beginning an hour-long closed meeting.

## \$555,000 bridge seen helping Okaloosa darter

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

A \$555,000 bridge under construction in Niceville by the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority is expected to benefit the Okaloosa darter, a freshwater minnow deemed threatened by development.

During a meeting in Niceville Thursday, bridge authority Assistant Executive Director Rolin Sayler said that a project to build the short, two-lane bridge over a creek that runs under

Rocky Bayou Drive near the Huntington Estates subdivision is nearing completion.

The \$555,000 bridge replaces a culvert, and is one of several such projects being done by the MBBA as "mitigation" for the use of land controlled by Eglin Air Force Base to build the recently completed 11-mile Mid-Bay Bridge Connector. The Rocky Bayou Drive job is

Please see DARTER, page A-4



This new bridge carrying Rocky Bayou Drive, Niceville, over a creek replaces a culvert. The \$555,000 project, funded by Mid-Bay Bridge tolls, is said to benefit the Okaloosa darter, a fish deemed threatened by development.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

# Niceville and Freeport students chosen for D.C. trip

CHELCO recently selected four high school students from our area to go on a trip to our nation's capitol in June. Pictured from left, Lucas Thompson, Ian Kampert, Nicholas Wilkinson, CHELCO CEO Steve Rhodes, Mary Kathryn Myrick, Allison Fondling and Jordan Pearson.

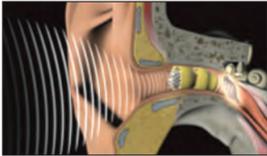


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CHELCO has selected four area high school students to participate in Youth Tour to our nation's capital.

Selected for the June trip to Washington, D.C. were Allison Fondling, Collegiate High School; Nicholas Wilkinson, Walton High School; Mary Kathryn Myrick, Freeport High School; and Ian Kampert, Rocky Bayou Christian School.

Alternates selected by judges were Lucas Thompson, South Walton High School, and Jordan Pearson, Niceville High School.

The first part of the Youth Tour experience involved a two-day trip to Tallahassee for 23 outstanding students from across CHELCO's service territory. The students were selected by their schools. They attended and participated in a mock trial and Senate hearing.

After the Tallahassee trip, the same students participated in a local competition where judges

interviewed them for 10 minutes each. The judges selected four top-scoring students, as well as two alternates, to participate in the Youth Tour, a program organized by the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association.

Once in Washington, D.C., students will join about 1,500 other Youth Tour representatives from across the country and spend a week learning about government, history, and the role of cooperatives.

Other Niceville and Freeport students participating in the Tallahassee Youth Tour trip were Laura Ham, Freeport High School; Ricky Gal, Collegiate High School and Doug Linder, Rocky Bayou Christian School.

Children or grandchildren of CHELCO employees who attended the Tallahassee trip included Chelsea Edwards, Hailey Fannin, Cameron Mayo, Laurel Murley and Travis Shaw.



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<b>Destin Commons</b> Center Plaza near Brighton Collectibles 4300 Legendary Drive Destin, FL 32541	March 22-30, 2014	1pm – Closing
<b>2014 Triple B BBQ</b> Historic Downtown Crestview	March 29, 2014	10am – 6pm
<b>Crestview Tax Collectors Office</b> Brackin Building 302 North Wilson Street Suite 101 Crestview, FL 32536	March 26, 2014	9am – 5pm
<b>Destin Tax Collectors Office</b> Henderson Beach Business Complex 4012 Commons Drive W Suite 122 Destin, FL 32541	March 27, 2014	9am – 5pm
<b>Niceville Tax Collectors Office</b> 506 Highway 85 North Niceville, FL 32578	March 28, 2014	9am – 5pm

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor on any subject are welcome.

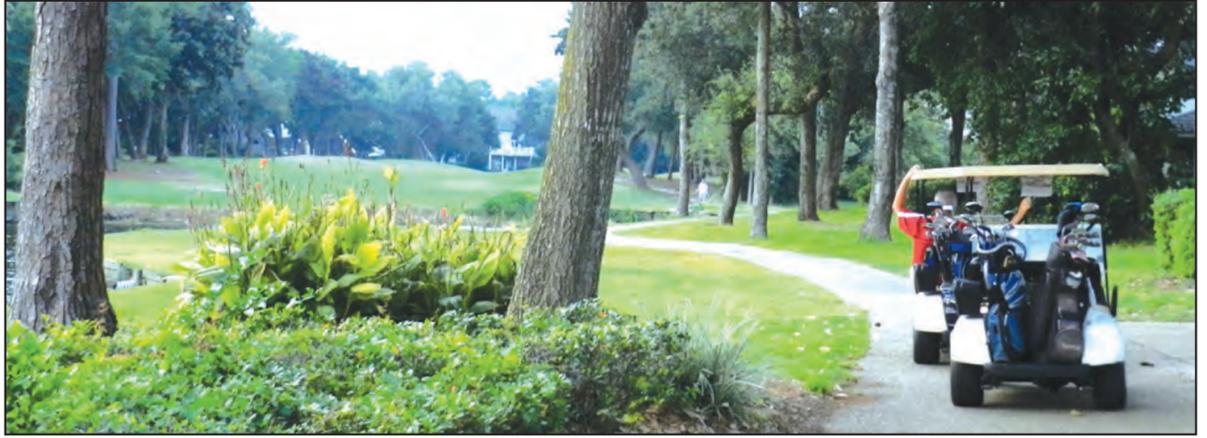
Ensuring BWB property values

By Larry Blameuser  
Bluewater Bay

The last year has seen a major change in our Bluewater Bay community, namely the closing of the Magnolia Golf Course. If it wasn't obvious to us before, surely it is painfully obvious to us now, the importance of maintaining and sustaining the golf courses of Bluewater Bay for the good of the community.

In January, and again last week, BWB Resort General

hoods in Southwind and Sunset Beach, which surround the Marsh Golf Course, have made an agreement with the BWB resort for the 311 residents to annually purchase a Community Gold Card. In turn the resort has agreed to maintain that course with the funds received, and committed to keeping that course open.



Manager Tom Hanks sent letters to the homeowners who surround the Lake Golf Course with an appeal to annually purchase the Gold Card, with funds to be used for improvements and beautification of the Lake Course.

Mr. Hanks notes that 300 annual card-buyers from the Lake Course Subdivisions are

needed. The neighborhoods around the Bay Golf Course have had similar communications.

The Gold Card costs \$160 (+ tax) and offers several perks: One free round of golf per month; 20% discounts at the BWB Golf shop & Sports Bar/Grill; 20% discount at Harbor Docks, Camilles, and

rentals at BWB Golf villas for visiting family and friends.

But the most important thing the card does for us in Bluewater Bay, is to help ensure the beauty of our neighborhoods and the property values of our homes. I am asking all of us in Bluewater, but especially those of us who live near the Golf Courses to pur-

chase the Gold Card annually.

This is for Golfers, and Duffers, and Non-Golfers... we all need "Chip In."

It is very important for us to do everything we can to keep the Bluewater Bay golf courses thriving and prospering. We need them... and they need us.

VALP.

From page A-1

The stated purpose of the closed-door session was "to provide advice to counsel concerning strategy sessions" pertaining to a lawsuit by some property owners on the north side of Toms Bayou who sued the city after the commission refused to relinquish its claim to waterfront property adjoining the plaintiffs' lots. The nature of the "strategy sessions" was not stated in the meeting notice.

Closed meetings of elected governmental bodies concerning current litigation are permitted by the Florida Sunshine Law if "the subject matter of the meeting shall be confined to settlement negotiations or strategy sessions related to litigation expenditures."

Upon reconvening in public, Arnold presented a motion to instruct the city attorney to proceed with pending litigation preparation "as discussed" during the executive session. The motion was approved by all members with the exception of Hamilton, who voted no.

The earlier, closed-door discussion incorporated by reference in Arnold's motion was not divulged during the open, voting session.

In an interview with the Beacon after the open session ended, Browning indicated that the length of the closed meeting had been extended due to the number of questions he had relating to each discussion point. He stated that as the newest commissioner, it was incumbent upon him "to get caught up to speed with as many details as possible in order to make an effective determination on proposed courses of action."

At one point during a post-meeting interview, Arnold intervened to warn Browning not to discuss the substance of the closed session. The state law allowing closed sessions of elected bodies does not prohibit anyone from discussing the matters raised.

The discussion during the executive session was transcribed by a court reporter hired by the city and will be filed with the city clerk. The transcript will be made part of the public record at some point after conclusion of the litigation.



Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

Mayor begins 50th year

Valparaiso Mayor Bruce Arnold was sworn in by City Clerk Tammy Johnson March 18 to another term, beginning his 50th consecutive year in the mayoralty. Also sworn in were city commissioners Clark "Tom" Browning, who begins his first term, and Heyward Strong, who has served since 1970. All three ran unopposed for four-year terms earlier this year. Arnold, first elected mayor in 1964, apparently has the longest tenure of any currently serving elected mayor in Florida.

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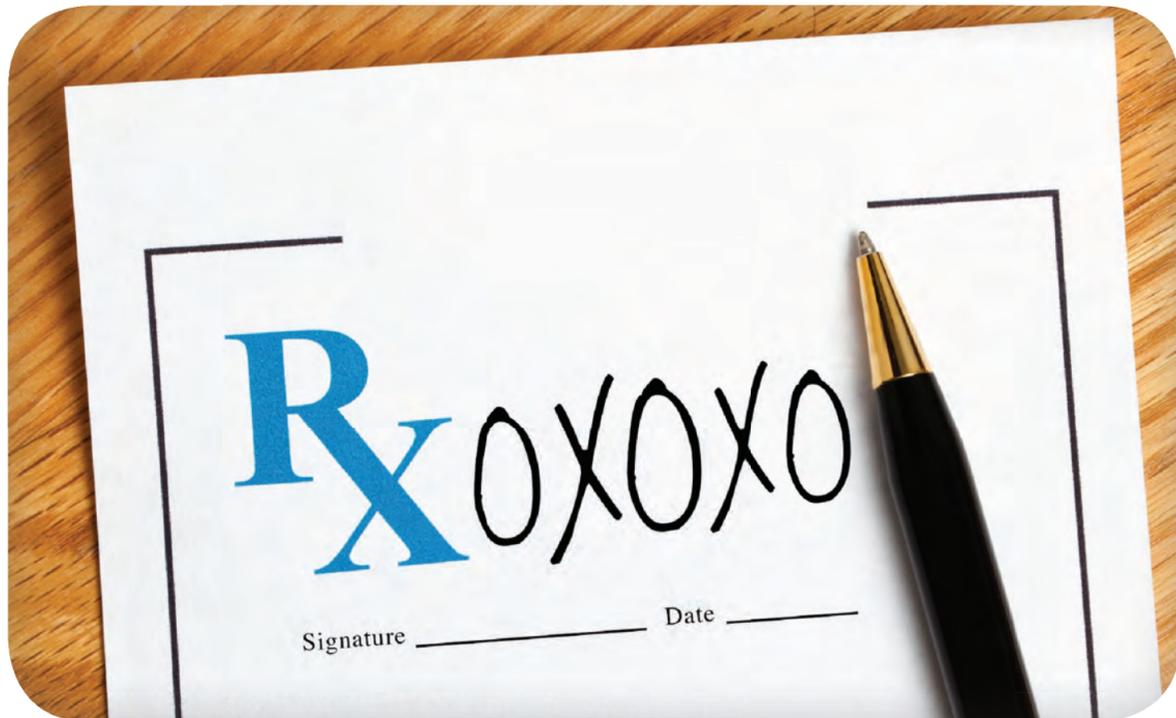
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**COUNTY**

From page A-1

on specific projects and is usually granted some leeway, Newby said. Okaloosa County public works employees serving as inmate foremen are trained through the FDOC, and can supervise up to three inmates at a time. Each unarmed county inmate foreman must complete two days of in-classroom training and participate in "ride-arounds" with a corrections officer. In addition, the county inmate foremen must also attend yearly classes to keep their certifications current. Regular FDOC corrections officers may also supervise inmate work crews, and typically bring out five inmates at a time. Both the county inmate foremen and the state corrections officers work 40 hours a week, during which time the inmates are also with them. This time also allows for transportation of the inmates. The Beacon asked an FDOC spokeswoman for information on

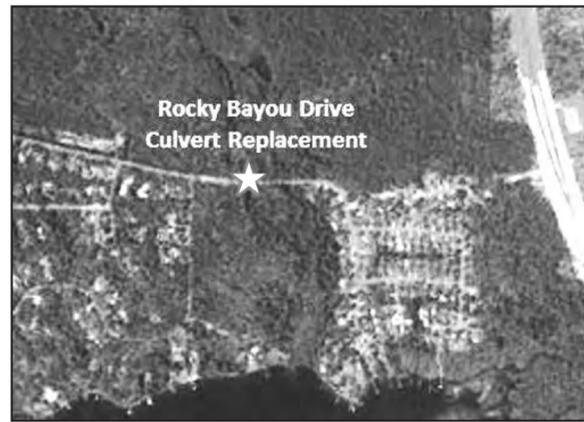
how many inmates of the Okaloosa Correctional Institution near Crestview take part in the road labor program, how many man-hours they provide, and whether any inmates are barred from the program. But no answers were forthcoming by press time. The prison's population, a maximum of 894, are all men. The prison's inmates are felons serving various sentences ranging from one year to life. Also during the county commission meeting, the commission unanimously approved sending letters to each city served by the Okaloosa Transit System (OCT), informing them that the county is seeking to develop a new funding plan for OCT. The letter also asks the cities to contribute to the cost of operating the county bus system if they want to keep transit routes within their cities. Efforts by the Beacon to learn from county officials how much the bus system costs county, state and federal taxpayers to operate were not fully answered by press

time. The county said its annual share is \$290,775. The bus routes chiefly serve Fort Walton Beach, but one makes one round trip each weekday between Crestview and Fort Walton Beach, stopping at two places in Niceville. It does not have a scheduled stop in Valparaiso. The county commission also approved an application for a matching grant of \$16,000 from the Florida Wildlife Commission for constructing artificial reefs. Public Works Director John Hofstad said the grant, if received, will help pay for establishing four artificial reefs in nearby state waters. The board also approved a contract with the Tallahassee-based law firm Nabors, Giblin, & Nickerson for services as county attorney commencing April 1, to succeed Shalimar lawyer John Dowd, whose resignation will take effect July 1 after 40 years in the county post. County spending for routine county attorney services, excluding litigation and special services, is \$250,000 a year.

**DARTER**

From page A-1

apparently the only one that is not being done on federal property. The mitigation projects include road and bridge construction and environmental improvement projects. Sayler said that the Rocky Bayou Drive bridge is now in place, with abutments and barriers also in place, and that crews are now working to connect the roadway to the span. According to MBBA spokeswoman Cathy Demoreski, the Rocky Bayou Drive bridge "is part of the obligation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as determined from the Biological Opinion in the Environmental Assessment for the Connector." This project and the others on Eglin "are all required to benefit the Okaloosa darter," said Demoreski. The Okaloosa darter is a freshwater minnow deemed threatened by development. It lives only in six creeks in central Okaloosa County, including the one flowing under Rocky Bayou Drive, which drains private and Eglin land. Cost of the Rocky Bayou Drive bridge and the other Okaloosa darter projects will be paid by vehicle tolls over the Mid-Bay Bridge and Connector. Also during the meeting, board members voted unani-



Aerial photo of east end of Rocky Bayou Drive, Niceville, shows location of new bridge built to benefit the Okaloosa darter, below.



mously to approve sending a letter to Florida state Senate President Don Gaetz, encouraging the state to give higher priority to plans for widening parts of U.S. Highway 98 in Destin, the main highway along the coastline of the Gulf of Mexico. Bridge Authority Executive Director Jim Vest said that according to current plans, funding for such a project from Tang-o-Mar Drive, Miramar Beach, to Airport Road, Destin, is not scheduled to become available until 2024. MBBA Chairman Gordon Fornell commented that he had already sent such a letter of his

own. He said that he had recently attended some meetings of the Okaloosa Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), a regional body which helps to set priorities for state road building projects. Fornell said that he found the overall planning process "amazing," as well as "convoluted and confusing." Neither Vest nor Fornell suggested what other scheduled highway projects in the region should have funding delayed in order to make funds available earlier for the U.S. 98 widening, which Vest stated would help the local economy.

**Road closure**

Helms Street, Niceville, will be closed for the repair of utilities Wednesday, March 26, from approximately 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the Niceville Public Works office at 729-4064.

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Niceville's Newspaper

# 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 March 1 a Walton County deputy arrested two juveniles, each for one count of possession of a controlled substance, one count of marijuana possession over 20 grams, and one count of narcotic equipment possession and/or use. The pair was arrested at Choctaw Beach Park after the deputy caught them using drugs in a restroom at the park.

On March 14, Valparaiso police arrested Austin Cole Adams, 18, 327 Washington Ave., Valparaiso, for one count of possession of paraphernalia. An officer made a traffic stop after he observed Adams riding tandem on a bicycle with another person, after dark, without lights. Adams was found to be in possession of a glass smoking pipe, which the officer recognized as the type used to smoke marijuana. A field test on the pipe yielded a positive result for the presence of THC.

## Summonses

On March 13, Niceville police cited James Bryan Gilhaus, 31, 2907 Brentwood Lane, Fort Walton Beach, for one count of retail theft shoplifting. Gilhaus allegedly removed 22 items totaling \$284.95 in value from the Walmart on John Sims Parkway, Niceville, concealing them in Walmart bags which he brought into the store. He placed the bags in a shopping cart and exited the store without paying.

On March 15, Niceville police cited Christopher Lloyd Brothers, 27, 400 Kelly Rd., Apt. 12, Niceville, for one count of marijuana possession, not more than 20 grams. Brothers was the driver and sole occupant of a car stopped for an expired license plate. During the stop, an officer smelled the odor of

burnt marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. When questioned, Brothers produced a clear sandwich bag containing about 1.25 grams of a green leafy substance which the officer suspected to be marijuana. A test yielded a positive result for the presence of THC.

## Wildlife

On March 14, Niceville police responded to an address on Gracie Lane, where a complainant said that when he went outside he discovered blood all over his front door. The responding officer determined that the blood was from a deer that had run into the door.

## Other incidents

On Feb. 24 Walton County deputies responded to a report of a burglary at an address on State Highway 20, Choctaw Beach. Tools valued at \$1,764 were missing from a house under construction.

On March 2 Okaloosa deputies responded to a reported burglary at Edge Elementary School. Investigation revealed fresh pry marks on the back door of a portable classroom. No other damage or signs of attempted forced entry were found at the school.

On March 10, Niceville police received a report of the theft of a backpack blower from an unsecured trailer.

On March 12, Niceville police responded to a report of criminal mischief at an address on Bayshore Drive, where a truck had been scratched with a sharp object.

On March 12, Valparaiso police received a complaint from a landlord that his tenants had left his property after causing damage to the home and outside areas, as well as removing two showerheads.

On March 13, Niceville  
Please see BLOTTER, page A-6

# Fire Department Reports

## Niceville

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



0 Structure Fire	21 Emergency Medical Calls
1 Vehicle Fire	5 Vehicle Crash
2 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	7 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	2 Hazardous Conditions

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
37th Street	Alarm activation	3/17/14	06:33
Honeysuckle Way	Medical	3/17/14	08:31
SR 85 N	Medical	3/17/14	12:55
S. Cedar Ave.	Medical	3/17/14	19:20
Reeves St.	Medical	3/18/14	07:01
Persimmon Way	Alarm activation	3/18/14	08:36
Persimmon Way	Alarm activation	3/18/14	09:03
N. Partin Dr.	Vehicle crash	3/18/14	13:58
Rocky Bayou Bridge	Wrong location	3/18/14	16:54
Rocky Bayou Dr.	Outside equip. fire	3/18/14	17:02
Everglade Dr.	Medical	3/18/14	20:55
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	3/19/14	07:52
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	3/19/14	09:42
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Fuel spill	3/19/14	11:16
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	3/19/14	11:24
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	3/19/14	14:12
Kelly Rd.	Medical	3/19/14	17:23
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	3/19/14	20:08
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	3/19/14	20:39
SR 85 N	Vehicle fire	3/20/14	01:18
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	3/20/14	18:05
McKinney St.	Medical	3/20/14	19:10
S. Cedar Ave.	Medical	3/21/14	10:51
Boyd Circle	Medical	3/21/14	11:40
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	3/21/14	12:18
Stony Creek Cove	Trash fire	3/21/14	14:51
27th Street	Medical	3/21/14	17:05
SR 85 N	Vehicle crash	3/21/14	17:34
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	3/21/14	20:27
Reeves St.	Medical	3/22/14	05:41
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	3/22/14	08:39
N. Partin Dr.	Alarm activation	3/22/14	10:47
Rocky Creek Bridge	Water rescue	3/22/14	15:28
Edgewater Dr.	Medical	3/22/14	19:11
Powell Dr.	Cancelled	3/22/14	20:57
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	3/23/14	09:13
SR 85 N	Fuel spill	3/23/14	13:58
Duncan Dr.	Medical	3/23/14	23:25

Weekly Safety Tip: Whether cooking with gas or electric, never place anything on the stove you don't want to heat. An electric coil reaches 800 degrees while a gas flame goes over 1000 degrees. Remember, towels and pot holders ignite at 400 degrees. Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook

## North Bay



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

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Chantilly Cir.	Medical	3/17/14	07:57
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/17/14	08:26
Merchants Way	Medical	3/17/14	17:15
Hwy. 20 E.	Vehicle accident	3/17/14	18:50
Ida Coon Cir.	Medical	3/17/14	19:29
Barrington Ln.	Medical	3/17/14	20:09
Pinehurst Cov.	Dispatched & cancelled	3/18/14	07:03
E. Hwy. 20	Medical	3/18/14	08:51
N. White Point Rd.	Medical assist	3/18/14	15:07
Rocky Bayou Bridge	No incident found	3/18/14	16:56
SR 293 Bypass	False alarm	3/18/14	18:48
Wright Cir.	Public assist	3/18/14	23:46
Jamaica Way	Assist invalid	3/19/14	12:40
Hwy. 20 E.	Medical	3/19/14	14:57
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/20/14	03:33
N. of Hwy. 20	Grass fire	3/20/14	10:56
E. Hwy. 20	Dispatched & cancelled	3/20/14	19:31
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/20/14	21:47
S. Tumbery Cove	Medical	3/21/14	14:36
Cedar St.	Medical assist	3/21/14	21:17
Hwy. 293/Rocky Creek	Wrong location	3/22/14	15:29
Oakmont Pl.	Medical	3/22/14	16:09
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/22/14	18:00
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/22/14	18:03
N. White Point Rd.	Medical assist	3/22/14	18:06
Southminster Ct.	Mobile property fire	3/22/14	19:15
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/22/14	20:08
Yacht Club Dr.	Medical	3/22/14	21:27
Parkwood Pl.	Medical	3/22/14	22:34
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/23/14	11:50
Hwy. 20/Bluewater Blvd.	Vehicle accident	3/23/14	15:51
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/23/14	20:13

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

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**F-35**

From page A-1  
military training.

As for the F-35 training program at Eglin, Mattson said the final F-35 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was released to the public for a 30-day review on Feb. 28. He said that Alternative 1A, which would allow more F-35 flights over Valparaiso, Niceville, and Bluewater Bay than other options considered, is still the preferred alternative, but that the Air Force still has the option of choosing another alternative before the final Record of Decision (ROD) is released in April or later this year. He said the Record of Decision "is expected to include mitigations on how the aircraft operate," which may reduce the expected impact of aircraft noise over nearby communities.



Beacon file photo

**Some 1,500 Eglin family housing units have been razed, and about another 747 will be, to pave the way for new, privately managed dwellings.**

Mattson also discussed a military "Landscape Initiative," the goal of which is to conduct non-hazardous military activities that are similar to those already taking place in state forests with no interruption to current or future forest users.

Contrary to some recent rumors and statements from critics, Mattson said, the program "will not topple the forests and kill all the woodpeckers." In fact, he said, the military has already demonstrated that "it is one of the best stewards of the land in Florida." For example, he said, environmental managers on the Eglin military reservation have helped to bring endangered species back from the brink of extinction, and have improved the local environment in ways that neither state nor federal civilian forest services could match.

Mattson said military activities in state forests may include non-hazardous and environmentally low-impact training in ground operations for local special operations forces, such as survival and land navigation training. This, he said, will allow the military-controlled land on the Eglin military reservation to be more available for weapons test activities, which require a large "footprint" of mili-

tary-controlled land due to the potentially hazardous nature of aerospace weapon tests. The military training in state forests, he said, "must be compatible with current forest operations." Such activities, he said, may take place in Blackwater State Forest and in the Tate's Hell State Forest. He said more details about the program are expected to be released to the public in late March, and public hearings on the program will be held in late April in Apalachicola, Carrabelle, and Milton.

Mattson also said that Eglin recently held a kickoff meeting for the "Air Force Community Partnership Initiative." The goal of the program, said Mattson, is "to leverage installation of local community capabilities and resources to reduce costs."

"There are things the Air Force can't afford to do any more," he said, "so we are partnering with off base organizations." The Air Force will offer long-term leases, of up to 50 years, allowing civilian organizations to use military land for commercial or other purposes that do not encroach on military missions, in return for "in-kind services" which those organizations will provide to the Air Force.

For example, he said, the

recent construction of the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector road between State Road 85 N. and the north end of the Mid-Bay Bridge created a number of "orphan parcels" of military land along the connector route. The Air Force may trade commercial use of such land parcels in exchange for custodial services or other services to be provided to the base by those who obtain leases on the land.

A planning workshop for the program is expected to be held on April 15 between Eglin officials and selected community representatives, at a location yet to be determined.

Regarding housing privatization, Mattson said that Eglin has 903 family housing units, most of which are slated for demolition, especially those that were built in the 1960s, and have become difficult to maintain and are not considered adequate housing by modern standards. Another 1,500 or so have already been demolished.

The housing privatization program grants a 50-year lease to Corvias Military Construction, a contractor that is expected to demolish about 747 of the remaining Eglin units and replace them with new ones.

Corvias will also construct and maintain a 12,000-square-foot

community center at Eglin, to include a pool, dog park, jogging trails, and playgrounds.

Corvias will maintain all military family housing at Eglin, including 126 duplex units at Hidden Oaks, bringing the total number of housing units at Eglin to about 900, down considerably from the original 2,357.

Mattson said Corvias will be paid with "seed money" from the Air Force's military construction budget, as well as with Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) funds allocated to military families who will live in the privately managed dwellings.

Mattson explained that by privatizing the military housing program, the Air Force will save money, since Corvias, as a civilian contractor, can "leverage" the military construction seed money in ways the Air Force could not. He said the new Eglin housing

will be constructed in phases beginning this summer, with completion expected by 2018. Construction at Hurlburt has already begun, he said.

Regarding force shaping, Mattson said that the active duty end strength of the U.S. Air Force is expected to be 327,600 in fiscal year 2014, but to be reduced by 16,700 airmen during fiscal year 2015. He said that as much of the reduction as possible be done through early retirements and voluntary separation pay programs, although some airmen may be separated involuntarily.

Mattson said he did not know how many civilian reductions will be required. "We expect more reductions, including a management headquarters staff reduction, in FY 15 and beyond," he said. "As civilian positions are reduced, the Air Force will use civilian force management

actions, which are based on federal government-wide statutory language. As in past years, we will continue to offer voluntary early retirement authority and voluntary separation incentive pay to the maximum extent possible before we implement a reduction in force."

Mattson also said that Eglin expects to lose a few aircraft in FY 2015 because of budget changes. The 40th Flight Test Squadron is expected to lose its two A-10 fighters, and Eglin is also expected to lose one F-15C in FY 15, and three more in FY 16, as well as two F-15D models over the next five years.

Mattson also said, however, that such plans are always subject to change, especially as a result of political decisions in Washington, DC. "If Congress has its way, the A-10s may be here forever," he said.

**BLOTTER**

From page A-5

police responded to a report of a domestic disturbance.

\*\*\*

On March 13, Niceville police responded to the First Baptist Church, on Bayshore Drive, in regard to a burglary. Someone had broken a window, entered, and taken some candy. Damage to the window was estimated at \$75.

\*\*\*

On March 14 a Walton County deputy responded to an address on Darrell Court in reference to a credit card fraud. The victim reported that someone had made a fraudulent charge of \$375.99 to her credit card. The victim had physical control of the credit card and had not allowed anyone else access to it. The fraudulent purchase was made from a company in California. The card account has been canceled, and the credit card company absorbed the loss.

\*\*\*

On March 14, Niceville police received a report from a woman who said that an unknown male had given her a check for \$1,900, which returned as counterfeit.

\*\*\*

On March 17, Niceville police responded to the AOC Food Mart on Redwood Avenue,

**Okaloosa seeks fugitives**

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



**Wanted As Of: 11/04/2013**  
FTA-Unauthorized Possession of a DL/ID & Unlawful Display of Another's DL  
**Name: Aieandro Ortiz**  
**Sex: Male Race: Hispanic**  
**Age: 39 DOB: 03/31/1975**  
**Height: 5ft 4in Weight: 130 lbs**  
**Hair: Black Eyes: Brown**



**Wanted As Of: 03/17/2014**  
FTA-Unlawful Possession of a DL/ID & Unlawful Display of Another's DL  
**Name: Juan Pablo Hernandez**  
**Sex: Male Race: Hispanic**  
**Age: 30 DOB: 04/09/1984**  
**Height: 6ft 0in Weight: 180 lbs**  
**Hair: Black Eyes: Brown**

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

where the victim, a cashier at Texaco, stated that his wallet had been stolen within the last 30 to 45 minutes, apparently while he left his wallet on the counter while he bought a drink.

On March 17, a Valparaiso officer responded to T.J. Brooks Park in reference to three juveniles who broke the bathroom window at the park. The investi-

gation revealed that one of the juveniles attempted to open the unlocked window from the outside, and the window came out of the frame and fell on the ground, which caused it to break. The parents of the juveniles and the Valparaiso public works director made a civil agreement to get the window repaired.

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**THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER** —by Mike Griffith

What do you think happened to the missing Malaysian airliner?

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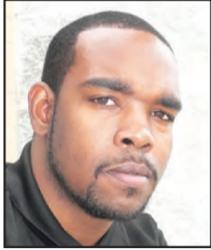
"I definitely think there was some sort of hijacking, but not by the pilots. I think the passengers with the stolen passports had something to do with it."

Jenna Forrester, 22, Niceville, restaurant hostess



"I think one or both pilots hijacked it, and it crashed into the ocean."

Ian Hall, 16, Niceville, homeschool student



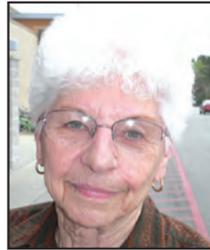
"I think they crashed in the ocean, and probably went straight to the bottom. I think they'll soon find enough evidence to determine what really happened."

Darrell Williams, 22, Atlanta, Georgia, sales



"I think it went down in the Indian Ocean. It's a real shame."

Michael Dean, 70, Valparaiso, retired



"I really don't know. I was hoping it was some place where the people were safe, but it doesn't look like it."

Barbara Grabinger, 79, Apple Valley, Minnesota, retired



"I think it's in the ocean. There hasn't been any contact, and the latest reports are of possible debris in the ocean."

Brett Schneider, 37, Niceville, US Air Force

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That's where Rhino Shield comes in.

The special Rhino Shield coating, which lasts longer and protects better than conventional paint, is available for commercial buildings as well as for homes. It can also protect roofs, as well as exterior walls.

"Super Shield," said Mike Redmond, owner of Rhino Shield Gulf South, "is a unique product, ideal for all kinds of roof surfaces such as asphalt, tile, aluminum, steel, copper, plywood, shakes, Styrofoam, concrete and clay."

While Rhino Shield protection is well known for the protection it gives many Northwest Florida homes, Redmond emphasized that it is especially useful for protecting commercial structures such as stores, shops, and office buildings. When used commercially, Rhino Shield protects the building, reducing long-term maintenance costs, and maintains the clean,



"I love it," said a property manager with Conrad Properties. "We had Rhino Shield applied to several of our properties a couple of years ago, and have had no need to power wash the walls of any of them since."

"Rhino Shield is a great product," said Tim Herndon, of the Carr, Riggs & Ingram accounting firm. "It has been on our building in Bluewater Bay for going on four years now. Its sealing properties are great. It has eliminated leaks, and gives the stucco exterior of our building a clean appearance, without mildew."



professional looking appearance that attracts customers.

"With Super Shield, you can make your old roof look more modern, and can change the color of your existing roofing material, such as shingle, metal, or tiles, while protecting it and adding years of life to your roof," Redmond said.

"Where a roof has been repaired, you can ensure a uniform color and appearance, even over parts of the roof that have been damaged or repaired in the past."

"Super Shield ceramic roof coating offers substantial waterproofing and insulation benefits by creating a layer of protection with the benefit of ultraviolet ray reflectivity," Redmond said. "Super Shield not only aids in the reduction of energy consumption, but also prevents mold, mildew and staining, eliminates granule loss with a shingle roof, and increases resale value by extending the life of the roof."

"While Super Shield is cheaper than reroofing," Redmond said, "this product also has a 10 year non-prorated transferable warranty, and can be tinted to any color."

"I love it," said a property manager with Conrad Properties. "We had Rhino Shield applied to several of our properties a couple of years ago, and have had no need to power wash the walls of any of them since. It just looks beautiful. It was amazing to watch the crews at work."

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To learn more, contact Rhino Shield Gulf South at 866-902-9937, or on the web at RhinoShieldFlorida.com.

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## Engagements

### DuVall-Buerger



**Tyson Buerger and Krystal DuVall**

David and Amy DuVall are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Krystal DuVall to Tyson Buerger, son of William and Kathie Buerger.

Krystal is a life long resident

of the area and Tyson is from Ohio and came to the area via the Air Force. Tyson is now an instructor mechanic for Lockheed Martin and is a member of Rocky Bayou Baptist Church. Krystal has a business degree and is employed by Waterside Chiropractic. She is a member of Northbay Baptist Church where her father is the pastor.

Following Gods will for their lives, they are joining together in marriage on April 4 at 6 p.m. at The Venue in Destin.

### Bikker-Clay

Lt. Col. David and Luv Bikker of Niceville are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Brianna Bikker, to Alexander Clay, son of Charles and Julia Clay of Vallejo, Cali. Brianna is a 2009 valedictorian of The Collegiate



**Brianna Bikker and Alexander Clay**

High School and graduated Summa Cum Laude in Electrical Engineering from Texas A&M University, completing graduate studies in Washington D.C.

Alexander is also a graduate of Texas A&M University where he obtained his degree in Electrical Engineering. An Oct.18 wedding is planned at the University of Virginia chapel in Charlottesville, Va., after which the couple will live and work in Virginia.

## Six from NHS compete at state science



Beacon photos by Angela Yuriko Smith

Niceville High School is sending six students to the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair in Lakeland April 8-11. Pictured from left, Principal Rodney Nobles, Catherine Parker, Tyler Wallace, Brayton Miles and Sarah Craig. Not pictured, Lauren Matthews and Alexandria Tolbert.

The 37th Annual Robert Sheffield East Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair awards ceremony was held recently to recognize the best science, technology, engineering and mathematics projects from Okaloosa and Walton counties. Two Niceville High School students, Sarah Craig and Brayton Miles, were selected as Grand Prize winners and will represent Florida at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles, Calif. May 10-18. The Intel ISEF is the premier global science competition for students in grade 9-12, providing an annual forum for more than 1,500 high school students from 70 countries,

regions and territories to display their independent research. Altogether six NHS students were selected to represent the East Panhandle at the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair in Lakeland April 8-11. The Florida State Science and Engineering Fair is the largest academic competition in the state of Florida. Each year more than 900 aspiring scientists in grades 6-12 participate as finalists from the 37 affiliated Regional Science and Engineering Fairs representing all 67 counties in Florida. NHS Regional Award winners going to state are Sarah Craig, Lauren Matthews, Brayton Miles, Catherine Parker, Alexandria Tolbert and Tyler Wallace.



Gina Emery, the science fair review committee person for Niceville High School, was chosen to receive the Science Fair Outstanding Educator Award during the 37th Annual Robert Sheffield East Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair awards ceremony.



## Niceville dancers perform for St. Patrick's Day

Five dancers from Niceville performed with The Drake School of Irish Dance performed during the St. Patrick's Day celebration at Gulf Place on Saturday, March 15. Pictured from left, Kiera Welch, Eve Glenn, Evan Simpson, Mariah Magness and Colleen Simpson.

# Keller Williams Realty Emerald Coast Award-Winning Realtors for 2013

Niceville Keller Williams Realtors win 24 awards at the annual Keller Williams Emerald Coast awards luncheon

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD



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Amanda Housand

### GOLD CIRCLE AWARD



Amanda Housand

### SILVER CIRCLE AWARD



The Stretch Team  
Bob & Debbie Stretch

### INDIVIDUAL SALES AWARDS



Jean Floyd

### KELLER WILLIAMS PROFIT SHARING AWARD



Jean Floyd

### TOP LISTING AND SALES INDIVIDUAL KELLER WILLIAMS ASSOCIATE



Linda Zickler



Emerald Preferred Group  
Debbie Collins  
Lezle Jacobs  
Susan Rood



Judy Griffin



Clara Miles



Kelly Shephard



Myke Triebold



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### Lewis roasts raise funds

Lewis softball player Bella DeVoid was among those busy delivering smoked pork butt roasts March 19 to local neighborhoods to raise funds for uniforms and buses. The sale of the roasts raised nearly about \$1,800.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith



## 2014

### CALENDAR

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com

#### Wanting warblers

The all male Emerald Coast Chorus is looking for male Barbershop singers for their award winning chorus. Practice is every

Thursday night at 7-9:30 p.m. in the Music Room at Shalimar United Methodist Church, 1 Old Ferry Rd., Florida. Questions contact Johnny McDonald at 585-5034 or visit emeraldcoastchorus.com.

#### Alzheimer's support group

A support group for those affected by Alzheimer's will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 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.

#### Candidate forum

The public is invited March 26 to the Okaloosa County Commission Candidate Forum, a free event, held in the Fiesta Room at El Matador condo, 909 Santa Rosa Blvd., Fort Walton Beach on Okaloosa Island. Come meet and greet candidates at 5:30 p.m. and enjoy complimentary light refreshments.

The Okaloosa County Commission District 2 and District 4 Candidate Forum begins at 6 p.m. The audience will ask the candidates questions. All Okaloosa County registered voters are eligible to vote in all district races.

The event is hosted by the Condo Alliance of Okaloosa Island, and co-sponsored by the Florida Panhandle Patriots. For information, contact Rebecca Sherry, President, Condo Alliance of Okaloosa Island at 244-2744 or Brenda Follis-Lengyel, Chairman, Florida Panhandle Patriots at 865-8777.

#### Library movie time

The Valparaiso Community Library invites teens to a spring break showing of "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire," rated PG-13, on March 27 at 2 p.m. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Popcorn will be served.

#### Adult soccer sign up

Adult Indoor Soccer League, registration starts March 30 through May 23. Early registration is \$40 per player, after \$50 per player after May 16. Games will be played on Fridays starting May 30 and running until July. Check out our website for registration forms and more details. Nicevilleumc.org/recreation.

#### Republican luncheon

The Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated will be meeting on April 2 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on Okaloosa Island. Socializing will begin at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12 p.m. To accommodate working women, there will be a "Dine and Dash" table, which will accommodate



### Sign up for adult soccer

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those who can only stay for a limited time.

The program will feature a forum of the Okaloosa County Commission candidates for District 4 — Don Amunds, Trey Goodwin and Henry Kelley.

To make a reservation, contact Donna Pattison at 651-5416 or donnapattison@cox.net by noon on Friday, March 28. Cost of the lunch is \$18 for members and \$20 for guests. For more information about RWOFF, visit rwoff.org.

#### Cobia tourney

The Bluewater Bay Marina will be hosting its 19th annual Cobia Tournament. The tournament runs from April 1-30. There will be a Small Boat Division (29 feet and under) and an Open Division (30 feet and above). Tournament payout is 50/30/20. Sponsorships are available. Captain's Meeting will be held March 31 at 6:30 p.m. at L.J. Schooners Dockside Restaurant and Oyster Bar, Bluewater Bay. Sponsors and tournament registrants will receive tickets to these events. For more information and for a registration form, please call Bluewater Bay Marina at 897-2821 or visit bluewaterbaymarina.com.

#### Square dancing

A free introduction to modern square dancing will be held 7-9 p.m., April 1 at Pasarda Hall, 17 Industrial Street, Fort Walton Beach. No experience necessary, jeans or casual attire. Come meet new people in a smoke free and

alcohol free environment with or without a dance partner. Classes start April 8. Sponsored by the Dancing Dolphins Square Dance Club. Instructor is Roy Bernier. Call 651-6356 or e-mail rpbnerier@cox.net for information.

#### Open mic poetry night

Join fellow poets April 2 for "Say the Word," an open mic poetry reading at the French Quarter Bar & Grill, 714 Howell Rd., Niceville, at 7 p.m.

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

## Volunteers needed

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Ave, Valparaiso, is looking for volunteers. Currently, they have need of friendly and reliable volunteers to greet guests and answer phones in the Museum's Gift Shop. Hours would be Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. or 1 p.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call the museum at 678-2615, email info@heritage-museum.org, or stop by in person.

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<h4 style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Child Care</h4> <h5 style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">CAMP ROC</h5> <p>Free Breakfast, Free Lunch, crafts, field trips, pool. Central Baptist Crestview. 850-682-5525 ext. 223</p>	<h4 style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Help Wanted</h4> <p>Magee Industries, now hiring 6 full time employees. Year round employment-40 hours per week. Weekly pay with benefits. Apply in person at 9646 Highway 20 West, Freeport.</p>	<h4 style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Miscellaneous</h4> <h5 style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">FREE Square Dance Open House</h5> <p>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 rpbnerier@cox.net for information.</p>	<h4 style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Office Space</h4>
<h4 style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Homes for Sale</h4>	<h4 style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Homes for Sale</h4>	<h4 style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">Homes for Sale</h4>	<h4 style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">PRIME WAREHOUSE OR OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE</h4> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">WISE AVE. Niceville Offices 500SF-1,000SF</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Warehouses 1,000SF-6,000SF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For more information call <b>897-6464</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1484 Hickory St. Niceville</p>

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Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

## Kiwanians flip flapjacks, raise \$4K for charity

The Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso held their annual pancake breakfast and silent auction March 15. They served 250 breakfasts raising around \$1,000 for charities they support. The silent auction raised an additional \$3,000 at last count.

## Obituaries

### Joyce Stepp-Lathrop

1934 - 2014

Joyce Stepp-Lathrop, age 79, of Bluewater Bay in Niceville, passed away peacefully Monday, March 10, with her family by her side. She was born March 19, 1934.

Joyce has supported many worthwhile projects and functions for more than thirty years, including Sunday School teacher, Red Cross, Special Olympics, Democratic Committee, Diva Beach Red Hat, Retired Officers Wives Club, Heart Desire Chairperson and the Girls Night Out Club.

She is one of the first women elected a Lady Elk in Lodge 1795. She has served on Niceville, Valparaiso and Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee, Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce Ambassador, Sharing and Caring, Children Advocacy, Cancer drives and neighborhood fundraisers.

Joyce was a successful entrepreneur - former owner/operator of County Line Auto Body Shop, Inc. in Walton County, and Real Estate investments and Rentals Collector. She was a Realtor Consultant, G.R.I. for

Baywalk Realty.

Joyce was awarded the Okaloosa County Women's Hall of Fame, permanently exhibited at the NWFSC/UWF Joint Campus Library, the Wall honors women who have given of their time and talents to help others. She was an active member of Eglin A.F.B. Chapel.

She is survived by her daughter Sabrena Joyce Stepp, of Niceville. She is also survived by two granddaughters, Wendy Kocsis and Brittney Carey and three great-granddaughters. Joyce was preceded in death by her husbands John Theodore Stepp and Robert David Lathrop. Her son John Gregory Stepp and grandson Chad Carey, parents Ollie and Zella Burchett.

Funeral and memorial service followed by reception will be held at the Elks Lodge 1795, 1335

Miracle Strip Pkwy., Ft Walton Beach on March 29 from 11-2 p.m. Donations in lieu of flowers will be appreciated.

She will be buried at Barrancas National Cemetery in Pensacola. Arrangements will be under the direction of Davis-Watkins Funeral Home.

To share memories, express condolences and sign the guestbook please visit [daviswatkins.com](http://daviswatkins.com).



Joyce Stepp-Lathrop



### NHS 1st and 2nd at district art show

Niceville High School's senior artists were showcased in the Van Porter Art Show March 6-14. This show is open to all senior and eighth grade artists district wide. Niceville students took home two of the five awards. Pictured above, Stefanie Prinsloo won 1st with her photography, titled "Growth." Brittney Kazy won 2nd with her mixed media, titled "Not a Fun Party."



### RUNNERS

From page B-4

Nick Morken, 1st place 800m (1:55.27); Thomas Howell, 1st place 1-mile (4:22.26); boys 4x400m relay, 3rd place Alex Boswell, Isaiah Denman, Tripp Davis, Nick Morken (3:32.98); boys 4x800m relay, 1st place Nick Morken, Thomas Howell, Tripp Davis and Jack Massey (8:00.17).

The athletes who have achieved personal records are: M. Kirila, C. Woodard, A. West, C. Crum, M. Hunter, R. Giordano, J. Moreno, D. LaFollette, E.

Mitchell, J. Lawson, C. Crist, M. Shinnick, N. Escoffier, K. Cruz, J. Chord, A. Boswell, N. Morken, K. Ferris, D. Bayer, G. Olds, H. Boilini, T. Howell, T. Davis and T. Hamer.

The athletes who have achieved season best are: A. West, N. Anderson, S. Joneson, H. Schroeder, D. Bobbitt, J. Massey, J. Fiske and E. Schneidewind.

The NHS Eagles will be returning to Pensacola to compete in the Panhandle Championships on March 29 followed by the Mobile Challenge of Champions April 4-5.

## In your opinion, Who is Jesus?



[www.fbcniceville.org/whoisjesus](http://www.fbcniceville.org/whoisjesus)

### Frances (Cissy) Chambers

1943 - 2014

Frances (Cissy) Chambers, age 70, passed away suddenly on March 20. Born on December 19, 1943 in South Fulton, Tenn., Cissy was a 28 year resident of Niceville. Prior to moving to Niceville, she was a 20 year Army wife.

Survivors include her husband of 44 years James Chambers of Niceville; son, Keith Chambers of Liberty Township, Ohio; sister; Libby Read of Dyersburg, Tenn.; nephew, Josh Read of

Knoxville, Tenn.; and niece, Allison Williams of Nashville, Tenn.

She was preceded in death by her son, Marc; brother, Butch Perry, and parents, Gordon and Nancy Perry.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made in her honor to a charity of your choice.

A visitation was held at Heritage Gardens Funeral Home in Niceville on Monday, March 24 with a graveside service following at Heritage Gardens Cemetery.

You may express condolences to the family and sign the guestbook at [heritagegardensfuneralhome.com](http://heritagegardensfuneralhome.com). Heritage Gardens Funeral Home is entrusted with the arrangements.

### First Baptist Church of Valparaiso

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### Lady Eagles win, show military appreciation

Niceville High School's Lady Eagles softball held a 'Military Appreciation' night March 18 during their win against Fort Walton Beach with a score of 10-0. Pictured bottom center with the team, Ashley and Lily Lacey, the widow and three year old daughter of NHS alumnus and Army Sgt. First Class William "Kelly" Lacey who was killed in action Jan. 4, in Afghanistan. Also pictured, Libby Davis hits a single.

Beacon photos by Sarah Clauson



### Niceville High student gets golf scholarship

Niceville High School senior Crystian Hopper and co-captain of the men's golf team, signed a scholarship on March 5 to play collegiate golf for the University of Mobile Rams in Mobile, Ala. Crystian will also pursue a dual degree in mathematics and engineering. Seated on each side of Crystian are parents Crys and Amanda Hopper. Standing behind from left, Principal Jeff Palmer, NHS Coach Gerry Barry, University of Mobile Golf Coach Colby Odom and Niceville High Athletic Director John Hicks.



### Volleyball team wins division championship

The Niceville Volleyball Club's 13U team won their division championship at the Gulf Coast Hurricane Classic on March 8. Pictured from left, front row, Stefanie Markwardt, Hannah Sjoström, Courtney Faulkner, Mia Hague, Sarah Markwardt and Lauren Frederic. Back row from left, Coaches Andy Faulkner and Tom Markwardt. Not pictured, Tessa Hancock.



## Niceville runners compete in Pensacola

The Niceville High School track and field team competed at the Vince Whibbs Invitational in Pensacola on March 15. Competing against 14 schools, the Eagles secured 3rd place for the girls and 5th for the boys.

"The day began with poor weather although that did not stop a number of our athletes from performing well," said Coach Jamie LaFollette. "Aubrey West set a meet record in the long jump and the boys 4x800 relay flirted with the elusive 8:00 barrier, running 8:00.17 and setting another meet record and season best time. Nick Morken also re-wrote the record books winning the 800 in 1:55.27, setting both a new school and

meet record."

Results for the athletes: Aubrey West, 3rd place 100m, 200m, 1st place long jump (13.05, 27.50, 17-03.00); Sophia Bergmann, 2nd place discus and shot put (112-10.00, 35-11.00); Jaylah Lawson, 3rd place long jump (16-04.50); Hannah Schroeder, 2nd place triple jump (32-04.00); girls 4x400m relay, 3rd place Cenedy Crum, Cheyenne Woodard, Regan Giordano, Nickie Anderson (4:24.53); girls 4x800m relay, 2nd place Claire Crist, Mackenzie Shinnick, Annie Serpa, Diana LaFollette (10:16.66); Kevin Cruz, 2nd place 110m hurdles and 3rd place 200m (15.42, 23.40);

Please see RUNNERS, page B-3

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George vonHilsheimer, MD  
Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> | 11:30 a.m.  
Twin Cities Hospital Wellness Center | 2190 Highway 85 North, Niceville

Join us for an informative lunch and learn session when Dr. vonHilsheimer discusses common skin disorders and skin cancer prevention.

**A Breath of Fresh Air**  
Naomi Brown, CTTS  
Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> | 12:00 p.m.  
Twin Cities Hospital Wellness Center | 2190 Highway 85 North, Niceville

Join us when Naomi Brown, CTTS, teaches us about the risks associated with tobacco use, such as cardiovascular disease and cancer. You can also learn about treatment options available and smoking cessation courses offered at Twin Cities Hospital.

**Free Vein Screening: Symptoms and Treatment of Venous Disease**  
Craig Cazenave, MD  
Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> | 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center Outpatient Waiting Area  
1000 Mar Walt Drive, Fort Walton Beach

Does leg pain slow you down? If you are one of the many people for whom even a short walk can be painful, the problem may be your veins. Join Dr. Cazenave for a free vein screening and learn about the benefits of vein treatment.

**A Breath of Fresh Air**  
Naomi Brown, CTTS  
Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> | 5:00 p.m.  
Twin Cities Hospital Wellness Center | 2190 Highway 85 North, Niceville

Join us for appetizers and info when Naomi Brown, CTTS, teaches us about the risks associated with tobacco use, such as cardiovascular disease and cancer. You can also learn about treatment options available and smoking cessation courses offered at Twin Cities Hospital.

**Complimentary lunch will be provided; reservations are required.**  
Call Consult-a-Nurse at 855-614-7274 to reserve your seat today!

**There's still time to register for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Women on Wellness Symposium, register online at WomenOnWellness.org.**

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