

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-4

10 Pages, 2 Sections, 5 Inserts

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

50¢

UP COMING

Fri., 9-2 p.m.



Give blood at Twin Cities Hospital, Niceville. All donors will receive two vouchers from Fandango for movie ticket.

Sat., 2 p.m.



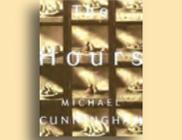
The "Flutes Furioso" ensemble of Northwest Florida State College will perform a free concert at the Tyler Recital Hall, **Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville.**

Sat., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



The **Freeport Annual Arts & Craft Festival 2014** will be at the Freeport Regional Sports Complex at **Hammock Bay, Freeport.** 835-1737.

Mon., 7 p.m.



Noted author **Michael Cunningham** will read at Northwest Florida State College in the **Sprint Theater.** He is best known for "The Hours," which established him as a force in American writing. 729-6443.

Calendar B-2

BWB panel eyes wider role

By **Mike Griffith**
Beacon Correspondent

The Bluewater Bay Municipal Services Benefit Unit governing board is considering widening its role.

The MSBU board April 8 discussed a draft of a proposed strategic plan which has been in the works for several months. The plan would not be formally adopted until after members have had more time to review it and suggest changes.

The proposed strategic plan includes

proposals for expanding the authority of the MSBU beyond the streetlighting and landscape planning that has characterized its activities in past years, and to broaden its role in improving the overall quality of life within Bluewater Bay.

The MSBU is an arm of Okaloosa County government, in charge of maintaining and improving street signs, street lighting, landscaping and appearance of common areas within the unincorporated Bluewater Bay community, such as rights-of-way along main

streets. The MSBU is managed by a five-member board of directors, elected by Bluewater Bay residents, and is funded by an annual flat-fee tax of about \$60 per house.

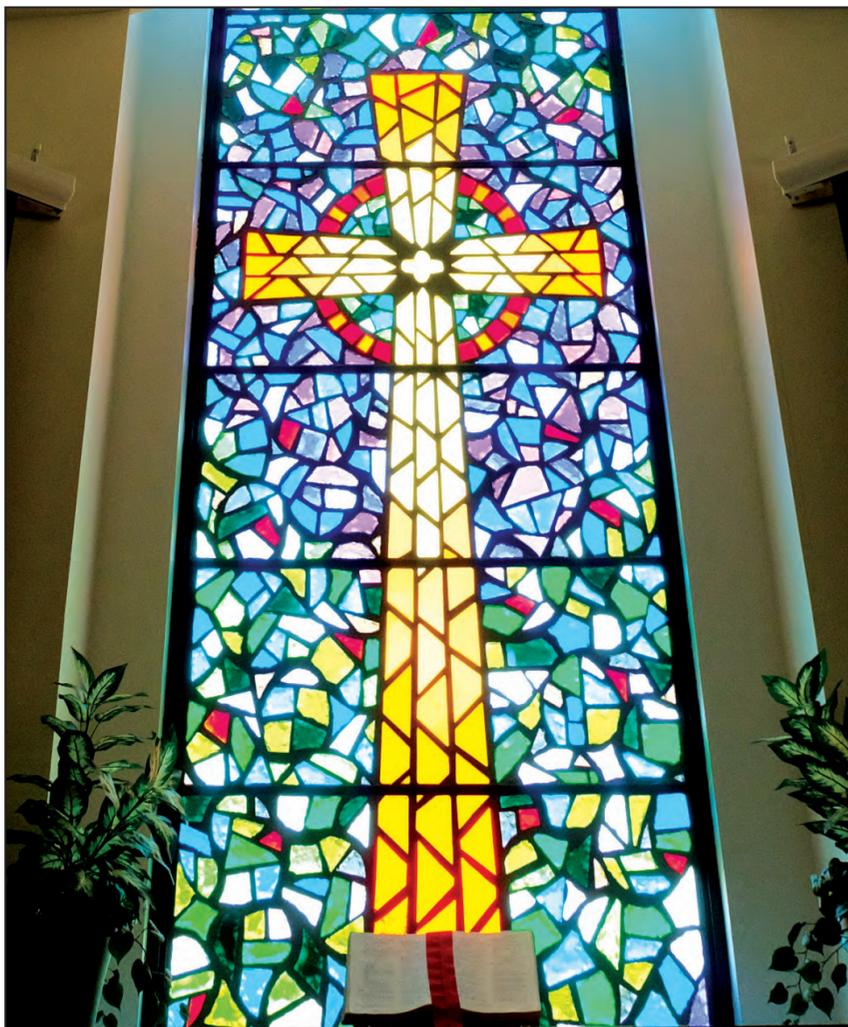
The current version of the draft plan begins with a mission statement: "The mission of the Bluewater Bay MSBU is to preserve and enhance the quality of life of its residents; to preserve and enhance property values and the natural environment with proper planning and

Please see BWB, page A-5



Sign that will be placed at sites of work undertaken by the MSBU.

'He is risen'



Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

Christians in the Twin Cities and worldwide observe Holy Week this week, culminating on Easter Sunday with the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Local events include a Holy Thursday service at First Presbyterian Church, Niceville, whose stained glass window is a focal point of the sanctuary. An ecumenical sunrise service will be held Sunday at 6:15 a.m. at Lincoln Park, Valparaiso.

Seeking a vision for Valparaiso

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Correspondent

Seven members of the Valparaiso Visioning Committee met April 10 to view results of its citywide survey of citizen suggestions for a strategic plan which the panel will present to the city commission.

The committee got the results of the survey only an hour before the meeting, which Chairperson Jill White was unable to attend. Vice Chairperson Derek

Hoffnung told committee members about the survey results, "Take a look at it," he said, "see where the trends are, and

[we will] talk about it at the next meeting."

The Bay Beacon obtained the draft results of the survey. In it the committee shared its draft vision for the city, which is "Valparaiso: An inviting, safe, and prosperous community, where people live, work, and enjoy life."

The committee told citizens

Please see VISION, page A-4



Derek Hoffnung



Photo courtesy of Kimberly Sepe

NHS tennis players head to State

The Niceville High School girls tennis team secured a spot in competition for the state title by defeating Leon High School in Bluewater Bay April 11. The team is competing for the Florida crown in Orlando this week. Pictured, NHS player Antonia Poate during the Leon match.

Showing their colors



Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

The flags and spirits were flying high Saturday when the Florida Panhandle Patriots and Niceville-Valparaiso Tea Party held a political rally called "Operation: We the People" in front of the Niceville City Hall. Pictured, Doc Washburn, a conservative talk-radio host, speaks to crowd about "protecting what is left of our Constitutionally guaranteed freedoms."

Residents voice concerns on center

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Correspondent

Four people brought complaints to the Niceville City Council meeting on April 8 concerning noise and lighting issues on Mulry Drive behind the new shopping center at John Sims Parkway and Rocky Bayou Drive.

During one of the citizen presentations to the council, City Manager Lannie Corbin said he would meet with the store manager of the chief tenant of the center, Publix Super Markets, concerning the issues raised.

Kevin Ennis, 121 Mulry Drive, a residential street that is adjacent to the commercial zone, said the problems were the lights behind the store, noise from mechanical systems on the top of the building, and delivery noises. "The peace and comfort of our homes has been altered," said Ennis.

Ennis said the mechanical systems could be heard running 24 hours a day from Mulry Drive. Lights behind the building were on all the time and spilled over into houses on Mulry Drive, he said. (The Beacon checked on the center at 4 a.m. Friday morning, three days after the council meeting, and found the pole-mounted lights behind the building were off.)

Delivery trucks were disruptive because of noise from back-up warning beepers, Ennis said. Some trucks arrive at night or during the early-morning hours, he said.

"We were told we wouldn't notice the lights; we wouldn't notice the noise," said Ennis.

"In my opinion, it seems to me there needs to be an engineered solution," Ennis said.

The landlord, Valparaiso Realty, built an earthen berm behind the shopping center as a buffer, but Mulry residents

Please see CENTER, page A-3

Fire commission pores over expenses

By **Rich Byrd**
Beacon Correspondent

Operational costs continue to be scrutinized by the North Bay Fire District, as commissioners questioned several operating expenses for clarification.

During a meeting April 8, Fire Commissioner David Scholl asked Treasurer Steve Strait who provided legal support for the fire district.

Scholl stated that the annual budget for legal fees was \$5,000. As of March 31, \$4,727.30 had been expended, leaving a balance of \$272.70, or just 5.45 percent of the budgeted amount, with six months still left in the fiscal year.

Fire Chief Joseph Miller interjected that the payments were for attorney fees for

responses to legal questions and arbitration assistance by Allen, Norton, & Blue, a Tallahassee law firm.

Scholl asked why the district was using a law firm from Tallahassee versus a local one. Butch Parker, division chief, responded that this law firm represented 90 percent of fire districts and had this responsibility for years.

Scholl stated that more competition might be a good idea and that he would like to see funding for this requirement "provided to a local firm with the required legal expertise if possible."

Chief Miller stated that he would research this issue and provide an update to the board.

Please see EXPENSES, page A-3

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<p>Good Friday April 18, 3:00pm <i>Passion of the Lord, Veneration of the Cross, Holy Communion</i></p>	<p>Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord 8:00 am & 11:00 am Mass will be celebrated in the Father Butler Parish Life Center</p>

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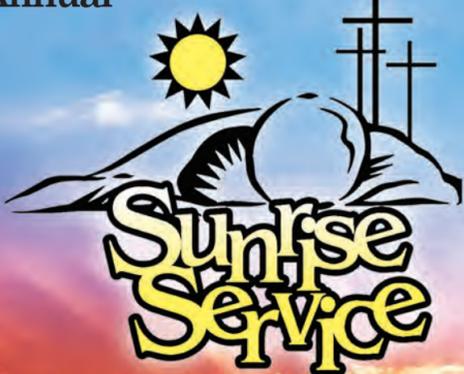
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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

What does Easter mean to you?

Location: Niceville public library and children's park



"He is risen."

Bobbie Lee, 54, Auburn, Indiana, librarian and business owner



"We have a risen savior, and we will have life everlasting."

Zelda Hurd, 79, Niceville, retired hairdresser



"Spending time with my family and friends, and eating delicious candy with each other."

Matthew Smith, 14, Valparaiso, Niceville High School student



"Obviously, the religious aspect of the resurrection, and for me, Easter has always been a big family day."

Vic Stahl, 52, Niceville, Kona Ice owner



"It's a holiday. The Easter bunny brings Easter eggs, and Jesus shed his blood for us, and he arised from the dead."

Savannah Riddle, 4, Niceville



"Jesus died on the cross, and came out of the tomb. Jesus lives in my heart."

Zoe Nodine, 3, Swift Creek

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

EXPENSES

From page A-1

Another expense that resulted in serious discussion was employee medical insurance. Scholl identified that \$16,923 had been paid to the district insurer, United Health Care Insurance Group, in March. He asked when the health insurance contract would expire.

Miller stated that the policy would expire at the end of August and the district would begin negotiations several months before that.

Scholl stated that the neighboring East Niceville Fire District tries to control health care cost by researching other health insurance options such as those provided by the Affordable Health Care Act. He asked if the North Bay district could pursue a similar course and have someone come in to present various alternatives to the board for consideration. Scholl stated this is a major issue and competi-



Engine 8, the newest addition to North Bay Fire District's fleet, replaces an 18-year-old fire truck of the same name.

Beacon photo by Rich Byrd

tion would be prudent "in order to get best value and not to take our business for granted."

Miller indicated that the district's current insurance representative works with multiple insurance companies and would be able to provide a thorough presentation to educate board members on options and address any further questions. He would work out the details for the presentation and let board members know the status as soon as possible.

James Boswell, commission chair, followed up with similar questions related to payments

made to CRC Data Technologies in the amounts of \$519 and \$207. He asked what services did they provide and when did their contract expire.

Miller stated that CRC is responsible for monitoring and maintaining the district computer system. The company addresses any concerns and keeps it fully operational. He was unaware of when the contract expires and would have to research that information.

Boswell conveyed that he would like to take a similar course of action as that of the

health insurance issue and look at pursuing competitive bids from local companies that may be able to provide the service.

Miller stated he would provide an update on this action item at the next board meeting.

Parker provided a summary of the 11 construction projects within the fire district that were being monitored.

Miller enthusiastically updated the board on the status of its newest addition to the vehicle fleet. He said the new Engine 8, which was purchased this year for \$500,000, had been almost fully outfitted and would enter service shortly.

The engine will replace the old Engine 8, an aging 1995 model. The new fire engine has upgraded technologies for a tighter turning radius and better braking.

The old unit was sold to the North Okaloosa Fire District for \$30,000.

CENTER

From page A-1

indicated that this was not enough.

Bart Swann, 127 Mulry Drive, said he would like to see some kind of "target date" for resolution of the problems.

City Manager Lannie Corbin said he has been working with residents of Mulry Drive. "Their quality of life did change" with the opening earlier this year of the shopping center, Corbin said.

Corbin reported that Valparaiso Realty was working on the problems. Corbin also said that Gulf Power is "committed to try to resolve this issue."

In response to an inquiry from the Beacon last week, a spokesman for Valparaiso Realty said: "We have already made adjustments with light shields we purchased from the manufacturer of the lights, which brought us into compliance with state standards for light. We are continuing to look at further improvements that can be made to further reduce the light."

"Publix has committed to us that they are going to take action by installing some scoops that will redirect a lot of the noise toward the front, towards the highway, but they are not able to tell us when they are going to be installed," said the Valparaiso Realty spokesman. Corbin, too, said that Publix was working on the sound problem, and that the company would redirect noise to the front of the building. Corbin said this will take six to seven weeks.

A Publix manager said he was not permitted to talk to the press.

Ennis said he had not contacted the corporate Publix office but was thinking that was the next step.

City council member Sal Nodjoman said he did not think that was necessary. "Local problem, local solution," said Nodjoman.

At the same Niceville City Council meeting, Tammy McGaughy of Warren Averett CPAs and Advisors presented a summary of results for the 2013 audit of the city. In 2013, the city's expenses were \$18.3 million and revenues were \$20.8 million.

The overall increase in the city's net position was \$2.6 million during fiscal year 2013.

According to the report, governmental activities accounted for 17.9 percent of this increase, resulting from increases primarily in tax revenues. Business-type activities account for 82.1 percent of the increase primarily due to increases in utility rates for water and sewer services.

The net assets of the city increased by \$2.5 million from \$50.5 million to \$53 million. Growth in equity has been almost \$25 million in the past 10 years.

Warren Averett had two recommendations for the city based on the audit. First, McGaughy suggested that the city write down its fraud policies.

"A policy is only as good as you follow it and write it down," said McGaughy. Speaking generally, she said some organizations typically lose about five percent of revenue to fraud. The report recommended documentation of identified risks and corrective actions in the event of a breach.

The report also suggested that the city write down its accounting policies and procedures and add year-end closing procedures. This would formalize procedure, serve as a training guide for new hires,

and be instrumental in fraud risk assessment.

Speaking of the older age of many city employees, McGaughy said, "Everyone does a very good

job but we want that to continue."

The audit found no exceptions with compliance and no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies.

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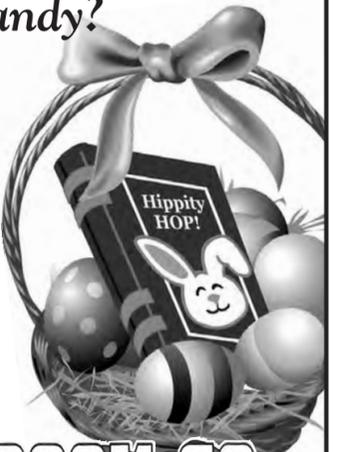
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Police Blotter

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 March 30 Richard Lee Cox, 32, of 38 Pahl Road, Niceville, was booked into the Walton County Jail on a misdemeanor charge of probation violation. He was released on bond later that night.

On March 31, Mark Braden Zygotis, 20, of 130 Dolphin Point Rd., Niceville, was booked into the Walton County Jail on a misdemeanor charge of larceny petit theft, first-degree. He was released on bond early on April 1.

On April 2, Niceville police arrested Zachary Charles Laubsch, 20, unemployed, of 313-A Niceville Ave., Niceville, for one count of retail theft-shoplifting.

An asset manager at Walmart detained Laubsch after witnessing him picking up three Lexmark ink cartridges from the electronics department. The manager witnessed Laubsch putting the cartridges into the front of his pants while in the hardware aisle, confronted him at the store exit, and detained him in the asset office to await the police. The cartridges were valued at \$138.77.

On April 3, Valparaiso police arrested Matthew Nathaniel Brigman, 30, a line cook, of 312 Washington Ave., Apt. A, for one count of possession of drug paraphernalia.

A Valparaiso police officer, while conducting a security check of Smitty's Apartments on Washington Avenue, observed

two people sitting in the front seats of a car. The officer made contact with the two people, and was given verbal consent to search each person, which produced negative results.

The officer then asked Brigman for permission to search his vehicle, and was given consent. During the search, the officer found two glass pipes with rounded bottoms, with burn marks on them, strapped to the driver's side sun visor directly above where Brigman had previously been seated. The officer recognized these as the type of pipes commonly used to smoke methamphetamine. Brigman said that he had let someone store the pipes in his car, and that they were used to smoke methamphetamine.

On April 3, Niceville police arrested Kevin Robert McKissack Jr., 32, a promoter, of 741 Sail Fish Dr., Fort Walton Beach, for one count of possession of a controlled substance without script.

Shortly after midnight on April 3, two Niceville police officers made a traffic stop on McKissack's vehicle because both tag lights were inoperable. A check of McKissack's identification revealed that his driver license was suspended. McKissack told the officers he didn't know about the suspension.

McKissack then gave voluntary consent for a search of his vehicle. During the search, police found a bottle prescribed to another person, containing 131 pills identified as oxycodone, in the center console of the vehicle.

A search of McKissack yielded \$2,181 in cash. McKissack did not have a prescription for the medication with him and the person for whom the prescription was written was not in the vehicle.

On April 4 Karl Jade McKinney, 23, of 1525 Cat-Mar Rd., Niceville, was booked into the Walton County Jail for felony probation violation. The arrest was made at the Okaloosa County Jail.

On April 5, Niceville police arrested Johnny Ray Spain, 38, of 3782 Peachtree Way, on a warrant for misdemeanor trespassing. The warrant stemmed from an incident on Sept. 28, 2013, in which Spain walked into Walmart in violation of a trespass warning and purchased light bulbs. He was observed by a Walmart asset protection associate and later stopped by police.

On April 5, Niceville police arrested Tayler Alec Shelley-Frakes, 21, of 302 Bullock Blvd., Niceville, for one count of misdemeanor battery. The arrest was made on a warrant stemming from an incident on Jan. 11, in which Shelley-Frakes struck a woman in the face with his fist.

On April 5, Niceville police arrested Matthew David Courtney, 18, a cashier, of 918 Lake Drive, Niceville, for one count of possession of marijuana less than 20 grams, and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Police stopped Courtney for failure to maintain a single lane, and while speaking with him, noticed an odor of marijuana coming from his vehicle. A search was conducted, during which a leafy green substance was located in the center console in a clear plastic bag. Also during the search, a grinder used to grind marijuana was located in the driver's door pocket, containing marijuana residue. A field test produced a positive reading for THC.

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from Apr. 7, 2014 through Apr. 13, 2014.

0 Structure Fire	26	Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	3	Vehicle Crash
1 Other Fire	0	Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	0	Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	0	Hazardous Conditions



STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
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E. College Blvd.	Medical	4/7/14	09:07
Early St.	Medical	4/7/14	15:19
Twin Cities Blvd.	Medical	4/7/14	15:23
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	4/7/14	21:45
Valparaiso Blvd.	Medical	4/8/14	01:43
Linden Ave.	Medical	4/8/14	04:07
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	4/8/14	08:26
Regatta Dr.	Medical	4/8/14	09:41
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	4/8/14	12:03
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	4/8/14	20:00
Redwood Ave.	Vehicle crash	4/8/14	22:02
Kelly Rd.	Medical	4/9/14	17:21
23rd Street	Medical	4/9/14	20:12
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	4/10/14	05:27
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	4/10/14	07:54
Hickory Ave.	Brush fire	4/10/14	10:33
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	4/10/14	12:30
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	4/10/14	12:53
Galway Dr.	Medical	4/10/14	16:06
Kazmira Ct.	Medical	4/10/14	17:48
Elm Street	Medical	4/10/14	23:57
Bayside Dr.	Medical	4/11/14	07:21
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	4/11/14	12:01
N. Partin Dr.	Vehicle crash	4/11/14	14:49
37th Street	Medical	4/12/14	00:01
S. Cedar Ave.	Medical	4/12/14	05:50
Linden Ave.	Medical	4/12/14	09:41
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	4/12/14	19:20
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	4/13/14	06:46

Weekly Safety Tip: Run cool water over a burn for 10 to 15 minutes, never apply ice. It is dangerous to put butter or any other grease on a burn because it seals in the heat and can damage the tissue further. If the burned skin blisters or is charred, see a doctor immediately. Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook

North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from Apr. 7, 2014 through Apr. 13, 2014.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Meadow Woods Ln.	Medical	4/7/14	07:53
23rd/Fedwood	Dispatched & cancelled	4/7/14	09:09
White Point Rd.	Medical	4/7/14	14:26
Choctawhatchee Dr.	Medical	4/7/14	18:10
Emerald Coast Pkwy.	Dispatched & cancelled	4/9/14	06:03
Crystal Beach Dr.	Cover assignment	4/9/14	06:14
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	4/9/14	17:48
Bay Dr.	EMS call	4/10/14	01:44
N. White Point Dr.	Medical assist	4/10/14	05:28
Hwy. 20/Lancaster	Medical	4/10/14	13:14
Hwy. 20/Range Rd.	Vehicle accident	4/10/14	15:59
Whitewood Way	Cooking fire	4/10/14	21:25
Hickory St.	Unauthorized burning	4/11/14	11:57
Hwy. 20/Lancaster	Vehicle accident	4/11/14	12:04
Sunset Beach Dr.	Lock-out	4/11/14	13:07
Newcastle Ct.	Medical	4/11/14	16:43
Ansel Dr.	Service call	4/11/14	20:04
Parkwood Cir.	Medical	4/12/14	10:53
Parkwood Pl.	Unauthorized burning	4/12/14	18:42
Whitetail Cir.	Medical	4/13/14	20:01

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

On April 7, Niceville police arrested Andrew Alexander Herrera, 19, of 175 Wright Circle, Niceville, for one third-degree felony count of larceny and one second-degree felony count of dealing in stolen property.

The arrest was made on a warrant stemming from an incident on Jan. 20, in which a witness observed a white SUV pulling out of the Waffle House parking lot in downtown Niceville with a trailer and stove which had been stolen from behind Tisa's Motel nearby. Investigation revealed that Herrera and another person drove to Metal Recycling Inc. in Fort Walton Beach in a Chevy Blazer matching the description of the SUV observed at Waffle House. They stole the trailer and stove for \$151.

DUI

On April 5, Niceville police arrested Shawn Thomas Outlaw, 27, unemployed, of 111-B Cadillac Ave., Niceville, for DUI, after observing the vehicle he was driving swerving on Palm Boulevard. After being stopped, Outlaw showed multiple signs of intoxication, and admitted to drinking. His blood alcohol was measured at or above 0.136.

Other

On April 4, Niceville police received a report of a theft. The complainant stated that his license plate had been stolen while the car was parked at a business.

On April 8, Niceville police responded to a report of a theft at an address on 26th Street. The complainant stated that her purse had been taken out of her unlocked vehicle.

VISION

From page A-1

in the introduction to the survey, "The statement will be used to develop specific goals and action statements for recommendation to the Valparaiso City Commission for review action."

The committee asked respondents to indicate their level of agreement with each of the 23 items in the list as to whether they should be addressed in the plan it will develop.

Of the 23 items, over 80 percent of citizens selected nine topics as "Very Important" or "Important" to be addressed in the plan. These included infrastructure, city services, fiscal stability, business climate, military relations, and beautification.

Ninety-two percent of the respondents chose "Infrastructure—water/sewer" as important or very important. Ninety percent of citizens chose "Infrastructure—roads" as important or very important to be included in the plan.

Ninety percent of citizens chose "Public safety—Police" and 87 percent chose "Emergency Services" as important or very important.

Ninety-one percent of respondents chose "Fiscal stability—expenses/debt" as important or very important. Eighty-eight percent chose "Fiscal stability—revenues/taxes/assets" as important or very important.

Eighty-four percent of citizens chose "Business Climate (adding new businesses)" as important or very important. Eighty-six percent chose "Military Relations" as important or very important.

Finally, 81 percent of respondents chose "Business neighborhood beautification" as important or very important to be included in the plan the Visioning Committee develops.

In other business, the committee voted that Stephen Knappstein, a local veterinarian, become a member.

The next Valparaiso Visioning Committee meeting will be May 8 at 4 p.m.

Highway closures

State highways 85, 123, and 285 north of Niceville will be closed for a short time Wednesday, April 16, for an Eglin Air Force Base test mission, according to a base spokesman.

The closure is scheduled to occur between 8 and 9:30 a.m.

BWB

From page A-1

management of public areas within our jurisdiction, and to manage our mission in a transparent and cost-effective manner.”

The draft mission statement is followed by a list of five strategic purposes or objectives:

—Promote a strong sense of community and positive quality of life for the members of the Bluewater Bay community.

—Plan well to make the community more attractive, better maintained and safer.

—Provide safe and attractive roads, sidewalks and parking areas for residents to enjoy.

—Build a proactive, transparent, financially sound leadership, ethnic and make excellence our community standard.

—Maximize partnerships with Okaloosa County and community resources to achieve these objectives.

The draft plan continues with a list of specific actions that may be taken during the remainder of 2014 and may also be included in developing a budget for fiscal year 2014-15. These include:

—Activate relationships with all neighborhoods within the community by visiting partner association board meetings, and providing regular updates for individual, association websites and/or other publications for members.

—Complete MSBU website renovation and focus on keeping the site updated with current and user-friendly resources, including links to association community partners.

—Contract for development of an updated master planning framework for MSBU jurisdictional areas that includes accurate digital mapping of MSBU jurisdictional areas. The plan also would cover landscape design and "hardscape" design, which includes standardized design elements for side walks, lighting fixtures, street amenities, and park amenities.

The draft strategic plan also calls for a review of Bluewater Bay's overall street lighting

plan and the "dark neighborhood" theme established for streets within Bluewater Bay when it was first developed during the 1970s.

The draft plan also calls for developing the first park areas within the MSBU jurisdictional areas, in cooperation with the Okaloosa County parks and recreation department. The draft plan calls for a children's playground in Southwind Park area, and a fitness park near Troon Drive.

Board members reviewed some conceptual drawings of playground and fitness equipment, as options for constructing parks.

The draft plan also calls for the MSBU board to investigate whether there is sufficient community support for expansion of MSBU jurisdictional authority, scope of activities and/or geographic areas of the benefit unit.

The draft plan also calls for creating and launching new community social events in MSBU jurisdictional areas, and partnerships with neighborhood homeowners associations and other community partners. Examples include summer outdoor movies and a Fourth of July parade. The first such event, an Easter egg event for children, took place Saturday.

The draft plan also suggests renovations of Bluewater Bay monument-style signs at exterior entrances to the community, and developing a budget and implementation plan for replacement of street signs as needed.

The draft plan also calls for the MSBU to work with its landscape contractor to improve landscaping throughout the community. This may include gradual replacement of

Bradford Pear trees along Bluewater Boulevard, with other species which are similar in appearance but better adapted to the Northwest Florida environment than Bradford pears, which are difficult to maintain and easily damaged by storms.

In other business, board member Felix Beukenkamp said that there had been "slow progress" in constructing a new sidewalk on Southwind Drive

outside the Southwind gate. He said the county project had delayed by bad weather and availability of labor. At his suggestion, the board approved a motion to spend about \$500 to move a retaining wall to make room for completion of the sidewalk.

An MSBU spokeswoman said this week that the sidewalk work, which used prison labor, was progressing.

Board member Judy Griffin

said that recent severe thunderstorms had caused some Bradford pears and other trees to fall throughout the community, thus demonstrating the need to replace the Bradford pears with harder species, as the Bradfords gradually succumb to storm damage and age.

The draft plan also calls for replace grass in some roadway medians and other common areas with lower-maintenance

Please see PANEL, page A-6



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Okaloosa County is building a sidewalk along Southwind Drive outside the gate of the Southwind community.

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PANEL

From page A-5

native plants to provide attractive ground cover at less irrigation and maintenance cost, and continuing to install new sidewalks, with landscaping, benches

and lighting, particularly in the Winged Foot Drive and Southwind Drive areas.

Griffin informed the board that she is working with the National Wildlife Federation to see whether Bluewater Bay can be officially registered as a "wildlife habitat community."

At her suggestion, the board unanimously approved a motion to form an ad hoc committee of Bluewater Bay residents to work with the National Wildlife Federation to explore the requirements and procedures for such registration.

MSBU management consultant

Darlane Landsberger said that she is adding a link to FDOT to the Bluewater Bay web site at BluewaterBay.org.

The board agreed to move its meeting times from the second to the third Tuesday of each month.

Board member Jonathan

Tallman and MSBU management consultant Darlane Landsberger said that moving the meetings to the third week of each month will allow more time to analyze financial data received from Okaloosa County at the beginning of each month, and thus make it easier to discuss financial issues during MSBU board meetings.

The next MSBU board meeting is now, therefore, scheduled for 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 20, at the regular meeting site in the conference room of the Regency Inn at 4577 State Road 20.



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This spring, said Malo, One Hour is offering half-off pricing on

duct cleaning for those customers who also purchase One Hour's AeroSeal duct sealing—a service that can improve the efficiency of your system and the breathability of air throughout your home by removing dust, pollen, mold spores and germs from the air you breathe. This helps prevent indoor mold, musty odors and can help protect you and your family from allergies and seasonal colds.

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STEMM seeks 'nano-satellites' for students

By Angela Yuriko Smith
Beacon Staff Writer

Andrew Reed of Cosmos Pioneering recently gave a presentation on "nano-sats," essentially small satellites, at the STEMM Center school in Valparaiso with the vision of bringing the tiny satellites into the hands of students.

"After the presentation Beth Hanning, director of the Doolittle Institute and I discussed details for a six week lesson plan for 7th graders," said Reed on his Facebook.

Reed goes on to say there are plans to "continue our collaborations to determine what materials will be needed for the course and for high school interns to assist in the development process."

The high school interns Reed mentions will be from Ben Shuman's Niceville High School

CHOICE IT class, according to Shawnea Tallman, Assistant Director Okaloosa STEMM Center.

The student interns will come after school in May to be a pilot group and assist with curriculum development. Eventually, students will work in teams to build, program and launch cube satellites into space.

"Ultimately we aim to establish a partnership with NASA," said Tallman. "They do educational launches for free."

Once in space, the satellites, will be used to gather scientific data and assist with communications, said Tallman.

"Anything a satellite can do up there these can do on a smaller scale," said Tallman. "And the kids can program them."

Still in the beginning stages, there is no separate budget for the

nano-satellite program as of yet, said Tallman. If the pilot program is a success the STEMM Center could possibly tap into funds allocated for other programs and grants until the program is established.

Ideally, the satellites will be available to students at an accessible price, said Reed, but in the developmental stages he doesn't have a price set yet.

"My ultimate vision," said Reed. "Is that people and kids will have one of these sitting on their desk at home."

The STEMM Center is enthusiastic to be part of this new technology.

"Our students live for opportunities to do the extraordinary," said Jacqueline Craig, Director of the STEMM Academy. "It is thanks to partnerships, like this, that we have the ability to nourish that."



Andrew Reed, owner of Cosmos Pioneering, gives a presentation on "nano-satellites" for the Doolittle Institutes IDL Robotics Professional Development teachers group. One of the new high-tech "nano-satellite" gadgets from Cosmos Pioneering (above).

Who's News

Caroline Jordan, Niceville, recently began a 10-month term of national service in FEMA Corps, an AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) program.

Jordan arrived at the AmeriCorps NCCC Pacific Region campus in Sacramento in February 2014 and completed four weeks of specialized training in teamwork, leadership development, communication, service learning, and in Disaster Survivor Assistance Specialist.



Caroline Jordan

Kenya Wolff, a native of Kenya, East Africa and a cur-

Please see WHO'S, page B-2



Troop 157 earns Top Troop honors

Troop 157 Yellow Jacket patrol takes their turn at the two-man sawing competition at the Choctawhatchee Klondike Camporee, held at Spanish Trail Scout Reservation. Sam Scholl, left, and Liam Ordner compete for the best sawing time while the rest of their patrol members steady the pine log. Troop 157's patrols won first, second and third place in the competition and earned the Top Troop honors for the weekend. To find out more about Scouting, call Guy Wills at 420-7417.



School preps for FCAT

Bluewater Elementary School has declared the hunt is on for good FCAT scores with a theme of "Huntin' for Great Scores" at a recent teacher pep rally. Pictured, Principal Connie Hall, right, and Assistant Principal Amy Klugh sport beards at the rally.

In the Service

Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class **Ashley N. Curry** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.



Curry is the daughter of Kathrina and Andrew Nennig of Niceville and a 2004 graduate of Niceville High School. She

earned an associate degree in 2011 from Northwest Florida State College.

Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class **Brian K. Gaither** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.



Gaither is the son of Larry Gaither of Valparaiso and Elaine Gaither of Niceville and a 2007 graduate of Niceville High School.

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CIC gets cleanup

Volunteers from the Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso, Niceville High School Key Club, and Hurlburt's 342nd Tactical Control Training Squadron, Detachment 3, worked throughout the morning on March 29 to wash houses at Children in Crisis, Fort Walton Beach.



Lewis Band rate superior

The Lewis School Symphonic Band students for earning All Superior ratings from the 4 FBA judges at the annual Music Performance Assessment at Pensacola High School March 14. Pictured, the band performing on stage in Pensacola.

2014

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

CALENDAR

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com

Volunteer opportunities

Northwest Florida State College's PRIME Time is hosting a Volunteer Day on Wednesday, April 16 from 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The event will be held in the Student Services Center and the Student Activities Center, 1st floors, at the Niceville campus. Local representatives from a large variety of non-profit agencies will be on hand to answer questions about volunteer opportunities in the local area.

For more information, please contact Laura Schultze, Professional and Continuing Education, at 729-6084.

Church service

The First Presbyterian Church, Niceville, will have a Holy Thursday service April 17 from 6-7 p.m. For more information, call 678-2521.

Give blood

Give blood on Friday, April 18 at Twin Cities Hospital, Niceville, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. All donors will receive two Fandango movie ticket vouchers.

Festival fun

The Freeport Annual Arts & Craft Festival 2014 will be Saturday, April 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Freeport Regional Sports Complex.

at Hammock Bay . 671 Hammock Trail East, Freeport.

Sponsored by the Town Planters Society of Freeport, a portion of proceeds go to benefit the American Cancer Society / Relay for Life

For information call Judy Aultman 835-1737.

Flute concert

The ensemble "Flutes Furioso" of Northwest Florida State College will perform a free concert on Saturday, April 19, at 2 p.m. at the Tyler Recital Hall, in the Mattie Kelly Arts Center on the college's Niceville campus. The concert is free of charge and open to the public.

Easter egg hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be at Lincoln Park, Valparaiso, on April 19 from 9-11 a.m.

Ages 0-12 are invited to bring a basket and hunt eggs.

Sunrise service

The churches of Valparaiso invite one and all to a Sunrise Service on Easter morning, April 20 at 6:15 a.m. in Lincoln Park, Valparaiso. Please bring lawn chairs and blankets if needed. The service will be followed by a free Pancake Breakfast at nearby Trinity Presbyterian Church, 44 Southview Avenue, Valparaiso. Participating churches are Trinity Presbyterian, All God's Children, First Baptist, First Assembly of God, New Hope Baptist and Sovereign Grace.



The Niceville Public Library will be hosting the Mary Esther Public Library's Super Smash Bros. Bra w'l game tournament to be held at the Niceville Public Library's Teen

Game tourney

Space on Saturday, April 19 at 10:30 a.m.

The tournament is open to all teens ages 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.

NWFSC Reads

Noted author Michael Cunningham will read at Northwest Florida State College on April 21 at 7 p.m. in the Sprint Theater. To learn more about Michael Cunningham, visit michaelscunninghamwriter.com.

For more information about NWFSC Reads, contact Dr. Deborah Nester at 729-6443.

Social media workshop

The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Costa Leadership Institute to offer "Facebook for Your Business," held on April 22 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Costa Leadership Institute, Northwest Florida State College.

The cost of the seminar is \$50 until April 11, and \$60 until April 18, the last day to register. Businesses and individuals do not have to be a Chamber member to sign up for this seminar and future seminars.

To register for the seminar, or for more information, please contact the Chamber at 678-2323.

Garden club meets

The Niceville Garden Club will meet at the Niceville Chamber Building, 206 Martin Drive North,



Easter egg hunt fun set

An Easter egg hunt will be at Lincoln Park, Valparaiso, on Saturday starting at 9 a.m. Ages 0-12 are invited to bring a basket and hunt eggs. An Easter egg dash in Niceville will also be Saturday at the softball complex behind Niceville City Hall Saturday beginning at 11 a.m. See story on B-3.

on April 22 and every 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. September through June (except December).

Enjoy presentations from gardening experts from Pensacola to Panama Beach.

Give blood

Give blood on Wednesday, April 23 at Niceville United Methodist Church, 214 Martin Drive from 3 p.m.-8 p.m. All donors will receive a t-shirt.

Women's health program

The Florida Department of

Health in Escambia County invites women to attend "For Peace of Mind" on Wednesday, April 23 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Niceville Community Center to learn about breast and cervical cancer facts, the HPV vaccine and available assistance for mammogram and pap screenings. Free giveaways and light refreshments.

Please call Jessica at 595-6637 or the Library at 279-4863 x 1504 to reserve a seat.

WHO'S

From page B-1

resident of Niceville, will graduate with her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education from the University of North Texas on May 9.

She was recently hired as an Assistant Professor in Early Childhood Education at Northwest Florida State College.



Kenya Wolff

Debbie Lewis of ERA

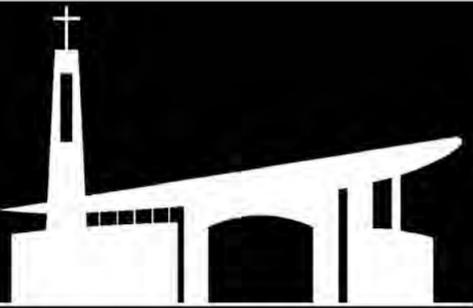
American Realty of Northwest Florida in Niceville was awarded a Circle of Achievement designation by ERA Franchise Systems LLC at the 2014 ERA International Business Conference, March 24-27 in Los Angeles, Calif.



Debbie Lewis



CHURCH DIRECTORY



CHRIST OUR REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH

1028 White Point Road ♦ Niceville (next to No. Bay Fire Station)



HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 17TH

Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m.
Mass of Our Lord's Last Supper at 7:00 p.m.

† † †

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 18TH

Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m.
Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.
Passion of Our Lord & Veneration of Cross at 7:00 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 19TH

Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m.
Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m.

† † †

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 20TH

Mass of the Resurrection of Our Lord at 7:30 a.m.
at 10:30 a.m.

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www.stpaulniceville.com

Pastor John L. Underdahl

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 17

7:00pm Holy Communion
Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY, April 18

7:00pm Tenebrae Service-Seven Last Words - Sealing of the Tomb

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20

6:00am Lutheran Sunrise Service
Beasley Park, Okaloosa Island

8:30 am Festival Worship

9:45 am Bagel Breakfast
Children's Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 am Festival Worship

Happy Easter to all.



Immanuel Anglican Church

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday ~ April 17, 7pm Service

Good Friday ~ April 18, Noon Service

followed by Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday ~ April 20 ~ JESUS IS RISEN!

5:00am ~ SONrise Service at Immanuel's Outside Chapel

9:00am ~ Traditional Easter Worship with Holy Communion

11:01am ~ Contemporary Easter Worship with Holy Communion

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Bible Study • 9:30am

Celebration Service • 11:00am

Discipleship • 5:00pm

Wednesdays

Adults, Youth, & Children • 6:00pm

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850-678-4822

www.fbcvalparaiso.org

Easter egg hunts

The Twin Cities area will host two free Easter egg hunts this Saturday for children ages 0-12 in multiple age categories.

On April 19 the City of Valparaiso will host its annual Easter egg hunt at Lincoln Park with the first egg hunt starting at 9 a.m.

Children will be split up into four age categories—3 and under; ages 4-6; ages 7-9; and ages 10-12. The youngest group will hunt first, then each age group will follow after the next in 20 minute intervals.

Parents of children ages 3 and under are allowed to help their children during the hunt. The only other parents allowed on the field in the other age groups will be those of special needs children.

Directly following Valparaiso's Easter egg hunt, children can head over to Niceville for the 27th annual Egg Dash at the softball complex on North Partin Drive, Niceville.



The Niceville dash will be gin at 11 a.m., but parents are encouraged to have their children at the starting line by 10:30 a.m.

Children will be broken up into four age groups—2 and under; 3- and 4-year-olds; 5- and 6-year-olds; and 7- and 8-year-olds. Lynn Waltz, coordinator of the Egg Dash, said there will be a separate field for each age group.

The grassed areas will be covered with plastic eggs containing candy or a small toy but a few will contain slips of paper redeemable for a larger prize at the end of the hunt.

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Homes for Sale by Owner

Niceville. 2425 Edgewater. 3bd, 3.5ba. Waterview, 2530 sf. Offers unique features. Must see. Call owner 850-678-0153

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Spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home located in Andalusia, AL. MLS # 13807. Call 334-222-3142.

Homes for Sale

Mobile home with land in private community, Niceville Bay area. 16x70, 3BR, 2bath. Immaculate condition. Very Clean. Directly across from community pool. 404-453-2522.

Moving Sale

Moving sale April 17&18, 9-3. 1000 Bay Dr. #528, BWB. Living room and bedroom furniture, much misc.

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Yard Sales

Annual Blue Pine Village Neighborhood Yard Sale. Take Hwy. 20 to Range Road .8 miles. Saturday April 19, 7am-1pm. Rain date May 3rd.

Large yard sale. Sat. 4/19, 7-Noon. Furniture, baby items, lawn equipment, tools. House Cleaning Event! 321 Fairwood Dr., Niceville.

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Recruiting volunteers

The Professional & Continuing Education Department invites the public to the 6th annual Northwest Florida State College, Prime Time "Volunteer Day," scheduled for Wednesday, April 16 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The event will be held in the Student Services and Student Activities Centers, at the Niceville campus. Weather permitting; there may also be some outside displays between the two buildings.

The purpose of the event is to increase the awareness of volunteers needed in our community and is promoted to all students at the college and the general public.

Participating organizations that will be happy to provide

more information about volunteering include; American Cancer Society, Boys & Girls Club of Emerald Coast, Canine Companions for Independence, Children in Crisis, Pet Welfare Center, Emerald Coast Hospice, Guardian Ad Litem, Habitat for Humanity OK County, Horizons, NWF Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (SHINE), NWFSC Galleries Docent Program, NWFSC ASC, NWFSC Americorps, NWFSC CB A, Okaloosa County Headstart, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Okaloosa Walton Medical Reserve Corps, Shelter House, United Way of Okaloosa Walton, Walton Co. Sheriff's Office, Audubon Florida and the Trauma Intervention Program.

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Lewis golfers compete

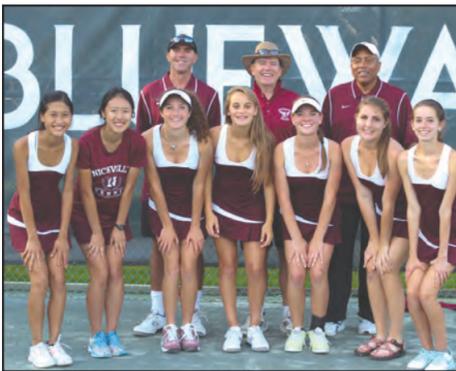
Lewis School is making gains on the green April 10 in a golf game against St. Mary's Catholic School and Destin Middle School. Pictured, Zach Lusson, left, and Andrew London have only been playing the game a few weeks but are learning fast. "Andrew was our low man and shot a 37," said Coach Doug Sommer. Destin won overall and Lewis came in with a total score of 166 total strokes.

Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson

NHS tennis players win Regional

Niceville High School girls tennis players won the regional's April 11 and will be in Orlando April 15-18 to compete in the state tournament. Pictured, from left, sisters Maddie and Monica Hsiang, Samantha Sepe, Megan Hovenden, Antonia Poate, Alexis Hruby and Andie Von Hilsheimer. Back row, Coaches Brett Beattie, Chris Poate and Brian Braziel.

Photo courtesy of Kimberly Sepe



Beacon photo by Dave Sheikoff

Niceville loses to Crestview

Niceville High School baseball lost Friday, April 11 in a home game against Crestview with a score of 3-4. The game remained tied until the seventh inning. NHS has two home games this week starting Thursday, April 17 against Choctaw and Friday against South Walton. Pictured, Junior Drew Frederic avoids a Crestview player after he was forced out at second base.



Traveling U14 wins President's Cup

The FC Dallas Emerald Coast U14 Boys Red team and Coach Roberto Perez won the Florida President's Cup April 4-5 on the heels of winning the Region D Cup. The U14 team will be competing in the Region III President's Cup to be held in Decatur, Ala. on June 12-16. The team practices at Twin Oaks Plaza, Niceville.

NHS runners have 3 meets in 5 days

The NHS track and field team had a busy week with three meets in five days. The team participated in the Mobile Challenge of Champions on April 4-5, Andrew's Invitational in Gulf Breeze on April 4, and the Okaloosa County Meet in Fort Walton Beach on April 8. The Eagles competed against over 100 schools in Mobile, 14 schools in Gulf Breeze with the girls placing 3rd and the boys placing 14th, and four schools at the County Meet with girls and boys both placing 2nd. This concludes the regular season for many of the athletes. Some will continue on to compete in the Regional Meet in Tallahassee April 24 and the State Meet in Jacksonville May 2-3. Results for the meets are as follows:

In the Mobile Challenge of Champions: Caden Ewing won 1st place 800m (1:59.57); Nick Morken won 1st place 1600m (4:20.53); boys' 4x800m relay team won 1st place (7:55.12); Thomas Howell won 1st place 3200m (9:20.36). Andrew's Invitational: Aubrey West won 2nd place 100m and 3rd place long jump (12.72, 15-10.25); Kevin Cruz won 3rd place

110m hurdles (14.88); Cenedy Crum won 3rd place 400m (1:03.84).

Okaloosa County Meet: West won 1st place 100m dash, 200m dash, long jump (13.43, 28.20, 15-04.00); Nickie Anderson won Okaloosa County Meet in Fort Walton Beach on April 8. The Eagles competed against over 100 schools in Mobile, 14 schools in Gulf Breeze with the girls placing 3rd and the boys placing 14th, and four schools at the County Meet with girls and boys both placing 2nd. This concludes the regular season for many of the athletes. Some will continue on to compete in the Regional Meet in Tallahassee April 24 and the State Meet in Jacksonville May 2-3. Results for the meets are as follows:

Joneson won 2nd place discus (102.02); Josh Chord-2nd place 400m dash (52.21); Tripp Davis-1st place 800m (2:03.22); Nick Morken won 2nd place 800m (2:03.91); Thomas Howell won 2nd place 1600m (4:34.16); Caden Ewing won 1st place 3200m (10:07.57); Kevin Cruz won 2nd place 110m hurdles, 3rd place 300m hurdles, 1st place high jump (15.73, 41.47, 6-00.00); boys' 4x400m relay team Alex Boswell, Isaiah Denman, Josh Chord, Nick Morken won 2nd place (3:34.19); boys' 4x800m relay team Tripp Davis, Jack Massey, Thomas Howell, Nick Morken won 1st place (8:21.01); Andrew Baker won 3rd place pole vault (8-06.00); Garrett Olds won 2nd place discus (135-08.50).

Personal Records: R. Cathey, C. Crist, N. Escofier, R. Giordano, T. Gunger, S. Joneson, M. Kirila, D. LaFollette, J. Lawson, R. Riley, H. Schroeder, C. Woodard, A. Baker, H. Boilini, A. Boswell, K. Cruz, C. Ewing, J. Fiske, T. Hamer, T. Howell, N. Morken, G. Olds, E. Shelkoff, R. Sorenson.

Season Best: N. Anderson, B. Gulley, D. Haggerman, M. Hunter, H. Schroeder.

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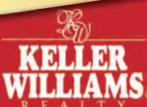


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7th Annual Choctawhatchee Estuary Family Festival

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Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park, Hwy. 20 Niceville

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