

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-6

12 Pages, 2 Sections, 5 Inserts

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

50¢

UP
COMING

Thurs., 7 p.m.



There will be a family style Italian dinner at **Tradewinds**, 205 Government Ave., Niceville, to benefit the **Eagle Ram Tennis Center**. 830-7829 or 225-1437.

Fri.-Sat, 6 p.m.-6 a.m.



The 2014 **Niceville-Valparaiso Relay for Life** walk will take place at the **Niceville High School stadium**. Free and open to the public.

Sat., 2 p.m.



There will be a **Victorian Tea** at the **Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida** to celebrate Mother's Day. 18 per person, \$15 for museum members. Space is limited, reservation required. 678-2615.

Mon., 6 p.m.



Representatives from the **Okaloosa County Tax Collector's** office will speak on the annual **Tax Certificate Sale** in the Okaloosa County Tax Collector office, 506 Hwy. 85 North. 651-7604.

Students excel in Tech Bowl

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Correspondent

Students from 27 schools in Okaloosa County competed Saturday at the 14th annual Okaloosa County Tech Bowl at the Niceville Community Center. In the elementary-school division, Edge Elementary, Niceville, took the first place trophy home for the fifth time since the competition began in 1999, more than any other elementary school in the district.

Another Niceville school, Plew

Elementary, placed second in the division.

In the high school division, Collegiate High School at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville, win first place in this, its first year competing.

Edge Coach Terri Murphy said, "We've been practicing twice a week for probably a month and a half."

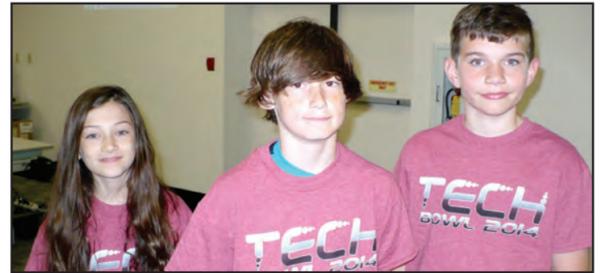
Edge Principal Samantha Dawson added, "I think Ms. Murphy's amazing. The kids worked really hard. She's a fantas-

tic teacher and very, very dedicated to this competition."

Tech Bowl is an Internet scavenger hunt in which two students are given a question booklet with 45 questions and must answer their questions within 30 minutes from information found on the Internet. One student reads the questions and the other types in the appropriate search terms. A third student acts as an alternate.

They must bookmark their sites and cannot visit the same site

Please see TECH, page A-7



Edge Elementary School won the countywide Tech Bowl for the fifth time this year. From left, Edge team members Alexa Drab, Kenneth Kilgellon and Jared Bartz.

Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

Soggy bayou



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Valparaiso resident Tom Browning IV, right, used a gasoline-powered pump April 30 to remove flood water from the yards of his and neighbors' homes on Bayshore Drive. Browning's property was one of many in the Twin Cities area swamped by rising water during torrential rains last week.

Rains test sewage plant

By Rich Byrd
Beacon Correspondent

Operational issues, as well as environmental challenges presented by recent inclement weather, were the topics of discussion by board members at the Niceville-Valparaiso Regional Sewer Board (NVRSB) that convened on May 1.

Rick Helms, NVRSB Plant Manager, reported that sewer plant operations were significantly challenged by all of the rain that fell during the period of April 28-30.

The volume of water processed through the system during this time frame exceeded capacity requirements. This was especially true of April 30 when the area experienced rainfall levels of 8-10 inches in a 24-hour period.

Helms stated that approximately 6.01 million gallons was processed on that day. The capacity of the plant's sewer system with its two functional processing trains is two million gallons.

Although the system was strained for the short period, it operated accordingly with no concerns. Helms attributed the reliability of the system to recent infrastructure modernization projects, as well as the dedicated

Please see RAINS, page A-7

School board OKs deal with Okaloosa Academy

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Okaloosa County School Board has agreed to contract with Okaloosa Academy, Inc. to provide education alternative programs and training for students who are residents, or who become residents, of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice facilities within the Okaloosa County School District.

The term of the contract will

be from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. Okaloosa Academy is a charter school which already provides alternative education for Okaloosa school District students who have been expelled from other district schools for disciplinary reasons, but who are not incarcerated by DJJ.

The new agreement adds incarcerated students to Okaloosa Academy's responsi-

bilities, although the incarcerated students will receive instruction from Academy teachers who will go to the DJJ facilities to teach, said Okaloosa Superintendent of Schools Mary Beth Jackson and school district attorney Jeff McInnis following an April 28 school board meeting in Fort Walton Beach at which the contract was approved.

According to terms of the

agreement, the school board agrees to pay Okaloosa Academy for eligible students at the rate of 95 percent of the revenue paid by the school board for such students through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).

Additionally, the school board agrees to pay Okaloosa Academy 100 percent of the formula-based categorical funds generated by students in the

programs. At least 90 percent of the FEFP funds generated by students will be spent on direct instructional costs for these students and 100 percent of the formula-based categorical funds generated by these students must be spent on "appropriate educational materials, such as instructional materials and public school technology for these students."

Please see ACADEMY, page A-2

Organizations seek recruits at Volunteer Day

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Volunteering usually means doing a lot of work for free, often without even being thanked. It also means helping other people in ways that would not be possible but for the many people who volunteer their time and efforts to help others.

Sandy and Stan Stevens were among those who came to Volunteer Day at Northwest Florida State College recently to set up information tables in the dining facility of the college's student services building, in

hopes of attracting potential recruits to volunteer for their organizations, and to help prospective volunteers decide what kind of volunteer service was right for them.

Sandy and Stan represented Pet Welfare, an organization at Eglin Air Force Base that cares for, and when necessary, seeks new homes for pets which must be left in the U.S. by military families who are stationed overseas, often in areas where it is difficult or impossible to take

Please see VOLUNTEER, page A-4



Sandy and Stan Stevens, of Eglin Pet Welfare, with Jack II, one of the dogs cared for by the organization.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

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The Okaloosa County High School All Star Academic Team, pictured, which placed first in state, was coached by Carol Bernich, Mike Mosley and Julie Mosley. Team members were Ciara Ordner, Alex Fager, James Sung, Adam Metruck, Alex Messick and Sophia Bergmann. Hudson Pearce and Jonathan Ingram served as student observers.

ACADEMY

From page A-1

In other business, school board member Melissa Thrush told fellow board members that school district educational standards posted on the Okaloosa County School District web site that were previously called "Common Core

Standards" are now referred to as "Florida State Standards."

The school board also recognized local high school students who recently won the Division 2 State Academic Challenge.

The Okaloosa County High School All Star Academic Team, comprised of students who attend public and private schools, won

the State Championship for Division 2 at the Commissioner's Academic Challenge held at Walt Disney World. There were 15 districts competing in Division 2. Four of the Okaloosa team's six members attend school in Niceville.

The Okaloosa squad beat state runner-up St. Lucie County by seven points.

One of its members, Niceville High School student Alex Fager was selected as one of six members of Team Florida (students from all three divisions) and will go to Disney World June 12-17 for the nation-

al academic tournament.

Members of the Okaloosa team were: Sophia Bergmann, Niceville High School; Alex Fager, Niceville High School; Alex Messick, Crestview High School; Adam Metruck, Fort Walton Beach High School; Ciara Ordner, Niceville High School; and James Sung, Rocky Bayou Christian School.

Student observers were Hudson Pearce, Niceville High School and Jonathan Ingram, Collegiate High School.

The coaches were Carol Bernich, Mike Mosley and Julie Mosley.



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VOLUNTEER

From page A-1

their animals with them. "Our volunteers care for the cats and dogs," said Sandy. "We walk them, feed them, clean the kennels, give medications, and clean litter boxes. Volunteers also answer phones, greet customers, and assist with adoptions."

Sandy and Stan traded some questions and answers with the Beacon about how and why people volunteer:

What is your impression of the ease or difficulty of recruiting vol-

unteers for a community organization such as yours?

"We have a pretty good success rate in recruiting volunteers for the Pet Welfare Center. We have a lot of military and civilian volunteers. The down side of that is that our military volunteers have to meet deployment requirements and reassignment to other bases, and the civilian volunteers are often called to temporary duty at other locations. So we are continually recruiting new volunteers, both on and off base, to fill in for those that we lose."

How were you recruited as a

volunteer for your organization, and why did you choose to volunteer?

"There was no recruitment. We love dogs. We have both worked all of our lives and just because we retired from our professional occupations didn't mean that we didn't want to continue working and providing community service in some form. When we moved to this area and found out that there was a shelter on base we decided to help with the dogs."

What advice would you offer

Please see SEEKS, page A-5



Northwest Florida State College student Kim Zerr is a volunteer docent for the college art galleries. "We greet guests, and tell him about art shows and other events."

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

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SEEKS

From page A-4

to organizations trying to recruit volunteers?

"Sell your organization! Emphasize the importance and benefits of the volunteer work to the community. Get as much publicity as you can to draw interest to your organization."

What advice would you offer to people considering becoming a volunteer?

"Be committed and believe in the organization you will be helping."

Also on hand for the Volunteer Day session at the college April 16 were Laura Moore and Travis Hill, who were recruiting volunteers for the Children's Neighborhood, Fort Walton Beach, which provides temporary homes and educational resources for children who have been removed from their regular homes for various emergency situations.

Volunteers, said Laura, help perform office work, maintenance of the children's homes, and also interact with the children who live there, by playing with

them, helping with dinner and laundry, and other tasks. Volunteers often tutor children with their schoolwork as well. She said the Children's Neighborhood has between three and 500 volunteers now, and that between six and eight potential new volunteers had signed up during Volunteer Day.

Carita Smith represented another child welfare organization—the Okaloosa County Guardian Ad Litem program, in which adult volunteers serve as legal advocates for abused or neglected children, helping to inves-

tigate each child's circumstances and report to judges and court officials regarding what courses of action would be in each child's best interest.

Volunteers, said Smith, undergo a background check and about 30 hours of training, which includes classroom training, court observation, online study, and mentoring by veteran volunteers. Their duties include investigative work, interviewing children, parents, and others associated with the welfare of each child, and "helping judges to decide what is in each child's best interest."



Volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, which builds low-cost housing for lower-income families.

Courtesy photo



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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 April 17, Dewayne Elliott Shelton, 35, of 1515 Cat Mar Road., Niceville, was booked into the Walton County jail for drug possession / possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug equipment and/or use, burglary of an unoccupied structure unarmed, larceny/pettit theft second-degree, third or subsequent offense, and for an out of county warrant.

Other Incidents

On April 22, an Okaloosa deputy responded to The Manor on White Point Road regarding a burglary to a business. The officer made contact with the victim, who said she left her purse on a windowsill in the employee break room.

The window was open, but the window screen was still on. The victim returned later and discovered her purse was missing. She noticed a cut in the window screen, which she said was not previously there.

The officer examined the window and observed a cut of approximately 10 to 12 inches in length in the window screen. The case is currently inactive until further leads can be established.

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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



Wanted As Of: 03/11/2013
Name: Shana A. Holmes
VOP-Grand Theft Auto/Accessory After the Fact/Worthless Checks
Sex: Female **Race:** Black
Age: 27 **DOB:** 9/11/1987
Height: unknown **Weight:** unknown
Hair: Black **Eyes:** Brown



Wanted As Of: 08/31/2011
Name: Daniel Westly Arthur
Fraud/Neglect of Elderly or Disabled Person Without Great Harm/Poss. of Controlled Substance/Forgery/Theft
Sex: Male **Race:** Caucasian
Age: 32 **DOB:** 06/06/1982
Height: 5ft 8in **Weight:** 155 lbs
Hair: unknown **Eyes:** unknown

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)

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On April 23, a Valparaiso officer responded to an address on Davenport Avenue regarding burglary to a conveyance. The victim reported that her car had been burglarized during the previous night.

Missing items included a wallet containing \$400 in cash, an iPod Nano, and a glass change cup containing approximately \$50 worth of coins.

The victim reported that when she attempted to open the doors of the car that morning, she found the doors locked, so she assumed that she had locked them the prior night.

On April 24, a person entered the Valparaiso police station and reported that her attached garage on North Baysshore Drive had been burglarized sometime between Feb. 21 and April 21.

The victim reported that several items, valued in excess of \$6,000, were removed from the garage. Missing items included an air compressor, a plasma cutter, three welders, a toolbox, and commercial shelving.

The case remains open pending further investigation.



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Niceville's Newspaper



Student Tech Bowl competitors search for answers on the Internet during the annual competition Saturday in Niceville.

Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

TECH

From page A-1

more than two times. Certain comprehensive reference sites such as Wikipedia are forbidden. The school team with the most correct answers wins.

All students who participated in the competition Saturday got a \$25 gift card from Best Buy. Edge students Jared Bartz, Alexa Drab and Kenneth Kilgellon got \$100 gift cards for winning first place, while the school got a \$200 gift card.

Jared's mother, Shannon Bartz, said he got questions from previous years to practice on his own after school as well as doing the team practices.

When asked what he will do with his \$100, she said, "He is a techie at heart so I'm sure he'll

find something, a game or controller or something."

Jared said he will try out for the Tech Bowl team when he goes to middle school next year as well.

Dawson said she hopes the competing students gained "confidence and the ability to apply their search skills to academics and an awareness of what resources are appropriate and what are not."

"There's so much information out there," Dawson added. "I want them to know what's worth using and what is not."

Members of the second-place Plew Elementary team were Clara Bradley, Joseph Huisken and Teertho Bhattacharya.

Liza Jackson Preparatory School placed third in the elementary division.

In the middle school division, Pryor Middle won first place.

Liza Jackson Preparatory School won second place. Lewis School, Valparaiso, took third place. Lewis team members were: Bryar Reinhardt, Jacob Woodard and Parker Chojnowski.

Lewis Coach John Martin said, "I'm really happy. We hadn't placed in four years."

Martin said that the students had only been preparing for one week, but the students had all had computer search assignments before. He said Tech Bowl "gives kids another avenue" for competition rather than just athletics.

Quizmaster Kathy Gaubron of L-3 Communications says that was the reason the competition was begun 15 years ago by Niceville City Manager Lannie Corbin.

"Part of what Lannie Corbin conceived of when he started this up is that a lot of other students in

the schools are showcased because of their smarts or athletic ability and he thought that for the students that are computer savvy, how are they ever recognized?" said Gaubron.

High school teams follow the same format as the elementary and middle school students but are given 60 questions to answer. Two additional students also work to put together a computer from its pieces after the question and answer session.

In the high school division, two schools in Niceville were among those that competed: Rocky Bayou Christian School and Collegiate High School. Niceville High did not enter this year.

Collegiate won first place. Team members were Matthew Bell, Ryan Casburn, Kristian Colon-Bruno, Diego Morales, Joshua Romualdo and Carson Wilber.

RAINS

From page A-1

efforts of his personnel that provided definitive oversight during the period of inclement weather. Board members commended Helms and his team for an outstanding job.

The unusual volume of rain in such a short period did identify an issue that could present problems in the future if not addressed. Helms stated that during the April 30 rainfall, "we dodged a bullet" that warrants further consideration to ensure the plant is fully self contained to handle unexpected workload levels.

In order to assist with power requirements, they turned on their 400KW generator. Fortunately, commercial power was never interrupted, so there was no concern. However, if commercial power had been taken off line for any period of time, the 400KW generator "would not" have been able to handle the load.

As such, Helms recommended the purchase of an additional 600KW generator that would ensure that plant is fully operational even if commercial power were interrupted.

Board member, Lannie Corbin stated "this may be a necessary proactive measure" that requires further review. Helms informed board members that he has requested Glenn Stephens, Board Engineer with Polyengineering Inc., to assess this requirement and provide a cost estimate for purchase and installation. Patrick Strong, Board President, concurred with this proposal and stated it would be added to next months agenda for further discussion.

The upgrade project for the waste water treatment plant was proceeding as planned. Stephens stated the 3-millimeter head works screens should arrive around August 1.

The Federal Department of Environmental Protection has approved the permit modification

with the new forecasted completion of construction date of October 1 and a start-up date of December 1.

The target date to be in compliance with all water quality requirements is December 1, 2015.

A topic that generated spirited discussion was the renewal of the

Polyengineering Inc. contract.

Valparaiso Mayor Bruce Arnold asked if Stephens had completed the verbiage modifications that were discussed at the last meeting. His understanding was that Stephens would provide a "straw man" proposal that provided more specific details on exactly what engineering actions would be incorporated into the contract since the current contract is significantly outdated.

Board members, Heath Rominger, Corbin and Strong stated this issue had been closed and the contract renewal was approved

at the April 9 meeting. As a compromise, Strong asked Stephens if he could update the verbiage of the contract to ensure current processes and procedures have been included to reflect compatibility with upgraded technology enhancements.

Stephens expressed his desire to comply with this request without any additional expense. Board members concurred with the proposed course of action.

In preparation for the next fiscal year, Helms presented board members with his calculations for the 2014-2015 Regional Sewer

Plant budget.

Four budget proposals were presented, each representing "a decrease from the current fiscal year budget" of \$2,118,054. Budget options include: (1) Zero percent increase: would represent a \$57,600 decrease, (2) 1 Percent COLA / Zero percent Merit: would result in a \$51,499 decrease, (3) 2 percent COLA/ Zero percent Merit: would result in a \$45,431 decrease and (4) 2 percent COLA / 1 percent Merit at Managers Discretion: would result in a \$39,415 decrease.

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Niceville boy is Relay honorary chair

Beacon Staff

The American Cancer Society 2014 Relay for Life walk will take place Friday, May 9 from 6 p.m. and will last through the night to end at 6 a.m. Saturday morning at the Niceville High School Eagle Stadium.

Wesley Landon, 14, who has been battling cancer for the past four years, is the Honorary Chair of the Relay for Life of Niceville and Valparaiso. Wesley lives in Niceville with his mom and dad, Debbie and Josh Landon.

"It feels really nice to be honorary chair. I hope that a lot of people go and can see what cancer does to people and try to give back to the cancer community," says Wesley. Wesley's mom, Debbie urged him to take on the role as honorary chair to help draw attention to the importance of finding a cure for cancer.

"We all love kids," said Debbie. "So it draws attention. We want to take care of them."

Wesley was just 10 years old when he was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, an aggressive cancer of the brain and spine. His treatment involved an operation to remove a large tumor in his brain, six weeks of proton radiation, and fifty-five weeks of chemotherapy.

The operation to remove the tumor resulted in double vision, balance problems, and persistent morning nausea. The radiation harmed his pituitary gland and his ability to grow. The chemotherapy was so harsh that he lost 25 pounds and had to be hospitalized repeatedly for blood transfusions.

Through all this, and for the next two years, Wesley strived to restore his life to normal. He worked hard on his studies to keep up with his classmates. He would get up at 5:15 a.m. to have time to fight off morning nausea so he could attend school. He spent hundreds of hours with his

father performing various therapies to restore his vision and balance. He took daily growth hormone shots in the stomach to resume growing.

After three years of hard work, Wesley's recovery was nearly complete. His mother, who had left her position as school teacher to be his caregiver, returned to work. His sister, Haley, who had put her college plans on hold to support Wesley during his treatment, was attending University of Central Florida in Orlando.

Wesley, himself was doing very well. His grades were excellent, he was growing, and he was enjoying various physical activities including tennis, weightlifting and wrestling.

Then, in December 2013, just as Wesley turned 14, the cancer returned in his spine. In January, he had surgery to remove the new tumor and is now undergoing another year of chemotherapy.



Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

Cancer survivor Wesley Landon, has been selected to serve as the 2014 Honorary Chair for the Relay for Life campaign. The Niceville-Valparaiso event will take place at Niceville High School's Eagle Stadium May 9-10 from 6 p.m.-6 a.m. Pictured, Wesley with Relay for Life Event Chair Beth Anne Woods.

Wesley is determined as ever to get through this and again restore his life to normal. He chose to continue in regular school despite needing to miss a third of his school days due to chemotherapy and its effects. He has made up all the school

work he missed while undergoing the operation on his spine and earned nearly straight "A's" on his report card with only one "B."

"Wesley is really tough," said Wesley's dad, Josh. "He's the toughest kid you'll ever see.



2014 Relay for Life of Valparaiso-Niceville Schedule of Events
Niceville High School Stadium
May 9

6 p.m. Opening ceremonies
6:20 p.m. Lap of Hope
6:30 p.m. Survivor reception
7:30 p.m. Team parade
9 p.m. Luminaria ceremony

May 10

5:30 a.m. Closing ceremony
5:45 a.m. Final Lap
6:00 a.m. End of Relay

He always has been." Wesley himself has some great advice to anyone trying to endure difficulties such as he has had to face with cancer.

"Stay strong and just pray," said Wesley. "Always believe in God and He will deliver."



Ram singers get college input

The scholarship singing quartet, "The Zebros" from Northwest Florida State College, came to work with the Ruckel Middle School Ram Singers Chorus during third period on March 11. The college singers talked about proper singing technique, music theory and performed for the students. Pictured with the Ruckel chorus boys, Javonte Colema, Sean Royal, Sivu Slegel and Donovan Black. Below, Allison Everitt, Professor of Vocal Music at Northwest Florida State College, worked with the Ruckel Middle School audition girls group, Chanson, on Friday, April 11.



Beacon photo by Dave Shelkoff

Niceville loses 7-1 in regional

Heavy rains last week caused the 7A Region 1 quarter final baseball game to be rescheduled to Saturday where Niceville High School Eagles lost to Lincoln High School 7-1. Pictured, Drew Frederic dives back to first and is safe in the bottom of the 4th inning. Frederic would later reach home uncontacted to score the lone Niceville run.

In the Service

Air Force Airman 1st Class Laura M. Starnes graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Starnes is the daughter of Barbara and Perry Starnes of Niceville and a

2007 graduate of Collegiate High School. She earned a bachelor's degree 2011 from the University of Central Florida, Orlando.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Alisha A. Prendergast graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Prendergast is a 2011 graduate of Collegiate High School at Northwest Florida College, Niceville.



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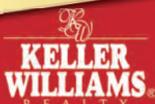


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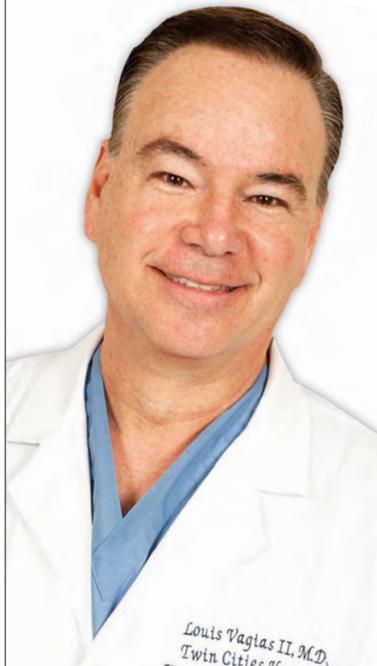
NASA engineer visits area students

The Florida Panhandle STEM Education Outreach non-profit, STEM-ED, partnered with the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics, the Okaloosa STEM Center and Engineers for America to bring NASA Engineer, Bobak Ferdowsi to the Mattie Kelly Center, Niceville, April 28 to visit with over 1,000 middle and high school students about the NASA team that engineered the systems leading to MARS Exploration. Pictured, from left, Major Tucker "Cinco" Hamilton, Okaloosa STEM Center Director Jaquilyn Craig, NASA "Mohawk" Engineer Bobak Ferdowski and STEM Assistant Director Shawnea Tallman.

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Niceville High School chorus ensembles to perform Monday

The Niceville High School Chorus' Spring Awards Concert and Senior Processional will be Monday, May 12 beginning at 6 p.m. Hosted by First Baptist Church of Niceville, the concert will include vocal performances by students that earned Superior ratings at both District and State of Florida Musicianship Performance Assessments this academic year. The concert will also include a senior class recognition ceremony and awards presentation. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in the Niceville High School Chorus Room as well as at the door the day of the concert. Pictured, Opus One, one of the seven ensembles that will perform.

2014
CALENDAR

E-mail items to
info@baybeacon.com
before 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Read to Baci

Baci, a Bichon Frise therapy dog, loves to hear a good book. Children age seven or older are invited to read a story to Baci in the Youth Services program room Wednesday, May 7, at 3:30 p.m. This is a first come, first served program. Bring a book or choose from the library collection.

DAR meets

The National Society Daughters of American Colonist is a lineage group for those who are descendants of colonists. The next meeting will be held May 7 at 10 a.m. in the Navarre Public Library.

Membership is offered now to descendants who can prove their lineage of descent from American Colonist prior to July 4 1776. The

Euclidean Chapter is taking applications now, and for more information about the society and the application process, please contact Regent Margaret Nichols at MLNichols@embarqmail.com.

Benefit dinner

There will be a family style Italian dinner May 8 at 7 p.m. at Tradewinds, 205 Government Ave., Niceville, to benefit the Eagle Ram Tennis Center. RSVP to Cici at 830-7829 or Shelley at 225-1437.

Seniors meet

Twin Cities Senior citizens will meet at 268 Glenview Ave. Valparaiso, on May 8 at 1 p.m.

Entrée is provided please bring a covered dish to share. Come join us for good food, games and fellowship.

Aglow meets

Aglow will meet on May 8 at Marina Bay Resort, 80 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach. Coffee and fellowship begin at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting at 10 a.m.

For more information contact Robin at 862-4867 or Debra at 678-7213.

Relay for Life

The 2014 Niceville-Valparaiso Relay for Life walk will take place Friday, May 9 from 6 p.m. at the Niceville High School stadium and will last through the night to end at

a.m. Saturday morning.

Lunchtime lecture

Retired United States Air Force Colonel Howard Hill will share about his life and "The POW Experience" Friday, May 9 at noon. at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida.

Bring a sandwich and take your lunch break at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida for History Sandwiched-In, an informal lunchtime education program. This lecture is free and open to the public. Space is limited. Please call to reserve a seat at 678-2615.

Rice and Beans Run

In the past, students from Rocky Bayou Christian School have gone to the country of Haiti with Truth Evangelistic Ministries. The mission there is to help alleviate some of the continuing effects from the earthquake in 2010 as well as provide for basic needs and education. One ongoing problem in Haiti is the lack of food.

On May 10 at 7:30 a.m., Truth Evangelistic Ministries will host The Rice & Beans 5K Rumble Walk/Run. All proceeds from the race are used to purchase rice and beans in Haiti for the hungry people.

Registration is \$20. before May

8th, \$25 after that date. For more information about the kid's races, the start location, and to complete registration, go to TruthEM.org/Run or you can register on Active.com.

Community day

Niceville Community Market Day will be from 9-2, May 10 in the parking lot of City Hall. Event supports the Niceville Community Christmas.

Victorian Tea

There will be a Victorian Tea at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida May 10 at 2 p.m. to celebrate Mother's Day.

Enjoy light refreshments, teas and a fun history program for \$18 per person, \$15 for museum members. Space is limited, please call 678-2615 to reserve.

Sign up for a new family membership and receive one tea reservation for free.

Birding adventure

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will have a Bird Float with photopaddler and birder, Walt Spence, on Niceville area bayous. Walt will demonstrate birding and photography by canoe in places where he has guided hundreds of trips for some of the region's best bird and nature photographers. Participants must register by calling Walt at 582-7064. Space is limited and is available on a first-come-

first-serve basis. There are no charges or fees, and participants must furnish their own canoes or kayaks, as well as paddles, safety equipment, and personal supplies. Those wishing to bring cameras or binoculars are advised to bring water-proof storage, such as a dry bag or large zip-lock.

Golf gala

The Emerald Coast Wounded Warriors Golf Charity Classic will be at the Eglin Golf Course May 10 with registration at 7 a.m. and tee time at 8 a.m. Individuals can play for \$50 and includes green fee, cart and goody bag. All proceeds go to help post 9/11 wounded warriors on the Emerald Coast.

Tax certificate workshop

Representatives from the Okaloosa County Tax Collector's office will be speaking to educate citizens on the annual Tax Certificate Sale on May 12 at 6 p.m. in the Okaloosa County Tax Collector office, 506 Hwy. 85 North, Niceville. Winning bidders can earn between 5%-18% interest. For more information, call 651-7604.

Charity gala

The White-Wilson Community Foundation presents the 5th annual Little Black Dress Party to be held on Saturday, May 17 at the Emerald Coast Convention Center.

Men and women are encouraged to wear black and white clothing and enjoy live and silent auctions, heavy hors d'oeuvres, signature drinks, musical performances and dancing. All proceeds from the event will benefit the White-Wilson Community Foundation and its women's health initiative. Tickets are on sale now.

For more information on the Little Black Dress Party, sponsorship or to purchase tickets, please visit FWBLittleBlackDressParty.com.

Postal workers to collect food Saturday

The 22nd anniversary of the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive will be Saturday May 10. Letter carriers across the country collect non-perishable food donations on their routes to give to local food pantries. Sharing and Caring in Niceville received over 14,000 pounds of food last year from this drive. To participate in the drive, just leave a non-perishable food donation in a bag by your mailbox on Saturday, May 10 and letter carriers will pick up deliver.



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FWBMC.com



TCHospital.com

Twin Cities residents gather for Day of Prayer

With Okaloosa County schools closed for two days due to the widespread flooding and storms, students were among those in attendance for the National Day of Prayer gathering at Niceville City Hall May 1. Pictured from left, siblings Reagan, Madison and Jackson Mallick listen to the speakers.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith



Seeking jean donations

The City of Niceville Youth Advisory Council is sponsoring a Jean Drive began Monday, April 21. Jeans of all sizes will be collected to give to the appropriate charity. Look for drop boxes at the Niceville Public Library, Water Department, Niceville High School and other schools. Pictured, Ruckel Middle School student Aaron Cato holds up a donation box after donating.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith



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"We want to give our residents both an environment and care that are meaningful and satisfying," said Leslie Walker, owner of Bee Hive Homes with her husband Steve. "We want them to feel like the whole house is theirs, and we all come in and serve them."



Leslie Walker

Bee Hive Homes is located in Niceville in the neighborhood behind the White Wilson Clinic on Hwy 20. The amenities available at Bee Hive Homes are equal to resort living. No detail has been spared to keep quality of life and safety at a premium. Residents appreciate the peace of mind knowing that with the touch of a button personalized assistance is at hand.

Residents enjoy the luxury of heated toilet seats, and even a heat blower to keep warm getting in and out of the shower or walk-in Jacuzzi tub. From a beautician that visits

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Residents at Bee Hive Homes enjoy a variety of activities from gardening and crafts to simply enjoying an afternoon puzzle and a chat.



the on site spa weekly to the outdoor grilling area, attention has been given to every convenience for those living there. They have the freedom to enjoy the beautiful and secure outdoor garden spaces at their leisure, as well as to leave the Bee Hive Home to go out with family and friends.

Plenty of social activities keep residents entertained. A variety of activities and events are held to meet individual and group interests. The Resident Council and each individual gives input to the Activities Director to help create the monthly calendar. The large, bright dining area and warm, inviting living room are the backdrop for much laughter and life experienced by residents. Every emphasis has been made to provide a rich social atmosphere with plenty of privacy

available when desired. Residents appreciate the flexible meal schedules with relaxed breakfast hours that allow them to get up when ready. Throughout the day there are plenty of activities to keep busy, and still time to enjoy an afternoon nap or socializing. Everyone enjoys celebrating individual birthdays for both residents and employees.

"We want every person living at Bee Hive Homes to feel that all who work and serve here are like part of their family and we want each family member to feel that we are part of their support system. This happens with day to day moments of connection through conversation, respect, and compassion; there are stories to listen to, questions to answer, reassurance to give, resources to share," said Leslie.

One way Bee Hive Homes keeps the focus on the individual is by limiting the number of residents they have; only 16 permanent residents at a given time creates a 1 staff to 5 resident daytime ratio. The facility is staffed 24 hours a day to ensure that safety and security are upheld to the highest standard. Bee Hive Homes boasts the most kind, professionally trained employees you'll find in our area.

Skill and attention are given to detail that generate loveliness and

warmth. Some furnishings such as the beautiful, solid wood dining tables were hand-crafted by Steve and Leslie's son, Brandon Walker. The art prints on the walls, and the inviting, open kitchen all bring you...home. Even quilts and artwork given from the residents and their families, or created during activities, proudly adorn the walls of both the public and personal living spaces. Residents are also encouraged to personalize each



The state of the art kitchen is the source of many chef prepared home cooked meals that carefully take into consideration each resident's dietary needs.

spacious, private bedroom and attached three quarter bathroom with the belongings that are important to them.

Bee Hive Homes is so much more than "Quality Assisted Living in a Residential Setting." Bee Hive Homes is a family. They promote strong family relationships as they sustain the required care, so you can focus on spending meaningful time together visiting or attending family activities at Bee Hive Homes.

Come experience this beautiful space and discover what Bee Hive Homes can offer you and your family. Be sure and visit the website at www.beehivehomes.com to see more information and view video testimonials.

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