

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-5

10 Pages, 2 Sections, 6 Inserts

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

50¢

UP COMING

Fri., 7:30-10 p.m.



One mile stroll under the full moon at **Henderson Beach State Park**. Open to the public, event is free with paid park admission of \$4 per person. 837-7550.

Fri.-Sat., 7 a.m.-noon



A **rummage sale** at **Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church**, Niceville. Filipino food will be available Saturday only.

Sat, 8 p.m.



Summer Splash Series Movie Night will be at the head of **Boggy Bayou**. Bring your boat and drop anchor outside of North Light Marina to enjoy "Captain Ron," rated PG-13, on a floating 26 foot screen, viewable only from the water. 678-2350.

Sat, 6 p.m.



The 5th annual **Little Black Dress** party will be at the **Emerald Coast Convention Center**. Tickets are \$65 for open seating, proceeds benefit the **White-Wilson Community Foundation**. Register at FWBLittleBlackDressParty.com.

Students to be offered flu vaccine

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Staff Writer

The Okaloosa County School District plans to offer influenza vaccine to most if not all students this fall.

The school board approved the voluntary program Monday.

"It keeps kids in the classroom and helps them learn," said Tony Boselli, president of Healthy Schools LLC, of Jacksonville, the company that will administer the vaccinations.

"It's definitely a preventative

opportunity for families to take advantage of," said Okaloosa County School Board member Melissa Thrush.

Healthy Schools will chiefly offer the FluMist nasal spray vaccine. Students with asthma may be offered shots instead.

FluMist is approved for

use for people ages 2 through 49. The vaccine is reformulated annually to combat what is expected to be that season's strains of the virus, which can cause aches, fever, sore throat, cough, and, in some cases, death.

In Okaloosa County public schools, the vaccinations will be the first offered on a widespread basis that are not required for

admission, according to school district officials.

"It literally is a squirt of liquid up your nostril and you're done," said one school district official. "I've never had anyone cry or complain."

The service was offered by Healthy Schools in a pilot program in 11 counties in the state last year. Later this year it will expand to Okaloosa County, Santa Rosa and Escambia counties, among others.

Last year, some 15,000 stu-

dents received the FluMist vaccine in the school program, representing from 12 to 17 percent of students in the pilot counties.

"We did a couple pilot programs and because of the success of those, many counties have jumped on board," said Boselli, who is hoping to offer the service in 30 Florida counties this year.

"I think it'll be a win-win for students and families as well as our school staff as there is often

Please see VACCINE, page A-4



Big snake nabbed on 29th Street



Niceville police officers responded to a report that a large snake, reported as "possibly a boa constrictor," was slithering around the 600 block of 29th Street Friday. Officers were able to corral the reptile in a recycling bin before popping it into a pillow case and turning it over to state wildlife officers. "I was driving home for lunch and there he was, sitting in the middle of the road," said Paul Kendrick, who reported the snake. Officers suspect the snake is an escaped pet.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

Sheriff's deputy charged in sex case

By **Beacon Staff**

An Okaloosa County deputy sheriff was arrested in Niceville on a felony charge of unlawful sexual activity with a 17-year-old girl, according to a sheriff's report.

Christopher Ball, 31, who has been with the sheriff's office for a year, was suspended without pay pending termination, according to Sheriff Larry Ashley.

"I demand, and our profession demands, that our deputies conduct themselves with the highest standards of integrity and moral conduct," said Ashley. "Behavior that undermines that standard will absolutely not be tolerated."

Sheriff's investigators reported that the girl told them that she and Ball began a sexual relationship in December 2013, according to the sheriff's report.

Under questioning by investigators, the girl stated that she and the defendant had had sexual intercourse six times at three different locations in Fort Walton Beach and Mary Esther.

Investigators said Ball made admissions to being in an inappropriate relationship but denied sexual contact.

Ball consented to a search of his cell phone and admitted that photos of a female in various stages of undress that were discovered on the phone were of the alleged victim, according to the report. He said she had sent him the photos, according to the report.

Ball joined the sheriff's office May 20, 2013.

Commission candidates square off

By **Mike Griffith**
Beacon Correspondent

Candidates for the District 4 seat on the Okaloosa County Commission fielded questions May 5 from members of the Silver Sands Republican Women Federated during the organiza-

tion's candidate forum held at the Bluewater Bay golf clubhouse.

The forum was the first of several planned by the organization.

"We will be having candidate forums on the first Monday of each month through August," SSRWF spokeswoman Libby

Hill told the Beacon.

Incumbent Commissioner Don Amunds and challenger Trey Goodwin appeared at the forum.

Another challenger, Henry Kelley, was also scheduled, but missed the event due to a family emergency. The Beacon later sent

him a list of the questions asked during the forum, which he answered May 8 via e-mail.

All of the announced candidates are Republicans. No Democrats have thus far entered the race for the seat. If candidates from only one political party

qualify for the ballot, the Aug. 26 primary election will be open to all voters and will determine the race.

Although the candidates at the forum must all reside within District 4 of Okaloosa County, all

Please see CANDIDATES, page A-2

Valp. vision panel drafts city goals

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Staff Writer

The Valparaiso Visioning Committee discussed its vision statement and two draft goal statements May 8 in response to the results of its citywide survey.

A quorum was not in attendance, but Chair Jill White asked committee

members to begin creating action statements for the two draft goals. The committee got the results

of its citizen survey at its last meeting, April 10, but had tabled discussion of the results until this meeting. White compiled a list of comments from the study for the committee members.

White said, "I think we can find a lot of direction for the action statements within those comments."

The comments ranged on items from infrastructure to recreational sites with the largest number of comments being about business neighborhood beautification.

Comments included requests for bike lanes, a recycling program, a grocery store, more chain

Please see VISION, page A-4



Jill White



Mud slingers

Members of Rocky Bayou Baptist Church hoist the first peak of the four-summit "Monster Mountains," part of the scheduled third annual Emerald Coast Mud Run for Orphans. The charity race, sponsored by Heart of the Bride Ministries, Niceville, will take place May 17 at Northwest Florida State College. Over 4,000 "mudders," each paying \$50, are expected to run, walk, climb, crawl or otherwise proceed over, under or through as many as 16 obstacles. Details: www.emeraldcoastmudrun.com.

Photo by Billy Moore

Sen. Gaetz says area fared well in legislative session

State Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, said Northwest Florida priorities were big winners in the state's budget approved May 2 by the Florida Legislature.



Don Gaetz

Often the stepchild to a state government that tends to look east and south, the Panhandle fared especially well, said Gaetz, who is completing the final year of his two-year reign as Senate president.

Gaetz delivered substantial appropriations in transportation, economic development, education, arts, health care and environmental initiatives though he was quick to give credit to other area legislators who supported the initiatives.

"Northwest Florida has a small but cooperative and close-knit delegation," Gaetz said. "I am privileged to work with Representatives Doug Broxson, Marti Coley, Matt Gaetz, Mike Hill, Clay Ingram, Jimmy Patronis and Senator Greg Evers. Each of them leaned in whenever they could to support our region's priorities. We are a team."

The Senate President emphasized that Florida's Constitution allows Governor Rick Scott to veto individual appropriations. So while the Legislature has passed the state's budget, the Governor can still pick and choose line items to disapprove. The Governor has 15 days to exercise his veto from the time the two presiding officers submit the budget last week.

Sen. Gaetz said that while helping Northwest Florida communities get back their fair share from the state budget is a source of satisfaction, he is particularly proud of leaving the state with a \$3 billion reserve fund, paying down the state's long-term debt and delivering the largest broad-based tax cut in more than a decade.

"Unlike other large states and certainly unlike the federal government, during the past three years Florida has cut taxes and fees 23 times, lived prudently within our means, reduced debt instead of piling on deficits and met the critical needs of our state," Gaetz said.

Education Funded at Historic Levels K-12 school districts in the eight-county region netted a

total of \$988.4 million, an increase of \$34 million over last year. School funding is a partnership of state and local sources. Next year, local schools will have more funds than ever before in Florida history.

For the first time in four years, public school districts will receive construction and major maintenance dollars from the state.

Northwest Florida districts will also share in a statewide \$40 million technology fund and \$30 million to support CAPE academies for career-technical education in middle and high schools. In addition, Okaloosa County's STEMM Middle School Academy and Northwest Florida Ballet Academie will each receive \$250,000 in recurring funding. The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center in Walton County was appropriated \$100,000 for teacher training in natural sciences.

Area schools will also share in \$1.5 million in start-up and equipment funds for national industry certification programs in manufacturing. In Bay County, \$250,000 is provided for training for students seeking certifications in marine construction/shipbuilding.

Kate Smith Elementary School in Chipley will be rebuilt with \$9.2 million in state funds. The Holmes County School District is in line for \$6.3 million for the first phase construction of a new multi-grade county school.

Higher education institutions came in for more state dollars, as well. The University of West Florida, Pensacola, will share in \$200 million appropriated statewide to recognize and reward university programs that result in students graduating on time and securing jobs in their major fields of study. It marks the first time in state history that universities will be funded based on performance, Gaetz said.

UWF also benefits from several institution-specific outlays including \$2 million for a school of mechanical engineering, \$1 million to start a program to train physician assistants, \$4 million for on-line learning, \$5 million for the Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development and \$100,000 for aerospace education.

Chipola College got \$2.7 million for underground utilities improvements. Gulf Coast State College is slated to get \$5 mil-

lion for construction of a science, technology, engineering and math building.

Some \$600,000 recurring was appropriated to Florida State University to fund the Charles Hilton Distinguished Professorship in Free Enterprise Studies. The endowed chair honors the lifetime achievements and free enterprise advocacy of business pioneer Charles Hilton of Panama City Beach.

Water and environmental projects were funded as well. A total of \$10.7 million in local water and sewer system improvements will come to a dozen Northwest Florida cities and counties under the 2014-2015 budget. The individual projects range from \$26,000 for reclaimed water flowmeters for the City of Niceville to \$1.6 million to construct new water wells and water mains to serve Mexico Beach to \$2 million to connect Freeport and DeFuniak Springs water systems and add 50 thousand feet of water mains in Freeport.

Some \$4.4 million is slated for building a wastewater treatment facility at Mossy Head Industrial Park.

Preservation of the coastal dune lakes in south Walton County came in for \$623,000. The Legislature also appropriated \$30 million for springs protection and restoration, including funds for springs in our area.

Beach renourishment projects in Pensacola and Destin claimed \$12.3 million in state funds, including \$3.8 million to dredge the East Pass/Destin Harbor and \$8.5 million to support Pensacola Beach nourishment efforts. Healthcare and Children's Issues Get Priority

Hospitals that provide significant amounts of care to uninsured persons living in poverty will receive additional supplemental payments through the Low Income Pool (LIP). Eight hospitals in Northwest Florida received total payments of \$26.3 million through the LIP and Disproportionate Share programs as well as automatic rate enhancements.

Fort Walton Beach Medical Center will obtain \$1 million for a crisis stabilization unit, Bay Care in Panama City \$300,000 for behavioral health services for veterans and children, Jackson County Hospital in Marianna \$11.4 million for facility improvements, the Andrews Institute in Gulf Breeze \$500,000 to support rehabilitation of wounded special operations soldiers, Gateway ARC \$2 million to provide residential support for job placement for persons with disabilities, \$1.5 million for mental health and substance abuse care

for children in Bay and Walton counties, \$3 million to fund primary care physician residency programs in rural communities, and \$350,000 for start-up funds and construction of a Child Advocacy Center in Walton County.

The Guardian ad Litem Program will now be able to provide an advocate for every child in the state court system. Funding is now going to employ hundreds more child protective investigators, social workers and law enforcement officers to investigate child abuse and neglect cases and provide a safer, more transparent, more well-supervised foster care system.

Cultural projects benefited from more funding than at any other time in recent history, Gaetz said.

Some \$3.4 million was appropriated for 25 music, museum, and performance organizations, historic preservation projects, and libraries in Northwest Florida. Every project proposed by the Florida Fine Arts Council state-wide was funded for the first time, he said.

Grants ranged from \$400,000 to restore the Pensacola Lighthouse and Museum to \$60,300 for the Bay Arts Alliance in Panama City to \$50,000 for restoration of a historic bank building in Marianna to \$80,000 for the Northwest Florida Ballet in Fort Walton Beach.

In the area of civic improvements, the Washington County Courthouse, uninhabitable due to structural deterioration, will be replaced with \$9.2 million. Building Homes for Heroes, a non-profit organization that builds houses for severely disabled soldiers, gained a \$1 million appropriation as did the City of Crestview for rental housing for low income seniors.

The Walton County Fair Association will receive \$750,000 to replace and repair unsafe, crumbling buildings. The Okaloosa Veterans Court is funded at \$150,000 and the Bud and Doris Day Patriots Trail, honoring the memory of America's most highly decorated veteran since Douglas MacArthur, will get \$125,000 in state support.

In the field of transportation, Northwest Florida's eight counties will see nearly \$2 billion in infrastructure projects and improvements over the next five years with \$1.94 billion currently in the Florida Department of Transportation's Work Program, including \$527.5 million in the coming year. This funding will ensure that roads are safe and infrastructure needs are met as jobs continue to come to the Panhandle, Gaetz said.

CANDIDATES

From page A-1
five seats on the county commission are elected "at-large," meaning that voters from throughout the county may vote for candidates for seats representing each of the county's five districts.

Amunds, who has served on the commission since 2004, is a businessman and former Okaloosa deputy sheriff. In his opening remarks, he said that he grew up in Okaloosa County, and served with the Second Armored Division of the Army.

Amunds said that during his time in office, he has never voted to raise county property taxes, that Okaloosa County lowered its millage rate during the 2007-08 fiscal year, and has one of the lowest property tax rates in Florida. "Voters have asked me to keep taxes low," he said.

Goodwin said that he also was born and raised in Okaloosa County. He is an attorney and a former member of the Fort Walton Beach City Council. He said that if elected, he will work hard to ensure "responsibility and accountability" within the county commission and throughout county government.

Goodwin said, "The Board of County Commissioners has fallen down," such as when it failed to exercise proper oversight of the Tourist Development Council, leading to a scandal in 2012 in which hundreds of thousand of dollars were stolen or squandered by the organization's executive director, Mark Bellinger, who committed suicide after his actions were exposed.

Amunds, however, said that it makes no sense to blame him for misdeeds which the TDC's former director kept hidden. "You can't fix something until you know it's broken," he said, adding that once he and fellow commissioners became aware of problems within the TDC, they took steps to correct the situation and prevent a recurrence.

Asked by the Beacon for a general statement about himself, Kelley wrote, "I have a unique background - a Bronze Star as an Army officer in Desert Storm, 10+ years experience with Disney and Wyndham Resorts in tourism, a farmer in Baker, and owner of a small medical business. This combination helps me understand all our key economic drivers in Okaloosa County, and I look for-

Please see FORUM, page A-3

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FORUM

From page A-2

ward to using that knowledge for the betterment of the home my family moved to in the 1960s.”

Questions asked by attendees at last Monday’s forum included:

If elected, what will be your first priority as a county commissioner?

Goodwin said his first priority will be to “get a handle on Tourist Development Department spending.” He said the \$2 million at issue in the scandal was “shocking and appalling.” The TDD, he said, is a big revenue source, and he wants the county commission to get better control over that revenue, and ensure that the TDD focuses its efforts on attracting “good family tourism” to Okaloosa County.



Trey Goodwin

Amunds said he will continue to look for places where the county spends money needlessly. For example, he said, the county spends about \$1.2 million each year to rent office space for various county departments. He said the county should purchase or build office space, so that it will own its own offices, which he said can be paid for within 10 years. Again defending himself with regard to the Tourist Development scandal, Amunds said, “We had a director who was a crook. I didn’t know it, but it happened. We took steps to prevent a recurrence.”

Kelley said his first priority if elected will be, “Getting our storm water runoff issues addressed. As tourism is one of our key economic drivers, we cannot constantly have our freshwater parks closed due to pollutants in the water and hope to maintain a family friendly tourist location.”

What do you think about holding the annual county commission budget policy workshop in May of this year rather than in April as in

previous years?

Amunds said the change was made to allow more time for county staff members and county commissioners to review the budget, and to plan for how to cope with unfunded state mandates. He said that Okaloosa County “no longer has a good relationship with the state” with respect to unfunded mandates. He also encouraged listeners to “get with your commissioners with your questions and ideas” regarding county government.

Goodwin said that county budget workshops are important if they are used correctly, but not as mere “sales jobs” for proposed budgets. He said that when the city of Fort Walton Beach “sold” tax hikes to its residents, “I reached out to the public, and they filled the room,” persuading the city council to drop the hikes. He said workshops should focus on gaining general public input on proposed budgets.

Kelley wrote, “I intend to have our department heads present their year to date performance at BCC meetings monthly, and turn budget reviews into an ongoing process instead of once a year.”

What should be done to control the rising cost of “Cadillac” health care benefits for county employees?

Amunds said that the county does not actually offer a “Cadillac” health plan for its employees. In fact, he said, the county’s health plan has been reduced in recent years. He said that although the state of Florida pays for health care for teachers, it mandates that counties provide health care for county employees. In any case, said Amunds, “I’m not raising taxes.”



Don Amunds

Goodwin said that county employees currently have a “dog-gone good” health plan—one that “most other citizens wish they

had.” He said it is good for the county to provide health benefits to its employees, but that county commissioners should “open our eyes” to managed health plans which help keep costs down. He also criticized the county commission for adding new people to its payroll, saying the county should stop hiring where it is not necessary, and that some areas of county government are over-staffed. Nevertheless, he said, the county must treat its employees with respect.

Kelley wrote, “As conservatives like me predicted, the outcome of the Affordable Care Act is rising insurance costs. The constantly changing rules out of Washington, D.C., have created chaos, and this is another issue that requires year round attention instead of a once a year budget discussion. I have experience negotiating health insurance for my business, and will look to be a part of this process when elected.”

What do you think about proposals to consolidate, at county level, such services as law enforcement and fire protection, which are now done at both county and municipal or fire district levels?

Goodwin said that he is “more than willing” to entertain the idea of consolidation. He said that when he was on the Fort Walton Beach City Council, Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Ashley offered \$2 million in savings through consolidation of law enforcement services.

Although the city decided not to consolidate its police department with the sheriff’s office, the pressure to do so led the city to find \$1 million in savings on its own. In some cases, he said, “Consolidation makes a lot of sense.” For example, said Goodwin, firefighters respond to all medical calls in southern

Okaloosa County even as county EMS crews do likewise—something that “screams for consolidation.”

Amunds said he has “no problem” with consolidation. However, he said, there is really no way that the sheriff could really provide the same level of law enforcement services as provided by municipal police departments. He said that the city of Niceville had studied the issue, and had said no to consolidation.

He cautioned against the tendency of public officials to “build kingdoms.” He also said that Okaloosa County has reduced 140 positions over the last few years, but that, in turn, now makes it more difficult to cope with such emergencies as the flooding that occurred throughout the county earlier this month. Commissioners, he said, “must make tough decisions.”

Kelley wrote, “I support consolidation efforts provided it meets two criteria: It makes demonstrable economic sense and that the municipality in question supports the consolidation.”

Should Tourist Development Department bed tax revenue be used to help pay for such services as police and fire protection and road and utility maintenance within Okaloosa County’s tourist development taxing district, as well as for promoting tourism?

Amunds said that the county has asked the Florida Legislature

to clarify the law regarding how tourist development bed tax money may actually be spent, but has thus far received no response. He said the county now uses bed tax money to pay for beach cleaning, and is considering using it to pay for lifeguard services and road maintenance. He cautioned, however, that the county must be careful to comply with state law.

Goodwin questioned why it is necessary for the county commission to ask the legislature to clarify a law passed by the legislature. He said the county has its own legal counsel to interpret the law. He said he would use tourist development money to pay for extra law enforcement, as Bay County has done for the last two years, leaving Okaloosa County “asleep at the wheel.”

“Yes,” wrote **Kelley**. “I supported this legislation as well with our Legislature—that is how much I believe that we should support this idea of getting tourists to help pay infrastructure costs.”

What should be done to prevent late billing for emergency medical services? During the candidate forum, one woman said she had received a bill for her late husband’s ambulance ride four years after the fact.

Goodwin called such late billing “an astonishing experience,” and said it demonstrated “a lack of oversight” by county officials.

Amunds said, “It’s about accountability.”

“If there is an issue with billing,” he said, “we need to address it.”

“I would have to understand this particular issue in greater detail,” wrote **Kelley**, “but I have a wealth of billing experience from my private sector life that I can leverage to address situations like this so the county is providing genuine customer service to the taxpayer.”

How should Okaloosa County celebrate its upcoming 2015 centennial?

Amunds said he would “listen to the public” by reaching out to historical and cultural groups, municipalities, and other organizations for ideas on how to best observe the centennial.

Goodwin said that celebrating the centennial is a good idea, but, “Who’s to pay for it?” He said he would be hesitant to use tax money for such a purpose, but that he thinks it can be done without being funded by taxpayers.

Kelley wrote, “I would like to see us use our existing resources—namely our museums and libraries—and have a series of events showing how our county was formed, and where the county can go in the next 100 years. We have a beautiful county, and we don’t do a good job of promoting our diversity from the military to the tourism to the farming and growing college programs.”

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Relay raises \$101,000

The "Lap of Hope," a walk around the track taken by 115 survivors of cancer, started off the 2014 Relay for Life event, which had 2,220 participants, in Niceville High School's Eagle stadium May 9. Although heavy rain had been forecast for the weekend, the Relay, which lasted from 6 p.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Saturday, remained dry. A total of \$101,174 was raised to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith



College graduates over 2,000

Commencement for the Northwest Florida State College class of 2014 took place Saturday in two ceremonies on the main campus in Niceville. It was one of the largest graduating classes in the college's history with an expected 2,046 members. The college's first commencement in 1966 had 85. This year, associate degrees were awarded to 1,317 students. Another 194 were awarded technical certifications and 117 received vocational certifications. Two hundred and one GEDs were awarded. One hundred eighty-five bachelor's degrees were awarded. Thirty-two applied technology diplomas were awarded.

Grad Images

VACCINE

From page A-1

loss of work-time and student workdays due to the flu," said Thrush.

Boselli said the economic downside of flu in the U.S. was \$18 billion in 2013. "If they're not getting the flu, they're not going to be passing it on to parents," he

said. "It's a drain on the family." Thrush, who has four school-children of her own, said she plans to have them vaccinated under the school program.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has recommended annual influenza vaccinations for everyone age six months or older since 2010. Side effects of the vaccine, which uses weakened, live flu viruses, can include runny nose,

headache, wheezing, vomiting, muscle aches and fever, according to the CDC.

"It is difficult to try to schedule times to go to the health department or doctor to get the flu vaccine," Thrush said. "Often there's a window of limited supply for pediatric vaccines. I have tried to schedule an appointment before and they've been out."

Parents will receive a consent

form three weeks before this fall's school vaccination days. They must return the signed form within two weeks to sign up their student for vaccination.

"You will only receive the FluMist if you have the consent form," Thrush said. "It's not going to be an automatic thing to be done to all students."

Cost of the vaccine is billed to the child's insurance company,

Medicaid or Kid Care, if enrolled. The government pays the cost of vaccine administered to other students. Healthy Schools declined to disclose the cost of a dose. The Walgreens drugstore chain charges \$39.99 per dose.

No money will change hands between the Healthy Schools company and the Okaloosa County School District under the

agreement approved Monday, according to Healthy Schools.

Lois Handzo, director of student intervention services for the Okaloosa County School District said, "It's going to provide an opportunity for parents to be able to have their children have the FluMist. It's just going to provide another avenue in which they can obtain this immunization for their children."

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Earn extra cash of \$45 to \$140 or more each week in your spare time! The Bay Beacon seeks a reliable independent contractor to insert, bag, and deliver newspapers Tuesday night. You must be over 21 and have a reliable vehicle, a good driving record, a Florida driver's license, and proof of current liability insurance. No collecting duties. Earnings vary according to route and work load. Stop by the Bay Beacon for an information sheet and to fill out an application. The Beacon 1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville • 678-1080 (Parkway East Shopping Center across from PoFolks)

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Beacon Newspapers, publisher of The Bay Beacon, The Eglin Flyer and The Hurlburt Patriot, seeks a graphic artist to paginate newspaper pages in QuarkXpress, Photoshop images, create ads, and perform other production, office and mailroom duties. Experience with QuarkXpress or another page-layout program required. Applicants should be organized, detail-oriented, and able to work efficiently to meet deadlines. This is a small-business environment that rewards the ability to master new challenges. Nonsmokers. Apply in person at the Bay Beacon, 1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville. 850-678-1080.

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New Books

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Yard Sales

Saturday, May 17, 7am-2pm. 130 Parkwood Dr. Turn into Parkwood Circle off Bluewater Blvd. Purses, clothes, decorative items, glasses, TV, all kinds of items. All in good condition.

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church at 1200 Valparaiso Blvd. will hold a spring rummage sale Friday and Saturday, May 16&17, 7am-12noon. Filipino food will be available Saturday only. Donations accepted at Parish Life Center Building May 12-15.



Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

Members of the Valparaiso Visioning Committee met May 8 to continue their work on setting goals for the city.

VISION

From page A-1

and fast food restaurants and other cable providers. Under recreational sites, the idea of building a marina was also suggested.

Under business neighborhood beautification, cleaning up and improving the appearance of businesses along John Sims Parkway was emphasized repeatedly.

White presented a list of six draft goal statements for the committee on the following items: recreation, beautification, collaboration with Eglin Air Force Base, cultural and entertainment opportunities, the fiscal base and infrastructure of the city.

The committee will focus on writing action statements for the two goal statements regarding "quality recreational facilities available for community use" and "beautification of commercial and residential neighborhoods, thoroughfares, and public spaces."

White explained, "The idea is the action statements lead to accomplishing that goal."

The committee also discussed its vision statement and one was provided by ex officio member Kay Rasmussen, Associate Director of the Economic Development Council of

Okaloosa County. Rasmussen suggested the following vision statement for the city to encourage "out of the box" thinking: "Valparaiso, a city of parks and birthplace to Eglin Air Force Base, encompassing a vibrant old-world charm providing boundless opportunities for personal and professional growth."

Rasmussen said that infrastructure, business climate and military relations are three items that must be incorporated into the vision statement.

The committee has a draft vision for the city already, which is "Valparaiso: An inviting, safe, and prosperous community, where people live, work, and enjoy life."

White said that she would like to look at the two statements and how to combine them, noting that a vision statement is "not where you are; it's where you want to be."

After the meeting, White explained the purpose of the Visioning Committee. "We're trying to make a plan that is practical enough that the commission and the city can really work with it and at the same time understand that the best strategic plan there is must be dynamic and open to change and adjustment."

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Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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



Wanted As Of: 09/19/2013
VOP-Possession of Listed Chemicals & Possession of Paraphernalia
Name: Joshua L. King
Sex: Male
Race: Caucasian
Age: 31
DOB: 11/22/1982
Height: 5ft 8in
Weight: 130 lbs
Hair: Blond
Eyes: Blue



Wanted as of: 08/26/2013
VOP-Grand Theft and Failure to Appear
Name: Katrina Tranese Moore
Sex: Female
Race: Black
Age: 32
DOB: 01/18/1982
Height: 5ft 4in
Weight: 130 lbs
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown

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

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 26, Niceville police arrested Dustin Earl Turner, 28, 493 West Woodruff Ave., Crestview, for one count each of resisting an officer without violence, and petit theft. After receiving a call of a retail theft that had occurred at the Niceville Walmart, a Niceville officer observed a pickup truck leaving Walmart. The truck stopped and two men occupying it ran away.

One of the men escaped, but a Niceville officer captured Turner, who was arrested. The other suspect escaped.

On April 29, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office arrested William Richard Reeves, 53, a real estate broker, of 150 Meadowbrook Court, Niceville, for robbery by sudden snatching and battery domestic violence. Reeves allegedly snatched some car keys from someone in the course of a domestic dispute, although when questioned, Reeves denied touching the victim. At the time of arrest, a rifle and a package of synthetic marijuana were located in the bathroom tub near Reeves' bedroom.

On April 30, Valparaiso police arrested Alondra Dashell Rose Blackwood Hogans, also known as Keyiana Nicole Thompson, 21, unemployed, 384 German Club Rd., Defuniak Springs, on a warrant from the Walton County Sheriff's Office for failure to appear on an original charge of affray.

DUI

On April 27, Niceville police arrested Cindy Ann Hein, 52, a store employee of 802 Sparkleberry Cove, Niceville, for DUI after finding her passed out behind the wheel of a vehicle found parked in the Tom Thumb parking lot on Highway 85 with the motor running.

Police found a half empty container of liquor in the vehicle, along with some prescribed medication. Hein admitted to having been drinking, and showed other signs of intoxication. She was also issued summonses for open container/possession, and for violating a driver's license restriction.

Summonses

On May 2 Niceville police cited Matthew James Packard, 38, of 507-C 23rd St., Niceville, for one misdemeanor count of marijuana possession, not more than 20 grams.

Bear sighting

On the night of May 3,

Niceville police responded to an address on St. Charles Street, where someone had spotted a bear in their yard. The bear disappeared before officers arrived.

Other

On April 24, Niceville police responded to a call for public assistance at an address on Friar Tuck Road in Niceville. A complainant reported that sometime during the previous night or early that morning someone had driven a vehicle through his yard.

On April 27, Okaloosa deputies responded to a report of grand theft at an address on Pine Street in Niceville.

On April 30, Niceville police responded to a report of a burglary at an address on Bowdoin Court. The complainant reported having seen someone in her vehicle, then jumping her back fence and leaving the area in a truck. She also stated that her wallet was missing.

On April 30, Niceville police responded to a report of criminal mischief at an address on Seville Circle. The complainant stated that someone had bashed her mailbox, probably with a bat.

On May 1, Niceville police responded to the Tom Thumb store on Highway 85, where a store manager reported that an employee had found a purse near a gas pump.

On May 1, a woman came into the Niceville Police Department to report that she had been the victim of identity theft. She said that on April 1, she discovered that an unknown person or persons had used her personal information to obtain credit in her name, opening fraudulent credit accounts.

On May 2 someone came to the Niceville Police Department to report that their cell phone was missing, and probably stolen.

On May 5, Niceville police were responded to a report of criminal mischief at an address on Friar Tuck Drive. The complainant reported that someone had driven through his yard, damaging the grass.

On May 6, Niceville police responded to an address on North Partin Drive, where a complainant reported that when she came out of her apartment that morning, she found that someone had written racial slurs on her vehicle.

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Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from May 5, 2014 through May 11, 2014.

0 Structure Fire	23	Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	6	Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire	0	Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	1	Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	1	Hazardous Conditions



STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	5/5/14	17:09
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	5/5/14	21:42
Benton Ave.	Medical	5/5/14	22:23
23rd Street	Medical	5/5/14	22:35
Nathey Ave.	Medical	5/6/14	04:09
Valparaiso Blvd.	Medical	5/6/14	11:41
McKinney St.	Medical	5/6/14	13:13
Nathey Ave.	Medical	5/6/14	15:46
Cedar Ridge Way	Medical	5/6/14	16:39
Forest Lake Terrace	Medical	5/7/14	00:05
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	5/7/14	11:34
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	5/7/14	12:12
Fir Ave.	Service call	5/7/14	15:37
S.R. 85 N.	Vehicle crash	5/7/14	15:51
S.R. 85 N.	Vehicle crash	5/7/14	16:52
Hickory Ave.	Medical	5/8/14	06:30
S.R. 293	Vehicle crash	5/8/14	17:57
S.R. 293	Vehicle crash	5/8/14	18:00
26th St.	Medical	5/9/14	07:16
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	5/9/14	12:10
E. College Blvd.	Medical	5/9/14	14:46
Jones Ave.	Power line down	5/9/14	18:37
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	5/9/14	20:38
Fairwood Dr.	Medical	5/10/14	00:15
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	5/10/14	02:12
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	5/10/14	20:39
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	5/11/14	14:31
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	5/11/14	15:58
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	5/11/14	16:34
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	5/11/14	20:21
Galway Dr.	Medical	5/11/14	23:28

Weekly Safety Tip: The Fire Department can't help you unless you can be found. Make sure the number of your house is visible from the street and is in a lighted area so it can be seen at night.

Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook.

North Bay



The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from May 5, 2014 through May 11, 2014.

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Napa Way	Medical	5/5/14	03:37
Balmoral Dr.	Medical	5/5/14	13:21
N. White Point Rd.	Medical assist	5/6/14	01:41
Meadow Woods Ln.	Medical assist	5/6/14	06:13
Otterlake Cove	Medical	5/6/14	09:09
Highway 20	Dispatched & cancelled	5/6/14	14:48
Bluewater Blvd.	Removal from elevator	5/6/14	20:53
White Point Rd.	Vehicle accident	5/7/14	00:04
Merchants Way	Medical	5/7/14	06:06
Bluewater Blvd.	Removal from elevator	5/7/14	12:44
Merchants Way	Medical	5/7/14	23:04
Ocean Blvd.	Dispatched & cancelled	5/8/14	00:40
White Point Rd.	Medical	5/8/14	13:46
Parkwood Square	Medical	5/8/14	15:44
Birkdale Cir.	Medical	5/9/14	04:44
E. Hwy. 20	Medical	5/9/14	15:25
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	5/10/14	14:37
E. Hwy. 20	Medical	5/10/14	21:33
Alligator Point	Medical	5/10/14	22:21
N. White Point Rd.	Medical assist	5/11/14	14:26
N. White Point Rd.	Medical assist	5/11/14	16:32
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	5/11/14	20:08
Cat Mar Rd.	Medical	5/11/14	23:52

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

Valparaiso



The Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department responded to the following calls during the month of April, 2014.

Location	Situation	Date	Time
N. Bayshore Dr.	Fall	4/1/14	09:51
Westview Ave.	Fire service call	4/2/14	08:12
Seminole Ave.	Traumatic	4/4/14	12:43
Hidden Cove Dr.	Sick call	4/5/14	20:35
N. John Sims Pkwy.	CVA/Stroke	4/8/14	17:59
Edge Ave.	Medical alarm	4/9/14	10:27
E. Fern Dell Ave.	Medical alarm	4/10/14	00:29
Okaloosa Ave.	Man down	4/10/14	17:21
Lincoln Ave.	Seizures	4/10/14	20:24
N. Bayshore Dr.	Breathing problem	4/11/14	07:21
W. Edge Ave.	Fire alarm	4/11/14	11:28
Grandview Ave.	Fall	4/11/14	22:47
Montana Ave.	Fall	4/12/14	13:45
S. Nordberg Ave.	Man down	4/12/14	14:07
Edge Ave.	Medical alarm	4/14/14	20:35
Tennessee Ave.	Chest pain	4/15/14	07:01
Tennessee Ave.	Abdominal	4/15/14	07:32
Muskegon Ave.	Chest pain	4/17/14	07:26
Highland St.	Unconscious	4/17/14	15:10
Grandview Ave.	Fall	4/22/14	07:12
Washington Ave.	Psych	4/22/14	08:44
Washington Ave.	Sick call	4/22/14	18:04
Jasmine Ave.	Unconscious	4/24/14	00:42
W. Edge Ave.	Fall	4/24/14	18:06
Edge Ave.	Life flight	4/24/14	18:26
Mississippi Ave.	Seizure	4/25/14	08:00
Kelly Lane	Fall	4/25/14	09:20
Johnson/Kelly	Assault/rape	4/27/14	16:21
Glendale Ave.	Hemorrhage	4/28/14	23:12

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Advertising Feature
Fathers and daughters can celebrate a special night at a Princess Ball to be held at the Niceville Community Center located on 204 Partin Drive North. This magical evening will take place on Friday, May 30th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

We invite all Princesses to come out and be accompanied by their father or favorite uncle or family friend!

The Ball will be magical! "We'll make the room enchanting and fun with princess decorations, balloons, flowers and mood lighting," stated Event Co-Director Elizabeth Rambow of Superior Residences of Niceville. We'll enjoy Shirley Temples and special food and treats made by Superior Residences' chef. "Princesses will get special gifts like crowns to wear and princess wands, stated Amanda Curtis of Emerald Coast Hospice, Event Co-Director. We want it to be a night that little girls will never forget!"

Music for dancing will be provided by a local area favorite DJ, and a professional photographer will be on hand to shoot keepsake photos. Every princess will receive a flower corsage.

"It's all about bringing the dads and their girls together," Rambow



The staff and residents of Superior Residences of Niceville are shown here making corsages for the father daughter Princess Ball.

said. "They can wear their princess party clothes, if they want to, but dressing up is optional."

The event is for girls ages 5-12. Registration is required. The cost is \$20 per couple and \$10 per extra child.

To register and make your reservation, please call (850) 499-3390 Elizabeth Rambow or (850) 461-7573 Amanda Curtis.

Princesses, dancing and all things royal will be featured at this event specially geared toward children, with a goal of helping other local children who are mentally disabled. The Princess Ball is being sponsored and hosted

specializes in Alzheimer's and dementia care. Also, Superior Residences is currently building a Senior Independent Living Community in Bluewater Bay. Emerald Coast Hospice helps patients with life-limiting illnesses to live out the rest of their lives as fully and comfortably as possible when they along with their doctor and family decide that curative treatment is no longer an option.

All proceeds from the Princess Ball will be donated to Horizons of Fort Walton Beach. Horizons was founded in 1955 and is an affiliate of The Arc of the United States, the world's largest grassroots advocacy organization for citizens of all ages with cognitive, intellectual, and developmental disabilities, and their families. Horizons works to include all children and adults with cognitive, intellectual, and developmental disabilities in every community. They focus on abilities, respect, choice for all and encourage active citizenship and inclusion in every community.

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Princess Ball

Father-Daughter Dance

Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Date: Friday, May 30th
Location: Niceville Community Center
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Reservations Required!

Dancing for Memories!
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Call Amanda at (850) 461-7573 or Elizabeth at (850) 499-3390 for more information and to make your reservation! RSVP by May 28th
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Twin City schools chosen to represent county

Students from the Okaloosa STEM Academy, Valparaiso, and Ruckel Middle School, Niceville, represented Okaloosa County May 4-6 at the National History Day state competition in Tallahassee.



The STEM Academy team consisted of 6th grade students Fiona Bown, Isabel Burley, Kalob Cooper, Joseph Enguidanos, Megan Fordham, Livia Hughes, and Victoria Sherwin.

The Ruckel team was Bethany Cherenzia, Clara Coger, Nick Gestring, James Gunderson, Kelly Harrington, Bayley McMenimen and Simrun Sharma. Two STEM Academy students received special recognition; Victoria Sherwin received the "Spirit of '45" special award and Isabel Burley was a finalist in the exhibit category for her extensive work done examining the history of the gay-rights movement starting with the Stonewall Riots.

The Florida History Fair is the largest in the nation and welcomed over one thousand students from 31 counties for the 25th straight year hosted and is sponsored by the Museum of Florida History since 1974.

For more information about National History Day, visit the website, nhd.org, or contact Timothy Flynn at Okaloosa STEM Academy or Hayley Close at Ruckel Middle School.



The STEM Academy and Ruckel Middle School represented Okaloosa county for the National History Day competitions in Tallahassee May 4-6. Pictured, the STEM Academy team from left, Joseph Enguidanos, Kalob Cooper, Livia Hughes, Fiona Bown, Megan Fordham, Victoria Sherwin, Isabel Burley and Coach Timothy Flynn.

Who's News

E-mail items to: info@baybeacon.com

Northwest Florida State College recognized **Joy Armbrester** of Valparaiso for successfully completing the college's program for the Bachelor Degree in Teacher Education during the Spring 2014 academic semester.



Armbrester also received the Excellence in Teacher Education Award and was selected to address her graduating class at the pinning ceremony.



Rocky Bayou Christian School was one of 22 schools that participated in the Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (FACCS) High School Fine Arts Competition held in Jacksonville on March 13-14. Pictured, the Rocky winners hold up the number of fingers of their highest winning place at the FACCS high school fine arts event, whether in a group or alone.

Rocky wins 34 awards at academic competition

Rocky Bayou Christian Academy participated in the Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (FACCS) High School Fine Arts Competition held in Jacksonville on March 13-14.

More than 22 FACCS accredited high schools participated in the state level competition. RBCS won a total of 34 places - nine first place, 14 second place and 11 third place trophies overall.

The Bible Quiz team made up of Sarah Augustin, Michelle Earls, Izabella Foreman, Laura Hudson, Trevor Knie, Ivan Linn and Will Makarov, won 3rd place in the state.

The Debate team, made up of seniors Kelly Hanning and Connor Lynch, won 2nd place in the state. The RBCA Chamber Choir made up of Sam Glenn, Clayton Jago, Josh Jarrell, Doug Linder, Nina Nelson, Ali Turner, Jess Vermillion and JoVonna

Zuppa, won 1st place in the state.

The RBCA Concert Choir won 2nd place in the state. The RBCA Symphonic Band won 3rd place in the state. The RBCA Brass Quartet, made up of Amber Grete, Selena Craine, Meredith McIntosh and Christian Yun, also won 3rd place in the state.

In academic categories, Josh Preston won 2nd place in English, Dave Tan won 1st place and Kelly Hanning won 2nd place in algebra/geometry and Geon Ho Yoo won 2nd place in advanced math.

Noah Kerstein won 1st place in physics, Ben Esses won 2nd place in world history/geography and Michelle Earls won 3rd place in political science/economics.

Sarah Augustin won 2nd place in home economics, Andrew Earls won 3rd place in accounting, Connor Lynch won 3rd place in computer applica-

tion and Christian Garner won 2nd in computer knowledge.

In the arts categories, Iris Lee won 2nd place in monochromatic drawing, Kelly Hanning won 1st in polychromatic drawing, Emily Bishop won 3rd place for acrylic painting and 1st for mixed media.

Grace Cui won 2nd place in crafts, Aria Cui won 1st place and Iris Lee won 3rd place in printmaking, Connor Lynch won 3rd place in digital media and Matthew Baughman won 1st place in woodworking.

In Biblical categories, Seth Kerstein won 2nd place in Old Testament knowledge, Michelle Earls won 1st place in New Testament knowledge, Benji Vigil won 2nd place in evangelistic preaching and Ali Turner won 3rd place in Bible teaching. In music categories, Ariel Schesniak won 1st place for Female Vocal Solo, James Sung won 2nd place for classical piano solo, Craig Zappata won 2nd place for brass solo and Alex Mayer won 3rd place for woodwind solo.



New museum garden exhibit named

Gina Connelly was the winner of a contest held by the Valparaiso Garden Club to name the new garden exhibit behind the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso. The name Paradise Gardens was the winning name. Wal-Mart of Niceville provided a \$100 gift certificate as a prize.

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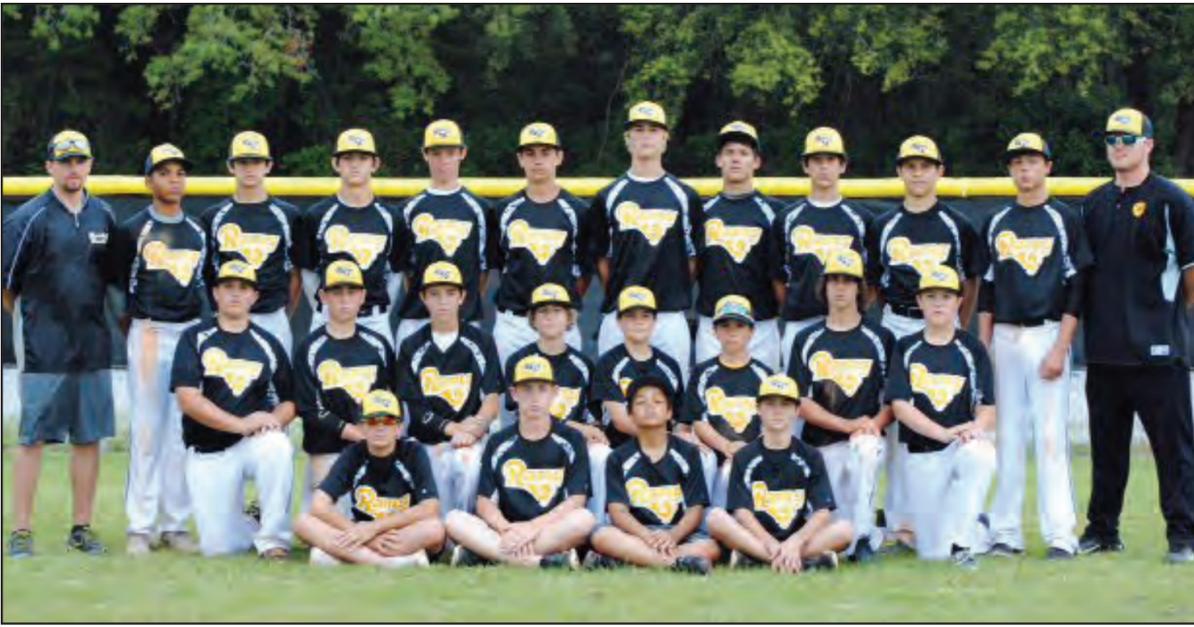
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Ruckel baseball county champs for third year

Ruckel Middle School baseball beat Bruner Middle School 20-1 to win the Okaloosa County Middle School championship title Saturday in a home game. "Niceville has been known for having a good baseball club," said Ruckel Coach Tyler Hastings. "The town and the parents work real hard to have a good team."



Scout makes church patio for Eagle project

St. Jude's Episcopal Church, Niceville, has a new paver patio thanks to Cole Willey who planned this project for his Eagle Scout project. Cole organized and implemented the project with the help of Boy Scout Troop 157 and volunteers including Clavis Pinto, pictured right. The St. Jude's Sewing Guild provided some funding and the request that the led to the Boy Scout troop adopting this project.

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Art in the library

The public is invited during the month of May for the Niceville Public Library's artwork display featuring the work of Jean Lee Jackson. There will also be a British and American Air Force model planes on display, provided by Dick Thompson, in the glass exhibit case.

Benefit concert

The Pensacola group, White Tie Rock Ensemble, will present "The Beatles: Abbey Road" in concert with the Northwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra (NFSYO) on Thursday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the mainstage theater at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center on the Niceville campus of Northwest Florida State College. A fundraiser for the college's youth orchestra programs, tickets are now on sale for \$20 each through the Box Office, either in-person or by phone or web. As a fundraiser, discounts do not apply.

Call 729-6000 or purchase online at mattiekellyartscenter.org. There is a \$2 per ticket Box Office processing fee on all ticket sales at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center.

Economic update

The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee has partnered with the Costa Leadership Institute at Northwest Florida State College to present the 2014 Economic Update Breakfast at Northwest Florida State College on Thursday, May 22. Registration and breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. The program will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 9:30 a.m. The deadline to register is Tuesday, May 15.

The cost of the breakfast is \$20 per person, open seating or \$200 for a reserved table for eight and recognition at the breakfast. This is limited

to 120 attendees. There will be no refunds for cancellations after May 15.

To register for the Breakfast please contact the Chamber at 678-2323 or info@nicevillechamber.com.

Full moon stroll

There will be a stroll under the full moon May 16 at Henderson Beach State Park from 8-10 p.m. The stroll will cover approximately one mile in length in soft sand. Bring a red lens flashlight only and dress for the weather.

The program is free and open to the public with paid admission fee. All ages welcome, minors must be accompanied by an adult. The park will close at sunset. All those attending the Full Moon Beach Stroll should arrive before the park closes at 7:33 p.m.

Come early and enjoy some RC Cola and a Moon pie before the stroll. Event Weather Permitting. Call 837-7550 for more information.

Golf fundraiser

The public is welcome to join for a day of golf May 23 that benefits the American Cancer Society's Niceville-Valparaiso Relay For Life and makes a difference in the fight against cancer.

This Four Man Scramble format event includes tournament entry, cart, greens fee, lunch, drinks and a post event meal for \$50 per person. Advanced Registration of each four person team is required no later than May 16.

Shotgun start at noon. To obtain event information contact Barry Woods at 830-5061.

Breakfast meeting

Call to reserve your place online at shrm-emeraldcoast.org by May 16 to attend the breakfast meeting of the Society of Human Resource Managers that will take place May 21 at Two Trees Restaurant, Fort Walton Beach. This month's presentation will be "Drive by Coaching: The Two Minute Coaching Tool."

Check-in begins at 7:15 a.m., the business meeting starts at 7:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 8 a.m.

The cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. For more information, call Alonzo Smith at 259-7365. Open to the public.

Lincoln Dinner

The public is invited to join the Okaloosa County Republican Party for their annual Lincoln



Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

Learn to weave baskets

Learn to weave longleaf pine needles into beautiful baskets with instructor Joe Stoy at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, in a two part class Saturday, May 17 and 24, from 9 a.m.-noon. Cost is \$55 or \$50 for museum members, materials included. Space is limited. Pre-register at 678-2615.

Dinner on Friday, May 16 at Ramada Plaza Beach Resort on Okaloosa Island. Cocktails and silent auction bidding begin at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m.

The Lincoln Dinner is a fundraiser to help establish Republican Party headquarters in the Fort Walton Beach area.

Seating is limited, tickets are \$55

per person; \$45 for Century Club and Students K-12 and available online at OkaloosaGOP.com and Facebook.com/OkaloosaRepublicans, and Bayou Books, 1118 John Sims Pkwy E, Niceville or call 609-4401.

Rummage sale

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 1200 Valparaiso Blvd., will

hold a spring rummage sale May 16-17 from 7 a.m.-noon. Filipino food will be available Saturday only. Donations accepted at the Parish Life Center until May 15.

Charity gala

The White-Wilson Community Foundation presents the 5th annual Little Black Dress Party to be held on Saturday, May 17 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Emerald Coast Convention Center. Tickets are on sale now.

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

Fundraiser

Open to all, the annual ABWA Billy Bowlegs Boat Poker Run begins and ends at Shalimar Yacht Basin May 17-21. Boaters cruise to several local ports, visit the Casino Room and party at Shalimar Yacht Basin.

The top three poker hands win valuable prize packages.

To be a sponsor, call 685-8027. To participate, call 863-9082, or go to the website abwa-ecc.org.

The Emerald Coast Chapter of American Business Women's Association (ABWA) is a non-profit civic organization and all proceeds provide scholarships and educational opportunities for their members and for area students.

On the water

North Light Marina and Legendary Marine present the first Boat Up Splash Event of the 2014 Summer Splash Series Movie Night on May 17 beginning at sunset.

Head to North Light Marina on Boggy Bayou, drop anchor and enjoy the show on the 26 foot floating screen. Showing will be of "Captain Ron," rated PG-13.

Mudrun

The Emerald Coast 2014 Mudrun for Orphans will be Saturday, May 17 at the Northwest Florida State College Campus beginning at 7:30 a.m. with the 10K Elite Mudrun, followed by the 5K Competitive at 10 a.m., the 5K Fun Run at 11:30 a.m., the Kids Mudrun at 12:30 p.m., two 5K Fun Runs at 4 and 5:30 p.m. and the last race of the day; the 5K Glow Nightrun at 7:30 p.m.

To register, visit emeraldcoast-mudrun.com.

Cutting a rug

Learn the art of locker hook rug hooking on Wednesday, May 21 at the Niceville Library. This craft program for adults will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the instructor will be Martha Zimmerman.

There will be limited availability so sign up is a must. Call 279-4863 x 1507 to reserve a seat.



Reading club closes first year

The American Girl Book Club at Rocky Bayou Christian School, led by fourth grade teacher Kristy Spears, is finishing its first year. During each meeting, members would discuss the book they were reading, enjoy a snack that girls in the particular era of that book would have eaten and then end each meeting with a craft. Some of the crafts included a woven, burlap American flag, a spinning top made from perler beads and a dust cap to wear under a straw hat.



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NHS art student wins Best in Show

Chandler Fletcher, a 9th grade art student of Nihill Taylor at Niceville High School, won Best in Show at the district art show May 1 with her pencil drawing titled "The Joy of Disney."



Scouts prep for 10 day trek

Scouts from Troop 157 are hiking through Torreya State Park, west of Tallahassee, in preparation for their 70 mile, 10 day trek through Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico this summer. Each member is carrying a backpack weighing approximately 40 pounds. To find out more about Scouting, call Guy Wills at 420-7417.



Retired officers' wives hold fashion show

The Northwest Florida Retired Officers' Wives Club Spring Fashion Show took place in April. Pictured from left, Kay Litke, Fashion Show Coordinator Esin Gershaw; and models Donna Riemer, Nancy Garcia, Carol Van Pelt, Margaret Menees, Bonnie Smith, Dulce Solt and Jessie Werdung. The next luncheon will be on Thursday, May 15 at 10:30 a.m. at the Eglin Bayview Club.

Gamma Epsilon at conference

Gamma Epsilon Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi members recently attended the annual Spring Fest Conference in Tallahassee. Pictured, members Mattie Williams, Marge Ballon and Linda Michalowski.



Gianotti family has Yard of the Month

Niceville Garden Club chose Dean and Mandy Gianotti's yard at 2002 Plumosa Palm Dr., as Yard of the Month for May. The Niceville Garden Club meets at 6 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at the Niceville Public Library, 206 Partin Dr.

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SUNDAY, MAY 18 • 1-3 PM

More than 20 homes will be open this Sunday in Fort Walton Beach, Navarre, and Niceville! A list of homes will be available beginning May 16, so stop by an office, or call 279-4332 (Niceville), 226-6323 (Fort Walton Beach), 515-0250 (Navarre) or pick-up a list at an Open House.

Rules available at each open house or at the Keller Williams office.



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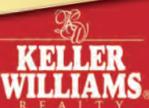


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