

# The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-5

10 Pages, 2 Sections, 4 Inserts

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

50¢

**UP COMING**

Wed., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



Class on financial literacy at the Valparaiso Career Training Center, Goodwill Industries Big Bend, Inc. 143 John Sims Parkway. Bring a lunch.

Thurs., 8 a.m.-12 p.m.



Blood drive at Niceville City Hall, 204 N. Partin Drive. All donors will receive a T-shirt.

Fri., 6-8 p.m.



Princess Ball, a dance for daddies and daughters, at the Niceville Community Center for ages 5-12. Pre-register by May 28, donation of \$20 at the door. 461-7573.

Mon, 5:30 p.m.

Public forum hosted by Silver Sands Republican Women at Bluewater Bay's Clubhouse, Niceville, \$15 includes dinner. Republican candidates for Okaloosa County School Board, Districts 1 and 3, will participate. 678-2182.

## 2% hikes in fees, pay seen for college

By Marcia Anne Sanders  
Beacon Staff Writer

Pay increases of 2 percent and a 2 percent tuition-and-fee increase are part of a proposed \$42.8 million budget for Northwest Florida State College's four main funds.

If passed, the proposed increase in tuition and fees of \$2 per semester hour would be the lowest in two decades.

It would have a \$60 impact on students taking a typical full load of 15 hours weekly of classes in a two-semester year.

At \$104.12, the proposed total of semester-hour tuition and fees for the 2014-15 academic year would still be \$9.10 less than the maximum allowed by the state, according to college officials.

Northwest Florida State ranks 20th of Florida's 28 community colleges in tuition and fees.

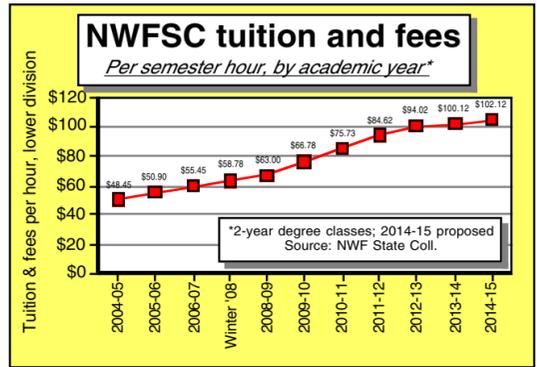
The Northwest Florida State proposed increase is for capital improvements, particularly a new computer system at the college called Banner.

"The state recognized it wouldn't

have money for maintenance and improvement at the college," college President Ty Handy said in an interview following a board of trustees committee meeting May 20. "They passed a law for students to cover costs (Florida taxpayers) weren't going to pick up." Tuition and fees account for less than half the cost of a Florida community college education. Most of the rest comes from taxes.

The new computer system will include a new college Web site.

Please see COLLEGE, page A-6



## The last full measure of devotion



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Sunshine and warm temperatures heralded the beginning of summer in Niceville and Valparaiso this past Memorial Day weekend. Some residents took time to solemnly observe the holiday by remembering America's war dead, such as during the annual community ceremony at Doolittle Park, Valparaiso. Following speeches, songs, and the laying of wreaths, the AMVETS Post 78 Honor Guard fired a rifle salute.

## Chelco to change lights in Bluewater

By Mike Griffith  
Beacon Correspondent

Some residents of Bluewater Bay may soon see a new type of street lighting, and potentially higher costs for such lighting, in their neighborhoods, according to Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative (Chelco) lighting coordinator Sinder Perring, who addressed the May 20 meeting of the Bluewater Bay Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) governing board.

During the meeting, Perring told the MSBU board that Chelco is planning to replace some existing "carriage" style streetlights with more efficient "shoebox" type lights. The newer lights, she said, will allow the use of light emitting diode (LED) lights, which, although more expensive to

Please see BWB, page A-5



Older streetlights in Bluewater Bay may soon be replaced by more-efficient "shoebox" lights such as this one.

## \$20 million budget seen for bridge authority

By Mike Griffith  
Beacon Correspondent

The Okaloosa County Commission June 3 will consider a \$20.1 million budget approved by the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA).

The MBBA governing board earlier this month gave approval to

the spending plan for fiscal year 2015, which will begin Oct. 1.

The new budget calls for \$18,133,333 in total operation and administration expenses. It also sees \$2 million in capital expenditures, and for ending cash and investments of \$72,835,667 by Sept. 30, 2015.

By contrast, the current, FY 2014 budget, which was approved during the final stages of construction of the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector, includes total operation and administration expenses of \$16,992,035, \$6,000,000 in capital expenditures, and ending cash and investments of

\$73,605,965.

On May 23, MBBA Assistant Executive Director Rolin Saylor issued a statement clarifying some aspects of the new MBBA budget.

"The enacting legislation of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority requires that each year the

Please see BUDGET, page A-2



## Fire district eyes expenses

By Rich Byrd  
Beacon Correspondent

East Niceville Fire District (ENFD) commissioners continued efforts to control costs, assess employee medical-insurance options and streamline oversight of fiscal matters during their May meeting.

Commissioner Tricia Brunson, treasurer, reported financial execution through March 31 was in line with budget targets. Total current assets, including prepaid insurance, were \$396,271 and barring any unforeseen expenditures, execution is proceeding in accordance with approved budget.

Brunson did indicate that she

would be working with ENFD bookkeeper Laura Roesch to adjust several expenses that were not categorized correctly. This would not have an impact on the budget other than ensuring accurate accounting categorization of expenses.

Commissioner Ed Dunbar indicated that this corrective issue "may require an action to amend the existing annual budget" to ensure compliance with governing directives.

Also during the May 12 meeting, Dunbar presented a proposal for securing a line of credit with Peoples National Bank in order to

Please see EXPENSES, page A-2



## Collegiate graduates 98

Graduates of Collegiate High School gathered outside the Mattie Kelly Arts Center at Northwest Florida State College May 22 before the school's 14th annual commencement ceremony. Of the 98 graduates, 86 also received two-year associate's degrees earlier this month. Pictured, Principal Anthony Boyer and Assistant Principal Christine Cruickshank are surrounded by grads.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

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# Reflections on a Christian school career



Ten "lifers," students who have been enrolled at Rocky Bayou Christian School their entire scholastic careers, will graduate Friday. Pictured, Joshua Jarrell, Christian Yun, Tyler Paskell, Kristin Maxwell, Sarah Augustin, Sydney Whitaker, Wilhelmina Nelson, Matthew Pippins, and Michael Pate. Not pictured, Hannah Barber.

## 10 'lifers' graduate in Rocky Bayou class of 2014

By Marcia Anne Sanders  
Bay Beacon Staff Writer

When Rocky Bayou Christian students walk across the stage to receive their diplomas this Friday, 10 of them will be leaving the only school they have ever known. These "lifers" were enrolled at RBCS as 3-, 4-, or 5-year-olds, and they never left.

These 10 have enjoyed the best and the worst of Rocky Bayou. What's the best part of being a Rocky Bayou lifer?

According to Tyler Paskell being in a small private school brings everybody closer together. "You know and are friends with most of your class." Wilhelmina Nelson agrees and said, "Rocky's not a school; we're just like a giant family."

Kristin Maxwell says the best part is the faculty. "I think that one of the best things about Rocky is whenever you're struggling with a real-life problem, you can go to the faculty and they'll mentor and pray for you

and give you biblical advice."

Matthew Pippins agrees the teachers are great, but for a different reason, "I think since it's a smaller school, the education benefits are a lot better. You can go one-on-one with the teachers and learn a lot better."

After 13 or more years at the school, however, the students do have a few complaints.

Joshua Jarrell voices his opinion of what he doesn't like about Rocky Bayou. "I think that the worst thing about Rocky is because we are so close, rumors and gossip gets around in, I'd say, one period, two periods."

For Sydney Whitaker, it is difficult being known within the school when you have a sister or brother who's gone through Rocky Bayou before you. "If you have siblings here, everybody knows your sibling and they kind of expect you to be as good as them."

The lifers do feel that going to Rocky Bayou has prepared them for life in different and

important ways.

For Tyler, "I think it teaches us the importance of having a Christian community. It's almost like church. It teaches us to get involved in the same kind of community."

Matthew Pippins thinks being at Rocky will help him with his next adventure—college. "I believe that Rocky has helped me more on an educational level. I've heard people in college say it's really, really hard, but people who've been here say it's pretty much the same."

Although they may never have attended another school, these Rocky Bayou lifers have heard about some of the differences between other schools and theirs.

Wilhelmina Nelson noticed one difference is, "We have a lot more freedom. We can go off campus in our junior and senior year. We respect our teachers and they give us the respect we need to succeed in our futures."

As a Christian school, Rocky Bayou has some differences in the curriculum as well. Sarah Augustin said the difference between Rocky Bayou and other schools is, "The amount of how much biblical theology is put into every subject, especially government."

Tyler said what happens outside of the school also doesn't stay outside of Rocky Bayou. "At this school, there's a lot more accountability. People get disciplined for what happens outside of school."

These lifers have varying plans for their future, from culinary school and doctorate degrees in history, to becoming officers in the Air Force or Army. All are planning to go to college, but just one to a Christian college.

They see a bright future for themselves and for the school. In the words of Joshua Jarrell, "Things will continue to get bigger and they will get better stuff right after we leave."

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## BUDGET

From page A-1

Authority presents its administrative budget to the Okaloosa County Commission for approval," Saylor stated.

"Debt service and O&M costs are determined by our bond documents whereas capital expenditures are determined by ongoing work. Therefore, only the administrative budget of \$787,500 will be reviewed at the upcoming Commission meeting."

"Concerning the 'ending cash

and investments,' this is mostly money in reserve and accrual accounts also mandated by our bond documents."

MBBA Executive Director Jim Vest said that average daily traffic over the Mid-Bay Bridge during April was up about 6 percent, with about a 3 percent increase in revenue.

He said that traffic along the new Mid-Bay Bridge Connector road also continues to increase, having risen steadily from 3,577 vehicles per day passing through the connector road's tolling point in Jan. 2014, the first month in

which the road was open, to 5,543 such daily vehicles during April.

Those figures do not include the number of vehicles that have used the toll-free portions of the connector road, between State Road 85 and State Road 285, or between the Mid-Bay Bridge and Range Road.

Vest said that during the first 10 days of May, an average of 5,300 cars per day have passed through the connector road tolling point.

MBBA chairman Gordon Fornell said, "We are seeing more traffic along the connector road all the time. People are finding out

about it."

The toll highway linking State Road 85 north of Niceville to the bridge opened fully in January.

Vest also said that he has been having a "continuing dialogue" with Eglin Air Force Base officials regarding the possibility of building an extension, also known as "Phase 4" to the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector road, which would connect the present northwestern terminus of the connector road at its intersection with State Road 85, to a point near the Northwest Florida Regional Airport. "Eglin is actively looking at that," said Vest.

## EXPENSES

From page A-1

provide a fund reserve. This action would be a proactive measure to offset any declines in operational funds during the transition from the current fiscal year to the next that could negatively impact actions such as payment of its payroll.

Dunbar explained the process to establish a line of credit was not a complicated action and discussed procedures, application requirements, processing time (two to three days) and costs involved.

Commission members discussed the benefit, cost, and reaction time required to secure a line of credit, but questioned the need at this time. As a result, Dunbar presented a motion to table the issue until the October 2014 meeting. The motion was passed unanimously by the commission members.

Past ENFD meetings have concentrated on options to assist with controlling future health care expenditures. A key element to this initiative was a presentation to



Beacon photo by Rich Byrd

Firefighters watch the proceedings at the May 12 meeting of the East Niceville Fire District governing board.

commissioners by Rick Simerly, a local insurance agent, on the possibilities of alternate health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

Commissioner Matthew Schwab said that there may be issues with deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs for ENFD firefighters. He said he continues to remain in contact with Simerly and expects to have better information to present at the next meeting.

Fire Chief Michael Wright provided an update on the final bill received for repairs to of the district's fire engine. Although the

initial repair estimate was \$3,000, the final cost of repairs to the engine came in at \$5,245.

After a detailed review of the discrepancy, Wright determined that the charges were warranted. He stated that several additional items were discovered in the course of the maintenance which required repair to include the need for four new batteries at about \$600-\$700.

Wright reported that the engine is in excellent condition and fully operational.

Commissioner Dunbar asked Wright about the age of the engine and whether a new engine was

factored in the ENFD's five-year plan. Wright was not aware of the engine's age, but said he would find out and stated that the identification of a new engine has not been added to his five-year plan at this time.

A secondary repair action involved the department's thermal imaging camera. It was damaged several months ago during a fire call. Wright stated that an insurance claim had been filed for \$5,000-\$7,000 to cover repair or replacement.

Chief Wright informed the commission that the existing contract for dispatch services provided by Okaloosa County would be expiring soon. As a result, contract renewal actions were being coordinated with all impacted fire departments. He stated that "the contract renewal was for three years at no cost to ENFD."

The contract was a continuation of the current operating procedures that have proven to be highly effective. The new contract would go into effect on Sept. 14, 2014. Commissioner Dunbar and Chairman Michael Marcolongo signed the contract on behalf of the ENFD.

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# Planned water tank seen aiding south county

## County also eyes law to curb begging

By Mike Griffith  
Beacon Correspondent

The Okaloosa County Commission has approved a grant agreement with the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) to erect a county water tank in the northern part of Okaloosa County that is expected to also benefit south-county coastal areas.

Earlier this month, the commission also approved a new communications tower to be erected near Crestview, agreed to select a new member of the Tourist Development Council (TDC), and agreed to consider drafting an anti-panhandling ordinance similar to those in Orlando and Hernando County.

The new, 1-million-gallon water tower, called "Mid-County Tank #4," is to be built near Houston Lane, about a mile away from an existing 300,000-gallon tank serving the Crestview airport industrial area.

The new tank will be funded by a grant of \$1.25 million from the NFWFMD and \$1.5 million from Okaloosa County.

County documents indicated that the project will bolster water pressure in the area and serve as a reserve to send water to south-county areas where overtaxed wells may cause salt-water intrusion in groundwater supplies.

The water management district is funded by a property tax levied throughout its 16-county jurisdiction. The county's share of the project will be paid by water users.

The water tank project is expected to take about two years, with the first one to two months devoted to land acquisition and surveying, the next three to six months to design and permitting, and the rest of the time to actual construction of the tower.

At a meeting May 6, the commission approved initiating the bidding process to obtain an engineering consultant for the tank, and approved an agreement with the NFWFMD to jointly fund it.

Commissioners also agreed to consideration of a proposed 180-foot communications tower, as submitted by Satya Acquisition Management, Inc. on behalf of Verizon Wireless.

According to information presented by county growth management director Elliot Kampert, the site of the new tower is located on Caveman Road, Laurel Hill. The property is zoned Agriculture (AA) and has a future land use designation of Agriculture (AG). The subject lease area consists of 10,000 square feet. The overall parcel contains 428 acres more or less.

The commission also agreed to proceed with selection of a new member of the county's Tourist Development Council (TDC), to succeed council member Daniel Empson, who recently submitted his resignation. The TDC is a six-member board appointed by the county commission to advise the county commission on how to manage the county's program to attract visitors to beachfront areas of the county, and how to use "bed tax" funds collected from visitors who stay in hotels and other accommodations near the Gulf of Mexico.

The commission also agreed to further study of a proposed county-wide anti-panhandling ordinance, to include consideration of two sample panhandling ordinances from Orlando and Hernando County. Okaloosa County currently has no panhandling ordinance.

The Hernando County ordinance, for example, forbids any-

one from soliciting money, employment, business, sales, or contributions from the occupants of vehicles traveling on any street or highway. Violations may be punished by a fine of up to \$500 or by imprisonment in the county jail of up to 60 days, or both.

The Orlando ordinance defines panhandling as any solicitation made in person, requesting an immediate donation of money or other thing of value. Orlando's definition of panhandling also includes selling something for an amount far exceeding its value, under such circumstances that a reasonable person would understand that the purchase is actually a donation.

The Orlando ordinance does, however, allow people to stand or sit passively with a sign or other indication that they are seeking donations, as long as they do not do so in certain locations, including at a bus or train stop, in a public transportation vehicle or facility, in any vehicle on the street, or in a public park, fairgrounds, or sporting facility, including the entries and exits of such places, within 15 feet of an automated teller machine, on private property, within or at the entrance or exit of a parking lot or garage operated by the city, or on public property in the city's "downtown core district."

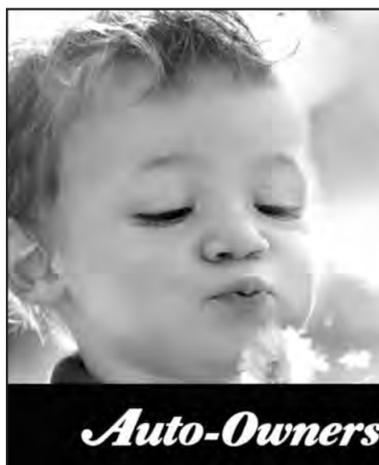
The Orlando ordinance also forbids anyone from giving false or misleading information in the course of soliciting a donation, such as falsely claiming to be a military veteran, to be disabled, or to be homeless if they are not, or to claim that donated money will be used for one purpose and then actually spending the money for something else. It also forbids panhandling between sunset and sunrise.



Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

## Lest we forget

Twin Cities Veterans Council members, boy scouts and other volunteers honored deceased veterans of U.S. armed forces with flags placed on their graves at area cemeteries during the Memorial Day weekend. Pictured: Hayden Hestilow, left, of Boy Scout Troop 553, Niceville, and Henry Burnett of Sons of AMVETs Squadron 78, Valparaiso, at Early Cemetery, Niceville.



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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith



What do you think about raising Florida's maximum speed limit from 70 to 75 mph?

Location: Niceville public library and children's park



"If people actually drove the speed limit, it would be a reasonable idea, but most people actually drive faster, so it means more people would be driving 80 mph or more."

Mike Oleksuk, 69, Bluewater Bay, engineer



"It sounds good to me. This is the first I've heard of it."

Nika Frenkel, 32, Valparaiso, stay-home mom



"I'm good with it, but just on interstate highways."

David Shambo, 51, Niceville, U.S. Air Force



"It would get me to work on time."

Brad DeLong, 30, Bluewater Bay, military



"70 is fast enough."

Tamanna Haris, 30, Niceville, housewife



"I think it's a great idea. Nobody follows the speed limit anyway — except for my mother-in-law."

Michael Arsenault, 28, Niceville, student

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

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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

Brian H. Gomez, 35, an Air Force EOD specialist of 725 Powell Dr., Niceville, was arrested by Valparaiso police for one count of trespass in a structure or conveyance and one count of criminal mischief. The arrest was made after Gomez, angry at another person, forced his way into the victim's home on April 12 and refused to leave until having been ordered several times to do so, then slashed the tire of the victim's vehicle as he was leaving.

On May 15, Niceville police arrested Dakota Mae Campbell, 19, a student, of 722 Powell Dr., Niceville, for aggravated battery of a child.

On May 15, Valparaiso police arrested Nicole Marie Medecky, 42, unemployed, of 282 Washington Ave., Apt. 6, Valparaiso, and Shannah Lee Short, 32, unemployed, of 1217 Bayshore Dr., Valparaiso, for three counts of fraud/illegal use of a credit card. Medecky and Short allegedly used someone else's credit card without permission several times over the last six months, purchasing more than \$300 worth of merchandise.

On May 16 Valparaiso police arrested Sanford L. Jones, 39, of 304 Reeves St., C-8, Niceville, for one count of possession of a controlled substance and one count of possession of marijuana less than 20 grams.

A police officer conducting a narcotics investigation at the Southern Gardens Apartments observed Jones leaving an apartment with several other people, and approached Jones and the others, asking if anyone had anything on them that would get them into trouble. Jones stated that he did not have anything and that the officer was free to search him. During the subsequent search, the officer located a small black case containing suspected marijuana and 17 round yellow pills which the officer identified as oxycodone.

Jones, after being advised of his Miranda rights, verbally admitted to being in possession of marijuana and Percocets that he had purchased from a friend, and that Jones did not possess a valid prescription for them. During the investigation, Jones became disoriented. EMS was called, and transported him to a hospital.

On May 17, Niceville police arrested Tonya Michelle Kimmons, 35, a hotel employee of 4819 Gilmore Road, Holt for one count of grand theft (retail). Kimmons was observed inside Walmart, where she loaded two carts with merchandise worth \$2,126, then pushed the carts through a closed register lane, passing all points of purchase. Kimmons then attempted to exit Walmart through the grocery exit, where she was stopped by an employee.

On May 17, Niceville police arrested Joseph Brandon McCarty, 22, a clerk, and Felicia Rochelle Henson, 19, both of 304 Reeves St., Lot A-15, Niceville, for one count of child abuse without great bodily harm. Jones and Henson allegedly invited other persons into their home and allowed them to manufacture methamphetamine. In doing so, they allowed their two-week-old infant to be exposed to harsh noxious chemicals. Due to exposure, the infant was decontaminated on scene by the Niceville Fire Department, and was then transported to Twin Cities Hospital for examination.

### Other

On May 15, Niceville police responded to an address on Hudson Circle regarding a reported burglary. The complainant reported that two people had tried to get in through a window and then through the front door. Upon seeing the complainant, the suspects fled in a red and silver truck.

On May 16, Niceville police responded to the American Legion post on John Sims Parkway regarding a report of criminal mischief. There, police met with a witness who reported that he had found the number 7 painted on the north, east, and west walls of the Masonic Lodge located near the American Legion post.

On May 17, Niceville police responded to the Holiday Inn Express on Bayshore Drive regarding theft. The complainant reported that his van had been parked outside of the hotel the previous night, when it was broken into and all the contents stolen, including a suitcase and some medications.

On May 17, Niceville police responded to an address on Pin

## Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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



Wanted As Of: 11/26/2013  
VOP-Resisting Arrest Without Violence & Possession of a Controlled Substance  
Name: Richard Earl King  
Sex: Male  
Race: Black  
Age: 19  
DOB: 01/20/1995  
Height: 5ft 11in  
Weight: 200 lbs  
Hair: Black Eyes: Brown



Wanted As Of: 12/03/2013  
Possession of Synthetic Narcotics Within 1,000 feet of School & FTA-DWLSR  
Name: Roderick James Ruderson, Jr.  
Sex: Male  
Race: Black  
Age: 33  
DOB: 01/09/1981  
Height: 6ft 4in  
Weight: 175 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)

## Fire Department Reports

### Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from May 19, 2014 through May 22, 2014.

0 Structure Fire	11 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	1 Vehicle Crash
1 Other Fire0	Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	1 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	0 Hazardous Conditions

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
S.R. 285	Vehicle crash	5/19/14	02:41
N. Palm Blvd.	Medical	5/19/14	05:47
Government Ave.	Alarm activation	5/19/14	13:12
Edge Ave	Medical	5/19/14	15:42
Roberts Dr.	Medical	5/19/14	18:16
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	5/19/14	18:39
S.R. 85 N.	Medical	5/20/14	06:22
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	5/20/14	09:07
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	5/20/14	10:09
Duke Dr.	Cooking fire	5/20/14	20:09
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	5/22/14	08:11
23rd Street	Medical	5/22/14	10:55
27th Street	Medical	5/22/14	14:22
Kumquat Ave.	Medical	5/22/14	15:28

Weekly Safety Tip: The best way to survive a fire inside a building is to get out fast. Plan two escape routes from each room in your home and practice the routes with your family members at least twice a year. Pick a meeting place where everyone can gather outside and never go back in...stay out!

Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook

### North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from May 19, 2014 through May 22, 2014.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	5/19/14	08:01
Oakwood Cir.	Medical	5/19/14	19:07
E. Highway 20	Dispatched & cancelled	5/20/14	10:20
Duke Dr.	Dispatched & cancelled	5/20/14	20:21
Winfield Dr.	Natural vegetation fire	5/20/14	21:07
Highway 20	Unintentional transmission	5/21/14	14:19
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	5/21/14	15:55

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

Oak Circle regarding a report of criminal mischief. Upon arrival, police observed a vehicle containing some juveniles who were driving recklessly and hitting garbage cans in the area. Police apprehended the youths, and ordered them to clean up the trash. As this was being done, an officer noticed some broken mailboxes in the same area, and the

juveniles admitted to hitting a few mailboxes. The juveniles were released to go home pending further investigation.

On May 19, a Niceville officer was flagged down by a resident at an address on Reeves Street. The resident reported that someone had kicked in his front door the previous night.

## BLUEWATER

From page A-1

install than incandescent or fluorescent light bulbs, use less electricity and last longer, thus reducing the long-term cost of operating and maintaining them.

She also said that the shoebox style light fixtures emit a more whitish light than the yellowish one emitted by the carriage lights found on many Bluewater Bay streets. The shoebox lights also tend to aim their light downward rather than off to either side as the carriage lights do, thus focusing the light on the street rather than in all directions.

Perring said that some residents in Bluewater Bay may see their Chelco electric bills climb slightly to cover the cost of installing the new lighting. She said such rate increases will



Many of Bluewater Bay's "carriage" style streetlights, such as that pictured, may be replaced by "shoebox" lights which are said to use less power.

probably be only a couple of dollars per month on most Bluewater Bay resident's electric bills. She was uncertain, however, as to whether such rates may come back down in the future as the new lights, once installed, use less power and require less maintenance, thus bringing down operation and maintenance costs for Chelco.

Perring said that 93 such lights, located along main streets and common areas of Bluewater Bay, are currently paid for by the MSBU. Others, she said, are located within local neighborhood homeowners associations' jurisdiction, and will be paid for by the homeowners associations and their members. An additional 197 lights, she said, are on streets not covered by either homeowners associations or by the MSBU.

Such lights are paid for by residents who live on the specific streets on which the lights are located. Costs for those lights, she said, are currently being paid by about 1,100 Bluewater Bay residents. A map showing the locations of the lighting fixtures to be replaced is being posted on the Bluewater Bay MSBU at BluewaterBay.org.

### Road closure

The City of Niceville has sent out a notification of a road closure that will occur Wednesday, May 28, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 27th Street from Bullock Avenue to Bailey Drive. Detour signs will be in place.

For more information, call Public Works at 729-4064.

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The Bay Beacon and Beacon Express, incorporating the Bluewater Breeze, is published every Wednesday by Bayou Enterprises Inc. Free total-market home delivery to Niceville, Valparaiso, Bluewater Bay and Seminole, as well as mid-Walton County from Villa Tasso to Basin Bayou, including Choctaw Beach. Subscriptions: One year, mail, \$104. One year, electronic subscription, \$52. All submissions for publication become property of The Bay Beacon.

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**COLLEGE**

From page A-1

financial processing, enrollment processing, and transcript processing.

The proposed budget would dip into the college's reserve fund balance for \$2.4 million but retain a 10.9 percent fund balance which is within goals set by the board of

trustees budget committee. The spending plan is subject to approval by the board.

"We really assess whether each dollar we spend is adding value," said Handy.

Next year's proposed increase is the same amount as that instituted for the current year. Both are well below the historical average, but Handy warned, "there's a limit

to how long we can keep this up."

"We're optimistic with the state doing better, the state may increase funding," Handy said. On the other hand, he added, "If the state continues on the path of not funding higher education as it used to, we may have to pass that cost onto the student."

About 73 percent of the budget is taken up by personnel costs.

Handy asked this year that employees get a 3 percent increase but the trustees budget committee proposed a 2 percent increase.

Handy said, "I feel like we need to start catching some people up. They've been through about five years of very, very minimal salary adjustment."

In 2011-12, employees were

required to start paying 3 percent toward their pensions, so they were given a 4 percent raise to cover the cost and give them a one percent raise as well. In each of the next two years, they got a 1.5 percent increase.

Salaries for master's level faculty range from \$38,116 to \$78,220. For bachelor's degree or less, they range from \$35,959 to

\$73,792. For doctorate level faculty, they range from \$40,437 to \$82,913.

Administrative salaries range from \$49,500 to the executive level topping out at \$160,000. Office staff range from \$21,060 to \$51,482. Salaries of IT specialists range from \$24,638 to \$53,461. Facilities personnel salaries range from \$18,003 to \$40,971.



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The cosmetology program strives to train students not only how to be beauticians but to be successful, satisfied individuals that make a significant contribution to the field of cosmetology. The program teaches students to



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### Run earns \$5,000 for ministry

The Rice and Beans 5K Rumble raised over \$5,000 for hungry Haitians May 10 through Truth Evangelistic Ministries, the ministry the students from Rocky Bayou Christian School have gone to Haiti with for the last two years. Some 39 volunteers, 37 business sponsorships and 185 runner and walker participated. Over 25 children participated in the kid's race.

### Niceville students finalists at international science fair

Two students from Niceville, Sarah Craig and Brayton Miles, participated, along with more than 1,600 other students from around the world, in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2014 held in Los Angeles, Calif. from May 11-16.

Sarah Craig, from Niceville High School, presented an agricultural method that increases the growth rate and yield of the super food, Moringa oleifera. Her experimental plants have an increased biomass of 157%. In 25 grams of Moringa powder a child will receive, among other nutrients, 42% of the daily requirement of protein and 125% of calcium. Sarah won \$500 and a 4th place award for

her project that can help alleviate malnourishment and related diseases around the world.

Brayton Miles, also from Niceville High School, designed a passive solar tracker that maximizes energy input by following the sun, and added mirrors reflecting additional solar energy onto the panels to increase the energy output. Brayton won \$1000 and a 3rd place award. In addition, he won \$150K Presidential Scholarship from Florida Institute of Technology.

Of approximately 7 million high school science fair projects around the world, only 1783, from 70 countries, are selected to compete in the 17 categories at ISEF.



Sarah Craig and Brayton Miles, both from Niceville High School, were finalists in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2014 held in Los Angeles from May 11-16.



### Family sends three on missions

The Riley family has three children serving around the world on mission trips for their church, The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. Pictured from left, Madi is serving in Russia, Isaac has just returned to the U.S. from the Ukraine due to the unrest developing there and Eliza is serving in the Netherlands. "We were a little nervous having a son over in Kharkov, Ukraine when there was such unrest," said their mother, Alicia Riley. "But we knew that the Mission President and other Church leaders were keeping a close eye on the situation."



### Scouts tidy up Bluewater school

Pack 553 worked together to clean up Bluewater Elementary School's lawn and gardens for their Spring 2014 Service Project in May.



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### More Than Just Heartburn

Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> | 11:30 a.m.

Brigette Jones, RN

Twin Cities Hospital Wellness Center | 2190 Highway 85 North, Niceville

Everyone gets occasional indigestion, but it may be a more serious disease called GERD (Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease). Join us for an educational lunch and learn seminar when Brigette Jones, RN, explains the symptoms, complications, and treatment options for GERD in our community.

### Free Vein Screening: Symptoms and Treatment of Venous Disease

Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> | 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Craig Cazenave, MD

Fort Walton Beach Medical Center Outpatient Waiting Area  
1000 Mar Walt Drive, Fort Walton Beach

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

### Nutrition and Exercise for Cancer Patients and Survivors

Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> | 12 p.m.

Laura Newton, Registered and Licensed Dietician,

UAB Department of Nutrition Sciences Assistant Professor

Fort Walton Beach Medical Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor PCU Classroom A  
1000 Mar Walt Drive, Fort Walton Beach

Join Laura Newton to learn more about benefits, tips and more regarding nutrition and exercise for cancer patients and survivors!

Complimentary lunch will be provided; reservations are required.  
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**Centenarian tees off to start golf tourney**

Mary Gilmore, who celebrated her 101th birthday in March, tees off to start the 11th Annual Bob Hope Memorial Charity Golf Classic at Eglin Golf Course, Niceville, May 16. Gilmore has had the honor of teeing off to start the golf tournament for the past few years, becoming a staple at the annual event.



Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

**RBCS artists win 6th annual school poster contest**

Three students from Rocky Bayou Christian School won the Okaloosa Arts Alliance's 6th annual OAA Okaloosa County School Poster Contest. The winners, pictured from left, Avaree Hosford in 7th grade won 2nd place, Asaintah Olshfski in 8th grade won 3rd place and Gabriel Fidler in 7th grade won 3rd place.



**Sunday school gathers for fun and fellowship**

Maedell Bass of New Hope First Baptist Church, Niceville, held a Bocce and Parfait Party for her Sunday school class in May. Pictured, Maedell Bass throws a bocce ball during a game. In attendance were Yolanda Byrd, Barbara Jones, Vicki Rudolph, Jayne Pendergast, Danielle Bentley, Randy Johns, Dr. Dara Johns, Shiloh Johns and Zack Johns. Hostess was Annette Askw.



**NHS students lauded for writing**

Hayden Boilini and Madison Brake of Niceville High School have received the Award for Excellence in Writing given by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) in recognition of excellence in writing by high school juniors. Only 10 students in Florida were selected for the award and 164 students earned the award nationally. The NCTE also commended the English Department at NHS for their part in producing outstanding writers.

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**2014 CALENDAR**

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

**Alzheimer's support group**

A support group for those affected by Alzheimer's will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 28 at the Niceville United Methodist Church, Chandler Center, 214 S. Partin Drive. The support group is free and limited respite care is available, reserve in advance by calling 866-478-7790.

**Financial literacy class**

There will be a class on financial literacy at the Valparaiso Career Training Center Goodwill Industries Big Bend, Inc. 143 John Sims Parkway, on Wednesday, May 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Please bring a lunch.

**Blood drive**

There will be a blood drive on Thursday, June 29 at Niceville City Hall, 204 N. Partin Drive from 8 a.m. until noon. All donors will receive a t-shirt.

**Daddy and daughter dance**

There will be a Princess Ball, a dance for daddies and daughters on Friday, May 30 from 6-8 p.m. at the

Niceville Community Center for ages 5-12.

Pre-registration by May 28 is required and there will be a donation of \$20 at the door. For more information call 461-7573 or 499-3390.

**Luncheon forum**

The Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated will be meeting on Wednesday, June 4 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on Okaloosa Island. Socializing will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon. To accommodate working women, there will be a "Dine and Dash" table, which will accommodate those who can only stay for a limited time.

To make a reservation, contact Donna Pattison at 651-5416 or donnapattison@cox.net by noon on Friday, May 30. Cost of the lunch is \$18 for members and \$20 for guests. Credit cards are now being accepted. For more information about RWOF, visit rwof.org.

**Candidate forum**

The Republican candidates for Okaloosa County School Board, Districts 1 and 3, will participate in a public forum hosted by Silver Sands Republican Women. The event is Monday, June 2, at 5:30 p.m. at Bluewater Bay's Clubhouse, Niceville and includes dinner at 6 p.m. for \$15.

The candidates will speak and then answer questions. The winner

of the seat will be determined by the August Primary since the offices are non-partisan.

Guests are welcome. For dinner reservations or further information please call Libby Hill, 678-2182.

**Mac users to meet**

The June meeting of the Mac Users Group will be held on Monday, June 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northwest Florida State College Student Services Building in Room 132.

Eddie Branch will be presenting a program on iMovie. After he covers iMovie, he will accept questions on any Mac related subject. Attendees are encouraged to bring their Mac devices.

For more information, visit FWBMug.com or contact Jean Dutton at 862-3327 or jeandutton@mac.com.

**Linux users to meet**

The Northwest Florida Linux User Group (NWFLUG) will hold its next monthly meeting on Monday, June 2, at 5 p.m. in Room 400 of the Niceville United Methodist Church, 214 Partin Drive South, Niceville. The public is welcome and invited to bring laptops. More information can be found at nwflug.org or by calling Tom Browder at 830-8078 or by email at tom.browder@gmail.com.

**Homeschool seminar**

There will be a seminar on classical, Christian education in homeschooling June 2-4 from 9 a.m.-4

p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Niceville.

Practical tools will be demonstrated for understanding rhetoric and writing.

For more information, call 226-2801 or email rebekahmcmullan@yahoo.com.

**Open mic poetry night**

Join fellow poets June 4 for "Say the Word," an open mic poetry reading at the French Quarter Bar & Grill, 714 Howell Rd., Niceville, at 7 p.m.

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

**History weekend**

Make history part of your future with "Home School Fridays" and "Hands-On History Saturdays," a monthly program based on the Florida core standards for education for children ages 5-12 at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso. Each month, from now until June a different program will be presented related to Northwest Florida history for children and families.

June's program will be "Fathers of the Past" on June 6 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

\$7 per child or \$5 for museum family members. Special deal for new family members. Groups welcome, space is limited so please pre-register at 678-2615.

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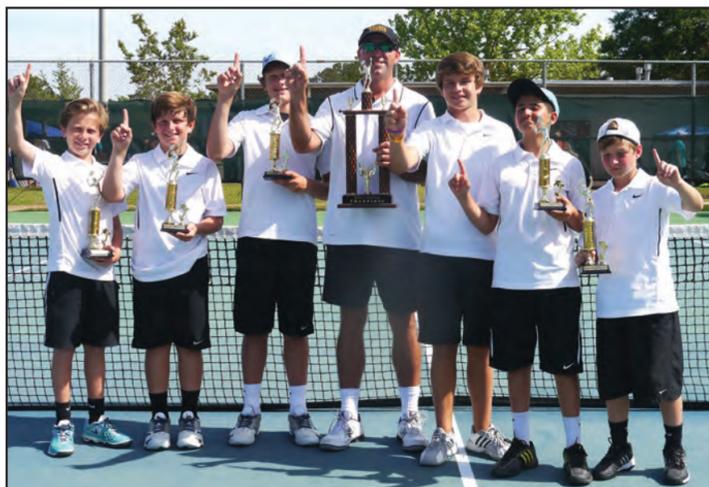
Traveling Eagles 9U Maroon won the USSSA's Spring Fling VI AA Division Champs in Dothan, Ala. Pictured, front row from left, Aaron Jenkins, Ayden Morales, J.T. Lupella, Aiden Garrity, Jake Hill and Christian Sweat. Middle row from left, Connor Folley, Raiden Lafortune, Camden Chambers, Braden Holcomb, Brody Bankston and Cooper Mee. Back row from left, Coach Marcus Chambers, Manager Randy Eubanks and Coach Trevin Eubanks.



## Rocky Knights win spring game

The Rocky Bayou Christian School Knights teamed up with the Cottonwood High School Bears to defeat Kinston High School Bulldogs and Florida High School Wildcats 28-22 in a football Spring Jamboree May 15 in Kinston, Ala. Excitement peaked late in the game when Rocky tied the game with a touch-down and a 2-point conversion leaving Cottonwood to seal the deal with a pick six. Pictured left from left, Caleb Preston, Coach David Grantham and Josh Preston celebrate. The Prestons are brothers that both play for Rocky.

## Ruckel Rams rack up 9 out of 18 county championships



The Ruckel boys tennis team won the County Tennis Tournament with all five seeds winning a first place trophy in their respective divisions. Pictured from left, Juan Bosch, J.J. Gray, Jarrett Gray, Coach Brett Beattie, Brycen Musser, Jordan Zargari and Jack Mills.

Ruckel Middle School won nine out of 18 county championships during the 2013-2014 school year.

The following sports have won county championships, according to Ruckel Principal Paul Whidden; boys swimming, girls golf, boys tennis, boys track, baseball, softball, girls cross country, boys soccer and girls soccer.



The Ruckel girls golf team won the county championship on May 5 at Foxwood Golf Club in Crestview after an undefeated season. Pictured from left, Taylor Strickler, Rachel Smith, Coach Steve Chambers, Meg Horrigan, Maddie Messmore, Lauren Miller, Caroline Craig and Paola Rosario. Not pictured, McKenna Pettibone.

## School officers collect for camp

School Resource Officers are spearheading a fundraiser to benefit disadvantaged youngsters who attend a special summer camp to have a fun-filled week and learn leadership skills.

Okaloosa SRO's attend the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch "Camp Caruth" each summer to serve as counselors.

Up to eighty boys and girls between the ages of ten and fifteen get a chance to canoe, ride bikes, play games, do community service and practice team-building.

Last year Okaloosa SRO's donated bicycles to the kids. This year their goal is to get canoes for the campers and fill them with life jackets, athletic equipment, and athletic shoes. Bass Pro Shops is partnering with OCSO Youth Services to provide canoes at reduced prices. So far three have been purchased thanks to donations from Legacy/Harborwalk Village, the Niceville High School Leadership Club, and the OCSO SRO's.

The sheriff's office is asking for new athletic shoes for children between the ages of 10 and 15, sporting goods, like new balls and outdoor games.

Donations can be given to any School Resource Office until the end of the school year.

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# Free Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten



## 4 & 5-Year-Old Children Eligible 2014 VPK Summer Program and 2014 - 15 VPK Summer Year Programs On-line Registration Now Available



The Early Learning Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties reminds parents that some four and some five-year old children are eligible for free Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK for the Summer 2014 or School Year 2014-2015). For Summer VPK 2014, the child must have become four years of age before September 1, 2013. For pre-kindergarten children to qualify for 2014-2015 School Year VPK Program, they must be four years of age, on or before September 1, 2014. Parents must be willing to sign the program application, provide proof of the child's age (birth certificate or other documentation), prove Florida residency, and transport the child to the Certified VPK Provider of the parent's choice.



Florida residency may be verified by the following documentation bearing the parent/guardian's name and address as submitted on the VPK Application:

- Utility Bills
- Residential Rental Agreement
- Pay Stubs
- Government Documents (Tax Return, Military Orders, etc.)

The VPK Program is free early education funded by the State of Florida. The VPK Providers should not charge registration fees that are non-refundable once the VPK child has attended the program. Providers are encouraged to provide services to as many children for the limited hours of VPK as possible. You may register your child online at: [https://spe.schoolreadiness.org/pe/spe\\_main.asp](https://spe.schoolreadiness.org/pe/spe_main.asp). The on-line VPK registration process allows you to upload photos, copies of official birth certificates, utility bills, pay stubs, or other documents from your smart phone, computer or tablet. In lieu of registering on-line, you may choose to register in person during regular walk-in hours as follows:

### Sign-Up! Registration is occurring at Okaloosa-Walton Child Care Services.

#### Fort Walton Beach

107 Tupelo Ave.  
Monday - Friday  
9 - 10 am and 3 - 4 pm

#### DeFuniak Springs

10 South 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Monday - Friday  
8 - 9 am and 2 - 3 pm

Call 833-9330 for an appointment if walk in hours are not convenient.

### Certified Summer 2014 Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Providers (Programs begin June 2014 and end August 2014)

The Early Learning Coalition encourages parents to contact certified providers in order to determine if the program is appropriate for their child(ren) and to determine if the provider has space available. Register at school district sites listed below:

Provider Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone	Type of Facility
Wright Elementary	305 Lang Road	Fort Walton Beach	32547	833-3580	Public School, Okaloosa
Shoal River Learning Center	5190 S. Ferdon Blvd.	Crestview	32536	682-4700	Licensed Child Care Facility
Freeport Elementary	15381 US 331	Freeport	32439	892-1111	Public School, Walton
Maude Saunders Elementary	416 John Baldwin Road	DeFuniak Springs	32433	892-1111	Public School, Walton
Van R. Butler Elementary	6694 W. County Highway 30-A	Santa Rosa Beach	32459	892-1111	Public School, Walton

### Certified School Year 2014-2015 Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Providers (Programs may begin August 2014 and may end June 2015)

Check Program Dates on the Early Learning Coalition Website at [www.elc-ow.org](http://www.elc-ow.org)

The Early Learning Coalition encourages parents to contact certified providers in order to determine if the program is appropriate for their child(ren) and to determine if the provider has space available.

Provider Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone	Type of Facility
Alpha and Omega Christian Learning Center	114 Jones Rd.	Crestview	32536	398-8450	Licensed Child Care Facility
Beulah Christian Academy	109 McGriff St.	Fort Walton Beach	32548	243-8452	Faith-Based Private School
Central Baptist Kid Care	951 S. Ferdon Blvd.	Crestview	32536	682-5525	Faith-Based Child Care Facility
Child Development & Education Center - NWFSC	100 College Blvd., Bldg. M	Niceville	32578	729-5386	Licensed Child Care Facility
Childcare Network #105	502 Benning Drive	Destin	32541	654-7832	Licensed Child Care Facility
Childcare Network #142	108 Jet Drive N.W.	Fort Walton Beach	32548	244-0942	Licensed Child Care Facility
Covenant Kids Child Development Center	1010 Gospel Road	Fort Walton Beach	32547	862-5437	Faith-Based Child Care Facility
Eglin Child Development Ctr. III	2781 Boatner Drive	Eglin AFB	32542	882-5519	Licensed Department of Defense Childcare Facility
First Baptist Church of Niceville Child Development Center	622 Bayshore Drive	Niceville	32578	729-6915	Licensed Child Care Facility
First Christian Preschool	225 South 11th Street	DeFuniak Springs	32435	892-9533	Licensed Child Care Facility
First United Methodist Church (St. Mark Campus)	2250 PJ Adams Parkway	Crestview	32536	682-5280	Licensed & Faith-Based Facility
First United Methodist Church of Niceville (Wesley Academy)	214 Partin Drive South	Niceville	32578	678-4411	Licensed & Faith-Based Facility
First United Methodist Preschool	103 1st St. SE	Fort Walton Beach	32548	243-0431	Licensed Child Care Facility
Happyland Preschool	1018 White Point Road	Niceville	32578	897-3400	Licensed Child Care Facility
Kid's Place	321 Racetrack Rd. NE	Fort Walton Beach	32547	864-5014	Licensed Child Care Facility
Kids Discovery #1	240 Green Acres Road	Fort Walton Beach	32547	301-9409	Licensed Child Care Facility
Kids Discovery #7	74 North John Sims Parkway	Valparaiso	32580	678-0600	Licensed Child Care Facility
Little Schooners Preschool	154 Calhoun Ave.	Destin	32541	837-6425	Licensed Child Care Facility
Our Little School House, Inc.	505 E. Hollywood Blvd.	Mary Esther	32569	664-6141	Licensed Child Care Facility
Pam's Lighthouse Learning	1209 47th Street	Niceville	32578	678-0550	Licensed Child Care Facility
Shalimar United Methodist Church	1 Old Ferry Rd.	Shalimar	32579	651-0721	Licensed Child Care Facility
St. Paul Lutheran Preschool	1407 John Sims Parkway	Niceville	32578	678-1298	Licensed Child Care Facility
Shoal River Learning Center	5190 S. Ferdon Blvd.	Crestview	32536	682-4700	Licensed Child Care Facility
The Montessori School for the Arts	410 Fir Avenue	Niceville	32578	678-7011	Licensed Child Care Facility
The Preschool at Point Washington	1255 N. County Hwy 395	Santa Rosa Beach	32459	231-5439	Licensed Child Care Facility
The Roane School	4465 Legendary Dr.	Destin	32541	650-0137	Licensed Child Care Facility
The Village Preschool of Destin	101 Matthew Boulevard	Destin	32541	582-5771	Licensed Child Care Facility
Trinity United Methodist Preschool	403 Racetrack Rd NW	Fort Walton Beach	32547	862-9307	Licensed and Faith-Based Child Care Facility

### Provisional School Year 2014-2015 Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Providers

The Early Learning Coalition does NOT guarantee that provisional providers will meet all the necessary requirements to become certified to provide Florida's Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Program. The following providers have begun the application process. Parents should make every effort to find a certified provider before the program begins.

Provider Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone	Type of Facility
Childcare Network #132	1040 Farmer St.	Crestview	32539	683-1680	Licensed Child Care Facility
Eglin Child Development Ctr. II	2782 Boatner Drive	Eglin AFB	32542	883-7425	Licensed Department of Defense Child Care Facility
God's Garden of Grace	4325 Commons Drive West	Destin	32541	654-1440	Licensed and Faith-Based Child Care Facility
Kids Discovery #2	2265 Hwy 98 West	Mary Esther	32569	243-5794	Licensed Child Care Facility
Kids Discovery III, Inc.	2101 PJ Adams Parkway	Crestview	32536	423-0449	Licensed Child Care Facility
La Petite Academy	4400 Hwy 20 #710	Niceville	32578	897-3547	Licensed Child Care Facility
Little Angels Preschool	703 Miracle Strip Parkway	Mary Esther	32569	243-7522	Licensed Child Care Facility
Okaloosa County School District - Edwins Elementary	7 SW Wright Parkway	Fort Walton Beach	32548	833-3333	Public School
Okaloosa County School District - Elliott Point Elementary	301 Hughes Street	Fort Walton Beach	32548	833-3355	Public School
Okaloosa County School District - Laurel Hill School	8078 4th Street	Laurel Hill	32567	652-4111	Public School
Okaloosa County School District - Southside Center	650 South Pearl Street	Crestview	32539	689-7211	Public School
St. Mary Catholic School	110 Robinwood Drive	Fort Walton Beach	32548	865-2297	Faith-Based Private School
St. Rita Preschool	137 Moll Dr.	Santa Rosa Beach	32459	461-5635	Licensed Child Care Facility
Wesleyan Childcare Center	599 Eighth Ave.	Crestview	32536	682-7319	Licensed Child Care Facility