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The Bay Beacon

Hometown Christmas Special Section Inside

14 Pages, 2 Sections, 5 Inserts Wednesday, November 14, 2018 50¢

Okaloosa County completes its share of state vote recount

Beacon Staff

Okaloosa County elections workers labored over the holiday weekend to conduct their part of a statewide recount of three close contests for office at stake in the Nov. 6 general election.

Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner on Saturday ordered all 67 counties to perform machine recounts of ballots in races for which vote totals of the top two candidates were separated by between one-quarter and one-half

Election results, A-3.

of one percent: U.S. Senate, Florida governor, and state agriculture commissioner.

Paul Lux

Recount results are due in Tallahassee on Thursday. Some 8 million ballots were cast statewide.

Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections Paul Lux summoned his staff to report to work at 8 a.m. Sunday in his Crestview office to start recounting the 135,000 ballots cast in the county. They completed their work on Monday, normally a county holiday in observance of Veterans Day.

Also on hand was Okaloosa County's Canvassing Board, the three officials chosen to discern the voter's apparent intent for any ballot that could not be read by machine. By law, the

Please see RECOUNT, page A-2

Elections officials and Canvassing Board members oversee machine recount of Okaloosa County ballots. Inset: Bags and boxes of ballots awaited recount.

Photos by Beacon Staff & (inset) Louise McGirr

Honoring those who served

The Twin Cities Veterans Council honored those who served in U.S. armed forces during a Veterans Day ceremony Saturday at Amvets Post 78, Valparaiso. Keynote speaker was Lt. Gen. James Sherrard (ret.), former commander, Air Force Reserve Command. The city of Valparaiso was represented by Mayor Brent Smith, and Niceville by Mayor Pro Tem Sal Nodjomian. Twenty-five wreaths were presented by local organizations. "Taps" was played by Neil Woods.

Beacon photos by Paula Mims

Sheriff warns of jury-duty swindle

Beacon Staff

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office said area residents are getting scam calls from someone claiming to be a a sheriff's deputy, and at least one person who fell for the scheme is out $1,500 as a result.

"The caller ID showed 'Okaloosa County' in one of the cases and the caller identified himself as an OCSO deputy," said sheriff's spokeswoman Michele Nicholson.

"He told the victim he had missed jury duty and would be held in criminal contempt if he didn't pay $500 for a fine, and $400 for court fees," Nicholson said. The caller told the victim his phone was being tracked via GPS and if he didn't comply, he would be arrested.

Scam artists sought payment via prepaid debit cards.

The caller told the victim to go to a store, buy two "Green Dot" prepaid Visa cards, and give him the card numbers.

"The caller then advised the victim one of the cards was no good and had him purchase another one for an additional $500," the sheriff's spokeswoman said.

The caller then had the victim drive to a sheriff's office branch in Crestview where, he said, a deputy would meet him. When no officer arrived, the victim called the real sheriff's office.

In another case on Nov. 6, a woman received a telephone call from a man claiming to be an Okaloosa sheriff's deputy. He gave the woman a similar story, and had her buy $1,500 in prepaid debit cards, and give him the numbers.

"These scams are quite common and can be extremely difficult to trace," said Nicholson. "So the best way to fight them is through prevention and education. Legitimate operations would not require a person to purchase prepaid or gift cards and provide the numbers."

$24 million courthouse approaches completion

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

County Administrator John Hofstad told the county commission that the Nov. 6 meeting was likely to be their last such session held at Crestview City Hall.

Hofstad said construction of a new county courthouse is nearing completion in Crestview, containing meeting chambers for the county commission.

A dedication ceremony for the building is planned for 9 a.m. Friday, followed by a day-long public open house.

During the meeting at city hall last week, Commission Chairman Graham Fountain thanked Hofstad and his staff for the effort that they have made to ensure that the construction of the $24 million building has gone smoothly. Fountain said the project has been noteworthy for its lack of significant delays or cost overruns.

Construction of the new courthouse in the county seat began in January 2017, after it was determined that it would be too difficult and costly to renovate the old courthouse, built in 1953.

The Crestview facility will house four courtrooms, judicial and court-security offices, clerk of court offices, and county commission offices. Most of the work of these departments will continue to be conducted from offices in the south-county communities of Fort Walton Beach and Shalimar.

Please see COURT, page A-3

A dedication ceremony and public open house for the new Okaloosa County Courthouse in Crestview are set for Friday.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

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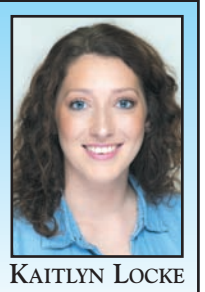

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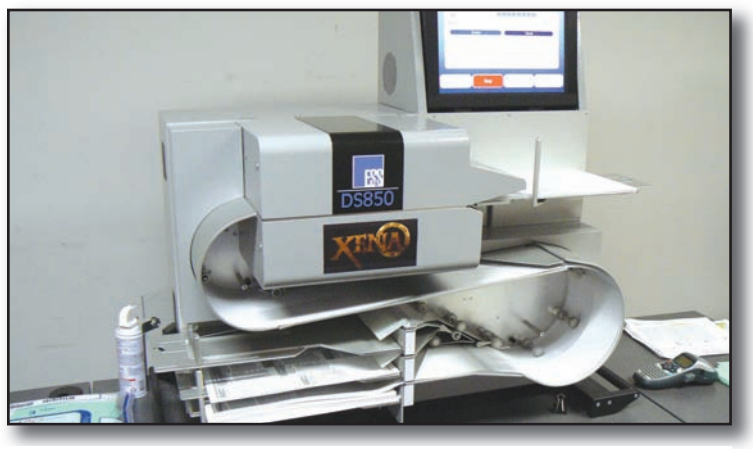
RECOUNT

From page A-1

board consists of the elections supervisor, a county judge who serves as chair (currently T. Patterson Maney, who retired from the bench earlier this year), and the chair of the county commission (currently Kelly Windes).

The machine used in the county recount can tabulate ballots at the rate of 8,000 to 10,000 an hour, unlike the familiar election-day precinct-level tabulators which are hand-fed, one at a time, by each voter.

Unofficial results issued Tuesday morning, following completion of the county recount, showed slight declines in vote totals for all six candidates involved, compared with results issued Nov. 7.



Okaloosa County's high-speed tabulator can count 8,000 to 10,000 ballots an hour.

Beacon photo

In the recount for the U.S. Senate contest, the total for Republican Rick Scott was reduced by 46 votes at the county level, while Democrat Bill Nelson's was reduced by 27.

In the governor's race, Republican Ron DeSantis lost 44 votes in the recount, while Democrat Andrew Gillum lost 26.

For agriculture commissioner, Republican Matt Caldwell lost 44 votes, while Democrat Nikki Fried lost 24.

In all three races the percentage reduction for the Democrats in the county recount was slightly greater than for the Republicans.

Not yet tabulated are some ballots cast from abroad, which have until Nov. 16 to arrive to be included in official results.

For the recount, Okaloosa's high-speed tabulator was programmed to process only the three contests at issue, Lux said.

If a ballot shows an "overvote" (more than one circle ticked for a given race), or an "undervote" (no circle ticked for a given race), it is set aside for scrutiny in case of a later state-ordered manual recount, he said. A manual recount would be required in any election in which the top two candidates are separated by one-quarter percentage point or less.

This is the first statewide Florida recount ordered since the 2000 retabulation of the presidential contest between George W. Bush and Al Gore. That race was eventually decided in favor of Bush by the outcome in the Sunshine State, where he led by a margin of 537 votes out of nearly 6 million cast.

Okaloosa voters OK sales-tax hike

Matt Gaetz

Mel Ponder

George Gainer

Ashley Moody

Jimmy Patronis

Rick Scott

Bill Nelson

Ron DeSantis

Andrew Gillum

Matt Caldwell

Nikki Fried

Election totals are posted; statewide recounts ordered

Beacon Staff

A total of 135,563 ballots were cast in Okaloosa County in the Nov. 6 general election, a 62-percent turnout, according to the county supervisor of elections.

Meantime, recounts have been ordered in three statewide races due to very narrow margins: U.S. Senate, governor, and state agriculture commissioner.

Okaloosa County voters passed a half-percent, 10-year countywide surtax. It will raise the total sales tax rate to 6.5 percent effective Jan. 1. The additional revenue, an estimated $19 million a year or more, will be split between county and city governments.

Statewide, voters approved 11 of 12 proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution, including a measure that will automatically restore voting rights to most of the state's estimated 1.5 million ex-convicts. Until now felons have had to petition for restoration individually, a process that was under legal attack as too difficult and potentially too arbitrary.

Among other state constitutional amendments passed was a ban on dog racing and a requirement that the Florida Legislature muster two-thirds votes to raise state taxes or fees. Also approved were new curbs on paid lobbying by certain public officials and ex-officials. A ban on oil drilling in state waters also won passage.

The only proposed amendment to fail would have added a third $25,000 homestead exemption to property-tax bills.

In voting for government office, U.S Rep. Matt Gaetz, a Republican, won a second term as Congress member for District 1, defeating Democrat Jennifer Zimmerman by a two-to-one margin.

For the Florida House of Representatives District 4 seat, incumbent Mel Ponder, a Destin Republican, outpolled Democrat Rebecca Koelzer of Valparaiso, 72 percent to 28 percent.

For the District 2 seat in the Florida Senate, incumbent Republican George Gainer bested Democrat Mary Jeanne "Gigi" Gibson, by a three-to-one margin.

In statewide results, Rick Scott, a Republican, claimed victory over incumbent Bill Nelson, a Democrat, for the U.S. Senate. A recount was triggered due to the exceedingly narrow difference of about 13,000 votes out of 8.2 million. (In Okaloosa County, 72 percent voted for Scott.)

Republican Ron DeSantis claimed victory over Democrat Andrew Gillum in the contest for governor. A recount was ordered due to the close vote, 49.5 percent to 49.2 percent. (Okaloosa County voters went for DeSantis better than two to one.)

For the office of Florida attorney general, Republican Ashley Moody defeated Democrat Sean Shaw, 52 percent to 46 percent.

The outcome of the contest for Florida commissioner of agriculture was in doubt, subject to a recount. Only about 5,000 votes separated Republican Matt Caldwell from Democrat Nikki Fried, who was leading in the most recent statewide totals. (In Okaloosa County, Caldwell bested Fried by better than two to one.)

For the office of state chief financial officer, incumbent Jimmy Patronis beat Democrat Jeremy Ring, 52 percent to 48 percent.

A total of 135,563 people in Okaloosa County were qualified to cast ballots in the election. Of these, 58 percent registered as Republicans, 19 percent as Democrats, and 23 percent as affiliated with a minor party or no party, according to county Supervisor of Elections Paul Lux.

COURT

From page A-1

The project began in 2014 with the award of a "design/build" contract to renovate the old courthouse at a budgeted cost of $8.5 million, much of it borrowed, according to a state audit of the project.

The following year, after deciding that the courthouse on James Lee Boulevard and Main Street needed to be twice as large, and that the old courthouse was contaminated by mold and asbestos, the county commission voted to raze it and replace it with a 68,000-square-foot, three-story building at a cost of $23.65 million.

That a $15 million increase in the scope of the project was accomplished by changes in the initial renovation contract rather than by seeking new competitive bids for what had become a different job drew criticism earlier this year from state auditors.

In a report dated Sept. 4, the auditors, working for the Florida Legislature, said they "did not find any evidence that the County violated any policies in the County purchasing manual. However, when a project change order increases the value or scope of a project by a significant amount, and the project is not rebid, it may give the appearance that the program is giving preferential treatment to the contractor that the project was awarded to, and the County may be denying itself the potential cost-savings of additional vendors attracted to bid on a larger scale project than apparent from the original solicitation. In addition, the competitive bidding process is a control to ensure fair market value and the best qualified vendor for services."

The auditors added: "At either the March 2015 discovery of substantially expanded functional needs to support caseload, or the October 2015 discovery of environmental issues, the magnitude of changes in expectations for scale and scope, respectively, could have initiated the County to rebid the effort."

The auditors also found that the county "does not have a procedure in place for documenting the quality of all projects performed by contractors and work crews."

In response, county officials told auditors that they accomplished the courthouse project in the most speedy and cost-effective way, according to the report. They also said that current procedures are adequate to ensure construction quality.

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

Road closure

The 96th Test Wing is scheduled to conduct testing on the Eglin range complex requiring the closure of State Roads 85 and 123.

Testing is scheduled to take place Nov. 14. The roads will be closed for the entire duration of the scheduled times on the following day:

- Nov. 14, between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

In the event testing is cancelled, a back-up mission is scheduled for Nov. 15 between the hours of 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

For more information and updates on road closures visit www.eglin.af.mil.

Myositis KIT Support group

Residents of NWF Panhandle, AL and MS diagnosed with Myositis are invited to attend the Myositis Association's local KIT support group quarterly meeting in Valparaiso. They are encouraged to bring family members, caregivers and friends. The meeting is on Thursday, November 15 from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Boathouse Landing, 124 N. John Sims Parkway, Valparaiso, on the western edge of Niceville.

For reservations and more information, please contact Madge, by noon Wednesday Nov.14 at 850-279-4306 H / 478-335-0420 C or nwftmakit@cox.net

Pine Needle Basketry

Early Native Americans in the region wove abundant longleaf pine needles into beautiful and useful baskets. Popular instructor, Joe Stoy will teach the age-old skill vof pine needle basketry using the original Seminole techniques in a class, Saturday November 17, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida. The cost is $60 or, $55 for Museum Members. (All materials included) Space is limited. Please call to pre-register. 850-678-2615.

The Nutcracker

The Northwest Florida Ballet presents their 39th annual performance of the holiday favorite, "The Nutcracker," on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Nov. 18 at 2:30 p.m. at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center at Northwest Florida State College in the Mainstage Theater.

Tickets are $38 for adults and $18 for children (12 and under). Purchase advance tickets from the ballet at (850) 664-7787 or nfballet.org or week of the show, if tickets remain, from Mattie Kelly Arts Center Box Office at (850) 729-6000 or MattieKellyArtsCenter.org.

Art and craft vendors wanted

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida invites Art/Craft/Antique Vendors for Yule of Yesteryear – A Traditional Christmas Festival December 8, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Art and Craft Vendors must produce quality, hand-crafted, original items only. To register, go to: e-mail: info@heritage-museum.org , or call 850- 678-2615.

Intro to Wood Turning

Learn the basic skills of wood turning with instructor Christopher Sandlin, and make your own wooden pen creation. No heavy tools or lifting required. Ages 12-15 may take the class with adult supervision. Students should wear a short sleeve shirt and wear hair pulled back. Saturday, November 17, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Space is limited. All supplies are included. Please call to pre-register: 850-678-2615.

Cost is $66 per student; $61 for Museum Members.

Microsoft Overview Training

Valparaiso Goodwill Career Campus Training Center will be providing a free, 2 evenings, Microsoft Overview training class to anyone who is interested on Nov. 19 and 20. Class will be from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Participants will learn what makes up the Microsoft Office Suite and will be completing hands -on exercises using MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint during the class session. We have limited seating so you must reserve your spot. Call 850-729-8690 to register. Located at 143 N. John Sims Pkwy.

Please see CALENDAR, page A-6

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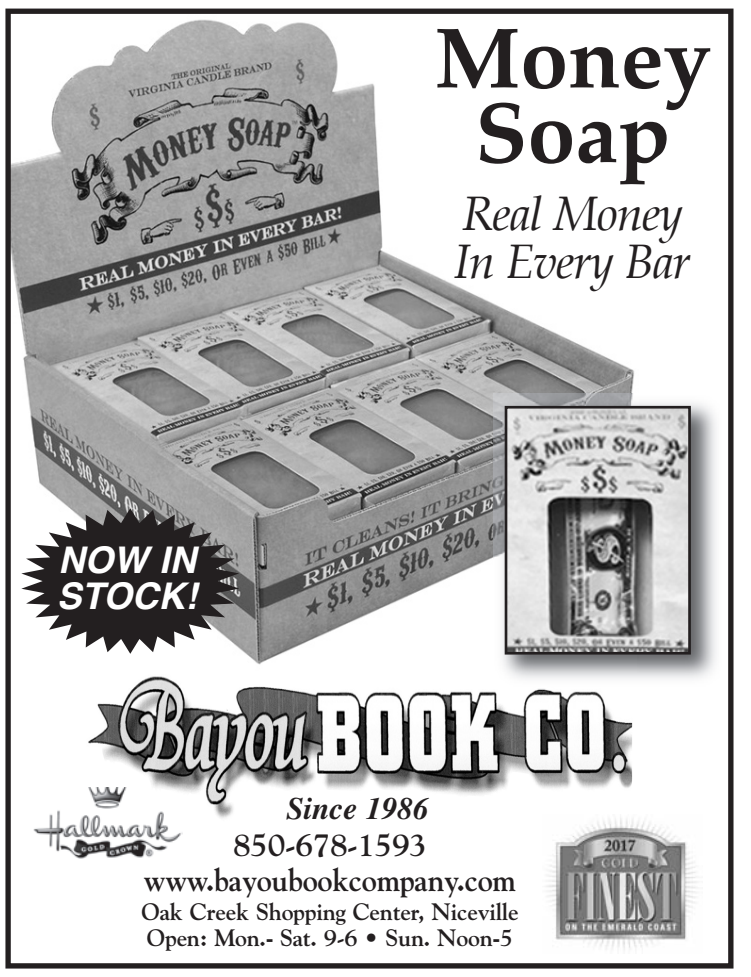

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Police Blotter

The following accounts of the activities of police are according to records of the Niceville and Valparaiso police departments, the Okaloosa County and Walton County sheriff's offices, other law-enforcement agencies, and the Okaloosa County and Walton County jails.

Arrests

On Oct. 26 Niceville police arrested Craig Sam Cooper, 30, of 178 Miramar Dr., Mary Esther, on charges of driving while license suspended, first offense, marijuana possession not more than 20 grams, drug equipment possession and/or use, and falsely identifying himself to law enforcement officer.

* * *

On Oct. 28 Niceville police arrested Jeffery Jay Osborne, 31, of 450 Howard St., Niceville, on a charge of driving while license suspended, fourth or subsequent offense

* * *

On Oct. 29 Niceville police arrested Brina Nicole Davis, 26, of 1712 26th St., #B, Niceville, on charges of grand theft of between $300 and $5,000, and probation violation.

* * *

On Oct. 29 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Shawn Clifford Chaplin, 37, of 23 Hampton Cir., Niceville, on a charge of probation violation, felony.

* * *

On Oct. 29 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Joel Aaron Davis, 28, of 1712 26th St., Niceville, on a charge of probation violation, felony.

* * *

On Oct. 29 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Raymond Lee Heyman, 30, of 590 Hill Ln., Niceville, on a charge of failure to appear for a felony offense.

* * *

On Oct. 30 Niceville police arrested a 17-year-old girl on charges of possessing a controlled substance without a prescription, marijuana possession not more than 20 grams, and drug equipment possession and/or use.

* * *

On Oct. 30 Niceville police arrested Herman Romario Singleton, 36, a floor care worker, of 2170 Calle De Cantabria, Navarre, on a charge of grand theft of between $300 and $5,000

* * *

On Oct. 30 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Shane Daniel Simerly, 33, of 2435 Duncan Dr., Niceville, on charges of giving false owner information to pawn items for less than $300, theft of between $300 and $5,000, and dealing in stolen property.

* * *

On Oct. 31 Niceville police arrested Tiffane Jane Izquierdo, 32, of 7 8th St., Shalimar, on a charge of DUI.

* * *

On Oct. 31 Niceville police arrested Matthew Dale Scarborough, 28, of 209 22nd St., Niceville, on charges of possessing a controlled substance without a prescription and drug equipment possession and/or use

* * *

On Oct. 31 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Jesse James Dudek, 26, of 1439 Cypress St., Niceville, on a charge of probation violation.

* * *

On Oct. 31 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Ashley Nicole Smith, 34, of 304 Reeves St., Niceville, on charges of drug equipment possession and/or use and failure to appear for a misdemeanor offense.

* * *

On Nov. 1 Niceville police arrested Mary Francis Lawson, 25, of 1313 Keturah St., Niceville, on charges of possessing a harmful new legend drug without a prescription, possessing opium or a derivative, as well as heroin, hallucinogen, and meth, all with intent to sell, manufacture, or deliver, and selling cocaine

Mary Francis Lawson

* * *

On Nov. 1 Valparaiso police arrested Timothy Wayne Bryant, 22, an assistant manager, of 5837 Hunting Meadows Dr., Crestview, on charges of possessing opium or a derivative and marijuana with intention to sell, manufacture, or deliver, and drug equipment possession and/or use.

Timothy Wayne Bryant

* * *

On Nov. 1 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Jackie Lauren Spillar, 29, of 1134 Finck Rd., Niceville, on charges of petit theft, third or subsequent conviction, and drug equipment possession and/or use.

* * *

On Nov. 2 Niceville police arrested Andre Jermaine Rich, 34, of 1114 Rita Ln., Niceville, on charges of selling schedule III or IV drugs, distribution of marijuana, and three counts of drug equipment possession and/or use

Andre Jermaine Rich

* * *

On Nov. 2 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Richard Eric Lose, 47, at large, of Niceville, on charges of attaching a registration license plate not assigned, driving with a suspended or revoked license, failure to have motor vehicle liability insurance, and drug equipment possession and/or use.

* * *

On Nov. 2 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Jason Christopher Mason, 38, of 321 Saint Andrews Dr., Niceville, on two counts of probation violation, misdemeanor, and falsely identifying himself to a law enforcement officer.

* * *

On Nov. 2 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Kimberly Dawn Miller, 41, of 186 Chicago Ave., Valparaiso, as an out-of-state fugitive from justice.

* * *

On Nov. 3 Valparaiso police arrested Shannon Lore Allmon, 33, a food service worker, of 5409 Malcolm Tucker Ave., #B, Crestview, on charges of possessing opium or a derivative with intent to sell, manufacture, or deliver, possessing a controlled substance without a prescription, marijuana possession not more than 20 grams, drug equipment possession and/or use, and parole violation.

Shannon Lore Allmon

Other

On Oct. 22 Valparaiso police responded to an address on Government Avenue regarding a missing trailer valued at $1,500.

* * *

On Oct. 22 Valparaiso police observed numerous signs posted on power poles advertising a business offering to buy houses for cash. The signs were in violation of a city code, and police advised a company representative to have them removed within 24 hours. As of Oct. 25, however, this had not yet been done.

* * *

On Oct. 23 Valparaiso police responded to an address on Glendale regarding a disturbance.

* * *

On Oct. 24 Valparaiso police responded to a report of a safe and other items found in a creek near Kelly Road. Officers recovered the safe and other material, and informed the Niceville Police Department, which is currently working a case involving a missing safe.

* * *

On Oct. 26 Valparaiso police responded to an address on Michigan Avenue, where the windows of a car had been shattered.

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from Nov. 2, 2018 through Nov. 8, 2018.

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Virginia Ave.	Cancelled	11/2/18	02:12
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	11/2/18	06:57
Roberts Dr.	Cancelled	11/2/18	12:44
Illinois Ave.	Cancelled	11/2/18	13:48
Sycamore Ave.	Medical	11/2/18	15:42
Allen St.	Medical	11/2/18	16:53
S.R. 123	Vehicle crash	11/2/18	23:25
Regatta Dr.	Medical	11/3/18	20:48
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Alarm activation	11/4/18	00:28
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Alarm activation	11/4/18	00:49
Pine Court	Service call	11/4/18	04:19
Allen St.	Medical	11/4/18	09:14
Pine Court	Service call	11/4/18	19:55
Pine Court	Medical	11/5/18	00:02
Forest Rd.	Vehicle crash	11/5/18	07:36
Virginia Ave.	Cancelled	11/5/18	10:18
Bay Shore Dr.	Medical	11/5/18	10:20
E. College Blvd.	Alarm activation	11/5/18	12:52
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	11/5/18	19:41
Pine Court	Medical	11/5/18	20:05
Illinois Ave.	Structure fire	11/5/18	20:50
Drew Ct.	Alarm activation	11/6/18	09:20
W. Edge Ave.	Cancelled	11/6/18	10:57
Meigs Dr.	Service call	11/6/18	12:53
20th Street	Medical	11/6/18	20:12
Bayshore Dr.	Electrical problem	11/7/18	11:48
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	11/7/18	14:32
Ellis Ave.	Medical	11/7/18	22:10
27th Street	Medical	11/8/18	08:38
Grand View Ave.	Cancelled	11/8/18	09:03
Washington Ave.	Cancelled	11/8/18	14:58
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	11/8/18	16:43

Weekly Safety Tip: All rental housing must have working smoke alarms. Contact your landlord, property manager for assistance.

North Bay

The North Bay Fire District responded to the following calls from Oct. 27, 2018 through Nov. 1, 2018.

LOCATION	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
N. White Point Rd.	EMS call	10/27/18	13:30
Vinings Way Blvd.	Dispatched & cancelled	10/27/18	15:05
Windward Ln.	EMS call	10/27/18	15:29
Windward Cir.	EMS call	10/27/18	20:29
Sunset Cv.	Medical assist	10/29/18	20:15
Windward Cir.	EMS call	10/29/18	20:52
Merchants Way	Medical assist	10/30/18	01:44
Merchants Way	Medical assist	10/30/18	04:16
E. Hwy. 20	Dispatched & cancelled	10/30/18	08:28
Oakwood Way	EMS call	10/30/18	08:16
S. R. 293	Public assist	10/30/18	15:35
Myrtlewood Ln.	EMS call	10/30/18	15:39
Parkwood Dr.	Medical assist	10/31/18	00:49
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Dispatched & cancelled	10/31/18	08:15
Oaklake Ln.	EMS call	10/31/18	07:42
Lancaster Dr.	EMS call	10/31/18	10:23
Bluewater Blvd.	Public assist	10/31/18	12:17
Merchants Way	EMS call	10/31/18	14:11
E. Commons Dr.	Dispatched & cancelled	10/31/18	18:41
Sailboat Dr.	Detector activation	10/31/18	18:49

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

Valparaiso

The Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department responded to the following calls from Oct.8, 2018 through Oct.31, 2018

LOCATION	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Hillcrest Ave.	Medical	10/8/18	11:44
Hidden Cove Cir.	Hazardous condition	10/9/18	01:54
Portugal Cv.	Medical	10/10/18	13:15
Edge Ave.	Cancelled	10/11/18	01:51
Kelly Mill Rd.	Medical	10/13/18	19:52
Chicago Ave.	Medical	10/15/18	07:07
Menzel	Medical	10/15/18	10:09
Kelley Way	Medical	10/15/18	18:15
Government Ave.	Vehicle crash	10/16/18	07:18
Glen Ave.	Medical	10/17/18	22:59
Island Ln.	Fire	10/18/18	08:56
N Bayshore Dr.	Service call	10/18/18	14:28
23rd Street	Fire	10/19/18	20:49
Echo Dr.	Cancelled	10/20/18	16:10
Highland St.	Medical	10/21/18	03:48
Jackson Ave.	Medical	10/23/18	17:30
Okaloosa Ave.	Medical	10/24/18	19:35
SR 293 MM15	Cancelled	10/25/18	12:53
N Bayshore Dr.	Gas leak	10/28/18	13:53
Old East Gate Rd.	Medical	10/29/18	16:11
SR 293 MM14	Vehicle crash	10/30/18	08:10
Glen Ave.	Medical	10/31/18	06:42

Contact the Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department at 729-5410 with any questions or concerns. Our Mission Is Your Safety.

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The Memorial Service for
Kerney Ward Saxon III
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11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary of
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* Visitation will be held at 10:00 a.m. for family and friends.

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Eagles take down Gulf Breeze

In preseason action, the Niceville High School boys soccer team defeated Gulf Breeze at Twin Oaks last Thursday. Liam Etan scored Niceville's only goal of the first half. The Niceville defense played strong, stopping three shots on goal early in the first half and keeping a penalty kick out of the goal that ricocheted off the top bar. The Eagles didn't waste any time in the second half and scored their second goal with less than a minute in. Three more goals were scored by Niceville early in the second half to secure the 5-0 win. Top left: Number 8 Caleb Stalnaker congratulates teammate Liam Etan after Etan scores a goal. Bottom left: Luke Brockington looks to pass late in the second half. Fans can catch the girls soccer team in action on Wednesday, November 14 at Twin Oaks (JV 5:00, varsity 7:00), and the boys will be back on the pitch at Twin Oaks on November 26 when they take on Choctaw (JV 5:00, varsity 7:00).

Beacon photos by Paula Mims

Niceville's season ends

The Niceville High School Eagles season came to an end at the hands of the Crestview Bulldogs last Friday night up in Crestview by a score of 28-7. TJ Pope scored Niceville's lone touchdown with 8:48 left to play in the fourth quarter. The Eagles finish up the year with a record of 7-4. Clockwise from top left: The Eagles take the field for the last time in the 2018 season. Future Eagle Pride majorette, Brooklyn Coley, practices her skills on the sideline. Niceville fans were bundled up against the cold weather. TJ Pope on a run in the third quarter.

Beacon photos by Paula Mims

Rams lose home opener

Ruckel Middle School ran into a tough opponent in Pryor Tuesday, Nov. 6 in the first game of the 2018-2019 basketball season. The girls fell by a score of 42-22 and the boys were defeated 44-27. The teams hope to rebound from these losses when they take on Walton Middle School at home on Thursday, November 29. The boys' game starts at 5:30 and the girls tip off at 7:00. The gym was packed to see the Rams in action for the first time this season. Inset l-r: Ruckel's Diego Carrion works along the baseline against Pryor defender Kyl Webb. Grace Langston led all Ruckel players with 9 points.

Beacon photos by Paula Mims

Ruckel defeats Walton

Both the boys and girls Ruckel Middle School soccer teams opened the season with wins against Walton Middle School Monday Nov. 5 at Twin Oaks. The Ruckel boys scored five goals before halftime. The Ruckel girls didn't need a long game to secure the win. They mercy-ruled Walton with an 8-0 margin at the half. Fans can catch the Rams in action against Freeport on November 30th at Twin Oaks. Girls will play at 5:00 and the boys game is slated for 6:15.

Beacon photos by Paula Mims

Prehistoric fish found in Rocky Bayou

Tatiana Beauchamp and her son Jonathan, saw what they thought was an alligator washed up on the shore of thier property along Rocky Bayou, but it was no alligator. After calling Florida Fish and Wildlife they were told it was a Prehistoric Sturgeon an extremely rare fish and under extreme threat of extinction. A quick Google search revealed the last Prehistoric Sturgeon found was off the shores of NJ in 2015.

An Embroiderers' Guild welcome home

Barbara Harrison, Outreach Chair for the Sand Dunes Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America, presented a Habitat for Humanity Welcome Sampler to Shawna Holman and her three daughters on recently at the dedication of her new home in Crestview. This is the 61st home built by Okaloosa's Habitat for Humanity. The sampler was stitched by Mickey Stovall and framed by Cynthia Hardesty.

CALENDAR

From page A-3

A Season for Singing

The Niceville High School Chorus will perform its annual holiday show—A Season for Singing—on Tuesday, November 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Mattie Kelly Arts Center in Niceville. The concert will feature students from the six Niceville High School choral music ensembles in an extraordinary performance of traditional, classical and contemporary holiday favorites.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at 850-729-6000 or through the Mattie Kelly Arts Center ticket portal found at mattiekellyartscenter.org. The box office is open Monday - Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for ticket purchases.

The Niceville High School Chorus is a regionally respected program that is perennially recognized as Superior at district and state events. They lead the state by having been designated "Choirs of Distinction" seventeen times in the past six years by the Florida Vocal Association.

It's A Wonderful Life

NWF State College is proud to present Joe Landry's It's a Wonderful Life: A Radio Play. Set in a glamorous radio production studio, performers are warming up and preparing to present the live radio show of the beloved Christmas story.

It's a Wonderful Life runs in the Mattie Kelly Arts Center Sprint Theater November 29 – December 1, with nightly performances at 7:30. A 2 p.m. matinee is scheduled for Saturday, December 1. Tickets are $25 and include an intermission reception in the Mattie Kelly Arts Center Galleries with holiday treats provided by The Eventful Planner. Tickets are on sale now at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center Box Office. Call (850) 729-6000 or go online at mattiekellyartscenter.org to purchase tickets before they sell out.

A Christmas Chaos

Rocky Bayou Christian School Thespians for Christ will present our fall play, A Christmas Chaos by Michael Wehrli, on Friday, November 30, and Saturday, December 1, at the Fort Walton Beach Municipal Auditorium. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and curtain at 7 p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase online at November 5 through November 29, Adults - $12, Students (3yrs. – 12th grade) - $10. Tickets may be purchased at the door while they last: Adults - $14, Students - $12. Contact Jana Obrigewitch at 850-279-4112 for more information.

One Hour Air Conditioning and Heating

Growing and hiring

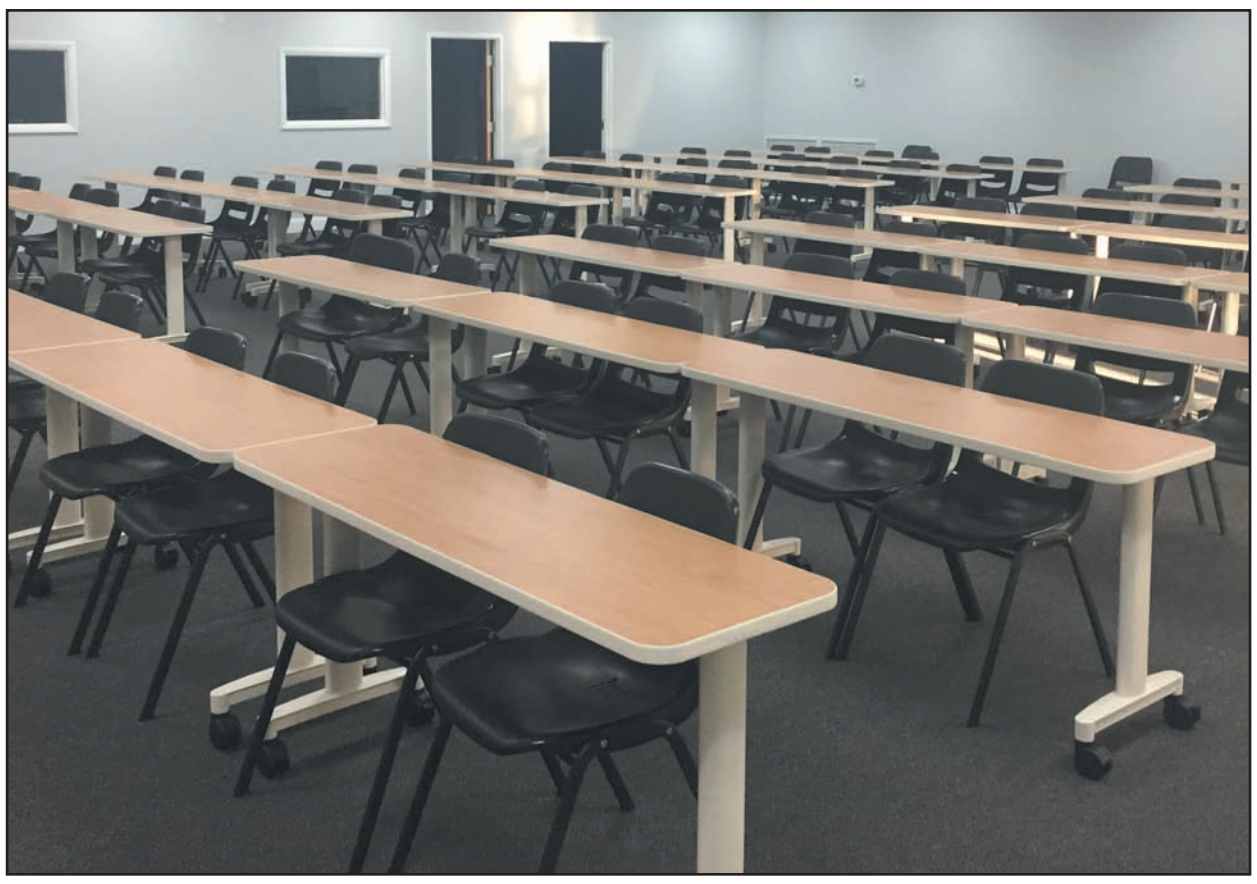
Advertising Feature

One Hour Air is growing rapidly, and is seeking qualified, enthusiastic people to help it grow. The Niceville-based business offers three brands of service—One Hour Air Conditioning & Heating, Ben Franklin Plumbing, and Mister Sparky Electric. The Niceville business has branches in Orlando, in Birmingham, Alabama, and elsewhere. The company also recently acquired "Rooterman," a Navarre company which merged with Ben Franklin Plumbing in August.

"Our company is growing rapidly," said Jason Ring, Senior Vice President of Branded Operations. "Within the past year, Ben Franklin Plumbing has grown from 8 plumbers to 20, while One Hour Air Conditioning & Heating has grown from 20 technicians to 43, and Mister Sparky Electric has grown from 2 to 6 technicians. We also recently purchased a new Ben Franklin location in Winterhaven, Florida."

The rapid expansion, Ring said, requires the company to hire and train new people.

"We are looking for qualified technicians for multiple locations in Northwest Florida, Birmingham, and Orlando," Ring said. "We currently do about $30 million of business per year, and expect to grow to about $50 million per year by 2021."



One Hour's training facility is located in Niceville. It includes a spacious training classroom, which eliminates the need for technicians to travel to places such as Mobile or Panama City.

"During the coming year in Niceville, we expect to add 4 air-conditioning and heating technicians for routine maintenance visits to customers, and an additional eight technicians qualified for on-demand and emergency repair service. At our Gulf Breeze location, we expect to add 6 maintenance technicians and 6 repair technicians by spring."

"In Niceville, we expect to add 4 new plumbers, 4 new plumbers in Gulf Breeze, and 4 new plumbers in Birmingham."

"Mr. Sparky Electric will add 2 new electricians in Niceville, and 2 in Gulf Breeze."

"In Birmingham, we plan to add 4 maintenance air-conditioning and heating technicians, and 6 repair technicians."

"We also plan to add new trucks to our fleet – one truck per technician."

Employment with One Hour Air, said Ring, offers outstanding opportunities for people who are willing and able to learn technical skills rapidly, who enjoy interacting with customers, and who bring ambition, self-discipline, and enthusiasm to their work.

One Hour Air, he said, offers an excellent pay and benefits package, including a 401(k) investment plan, and opportunities for promotion, career growth, and a choice of locations in which to work.

Unlike some businesses which only hire people who already have the needed skills, One Hour Air has its own in-house training program, where new recruits become qualified, licensed plumbers, electricians, or heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) technicians.

One Hour Air especially seeks military veterans, Ring said, because veterans have already demonstrated their ability to learn quickly, as well as self-discipline, a sense of duty, adaptability, and the ability to get along well with other people.

For information about career opportunities with the One Hour Air family of companies, call (850) 678-0911 or visit the One Hour website at www.onehourair.com.

HOMETOWN Christmas 2018

A guide to holiday gifts, ideas and activities

Supplement to the Bay Beacon

Community spreads Christmas cheer

Geek Lights in Bluewater Bay

The "Geek Lights on the Corner" Christmas lights and music show will begin its 11th season, with an all new show, on Monday, Dec. 3, and run nightly through New Year's. The free performances take place at the corner of Bluewater Boulevard and Antiqua Way in Bluewater Bay.

Shows run every half hour starting at 6 p.m., with the last show starting at 9:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, and 10:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

The Geek Lights consist of Christmas lights and other themed display elements, all under computer control and synchronized to stories and music. There is a story to open the show and many fan favorite songs from past seasons will return.

Follow the build and get schedule information at Facebook.com/GeekLightsOnTheCorner or tinyurl.com/geeklights.

Donations will be accepted benefitting Hopeful House Shelter.

Christmas tree sale

Boy Scout Troop 546, Niceville, will be holding their annual Christmas tree sale on the front lawn of the Niceville Police Department as follows: Friday, Nov. 30, 4 p.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 1, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Valparaiso First Assembly of God will present a living Nativity Dec. 14, 15 and 16 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the church.

Christmas Parade

The Niceville-Valparaiso Rotary Club invites the community to participate in the 2018 Community Christmas Parade to be held on Saturday, Dec. 1, beginning at 10 a.m. Participants are encouraged to reflect the parade theme, "Be the Inspiration."

The parade will start at Palm Boulevard and John Sims Parkway, Niceville. It will proceed west on John Sims, turning north on Partin Drive to the Niceville Civic Complex.

Proceeds support holiday meals for our Sharing and Caring families and other Rotary service projects.

Toys for Tots is again participating. Visitors to the parade as well as participants are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots drive. Volunteers will collect the toys at the beginning of the parade.

Eglin Christmas tree lighting

The annual Eglin Christmas Tree Lighting at Eglin Air Force Base will be on Thursday, Nov. 29, at 5:30 p.m. at the West Gate Chapel. This in one of Eglin's biggest family events, with caroling, choir performances, Santa arriving on a fire engine, presentation of the greeting card winners and refreshments following the ceremony.

The event requires base access. Bring the kids and begin the holiday season with us. For more information, please call the chapel at 882-2111.

Yule of Yesteryear

Yule of Yesteryear, a traditional holiday festival will be held at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Saturday,

Continued on next page

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Broad selection of holiday traditions

From previous page

Dec. 8, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the museum and in Perrine Park, Westview Avenue, Old Valparaiso.

The Spirit of Christmas will fill the air with musical performances from local choirs, musicians, dancers and historic theatrical performances.

There will also be historic craft demonstrations including blacksmithing, basket, seat and loom weaving.

The museum will be open with free admission all day. Discover the history of Northwest Florida with exhibits about the areas first inhabitants, early industries including, fishing, boat building, turpentine and pioneer living. Kids will play and learn in the "Discovery Room" while everyone will enjoy "Paradise Gardens".

There will be ornament making for children, a holiday bake sale and free picture taking with Santa Claus. Feast on fabulous favorites and shop for unique one-of-a-kind gifts from talented art and craft vendors and find affordable stocking stuffers in the museum's gift shop.

Bluewater Bay Boat Parade

Bluewater Bay Marina will stage its Annual Christmas Boat Parade & Decorating Contest on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 5:30 p.m. There will be a Skippers' meeting at 4 p.m. for instructions and information for the parade. Boats should be fully decorated and registered for the parade prior to the meeting.

Boats will leave the Bluewater Bay Marina and travel north to Nelson's Cove, around Rocky Bayou, and south to Rocky One marker, then return to the marina. Grand prize will be $150 Ship Store credit.

Continued on next page

The 2018 Community Christmas Parade will be held in Niceville on Saturday, Dec. 1, beginning at 10 a.m.

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Management and staff of the Ritz Salon would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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Christmas events in the Twin Cities

From previous page

We will be accepting non-perishable food items for Sharing and Caring.

Awards and festivities will follow at LJ Schooners Dockside Restaurant and Oyster Bar. Live entertainment, Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest and restaurant specials will be offered throughout the evening.

For more information email: frontdesk@bwb-marina or call (850) 897-2821 or visit: www.bluewaterbaymarina.com.

Party for library patrons

The Friends of Niceville Library and the library staff invite you to the Library's Patron Appreciation Party Wednesday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m-1 p.m., at the library. There will be lots of goodies.

Living Nativity

Valparaiso First Assembly of God will present a living Nativity Dec. 14, 15 and 16 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the church, 571 Valparaiso Parkway.

There will be cookies and hot cocoa for participants as well as an interactive nativity hayride. The event is free. For more information, call 678-4030.

Christmas bird count

The nightly "Geek Lights on the Corner" Christmas outdoor lights and music show will run Dec. 3 through New Year's at Bluewater Boulevard and Antiqua Way, Bluewater Bay.

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will join in the nation's largest ccitizen science project to catalog and record birds in our area Dec. 17. Positions are available for spotters and recorders with no experience necessary. Be prepared to start early for this daylong event.

Call Alan Knothe for more information at 208-1780 or email to birdman6419@gmail.com.

'Tis the season for merry performances

'The Nutcracker'

The Northwest Florida Ballet presents their 39th annual performance of the holiday favorite, "The Nutcracker," on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 16 and 17, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 18 at 2:30 p.m. at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center at Northwest Florida State College in the Mainstage Theater.

Tickets are $38 for adults and $18 for children (12 and under). Purchase advance tickets from the ballet at (850) 664-7787 or nfballet.org or the week of the show, if tickets remain, from Mattie Kelly Arts Center Box Office at (850) 729-6000 or MattieKellyArtsCenter.org. At-the-door tickets, if available, start an hour before each performance in the lobby.

'It's A Wonderful Life'

Northwest Florida State College will present Joe Landry's "It's a Wonderful Life: A Radio Play" for a three-day run starting Nov. 29 in the Mattie Kelly Arts Center's Sprint Theater, Niceville.

Set in a radio studio, the play depicts performers warming up and preparing to present a live radio show of the beloved Christmas story.

This dramatic and musical performance will take audiences back in time to the 1940's, when radio shows brought families together for story time and old-fashioned fun.

The Northwest Florida Ballet will perform "The Nutcracker" Nov. 16, 17, and 18 at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville.

"It's a Wonderful Life" unfolds with beautiful carols of the season sung by student vocal groups, Madrigal Singers and Belle Voci, and features performances by student actors. Dancers from the college Dance Ensemble complete this holiday spectacle.

"It's a Wonderful Life recalls the story of George Bailey's Christmas spiritual transformation, and the journey of his guardian angel, Clarence, who finally earns his wings.

"It's a Wonderful Life runs Nov. 29–Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m., with an additional 2 p.m. mantinee Dec. 1. Tickets are $25 and include an intermission reception in the Mattie Kelly Arts Center Galleries with holiday treats. Call (850) 729-6000 or go online at MattieKellyArtsCenter.org to buy tickets.

A Christmas play

The Rocky Bayou Christian School Thespians for Christ will present their fall play, "A Christmas Chaos" by Michael Wehrli, on Friday, Nov. 30, and Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Fort Walton Beach Municipal Auditorium. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and curtain at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available online at through Nov. 29: adults $12, students (3 yrs. – 12th grade) $10.

Tickets may be purchased at the door while they last: adults $14, students $12.

Contact Jana Obrigewitch at 850-279-4112 for more information.

'What Sweeter Music'

The Rocky Bayou Christian Academy Fine Arts Department will present their High School Band and Choir Christmas

Continued on next page

The holiday spirit on stage and in song

From previous page

celebration concert entitled "What Sweeter Music" on Thursday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Ft. Walton Beach.

This concert is free and open to the public. Come join as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. Contact Jana Obrigewitch at 850-279-4112 for more information.

'Holiday Pops'

The Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra presents its popular "Holiday Pops" concert Friday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mainstage Theater of the Mattie Kelly Fine & Performing Arts Center in Niceville.

The sounds of the holiday season will fill the air as the NFSO, joined by the Northwest Florida Symphony Chorale, performs some of your seasonal favorites including The Nutcracker, Handel's Messiah and music from John Williams featured in the movie Home Alone. It's an evening for everyone, with a special performance by NWF State College President Dr. Devin Stephenson.

Tickets for the Dec. 7 "Holiday Pops" concert are $25 adult, $16 youth 18 and under, from the Mattie Kelly Arts Center Box Office at (850) 729-6000 or MattieKellyArtsCenter.org.

The Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra will present its annual "Holiday Pops" concert Dec. 7 at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville. Also featured will be three choirs.

'Peter White Christmas'

Seabreeze Radio presents "Peter White Christmas" featuring Rick Braun and Euge Groove on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mainstage Theater of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center in Niceville.

The annual holiday event showcases a blend of traditional holiday music with the best in the smooth jazz.

Tickets are $80. Call (850) 729-6000 or visit mattiekellyartscenter.org.

College jazz concert

The talented NWF State College Jazz Ensemble presents their winter concert on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 7:30 pm in the Sprint Theater of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center at the college's Niceville campus. Admission is free of charge with no ticket required. Theater doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Come early and enjoy the jazz club atmosphere. There will be drinks and snacks available for purchase.

For more information, contact the NWF State College Fine Arts Office at 729-5382.

Yule events in neighboring communities

Baytowne on Ice

For those visitors who miss the chill of the snow and ice, take a whirl around Baytowne On Ice, through Feb. 2 at Apex Skating Pavilion, Baytowne Wharf Village. Hours vary.

Info: baytownewharf.com

Santa at Destin Commons

Santa Claus is coming to town at Destin Commons on Nov. 16, 6-8 pm. At 7 p.m., join in Santa's arrival with a festive Holiday celebration parade down Main Street and the official lighting of the Center's spectacular 50' Christmas tree. Delight in a fireworks finale to kick off the Holiday Season.

Activities and entertainment for the whole family include musicians playing traditional Holiday favorites, kid's craft projects, and free photos with Santa at Bass Pro Shops.

DeFuniak Springs Christmas Reflections

A colorful festival of lights will be presented around Lake DeFuniak Nov. 23-Dec. 31 nightly from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Tickets are $3, children age 6 and under free. Season passes are available for $35 and admits six persons in a vehicle.

Carriage rides will be available for an additional fee Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Ice skating is featured at Baytowne Wharf Village, Sandestin, through Feb. 2.

Events at Baytowne

Friday Nov. 23-Saturday, Nov. 24 bring in the holidays at Baytowne for free. Enjoy Here Comes Santa Claus Weekend with the annual Village tree lighting, holiday movie and a visit from St. Nick.

Friday, Nov. 23: Kick off the holiday season with a family movie under the stars at 6 p.m. Polar Express will be showing.

Saturday, Nov. 24: Welcome Santa as he lights the Village Christmas Tree. Stick around for a preview of the choreographed light show, 12 Nights of Lights, and watch fireworks. Hop on Santa's lap and tell him your Christmas wish.

Walton County Festival

Walton County's 29th Annual Hometown Christmas festival will be held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 24 at the Walton County Fairgrounds, DeFuniak Springs.

Join us for a day of family fun, arts and crafts, food, drawings, kids activities, Santa house. Register to win prizes. Free admission. Sponsored by the DeFuniak Business and Professional Association.

For more information, call 850-830-1661.

Sounds of the Season

The Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation announces the 23rd Annual Sounds of the Season featuring The Alleluia Orchestra and guest artist, Buddy Mullins, will be on Sunday, December 16, 2018 for two performances, a 4:00 p.m. matinee and a 6:00 p.m. evening concert in the Destin Life Center at Destin United Methodist Church, 200 Beach Drive.

Admission is a donation of a new unwrapped child's toy to be distributed among the participating church's outreach ministries to provide a brighter Christmas for families in need during the holidays.

MattieKellyArtsFoundation.org or call (850) 650-2226.

Crestview Christmas Parade

The Crestview Christmas Parade will

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Celebrating Christmas in many ways

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be held on Dec. 1 at 5:30 p.m. in downtown Crestview. The 2018 parade theme is "Parade of Trees".

Fort Walton Beach Parade

"Christmas Toys for Girls and Boys" has been chosen as the theme of the 2018 Fort Walton Beach Christmas Parade scheduled for Monday Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m., in Fort Walton Beach. Participants are encouraged to decorate their float according to the parade theme.

Fort Walton Winter Concert

The Fort Walton Beach Community Chorus will perform their Winter concert "Christmas at the Movies" December 7-9 at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium, 107 Miracle Strip Pkwy. SW.

Tickets: Adults $15.00, Students (under 18) & Seniors (over 60) $10.

Show dates and times: Friday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 9, 3 p.m. fwbcc1975@gmail.com or visit our website at fwbcc.org.

Destin Christmas Parade

The City of Destin's 34th Annual Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 10 a.m. This year's theme is "Christmas at the Beach." The floats will start at Downtown Destin Shopping Center (Old Time Pottery) and travel West down Harbor Blvd. (Hwy. 98) to Stahlman Avenue. Please stand on the north side of Harbor Blvd. to watch the parade.

A colorful festival of lights will be presented around Lake DeFuniak, DeFuniak Springs, Nov. 23-Dec. 31 nightly.

Destin Boat Parade

Dec. 9, the Destin Harbor will be dancing with holiday lights and cheer during the 32nd Annual Destin Boat Parade. Visit with Santa Claus starting at 1 p.m. followed by a performance of The Nutcracker at 4:45 p.m. at HarborWalk Village's Main Stage. Boat Parade will light up the harbor beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by fireworks over the harbor.

For more information, call 833-6611.

Children's Fiesta

The 14th Annual Emerald Coast Christmas Miracle Children's Fiesta is an "everything is free" Latin-flavored party is being held Sunday, Dec. 16 at the Emerald Coast Convention Center open from 1 p.m.-2 p.m for families with children with disabilities and open to the public after 2 p.m.

The focus is on giving our area's needy children and families an opportunity to have a great time. Thanks to Toys for Tots, local business and individual donors, we will donate brand new toys for the over 1,000 children we expect. In addition, we will also have coat donations thanks to the United Way's "Coats for Kids" program and lots of great prizes, food and performances by local area entertainers (singers, clowns, magicians, choirs, and more).

Visit unitedforagoodcause.org or email nfballet.org.

'A Very Electric Christmas'

Northwest Florida Ballet brings back Lightwire Theater for "A Very Electric Christmas" on Fri., Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 22 at 2:30 p.m. at the Destin United Methodist Church's Life Center. Lightwire Theater will thrill all ages with a captivating tale of family, friendship and hope set to holiday hits including those of Nat King Cole, Mariah Carey and Tchaikovsky.

Lightwire Theater features the talents of four cast members who strap on costumes fitted with electroluminescent lights, turning their bodies into life-sized puppets to bring the cast of creatures and scenery to life through movement and dance.

Tickets are $35 for adults and $15 for children 12 and under at nfballet.org.