Hundreds celebrate Teutenbergs’ lives
Packed church remembers family who died in plane crash

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

The memorial service was for
Ellie, 6, Brendon, 9, and Will, 10,
who died in a plane crash July 9 near Demopolis, Ala., as they
returned from a family reunion in St. Louis, Mo.
The service opened with a
prayer by the Rev. Rurrel Ausley,
the community’s most respected
priest. As the congregation stood,
Ausley said, “For those of you
who have never been to a
Christian memorial service, you
may wonder why we are about to
sing. “We are about to sing and cele-
brate the lives of the Teutenberg family.”
The church was packed with
people who had been touched by the lives and deaths of the Teutenbergs.
Fred and Teresa, active members
Please see TEUTENBERGS, page A-5

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

The proposed consolidation of
Valparaiso and Egin Air
Force Base postal carriers with the
Niceville post office has been
delayed indefinitely. U.S. Postal
Service officials told the Beacon last week.
In late February, USPS
released details of a cost-saving reorganization with which
Valparaiso and Egin Air Force
Base mail carriers would be
bundled at the Niceville post office.
Incoming mail for Valparaiso, Egin
Air Force Base and Niceville postal
addresses would be delivered only
to the Niceville post office.
90 N. Palm Blvd., under the
reorganization plan, postal
officials said at the time. Under
the cost-cutting plan, mail car-
riers who now receive then sort
incoming mail at Valparaiso and
Egin post offices would instead perform those duties at the
Niceville office before fan-
ing out to deliver their routes.
The plan was supposed to reduce local fares, possibly with
any layoffs, although USPS declined to be more specific.
USPS authorities in
February projected a cash shortfall by the end of the fiscal year.
Sept. 30. The USPS has
steadily reduced the number of employees—through attrition and early retirement over the
last 10 years, from 775,903 in 2001 to 593,000 employees today—
with additional reduc-
tions in progress, the USPS
Please see POSTAL, page A-3

Fire district raises tentative millage rate

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Staff Writer

The proposed millage rate, if
actually approved at a subsequent fire commission meetings, would
mean that property owners across the
East Niceville Fire District, which extends from the
community limits of the City of Niceville
to the shore of Rockey Bayou, would be
owed $2.37 for every $1,000 of taxable
value. This would be despite the rate
reduction and other exemptions and
deductions. For example, the owner of a
home appraised at $200,000 could save $434 in property tax to the fire district, in
addition to other property taxes
collected by the county, such as county
and Okaloosa School District taxes. At the current mill-
age rate of 2.37, such a home
Please see MILLAGE, page A-4

It’s here!

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

The 33rd Fighter Wing’s first Lightning II F-35 Joint Strike Fighter arrived at Eglin Friday, piloted by Lt. Col. Eric Smith, who lives in Bluewater Bay.

Lt. Col. Eric Smith

First F-35 arrives at Eglin

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

In one hour and 40
minutes, Air Force pilot Lt. Col. Eric Smith flew F-35A tail number 01754 from Fort Worth, Texas, to its new home at Eglin.

Touching down on Eglin’s runway 1800 at about 1:15 p.m. Thursday, the plane’s arrival is historic, marking the first of 99 Lightning II F-35 Joint Strike Fighters to be
at the base.

“It was a smooth ride in,”
said Smith, the Air Force’s first F-35-qualified pilot. “The jet behaved exactly how I’d put so much pride to bring a home to Eglin.”

“It’s an exciting day here in
the wing, where our joint and
teamwork has been preparing for this day since October 2009,” said Air Force
Col. Andrew Tibb, the 33rd
Fighter Wing commander.

In 2005 the Base
Realignment and Closure
(BRAC) commission
directed the Air
Force to establish a joint
training center at Eglin no
later than September 2011. The F-35
training center will take pilots and
maintainers from the Air Force,
Navy and Marine Corps, as well as
U.S. allies, to fly and maintain all
three versions of the F-35—the
conventional take-off and landing
F-35A, the Air Force variant,
and F-35C for the Navy and the
air-to-air-only, vertical
landing F-35B for the Marine Corps.

In 2009 the 33rd Fighter
Wing transitioned from an F-15
operational fighter unit to an F-35 joint training wing manned by military members from all three military services receiving the new fighter plane.

Smith, who is the deputy for operations for the 33rd’s 58th Fighter Squadron, previ-
ously flew an A-10 ground attack aircraft for about 15 years,
plus another six years F-
fighter before being assigned to
the F-35 program. From 2006 to 2008, he was assigned to
Eglin’s 48th Test Squadron, part of Eglin’s 46th
Test Wing.

Please see F-35, page A-6

Postal consolidation on indefinite hold

By Del Lessard
Beacon Staff Writer

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Please see MILLAGE, page A-4
**Fire Commission adds member**

At the request of Fire Chief Jerry Cashion, fire commissioners also set a final budget workshop for Aug. 2, 7–9 p.m., at the fire station. At the conclusion of the public workshop commissioners will conduct a closed-door session available with Chief Miller to prepare for contract negotiations with contracted firefighters.

The fire chief, who will negotiate the contract on behalf of fire commissioners, presented a recommendation to fires. Zam, local 3553 of the International Association of Firefighters, outlining salary issues. Zam noted that firefighters have received pay raises over the past two years to help stabilize the state’s financial picture. Absorbing additional workload as the district has out the size of drifts from crew to crew.

**MBSU discusses sidewalks, flowers**

Bloom maintenance: $1,600 a year

"It’s curb appeal," said MULLIS EYE INSTITUTE Call for an appointment

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DEPARTING

From page 1

eggs that were already stuffed. Swiftpal told a reporter Monday that he also entertained the idea of traveling to many small cities between Pensacola and Tallahassee during his tenure as president of the Northwest Florida League of Cities. His public service also included representing Niceville on the regional sewer board since he first took office.

While it is customary for retiring officials to receive commemorative plaques, Swiftpal gave such gifts to sev-

eral of his colleagues in city government. His love of country around here," he said. There is great love of country around here,

MBSU board members also discussed the five residential neighborhoods near the Bluewater Bay Marina, which include many military personnel and their families. "There is great love of country around here," he said. MULLIS EYE INSTITUTE Call for an appointment

MBSU Board members also discussed the five residential neighborhoods near the Bluewater Bay Marina, which include many military personnel and their families. "There is great love of country around here," he said.

MBSU director Joe Jeellison, Dale Blanchard, Doug Burgess, David Brink and Joan McCarthy discuss the proposed building sidewalks near the Bluewater Bay Marina.

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Club asks college to return $25K gift for scholarships

By Mike Griffith

The Boys & Girls Club of the Emerald Coast has asked the Northwest Florida State College Foundation to return nearly $25,000 previously given to the college’s endowment fund.

In a letter dated July 5, and discovered by the Northwest Florida Daily News, the Boys & Girls Club’s Chairwoman of the Board, Carol Godwin wrote, “At this time we request the remaining principal balance of $24,371.52 be returned to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast so we can use the money to help our recent high school graduates as they pursue higher education.”

The NWFSC Foundation Executive Director, David Koehnden, told the Boys & Girls Club that this is the first case he knows of in which a donor to the foundation has asked for the return of a gift of money already given to the foundation.

The NWFSC Foundation is a fundraising arm of Northwest Florida State College, State College of Northwest Florida and private and institutional donors to supplement the college’s income from tax funding, tuition, fees and from student donations.

Koehnden and NWFSC President Ty Hand, the college board of directors had earlier put on indefinite hold and will not consider an agreement for some kind.

In May, Nancy Ross, a spokesperson for the USPS in Plant City, said last February, “This project has been put on an indefinite hold and will be revisited at a later date.” USPS spokesman Stephen Scott said in response to a Beacon inquiry last week, “We understand the lack of employee impact and, of course, customer impact...this time, we didn’t feel this project fit into the scope of our targets in these areas.”

Correction

On Page A3 of the July 13 Beacon addresses of two candidates for Niceville city council were incorrectly reported. Candidate Barry Richburg’s address is 2413 Kildare Circle, Julie Boudreau’s correct address is 2443 Duncan Drive.
Police Blotter

**Arrests**

Deborah Ann Cunn, 52, at 400 Kill Road, Apt. 42, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 30 on a misdemeanor white collar crime related to a $25 bad check.

Lacy Rachel Stello, 34, at 1312 Alice Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 21 on charges of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia.

Matthew James Gagner, 20, at 111 22nd St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 23 on charges of burglary of a conveyance and petit theft. On Aug. 7, 2010, Gagner allegedly burglarized a 2002 Lotus parked in the foot of the Main Bridge spanning the front passage window and grabbing a wallet from a purse. A drop of blood found on the locked vehicle was sent to a state crime lab where a DNA profile was matched to a sheriff's profile of Gagner.

Joe Lee Horne Jr., 34, at 4123 Whitehall Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 30 on charges of violation of probation and false statement to obtain unemployment compensation.

Kara Lee Decker, unemployed, 36, of 320 21st St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 23 on a charge of violation of probation on the original charge of grand theft.

Koko Marie Kopp, 22, at 600 Range Road, Apt. 120, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 22 on a violation of probation on the original charge of grand theft.

**Situation**

**Date**

Nicole Gagnor, 30, of 1124 Bayshore Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 21 on a charge of failure to appear on the original charge of driving while license suspended or revoked.

Kristopher Andrew Joyner, employed, 37, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 29 on an outstanding bond for violation of probation release and again on July 1 on violation of probation charge on the original charges of reckless driving and violating the state's open container law.

Gary Michael Chavis, 33, of 500 Mill Creek, Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 13, 2010 on charges of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of a controlled substance.

Larry Shane Patrick, a 48-year-old resident of Niceville, 23, of the same address, were arrested by Niceville police July 9, each charged with petit theft. Patrick was also arrested on an outstanding bond from a March 2009 petit theft. The two were arrested after they were observed on surveillance cameras inside McSweeney's store, then exited the store together via the E. 27th Street exit of the store. Patrick was without paying the $180 cost of concealed cosmetics, sauce supplies and an alarm clock. McSweeney was also charged with possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of a controlled substance.

Elise Riggs, 46, of 2404 Atlantic Street, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies June 24 on a violation of probation.

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I think it’s a good idea, it will let you choose whether to go or not, without people following you around.”

“I really don’t affect me, I generally don’t take part in demonstrations or anything like that.”

“I prefer complete free speech. I’m not fond of any form of limitation.”

“I think the policy is OK. It limits free speech, but not in a very large way.”

“It’s a new idea. I’m eager to see how it evolves or works out.”

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The Bay Beacon
F-35

From page A-1

As residents of Bluewater Bay, Smith’s wife, Judy, and the couple’s three children were among the hundred or so people of the 33rd Fighter Wing flight-line to witness and cheer the first delivery of the F-35A to Eglin.

Among those present to receive the arrival of the 33rd FW’s first F-35 was Senior Airman Arthur Nye, who had an open laptop computer containing maintenance procedures as he faced the plane and as his fellow crew chiefs guided the plane to its designated parking spot on the ramp.

When flying begins at Eglin in the October time frame, Smith will return to the 33rd FW to help train the initial cadre of instructor pilots for the Air Force.

Because the F-35 is built only as a single-seat fighter, every student pilot who performs his first take-off, first flight and first landing will also be making his first solo in the F-35.

Smith said that pilot training on the new fighter plane begins with very realistic flight simulations. He, for example, said about 80 hours of flight training in F-35 flight simulators on the ground before getting into the cockpit of the actual plane to take his first flight.

Over the first three or four years of flight training, the F-35 pilot’s training will include extensive training in other fighter jets. Smith said about the fifth year the Eglin F-35 flight training program will begin accepting pilots right out of initial pilot training, where typical students accumulate about 200 hours of flying time.

Lockheed Martin said they expect to deliver 15 F-35s to Eglin by the end of the year.

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Mission: Okaloosa
Youths minister to locals

By Nikki Herzig

"Leaving behind the beach, TVA, cell phones and everything a typical Florida summer has to offer, 87 youth from the Niceville and Crestview areas recently spent a week reaching out to the community through their service.

Mission Okaloosa is a program started by Niceville United Methodist Church’s youth group to “make a way for kids to learn what it means to serve and to put other people before themselves,” said Tyler Fuller, the church’s middle-school minister.

The students were split up into six different groups, each with its own individual mission organization in the area. "We try to look for sites where there’s either people who are overlooked, ignored or in need and look for any way that we can, with unskilled labor, light numbers and limited money, help them," Fuller said.

This year, the sites included Emerald Coast Autism Center, Crestview Methodist Group Home, St. Mark Methodist Church and Harvest Vineyard Church and Harvest Vineyard Church. "I think it’s important to learn there are ways to help right here. You don’t have to leave to make the world better," said Fuller.

Students assigned to the autism center spent time getting to know and playing with the children as well as build additions onto the playground. One day of the week, the group took the day off and went with the kids to the Gulf Breeze Zoo.

“I believe that it’s important for Christian people to do things for people who are overlooked and ignored or in difficult situations,” Fuller said. I believe that a special needs child is someone who deserves special attention so we’re trying to honor that by providing a service for our youth as well.

Another group of students went to Camp Firefly, a camp that provides experiences for adults with disabilities. The camp offers overnight sessions to help people overcome their physical, mental, and emotional struggles. The students on this site spent a lot of time feeding animals, helping feed animals, and helping feed animals.

Please see WHCS page B-2

NWFSC presents “Big River”

By Mike Griffith

Drama Co-Presented in "Big River"

"Big River, the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" will feature local students at Northwest Florida State College. While students at Northwest Florida State College are playing key roles in the upcoming production of “Big River,” a musical version of Mark Twain’s classic novel, “Huckleberry Finn.” The play will be performed on July 20-23 at the Mattie Kelly Fine and Performing Arts Center by a 17-year-old camper from Niceville High School, is pursuing a degree in veterinary medicine.

Amy Elizabeth Miller, daughter of Skip and Debbie Miller of Niceville, has been made a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, National Leadership and Honors Organization at Florida State University. Sigma Alpha Lambda is a national leadership and honors organization dedicated to promoting and rewarding academic achievement and providing members with opportunities for community service, personal development and lifelong professional fulfillment.

Miller, a 2010 graduate of Niceville High School, is pursuing a degree in veterinary medicine.

Ben Hall from Valparaiso will attend the Amoroso Coalition’s Paddy Rosbach Youth Camp July 23-27 in Clarksville, Ohio. Ben was granted a scholarship and he will attend the camp with 100-10-17 year-olds from throughout the U.S. who have links to the military.

Ben, a fourth-grader at Lewis Middle School, was featured on a billboard in New York City from April through June to raise money to help other children fighting cancer.

Jenna Hassell, daughter of Scott and Sandy Hassell of Niceville, earned a spot on the President’s List at the University of South Alabama and the Sun Belt Conference Commissioner’s List for student-athletes.

Amy Miller

The Beacon photo

One of the award-winning submissions was Griffith’s photo series. "Stick so big, boats so small," a documentation of last year’s Deep Horizon Oil Spill. Prints of boats worked hard to stem the flow of oil from water to beach. Inset, oil glistens on the water.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Donations to the animals as they left to make the world better.

"Leaving behind the beach, TVA, cell phones and everything a typical Florida summer has to offer, 87 youth from the Niceville and Crestview areas recently spent a week reaching out to the community through their service.

Mission Okaloosa is a program started by Niceville United Methodist Church’s youth group to “make a way for kids to learn what it means to serve and to put other people before themselves,” said Tyler Fuller, the church’s middle-school minister.

The students were split up into six different groups, each with its own individual mission organization in the area. "We try to look for sites where there’s either people who are overlooked, ignored or in need and look for any way that we can, with unskilled labor, light numbers and limited money, help them," Fuller said.

This year, the sites included Emerald Coast Autism Center, Crestview Methodist Group Home, St. Mark Methodist Church and Harvest Vineyard Church. "I think it’s important to learn there are ways to help right here. You don’t have to leave to make the world better," said Fuller.

Students assigned to the autism center spent time getting to know and playing with the children as well as build additions onto the playground. One day of the week, the group took the day off and went with the kids to the Gulf Breeze Zoo.

“I believe that it’s important for Christian people to do things for people who are overlooked and ignored or in difficult situations,” Fuller said. I believe that a special needs child is someone who deserves special attention so we’re trying to honor that by providing a service for our youth as well.

Another group of students went to Camp Firefly, a camp that provides experiences for adults with disabilities. The camp offers overnight sessions to help people overcome their physical, mental, and emotional struggles. The students on this site spent a lot of time feeding animals, helping feed animals, and helping feed animals.

Please see WHCS page B-2

NWFSC presents “Big River”

By Mike Griffith

Drama Co-Presented in "Big River"

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Amy Miller
WHO’S
From page B-2
Jenna Russell
Athletic Director and a defensive specialist on the volley-
ball team. Russell was a 2010 graduate of Niceville High School and is pursuing a degree in exercise science.

Stephen Farrell, graduate of the North Florida State College College Prep High School, recently earned a scholarship to Baylor University in Waco, Texas. All scholarships are awarded on the basis of class rank and/or SAT/ACT scores.

Daniel Dunlap
was selected as the Okaloosa County 911 Communications Division Chief, upon the retirement of Daniel J. Dunlap in 2000. Dunlap is a certified Emergency Number Professional, as well as holding 10,000 hours in the Public Safety Telecommunications.

Sarah Elisabeth O’Dell, daughter of and Barbara O’Dell, graduated with a Master of Business Administration degree from Western Washington University on June 11.

O’Dell is a 2008 graduate of the College Prep High School at North Florida State College and received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Business Management from the University of North Florida in April 2010.

Horn, a daughter of and , Horn has been named to the Dean’s list of Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn., for academic achievement during the 2011 spring semester. Horn, a graduate of North Florida State College College Prep High School, was a first year at Macalester.

A group of boys work on a deck for the Harvest Vineyard Ministries for men in Caryville, Fla.

The event, held on July 23, was part of Mission Okaloosa, a week-long event for community members to serve others in the community. The event, held on July 23, was part of Mission Okaloosa, a week-long event for community members to serve others in the community.

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MISSION
From page B-2
Two of the week projects focused on serving Harvest Vineyard Ministries. An all-girls team worked in Createawse at the Harvest Vineyard for women while an all-boys team went to Caryville to work at the men’s village. Participation was available for high school students.

Edwina Royal, a professional volunteer for the week, teaches carpentry and construction management at CHANCE High School and Technology Center. During the week he and a group of boys worked on cleaning, painting and building a patio for the men at Harvest Vineyard.

A lot of these kids don’t have any place to go. They have been in and out of prison and are at the end of their rope,” Preston said.

Servicing all day long and on about six hours of sleep a night, the kids from the Niceville area set aside a week of their summer in order to do what most would overlook.

“I’m just so incredibly in awe of these kids,” Preston said.

“Most of them are middle schoolers. They do what you ask them to do and don’t complain. They serve and serve all day long with a willing heart.”

Preston believes this program is accomplishing its goal of teaching youth how to better serve the community they live in.

“Mission Okaloosa is just a great, great must of great musts,” he said.

“I’m convinced you don’t have to leave the country and can stay in your own town that needs help. To me, it does my heart good when you see these students putting other people first.”

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The Bay Beacon will publish its colorful newcomer guide in the June 23 issue, which is available in Bluerun Bay, Niceville and Valparaiso.

Don’t miss your chance to reach potential new homeowners and business owners relatively new or planning to relocate to Northwest Florida.

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Friends for Fun senior club
All single 60 and older, come join Friends for Fun senior club monthly meetings, every Wednesday, 9 a.m.-noon at the Bluewater Bay Church House. This is an opportunity to make new friends and fellowship. Info: 877-4604.

RCBS seeks hosts families
RCBS, a non-profit organization seeking families living in Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay counties who host exchange students from China, Thailand and Vietnam.

Your family will not only gain a new family member, you will also learn about a different culture, and its values and traditions. Students stay with a host family for 10 months, and teachers stay for two to four weeks.

Information about this program and how to help with expenses for each international student is available online or by calling the local host family coordinator.

If you are interested or would like more information, contact Miriam Broussard at RCBS, 729-7227, ext. 575, or email shara@rcbs.org.

Hospital vehicle donations
Covenant Hospital adds another volunteer to its support team, a friend who wants to help through vehicle, RV and boat donations.

Vehicles, whether running or not, are welcome donations.

The price a vehicle takes in auction because of its condition for the buyer, and medical care, healthcare services, or support equipment.

If you would like more information about donating your vehicle to Covenant Hospital by donating your vehicle, background information, donation process, call Jenni Perkins at 678-4700.

Sales tax holiday
Florida’s back-to-school sales tax holiday will begin at 12:01 a.m., Friday, August 12, through midnight, Sunday, August 14. During this period, no sales tax will be collected on sales of clothing, handbags, backpacks, footwear and certain accessories selling for 575 or less, or on certain school supplies at 575 or less.

Professional quality theater
Hinton said, “We have a great staff, who are very dedicated. This is a key element of what’s on the 2nd floor.”

Others among the 26 cast members working with Robinson this year include Niceville resident Matthew Ruff, who plays Biggs/Manuel, front; and Jesse Hinton, who plays Canteen, rear right.

Ruff said he finds the role of Biggs quite challenging. As the main character in the story, he said he has to be more than one character, and eventually he has to challenge his ability to transform himself into the character while acting. “I’m not a country boy at all,” he said.

“I’ve been watching YouTube videos of talking horses,” he said.

To see a list of clothing and accessory items and their taxable (T) or non-taxable (NT) status, visit DaveRuff.com/taxlist.pdf, or email info@caley.org. The tax list is updated periodically.

Summer art classes
The Arts and Designs Society (AADS), 17 First St. SE, Fort Walton Beach, will hold four classes for the remainder of the summer.

Clay & Pottery—Monday, Wednesday, 9 a.m.–noon or Monday even, 6-9:30, Creative Wednesday, 9 a.m.-noon; Life Drawing—1st and 3rd Monday, 6-9 p.m; Open Studio—Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. For more information, call 248-8800 or check out AADS’s Art Center Studios. For costs and other information about classes and services, call 868-8640 or visit artdesignsociety.org or society.org.

Art exhibit at library
The Local Color Art Club will exhibit works at the Niceville Library through Aug. 27. The show features 14 artists and includes wood-toned pieces by Judy Kuether, wooden bowls, flies, and photos of paintings created using watercolor, oils and acrylics. The show will be displayed and periodically changed to keep it fresh.

This club meets monthly and welcomes interested artists. Info: Amy Jo Blevins at 877-4604.

Modern day self-defense
Classes range from introductory, modern day martial arts class at the Niceville YMCA. Classes are for ages 13-50.

Class times: Tuesday and Wednesday 7-8 p.m; Friday 6-7 p.m; Sunday 10-11 a.m.

Cost: $30/month for non-YMCA members; $20 for members.

Head Start enrollment
Applications are being accepted for children ages birth to 5 years old at various Head Start centers in Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay counties. Ages must be 5 years old by fall to be admitted.

The program is for those who qualify. Info: 877-6893 or okaloosahuman.org.

Volunteers sought
The Emerald Coast Hospital Auxiliary is seeking volunteers.

For more information, call 729-4603, ext. 315, or call Cindy Richardson at 877-4603, ext. 315, or call Cindy Richardson at 877-4603, ext. 315, or call Cindy Richardson at 877-4603, ext. 315, or call Cindy Richardson at 877-4603, ext. 315, or call Cindy Richardson at 877-4603, ext. 315, or call Cindy Richardson at 877-4603, ext. 315.

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The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office will host a free “Teen Driver Challenge” July 25 and 27. The program is designed to help teens become aware of the risks of becoming involved in a crash. Teens 15-19 are eligible and must have a valid learner’s permit or license. Call 638-4822 or go online at sheriff.okaloosa.com and click on the Teen Driver Challenge logo.

Teen driver safety course

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Gold Team finishes as runners-up

The Niceville-Vallparaiso Little League machine pitch runners-up were the Gold Team. Head coach for Secoo Children and assistant coaches are Scott Summers and Lonnie Denham. Team members are Heather Adams, Emily Cary, Alexi Denham, Caitlin L. Childress, Ella Randall, Makenze Ely, Kelby S. Barfield and Paige-Ryleigh Whitaker.

Little League teams excel; state tournament this week

The Niceville-Vallparaiso Little League had a highly successful 2011 season, with more than 800 boys and girls from ages 4 through 16 participating on 71 teams in softball and baseball. In the non-sanctioned tournaments for ages 10 and above, at which each team can advance at least to the state tournament, these Niceville teams will play:

—10/12 Baseball, district champs, section champs, state tournament July 29-Aug. 1 in Dade City.
—Junior Baseball, district champs, section champs, State tournament July 29-Aug. 1 in Deland.

In addition, the 10/12 softball- and senior softball teams were district runners up.

Women take helm in regatta

The Bluewater Bay Sailing Club hosted the first “Ladybug Regatta” Saturday, July 9. This regatta required all boats to be directed by women at the helm. Pictured, Avocet, left, and all day Friday at both the Niceville High School softball field and the Northwest Florida State College softball field. Semifinals will be Saturday at 10 a.m. and noon at the Northwest Florida State College softball field, with the finals Sunday at 11 a.m.

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Sacred Heart Medical Group is pleased to welcome Dr. Steven Clark, a board-certified family medicine physician. Dr. Clark earned his medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., and completed residency training in family medicine at Eglin Air Force Base. Prior to joining Sacred Heart, he served as a family medicine physician and flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force. Dr. Clark has special medical interests in disease prevention, diabetes, hypertension, and total wellness and wellness medicine.

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