Hello in there

By Del Lessard Beacon Staff Writer

The Florida Legislature today is scheduled to begin work to redraw two area legislative districts whose proposed boundaries were struck down Friday by the state Supreme Court.

The court rejected as unconstitutional parts of the Legislature’s Senate reapportionment plan, including the proposed districts of two senators who represent the Navarre-Niceville area.

Among the eight new districts the court ordered redrawn are one containing the residence of Sen. Don Gaetz, Niceville, who heads the Senate panel that drafted the plan last year.

The legislature will convene in special session today to take another crack at the reapportionment plan in light of the court’s 5-2 ruling.

The Senate plan plainly favors

NHS seeks private funds for iPads

By Tess Hollis Beacon Staff Writer

Niceville High School announced a campaign to raise at least $200,000 to buy iPads and other Apple mobile computing devices, as well as laptop computers, educational software and other materials.

The school hopes to raise the money by the end of May in order to start implementing the new technology in the fall.

“When students enter college, they are using lap

Niceville service for slain soldier set tomorrow

By Del Lessard Beacon Staff Writer

A memorial service will be held tomorrow at the Niceville Church of Christ for Army Sgt. Joshua Born.

Sgt. Born, 25, was killed in Afghanistan Feb. 23 when a man dressed as an Afghan soldier turned his gun on him and another soldier, fatally wounding both.

Born was assigned to the 356th Military Police Battalion, 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne), XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg.

Valp., Gulf Power settle 10-year fee dispute

By Del Lessard Beacon Staff Writer

The Valparaiso City Commission and Gulf Power Co. have settled their 10-year dispute over how much the company may charge for allowing them to attach its communications cables to the poles.

The five-year agreement appears to end a nine-year legal battle over how much Gulf Power could charge the city for attaching its communications cables to the poles.

In 2002, Gulf Power raised the annual rate it charged the city for each pole attachment from $6.60 per pole to more than $60. The power company said it was entitled to charge

The Florida Supreme Court ordered redrawn eight of 40 proposed State Senate districts, including two for Northwest Florida, districts 1 and 3.

$6M upgrade OK’d for sewage plant

By Del Lessard Beacon Staff Writer

The Navarre, Valparaiso, Okaloosa County (NVOC) Regional Sewer Board has approved award of a $6 million construction contract to Mid-Florida Construction Co. to upgrade its effluent-treatment plant.

The sewer board unanimously approved award of the $6,055,000 construction bid to the lowest bidder at its March 7 meeting. Each of the contractors submitted separate bids on upgrading the wastewater treatment facility using the IFAS technology from two different manufacturers, on the conversion of the existing sprayfields to Rapid Infiltration Basal System (RIBS), and cleanup of existing tanks in the treatment plant.

The Florida Supreme Court ordered redrawn eight of 40 proposed State Senate districts, including two for Northwest Florida, districts 1 and 3.
A redistricting plan proposed by the League of Women Voters was said to be more in line with what the Florida Supreme Court may consider to be constitutional, in “compactness” and in following boundaries of counties and cities.

The terms of all Florida legislators expire late this year, so any who wish to continue in office must run for re-election in November in a reapportioned district.

Sen. Greg Evers, who represents Valparaiso and most of Niceville in the current Senate District 4, is chairman of the Senate Reapportionment Committee, and is slated to become the president of the Florida Senate in 2013 and 2014. “We’re very pleased,” said Gaetz, that only eight of the Senate’s 40 districts must be redrawn again.

“Charting new ground,” he said, referring to new reapportionment rules that voters imposed when in 2010 they approved Amendments 5 and 6 to the state constitution requiring legislative districts to be “fair” and compact, and to follow city and county boundaries as much as possible.

Gaetz described the high courts ruling as an “expected and normal process” of the redistricting done every 10 years by the Florida Legislature to account for population changes. The aim is to ensure that all districts have an equal number of inhabitants, as measured by the U.S. Census.

The process is often fraught with political considerations, with critics contending that boundaries tend to be redrawn to favor incumbents.


The state Supreme Court approved the Florida House reapportionment plan, also passed by the Legislature during the just-completed regular session. It continues the Twin Cities area in a single House district. The Senate's redistricting plan would have split Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton and Bay counties horizontally, east to west.
The Northwest Florida State College Foundation governing board met in a new building at the college in Niceville last week.

By Mike Griffin

During their regular meeting in Niceville March 6, the board discussed the Northwest Florida State College Foundation’s presentation of the state of the foundation’s finances, and how they are likely to be affected by trends in the national economy.

The board also reviewed an agreement and funding decisions that would be made by a new board of trustees, formed high school students.

The NWFS Foundation is the fundraising arm of the state college, soliciting and collecting money from private donors and other sources.

According to the foundation’s “statement of financial position,” the foundation’s revenue was $3,644,204 since the period from Oct. 1, 2011, to Jan. 31, 2012, up 6.9 percent from the same period in 2011.

The board reviewed an agreement to name a conference room in honor of a donor (the Carr, Riggs & Ingram accounting firm), and heard NWFSC board of trustees extension for filing the tax return, to allow time for completing the survey of its members, assuring that no personal business relationship existed which could potentially cause a conflict of interest for them when voting on foundation business.

Campbell said the foundation agreed to name a “tax-exempt organization to be required to file a tax return, the federal government requires such documentation to confirm that the NWFS Foundation is functioning as a non-profit organization, and is indeed exempt from income tax. He said that the tax return covering the fiscal year ended Sept. 31 will then be filed, as the foundation recently completed a survey of its members, assuring that no personal business relationship existed which could potentially cause a conflict of interest for them when voting on foundation business.

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### The Bay Beacon

**Wednesday, March 14, 2012**

**Law Office of SAMUEL M. PEEK**

### Estate Planning & Probate

Will & Living Trusts
Powers of Attorney
Health Care Directives
Business Corporations & LLC

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### SOLDIER

From page A-1

Steve B. Gu was one month into a year-long deployment to Afghanistan when he was killed. Jordia Born was the son of Gregg Born of Niceville and Elizabeth Croft of Fort Walton Beach.

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### $6M

From page A-1

Each company also provided bids on an alternative project to upgrade existing power genera-
tors at the plant. The approximate cost of which will ultimately be borne by new customers or required to meet state anti-pollution stan-
dards and to reduce the magni-
tude of a costly emissions-dis-
posal spillafie from Eight Air Force Base.

North Florida Construction, Clarksville, was the lowest and winning bidder with a total of $6,081,750. The board approved the bid, including the alter-
ative that will be upgrading the generators. The North Florida Construction bid was also lower than its price quote on the generator upgrade; according to board's engineer, Glenn Stephens, ot Polingengineering.

The generator upgrade is designed around a new tech-
nology known as Integrated Fixed-Film Activated Sludge (IFAS). This technology can remove more nitrogen-based nutrients from the wastewater. Bidders were asked to offer separate bids on IFAS technol-
ogy provided by two compa-
nies, Kverkva and Siemens, and Siemens was selected based on the lower bid prices.

-- William Smith Inc.,

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### IPADS

From page A-1 to to top-bags, iPad and other technology, ”Chambers said. The school has cont-
tinued to strengthen its own tech-
ology, and has acquired additional iPads for the program.

More than 60% of the teachers have received iPads, and Chambers said the school is working on increasing that number to 100%.

-- William Smith Inc.,

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**On this page**

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**Arrests**

**Renee Collette Spars, unem-**

ployed, 31, of 214 St. 

Niccville, was arrested by 

Niccville police March 2 on a 

charge of stealing in private 

property. On Oct. 3, 2011, and 

March 1 on charges of disor-

der and theft. On Sept. 26, Barnett 

allegedly tried to cash a 

fraudulent check at the Niccville Walmart 

employee's purse.

Barnett was also arrested by 

Valparaiso police March 1 on a 

charge of attempted to 

steal a Toyota Rav 4 out of 

a parking lot.

A 13-year-old Valparaiso 

business owner reported that someone 

had stolen prescription medica-

tions from Holt. The victim said he 

was in the process of taking his 

medication when it was 

stolen.

A 46-year-old man from 

Valparaiso was arrested on March 2 after 

being pulled over for a traffic 

violation. The officer found 

an open container of alcohol 

in the car and arrested the 

driver.

A Valparaiso business 

owner reported that unknown 

person(s) stole the 200 block of Fir Avenue 

property.

A Valparaiso business 

owner reported that unknown 

person(s) stole cop-

iers.

A Valparaiso business 

owner reported that 

unknown person(s) stole 

an iPod and a GPS unit from 

his unlocked vehicle, and 

damaged the car.

A Valparaiso 

business owner reported that 

unknown person(s) 

entered a storage building on 

his property. 315 Kelly Road, 

and stole a $5000 GPS unit, 

a $7000 truck and a 

6600 taxi. An employee stated 

that he followed a pool 

duty truck from his 

corporate office into 

the city to the water tower at 

the corner of Margarita 

Street and 

Wolfe Avenue. The duty 

was found on the victim's 

prop-

erty.

A 46-year-old man from 

Holt reported March 6 that two 

men stole a package from his 

front porch.

A man claimed he was 

forced to the ground by a 

man in a gray housecoat with an 

8-inch hunting knife on his belt, while the 

other man handed over the truck 

through the passenger side.

The victim said that 

four men forced him to the ground 

his took his keys. The 

attacker and his companion 

crossed eastbound on State Road 

20, according to a 

report from Holt. The 

victim said he had come to 

21 used car lot, (101) E. John Sims Parkway, 

Niccville, to return a truck and 

had taken the 2004 GMC 

driver pickup for 

security reasons.

A Nicolet man from 

the 200 block of Niccville Avenue 

reported March 6 that unknown 

person(s) stole his $428 back-

pack.

The victim said that he 

used the booster and left a 

outside the front yard fence 

near the street, and 

went back into his 

house. When he remembered 

had left the booster outside 

returned to find it 

missing.

Two men stole March 2 that 

unknown person(s) stole cop-

per wire.

A Nicolet resident 

reported to the 2006 block of 

Steel River Way, Nicolet.

A Nicolet resident from 

the 200 block of 

Niccville Avenue 

reported March 4 that someone 

had stolen prescription medica-

tions from his 

house.

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house.
THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER  
Mike Griffith

How well do you think the presidential candidates of either party are addressing issues of particular interest to women?

"I think they're focusing on the economy and national security, and staying away from social issues."  
Monica Atkinson, 35, Niceville, stay-home mom

"There really hasn't been a whole lot of focus on women's issues that I've noticed."  
Doreen Hart, 42, Niceville, mom

"They're not deliberately avoiding women's issues, but they're focusing on the 'hot' topics, like the economy and foreign policy."  
Amy Oliver, Niceville, Hurlburt Field public affairs

"I think Rick Santorum best addresses family values and speaks to what I'm looking for."  
Travis HK, 44, Bluewater Bay, military

"They only women's issues have been discussed so far is birth control."  
Dana Topel, 41, Niceville, Realtor

"The only women's issues I've heard discussed so far is birth control."  
Cory Borcharding, 40, Milton, social worker

DISTRICTS

From page A-2

into Senate districts 1 and 3. The proposed new districts were similar to the current Senate districts 1 (Gaetz) and 2 (Evers), enacted in 2002. Both the old and proposed districts are notably long, and narrow in spots, extending from the Alabama line west of Pensacola to Mexico Beach beyond Panama City (proposed District 1), or even to the Apalachicola River, edge of the Eastern time zone (proposed District 3). Advocates of maintaining the extended north-south division said it would prevent the interests of the largely rural northern parts of those counties—now represented by Evers—from being overshadowed by those of the more heavily populated coastal communities to the south, currently represented by Gaetz. But the high court ruled that the redistricting may for Senate districts 1 and 3 sacrificed compactness—a constitutional imper-ative—in order to keep coastal communities together. The court also said the north-south split “followed numerous different boundaries within the space of a few miles, it sacrificed compactness, not in a reasoned balancing effort to comply with the requirements of equal population or to utilize political or geographical boundaries such as municipal or county boundaries, but rather to create a coastal district and an inland district.”

“We also consider it significant that in doing so, a high percentage of population from predecessor districts was retained in the benefit of the incumbents,” the court justices ruled.

The court mentioned favorably the Republican-dominant Legislature’s 2012 redistricting plan. The House and Senate, which included any part of the Twin Cities.

A redrawn map could place both Evers and Gaetz, both Okaloosa County residents, in the same district. Gaetz said he too intends to run for reelection no matter how the map is finalized. The Legislature has 15 days to pass a new plan, Gaetz said.

The last Senate president from Niceville, Brackin in 1949, he said. The last Senate president from Niceville. The proposed district in which he lives, continuing to be largely rural, would not have included any part of the Twin Cities. niceville residents, in the same district.

Gaetz said he too intends to run for reelection no matter how the districts are redrawn or who any opponent might be. “I love the campaign,” he said.

Gaetz said he expected district 1 and 3 to be redrawn following county and city political boundaries. The court favors political boundaries such as county lines, he said, a position that was also taken by the coalition (the Democratic Party, The League of Women Voters and Common Cause) that challenged the Republican-dominated Legislators’ 2012 redistricting plan.

The Legislature’s 2012 redistricting plan.

The Legislature has 15 days to pass a new plan, Gaetz said.

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DISPUTE

From page A-7

higher rate. The escrow require-
ment was established in 2001 in
case Gulf Power won its case.
The new agreement also
allows Valparaiso, and Gulf
Power to complete a franchise
agreement that expired last year.
A franchise agreement com-

nancing Gulf Power’s enclave right
to provide electric service within
the city was being held up by the
lack of agreement over the
attachment fee issue.

At one point city officials
said they might establish a
municipal utility to replace Gulf
Power’s distribution network in
Valparaiso. City Administrator
Call Scott said Tuesday that the
idea is now dead.

The agreement on the pole
attachment issue Monday came
two weeks after Commission
Diane Kelley
said she was ready to
vote until April.

Joe Morgan, who will take
office as a city commissioner
next week, also asked the com-
mission to postpone a vote to
give more time to review the 36-
pages document.

Commissioner Tom Miller,
who was involved in the
issue, said he wanted to
be on the agenda before he
left office. Monday was his last
meeting as commissioner after
serving since first being elected
in 1996. He lost a bid for re-
election earlier this year.

In other business, Mayor
Bruce Arnold lauded the accom-
plishments of Miller over his
16-year career on the city com-
mision, and those of Commissioner
Neil Shermer over the two years as an appoint-
ment member. The mayor presents
plaques to both men, with four dollar coins on Miller’s
plaque for his service during his
eight-year term and two dol-
ars on Shermer’s. A reception honoring Miller
will be held March 19 from 2 to
4 p.m., at city hall.

Two new commissioners,
Morgan and Ray Hamilton, will
be sworn in to office at noon,
March 20.
Faithful Fingers to send quilts to Guatemala

The volunteers of First Baptist Church of Niceville's fledgling ministry, Faithful Fingers, are stitching quilts, lots of them. Forty children's quilts will be going with the church's mission team to a nutrition center in Guatemala. The quilts, were displayed in the church and blessed on March 11, then turned over to the mission team leader, Nancy Grigsby. The nutrition center, sponsored by the Florida Baptist Children's Home, takes in starving children and nurses and nourishes them back to health.

"It's really very neat," Grigsby said. "We send the children back home with clothing and food. Now they will be sent to Guatemala." According to the ministry director, "They make them happy." Faithful Fingers has other ongoing projects including, trademark making angel lap string bags (600 of them) to be sent to Children in Crisis. Twelve children's quilts will be given to the Niceville Police Department in the spring. Faithful Fingers meets the first and third Friday of each month from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., in the church's gymnasium/sewing room, where tables are set up to accommodate the sewing machines and cutting areas needed by the group.

In the Service

Todd A. Hohn, son of Roger and Linda Hohn of Niceville, has been selected for promotion to the rank of colonel in the U.S. Air Force. Hohn is the commander of the 16th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Charleston, S.C. He has served in the military for 17 years. His wife, Kathryn Byrd-Hohn, is the daughter of Robert and Anne Byrd of Merritt Island. Hohn graduated in 1989 from Niceville High School, and received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of South Alabama, Mobile. He also earned a master’s degree in 2002 from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach.

Twin Cities Hospital ranks in top 10 percent for patient experience

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3

Ronette Kornbeib and Sabrina Valenti, both juniors at Niceville High School, concentrate during the ciphering contest of the Math Bowl that was held on Friday, at Northwest Florida State College.

Students go head-to-head in annual Math Bowl

By Tess Hilliard
Staff Writer

Rocky Bayou Christian School, Collegiate High School and Rockledge High School each took home first place in their division at Friday's 25th annual Math Bowl, held on the Northwest Florida State College campus.

Students from 22 Northwest Florida high schools competed in this college to show their math skills and compete in the event. The competition, sponsored by area groups that support STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), started at 9:30 a.m. with a written exam, and concluded with a ciphering contest.

During the ciphering contest, two students from each school worked together to solve math equations within a two-minute time frame. The ciphering contest consisted of various algebra, trigonometry, analytic geometry, plane geometry and calculus problems.

Malcolm Foley, a junior at Choctawhatchee High School, said he was not nervous about any of the events at the Math Bowl. "I have a good memory, and it just comes naturally to me," he said. "It's just fun and very interesting to see people like you who are good at math do the same thing in high schools."

The competition began with an AP calculus teacher and sponsor of the Choctawhatchee High School math team, brought 10 of his students to the tournament. "Science and engineering are going to be the future for America," Foley said. "Events like this build up interest in science and math, and it's a good way to get students interested in what's going to be the wave of the future."

See results, page B-6

HealthGrades, a source for researching and selecting doctors and hospitals, recently named Twin Cities Hospital, Niceville, a recipient of the 2011 Outstanding Patient Experience Award.

This distinction ranks Twin Cities Hospital among the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide, based on an analysis of patient satisfaction data for 3,797 U.S. hospitals.

According to HealthGrades, 80 percent of patients treated at the nation’s best-performing hospitals would definitely recommend the hospital, compared to only 50 percent of patients who received care from the poorest-performing hospitals.

HealthGrades analyzed Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) hospital survey data obtained from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), from April 2009 to March 2011. HealthGrades identified those hospitals performing in the top 10 percent in the nation for patient satisfaction, based on survey responses from patients treated at those facilities. These 339 hospitals were designated as 2011 Outstanding Patient Experience Award recipients.

Hospitals had to meet bud scale, survey response rate, and clinical quality thresholds in order to be eligible for the award. The hospital treated 45,188 patients in 2011.

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**Sprints Theater of the Mattie Kelly Foundation**

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**CLOSED!!!**

**Wine to Water**

**Tennis Camps**
McKenna Reed, a student at Niceville High School, was a recipient of the 2012 National Center for Women and Information Technology Award for Aspirations in Computing, North Central Florida Affiliate.

McKenna Reed, a student at Niceville High School, has been selected as a recipient for the 2012 National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing, North Central Florida Affiliate. NCWIT is a coalition that works to increase diversity in information technology and computing.

McKenna will be recognized on April 9, at the University of South Florida Polytechnic. Eighty girls applied for the North Central Florida Affiliate, and McKenna was one of the few selected. All of her teachers at Niceville High School, as well as her friends and family, are proud of this accomplishment. McKenna was selected for this prestigious award thanks to her diligence and passion in the field of information technology.

Her interests and work range from networking and PC support, to web design and e-commerce. McKenna puts great focus on her academics, studying, networking and PC support to prepare her for her future education in computer science. She hopes to attend the University of Florida to obtain a bachelor of science, majoring in computer science and minoring in physics. Her dream in life is to become a quantum physicist and one day have the honor of becoming a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

McKenna is on the Advanced Placement track at Niceville High School, currently maintaining a 4.3 grade point average. In addition to her school work, McKenna also runs an e-commerce store, sells her certificates, works on improving and expanding her portfolio, and is involved in extracurricular activities. She is the president and founder of a new club at Niceville High School, and is currently a ranking officer in two other clubs. She also volunteers and tutors fellow classmates in her spare time.

Bluewater students meet NASA astronaut

Students at Bluewater Elementary School recently had the opportunity to meet a real astronaut.

Col. James Dutton spoke to students about his STS 131 Space Flight, that took place April 5 through 20, 2010. The flight was a resupply mission to the International Space Station, and was launched from the Kennedy Space Center.

Dutton, a 1993 Air Force Academy graduate, has more than 3,300 flight hours in more than 30 different aircraft.

The astronaut's visit was organized by Bluewater teacher Alison Dunne, the Young Astronaut sponsor for Bluewater Elementary.

"It was such an amazing opportunity for our third through fifth grade students, and an honor to have him present about his STS 131 Space Flight," she said.

The Young Astronaut Program has been a part of Bluewater Elementary for more than 10 years, and there are Young Astronaut Clubs in several Okaloosa County elementary schools.

"Young Astronauts Club is an extracurricular activity that engages fifth grade students in the areas of engineering, aeronautics, dynamics and space exploration," Dunne said.

Each year, students are involved in multiple hands-on activities, and each year students who participate in the Young Astronauts club have the option of attending Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala.

Rocky Bayou senior receives Youth of the Month award

Wayne Hopper, Niceville Exchange Club president, presented Grace Stoner with the Youth of the Month certificate, Grace is a senior at Rocky Bayou Christian School. Students are scored based on his or her grades, school and volunteer activities, and awards.

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The City of Valparaiso cordially invites you to attend a reception to celebrate Commissioner Tom Miller’s 16 years of dedicated service to the City of Valparaiso

Monday, March 19, 2012
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Valparaiso Community Room
459 Valparaiso Parkway

16 years of dedicated service to the City of Valparaiso

The Bay Beacon

THE BAY BEACON

Bluewater students meet NASA astronaut

Students and teachers at Bluewater Elementary School recently met NASA astronaut Col. James Dutton. From left: Young Astronaut sponsor Alison Dunne, Col. James Dutton and Young Astronaut sponsor Katherine Stephens.
Ruckel announces 2012 science fair winners

Ruckel Middle School has announced its winners of the 35th Annual Robert Sheffield East Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair that was held on Feb. 9.

First place:
— Claire Ponder, seventh grade, “EMF? OMG! Using common household objects to reduce the electromagnetic fields from your notebook computer power supply.”

Second Place:
— Bryan Burdige and Lauren Matthews, seventh grade, “Which worm?”
— Tyler Russell, eighth grade, “Auditory vs. visual.”
— PJ Shaw, eighth grade, “Water breakdown with cobalt catalyst.”
— Nick Pezzotello, eighth grade, “Particle size analysis.”
— Daniel Bobbitt, sixth grade, “Tsunami stoppers.”
— Stephen Herrera, eighth grade, “How surface area affects solar water heater efficiency.”

Third Place:
— John Wang, eighth grade, “The race to 50,000: which computer programming language is the fastest?”
— Mayakya Demeny, sixth grade, “Which insulation works better to keep water hot?”
— Alex Toltieri, seventh grade, “Cows is for cows... not cars!”
— Sarah Erikson, eighth grade, “Insulation sensation.”
— Carl Smeltz, eighth grade, “Want whiter teeth?”
— Connor Auclair, seventh grade, “Grass and salt.”
— Carl Smeltz, eighth grade, “Want whiter teeth?”
— Christian Brobeck, sixth grade, “Grass and salt.”
— William West, eighth grade, “Which exercise increases my ‘vertical leap the most?”

Honorables Mentions:
— Taylor Toth, eighth grade, “Do you need to change your dish soap?”
— Christian Brobeck, sixth grade, “Grass and salt.”

Niceville Key Club hosts Spring Zone rally

The Kiwanis-sponsored Niceville High School Key Club held their Spring Zone Rally at Northwest Florida State College in March. There were 130 attendees, including the State Key Club Governor and nine Lieutenant Governors. The club boosted 12,000 service hours during this past year. From left: Key Club Lt. Gov. Thuyvi Luong, Key Club Gov. Doug Ream, Niceville Key Club Pres. Jennifer Williams, and Niceville Kiwanis member Judy Boudreaux. Hosts were the Niceville-Valparaiso Kiwanis Club, and the Niceville High School Key Club.

The K-5 Gifted students at Lewis School recently created robots using parts of cell phone motors.

Lewis students create robots

The K-5 Gifted students at Lewis School recently created tiny directional robots using an eccentric weighted pager motor from a cell phone to move the robot. The students used common objects like the head of a toothbrush, a reclaimed pager motor and a watch battery to create the tiny directional robots. As a result of the overwhelming student interest in robotics, Lewis School will include the Lego Robotics program in its Gifted K-5 program, which will extend and enhance student’s opportunities. Bobbi Luna teaches the gifted students at Lewis School.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

First Baptist Church of Niceville
9 a.m. Traditional Spirit-filled Worship with Holy Communion
11:01 a.m. Walk In…Worship (Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion)
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Monday Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
9 a.m. Traditional Service
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service
5:30 p.m. Bible Study
622 Bayshore Drive 678-4621
www.fbcniceville.org

Immanuel Anglican Church
Wednesday Nights 6:30-8p.m. at The Shed
Worship with Holy Communion
11:01 a.m. Walk In…Worship (Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion)
Sunday Bible School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
New Life Christian Ministries
130 N. Parvis Dr., Niceville
Church Office: 850-837-6324
www.iacdestin.org

Immanuel Anglican Youth
Wednesday Nights 6:30-8p.m. @ The Shed
Hang out; engage; worship; grow
www.idesmin.org

Come Worship with Us!
Bluewater Community CHURCH
Sunday Bible School 9:00 a.m. Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
4350 Range Rd., Niceville
977-2644

The employees of Beach Community Bank, Niceville, presented Ken Hair, Children in Crisis president and CEO, Niceville, with a check which was held on Feb. 9. Science and Engineering Fair East Panhandle Regional announced its winners of the First place:
— Claire Ponder, seventh grade, “EMF? OMG! Using common household objects to reduce the electromagnetic fields from your notebook computer power supply.”

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— Tyler Russell, eighth grade, “Auditory vs. visual.”
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Little League, softball seasons begin play

730 players in 2012 Little League

By Mike Griffith

Clear blue sky and a mild temperature welcomed Little League players to the opening of the 2012 Little League season at the Niceville soccer and little league complex Saturday morning. The opening ceremony for this season included speeches by league officials, the presentation of prizes by donors and awards to some of last year’s teams, as well as parents, coaches, and family members watched and waited for the chance to play ball.

League president Stephen Cunningham told the Beacon that more than 730 boys and girls have joined 64 teams so far. Players ranged from 4 to 12 years old, with skills ranging from beginners to proficient middle school athletes.

Cunningham said he got into Little League about two and a half years ago, for the sake of his 8-year-old son. Stephen Cunningham II, Stephen’s coach, his son’s “Midsets,” team, in addition to managing the league as a whole.

“I love it,” Cunningham said of his involvement in the sport. “This best part,” he said, “is in the kids. When they start, they know they have a team to hang around with. They don’t have to tell them anything.”

Valparaiso resident Steve Hays donated $1,000 to the Niceville Little League from his business. “My youngest son played,” Steve said. “It’s a natural leader among his peers, and a very friendly, outgoing student who never seemed to meet anyone he did’t want to be friends with.”

Billy Russell, Niceville United Methodist Church minister of youth, talked about Taylor’s Christian faith, which Russell said was the center of Taylor’s life.

Everything else flowed from that relationship with Lewis Christ. Russell said Haugen’s life, said Russell, exemplified a passage in the book of Philippians. “Christ is exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.”

Taylor Nixon, a classmate and lifelong friend of Haugen’s, said Haugen was someone who liked to make people laugh, and was always there for anyone who needed him. His friendship with Haugen, Nixon said, has helped him focus his own life on the things that matter most, and he challenged others to do likewise. “It is our relationship with Christ that defines who we are,” he said, “not material things.”

Lewis principal Mike Fantaski said Haugen’s life set an example for other students to follow, while he was at Lewis and for future students as well.

“If we can instill Taylor’s faith into our students, then we’ve done a good job,” Fantaski said.

In the league, as his grandson, Wyatt Martke, does now. “I think Little League is fantastic,” Hays said. “My youngest son played, and now my grand- son plays.”

Wyatt, 4, described what he liked best about Little League in one word: “Running.”

Above, the plaque describing why the Lewis School gym was named in honor of Lewis Christ. Kathy Hays and Taylor Haugen’s parents, listen to the tributes to their son.

By Susan Rasins

Special to the Beacon

Niceville native Major Bain recently won the All-Around Gold Medal in men’s gymnastics during the prestigious 2012 12 Level 5 National Championships Cup hosted by the Atlanta Center in Atlanta.

“Major Bain is a U.S. Gymnastics-sanctioned meet that features more than 150 competitors from Florida, Georgia and Tennessee during the two-day competition that was held March 3 and 4.

Bain, a home-schooled third grader, and longtime participant in the Eglin Air Force Base Youth Sports Program, was awarded first place on the vault, second place on the pommel horse and parallel bars, third place on the high bar, and fourth place on the floor event.

His total score of 86.600 earned him the All-Around Gold Medal in the Level five men’s competition with the highest overall score in the meet.

Major Bain celebrates the 2012 National Championship winning the All-Around Gold Medal in men’s gymnastics in Atlanta.

The knights had a chance to win it at the bottom of the seventh but were unable to capitalize.

The NFC Eagles put four on the board in the eighth as the Knights committed two errors and gave up a bases-loaded double, making the score 5-3. Sam Holcomb had 10 strikeouts and gave up a bases-loaded double to make the score 5-3.

The Niceville Amateur Youth Baseball Traveling Eagles will hold their 11th annual golf tournament at Bluewater Bay Golf Course Friday, April 6.

Registration begins at noon, with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The entry fee is $35 per team or $170 for individuals without a team. The fee includes cart, greens fees, food, and prizes.

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