Students vie to design facelift for city Web site

By Del Lessard Beacon Staff Writer

When Valparaiso officials decided they needed to freshen up the city's Web site and make it more appealing and user-friendly, they knew they had to look to the expertise they needed—students. NHS students taking Web design courses at the school's Choice Institute have been creating the Valparaiso STEM Middle School's website for the past five years.

Destin Middle School, knew that students vying to redesign the city Web site today and make it more appealing and user-friendly, they knew they had to look to the expertise they needed—students. NHS students taking Web design courses at the school's Choice Institute have been creating the Valparaiso STEM Middle School's website for the past five years. The students have been designing the site with the city's goals and answer questions.

Today's class of seniors said they had plenty of questions for Kelley. "We were advertising on the side of the page allowed? How many ‘hits’ did the city's site get?"

By Del Lessard Beacon Staff Writer

Fire district faulted on bookkeeping controls

By Tammy McGaughy The auditor of Niceville's city government, said the audit team was so favorably impressed by their audit of Niceville's city government, that one audit team member from another location expressed interest in moving to Niceville because of the city's well-managed government and its overall quality of life.

"The city has done very well this year," she said, largely thanks to a stable city staff of experienced people, who "take a lot of pride in what you do here."

For a city and county government, having an audit team that is so impressed with their work is a rare and desirable situation.

"Turkeys.

The auditor (Tammy McGaughy) said he was not authorized to sign checks in recent years.

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The district had not sought, as wireless computer networks and lab gear. The district's report is due later in the year and McGaughy's one recommendation for improving the audit would be for the city to expand training opportunities for new city employees, in order to maintain continuity of expertise in the future, as veteran city employeers retire and are succeeded by new staff members.

In other business during the April 10 meeting, the city council heard from Donna O'Sullivan Creel Division accounting firm, of O'Sullivan Creel Division accounting firm, of its financial management. O'Sullivan Creel Division accounting firm, of O'Sullivan Creel Division accounting firm, lauded for its highest possible rating for its financial management.

"The city is in excellent financial shape. In fact, said McGaughy, the city's one audit report on the city's finances last month was the highest possible, rating for its financial management. O'Sullivan Creel Division accounting firm, of its financial management. O'Sullivan Creel Division accounting firm, lauded for its highest possible rating for its financial management.

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**Saturday, April 21, 2012**

At the Choctaw Beach Park - On State Road 20  
In the Choctaw Beach Community

From 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM

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**Walton County District 4 Commissioner Sara Comander and Walton County Public Works**

**Dumpsters provided for Walton County residents to dump trash, yard debris, tires, appliances, and other miscellaneous items. A crew and equipment to off-load heavy items will be available. Recycling trailers will also be available for newspapers, glass, and aluminum.**

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The Bay Beacon

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

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North Bay fire commissioners listen as auditors reported on the fire district’s 2011 annual audit April 10. From left, Jim Boswell, Jim Miller and Steven Strait. Commissioner Lee Wetzell was also present.

Branch had each of her second semester Web Design II students—14 students—create a resume, asked interested students to apply for the job of project manager, held three-minute rounds of “speed interviews” and posted a gallery of each student’s Web site project. Student project managers rank the students on their class, then chose design team members by lottery, not unlike the annual NFL draft of college talents. Each design team chose the students in their class and each team is competing with the other for the design prize.

Most of the students in Branch’s second semester Web Design II class are freshmen and 15- and 14-year-old freshmen and sophomores in the middle school level, like Jake Hardin, a 14-year-old project manager on the “Artist’ (Greek for the foot) team informed a reporter: During a visit by a Beacon reporter Friday,Hughes said one of the flaws in the current Web site is that it is too difficult for the site, with lots of the links difficult to find. His team was working today trying to avoid pages without content.

Several of the design teams have photos of Valparaiso on their Design II sites, so that the photos can be searched through by visitors. Ashali Chimata, 15, and Bailey Fontaine, 14, and Wesley Mosier, 17—one of the four members of the “Valparaiso Visitors” team learned that the Designlatter software they used—also have Photoshopped photos into a mosaic of Toms Bay on their site. Allen Bradley, 16, project manager of “The Blue Crew” (the name just not sounding good) said the worst thing about the city’s current Web site is that it is so difficult to find. His team was working today trying to avoid pages without content.

It’s not something that would attract someone to Valparaiso,” he said.

Since students already have learned tools of Web design in earlier classes, Branch sees her role as a facilitator more than teacher. Some students have already taken their own digital photos around Valparaiso, and at least one design team member visited Valparaiso’s city commission April 9 to better assess her clients’ needs might be.

As far as motivation, students must work hard in order to receive a laptop computer, a prize that students themselves said they wanted. Branchane said. Second place teams win a $100 gift card to Best Buy, while first place teams win a $100 gift card, she said. Donations from local businesses who sponsored the Web site project will pay for the gift cards, she said. Donations from local businesses who sponsored the Web site project will pay for the gift cards, she said. Donations from local businesses who sponsored the Web site project will pay for the gift cards, she said. But the big prize is to have their designs judged by the judges.

Don’t expect to see designers on the scene. “Some are more professional.” Director of Valparaiso city operations Bill Branscome said.

On May 4, a panel of outside judges will visit Valparaiso’s city commission to Valparaiso city residents to be judged by the judges.

Because of property damage from natural causes to Valparaiso city residents to be judged by the judges.

North Bay firefighters received mutual aid once more, including five times from East Niceville, twice from Walton County and one each from Eglin and Niceville.

North Bay firefighters also gave mutual aid four times, three times to Niceville and once to Eglin.
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Police Blotter

The following accounts of the activities of police are according to the Niceville Police and contain reports of crimes in the city of Niceville, Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office, other law enforcement agencies, and the City of Niceville and Walton County jail.

** Arrests **

John Lee Elliott, 60, of 821 Bayshore Drive, 408, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police on April 5 on a misdemeanor charge of possession of a new legend drug without a prescription.

John James Gammons, a campus monitor, was arrested on April 4, of 447 Bobby Drive, Crestview, was arrested by Niceville police on April 4 on charges of burglary with battery, two counts of theft and one charge of reckless driving by females in a parking lot at Northwest Florida State Community College. He knocked on the door of the victim, and when he realized that no one was inside, called the police.

After the activity was reported, a Niceville police patrol officer stationed in a parking lot saw Gammons commit the alleged offense.

Freddie Lyon Chance, 47, of 3017 Southwood Drive, Crestview, was arrested by Niceville police on April 8 on a charge of grand theft. Chance is alleged to have written two checks on a closed account, then give them to the victim. The checks were written for $3,500.

Nancy Gorden Mitchell, 42, of 1713 Maple Ave, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police on March 23 on a charge of driving while license suspended or revoked, habitual offender.

Aaron Domine, 17, unem. ployed, 25, of 262 Cypress Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by sheriff’s deputies March 30 on charges of stealing in assisted living property and giving false ownership statements of restaurant metals, $310 or more. In September, Odle allegedly stole an estimated 300 vehicle batteries from a Fort Walton Brashers, 126 Racetrack Road, and sold them to Ron Hargrove, who was using the batteries as his own, receiving $3,641.

Tony Lavon Gammons, 40, of 720 Howell Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff’s deputies April 7 on a violation of probation charge and a charge of driving while licence suspended or revoked.

Troy Brian Rodriguez, 25, of 106 Beauty Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff’s deputies March 30 on a charge of failure to appear on the original charge of theft of a firearm.

Christian Michael Briscoe, 29, of 1126 S. Gage St., Niceville, was arrested by deputy sheriffs on April 8 on a charge of petit theft. Briscoe allegedly walked into a Mary Esther grocery store, 251 Mary Esther Blvd., filled a plastic bag with $96 worth of meat, and tried to leave without paying. Briscoe was arrested again by sheriff’s deputies April 7 on another charge of petit theft. Briscoe allegedly confronted two men’s shirts in a plastic bag at the Dillen’s store, 300 Mary Esther Blvd., and attempted to leave without paying the $59.99 cost of each shirt, April 7.

Brittany Nicole Evans, a cook, 20, of 1433 4th St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff’s deputies April 5 on a charge of aggregated assault. Evans was also charged with petit theft involving a $130 lottery ticket that precipitated the incident. DUI arrest

Sunny Jean Vazquez, 36, of 322 2nd St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI subsequent to a crash with $500 damage. A 322 2nd St. address was also cited for failure to use turn signal.

** Thefts **

A Niceville resident from the 2490 block of Rockside Drive reported April 6 that unknown persons stole her wallet and two $100 bills from her purse. The victim was unaware that the theft had occurred until an officer returned the stolen wallet, which had been found discarded on the street.

A Niceville resident reported that on April 7 unknown persons stole a half carton of cigarettes and the dark-colored wallet parked in a car parked on the 400 block of Bayshore Drive, Niceville.

A Niceville couple reported that unknown person(s) burglarized their home on April 7 while it was parked in a church parking lot in the 600 block of W. John Sims Parkway. Driveway April 8. Stolen were $400 and some prescription medications and a cell phone.

A Niceville resident reported April 7 that she was a victim of fraud. The victim said she received a letter in the mail stating she had opened a phone account with two phone lines valued at $50 each.

A Niceville resident from the 400 block of Black Rockie Drive reported April 7 that unknown person(s) stole a phone out of her vehicle. The phone had no minutes on it.

A Beautiful resident reported April 7 that unknown persons burglarized her unlocked vehicle while it was parked at 628 W. John Sims Parkway. April 7. Two bags were stolen. The bags contained college textbooks valued at $1,850.

** Fire Department Reports **

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from April 9, 2012 through April 15, 2012.

The following accounts of the activities of police are according to the Niceville Police and contain reports of crimes in the city of Niceville, Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office, other law enforcement agencies, and the City of Niceville and Walton County jail.

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Okaloosa seeks fugitives

This information is from reports by the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office. A reward is offered by Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers, 863-8477, or 1-888-654-4477. Information can also be provided anonymously by texting “TOP214 plus the message” to CRIMES (274637).

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** Oklahoma seeks fugitives **

This information is from reports by the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office. A reward is offered by Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers, 863-8477, or 1-888-654-4477. Information can also be provided anonymously by texting “TOP214 plus the message” to CRIMES (274637).

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A guest at a Niceville motel, 106 Bayshore Drive, reported finding his wife's purse, which contained about $913 in cash and a pendant were also missing. The committee, composed of key members of both houses, ironed out differences between the two bodies, and settled the spending plan back for a final vote by the legislature.

The committee recommended that rather than picking and choosing projects in a legislative session's 11th hour, the Legislature instead develop a grant program for funding projects like the Valparaiso High Magnet School.

The TaxWatch report went on: "This process allows taxpayer money to be budgeted for special purposes by those few legislators who so happen to write the budget, in a generally closed and 'backroom' as defined under Florida TaxWatch criteria, especially if directed toward a specific organization or locale."

A guest at a Niceville motel, 106 Bayshore Drive, reported that unknown persons knocked out the passenger-side window of his truck sometime April 5-6 while she was visiting her daughter in the 100 block of Evans Court, Niceville.

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From page A-1

Dingman, who manages the city’s housing rehabilitation program, said Dingman said the city has received bids from contractors, to replace or renovate 13 tracts for individual rehabilitated homes on their own. The rehabilitation program is funded with state and federal grants. Three companies were recommended to receive contracts for individual rehabilitation projects: Allen Milton Construction, James Rock Construction Services and James Taylor General Contractors. The city’s Community Block Grant (DBG) budget for this year includes $582,000 for rehabilitation, demolition and replacement of homes, as well as $3.2 million in water and sewer revenue bonds to help pay for improvements to the city’s water and sewer system. The city council approved the second of three readings of an ordinance setting rules for grease interceptors and separators for restaurants and other businesses that might discharge such materials into the city’s sewer system. The city also approved a resolution supporting a proposal to declare John Sims Parkway between Highway 85 and the Walton County line as a “Purple Heart Memorial Highway” in honor of killed or wounded veterans. The proposal would not change the name of the highway or require anyone to change their address.

Nicoville Library Director Sheila Bishop informed the council that renovations to the Nicoville Children’s Park have been completed in time for the summer season.

City Manager Lannie Corbin said the city is purchasing a large floating
Local students place at State Science Fair

Three Niceville High School students placed at the 57th annual State Science Fair in Lakeland. From left, NHS Principal Marcus Chambers; Michael Sementelli, fourth place, senior engineering; Brayton Miles, first place, senior engineering; Kyle Saleeby, fourth place, senior engineering; and science fair review committee and science instructor Gina Emery.

three Niceville High School students placed at the 57th annual State Science Fair in Lakeland. From left, NHS Principal Marcus Chambers; Michael Sementelli, fourth place, senior engineering; Brayton Miles, first place, senior engineering; Kyle Saleeby, fourth place, senior engineering; and science fair review committee and science instructor Gina Emery.

from left, NHS Principal Marcus Chambers; Michael Sementelli, fourth place, senior engineering; Brayton Miles, first place, senior engineering; Kyle Saleeby, fourth place, senior engineering; and science fair review committee and science instructor Gina Emery.

One Niceville student took home first place in the senior engineering category. Brayton Miles, a freshman, won first place in senior engineering, and will represent Florida at the 35th annual Robert Sheffield Science and Engineering Fair in February. Each of the Okaloosa County students who participated placed at the 35th annual Robert Sheffield East Panhandle Regional Science and Engineering Fair that was held in February. Three of the students from Niceville will compete in the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) May 13-18 in Pittsburgh. The ISEF is the world’s largest international pre-college science competition. The competition is for students in grades 9-12, and provides an annual forum for more than 1,500 high school students from 65 countries, regions and territories to display their research. Three Niceville High School students placed in the state competition. Brayton Miles, a freshman, won first place in senior engineering, and will represent Florida at the ISEF. Brayton’s project was “Passive auto tracking solar panel.” Brayton’s design project involved creating solar cells that orient themselves to the sunlight, without the use of motors.

“Ever since middle school, science has been a passion of mine,” he said. Kyle Saleeby, a junior, placed fourth in senior engineering, and was also a speaker at the fair. Kyle’s project was “On thin ice: controlling, slowing the motion of a car on a slippery surface.” Kyle was also a speaker at the ISEF competition. “I found it an excellent job as a speaker at the opening ceremony,” said Niceville High science instructor Gina Emery. He was the only speaker who was interrupted by applause.”

Kyle said he is more excited than nervous about attending the ISEF competition. He added that his science teacher has led him to his love of science and engineering.

Who’s News

Sabrina Valentti, of Niceville, a junior at Niceville High School, earned a top composite score of 36 on a recent ACT test. Nationally, while the actual number of students earning a composite score of 36 varies from year to year, roughly one-tenth of one percent receive a top score. The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science. Each test is scored on a scale of 1-36, and a student’s composite score is the average of the four test scores. ACT test scores are accepted by all major U.S. colleges, and exceptional scores of 36 provide college...

Florida’s 2012 Homecoming Queen will receive a cash scholarship, plus an all-expense paid trip to the National Finals to compete with the queens from each state for America’s Homecoming Queen.

Shannon Burton, a 2005 Niceville High School Senior, Can. Landa, graduate, has been selected as a member of the University of Florida Delta Epsilon Iota Academic Honor Society. Members must have completed a minimum of 30 credits with evidence of student readiness for the academic rigor that lie ahead. Sabrina is currently enrolled in four Advanced Placement courses at NHS.

Grace Stoner, a senior at Rocky Bayou Christian School and daughter of retired Col. Charles and Lori Stoner, of Niceville, has been selected as a finalist for Florida’s 2nd Annual Homecoming Queen Selection that will be held April 22, at the Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort in Orlando. Grace is RBC’s homecoming queen.
The Northwest Florida State College's Division of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts dance program will present "Dance of the Mad Hat and Alice in Wonderland" in Niceville. Thirty-four dancers will perform seven original dance presentations featuring: contemporary, modern, jazz and tap. The evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. on both April 20 and 21, and is open to the public. A $10 ticket is required for adults, $5 for seniors and students, and free for youth and ages 17 and younger. To purchase tickets, call the Melly Kathy Arts Center 850-837-6322.

Visit www.nwfsc.edu/LI. The seminar will present a forum on environmental stewardship, with an opportunity to share their business story and discuss opportunities to educate others on your local sustainability efforts. Participants are asked to bring their resume, along with all other relevant materials. To register or for additional information, call 850-897-5070, or visit flyfishingweekly.com.

The Northwest Florida State College (NFS) will host a "Dealing with Difficult People" symposium on April 18, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The star gaze will start at dusk. The event will be held on the college’s Fort Walton Beach campus. The event is free and open to the public. Info: nwfastro.org.

The Northwest Florida State College Student Services Center will host a "Dealing with Difficult People" symposium on April 18, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The star gaze will start at dusk. The event will be held on the college’s Fort Walton Beach campus. The event is free and open to the public. Info: nwfastro.org.

The Niceville Elementary School Drama Department will hold the 36th Annual Empty Bowl Luncheon on Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the college’s State Park at Santa Rosa Beach. Info: 850-544-3658.

The Club meeting and forum will be held in the Student Services Center, Room 102, on April 26, for County Commission District 5. It will host a candidate forum on April 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mary’s Peace and Justice Club will host a Poverty Awareness Walk at 2 p.m. Info: wendywhitmarsh@gmail.com.

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**NHS student recreates Youth Arts Month**

Madison Blake, “Madi,” a Freshman at Niceville High School, had her large-scale book cover photo boards displayed at the Scout-O-Rama on Saturday at Uptown Station. Madi is a volunteer at Niceville Library, and created two book covers in support of the Okaloosa County Public Library Cooperative (OCPLC). Vicky Stever, coordinator for the OCPLC said Madi chose books that would appeal to Boy Scouts, and expertly recreated the cover art. Madi’s family donated all the supplies for the project. “The library cooperative will use the great book, photo boards at future promotional events, and will also share them with our member libraries for programs and displays,” Stever said.

Madi has a dream to attend art school, and the works will become part of her portfolio. Stever said, who described Madi as having “incredible artistic talent.”

Madi also recently painted an artwork. From left, Liz Clements, Lauren Barsky and Tori Ross.
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Wednesday, April 18th
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Student Services Center, Rooms 132-133
Niceville Campus, 100 College Blvd.
Help Wanted

Johnson-Evens, a division of Niceville安居, is seeking applicants to work in various departments of the company. We are currently accepting resumes for the following positions: Shipping, Receiving, and Order Fulfillment. Positions available in Niceville, FL. Applications can be submitted in person or mailed to Johnson-Evens, Inc., 118 E. John Sims Pkwy, Niceville, FL 32578.

Travis Evans and Lorie MacLeish, Barnett College, Comber, Texas

Baneberry Wright and Mr. Ralph Rantger, of Niceville, announces the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Marie, to Mr. Michael Wright, of Niceville. Both the bride and the groom are graduates of Niceville High School. The wedding is planned for May 2012.

Grant Wright and Lina Baneberry

Good MVR. Apply at: CDL-A w/H&T, Dbls. Great Pay! Feel flexibility and the ability to be comfortable. Some lifting of computer word-processing, ability to quickly and accurately in production and mailroom receiving, secretarial, and proof of current good driving record, a reliable vehicle, a CDL A license, CDL B license, or stop by the office at 1182 E. John Sims Pkwy, Niceville, FL 32578.

Eglin Flyer, The Hurlburt Patriot, and The Bay Beacon, 1181 E. John Sims Pkwy, Niceville, FL 32578.
Weston Murray, 24, Crestview, sales representative

Berry Drake, 68, Niceville, retired

William Mitchell, 41, Crestview, student

Adam Giddlen, 30, Niceville, beach attendant and recent Navy veteran

Travis Blow, 29, Niceville, plumber

Shelia Bembow, 51, Crestview, unemployed

“i guess it’s good to use it for infrastructure, like roads and bridges. paying taxes isn’t really an option.”

“not very well at all. there’s a lot of government waste—unnecessary studies and that kind of thing.”

“pretty well for the most part. they have a lot to take care of.”

“I think they should do a better job. too much is going to an unsolvable conflict overseas. i’d rather spend more to help U.S. citizens who are in need.”

“not very well. there’s too much waste.”

“An American citizen works from their teen years through adulthood, putting money into the government. When it’s time for you to make a withdrawal, it’s not there.”

What should we ask next week? Email your suggested question to: info@baybeacon.com Include “suggested ip question” in the “subject” field.