

Business

LOCAL Briefs

From staff reports

DESTIN Krueger Group hosts investment seminar

Tim Krueger and Cory Fosdyck of The Krueger Group are hosting "Good News for Retired Investors" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at Ruth's Chris Steak House, 15000 Emerald Coast Parkway. Ruth Larson of MetLife Investors will be the featured speaker. RSVP by calling 269-7000 or e-mailing Lindsey_J_Peters@ml.com.

OKALOOSA ISLAND Beach Olympics coming up

The Hospitality Round Table committee of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce announces its first annual "Beach Olympics," scheduled Tuesday, behind The Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island.

A variation of the popular "bar wars" of years past, Beach Olympics will pit teams in competitions ranging from kayak races to bed making. Geared primarily around the hospitality and service industries, the event is open to any interested group wishing to participate in an afternoon of fun and friendly competition.

Registration is \$50 for a four-person team, with proceeds to benefit the Okaloosa County Junior Lifeguard Program. Event information and advance registration opportunities may be found at www.fwbchamber.com/olympics, or by calling 699-6885.

DESTIN First-time home buyers' seminar set

Keller Williams Real Estate Emerald Coast is hosting a First Time Home Buyer Seminar from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday. Keller Williams is at 151 Regions Way, Destin, across from Bass Pro Shops.

For more information, call 654-2900.

SHALIMAR Chamber Breakfast kicks off Bowlegs

The Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce monthly breakfast will be at 7:30 a.m. Friday at Shalimar United Methodist Church.

This event marks the kickoff of the 54th annual Billy Bowlegs festival. For more information, call 244-8191.

MARY ESTHER Market update at Edward Jones

Local Edward Jones broker Matt Ritter is presenting "Midyear Market Update: Your Questions Answered" at 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. June 9 at his office, 124 Miracle Strip Parkway, Suite 301.

During this free video program Alan Skrainka, Edward Jones' chief market strategist, will speak with a panel of investors about common concerns. To reserve your seat, call 301-1984.

NICEVILLE Chamber Breakfast comes next week

The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce will hold

its Second Wednesday Breakfast June 10 at the Niceville Community Center, 204 N. Partin Drive.

The breakfast will begin at 7:15 a.m. with coffee and conversation, followed by breakfast at 7:30 a.m. This month's sponsor is the City of Niceville.

DESTIN Chamber Breakfast helps you prepare

The Destin Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its next Business Breakfast June 12, focusing on Hurricane Preparedness.

Ken Wolfe, emergency management coordinator for Okaloosa County, and Capt. Greg Gaddis, Okaloosa County Sheriff's office, will share information and answer questions on emergency management operations.

The event will take place at the Resorts of Pelican Beach, and the program will begin at 7:30 a.m. Check-in begins at 7:15 a.m. Register by June 9.

Cost is \$15 for members who pre-registered, \$20 for members at the door, and \$25 for nonmembers. Reservations are required, and no shows will be billed. Registrations are due by June 9.

DESTIN VIP Day benefits McDonald House

Big Kahuna's has partnered with the Ronald McDonald House of Northwest Florida to raise money to help build a larger House. You can help by donating \$35 to attend VIP Day on June 14 at Big Kahuna's.

For your donation, you will receive free admission June 14, the opportunity to participate in games with Megan and Miranda of The Megan & Miranda Show, as well as an Aloha Picnic buffet.

Tickets are available by contacting Kim Henderson, area manager for Okaloosa, Walton and Bay counties, at 678-7243 or owb@rmhpensacola.org.

OKALOOSA COUNTY Nominees sought for Women's Hall

The Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women is seeking nominations for the Okaloosa County Women's Hall of Fame.

Nominees should have lived or worked in Okaloosa County and have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for women and Okaloosa County citizens through one or more of the fields of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, education, environment, government, health, humanities, law, philanthropy and/or science.

A nominee might be living or deceased. Nominations are due July 20. Forms are available at www.occs.org, or by contacting Margaret Nichols at 897-1278, minichols@embarqmail.com, or Wendy Clines at 496-0471, 887-3849 or jwclines@cox.net.

Finalists will be recognized at the Women's Annual Hall of Fame reception Aug. 26 at the Niceville Community Center. Pictures of the previous inductees are featured on the walls of the entrance hall of the Okaloosa County Commission, in the Niceville City Council chambers and in the Crestview Courthouse.

Walmart opens first India wholesale outlet

MUMBAI, India (AP) — India just got its first Walmart.

Bharti Walmart Private Ltd., a joint venture between India's Bharti Enterprises and Walmart Stores Inc., opened its first wholesale outlet called "Best Price Modern Wholesale," in Amritsar in the northern state of Punjab on Saturday.

The company plans to invest \$100 million over the next three years to open 10 to 15 more wholesale outlets, which would employ

5,000 people across India.

"We have put in a lot of planning and preparation over the past 12 months and are delighted that all the hard work will now bear fruit as we open the doors of our first cash-and-carry store in India," Chief Executive Raj Jain said in a statement. "We will generate significant job opportunities, and we have been working closely with local suppliers to develop a sustainable and efficient supply chain."

The opening comes at a

politically crucial time for foreign firms eager to tap India's \$430 billion retail market. The entry of big-box players in India has been controversial because small, mom-and-pop "kirana" shops are such an important part of the local economy. Many fear they'd be decimated if big players like Walmart are allowed unfettered access to the Indian market.

For now, Bharti Walmart's Best Price shops can only sell their 6,000 food and nonfood items to other

businesses because Indian law prohibits foreign companies from selling direct to customers in multi-brand retail outlets. Single-brand retailers, such as Reebok, can run shops.

In the past, officials from the ruling Congress party have said they wanted to allow foreign firms to sell directly to consumers, but couldn't push through that liberalization because of opposition from once-powerful communist parties — who were swept from power in recent elections.



Special to the Daily News

Cooking up some Harvest help

Chef Danny Trace, executive chef of Commander's Palace, recently taught a spring series of cooking classes, that generated more than \$1,000 for Destin Harvest, a local food bank. Trace is pictured here with Commander's concierge Erin Nobles-Zimmerman. Commander's Palace and the On The Rocks Bar General Manager Paul Rutter co-hosted the fund and educational cooking class series where guests were able to interact with the talented culinary team, learn to cook creole favorites, while raising much needed funds for hunger relief. Destin Harvest delivers donated food from local restaurants and retailers free of charge to approved agencies, soup kitchens and shelters that provide feeding programs. Destin Harvest is a nonprofit telephone and transportation network operating in the Florida Panhandle that picks up the donated food and takes it to the social service agencies serving the people who need it.

Public relations organization honors standouts

The Pensacola Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association, in conjunction with the Northwest Florida Coast Chapter of the FPRA, conducts the Northwest Florida Image Awards annually to recognize out-

standing public relations programs and to encourage the development of public relations professionalism in the region.

The 2009 Northwest Florida Image Awards ceremony took place April 25

at the University of West Florida Campus. The partnership between the Northwest Florida Coast and the Pensacola Chapters yielded the largest local Image Award submissions in the state with 30 entries.



Silver Sands honored

Silver Sands Factory Stores' marketing and public relations team was recognized at the Florida Public Relations Associations Image Awards ceremony Saturday in Pensacola for their Midnight Madness campaign. The team won an Image Award which is presented to the top-scoring entry in each category and the Grand All Image Award for the best Image award-winning entry in the division. Angela Triplett, public relations manager, was also recognized as the 2009 Communicator of the Year. Pictured from left to right: Ashley Watkins, marketing coordinator; Myra Williams, vice president of marketing; Angela Triplett, public relations manager and Traci Stokes, marketing director.



Photos special to the Daily News

VIE lands Grand Image award

VIE - People + Places magazine, published by Cornerstone Marketing & Advertising Inc., was recently honored with both an Image Award and the coveted Grand Image Award from the Florida Public Relations Association. An Image Award is bestowed upon the highest-scoring entry in each of the competition's four divisions of categories. VIE's award was presented in the Printed Tools of Public Relations division. The Grand Image Award, which VIE also received, is given to the best Image Award-winning entry from three of the divisions: Printed Tools of Public Relations, Audio/Visual Tools of Public Relations and Student Projects in Public Relations.

Cardboard Boat Race winners have ties to local companies



Special to the Daily News

Seventh-graders Charlie Shackelford, Joe Galati, Brad Fenn and Behrens Watkins recently won the Destin Middle School 12th annual Cardboard Boat Race with their winning design titled the 'iPhone' at Clement Taylor Park. The event was directed by seventh-grade science teacher Paula Farland. Two members of the team are the sons of local boating industry businessmen. Charlie is the son of Fletcher Shackelford, managing partner of Legacy Boating Club and Joe is the son of Joe Galati, owner of Galati Yacht Sales. The race was a science project for Destin Middle School seventh-graders. A total of 61 boats entered the race and the only materials allowed for boat construction were cardboard, tape, glue and paint.