

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-4

10 Pages, 2 Sections, 2 Inserts

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

50¢

**UP
COMING**

Thurs., 6-8 p.m.

Women of all ages are invited to "What's in Your Bag?" an evening of fellowship, hors d'oeuvres and a bag exchange at **Niceville United Methodist Church**, 214 Partin Drive S. Niceville, in the Sanctuary and Gathering Area. Bring a gently loved purse to exchange and hear missionaries Kim Orellana and Carolyn Knight talk about their experiences. For more info visit niceville.org-women or call 865-4769.

Fri., 5-10 p.m. and Sat., 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

The 19th Annual **Oktoberfest and Arts and Crafts Festival** will be in the Winn Dixie parking lot,

Route 20, Bluewater Bay. There will be vendors and entertainment. Free admission. See story on B-1.

Sat., 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park invites all for a fence clearing project celebrating **National Public Lands Day**. Volunteers should meet at the north-east area of the park on Range Road near Bluewater Elementary School prepared to work outdoors. Water and snacks will be provided. Park fees waived for volunteers. For more info call 833-9144.

Sat., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
The "Lead, Influence and Take Action" conference will be open to students from Okaloosa and surrounding districts. \$10 to attend, scholarships available. To be held at the Costa Leadership Institute in the **Northwest Florida State College**, Niceville. For more info call 368-3505 or e-mail dt4alexis@gmail.com.

Calendar, B-2

City to extend utility mains to Ruckel tract

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

City of Niceville water and sewer mains will be extended to accommodate future development in the Rocky Bayou area. The city will add 1,000 feet of 12-inch water line and 1,600 feet of 12-inch sewer line along Rocky Bayou Drive, under a city budget approved Sept. 19.

The mains will cost \$56,000 for water and \$88,000 for sewer. The water lines were a stipulation of a lease Publix Supermarkets signed with Valparaiso Realty, ensuring that the grocery store, now under construction at Rocky Bayou Drive and John Sims Parkway, would be connected to the municipal water system.

Glenn Stephens, a consulting engineer to the city of Niceville, said the new sewer lines likely would have been added later in any case. Stephens said water and sewer lines in the area follow the same general path, but sewer lines run about 10 feet deeper than water lines. Therefore, the new water

lines needed this coming fiscal year would have had to be displaced for the addition of new sewer lines, which will eventually be needed in the same area to supply future users on the 1,100-acre tract east of Forest Road owned and yet undeveloped by Ruckel Properties. Because of this, the city decided to add both line exten-

sions simultaneously. Six-inch-wide sewer pipes along Rocky Bayou Road will be replaced with 12-inch pipes as part of the extension. The new water lines will also eventually connect to the 1,100-acre Ruckel tract east of Forest Road. The vacant property is expected to be developed for residential and commercial use.

Water colors



Rebecca Perrott paints a sailboat and its reflection at the Oak Marina on Bayshore Drive, Niceville. She participated in a "plein air" (or open air) painting class that meets at a different location every Wednesday and is instructed by Cherie Mulhearn. "Anyone is welcome to come out and paint with us," Mulhearn said.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

Unchanged tax rate OK'd by North Bay

A commissioner says it should be lower

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

The North Bay Fire Commission gave final approval to a \$2 million budget that will levy a millage rate of 2.35 mills next year, the same rate as this year.

One commissioner dissented, saying the rate should be lower.

This rate will bring in over \$56,000 more in tax revenues than was brought in this fiscal year, as taxable values in the independent fire district increased over the current fiscal year to \$891.6 million, the first meaningful increase in six years.

The elected commission voted 4-1 Sept. 18 to approve the budget and millage rate, with Commissioner David Scholl dissenting.

Scholl said he felt the district should adopt the "rolled-back" millage rate for 2014, or the millage rate that would raise the same amount of tax revenues as in 2013. The



David Scholl

Please see TAX, page A-6

E. Niceville district votes to spend \$817,000

No change in tax rate

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

The East Niceville Fire Commission gave final approval to a budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year, allotting \$21,334 more than last year, after district tax rolls increased.

The board unanimously voted for approval at its final budget hearing Sept. 18.

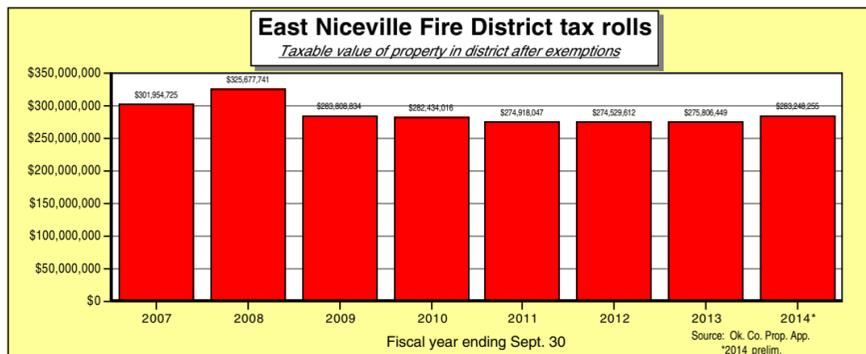
The budget provides for \$817,473 in expenditures, up from \$796,139 for the fiscal year that will end Sept. 30.

Tax revenues for the district should increase as well, as the taxable value of property in the East Niceville district is projected to rise 2.6 percent over last year, to over \$238 million.

On July 8, the fire commission

unanimously voted to set the maximum millage rate for the next fiscal year at 2.37 mills, the same rate as this year. The budget given final approval Sept. 18 assumes this millage figure.

The millage is the tax per \$1,000 of taxable property in the district. On property with a taxable value of \$100,000, after all exemptions, a 2.37 millage rate would garner a fire tax of \$237. The county and school district levy additional taxes.



Summer revenue gains posted by toll bridge

But traffic remains flat

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

The Mid-Bay Bridge saw a slight increase in summer toll revenue this year, with collections in the months of June through August, traditionally the busiest of the year, jumping 1.5 percent from the same period last year.

In the three summer months of 2013, when tourist traffic is

heaviest, the 3.5-mile bridge between Niceville and Destin collected over \$4.8 million in tolls, slightly higher than the \$4.7 million in the year-earlier period.

August saw largest revenue increase of the three months, up 3.3 percent, to \$1.48 million.

Mid-Bay Bridge Authority

Please see BRIDGE, page A-2



Vehicles approach tollbooths of the Mid-Bay Bridge Sept. 19. The bridge saw a 1.5 percent increase in toll revenues this summer over the summer of 2012.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

BRIDGE

From page A-1

(MBBA) Executive Director Jim Vest partially accounted this increase to below-average collections in August 2012 resulting from Tropical Storm Isaac.

"Last year, in August, tolls were not suspended," Vest said. "But I think the tropical storm just made everybody stay home."

July was the only 2013 summer month that saw a decrease in revenue from last year, down 0.3 percent, or \$4,388.

Vest said the variance of less than one percent in July was negligible and that the toll numbers for the month "were about on par with last year." The area received 24 inches of rain in July 2013, influencing

some beachgoers to stay home.

In the first 11 months of the current fiscal year, which will end Sept. 30, the bridge took in about 0.5 percent more toll revenue than it did at the same point last year, or \$14.6 million.

While revenues are up slightly, total bridge traffic has held steady from last year. Through July of the current fiscal year, the bridge carried about 5.46 million vehicles, up only 0.15 percent from the same 10-month period last year. Increased revenues despite flat usage suggests a shift toward cash tolls, which are higher than the discounted SunPass tolls, indicating a higher proportion of tourists over local drivers.

James VanSteenburg announced at Mid-Bay Bridge Authority meeting in Niceville



Construction of a Mid-Bay Bridge Connector span over Swift Creek, the final bridge for the highway, which is set to open Jan. 4.



Aerial view of the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector interchange at State Road 85, the westernmost portion of the 11-mile, \$137 million toll road, in early August.

Sept. 19 that construction of the bridge connector road has continued to run ahead of schedule, and that completion has been advanced to Jan. 3.

The date of a pre-opening public "fun run" on the 11-mile, \$137 million connector has also been advanced, to Jan. 4. Vest said two run/walk events, a half marathon and a 5K, would take place before the toll expressway is opened to traffic the same day, with participants starting near the Mullet Festival site in Niceville and running or walking east on the connector half the race's distance before turning back and returning for the rest of it.

Separately at the meeting, the board heard a presentation from Duane Gallagher, chair of the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, who proposed that the authority allow the addition of signs indicating food, gas and lodging in the Niceville area for exits on the connector, which will link the bridge to Highway 85 North, bypassing Niceville and presumably robbing the city and adjacent Bluewater Bay of some motorists' busi-

ness.

The board voted 5-0 to allow the chamber to pursue the addition of such signs, which would also have to be approved by regional and perhaps state authorities.

Vest added that the signs constitute advertising, which Eglin Air Force Base must approve before it is placed on Eglin land. Most of the connector is on Eglin reservation land.

Vest said businesses must be within three miles of the exit and require not more than one additional turn after exiting the road in order to be featured on a sign.

Chamber of Commerce President Tricia Brunson said the only businesses that meet such qualifications are in the Bluewater Bay area. She said she would work to attract such businesses to pay for advertising on the highway signs.

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NORTH BAY FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT OKALOOSA COUNTY NICEVILLE, FLORIDA

North Bay Fire District's Board of Fire Commissioners meeting that was scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2013 **HAS BEEN CHANGED TO Wed. Oct. 9, 2013 • 7:00 p.m.**

For more information, contact the Administration Office at (850) 897-3689.

Valp. panel mulls questionnaire

To seek views of residents

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

The Valparaiso Visioning Committee discussed possible changes to a questionnaire the city plans to send to residents in order to aid the committee's understanding of what citizens want for the future of the city.

During a meeting Sept. 12, committee member Jill White discussed possible mission statements for the city, a task which the committee had decided in July.

The panel did not arrive at an official slogan, but members did agree that the incorporation of phrases indicating that the city promoted "community and commerce" were necessary.

White also discussed the need to refine the survey questions which will eventually be mailed to Valparaiso residents in



A sparsely attended Valparaiso Visioning Committee meeting Sept. 12. From left: members Jill White, Ed Milton and Joe Cobb.

their water and sewer bills. "Right now, a question says, 'Where do you see the city in 20 years?' which is OK," White said. "I think we need questions more like, 'If heavy industrial were added to the city and stayed for 20 years, how would you feel?'"

White suggested essay portions be added to the question-

naire, and that the questions encourage citizens to write at length about their feelings on the state of the community.

A decision was deferred on a final questionnaire for lack of a quorum. The board needs at least five of its 10 members to make a decision. Just three attended the Sept. 12 meeting.

Committee member Joe

Cobb spoke briefly about the issue of F-35 jet noise, emphasizing that city should focus on dealing with entities other than the Air Force in requesting remedies.

"Our battle is not with the Air Force," Cobb said. "It's with the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency]. But you're wasting your time battling the EPA."

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

Niceville increases its levy

Millage stable as tax rolls rise

By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

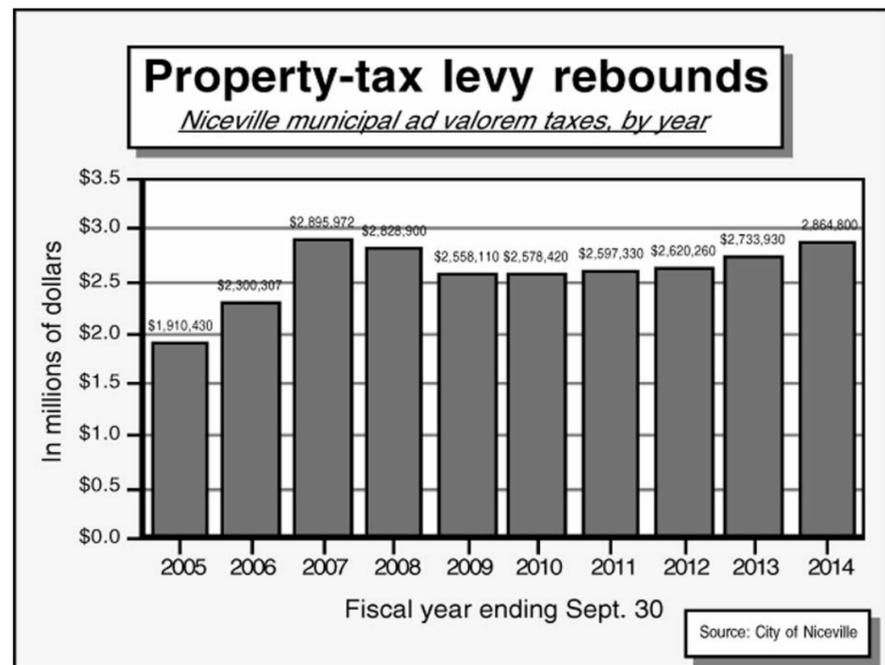
The Niceville City Council gave final approval to a municipal budget Sept. 19.

The budget sets a millage of 3.7 for 2014, the same as that of the current year. This rate will bring in \$130,870 more property taxes than this year, as Niceville's property tax rolls have increased 4.89 percent since then.

The rolled-back millage rate, or the rate that would raise the same amount of tax revenue as the previous year, is 3.6345 mills. The proposed millage rate is a 1.8 percent increase over the rolled back rate.

The millage rate is the amount per \$1,000 charged on ad valorem taxes, or taxes on real estate or business property. On property carried on the tax rolls at \$100,000 after all exemptions, for instance, a millage rate of 3.7 would result in a municipal property tax of \$370, not counting taxes levied by other jurisdictions such as Okaloosa County and the public schools.

The council approved the budget and millage rate by a



vote of 4-0 at its final budget hearing. Councilman Dan Henkel was absent.

The budget estimates \$12.7 million for its general fund.

Separately, higher utilities rates adopted by the council increase the rates for a typical, 7000-gallon-a-month user 26 cents a month for water and

\$1.11 a month for sewer.

Sanitary landfill "tipping" fees for city of Niceville garbage customers are set to increase 2 percent, in line with a rate rise by Okaloosa County awarded Waste Management, the operator of the landfill where Niceville solid waste is shipped. Tipping fees are fees charged

by landfill operators to allow waste to be dumped in the landfill.

For a residential customer, the dump fee increase raises residential tipping fees from \$13.64 to \$13.91 a month, boosting total monthly garbage rates from \$27.84 to \$28.11 a month.

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Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from Sept. 16, 2013 through Sept. 22, 2013.

0 Structure Fire	22 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	1 Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	8 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	1 Hazardous Conditions

Street	Situation	Date	Time
29th Street	Medical	9/16/13	03:07
Florida St.	Medical	9/16/13	08:14
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	9/16/13	12:03
Poplar Pl.	Cancelled en route	9/16/13	12:51
Nathay Ave.	Medical	9/16/13	14:18
30th Street	Medical	9/16/13	15:39
Juniper Ave.	Service call	9/16/13	18:02
Kazmira Ct.	Medical	9/16/13	23:33
Bayshore Dr.	Medical	9/17/13	00:34
Palm Blvd.	Arcing electrical	9/17/13	09:58
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	9/17/13	10:48
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	9/17/13	14:12
E. College Blvd.	Cancelled	9/17/13	18:50
Bayshore Dr.	Alarm activation	9/17/13	21:05
Juniper Ave.	Medical	9/17/13	21:20
Als Dr.	Service call	9/18/13	14:01
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	9/18/13	14:09
Royal Palm Dr.	Medical	9/19/13	03:56
Elderberry Ln.	Medical	9/19/13	11:26
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	9/19/13	11:22
21st Street	Service call	9/19/13	16:49
Nathay Ave.	Medical	9/20/13	04:18
Hill Ln.	Cancelled	09/20/13	11:59
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	9/20/13	14:23
Elderberry Ln.	Medical	9/21/13	06:17
Rushing River Way	Medical	9/21/13	16:01
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	9/21/13	19:08
17th Street	Medical	9/22/13	07:59
College Blvd.	Medical	9/22/13	10:12
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	9/22/13	12:50
S. Partin Dr.	Medical	9/22/13	16:57
Reeves St.	Service call	9/22/13	21:25

Weekly Safety Tip: Have your stove checked annually to be sure it is working properly. Be careful when using appliances that get hot, such as the oven, curling irons, lamps, heaters and irons.
Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook

Police Blotter

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

Arrests

Kyle Gregory Padgett, a bartender, 31, of 623 Mountain Drive, Destin, was arrested by Okaloosa County sheriff's deputies Sept. 17 on a charge of possession of new legend drugs without a prescription. Padgett's required court appearance is Oct. 8.

Paul Steuerwald, a handyman, 42, of 1531 Catmar Road, Niceville, was arrested by Okaloosa County sheriff's deputies Sept. 15 on a charge of battery domestic violence. First court date was set for Oct. 8.

Jessica Nicole Allen, 22, of 218 Cactus St., Tallahassee, was arrested by Okaloosa County sheriff's deputies Sept. 14 on two Leon County warrants for the original charges of failure to appear for possession of cannabis from June 26 and violation of probation for battery from Sept. 15.

A deputy responded to a disturbance on the 1600 block of Paradise Circle, Niceville, and found someone later identified as Allen sitting on the front porch of a residence. The deputy checked Allen's name in a database and found the active warrants.

Michael Harley Mangum, a laborer, 36, of 916 Linden Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Okaloosa County sheriff's deputies Sept. 14 on a charge of battery domestic violence. Mangum required court appearance is Oct. 1.

Matthew Dewayne Outlaw, a cook, 32, of 111 Cadillac Ave. Unit B, Niceville, was arrested by Okaloosa County sheriff's deputies Sept. 11 on a charge of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. Two deputies responded to a residence on the 400 block of Twin Lakes Lane, Destin, to serve a warrant. Upon arrival, a deputy observed Outlaw and a woman enter the residence. A deputy knocked on the door, and after receiving no answer, went to the back of the residence. The deputy saw Outlaw through a second floor window, then saw him open the

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North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from September 16, 2013 through September 22, 2013.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Lancaster Dr./W. Hwy. 20	Vehicle accident	9/16/13	14:52
S. Rosewood Way	Medical	9/16/13	17:30
S. Palm Blvd.	Dispatched & cancelled	9/17/13	10:00
Parkwood Pl.	Medical	9/17/13	14:56
SR 293/N. Lakeshore	Vehicle accident	9/17/13	16:58
Merchants Way	Medical assist	9/17/13	17:33
E. Hwy. 20	Medical	9/18/13	13:28
White Point Rd.	Public assist	9/18/13	13:36
Sunningdale Cove	Medical	9/18/13	14:26
Parkwood Cir.	Medical	9/19/13	03:28
Merchants Way	Medical	9/19/13	07:18
Range Rd.	Water leak	9/19/13	14:57
Bay Dr.	Medical	9/19/13	15:07
Nassau Dr.	Medical assist	9/19/13	16:17
Range Rd.	False alarm	9/20/13	07:17
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	9/21/13	08:03
Hwy. 20 E.	Dispatched & cancelled	9/21/13	10:43
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	9/21/13	12:06

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NICK'S CHICKS SHOWDOWN LADIES ANGLERS TOURNAMENT

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Entry Fee: \$30.00 per person - Payout based on a 50 Angler participation.
Species: Redfish, Speckle Trout, Catfish, and Ladyfish.
Rules: Ladies Anglers Only (all ages). Men can guide, captain, bait hooks, unhook fish, and assist women in the tournament, but may not catch fish for them. (Ladies 16 years and under will compete for additional prizes).
Starting time & point: Daybreak, October 5th, 2013. All fish must be caught in the Choctawhatchee Bay or estuaries there of (Brooks Bridge to Peach Creek).
Gear/Fishing Methods: Hook and line, live or artificial bait only.
Weigh-in time: Weigh-in time will be from 3:00 PM-4:00 PM CST on Saturday. No fish will be scored after 4:00 PM.
Fish Condition: Any alterations and/or tampering of weight or size of fish are strictly prohibited and will result in immediate disqualification as well as permanent disqualification from future tournaments. Fish need to be properly iced and kept in fresh condition.
Scoring: Scoring will be based on a point system for each species of fish and combined totals. A maximum of 38 points may be awarded per angler.
Redfish: 4 points each with a limit of two fish (1 point bonus awarded for live redfish)
Speckle Trout: 4 points each with a limit of three fish
Catfish: 2 points each with a limit of four fish
Ladyfish: 2 points each with a limit of four fish
Tie breaker Mullet Toss: In the event of a tie, the lady anglers will toss mullet for accuracy to determine the winner.
Cancellation: The tournament director may cancel or postpone the tournament at his discretion, but not limited to inclement weather or less than a 50 team participation.
For all questions and concerns, contact Trey Nick: 850-835-2222, 850-830-6161

1st Place \$500.00
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5th Place \$100.00

window and saw an object fall to the ground. Outlaw then came out the back door, and when the deputy told him to stop, he went back inside. A minute later, the other deputy detained Outlaw at the front door. A deputy picked up the object that had fallen from the window, a Vaseline jar, and found that it contained a hard, crystalline substance that field tested positive for methamphetamine. The substance was later weighed at 27 grams. Outlaw's required court appearance is Oct. 15.

Levy Houston Lucas, 29, of 230 Nimrod Circle, Niceville, was arrested by Walton County sheriff's deputies Sept. 11 on a charge of aggravated battery causing bodily harm. Lucas allegedly pulled someone out of a van when she arrived home from a night out with a friend. He later forcefully shoved her into a countertop and struck her in the face, knocking her glasses off. When the woman tried to get away, Lucas squeezed her left hand, breaking her thumb and injuring her wrist.

Kirsten Marie Britter, unemployed, 19, of 432 Andrew Drive, Valparaiso, was arrested by Valparaiso police Sept. 17 on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. An officer responded to a business on the first block of South John Sims Parkway, Valparaiso, in reference to another case. The officer spoke with Britter, who gave information and then asked for a ride home. The officer asked to search Britter's purse before giving her a ride, and Britter complied, saying "there is nothing in there." Inside the purse, the officer found a leather case containing a syringe, cotton swabs and a socket containing copper brillo.

The officer also found a plastic container holding a piece of cotton and liquid residue, which field tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine. Britter's required court appearance is Oct. 8.

Johnathan Tyler Harvard, 19, of 1598 Pine St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Sept. 16 on a charge of retail theft. A loss prevention worker at the Walmart at 1300 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, observed Harvard conceal a pair of headphones and a USB adapter in his pants. He then left the store through the Lawn and Garden center without attempting to pay for the concealed items, worth a total of \$71.88.

Please see BLOTTER, page A-5

The Bay Beacon & Beacon Express

1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, Florida 32578
(850) 678-1080
info@baybeacon.com
Fax 1-888-520-9323

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith



What do you think about the current state of the US economy?

Location: Turkey Creek Walk



"It's not what it could be. Obamacare appears to be stifling job growth."

Ray Allen, 53, Niceville, teacher



"It's not as bad as it was. I was laid off in 2011, but recently found a new full-time job."

John Marshall, 35, Valparaiso, gas station manager



"According to news reports, welfare is up, so I guess it's getting worse."

Hawn Bennett, 29, Valparaiso, stay-home mom



"The economy reminds me of a pool of water, with too many straws drawing from it. I hope everybody gets what they need."

Lisa Woodruff, 50, Fort Walton Beach, marketing assistant



"I don't like it — it could be better. But, I'm glad to see the price of gas going down."

Angie Schaeffer, 42, Niceville, retail



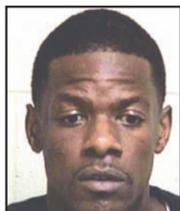
"I think everybody should have jobs, except for the people that are old."

Eli Adams, 8, DeFuniak Springs, West DeFuniak Elementary School student

What should we ask next week? Email your suggested question to: info@baybeacon.com Include "Suggested IP question" in the "subject" field.

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

This information is from reports by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.



Name: Germarcus Antonio Hall
Wanted for: Burglary with Assault/Battery/Larceny/Vehicle Theft
Height: 5-feet, 8-inches
Weight: 150
Age: 29
Date of birth: 02-18-1984
Hair: Black, Eyes: Brown



Name: James Brandon Brock
Wanted for: VOP-Carrying Concealed Firearm
Height: 5-feet, 7-inches
Weight: 150
Age: 22
Date of birth: 09-04-1991
Hair: Blond, Eyes: Brown



Name: Joshua L. King
Wanted for: VOP-Possession of Listed Chemicals & Possession of Paraphernalia
Height: 5-feet, 8-inches
Weight: 130
Age: 30
Date of birth: 11-22-1982
Hair: Blond, Eyes: Blue

This information is from reports by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. A reward is offered by Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers, 863-8477, or 1-888-654-8477. Information can also be provided anonymously by texting "TIP214 plus the message" to CRIMES (274637)

BLOTTER

From page A-4

Harvard's required court appearance is Oct. 8.

Christopher Kale Collins, 20, of 6486 Highway 1812 N., Jackson, Ky., was arrested by Niceville police Sept. 16 on a charge of retail theft.

A loss prevention employee of the Walmart at 1300 E. John Sims Parkway allegedly observed Collins on a security video feed leaving the store without attempting to pay for two USB adapters, worth at total of \$58.

Collins' required court appearance is Oct. 8.

Christina Annette Terry, a dermatologist's assistant, 41, of 1113 Rhonda Drive, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police Sept. 17 on a charge of simple battery domestic violence.

Terry allegedly pushed someone down and struck and kicked the victim several times while she was attempting to leave Terry's residence. An officer observed marks on the victim's body consistent with her description of events.

Terry told police that the other woman in the altercation had been the aggressor.

Terry's required court appearance is Oct. 8.

DUI arrests

Ian Kellys Letourneau, an Air Force enlisted man, 26, of 1004 Bayshore Drive, Niceville, was arrested by Okaloosa County sheriff's deputies for DUI on the 200 block of Harbor Road, Destin, Sept. 12 at 3:44 a.m.

Letourneau's required court appearance is Oct. 1.

Thefts

A resident of the 1000 block of Everglade Drive, Niceville, reported Sept. 17 that someone stole some metal from his front yard.

A resident of the 1400 block of 30th Street, Niceville, reported Sept. 10 someone had stolen \$60 from her 9-year-old daughter's piggy bank.

An officer found the juvenile who had taken the money,

recovered it and returned it to the complainant.

Bear sightings

A Niceville resident of the 400 block of Kelly Road reported Sept. 11 a bear entered her apartment complex at about 5:45 p.m.

An officer reported about nine minutes later the bear was gone when he arrived. A dispatcher notified the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission, who advised that the bear was likely hungry and would return to the woods.

A Niceville resident of the 200 block of Marquette Street reported Sept. 11 that he saw a bear on his street at about 6:44 p.m.

The bear was gone when an officer arrived.

Other

Jamilla Denise Beltz, a nanny, 21, of 4600 Range Road, Niceville, was cited by Okaloosa County sheriff's deputies Sept. 13 on a charge of driving without a license.

Beltz's required court appearance is Oct. 1.

Judah Obadiah Rothenberger, a loss prevention employee, 24, of 155 Persimmon St., Freeport, was cited by Okaloosa County sheriff's deputies Sept. 12 on a charge of participating in an unlawful race.

Rothenberger's required court appearance is Oct. 1.

Jamie Daniel McCraney, 34, of 98 Willow Ave., Choctaw Beach, was cited by Walton County sheriff's deputies Sept. 12 on a charge of driving while license suspended.

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TAX

From page A-1
rolled back millage rate is 2.29 mills.

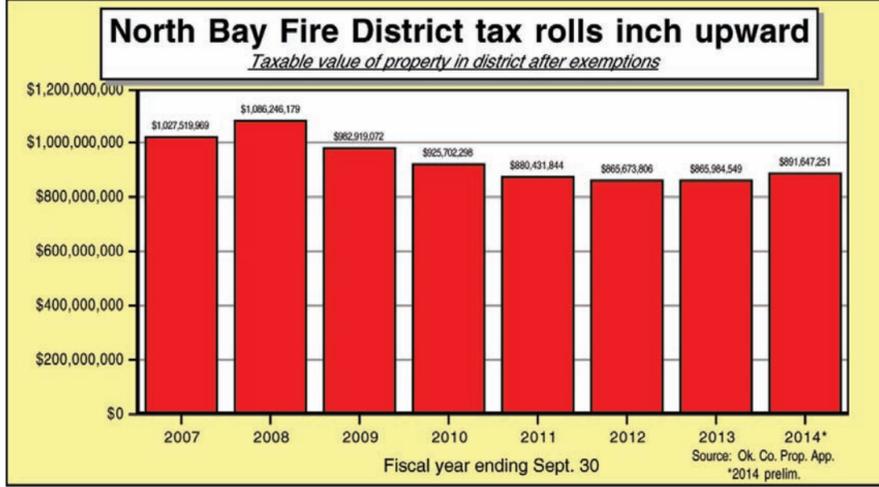
"I think we can tighten up our belt," Scholl said. "I think we'll be fine."

Scholl made a motion that the district adopt the rolled-back rate, but it died for lack of a second.

The millage rate is a tax per \$1,000 of taxable value of real estate or business property. The owner of property carried on the tax rolls at \$100,000 after all exemptions, for instance, would pay the fire district \$235 on a millage of 2.35. The county and school district have their own levies as well.

The largest spending increase in the new budget is in personnel expenses, which will go up to \$1.5 million, \$54,840 more than last year.

Other increases will include



operating expenses (up \$5,659), insurance (up \$2,927), and operating supplies (up \$729). Decreases for the coming year will include maintenance (down \$12,500), and utilities (down

\$657). The largest personnel item increase will be \$944,875 for payroll, followed by medical insurance costs, at \$209,084, and retirement costs, at

\$163,342. The commission's next meeting is scheduled Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. at the North Bay fire station at 1024 White Point Road, Niceville.

The North Bay Fire Commission at its final budget hearing Sept. 18 in the North Bay fire station, Niceville.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser



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New products protect roof as well as walls

Advertising Feature

Northwest Florida's warm sunny climate and white sandy beaches attract many people to live here, but sun, rain, and salt spray from the Gulf of Mexico can damage the surface of your home and its roof. That's where Rhino Shield comes in.

While you may already be familiar with Rhino Shield, the special coating that lasts longer and protects better than conventional paint, you may not know that Rhino Shield's new Super Shield Ceramic Roof coating can now protect your roof as well as your exterior walls.

"Super Shield is a unique product," said Mike Redmond, owner of Rhino Shield Gulf South. "This system is ideal for all kinds of roof surfaces such as asphalt, tile, aluminum, steel, copper, plywood, shakes, Styrofoam, concrete and clay."

"With Super Shield, you can make your old roof look more modern, and can change the color of your existing roofing



Dotson Gwinn proudly shows off his Rhino Shielded home.

material, such as shingle, metal or tiles, while protecting it and adding years of life to your roof."

Where your roof has been repaired, you can ensure a uni-

form color and appearance even over parts of your roof that have been damaged or repaired in the past."

"Super Shield Ceramic Roof Coating offers substantial waterproofing and insulation benefits by creating a layer of protection with the benefit of ultra-violet ray reflectivity," he said. "Super Shield not only aids in the reduction of energy consumption, but also prevents mold, mildew and staining, eliminates granule loss with a shingle roof and increases resale value extending the life of your roof."

"While Super Shield is cheaper than re-roofing," said Redmond, "this product also has a 10-year non-prorated transferable warranty and can be tinted to any color."

Dotson Gwinn, who lives in nearby Miramar Beach, recently had his home renovated, to include Rhino Shield protection for both his roof and exterior walls. "My original roof was a

mint-green color that couldn't be matched with new roof tiles," Gwinn said, "but with Rhino Shield, we were able to use different color roof tiles, then coat them with Rhino Shield to color the roof a shade of brown that perfectly coordinates with the Rhino Shield coating applied to the walls of the house."

The new exterior of his home, Gwinn said, "cleans extremely well," and provides excellent protection from the elements.

Gwinn was also pleased by the workmanship and professionalism of the Rhino Shield installation crew. "They did an exceptionally good job, on a timely basis, and left no mess. Later, they came back to touch up wherever I asked them to. They were extremely polite, and did an efficient, high quality job. I am completely satisfied."

To learn more, contact Rhino Shield Gulf South, 866.902.9937, RhinoShieldFlorida.com.

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Scouts find fish, fun and friends

Ethan Linsay, left, won Biggest Fish while Gracen McBlair, had Most Fish Caught at the annual BSA Choctaw District Fishing Rodeo held at Anderson Pond, Eglin, on Saturday, August 31. Pack 553 of Niceville won for unit Most Fish Caught. Scouting is open to both boys and girls in programs that run from first grade up to age 20. Anyone wishing to find out where a Scouting unit is located in their area can simply put in their zip code or address at beascout.scouting.org.



Mullet Festival Queen named

Michelle Bryan was named Queen of the Mullet Festival Pageant held Sept. 14, at the Niceville High School. The 123 contestant pageant was sponsored by the Crestview Elks Lodge 2624. Photos of other age category winners and runners-up can be found on page B-4.

Photo courtesy Jill Wayman



RBCS students start year by honor code

As Rocky Bayou Christian School Academy students, grades 7-12, transitioned into the opening weeks of school, they were met with the challenge to sign the RBCS Student Honor Code. At the first chapel assembly of the school year, RBCS Superintendent, Dr. Michael Mosley, encouraged students to participate in the Honor Code's commitment to integrity and service to others before self. Pictured, seniors Amber Smith, left, of Niceville and Claire Gunter of Bluewater Bay sign their names.

Oktoberfest this weekend

Staff Reports

The 19th annual Oktoberfest, sponsored by the Mid-Bay Rotary, is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 27 and Saturday, Sept. 28, in the market Place Shopping Plaza, in front of the Bluewater Bay Winn-Dixie supermarket. There is no admission charge.

The festivities will kick off Friday at 5 p.m. with live music under the beer tent and bratwurst



File photos

The Joe Occhipinti band livens up the festivities with their German-style polkas. Oktoberfest is Sept. 27-28 at Place Shopping Plaza, in front of the Bluewater Bay Winn-Dixie supermarket.

Niceville woman is Mrs. Southern Belle

Beatrice Winter, 103, representing Superior Residences, Niceville, was crowned the 2013 Mrs. Southern Belle Tuesday, Sept. 10 during the 3rd annual Mrs. Southern Belle Pageant at the Hawthorn House, the Air Force Enlisted Village's assisted living and memory care community. The pageant was hosted by the Air Force Enlisted Village's assisted living and memory care community, Hawthorn House, and is an annual event during national Assisted Living Week.



Friday, Sept. 27

4:30-6:30 p.m. —Coco the Clown (Rotary Booth)
5-7:15 p.m.—Accordionist Walter Kasprzyk
7:15-8 p.m.—High Steppers
8-10 p.m.—Joe Occhipinti German band

Saturday, Sept. 28

2-4 p.m.—Musicians Tom Phillips and Gary Schmitz
4-5:30 p.m.—Accordionist Walter Kasprzyk
4:30-6:30 p.m. —Coco the Clown (Rotary Booth)
5:30-7:15 p.m.—Joe Occhipinti German band
7:15-8 p.m.—High Steppers
8-10 p.m.—Joe Occhipinti German band
(All shows on the stage unless noted)

on the grill, along with authentic German sauerkraut from an old Bavarian family recipe. Along with the German food will be grilled chicken quarters, hot dogs, funnel cakes, curly fries, hot boiled peanuts, snow cones, cotton candy and kettle corn.

The music will be provided by accordionist Walter Kasprzyk, followed by the High Steppers and two hours of German polka music by the Joe Occhipinti band.

Volunteers from the Niceville High School's Rotary-sponsored Interact Service Club will help with concessions.

Booths will feature a selection of arts and crafts and children's activities, including giant slides,

orbiron rides and mountain climbers, will be available. Friday's festivities will wind down about 10 p.m.

Saturday, Oktoberfest gets under way at 11 a.m.

From 2 to 4 p.m., musicians Tom Phillips and Gary Schmitz will entertain on stage, followed by Kasprzyk from 4 to 5:30, the Joe Occhipinti Band from 5:30 to 7:15 and the High Steppers from 7:15 to 8. From 8 to 10, the Occhipinti Band will return.

Last year, about 8,000 people attended Oktoberfest. Volunteers sold more than 2,000 bratwurst dinners, which included 150 gallons of sauerkraut.

All revenue will be used to support local charities.



Morken finishes first, yards ahead

Nick Morken crosses the finish line alone with a 12 second lead at the Gulf Coast Stampede in Pensacola Sept. 14. Niceville High School cross country team results are on B3.

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Edge helps 'uncram' the van

Edge Elementary School received a visit from Tracy Hodgins-Lott and Maria Davis, both of FNBT.COM Bank, Friday, Sept. 13, to "uncram" their van of school supplies. The FNBT.COM employees collected donations for the annual "Cram the Van" school supply drive and chose Edge as their recipient. Pictured from left, FNBT.COM Branch Manager Maria Davis, Edge Principal Dr. Dawson and FNBT.COM Vice President Tracy Hodgins-Lott.



Parrot Heads donate funds for food bank

The Emerald Coast Parrot Head Club donated \$1,000 to the Emerald Coast Hospice to buy food for Sharing and Caring Inc. of Okaloosa County at their monthly meeting on Sept. 13. Pictured from left, Nancy Underall, Emerald Coast Hospice staff nurse; Darla Eddington, Emerald Coast Hospice patient care secretary; Krista Schueler, Emerald Coast Hospice specialist; Hank Bittmann, Emerald Coast Parrot Head Club President; and Anthony Sawyer, Sharing and Caring Inc. of Okaloosa County President.

2013
CALENDAR
E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com

deadline is Sunday, Oct. 6. Practices begin in December and games will be played in January and February. For more information, please contact the Recreation Ministry at 678-4411 extension 145.

Powow seeks volunteers

The 26th Annual Thunderbird Intertribal Powow is seeking volunteer help for their silver anniversary Nov. 1-3 at the Mullet Festival Grounds on the corner of Hwy. 85 N. and College Blvd., Niceville. Volunteers are needed especially for Children's Day, Friday, Nov. 1, when all the schools visit. For schedule and info visit thunderbirdpowow.org. To volunteer, please call Kirby Locklear at 863-5311 or Glenn Farmer at 678-7714.

Lionfish tourney

The Emerald Coast Reef Association is hosting a Lionfish Tournament, Sept. 14-Oct. 13th. Registration is \$25 per two man team. Grand prize is \$2,500. Video contest is free to enter. Winning video wins \$300. For more information or to register, visit ecreef.org

Alzheimer's support group

A support group for those affected by Alzheimer's will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 25 at the Niceville United Methodist Church, Chandler Center, 214 S. Partin Drive. The support group is free and limited

Vendor opportunity

Earn money for your surplus treasures at the Valparaiso Viva Florida 500 market day to be held on Oct. 26 in Perrine Park across the street from the Heritage Museum, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso. Arts, crafts, antiques, and flea market items are welcome. Booths are available for \$25 each. Contact valpiva500@gmail.com to request vendor applications or download a copy at mariesgardenanddesign.com

Game on

Niceville UMC Youth Basketball League registering now for grades 4 through 8. Registrations can be made online at nicevilleumc.org/recreation or in person at the Community Life Center, 214 Partin Dr., Niceville. Registration



Benefit for Filipino churches

The Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church will sponsor their last charity buffet dinner of the season at the Life Center Hall on Sept. 28 from 6 p.m. Filipino dishes and desserts will be served. All our welcome, please invite family and friends. Cost is \$7 for ten years and up, \$4 for 7-9 years and five and under eat free. Price includes entree, dessert and beverage. Proceeds go to aid Catholic churches in the Philippines. For more information please call 678-3000.

respite care is available, reserve in advance by calling 866-478-7790.

Give blood

Wednesday, Sept. 25, Niceville United Methodist Church, 214 South Partin Drive from 3-8:30 p.m. Donors will receive a T-shirt.

Bag swap

Women of all ages are invited to "What's in Your Bag?" an evening of fellowship, hors d'oeuvres, worship, special presentations and a bag exchange Thurs. Sept. 26 from 6-8 p.m. at Niceville UMC, 214 Partin Drive S. Niceville, in the Sanctuary

and Gathering Area.

Bring a gently loved purse to exchange and come listen to missionaries Kim Orellana and Carolyn Knight talk about their experiences. For more info visit niceville.org-women or call 865-4769.

God in the numbers

The Apolectic Library will have its "re-opening" at the Rocky Bayou Christian School (RBCS) Library Thursday Sept. 26.

The lending library will be available from 4-8 p.m., and starting at 6 p.m. Kelli Van Pelt will be speaking on "God in Mathematics."

The RBCS Library is located in the center of the campus, and there will be a banner will be above the entrance door.

Republican Club

The Okaloosa County Republican Club will host their monthly meeting on Thursday, Sept. 26 at American Legion Post 235, 105 S.W. Hollywood Blvd. Social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Dr Ty Handy, President Northwest Florida State College will speak.

Cost is \$12. All are welcome. For more info call President Marvin

Brigman at 609-3341. To reserve call Jane Dale at 651-5049.

Parrot Heads meet

The Emerald Coast Parrot Head Club will have their monthly meeting on Friday, Sept. 27 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Mango's on the Bayou, Fort Walton Beach. Visit ecparrotheads.org for more info or call Buz Embry at 642-8766.

Oktoberfest

The 19th Annual Oktoberfest and Arts and Crafts Festival will be Friday, Sept. 27 from 5 p.m.-10 p.m. and Saturday Sept. 28 from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. in the Winn Dixie parking lot, Route 20, Bluewater Bay. There will be vendors and entertainment. Free admission.

Juried art show

The Pastel Society of North Florida will host an all-pastel Juried Members' Exhibition Oct. 27-Dec. 5, at Northwest Florida State College. Entries must be received by 27 September. The show will have its opening reception with awards on Sunday, Oct. 27 from 2-4 p.m. The exhibition in the Goetsch Gallery will also be open to the public Mondays to Fridays, between 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., excluding holidays. For more info contact pastel@century-tel.net.

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BEACONSPORTS



Eagles to celebrate homecoming Friday

By Sarah Clouston
Beacon Correspondent

The Niceville Eagles hosted the Choctaw Indians Friday, Sept. 20, in a game of undefeated teams, and crippled Choctaw with a 56-3 win. Both teams entered the game with a 3-0 record, but Niceville dominated from the get go, and delivered a performance that dazzled the packed stadium and propelled them further into their winning season and widened their target as the team to beat.

The action literally began within seconds when Tyree

McCants received the kick off and exploded across the field for a touchdown just 12 seconds into the game. The Niceville defense then took the field and made a statement all their own. The defense made a huge tackle, forced a fumble and recovered the ball. If that wasn't impressive enough, the offense came back on the field and in the first play of their possession scored another touchdown thanks to a completion from quarterback Ashton Hooker to Eli Stove, who ran it in for the score.

The scoring frenzy contin-

ued, with the Eagles racking up 42 points in the half while only allowing 3 for the Indians. During the game, the offense accumulated over 500 yards, split pretty evenly between passing and rushing, spread across several players. The defense kept their intensity in the second half, and continued to stop the Indians dead in their tracks, forcing third and longs, and holding the line on fourth downs. Even at first and goal from the 6 yard line, the Eagle defense did not crack, and did not allow a single touchdown during the entire game. Head

Coach John Hicks was proud of the way the team played. He noted the success of the defense and characterized their physicality.

"We got them where we wanted them at third and long, and when we did we did a good job of not letting them convert," said Hicks.

The blow to Choctaw gave the Eagles a 4-0 record, and has solidified their reputation, state-wide, as one of this year's contenders. The Eagles will celebrate homecoming against Greene County, Miss., Friday, Sept. 27. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.



Quarterback Ashton Hooker loads to pass, connecting with Jalen Douglas. NHS played Choctaw, crippling them with a 56-3 win.



Niceville travel soccer team wins

The FC Dallas Emerald Coast 01 Girls Red Travel Soccer team won the Under 12 (U12) bracket Sept. 21-22 in the annual Flora-Bama Soccer Showcase in Orange Beach, Ala. The tournament consisted of 216 teams from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana. Pictured from left, back row, Sage Modarelli, Kywana Donahoo, Kaeori Stone, Caitlyn Stringfellow and Coach Jim McDermott. Pictured left, bottom row, Victoria Sherwin, Korre Mason, Hailey Moriarty, Georgia Bomar, Ali Davis, Tai Duren-Wynn and Abbey Ladd. Not pictured, Taylor Hendricks.

NHS track scores

The Niceville High School cross country team competed at the Gulf Coast Stampede in Pensacola Sept. 14.

Varsity girls, 4th overall, results: 18th Claire Crist (20:59.30), 20th Mackenzie Shinnick (21:16.70), 21st Haley Smith (21:18.50), 39th Anna Herrera (22:02.30), 40th Annie Serpa (22:05.20), 41st Julia Moreno (22:05.30), 47th Drew Haggerman (22:23.30), 51st Nicole Escoffier (22:31.40), 68th Diana LaFollette (23:08.90).

Varsity boys, 2nd overall, results: 1st Nick Morken (15:39.90), 4th Thomas Howell (16:03.80), 21st Caden Ewing (17:26.00), 24th Jack Massey (17:34.50), 26th Tristan Hamer (17:41.40), 33rd Tripp Davis (08:02.00), 52nd Jake Fiske (18:25.00), 62nd Jared Herzog (18:38.70), 71st Kyle Ferris (18:45.00), 73rd David Bobbitt (18:49.40).



NHS girls golf beats FWB

Senior Antonia Poate, tees off Thursday, Sept. 19, at Rocky Bayou Golf Course where Niceville High School won the match over Fort Walton Beach by a score of 160 to 173. Niceville's individual scores were: Antonia Poate, (37, Low Medalist), Bailey Rimes (38), Sarah Pabst (39) and Alex Messmore (46).

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2013 Mullet Festival Pageant



Winners from left to right. Photos by Jill Wayma.

0-12 Months Girls

Averi Cox, Evelyn Rivera, Piper Smith, Paisley Herring.



0-18 Months Boys

Landon Covey.



13-18 Months Girls

Gabriella Hull, Avery Kirkland, Olivia Hicks, Adelyn McDonald.



19 Months-3 Years Boys

Keegan Smith, Logan Minick, Jean-Carlos Piloto.



19-35 Months Girls

Addison Lennard, Isabella Wooten, Addison Chance, Palyn Byers.



3-5 Years

Kalli Kerschitz, Vivienne Albee, Jane-Ellen Sewell, Rylee Rhea, Aubree Hammes.



6-8 Years

Haley Alford, Jenna Sewell, Alaynah Smith, Kaylah Sears.



9-10 Years

Lacy Dowd, Sarah Lott, Anna Bagget, Brooke Lewis.



11-12 Years

Savanna Hill, Lindsey Huckabee, Lindsey Smith, Kelby Barfield, Yolanda Stallworth.



13-15 Years

Halie Stevenson, Chelsey Owens, Leah Carter, Meghan O'Quinn.



16-21 Years

Ayla Humphrey, Bethany Chestnut, Michelle Bryan, Courtney Jones, Samantha Henderson (People's Choice).

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