

# The Bay Beacon

10 Pages, 2 Sections, 5 Inserts

Wednesday, January 1, 2014

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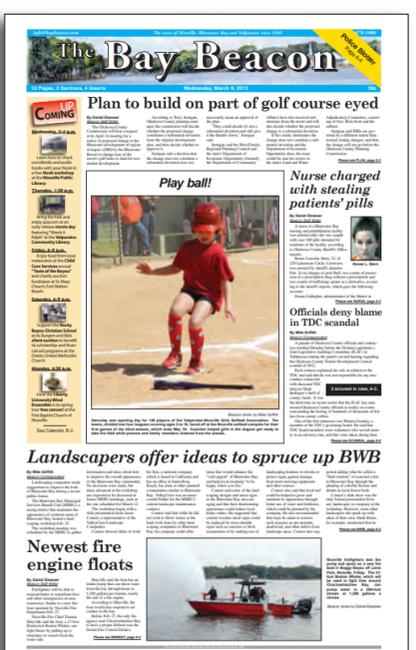
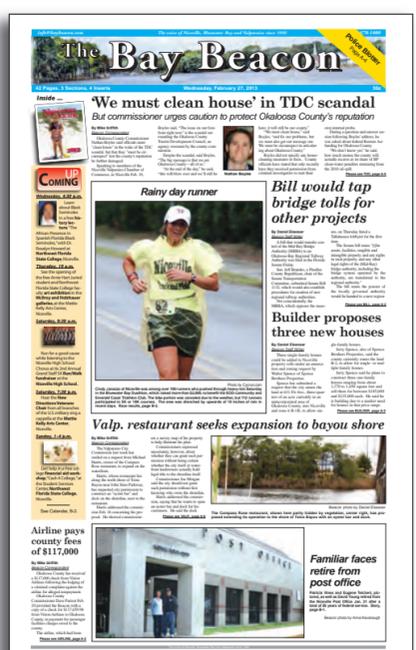
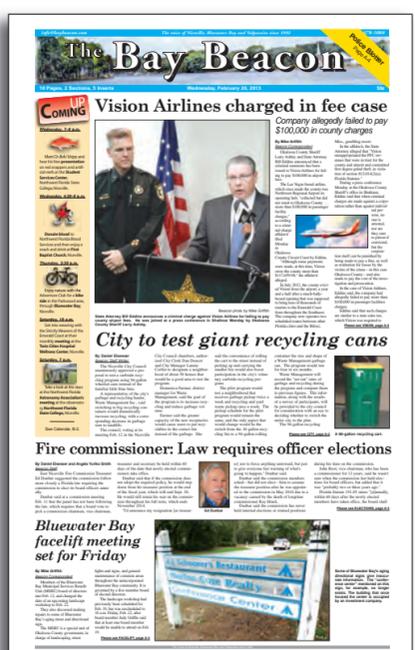
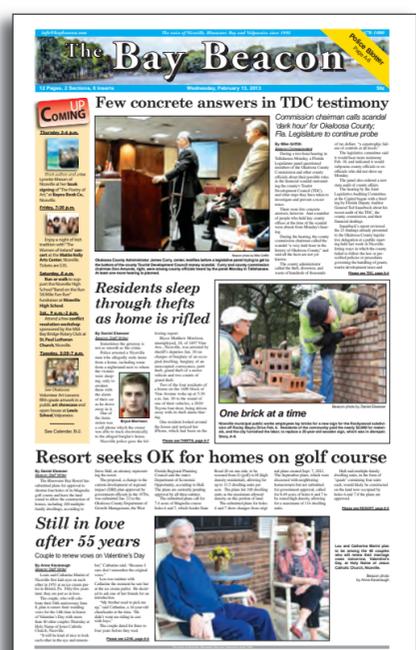
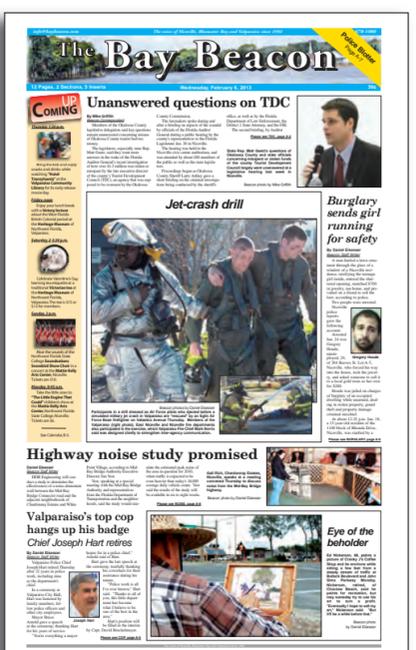
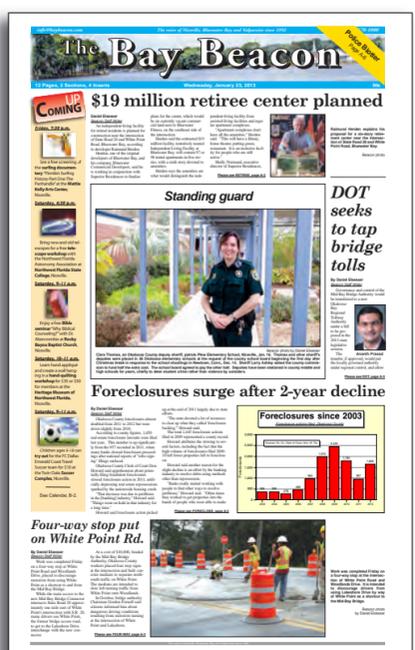


The Bay Beacon this week is pleased to present a look back at the top stories and photos of 2013, as presented in a week-by-week review of Page 1.

Thank you, readers, for welcoming us into your homes in 2013. Thank you, advertisers, for your support in the past year.

We look forward to continuing to serve you in 2014.

—The staff of the Bay Beacon:  
 Stephen Kent, Sara Kent, Bunni Farhnam,  
 Linda McCormick, Candice Legge, Mac Macasaet,  
 Cheryle Valentine, Angela Yuriko Smith, Karon Dey.  
 Correspondents: Mike Griffith, Sarah Clauson.





**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, April 24, 2013

**COMING UP**  
**Golf-course conversion bid withdrawn**  
BWB Resort drops plans to build homes on links

**A final salute**  
A group of about 20 people gathered at the clubhouse for a final salute to the late Bobbie Lee. The group included family members, friends and golfers who had known Bobbie for many years. The service was held at 10 a.m. at the clubhouse. Bobbie was a member of the club for many years and was a very active member. She was a very kind and generous person and will be missed by all who knew her.

**Bridge receives BP funds**  
The bridge received a grant from the BP Foundation. The grant was used to purchase new bridge equipment and to pay for the maintenance of the bridge. The grant was a very helpful contribution and will help to keep the bridge in good condition for many years to come.

**County backtracks on turn-lane restriction**  
The county has decided to backtrack on its decision to restrict turn lanes. The restriction was found to be too restrictive and would have caused too much traffic congestion. The county will now allow for more turn lanes to be used.

**Valp. officials split on change to city charter**  
The Valparaiso officials are split on whether to change the city charter. Some officials believe that a change is needed to better serve the city, while others believe that the current charter is still effective.

**Relay for Life**  
A Relay for Life event was held in the city. The event was a very successful one and raised a lot of money for cancer research. The participants were very enthusiastic and the event was a great success.

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, May 1, 2013

**COMING UP**  
**Eglin mulls land lease to Niceville**

**Residents lament closure of golf course**  
Residents are lamenting the closure of the golf course. The closure has caused a lot of inconvenience for the residents and they are hoping that the city will find a way to keep the golf course open.

**74 acres set for additions to park**  
The city has set aside 74 acres for additions to the park. The additions will include new playground equipment, walking trails, and other recreational facilities. The city hopes to complete the additions by the end of the year.

**28% gain seen in toll revenue**  
There is a 28% gain seen in toll revenue. The increase is due to a combination of factors, including an increase in the number of vehicles using the toll roads and an increase in the toll rates.

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, May 8, 2013

**COMING UP**  
**Bridge takeover bid fails**

**Stretching exercise**  
A group of people participated in a stretching exercise. The exercise was very helpful and helped to reduce muscle tension and improve flexibility.

**Giant new water tank to supply development**  
A giant new water tank is being built to supply a new development. The tank will be able to hold a large amount of water and will help to ensure that the development has a reliable water supply.

**Two annexation requests advance**  
Two annexation requests have advanced. The requests are for the annexation of two areas into the city. The city council will be meeting to discuss the requests soon.

**National Day of Prayer**  
A National Day of Prayer event was held in the city. The event was a very meaningful one and brought people together to pray for the country and the world.

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, May 15, 2013

**COMING UP**  
**Niceville seeks to promote its seniority**  
Officials eye addition of date to city seal

**Out of this world**  
A group of people participated in an 'Out of this World' event. The event was a very fun one and featured a variety of activities and games.

**Tax auction is underway**  
A tax auction is underway. The auction is for the sale of property that has been seized by the city due to unpaid taxes.

**Matt Gaetz seeks Senate seat now held by his father**  
Matt Gaetz is seeking a Senate seat. He is running for the seat that was previously held by his father, who served in the Senate for many years.

**Eglin disbands jet-noise committee**  
Eglin has disbanded its jet-noise committee. The committee was responsible for monitoring and addressing jet noise complaints from the surrounding community.

**New 'Niceville' sign in works**  
A new 'Niceville' sign is in the works. The sign will be a large, eye-catching one that will help to promote the city and attract visitors.

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, May 22, 2013

**COMING UP**  
**Jets to fly higher to cut noise**

**Muddy buddies**  
A group of people participated in a 'Muddy Buddies' event. The event was a very fun one and featured a variety of activities and games.

**Fire truck purchase mullied**  
The purchase of a new fire truck is being mullied. The city council is still deciding whether to purchase the truck and what model to buy.

**Niceville election season begins**  
The election season has begun in Niceville. There are several candidates running for various offices and the voters will be going to the polls soon.

**Bridge traffic declines**  
Bridge traffic has declined. This is likely due to a combination of factors, including a change in the weather and a change in the number of vehicles using the bridge.

**Daddy's home!**  
A group of people participated in a 'Daddy's Home!' event. The event was a very fun one and featured a variety of activities and games.

**Aerial exercise**  
A group of people participated in an aerial exercise. The exercise was very challenging and helped to improve the participants' balance and coordination.

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, May 29, 2013

**COMING UP**  
**Bridge sees toll hike in 2015**  
Rise would come 2 years earlier than previously planned

**Remembering America's war dead**  
A group of people participated in a 'Remembering America's War Dead' event. The event was a very meaningful one and brought people together to remember the sacrifices of our military personnel.

**Cautious optimism on jet rules**  
There is cautious optimism on jet rules. The rules are expected to help to reduce jet noise and improve the quality of life for the surrounding community.

**2% college cost increase is proposed**  
A 2% college cost increase is proposed. The increase is needed to help cover the rising costs of education and to ensure that students have access to a quality education.

**Valparaiso planners act on 2 variances**  
Valparaiso planners have acted on two variances. The variances were for the construction of two new buildings and the planners have approved them.

**93 graduate from Collegiate**  
93 students graduated from Collegiate. The students were very successful and earned their degrees with high honors.



Happy New Year!  
from the management & staff of  
**Ritz Salon**

Mid-Bay Plaza  
Bluwater Bay

897-4466

Advertising in the Bay Beacon gets results! Here's proof!

I own Anna's Bridal and Formal Shop and I am so happy with the results from my Beacon ad on Dec. 11. My sales rep guided me along helping me to make my ad effective. To my surprise, the day after my ad ran as I approached my shop there was someone waiting for me with a copy of the Bay Beacon, and my \$50 dress ad, and I made a sale - more than paying me back for the ad. That wasn't a fluke either - I stayed busy the rest of that week, and a lot of that traffic came from my ad. This December I had the best sales in many years.

Thank you for all your help - it really does pay to advertise in the Bay Beacon!

*Anna M. Distelzweig*

Anna Distelzweig, Owner  
Anna's Bridal & Formal, Niceville



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1954 - 2014



**EGLIN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**



**The Bay Beacon**  
The voice of Niceville, Bluewater Bay and Valparaiso since 1992  
12 Pages, 3 Sections, 8 Issues  
Wednesday, June 5, 2013

**County tax rolls snap 5-year losing streak**  
By David Brown  
The county's tax rolls for fiscal year 2013-14 show a significant increase in revenue, ending a five-year losing streak. The increase is attributed to a combination of factors, including a rise in property values and a successful effort to collect delinquent taxes.

**Valparaiso police seek to add officer**  
Sharp rise in law-enforcement activity cited  
By Mike Griffin  
The Valparaiso Police Department is seeking to add a new officer to its ranks. The department has experienced a sharp rise in law-enforcement activity, particularly in the areas of traffic enforcement and community policing.

**422 graduate from Niceville High School**  
By Mike Griffin  
A total of 422 students graduated from Niceville High School on Friday, June 1, 2013. The graduates were celebrated at a ceremony held at the school, where they were presented with their diplomas and certificates of appreciation.

**County to spend \$47K a year on turtle project**  
By Mike Griffin  
The county is set to spend \$47,000 a year on a turtle project. The project is aimed at protecting the Florida manatee, a critically endangered species that is often found in the county's waterways.

**2 more businesses sought for center**  
By Mike Griffin  
The county is seeking two more businesses to locate in a new center. The center is part of a larger development project that is aimed at creating jobs and stimulating economic growth in the area.

**City nixes bids to give up waterfront**  
By Mike Griffin  
The city has nixed bids to give up waterfront property. The city council has decided to keep the waterfront property in public hands, as it is a valuable asset that can be used for a variety of purposes.

**MSBU OKs budget, will fill a vacancy**  
By Mike Griffin  
The Metropolitan School Board of Union County has approved its budget for the coming year. The board also announced that it will fill a vacancy in the superintendent position.

**Cast away**  
By Mike Griffin  
A group of volunteers has been successful in cleaning up a large amount of trash that had been cast away in a local park. The group is proud of their accomplishment and hopes to encourage others to do the same.

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12 Pages, 3 Sections, 8 Issues  
Wednesday, June 12, 2013

**Valp. prepares to make case on jet noise**  
By Mike Griffin  
The city of Valparaiso is preparing to make its case against jet noise. The city has filed a lawsuit with the Federal Aviation Administration, claiming that the noise is a public nuisance that is causing significant health and quality-of-life issues.

**Summer takes a bow**  
By Mike Griffin  
Summer has come to a close, and the community is celebrating the season. A series of events, including a parade and a fireworks display, are being held to mark the end of the summer.

**Officials discuss STEM future**  
By Mike Griffin  
Local officials are discussing the future of STEM education in the area. They are looking for ways to attract more students to STEM fields and to provide them with the resources they need to succeed.

**1 senator denies any link in college tiff; another is mum**  
By Mike Griffin  
Two senators are involved in a controversy over a college. One senator denies any link to the college, while the other is silent on the matter.

**Highway seen opening early**  
January completion eyed for bridge connector  
By Mike Griffin  
A new highway bridge connector is expected to be completed in January. The bridge will provide a shortcut between two major roads, which will save time and reduce traffic congestion.

**City seeks to end club's use of effluent**  
By Mike Griffin  
The city is seeking to end a club's use of effluent. The club has been dumping wastewater into a local waterway, which is causing environmental damage and health concerns.

**Proud to be Americans**  
By Mike Griffin  
A group of citizens is proud to be Americans. They are participating in a patriotic event that is celebrating the country's history and values.

**3 minutes each for hearing speakers**  
By Mike Griffin  
Speakers at a hearing are being limited to three minutes each. The hearing is aimed at addressing a specific issue, and the time limit is intended to ensure that all speakers have a chance to be heard.

**Valparaiso mayor drafts charter changes**  
By Mike Griffin  
The Valparaiso mayor is drafting changes to the city's charter. The changes are aimed at improving the city's governance and making it more efficient.

**'Math permeates everything we do here'**  
STEMM center's future clouded  
By Mike Griffin  
The future of a STEM center is clouded. The center was intended to provide a place where students could learn about science, technology, engineering, and math, but funding issues are now threatening its existence.

**Here comes the sun**  
58,000 gallons of sewage spills into bays  
By Mike Griffin  
A large spill of sewage has occurred in the bays. The spill is estimated to be 58,000 gallons and is causing significant environmental damage.

**New STEM school chief is named**  
Will divide her time with dance academy  
By Mike Griffin  
A new chief has been named for a STEM school. The chief will be responsible for overseeing the school's operations and ensuring that it provides a high-quality education.

**Lots of things for kids to do this summer**  
By Mike Griffin  
There are many activities for kids to do this summer. From sports to arts and crafts, there is something for everyone.

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12 Pages, 3 Sections, 8 Issues  
Wednesday, June 19, 2013

**Incumbent faces challenge in Niceville voting**  
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An incumbent is facing a challenge in a Niceville election. The challenger is a local resident who is running for office to represent the community.

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Wednesday, June 26, 2013

**Valp. prepares to make case on jet noise**  
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Wednesday, July 3, 2013

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Wednesday, July 10, 2013

**Incumbent faces challenge in Niceville voting**  
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Wednesday, July 17, 2013

**Mixed reaction to Eglin F-35 plans**  
Air Force hears public on jet-noise issues  
By Mike Griffin  
The Air Force is hearing public input on its plans for the F-35 program. There is a mixed reaction to the plans, with some people supporting them and others expressing concerns about noise and environmental impact.

**Lift off**  
By Mike Griffin  
A group of people is participating in a "lift off" event. The event is aimed at raising awareness about a specific issue and is being held in a public square.

**Valp. eyes millage hike**  
By Mike Griffin  
The city of Valparaiso is considering a millage hike. The hike is intended to raise additional revenue for the city's operations and services.

**MSBU names a new member**  
By Mike Griffin  
The Metropolitan School Board of Union County has named a new member. The new member will be responsible for representing the interests of the community on the board.

**Officials act to speed warnings on sewage spills**  
No illnesses reported despite two-day lag on notification  
By Mike Griffin  
Officials have acted to speed up warnings on sewage spills. This is to ensure that the public is notified as quickly as possible in the event of a spill, so they can take appropriate precautions.

**The Bay Beacon**  
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12 Pages, 3 Sections, 8 Issues  
Wednesday, July 24, 2013

**Overpass a final link in highway**  
Girders set to be placed this week  
By Mike Griffin  
An overpass is the final link in a new highway. Girders are set to be placed this week, which will allow construction to proceed more quickly.

**Rocket science**  
By Mike Griffin  
A group of students is participating in a rocket science competition. The students are building and launching their own rockets, and they are competing for prizes.

**5% raises eyed for teachers**  
By Mike Griffin  
A 5% raise is being eyed for teachers. The raise is intended to recognize the hard work that teachers do and to help them attract and retain the best talent.

**Air Force responds to mayor on F-35 noise**  
By Mike Griffin  
The Air Force has responded to the mayor's concerns about F-35 noise. The Air Force is committed to minimizing noise and protecting the environment.

**Niceville hits low in voter turnout**  
By Mike Griffin  
Voter turnout was low in a recent election in Niceville. This is a concern for local officials, as it means that the voices of many citizens were not heard.

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12 Pages, 3 Sections, 8 Issues  
Wednesday, July 31, 2013

**Schools to up millage**  
By Mike Griffin  
Schools are planning to raise their millage. The raise is intended to provide additional funding for schools and to improve the quality of education.

**In remembrance**  
By Mike Griffin  
A memorial service is being held in remembrance of a fallen hero. The service is a chance for the community to come together and honor the person's memory.

**Thieves strike 2 ATMs**  
By Mike Griffin  
Two ATMs were struck by thieves. The thieves stole a significant amount of money from the ATMs, and the incident has caused concern among the community.

**Col. Bud Day recalled as 'a hero'**  
By Mike Griffin  
Colonel Bud Day is being recalled as a hero. He was a brave and dedicated soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

**Constituents bend Sen. Gaetz's ear**  
By Mike Griffin  
Constituents are bending Sen. Gaetz's ear. They are expressing their concerns about a specific issue and are asking the senator to take action.

**Cast away**  
By Mike Griffin  
A group of volunteers has been successful in cleaning up a large amount of trash that had been cast away in a local park. The group is proud of their accomplishment and hopes to encourage others to do the same.

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12 Pages, 3 Sections, 8 Issues  
Wednesday, August 7, 2013

**Homeowners to discuss membership purchase to help Marsh course**  
By Mike Griffin  
Homeowners are being asked to discuss a membership purchase to help fund a marsh course. The course is intended to provide a place where residents can enjoy the outdoors and connect with nature.

**Keeping cool**  
By Mike Griffin  
A group of people is participating in a "keeping cool" event. The event is aimed at raising awareness about the importance of staying hydrated and protected from the sun during the summer months.

**Local tax districts set tentative millage rates**  
By Mike Griffin  
Local tax districts have set tentative millage rates. The rates are intended to provide additional funding for the districts' operations and services.

**East Niceville nixes inspection fee**  
By Mike Griffin  
East Niceville has nixed an inspection fee. The fee was intended to fund a specific project, but it has been rejected by the community.

**Schools seek to broaden authority over cyberbullying**  
By Mike Griffin  
Schools are seeking to broaden their authority over cyberbullying. This is to ensure that they can take appropriate action to protect students from online harassment.

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12 Pages, 3 Sections, 8 Issues  
Wednesday, August 14, 2013

**Schools prepare for new year**  
By Mike Griffin  
Schools are preparing for the new school year. Teachers are planning lessons and students are excited to start school.

**Taking aim**  
By Mike Griffin  
A group of people is participating in an archery competition. The competition is a chance for people to test their skills and compete for prizes.

**Couple beaten and robbed at Rocky Bayou home**  
By Mike Griffin  
A couple was beaten and robbed at their home in Rocky Bayou. The incident has caused significant trauma for the couple and has raised concerns about safety in the area.

**Niceville issues precautionary boil water notice**  
By Mike Griffin  
Niceville has issued a precautionary boil water notice. This is due to a potential issue with the water supply, and residents are advised to boil their water before drinking it.

**Valp. mulls lower millage**  
By Mike Griffin  
The city of Valparaiso is mulling a lower millage. The lower millage is intended to reduce the city's revenue and to help ease the burden on residents.

**Marsh course meeting 'a good first step'**  
By Mike Griffin  
A meeting about a marsh course was a good first step. The meeting was a chance for the community to get involved and to provide input on the project.

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12 Pages, 3 Sections, 8 Issues  
Wednesday, August 21, 2013

**First users of tollway to be on foot**  
By Mike Griffin  
The first users of a tollway will be on foot. This is a unique opportunity for people to experience the tollway and to provide feedback on its design and operation.

**Fresh faces**  
By Mike Griffin  
A group of people is participating in a "fresh faces" event. The event is aimed at raising awareness about the importance of skin care and promoting healthy skin.

**Company, city dicker over cutting garbage pickups**  
By Mike Griffin  
A company and the city are dicker over cutting garbage pickups. The company wants to reduce its costs, but the city wants to ensure that residents have reliable garbage service.

**Valparaiso commission discusses street, F-35**  
By Mike Griffin  
The Valparaiso commission is discussing a street and the F-35 program. The commission is looking for ways to improve the street and to address concerns about the F-35 program.

**N. Bay eyes \$2M budget**  
By Mike Griffin  
North Bay is eyeing a \$2 million budget. The budget is intended to fund a variety of projects and services in the area.

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, September 11, 2013

**Niceville nixes more cops, firefighters**  
Council cites need to hold line on expenses

**Celebrating 50 years**  
Robbery victim, 64, recounts beatings  
Three home invaders still on the loose

**Official: Cut our salary**

**Niceville High marks its golden anniversary**

**Fast-growing autism school seeks college site**  
NVFSC trustees eye proposal

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, September 11, 2013

**Vince Gill signed for Mullet Festival**

**Summer's last hurrah**

**Low-key reception for TRIM notices**

**Arrest in theft of \$25K**

**Niceville settles on budget plan**

**Council eyes 2 land petitions**

**Clearing for development**

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, September 11, 2013

**Niceville set to hike utilities rates**

**Labors of love**

**Final vote set on millage increase**  
County rate would rise 4.3%

**Car show raises funds for charity**

**Fire board mulls \$21K spending hike**

**Wrong turn**

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, September 11, 2013

**BWB panel opposes cell phone tower**

**To arms**

**2 jailed as drug dealers**

**Niceville set to OK \$12.7 million budget**

**Ground broken for senior complex**  
95 apartments planned

**Raised for the fallen**

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, September 11, 2013

**City to extend utility mains to Ruckel tract**

**Water colors**

**Unchanged tax rate OK'd by North Bay**  
A commissioner says it should be lower

**E. Niceville district votes to spend \$817,000**  
No change in tax rate

**Summer revenue gains posted by toll bridge**  
But traffic remains flat

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, September 11, 2013

**Niceville claims seniority with new seal**

**Signs of fall**

**Blue Ribbon honors awarded Collegiate High**

**Niceville eyes annexation, rezoning**

**Valparaiso keeps record tax rate**

**Niceville royalty**

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**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, October 9, 2013

**Okaloosa eyes millions in BP money**  
By Mike Smith  
Okaloosa County is eyeing millions of dollars in BP money to help pay for the cleanup of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The county is one of several in the Gulf Coast region that has received a letter from the U.S. Department of Justice regarding the spill.

**Rallying Ruckel**  
The Okaloosa County Ruckel Marching Band is preparing for the Mullet Festival. The band is made up of students from various schools in the county.

**BWB cell tower decision on hold**  
The Board of Water and Bay Administration (BWB) has put its decision on a cell tower on hold. The board is currently reviewing the project's impact on the environment.

**Prepping for Mullet Fest**  
The Mullet Festival is just around the corner. Organizers are busy preparing for the event, which will feature music, food, and fun for everyone.

**Most DoD employees go back to work**  
Following the release of the Ferguson report, many DoD employees have returned to work. The report addressed concerns about the military's handling of the Ferguson case.

**More tourists sought during Christmas holidays**  
Local businesses are hoping to attract more tourists during the Christmas holidays. They are offering special deals and events to draw visitors to the area.

**Storm Karen vs. beavers**  
A recent storm, Karen, has caused damage to beaver dams in the area. Wildlife officials are working to repair the dams to prevent flooding.

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, October 16, 2013

**Niceville halves garbage pickups**  
Switch to once a week seen boosting recycling. The city of Niceville has implemented a new garbage pickup schedule to encourage recycling.

**Mullet Festival to open Friday**  
Music, food, crafts, rides. The 37th Annual Mullet Festival is set to open on Friday. It will be a day of fun with live music, food vendors, and various activities.

**'Christmas Lady' to resume display**  
The 'Christmas Lady' display is set to resume in the town square. It is a popular holiday tradition that attracts many visitors.

**Campbell to serve probation, keep pension**  
A man named Campbell has been sentenced to probation. He will be able to keep his pension while serving his sentence.

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, October 23, 2013

**Valp. ratchets up shoreline litigation**  
The Valparaiso City Commission has increased its efforts to litigate shoreline issues. This is part of a larger effort to protect the city's coastline.

**Helping hounds**  
A group of volunteers is helping hounds in need. They are providing food, shelter, and medical care to stray dogs.

**North Bay debates grievance procedures**  
The North Bay area is debating new grievance procedures for employees. This is a significant change that will affect many workers.

**Budding engineer, 8, briefs bridge officials**  
An 8-year-old budding engineer has briefed bridge officials. He presented his ideas for a new bridge design to the officials.

**County suspends catering contract**  
The county has suspended a catering contract. This decision was made due to concerns about the quality of the service.

**Mullet madness**  
The Mullet Festival is causing a bit of madness in the town. There is a lot of excitement and activity surrounding the event.

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, October 23, 2013

**Okaloosa Gas explains 2.8% rate hike**  
Okaloosa Gas has explained a 2.8% rate hike. The increase is due to rising costs of gas and other factors.

**500th birthday for 'Land of Flowers'**  
The 'Land of Flowers' is celebrating its 500th birthday. There are special events and displays throughout the area.

**'Visioning' panel's dwindling ranks**  
The ranks of the 'Visioning' panel are dwindling. Some members have decided to step down from their roles.

**Public wants bigger signs**  
The public wants bigger signs for the 'Land of Flowers'. They feel that the current signs are too small and hard to read.

**2 leaving BWB board**  
Two members are leaving the BWB board. This leaves a gap in the board's leadership.

**MSBU seeks volunteers**  
MSBU is seeking volunteers for various projects. They need people who are interested in community service.

**Starting on a high note**  
The new year is starting on a high note. There is a lot of optimism and excitement for the future.

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, November 6, 2013

**Schools seek cameras on more buses**  
Schools are seeking cameras for more buses. This is to improve safety and security for students.

**Powwow held in Niceville**  
A powwow was held in Niceville. It was a celebration of Native American culture and traditions.

**Decision on charter nears for Valparaiso**  
A decision on a charter is near for Valparaiso. The city is currently in the final stages of the process.

**Niceville YMCA to shut its doors Dec. 31**  
The Niceville YMCA is set to shut its doors on Dec. 31. This is due to financial difficulties.

**Panel sees little change in school calendar for 2014-15**  
The panel sees little change in the school calendar for 2014-15. The current schedule is being maintained.

**Eagles win district title**  
The Eagles won the district title. They were the top team in their district.

**The Bay Beacon**  
Wednesday, November 13, 2013

**Medical costs jump for fire district**  
Medical costs have jumped for the fire district. This is due to an increase in emergency calls and treatments.

**Honoring those who served**  
Those who served in the military are being honored. There are special events and displays to recognize their service.

**General: Welcome vets back to civilian life**  
The community is welcoming vets back to civilian life. There are many resources available to help them.

**Ad boo-boo costs school district \$700**  
An ad boo-boo cost the school district \$700. This was an unexpected expense.

**Holding on to memories**  
People are holding on to memories from the past. There are many ways to preserve and share these memories.

Continued on page B-4

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## Weddings



Kathleen and William Higdon

### Holloway-Higdon

Albert and Vicky Holloway of Fort Walton Beach and Ron and Margo Higdon of Niceville would like to announce the marriage of their children, Kathleen Holloway and William Higdon. The marriage ceremony was held at Hurlburt's Soundside Club on September 21.

Kathleen is a 2005 graduate of the Choctawhatchee High School IB Program. She received a B.S. Degree in Bio

Please see WEDDING, page B-3

## Engagements



April Dawn Burks and Brian Patrick Ward

### Burks-Ward

April Dawn Burks and Brian Patrick Ward are happy to announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage.

April is the daughter of Emory and Clarice Burks of Cairo, Ga. She graduated from Valdosta State University with a Master of Education in 2003. She is employed at Valdosta High School as a math teacher.

Brian is the son of Al and Wanda Ward of Niceville. He graduated from Florida State

Please see ENGAGEMENT, page B-3



## Niceville High All-State chorus selected

The following students were selected from Niceville High School for participation in All-State Honor Chorus for the 2013-2014 school year; Matthew Beale, Lyndon Clifton, Taylor Evans, Jared Herzog, Kirsten Herzog, Ben Huston, Maggie LaFratta, Jacob LyteHaven, Angela Marco, Taylor Nelson, Tia Patel, Seth Pecore, Daniel Schlegel, Gabrielle Schrack, Isabelle Schrack, Zac Schwantz, Randy Sterling, Arin Walker and Lance Worthy.

## Who's News

Michael G. Christakos, a 2009 graduate of Niceville High School, earned his Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from the University of Florida in Gainesville on Dec. 14.

Christakos is a member of the Kappa Phi Epsilon social fraternity. He will enter graduate school in computer engineering at the University of Central Florida in Orlando beginning in January 2014.



Michael G. Christakos

Matthew Weeks of Niceville, realtor and lead listing agent, has

Please see WHO'S, page B-3



## Ursula Williams has Yard of the Month

Niceville Garden Club chose Ursula Williams's yard, at 1501 Royal Palm Dr., as Yard of the Month for January. The Niceville Garden Club meets at 6 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at the Niceville Public Library, 206 Partin Dr.

## Therapy dog promotes literacy at library

Baci, a trained therapy dog, was at the library Dec. 4 to sing Christmas carols with young readers. Baci has a regular program at the Niceville Public Library called "Read with Baci" designed to promote literacy among young readers who can select a book to read with him and his trainer Valerie Cahill. For more information call 279-4863 ext. 1514.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith



## In the Service

2nd Lt. Lance M. Murray graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelors in Nursing (RN-BSN) on Dec. 12.

He received his commission as an officer in the U.S. Army, selected for active duty in the Army Nurse Corps and will next attend Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Murray was also recognized with the Spirit of Nursing Award for exemplary nursing practices and is a 2009 Niceville High School graduate.

Please see SERVICE, page B-3



Lance M. Murray

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#### Comfort Foods: Fact or Fiction?

Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> | 11:30 am  
Twin Cities Hospital Wellness Center

Why do you over-eat? Does food really make us feel better? No matter what your size, your brain is in a constant battle between what is good *for* you versus what is good *to* you. Carlise Downie, LCSW, explains the psychology behind over-eating and why it's so hard to have "just one"!

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**THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER** —by Mike Griffith



What are your New Year's resolutions for 2014?

Location: Oak Creek shopping center



"I just hope things go better for my family. They've had a hard time this year."

Shirley Kessinger, 72, Niceville, housewife



"To be nicer to my family – I have a bit of a temper."

Felicia Kinter, 26, Niceville, mother



"Not to eat so much."

Margaret Curry, 65, DeFuniak Springs, senior beauty advisor



"Quit smoking."

Chris Gibbs, 22, Niceville, sales associate



"Get to know my family better."

Ronald Nunley, 52, Niceville, dairy associate



"To finally retire."

John Simmons, 67, Destin, engineer

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

**Edge gets gift for science**

The Emerald Coast Post of The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) has presented Edge Elementary School with a \$500 donation for the advancement of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Edge Elementary School intends to use the funds to purchase science supplies for their kindergarten through third grade classrooms for daily science instruction.



**Niceville boy receives Christmas wish**

Joel Strickland got an early Christmas present from CCB Bank, Upbeat Music in Crestview and BaZing Music recently when his mom, Dawn Strickland, put his Christmas wish up on the BaZing Facebook page in response to a query. Joel Strickland had wished for a full set of drums, which were presented to him Dec. 23. Pictured, Joel shakes hands with the president of CCB Community Bank, Alan Wood.



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**SERVICE**

From page B-1

Murray is the son of Peggy and Barry Murray of Niceville.

Air Force Airman **Christopher D. Farmer** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Farmer is the son of Charles and Dawn Farmer of Niceville.

He is a 2004 graduate of Rocky Bayou Christian School, Niceville.



**Eagle Pride band receives check for playoff travel**

Chick-fil-A of Niceville hosted a Spirit Day for the Eagle Pride Band on Dec. 11 that raised over \$1,500. Lara Cochran, Marketing Coordinator, presented Dan Wooten, Director of Bands, a check to help the band travel to Orlando for the state playoff game held in Orlando Dec. 13.

**2014**  
CALENDAR  
E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com

**First Day Hike**

The first hike at Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park for the new year will be Wednesday Jan. 1 from 10-11:00 a.m.

The hike will be held on the Red Cedar Trail. The trail is one half mile long and the degree of difficulty is "easy." Participants should meet at the Red Cedar pavilion at 10 a.m. where Park rangers will give a brief introduction.

Please dress for the weather and wear closed toe shoes. Suggested items to bring include water, camera, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Park entrance fees are waived to participants. Call for information 833-9144.

**Audubon meets**

The first Audubon meeting of the year will be Jan. 2 with "The Shark Tank" by Charidy "Sharkie" Krouse, shark biologist and conservationist who will present an overview often misunderstood shark.

The meeting will be held in room 130 on the ground floor of the Student Services Center at the Niceville campus of Northwest Florida State College, and will begin at 6:30 p.m. with socializing and light refreshments. The meeting is free and open to the interested public. For more information, call Walt Spence at 582-7064.

**Republican women meet**

The Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated will be having

**WHO'S**

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joined the Powerhouse Real Estate Group at Keller Williams Realty Emerald Coast. Matthew is a member of the National Association of Realtors, Florida Realtors and Emerald Coast Association of Realtors and is currently enrolled with the Bold Real Estate Training program at Keller Williams Realty Emerald Coast.



Matthew Weeks

Real Estate Training program at Keller Williams Realty Emerald Coast.

**Obituary**

**Wanda Gail Bailey Sasser**

1953-2013  
Mrs. Wanda Gail Bailey Sasser, 60, of Blackshear, Ga., passed away Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Golden Living Center in Jesup, Ga.

Born in Washington, D.C. on May 23, 1953, she had lived in Pierce County, Ga. since 1986. Mrs. Sasser was a retired bank teller with Bank of America, Waycross branch, and was a member of West Carswell Baptist Church. She will be remembered for many things but mostly for her love for her family. She was a daughter of the late Willard Emil Bailey.

Survivors include her husband,

their annual business meeting with new officers being installed on Jan. 8 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on Okaloosa Island.

Socializing will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon. To accommodate working women, there will be a "Dine and Dash" table.

To reserve, contact Donna Pattison at 651-5416 or donnapattison@cox.net by noon on Friday, Jan. 3.

Cost of the lunch is \$16 for members and \$18 for guests. For more information about RWOFF, visit rwof.org.

**History weekend**

Make history part of your future with "Home School Fridays" and "Hands-On History Saturdays," a monthly program based on the Florida core standards for education for children ages 5-12 at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso. Each month, until June a different program will be presented related to Northwest Florida history for children and families.

January's program will be "Native American Legends" on Jan. 3 and 4 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

\$7 per child or \$5 for museum

family members. Special deal for new family members. Groups welcome, space is limited so please pre-register at 678-2615.

**Mid-Bay Connector opens**

The Mid-Bay Bridge Connector in Niceville is opening Jan. 4 with a 5K/half marathon run over portions of this new, scenic roadway.

Festivities begin with a half marathon starting at 8 a.m. followed shortly by a 5K run/walk. Music, food, and beverages will be provided, awards and door prizes following.

Run proceeds will benefit the Special Operations Warrior Foundation and promote local area athletics through the Northwest Florida Track Club.

Register online at NWFTC.com or Mid-Bay.com.

**Bird walk**

Join local ornithologist, Alan Knothe on Jan. 4 for a bird walk at Big Sabine Point on Santa Rosa Island. See shorebirds and wading birds at this unique location.

Be prepared for a long walk and wear closed-toe shoes. Meet at Uptown Station in Ft. Walton at

7:30 a.m. Call Alan at 850-862-3498 for more info.

**Mac users meet**

The January meeting of the Mac Users Group will be held on Monday, Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northwest Florida State College student services building, room 132.

Eddie Branch will be presenting the program entitled "iPad Mail De-mystified plus MacMail, Calendar and Contacts continued!"

For more information, visit FWBMug.com or contact Jean Dutton at 862-3327 or jeandutton@mac.com.

**Citizens Academy**

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office presents Sheriff Larry Ashley's Citizens Academy Jan. 7 through April 1 Tuesday nights from 6-9 p.m. at the Okaloosa County Sheriff's administrative building in the training room.

Ride along with a deputy, tour the courthouse and go to a firing range and more. For more information contact Ashley Bailey, Crime Prevention Manager at abailey@sheriff-okaloosa.org or visit sheriff-okaloosa.org.



**Run, walk the Mid-Bay Connector**

The Mid-Bay Bridge Connector in Niceville is opening Jan. 4 with a 5K/half marathon run over portions of this new, scenic roadway. Festivities begin with a half marathon starting at 8 a.m. followed shortly by a 5K run/walk. Music, food, and beverages will be provided, awards and door prizes following. Register online at NWFTC.com or Mid-Bay.com.

**ENGAGEMENT**

From page B-1

University with a Master of Arts in 2001. He is employed at Valdosta State University as a lecturer in the English department.

The wedding was held at Crossroads Baptist Church on Dec. 28. The couple plans to reside in Valdosta, Ga.

**WEDDING**

From page B-1

Medical Sciences from the University of South Florida in 2009 and graduated in 2012 from the University of West Florida's School of Allied Health and Life Sciences. She works at the North Okaloosa Medical Center in Crestview as a medical technologist.

William is a 2006 Niceville High School graduate and received his AA from Northwest Florida State College in 2008. He graduated in 2011 from Auburn University with a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering. In 2013 he graduated with a Master's Degree in Aerospace Engineering and received a Graduate Certificate in Technical and Professional Communication. He works at Eglin Air Force Base.

They reside in Niceville.

John Sasser, a daughter and son-in-law, Theresa and Chester Clements, two sons and daughters-in-law, Billy and Katie Flynn and Bobby and Michelle Flynn, all of which are of Blackshear, Ga.; her mother, Georgia Keisler Bailey, and her sister, Marlene Bailey, both of Niceville; six grandchildren: Julianna Flynn, Joseph Flynn, Colton Flynn, Riley Clements, Regan Clements and Tate Clements, and several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services for Mrs. Sasser were held Monday evening, Dec. 23 at 8 p.m. from the Pearson-Dial Chapel in Blackshear, Ga. Memorialization was by cremation.

Memorials may be made to West Carswell Baptist Church, 2236 W. Carswell Ave., Waycross, Ga. 31503 or to a charity of one's choosing.

Sympathy may be expressed by signing the online register at pearsondial.com. Pearson-Dial Funeral Home of Blackshear is in charge of the arrangements.

**Beacon CLASSIFIEDS**

**Help Wanted**

**Newspaper Reporter**

The Bay Beacon has an opening for a full-time reporter. The job requires a hard-working, self-starting, organized journalist with high standards for accuracy, the ability to meet deadlines, a nose for news, and concern for readers. Paid vacation, IRA plan. Applicants should have reporting experience. Apply at the Beacon's office 1181 E. John Sims Pkwy, Niceville. Submit copies of samples of your written work.

**Advertising Sales**

The Beacon Newspapers (The Bay Beacon, The Eglin Flyer, The Hurlburt Patriot) have an opening for a career-minded, full-time person to sell customers the benefits of newspaper advertising. Candidates should be upbeat, energetic, organized, self-starting and detail-oriented. Salary plus incentive. Mileage allowance. Benefits include IRA plan and paid vacation and holidays. Candidates must be available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and have a reliable vehicle. We will train the right person. Apply in person at the Beacon, 1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville.

**Help Wanted**

**Newspaper Delivery**

Earn extra cash of \$45 to \$140 or more each week in your spare time! The Bay Beacon seeks a reliable independent contractor to insert, bag, and deliver newspapers Tuesday night. You must be over 21 and have a reliable vehicle, a good driving record, a Florida driver's license, and proof of current liability insurance. No collecting duties. Earnings vary according to route and work load. Stop by the Bay Beacon for an information sheet and to fill out an application. The Beacon 1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville • 678-1080 (Parkway East Shopping Center across from PoFolks)

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(850) 678-1080

**Help Wanted**

**Freelance Newspaper Correspondent**

The Bay Beacon, Niceville, FL, seeks a freelance reporter to write human interest features or cover meetings of government agencies in Niceville, Valparaiso, and elsewhere in Okaloosa County. You must be available most nights, most days, or both. We pay \$30 per story and \$5 per photo, when published. Writing experience is essential, as are use of a home computer and a reliable vehicle. Some reporting and photo experience is helpful, but not required. This a great chance to learn more about your community. E-mail cover letter, a statement of qualifications, and info on whether you are available most days, most evenings, or both, to hrdept@baybeacon.com

**Homes for Sale**

Home-58 acres, pond, 9000+ sf, indoor pool, 6 tall garages, mahogany log cabin, l-room, 4 bd, 6 ba. Taxes-\$770/yr. Low utilities. Call 850-588-9443. \$496,000.00 OBO. Wing, AL. Picture/Map can be seen at www.housefarmdeal.com

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**Opportunities**

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**Where do I start?** For more information or advising contact Ray Rickman, Chair of Advanced Technology & Design, at (850) 729-5218 or rickmanr@nwfsc.edu or visit www.nwfsc.edu.

**Homes for Sale**

**Homes for Sale**

**Homes for Sale**

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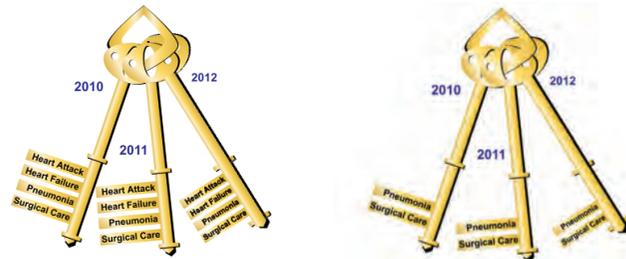


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