

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-4

10 Pages, 2 Sections, 4 Inserts

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

50¢

UP COMING

Wed., 5-7 p.m.



Auditions for adult vocalists for the **Northwest Florida State College Schola Cantorum** ensemble will be held in room 312 of the Music Wing of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville campus. Singers should read music and have choral experience. 830-2062.

Wed., 10 a.m.



Alzheimer's Family Services will hold a support group for family members or friends coping with a loved one with Alzheimer's disease at the **Niceville United Methodist Church, Chandler Center, 214 S. Partin Drive.** The support group is free. 866-478-7790.

Thurs., 1:30-4 p.m.



Celebrate **Batman's 75th anniversary** at the **Valparaiso Community Library** with free snacks, crafts, Wii, cartoons, comics and more. First 50 attendees get a gift pack. Open to all. 729-5406.

Thurs., 4 p.m.



Adventure Club **bicycle ride** begins at the **Dockside Restaurant** and Marina on Bayshore Drive. Open to all. 897-6756.

Cops add laptops to their toolkits

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

Niceville Police officers have a whole new way to get information quickly in order to catch the bad guys. Officers will be able to run license plates and look up other information in their vehicles instead of calling dispatchers to do so now they're using laptop computers.

Niceville Police Department Chief David Popwell said, "The decision was made because it was more cost effective and beneficial for the officers to stay on the road and do reports on computers. This way they can remain out on the roadway

where the citizens can see them."

It's something Valparaiso police and the sheriff's office have had for years. Valparaiso Police Chief Joseph Hart said officers can pull up the history of an address, see if it has the same occupants, can do a driver's license check, run queries and more. They have had laptops for seven years and Hart said it's improved the efficiency of his officers.

Nicole Wagner, spokesperson for the Okaloosa County Sheriff's office, agrees and sees another advantage--safety, since officers can know something

Please see COPS, page A-6



Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders
Niceville Police Officer Joshua Kimbril with one of the new laptop computers used in city police cars. Officers now can access motor-vehicle databases directly and write crime reports in the field.

Valp. eyes millage boost

By Rich Byrd
Beacon Correspondent

The Valparaiso City Commission will convene Monday to further discuss a draft budget for the fiscal year that will begin Oct. 1. The commission has proposed a 16 percent increase in the millage rate, but the size of the increase may shrink as budget deliberations proceed.

City Clerk Tammy Johnson presented a draft budget for the

commission to review at a meeting July 21. Her presentation identified projected revenue targets, estimated cost for wages and benefits, operations and maintenance projections and new items for consideration such as equipment, computer requirements, or repairs.

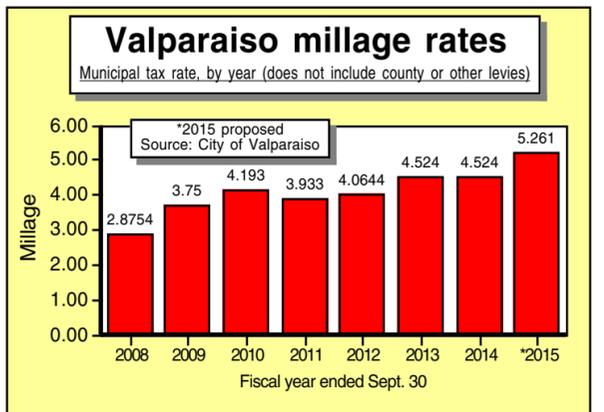
Initially, commissioners focused on line items in each department's projected requirements. However, Mayor Bruce Arnold said that "the budget

workshops were strictly informational meetings to determine what each department needed, and final determination would be made during the budget hearings."

The proposed 2015 budget target was \$7,452,145, up from the 2014 budget of \$7,405,345.

Highlights of the proposed 2015 budget included:
—A 5.261 mills ad valorem tax rate, up from the current 4.524.

Please see VALP, page A-5



Beach bound



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

The highway to the Mid-Bay Bridge, which is billed as "the quickest way to Destin," was slowed down somewhat Saturday afternoon, as a long line of southbound vehicles, many of them filled with tourists heading for beach resorts, backed up while motorists paid their tolls and funneled onto the two-lane toll span linking Niceville with Destin. Traffic over the 3.5-mile bridge is particularly heavy on summer Saturdays, when many week-long condo rentals turn over.

Schools tax rate to decline But levy would rise

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

On Monday, the Okaloosa County School Board set the tentative property tax rate at 7.441 mills for the 2014-15 fiscal year, which started July 1. The rate is a 1.5 percent decrease from the 2013-14 rate of 7.551.

Officials said the state mandated the decrease in the millage and the school board chose to make no other changes. Due to an estimated \$632,055,384 increase in the taxable value of property in the county, despite the decrease in the millage, the school district should still collect more than \$3 million more in property-tax revenue in 2014-15.

If approved after a public hearing in Fort Walton Beach at 6:15 p.m. Sept 8, the tentative millage rate means that property owners in Okaloosa County would pay the school board just over \$7.44 for each \$1,000 of assessed taxable value on their property.

What this means to the owner of a house with an unchanged taxable value of \$150,000, after all exemptions, is a schools tax bill \$16.50 less than last year. However, the

Please see SCHOOLS, page A-5

Former Niceville 'head shop' operator arrested

Beacon staff

A former Niceville man who operated a string of "head shops" in Okaloosa County has been arrested on federal income-tax charges, according to U.S. authorities.

Pamela C. Marsh, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Florida, announced that Patrick Alfred Anderson, 62, of Laughlin, Nev., was arraigned in federal court July 24 following his indictment by

a U.S. grand jury in Pensacola and arrest in Nevada.

The indictment alleges that Anderson, while a resident of Niceville, filed false individual and corporate federal income tax returns for the years 2010 and 2011.

The indictment alleges that for 2010, Anderson reported a total income of \$58,452 when in fact, his income was about \$88,149, and in 2011 he reported a total income of negative

\$81,710, when in fact, his income was approximately \$259,995, according to the indictment.

The indictment also alleges that Anderson filed a false 2011 corporate income tax return for Haight Ashbury LLC claiming that the business's gross receipts were \$305,772, when in fact, they were approximately \$616,886.

Anderson was arraigned on the charges by U.S. Magistrate

Judge Elizabeth M. Timothy. A trial is scheduled for Sept. 2 before Senior U.S. District Judge Lacey A. Collier at the U.S. District Courthouse in Pensacola.

As part of his conditions of release pending trial, Anderson is required not to have any contact with any former employees or customers of his former businesses located in the Northern District of Florida, which include Haight Ashbury

LLC, Woodstock Navarre, Woodstock Niceville, Woodstock Fort Walton Beach, Woodstock Mary Esther, Woodstock Santa Rosa Beach, and Woodstock Crestview, according to the U.S. Attorney.

If convicted, Anderson faces a maximum of three years in prison, restitution, and a fine of \$100,000 for each count.

The case is prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany H. Eggers and was investigated

by the Internal Revenue Service and the Okaloosa County Multi-Agency Drug Task Force.

Anderson's shops, including the now-shuttered Woodstock store at 311 Government Ave., Niceville, were raided twice in 2012 by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office on allegations they were selling drugs called bath salts and spice. Anderson denied any wrongdoing in connection with those raids, and no arrests were reported.

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Okaloosa County Clerk of Court candidates answer questions

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

The Bay Beacon today publishes information on the three candidates for Okaloosa County Clerk of Court in the Aug. 26 election.

Early voting will take place daily between Aug. 11 and 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at five locations in the county, including locally at the Niceville municipal complex, 208 Partin Drive North. On election day, voting will take place at each voter's assigned precinct polling place between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters may also obtain absentee ballots from the Supervisor of Elections office.

Early this year, the incumbent county clerk, Don W. Howard, who has served since 2005, announced his retirement in mid-term, effective October 2014. Three candidates, all Republicans, are running in a special election for the two years remaining in the term: J.D. Peacock, Charles Baugh Jr. and Dan Spence.

All registered voters may cast ballots in the Aug. 26 balloting for clerk because all the candidates belong to the same political party. Hence the primary election will decide the office. The top vote-getter will win, even if he does not obtain a majority.

The Beacon asked the candidates to answer a set of questions so voters could learn about their backgrounds and views. Their answers follow.

Dan Spence



Date and place of birth: August 12, 1978, Mobile, Ala.

Occupation: Director of finance and controller

Employer: Tom Thumb Food Stores

Formal education: B.S. Accounting, Auburn University

Number of years in Okaloosa County: 11

Home address: 417 Whirlaway Court, Crestview

Spouse and children: Tiffany; Daniel, 13, Daylin, 12, David, 9, DJ, 5 (Placed with us for adoption as of Jun. 14), Dillon, 4 (Adopted at birth)

E-mail: danspence2014@gmail.com

Background in public service as elected or appointed official

Charles Baugh Jr.: Crestview Councilman, Director of Florida League of Cities, President of Northwest Florida and Okaloosa County League of Cities, Member of Okaloosa-Walton and Northwest Florida Regional Transportation Planning Organization

J.D. Peacock: Major and Chief Administrator, Budget Director with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. Managed at all levels and every function of the sheriff's office.

Dan Spence: I have never served as an elected or appointed official, and that's a good thing. I'll bring proven practices and perspectives from the private sector to our county.

Chief accomplishments

Baugh: Eliminated Crestview municipal impact fees for economic growth; instrumental in establishing the Crestview-FAMU College of Pharmacy; Technology, University of Florida; 96 Hrs. Nuclear Engineering Sciences

Peacock: Led the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office through its initial accreditation assessment and recognition. First agency in the state to complete accreditation in a paperless environment.

Spence: Worked for 2 Fortune 500 Companies (Kroger, Georgia-Pacific). Simultaneously managed Accounting/Finance, Information Technology and Risk Management Departments. Completed Financial Leadership Program at Wharton College of Business (University of Pennsylvania)

Why are you running for office?

Baugh: Motivated to run for office to fully restore the public trust and confidence in the position by ensuring the county's public records are fully transparent, safeguarded and maintained. Secondly, to ensure the county's financial records possess the necessary oversight to meet accepted accounting principles and resolve the TDC audit findings.

Peacock: I am running because there is a great opportunity to bring new leadership, fresh administrative ideas and increased transparency that is based on real-world experience to the Clerk's Office. My proven background and years of Okaloosa County government experience are an excellent fit for this challenging and complex position.

Spence: It's imperative that

the clerk have the financial expertise to safeguard the county's tax dollars. My education, experience and leadership make me uniquely qualified for this position. I bring 13 years of accounting and finance experience for 2 Fortune 500 Companies. I also have experience simultaneously managing multiple departments with diverse focuses.

In what significant ways do you differ from your opponents?

Baugh: Possessing federal (military), municipal and private sector management experiences make me uniquely different from my opponents. My diversified work experience exposed me to wide-ranging challenges in managing, leading and solving complex issues for over 33 years. I bring the best practices in managing and supervising personnel while simultaneously motivating them to provide exceptional job performance. Unlike my opponents, I have the benefit of working with governmental and private sector records and financial management systems. In today's complex financial environment, I have the experience to apply lessons learned from all entities to ensure the taxpayers get the best customer service possible.

Peacock: I grew up in Okaloosa County and have given almost 25 years of dedicated service to my community as a law enforcement officer with the Sheriff's Office. I have close to 5 years of senior leadership experience in a countywide agency, including as budget director, fiscal policy implementer and day-to-day financial manager of operations. I have experience with the court processes of the county and circuit courts. I have experience with public records, including the protection of citizen's information in public records. I have completed numerous leadership and management programs and hold a master's level certification in public management.

Spence: As the only candidate with an accounting degree, accounting experience and financial management experience, I am highly qualified to lead the Clerk's Office and be the Comptroller for Okaloosa County. My experience managing the daily operations of an accounting department for a Fortune 500 company, setting policies and developing procedures, as well as budgeting and forecasting, have prepared me for this position. In addition, I annually work with internal/external financial audits and understand the process from all perspectives. It's imperative that our next Clerk and Comptroller have the financial background to ensure our county's fiscal well-being into the future.

What are the top three issues facing the office, and how would you address them?

Baugh: 1) Resolving the state auditor general's Report No. 2013-085 findings following the Okaloosa County Tourist Development Council scandal involving the use of tourist development taxes and funds received from British Petroleum, (2) Bringing the electronic filing capabilities of the clerk of the circuit court to efficient and effective levels and (3) Providing consistently exemplary customer service across all areas of responsibility are the top issues. I would address these issues in a two part process by obtaining an accurate assessment of the records keeping, comptroller and judicial responsibilities of this office. The

first being focused on gathering requirements feedback from both internal and external customers of the Clerk's office. The second part will be to prioritize resolving deficiencies by identifying the resources available for each. I will have no hesitation in borrowing the best practices of other clerks to bring the office to the level the citizens of Okaloosa expect.

Peacock: First will be to continue to carry out the recommendations of the State Auditor General as outlined in their operational audit. While many of the recommendations have been instituted, the component related to creating a county audit plan still needs work. I will also re-designate the internal audit department into the Inspector General Division of the Clerk's Office. This division will provide an increased capability to investigate specific financial issues, with published reports. The division will be modeled after professional and accredited offices throughout the state. Second will be to continue with the implementation of innovative records management programs in the court related operations. My experience with the judicial staff and court operations will allow me to bring innovative thinking and be a leader with these process improvements. Third is that I will improve the agency website with interactive features and easy access to government records and information.

Spence: First and foremost, I will continue the work that's already begun by the current clerk addressing the two state auditor general's reports resulting from the TDC fraud. Revising the audit work plans in coordination with the new internal auditor will be a priority. Building on that, specific areas will be reviewed and addressed to improve accounting processes and ensure separation of duties. This must continue to be a focus in the future to ensure loopholes are closed for fraudulent activity.

Another key issue is the continued migration towards electronic-based data. There are several challenges on the court side in regards to the E-filing system that need to be addressed with the input of the courts and bar association.

Finally, customer service must be a priority in the clerk's office. I will bring a private sector customer focused mentality emphasizing customer needs and convenient interactions.

How do you think customer service can be improved in the Clerk of Court's offices?

Baugh: Hands on, doing various tasks to familiarize myself with the processes. I want to get an understanding of each organizational area. By evaluating how our systems and processes affect our customers and to see what obstacles get in the way of excellent customer service, customer service can be significantly improved.

Peacock: Customer service will be the most important value of the office. There are many experienced and hard working employees at the office and I will be a champion of professional development for our team. Valued and encouraged employees become invested in serving our citizens and the clients of the office.

Spence: I believe there are three key areas for customer service enhancements: positive interactions with every employee in the clerk's office, additional payment options for convenience and easier access to public records by website enhancements. Building a culture of customer service starts every day with every employee.

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Date and place of birth: Oct. 17, 1965, Stockton, Calif.

Occupation: Law Enforcement Executive, Chief Administrator

Employer: Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

Formal education: B.A. Management, Florida State University

Number of years in Okaloosa County: 45

Home address: 20 Hillcrest Drive, Shalimar

Spouse and children: Laura; two grown children, three grandchildren.

E-mail: jdpeacock4clerk@gmail.com

Charles Baugh Jr.



Date and place of birth: Jul. 29, 1955, Nashville, Tenn.

Occupation: Technician
Employer: Qwest Airparts Inc.

Formal education: A.S. Community College of the Air Force; Information Systems Technology, University of Florida; 96 Hrs. Nuclear Engineering Sciences

Number of years in Okaloosa County: 13

Home address: 216 Warrior Street, Crestview

Spouse and children: Roslyn Baugh; Charles III, Nicholas and Candice

E-mail: baugh4clerkofthecircuitcourt@gmail.com

J.D. Peacock



Date and place of birth: Oct. 17, 1965, Stockton, Calif.

Occupation: Law Enforcement Executive, Chief Administrator

Employer: Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

Formal education: B.A. Management, Florida State University

Number of years in Okaloosa County: 45

Home address: 20 Hillcrest Drive, Shalimar

Spouse and children: Laura; two grown children, three grandchildren.

E-mail: jdpeacock4clerk@gmail.com

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Mr. Girls Soccer for Niceville

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

Ever since the American women's soccer team won the Olympic gold medal in 1996, women's soccer fervor has grown in the U.S. One of the spectators at that game had already brought girls soccer to Niceville and Okaloosa County.

Al Haberbusch, of Niceville, has a plaque on his wall declaring him "Mr. Girls Soccer"—and for good reason, since he helped start the sport at Niceville High School and through the Niceville PAL Soccer League years before that famous Olympic game.

For his record as a founder, coach, and referee of local soccer leagues, Haberbusch will be honored Aug. 2 in Buena Vista with the Pioneer Award for 2014 from the Florida Youth Soccer Association.

Haberbusch describes soccer like most people describe chess. "I think you have to appreciate the beauty of the game and the flow of play and that the players have to be thinking all the time, they have to be thinking way ahead, two or three picks of the ball down field. It's a real thinking person's game."

It all started very simply in 1987 when the Haberbusch family moved to Niceville because he was stationed at Eglin as an

Air Force colonel. His two daughters Holly and Robyn wanted to continue to play soccer, as they had in their previous home in Virginia. But they could find no girls teams here—neither in recreational leagues nor at the public schools.

So, Haberbusch talked to the president of the local PAL Soccer League, which had no girls-only teams at that time, about starting a girls league in Niceville. The league decided to give it a try in 1988 and about 100 girls signed up.

Current PAL President Howard Hill said that as a league officer and coach, Haberbusch played a key role in recruiting girls and getting them to return year after year. "That's because of Al getting it started right and making them want to come back," Hill said.

Hill thinks that's why the Niceville PAL has the only youth recreational soccer league in the county will all-girl teams.

While Haberbusch was coaching a PAL team for girls in grades 9 through 12, he got a call around 1989 from a girl at Choctawhatchee High School. The student, Kelly Callen, and Haberbusch's daughter Holly became friends. They also became high school soccer founders with the help of their dads.



Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders
Al Haberbusch helped found girls soccer teams in the PAL league in Niceville and at Niceville High School in the late 1980s and the early 1990s. He will be honored Saturday with a statewide award.

Haberbusch and Kelly's father lobbied the school district to start girls soccer teams, but were told they needed to form school soccer clubs first to demonstrate that there was enough interest. So their daughters did. Teams soon sprang up in the high schools, and later in county middle schools.

The Niceville High School girls soccer team took second place in its first tournament. They had lost their first game, but came back to win the next three and take on the other winners of the day. By that time, Haberbusch says they were "the walking wounded." To win the day, they would have had to beat the other team twice. They didn't get that far, but it was still an auspicious beginning.

NHS girls soccer teams have been district champs 13 times since the 1999-2000 school year and regional champs twice. Haberbusch says NHS soccer players have played at the collegiate level almost every year since the high school team has been in existence as well.

Haberbusch started refereeing for the two leagues in 1989 and continued up until a few

years ago. He says he had to stop when he couldn't keep up with the girls any more, but he still instructs other referees. He was District Referee Administrator from 1995 to 2014.

Hill thinks Haberbusch has led the area in educating referees. "I feel that Al has set the highest professional standards for the referees."

Hill said that in just five years in the 2000s when Haberbusch was instructing, three PAL referees he was mentoring were selected as the young referee of the year for the Southeast region. "I attribute that to Al teaching them, grooming them," said Hill.

There are 17 laws of refereeing in soccer. One of Haberbusch's favorite sayings is that the 18th law is common sense. He says how you call a game depends on the dynamics of each one.

His fondest memory is seeing his girls grow in the game. Later Holly followed in the family tradition, helping to organize a new recreational soccer league in Henderson, Tenn., and then coaching as well.



Al Haberbusch's daughters Robyn and Holly back in the early days of girls soccer at Niceville High School.

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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

On July 14, Niceville police arrested Christopher John Massingill, 29, a restaurant worker, of 203 Kelly Rd., Apt. 7, Niceville, for one count of dealing in stolen property.

The arrest was made on an Okaloosa County Circuit Court warrant stemming from an incident on April 9 in which Massingill allegedly stole two white gold rings, valued at \$2,463, while entering a woman's home to collect clothing for her while she was in the hospital.

When the victim returned home from the hospital, she noticed the rings were missing. The victim later recognized them in police photos of items sold by Massingill to a gold purchasing company.

On July 15, Niceville police arrested McLain William Malone, 23, a groundskeeper, of 207 Bayberry Dr., Niceville, for one count each of possession of a controlled substance without prescription, marijuana distribution, and drug equipment possession and/or use.



McLain W. Malone

The arrest was made after police responded to a traffic crash at State Road 285 and College Boulevard, in which Malone was the driver and sole occupant of a vehicle which hit the rear of another vehicle. During the crash investigation an officer smelled the odor of marijuana coming from Malone.

When interviewed by police, Malone admitted to having smoked marijuana earlier that day, and to having marijuana inside a tote bag in his possession. Police examined the bag and found approximately 74 grams of a green leafy substance which field tested positive for THC.

Police also found a scale with marijuana residue on it, 25 Xanax 1 mg pills, and a small clear round container containing a liquid that field tested for the presence of THC. Police also found \$963.01 cash in Malone's possession.

On July 16, Niceville police arrested Stephen Bradley Martin, 44, 9950 US Highway 98 W.,

Miramar Beach, for one count each of possession of methamphetamine, possession of Suboxone film, and possession of narcotic paraphernalia.

Also arrested was Carolyn Suzanne Cole, 35, who refused to provide her true address, for two counts of providing false information to a law enforcement officer, and one count each of possession of methamphetamine and possession of narcotic paraphernalia.

Also arrested was Nathan Wyvil Pappas, 40, occupation unknown, of 100 Arrowhead Way, Niceville, for one count each of possession of methamphetamine, possession of narcotic paraphernalia, and resisting without violence.

The three were arrested during a traffic stop after an officer observed them in a vehicle parked in the parking lot of a closed business at 12:30 a.m. In the course of the traffic stop, police discovered numerous items of drugs and paraphernalia in the vehicle.

On July 20, Niceville police arrested Vaughan Garrett Holmes, 20, a cook, of 820 Gibson Rd., unit 36, Fort Walton Beach, for one count each of possession of marijuana, more than 20 grams, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of marijuana with intent to sell.

During a patrol, police observed Holmes rummaging through a 2005 Pontiac on Jonathan Circle. Investigation revealed that Holmes had an active misdemeanor warrant from Okaloosa County for trespass. Officers also observed a clear bag in plain view in the driver seat of Holmes' vehicle. The bag contained a large amount of suspected marijuana.

Police discovered a black digital scale of a type used to weigh marijuana. The suspected marijuana was field tested positive for the presence of THC, and weighed out at 21.5 grams.



Vaughan G. Holmes

On July 21, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office arrested Rhonda Sue Brewer, 23, an unemployed telemarketer, of 307 East Emerson St., Sharon, Ark., for grand theft of a motor vehicle.

On the afternoon of July 21, a deputy sheriff observed a black 2003 Chevrolet Tracker with an Arkansas tag traveling on 27th Street in Niceville. The officer observed that the vehicle's registration decal did not display an expiration date, so the officer queried the registration through a police database, and learned that the vehicle had been reported stolen in Arkansas.

When the vehicle stopped on 23rd Street the officer made contact with Brewer, the driver, who said that she had borrowed the car from a friend. The officer contacted the friend, who stated that he and another unknown male had agreed to purchase the vehicle from a third unknown male. However, the friend could not provide any documentation showing ownership of the vehicle other than a handwritten note stating that he and another unknown male owned the vehicle.

The deputy contacted the Paragould, Ark., Police Department, which advised that the vehicle was stolen on July 2, and that Brewer lives a block from the victim.

False 911 calls

On July 15, Valparaiso police responded to the 911 call from an address on Kelly Mill Road. Police learned that a child had accidentally called 911 while playing with the telephone.

On July 16 Valparaiso police responded to an address on Washington Avenue, regarding a 911 call with an open line or hang up. The operator stated that she had heard a baby crying before the phone was hung up. An officer made contact with an elderly resident of the address from which the call had come, and the resident said she had a granddaughter who lived next door with a baby. No one at either address admitted to making a 911 call.

On July 18, Valparaiso police received a 911 call from a location on John Sims Parkway. Investigation indicated that the call was apparently a cell phone "pocket dial" by a man at work in a tattoo parlor.

On July 21, Valparaiso police responded to an address on Andrew Drive, in response to a 911 open line call reported from the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. Police were unable to contact anyone at the residence, which appeared to be unoccupied. The doors and windows were secure and the responding officer was unable to see in any of the windows due to the blinds all being pulled down.

Other

On July 16 Valparaiso police received a call from a resident of

Edge Avenue, who said that a dog had followed him home and he wanted it picked up. Police returned the dog to its owner.

On July 15, Valparaiso police responded to a report that someone was banging with a hammer on or near Washington Avenue. Upon arrival, police were unable to hear any loud noise matching the complaint.

On July 17 Valparaiso police received a report from a resident of Southview Avenue who said that children had recently come to his house and asked him if their mother lived there. The resident said he found the children's visit out of the ordinary and wanted to make police aware of it.

On July 17 a woman came to the Valparaiso police station to report that her Georgia driver's license had been stolen.

On July 18 a Valparaiso postal driver came to the police station to report that a bag of her personal items was missing, and that it may have either been stolen or fallen from her truck while she was working her rounds.

On July 19 Niceville police responded to an address on Als Drive regarding a report that a car had been scratched the previous night.

On July 19, Valparaiso police received a report from a resident of Safe Harbor Street that a paint sprayer and some other equipment had been stolen from his house the previous night.

On July 19 a woman came to the Valparaiso police station to turn in a bag she had found containing a check for \$394. Attempts by police to locate the owner of the bag and check have thus far been unsuccessful.

On July 22, the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office responded to an address on Hickory Avenue in Niceville regarding a possible vehicle theft and hit-and-run accident with property damage. The case remains pending.

On July 20, Niceville police responded to an address on Sunshine Lane regarding a report that a brick had been thrown through someone's vehicle window.

On July 20, Valparaiso police responded to a domestic dispute in which the caller reported that her husband was intoxicated and making threats, putting her in fear for her life. Police helped the couple resolve their problems, and by the time police left the scene, both parties were hugging one another

Fire Department Reports

Niceville



The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from July 21, 2014 through July 27, 2014.

0 Structure Fire	21 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	2 Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
1 Illegal Burn	2 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	1 Hazardous Conditions

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	7/22/14	06:26
Turkey Creek Bridge	Vehicle crash	7/22/14	12:04
26th Street	Medical	7/22/14	12:26
26th Street	Medical	7/22/14	14:52
S.R. 85 N.	Vehicle crash	7/22/14	17:08
Sugarcane Creek Run	Good intent	7/23/14	00:24
Powell Dr.	Medical	7/23/14	05:48
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	7/23/14	06:38
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	7/23/14	13:39
23rd Street	Medical	7/23/14	16:08
Valparaiso Blvd.	Good intent	7/23/14	20:52
Government Ave.	Light ballast breakdown	7/24/14	09:22
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	7/24/14	10:51
Als Drive	Medical	7/24/14	11:52
Judith Ave.	Medical	7/24/14	16:38
SR 85 N/SR 123	Medical	7/24/14	17:02
21st Street	Medical	7/25/14	12:01
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	7/26/14	10:21
Reeves St.	Medical	7/26/14	10:24
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	7/26/14	17:39
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	7/26/14	18:43
Tee Street	Illegal burning	7/26/14	21:33
Lanman Rd.	Medical	7/27/14	01:11
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	7/27/14	04:34
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	7/27/14	15:05
Als Drive	Medical	7/27/14	16:46
Coconut Palm Cir.	Medical	7/27/14	19:15

Weekly Safety Tip: Make sure the number of your house is visible from the street and is in a lighted area so it can be seen at night.

The Niceville Fire Department has a Facebook page, check it out!

North Bay



The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from July 21, 2014 through July 27, 2014.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	7/21/14	02:23
E. Hwy. 20	Alarm activation	7/21/14	03:09
Range Rd.	Alarm activation	7/21/14	03:10
E. Hwy. 20	Medical	7/21/14	16:39
Hwy. 20/Lancaster	Medical	7/21/14	20:11
Fairway Lakes Dr.	Rescue	7/22/14	13:47
White Point Rd.	Medical	7/22/14	18:39
Caribbean Way	Medical assist	7/22/14	19:26
Tequesta Dr./Destin	Cover assignment	7/23/14	05:38
E. Hwy. 20	EMS call	7/23/14	10:33
Range Rd.	Detector activation	7/23/14	11:44
Merchants Way	Medical	7/23/14	17:20
Wright Cir.	Medical	7/23/14	17:49
Glenlake Cir.	Medical	7/24/14	00:43
Government Ave.	Light ballast breakdown	7/24/14	09:23
Cat Mar Rd.	Dispatched & cancelled	7/24/14	11:44
Cat Mar Rd.	Medical	7/24/14	12:07
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	7/24/14	19:13
Hickory St.	Public assist	7/24/14	22:29
Pine Street	Medical	7/25/14	11:09
White Point Rd.	Medical	7/26/14	10:00
E. Hwy. 20	Medical	7/26/14	10:41
Skipjack Cove	CO detector activation	7/26/14	13:52
Hidden Lakes Cove	Medical	7/26/14	17:49
Napa Way	Medical	7/27/14	12:34
Hwy. 20/Hwy. 293	Public service assist	7/27/14	17:30
Ida Coon Cir.	Dispatched & cancelled	7/27/14	23:31

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

and all was well.

On July 21, officers from the Florida Highway Patrol, Okaloosa Sheriff's Office, and Niceville Police Department all took part in investigating an incident in which someone crashed a truck into a backyard on Bullock Road in

Niceville. The case remains under investigation.

On July 21, a man came to the Niceville police station to report that a green fishing bag containing some prescription pills had been taken from him.

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith



What do you think about a Florida judge's decision striking down the state constitution's recognition of marriage as the "union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife?"

Location: Walmart



"I agree with the Florida Constitution."

Janet Thomason, 79, Niceville, retired



"We have freedom in the US to pick and choose as we like."

James Sexton, 63, Niceville, retired



"I'm not for or against gay marriage, but I think the court decision will be overturned."

Tommy Ugrý, 54, Niceville, graphic designer



"I agree with it, because it supports the separation of church and state, and allows gay people to have the same financial benefits as everyone else."

Laura Casey, 38, Niceville, massage therapist



"I don't condemn being gay. If they want to get married, let them get married."

Jan Wilson, 74, Niceville, retired



"I definitely think it's a step forward and in the right direction. I'm glad Florida is finally moving into the 21st century and not staying stuck in the 1950s. I like to see that Florida will be on the right side of history."

Megan Fontaine, 24, Niceville, marketing

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

SCHOOLS

From page A-1

taxable value of many homes rose this year, so the actual difference would depend on the size of the value increase.

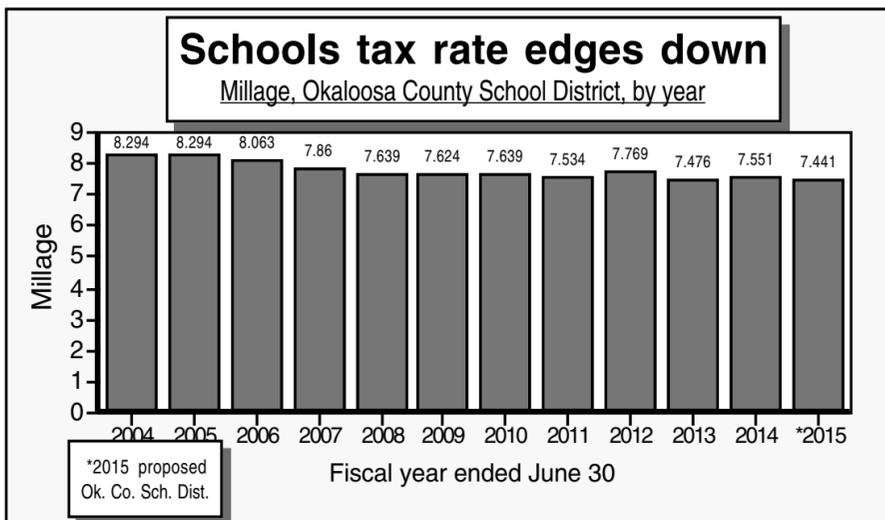
The schools millage rate is by far the single largest item on an owner's property-tax bill. The county commission, cities, fire districts and other taxing districts levy millage rates as well.

The tentative schools millage rate would bring in an estimated \$114,945,929 in local property taxes, up from \$111,872,519 during the previous fiscal year.

The total tentative school board millage rate is comprised of 3 components: the "required local effort" set by the state; the local capital outlay, which cannot be larger than 1.5 mills; and the discretionary operating millage, which the school board left unchanged at 0.748.

The discretionary basic millage has not changed since it was raised 0.25 mills in 2009-10 when at the same time the capital outlay amount was reduced by 0.18 to 1.5 mills to comply with Florida law, according to school district records.

According to the budget



given preliminary approval on Monday, the school district is estimated to receive over \$28 million from federal sources, over \$127 million from state sources and almost \$118 million from local sources. With its fund balance, reserves and net assets, this would mean the district would have revenue of almost \$362 million in 2014-15.

Expenditures for instruction, which includes teacher salaries and benefits, supplies, equip-

ment, software and anything used for instruction, are planned to take up more than \$170 million. School administration, which includes salaries and benefits of principals, assistant principals, secretaries and bookkeepers as well as operational expenses for administration, should be another \$18 million. Some \$17 million will go toward plant operations.

Last year's budget of almost \$353 million included nearly

\$162 million for instruction. There are reductions in instructional and curriculum development of over \$2.3 million while school administration went up almost \$3 million. Part of that is the approximately \$875,000 to hire new assistant principals for most middle and elementary school in the county. School district officials say the additional administrators are needed to allow principals to spend more time evaluating teachers.

VALP

From page A-1

—A 2.9 percent rate increase for employee health care insurance.

—A 6.5 percent rate increase for worker's compensation

—A \$2 increase in wastewater rates.

—A cablevision restructure of channel lineups and rates.

—An Internet service increase of some rates.

In order to generate the revenue needed to support budget requirements, commission members discussed the need to increase the millage rate.

Arnold proposed a millage increase to 5.261. The proposal was approved by all members. The proposed rate can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption in mid September.

Arnold asked commission members to review the proposed budget and be prepared to discuss it in detail at another budget workshop scheduled for Aug. 4 at 6 p.m.

Public hearing dates to finalize the 2015 budget were selected as well. The initial budget hearing will be held on Sept. 3, and the final hearing will be Sept. 18. Both will be at 6 p.m.

Johnson stated that it was "definitely a challenge" to develop the draft budget. She complimented the leadership of each department and the support they provided in



Valparaiso city commissioners review the proposed municipal budget July 21 with the help of City Clerk Tammy Johnson, third from right.

Beacon photo by Rich Byrd

the budget development process.

A secondary financial issue was presented by James Valandingham, Director of Public Works. He informed commission members that the city's work squad contract for inmate labor with the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) will expire Jan. 6, 2015. Upon contracting the inmate work squad, the city eliminated one full-time position and 400 hours of summer labor.

Valandingham reminded commission members of the work and impact on the community that is

performed by prisoner labor. He stated that inmate labor is used for maintenance of rights-of-way, medians, and parks (grass cutting, line trimming, vegetation removal, tree trimming, litter patrol). Additional duties include building and grounds maintenance (pressure washing, painting, sod installation, minor repairs), irrigation repairs, vehicle upkeep, processing/handling of recyclable materials and special event set-up and preparation.

The contract extension would cost \$56,747. The expense covers

the salary and related expenses for the assigned correctional work squad officer and DOC administrative costs of \$750. Valandingham enthusiastically recommended that the contract be extended an additional year.

Commission members approved the renewal through Jan. 6, 2016.

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Niceville's Newspaper

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COPS

From page A-1
 about a vehicle or residence before going near it.
 "It's been huge for officer safety. . . and also for efficiency, because they can complete a report out where they're parked

somewhere rather than coming in to the office to do reports."
 The computers are mounted and come with printers as well for printing reports and citations.
 The Niceville police officers learned the Smartcop system which runs on the computers when it was rolled out last year to

be used in the office. The city talked to the sheriff's office about using computers and decided to go with the same software they use.
 The sheriff's office has 175 of the computer systems, calling them mobile command terminals. New officers get initial training

and then training in the field.
 The Niceville police department computers cost \$1,600 each with an extra \$400 for the printer and mount. The city has purchased 25 of them for its cars.
 City Purchasing Department head Chad Morris said the police department has been discussing

the acquisition of the computers since Chief David Popwell took over.
 Morris said, "We did some research on it before we just jumped into it."
 When asked about the possibility of distracted driving with the laptops, Popwell said they

will monitor that closely.
 He feels that it's going to be great for the department's productivity. "If they forget something they can't find out until they get back to the department, now they can just enter it right there at the scene of the incident."



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Kodiak Tree Service
 "We Take Care of Your Trees"

Advertising Feature
 Summer is in full swing, and that means people across the panhandle are outside enjoying their yards. Whether you are planning a full scale garden party or just some rest and relaxation in your personal oasis, there is no better time to spruce up your outdoors with Kodiak Tree Service.
 Kodiak Tree Service has been providing tree care services and landscaping mulch to the residents of the Niceville-Valparaiso area since 2005, nearly a decade. Whether a tree has grown too big or too old, Kodiak will provide quality, professional tree services for any situation. As an added bonus, when Kodiak removes a tree they also grind the stump for free. They pride themselves on meticulous clean up, too.



Determining how and where to drop a tree requires full evaluation and years of experience to minimize impact and potential damage to home, landscape and environment. Above, Adam Machalk, a Kodiak Tree Service crew foreman, is in full safety gear as he removes a tree.

June 1 marked the beginning of the Atlantic Hurricane season, and the tree care specialists at Kodiak are ready to help you evaluate your landscaping for potential hazards such as sick or damaged trees that could pose a threat to your home. There's no better time to prepare for the worst than before the worst has happened. As anyone can tell you that has lived here along the Gulf Coast, preparation is the key. Estimates are free and can be scheduled by calling (850)279-6999 today. Should the need arise

at any time of the year, Kodiak Tree Service offers 24 hour emergency service.
 Kodiak Tree Service is also doing their part to reduce waste by recycling tree materials from the tree service portion of their business to produce beautiful vibrant colored mulch. Residential and commercial customers return again and again to Kodiak to meet

their mulch needs as the quality, selection and price cannot be matched. Bulk quantities, whether for residential or commercial use, are available and offered at a discounted rate.
 Four colors of mulch are offered at Kodiak and it is sold in small to large quantities. They are prepared to help you with something as small as a five gallon bucket to filling the back of your truck or trailer. Need more? For a modest delivery fee, residential or commercial customers can let Kodiak deliver their order using their 5 yard or 22 yard dump truck.

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 Kodiak uses Heartland Enriched Colorants to dye the mulch. This premium product allows the mulch to keep vibrant color longer in addition to being 100% non-toxic and biodegradable. Many commercially bagged mulch products have the color sprayed on after production. But at Kodiak, colorant is processed into the mulch as it is made on site, resulting in a far superior mulch product that will hold its color, and value, for longer.

If you interested in getting mulch, but have no idea how much you need, Kodiak has two easy ways to help you out with that calculation.
 There are three steps used in figuring out how much mulch you need to complete a project. First, one should measure the area in need of mulch by multiplying, in feet, the length and width. Then, divide that result by twelve. That final number tells you how many yards of mulch are needed. For maximum benefit, when applying mulch, it is recommended to apply it at a thickness of 2-3 inches.
 An easier alternative is to go to Heartland's online "mulch calculator" found at www.ColorEnrichedMulch.com. This convenient calculator located at their website provides a quick and easy way to determine exactly how much mulch your project will require. There is also an informative page of frequently asked questions.

Customers are welcome to come by our office location at 418 Government Ave/Hwy 85 in Valparaiso and take a look. Located at the top of the hill on the right side of HWY 85 heading toward the airport, the four large bins of colored mulch are hard to miss and are practically an area landmark.
 Kodiak Tree Service is fully insured. They carry a \$1,000,000 general liability policy which protects your property and your home. Their employees are protected under a \$1,000,000 workman's compensation policy too. Copies of both policies are available at Kodiak upon request.
 Estimates are free. If you are interested or have questions, simply call the Kodiak office at (850)279-6999. The summer hours for Kodiak are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday between 8:30 a.m. and noon. You can also email Kodiak at kodiaktreeservice@valp.net or visit online at www.kodiaktreeservice.com where you will find seasonal online coupons, hurricane preparedness information as well as helpful tips and useful information.
 Remember, there's no better time to prepare for the worst than before the worst has happened. Call for your free estimate today.

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Fourteen-year old flies circles around competition

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

If you've seen an Air Force Thunderbirds or Navy Blue Angels show, you've probably been amazed by the precision of the planes as they turn at 45 degree angles, fly upside down and do stalls and loops. At 14 years old, Cody Powell can do the same maneuvers, but with his model airplanes.

Cody just won 2nd place in the advanced level pattern flying national competition of the Academy of Model Aeronautics last week.

In many ways, Cody is your normal 14-year old with a lawn mowing business and a dog. Cody will go to Niceville High School in the fall where he wants to be in the ROTC. However, Cody uses the money he earns mowing lawns to support his rather expensive hobby-model airplane flying.

You might see him out on a weekend at the abandoned runway at Test Site C-3f where the Eglin Aero Modellers fly. If it's nice weather, he's usually out there practicing his pattern flying with his Prolog airplane.

What is pattern flying? Phil Conner, President of the Eglin Aero Modellers, of which Cody

is a member, said, "A pattern contest is where the participants have to fly a specific 'pattern' of maneuvers in a 'box' in the sky. The box is well defined to the participants and the sequence of maneuvers is flown precisely to allow the flier to keep the aircraft in the box. It sounds simple but is extremely challenging at any level."

On the ground there is a center line painted in the center between two poles which are 200 meters apart. That is the box.

Cody commented, "It's very precise, very straight lines. You have to be very smooth. It's all geometry and 45 degree angles."

Cody said a flight is usually six or seven minutes and he does 17 maneuvers in that time, everything from humpy bumps or what is called a shark's tooth, to an eight-sided outside loop which is kind of like making a stop sign in the sky with your

airplane while turning at 45 degree angles at each point.

Conner explained that it's not just the maneuvers that make pattern flying challenging. "As the levels go up, so does the precision. The average flight is around 7 minutes and you had better be on your game to get everything done in that time. Not only to win but the electric aircraft now use so much power on a flight, that is about the limit of their endurance. So you have to be a capable manager as well as a pilot."

Cody's been flying since he was 11 and now has a sponsor to help with the \$200 batteries that his planes use. He gets them at half price from Dinoy Batteries. He also has 10 planes he's bought or traded for prices from about \$200 to over \$3,000 for a jet engine plane.

Now Cody helps teach other people how to fly. He has his

Please see FLIES, page B-3

Cody Powell pictured with the Prolog airplane he used to win 2nd place in the advanced level pattern flying national competition of the Academy of Model Aeronautics last week.

Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders



Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

Lego Club builds memories

Sam Wee, 4, participated in the Valparaiso Library Lego Club Build a Car race recently where he won 3rd place for his build. About 175 kids enjoyed the program which met every other Tuesday throughout the summer. Youth Service Librarian Emily Ruff declared it a success. "It definitely was a very popular program. There's so much creativity and engineering that goes into it. It was fun for the kids but also a learning experience."

Who's News

Niceville resident Sarah-Blythe Ballard of The Johns Hopkins University has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant to Peru in Public Health, the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced recently.



Sarah-Blythe Ballard

The 1998 graduate of Niceville High School is one of over 1,800 U.S. citizens selected to travel abroad under this grant.



New awning for Friends of the Library store

The Friends of the Library recently received the gift of a new awning to accentuate their book store front located inside the Niceville Public Library. Selling donated books to raise money for library programs, the bookstore is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The awning was donated by Smokey and Frankie Iverstine, pictured at center cutting the ribbon.



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New officers for garden club

Niceville Garden Club recently installed new officers. Pictured from left, Mary McCann, Publicity; Lynn Miller, Historian; Lidia Webb, Secretary; Beth Bish, Treasurer; Renee Gollehon, Vice President and Marsha Palmer as President. Their next meeting will be the 4th September 4, and open to the public.



Coastal Bank gives to museum

Coastal Bank and Trust donated \$1,200 to the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, in support of their recent Night at the Museum. Dream Players Theatre brought history to life through characters of the past. Guests enjoyed a guided tour, a food tasting from sponsoring restaurants, entertainment and a silent auction. For more information visit heritage-museum.org or call 678-2615.

Birthday yields gifts for food pantry

Francis Sisson, Niceville, celebrated his 90th birthday with family and friends June 28. In lieu of gifts to himself, Sisson asked that food goods, diapers and personal items be collected and donated to Sharing and Caring in Niceville.



Okaloosa Gas lauded

Okaloosa Gas District received the SOAR Gold Award and the Public Gas System Achievement Award at the American Public Gas Association Annual Conference held July 20-23. Okaloosa Gas is one out of three utilities nationwide to win the Gold Award among 1,000 members of APGA. Pictured, Shannon Hayes from Okaloosa Board of Directors, center, accepts the award with on behalf of the District with Jose Lozano, Chief Executive Officer for Okaloosa Gas, far right.



Woman's Club donates to children

Twin Cities Woman's Club recently donated \$500 to the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center. Pictured from left, TCWC President Lillian Lewis, TCWC Childhood Concerns Chairperson JoAnn Dunnam, TCWC Childhood Concerns Co-Chair Brenda Brown and ECCAC Office Manager Dianne Lwellyn.

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Book discussion

The Niceville Library invites readers on Wednesday, July 30 at 10:30 a.m. to visit and discuss "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd.

Free program, there are multiple copies available for check out. Call Lora at 279-4863 x 1504.

Auditions for vocalists

Auditions for adult vocalists for the Northwest Florida State College Schola Cantorum ensemble will be held on Wednesdays, July 30 and August 6 from 5-7 p.m. in room 312 of the Music Wing of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville campus.

Individual audition times may also be arranged. The group performs an eclectic blend of music from all periods of composition from early to modern and will present a series of seasonal concerts in December at community venues.

Singers who audition are expected to be able to read music and have previous choral experience. Those who need to audition at another time may contact the Director, John Leatherwood, at 830-2062 to arrange a time.

Alzheimer's support

Alzheimer's Family Services will hold a support group for family members or friends coping with a loved one with Alzheimer's disease at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 30 at the Niceville United Methodist Church, Chandler Center, located at 214 S. Partin Drive.

The support group is free and limited respite care is available. To make arrangements for respite dur-

ing the meeting, please contact Alzheimer's Family Services in advance at 866-478-7790.

Library celebration

The Valparaiso Community Library would like to invite families and children of all ages to their free Batman 75th Anniversary Celebration on July 31 from 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Stop by any time for snacks, crafts, Wii, cartoons, comics and more. First 50 attendees get a free gift pack. For more information call 729-5406.

Adventure Club ride

There will be an Adventure Club bicycle ride July 31 at 4 p.m. in Niceville. Meet at the Dockside Restaurant and Marina on Bayshore Drive. This is the old Giuseppe's Marina and Restaurant. Supper after the ride at a nearby restaurant. For more information, call Jim at 897-6756.

Linux group meets

The Northwest Linux User Group will meet Aug. 4 from 5-7 p.m. in Room 400 of the Niceville United Methodist Church, 214 Partin Drive South.

Those planning to attend should email Tom at tom.browder@gmail.com. Visit at nwflug.org for more information.

Mac Users to meet

The Mac Users Group will meet Aug. 4 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 132 at the NWF State College Student Services Building, Niceville. Attendees are encouraged to bring their Mac devices. John Leake will present "The Mysteries in the Utilities Folder".

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

Candidate forum

The candidates in the non-partisan race for Circuit Judge, 1st Circuit, Group 22, will participate in a public forum on Monday, Aug. 4 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bluewater Bay Golf Clubhouse, Niceville.

The event, hosted by Silver



Book discussion open to all

The Niceville Library invites readers on Wednesday, July 30 at 10:30 a.m. to visit and discuss "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd. Free program, there are multiple copies available for check out. Call Lora at 279-4863 x 1504.

Sands Republican Women, will begin with a rally in support of David Scholl's candidacy for School Board, District 5.

Two candidates seek the judgeship: Michelle Inere and Jennie Kinsey. They will speak and then answer questions from the audience. Both School Board and Judicial elections are non-partisan, but laws governing the races are different. The winner of each office will be determined in the Aug. 26 Primary Election.

The evening includes optional dinner at 6 p.m. for \$15, rally at 6:30 p.m. and forum at 7 p.m.

Guests are welcome. For dinner reservations or further information, please call Libby Hill, 678-2182.

Seeking volunteers

The Transformations Poverty Alleviation Ministry will be conducting a four week volunteer training class on Tuesday evenings beginning August 5 at 6 p.m. in room 913 at the Community Life Center at Niceville United Methodist Church.

The class is for adults who would like to serve in the ministry as Mentoring Partners, Facilitators,

or in some other support capacity. The book "Bridges Out of Poverty" will be used, cost \$25.

For more information please contact Kim Colpitts at 461-0203 or Joe Shearer at 687-9404 or email transformationsnum@live.com.

Birders to meet

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society kicks off their 2014/15 season Aug. 7 with a free video presentation by Malcolm Mark Swan on the Warblers and Grosbeaks of Northwest Florida. Swan is a long time birder and has been a videographer since 1995. Open to the public.

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society meets the first Thursday of the month in Room 130 of the NWF State College Student Services Center at 6:30 p.m.. The program starts at 7.

For more information, call Gary Parsons at 678-1461.

Summer camp at museum

There will be a week-long "Time Traveler's" Summer History Camp at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, August 11-15 from 9 a.m.-noon.

Healthcare seminar

The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce will offer "Healthcare Reform For Your Business" on Thursday, August 28 from 9 a.m. - noon at the Costa Leadership Institute at Northwest Florida State College. The cost is \$25 per person, and attendees do not have to be a Chamber member.

This seminar will be presented by Ted Kircharr, Landrum Human Resources who will help business owners to better understand the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Kircharr is the author of "The Busy Business Owners Update Guide to Health Care Reform."

To register for this seminar, or for more information, please contact the Chamber at 678-2323 or events@nicevillechamber.com.

Pastel Society accepts entries

The Pastel Society of North Florida is now accepting entries for the National Juried Exhibition to be held Oct. 26 to Dec. 6 at the Mattie Kelly Fine Arts Galleries at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville, with a reception to be on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Soft pastels and online submissions only are accepted. The juror, judge and workshop instructor is Frank Federico, PSA Master Pastelist and PSA Hall of Fame Honoree for 2012. More than \$5000 in awards will be given.

For more information, pastelsocietyofnorthflorida.org.



Fourteen-year old Cody Powell with his two awards from the national Academy of Model Aeronautics competition Jul. 21-23. Cody won 2nd place at the advanced level for pattern flying in a field of over 20 participants and also got the award for best junior advanced pilot. Cody was within 12 points of winning first place out of 6,000 points.

Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

FLIES

From page B-1

turbine instruction certification from the AMA and can sign people off on their turbine licenses.

He first saw model airplanes hanging from the ceiling in the hobby shop at Eglin Air Force Base. He asked about them and soon after he started flying them. One day fellow airplane modeller Mike Plumber let Cody use his pattern airplane and he never looked back.

Plumber said Cody was successful so quickly because he is a natural at flying, but he also was determined to do well.

"He's like a sponge, everything you throw at him sucks in and he has just a very good attitude. He doesn't give up on anything."

To a would-be model airplane flyer, Cody says the best way to start is get a simulator and learn how to fly on your computer before you take a plane out and crash it.

Of course he didn't follow that advice and did crash his first time out. He says he's probably crashed at least 50 times since then, too. Just goes to show you, it's not how many times you crash which counts, it's how many times you pick the plane up and start again.

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BEACONS SPORTS



NVLL 11U new district champs

The 2014 Niceville-Valparaiso Little League 11U All Stars became the new Little League District 1 Champions when they won a tournament in DeFuniak Springs in June. Pictured from top row left, Coach Wes Koger, Manager Jim Loftis and Coach Jason Marquardt. Second row from left, Aidan Dark, Luke Loftis, Brennan Russell, Kaden Geisler and Jay Marquardt. Bottom row from left, Brenley Laird, Jaxon Topel, Brady Koger, Trevor Mee, Aidan McCarthy and Dominic Mahoney.

FDD basketball girls win tourney

The FDD 7th grade girls, right, were runner ups at the 5th Annual Panhandle Invitational Showcase 2014 basketball tournament. Pictured above, sitting on the floor from left, Damia McLane, Tamia Cooper, Jenna Lewis and Trinity Cooper. Sitting from left, Isabella Cain, Akiyah Alden and Miranda Brown. The FDD 11th grade girls won the championship at the same tournament. Below, front row from left, Ashley Lane, Deandra McLane, Dajuana Matthews, Gabrielle Brown, Amanda Wilson and Brooke McBride. Back row from left, Taylor Broadnax, Coach Tisha Bowles, Brenda Gulley, Michaela Mitchell, Brittany Rollins, Tasharah Sanders, Krista McQueen and Coach Jerome Strutchen Sr. Both teams practice in Niceville.



Bluewater tennis camp in full swing

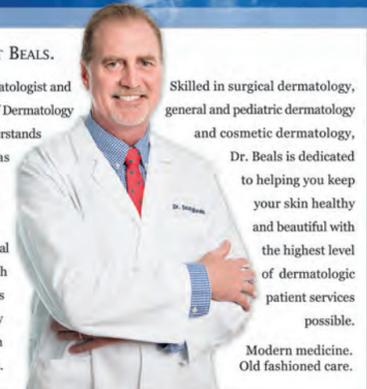
The Bluewater Bay Tennis Center's summer camp program continues until August 15 for kids from 5-17 of all abilities. Pictured, from left back row, Coaches Sam Low and Rob Pezzutto, Mike Klinger, Tim Kelly, Jordan Zargari, Zach Hruby, McCray Simmers and Coach Gary Bertoldo. Front row from left, Noelle Crosby, Sehana Simmers, Rachael McMullan, Jack Mills and Coach Tom Douglas. Cutout at far right, Jacob Grandy, a Ruckel Middle School student from Niceville, practices his backhand. For more information on the camp, call 897-8010.

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