

The Bay Beacon

12 Pages, 2 Sections, 8 Inserts

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

50¢

**UP
COMING**

Wed., 9:30 a.m.

Play **Scrabble** at the **Niceville Public Library**. Free, all skill levels welcome. 279-4863 x 1504.

Thurs., 6:30 p.m.



Free video presentation on the warblers and grosbeaks of Northwest Florida by the **Choctawhatchee Audubon Society**. Open to the public. 678-1461.

Sat., 11 a.m.-1 p.m.



Annual membership coffee of the **Sand Dunes Chapter of Embroiderers' Guild** of America at the Holy Name of Jesus Church, 1200 Valparaiso Blvd., Niceville. Free and open to the public. 496-3466.

Sun., 8 a.m.-1 p.m.



Blood drive at Christ Our Redeemer Church, 1028 White Point Road, Niceville. All donors will receive a beach towel.

County tax hearings set

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Staff Writer

The Okaloosa County Commission on Monday proposed to keep the county-wide millage at the current rate of 3.4308 for fiscal year 2015 but voted to boost the parks municipal service taxing unit (MSTU) millage by 66 percent to raise money for stormwater control.

The commissioners said they would consider public input on rolling back the rate. Two public hearings are set, one in Crestview on Sept. 4 at the courthouse and one in Fort Walton Beach at the Water and Sewer Administration

building on Sept. 15. Both meetings are at 6 p.m. Final approval on the proposed tax rates is scheduled for Sept. 15.

The additional revenue from the MSTU increase would be \$781,207. The overall monies that would be raised by the county-wide millage would be \$47.4 million, up from \$45.5 million for the current fiscal year, which will end Sept. 30. Among the revenue sources projected to increase are:

—The ad valorem tax base has increased by 4.31 percent, which should bring in \$1.86 million more.

—State revenue sharing will

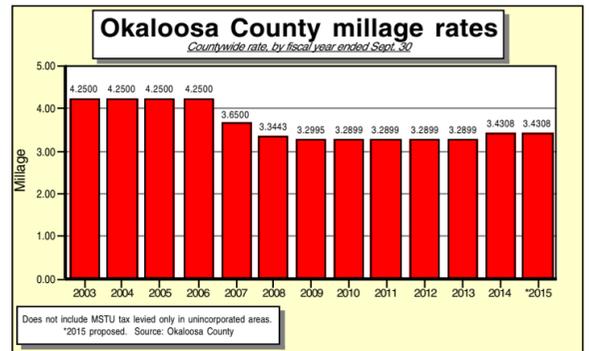
increase by \$275,000.

—The local share of state sales tax revenue is estimated to rise by \$700,000.

A \$500 per employee raise per year is in the budget with funds coming from rebate dollars from the county's insurance premiums, according to county officials.

County Administrator Ernie Padgett proposed an additional 23 full- and part-time positions in various departments.

He also proposed 10 new relief slots for emergency medical services. These would be stand-by workers who are called only when needed.



Padgett also recommended a transfer of \$500,000 from the county parks MSTU to be used for stormwater projects. He suggested the county explore establishing "a sound and permanent

funding source to address Okaloosa County's very expensive and unmet needs in this area."

Padgett offered options such as **Please see COUNTY, page A-7**

Tipping point



Ducky Johnson House Movers was temporarily stymied Thursday because the portable building the company was transferring to **Plew Elementary School** was blocked by parked cars in a lot on Wise Avenue, Niceville. The cars' drivers could not be immediately found, so the movers jacked up one side of the building to clear the vehicles. The portable will bring to six the number of Plew fourth-grade classrooms, due to an enrollment spike.

Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

Candidates for circuit judge square off

By **Mike Griffith**
Beacon Correspondent

For most candidates running for public office, the question they most often are expected to answer from voters is, "What will you do if you are elected?"

For candidates running for circuit judge, however, "What will you do?" is one of many questions they are forbidden to

answer. That is because judges are expected to be impartial, and to make no judgments about any case or issue that may come before them until after they examine all the evidence presented in such cases.



Jennie Kinsey

Thus, if a candidate for a judgeship expresses any intentions about future court rulings, or even expresses personal opinions about political or social issues that may be involved in future court cases, then when such cases actually come before

judges after being elected, the lawyers for either side of the case may demand that the judge not be allowed to preside over that case, claiming bias.

This became apparent during an Aug. 4 candidate forum sponsored by the Silver



Michelle Inere

Sands Republican Club held at the Bluewater Bay golf clubhouse, in which circuit court judge candidates Jennie Kinsey and Michelle Inere, both Pensacola lawyers, tried to explain to potential voters why each of them should be

elected as Circuit Judge for First Circuit, Group 22, serving Okaloosa, Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties. The nonpartisan race will be decided Aug. 26.

Neither candidate would answer questions from the audience about their views on such issues as gun control, abortion,

Please see CANDIDATES, page A-3

City officials meet on union for firefighters

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Staff Writer

Niceville city councilmen Dan Henkel and Sal Nodjoman met Friday with City Manager Lannie Corbin, Fire Chief Tommy Mayville, Fire Director Richard Van Dyke, City Attorney Dixie Dan Powell and City Clerk Dan Doucet to try to determine why Niceville firefighters recently joined a labor union.

Van Dyke, Mayville and

Corbin offered reasons the firefighters might be displeased with working conditions. Van Dyke said Niceville firefighters were comparing their pay with that of firefighters elsewhere. He also said they know that firefighters in other cities and districts get paid for going to school.

Mayville said the fire department is shorthanded. When a firefighter is off for training, he said, just two are left to handle

Please see UNION, page A-4



Lightning strikes bed

Lightning struck an apartment at 110 3rd St., Niceville, on July 29. Fortunately no one was home at the time. The owner of the apartment, Diana Polcha, shows how a bed was destroyed by the bolt and ensuing fire. The Niceville Fire Department estimated \$15,000 damage. Niceville was assisted by the North Bay and East Niceville fire districts and the Eglin Fire Department.

Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

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Okaloosa County Commission candidates answer questions

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

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

Early voting will take place between Aug. 11 and 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at five places in the county, including the city complex at 208 Partin Drive North, Niceville. On election day, voting will take place at each voter's assigned precinct polling place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters may also obtain absentee ballots from the Supervisor of Elections office until Aug. 20 and must return the ballot by election day to be counted.

Two county commission seats are open, in districts 2 and 4. However, the District 2 seat will be filled by Republican Carolyn Ketchel, who was unopposed. The District 2 incumbent, Dave Parisot, withdrew from the race because of his wife's health issues, he said. No one else filed to run for the District 2 seat.

The District 4 position will be determined in the primary election because candidates from only one party (Republican) are running. Thus, all registered voters of whatever affiliation may cast votes in the District 4 county commission balloting.

The Beacon asked the candidates for the contested seat to answer a set of questions so voters could learn about their backgrounds and their views on the issues. The answers follow.

Don R. Amunds



Date and place of birth: Aug. 24, 1963, Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.

Occupation: County Commissioner

Employer: Okaloosa County

Formal Education: B.S. Troy University

Number of years in Okaloosa County: 44

Home address: 167 Shoreline Drive, Mary Esther

Spouse and children: Joanna Amunds; Scott and Robbie

E - m a i l : electdonamunds@cox.net

Trey Goodwin



Date and place of birth:

Sept. 1979, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.

Occupation: Attorney, Real Estate, Construction, Probate and Estate Planning

Employer: Mathews and Jones, LLP

Formal Education: J.D., Florida State University College of Law; B.S. Building Construction, University of Florida; A.A., Okaloosa-Walton Community College

Number of years in Okaloosa County: 34

Home address: Fort Walton Beach, Fla. (Mailing Address: P.O. Box 217, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. 32549)

Spouse and children: Krystle; Alexia, 4, Robert, 1
E - m a i l : Trey@TreyGoodwin.com

Henry Kelley



Date and place of birth: Aug. 18, 1965, Sewart Air Force Base, Tenn.

Occupation: Farmer and professor

Employer: Akers of Strawberries, Baker, and Florida Institute of Technology

Formal Education: M.B.A., Rollins College; B.A., University of Florida

Number of years in Okaloosa County: 44

Home address: 622 W. Pine Street, Mary Esther

Spouse and children: none
E - m a i l : henry@electhenry.com

Background in public service as elected or appointed official

Amunds: County Commissioner, 2004, Chairman BOCC 3 years, Certified County Commissioner by Florida Association of Counties, 18 years as Deputy Sheriff/Investigator, U.S. Military Paratrooper

Goodwin: Fort Walton Beach City Council member, 2011-2014, Member of the Business Leadership Council of the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, 2013, U.S. Air Force Honorary Wing Commander, 505th Command and Control Wing, Hurlburt Field, 2012

Kelley: Have attended hundreds of commission meetings and budget workshops to prepare for position. Have also been involved with passage/veto of bills in Tallahassee.

Chief accomplishments
Amunds: Kept taxes low, replaced sewer plant, provided Eglin with our fiber optic network and are doing numerous lift stations which brings in millions of dollars, created approximately 1,000 jobs

Goodwin: I am happily married, enjoy a thriving legal practice and was a conservative

voice for the people of Ft. Walton Beach as their council member.

Kelley: Successfully managed over 400 employees in tourism sector. Earned Bronze Star during Desert Storm. Successfully organized citizens to fight tax increases in Okaloosa in 2011-12.

Why are you running for office?

Amunds: I want to continue to make Okaloosa County a better place to live. I want to keep creating good jobs for our residents for the future of our children and grandchildren. It is important that we look for funding for our storm water projects without putting the financial burden on our property owners.

Goodwin: I want to restore integrity and accountability to the District 4 seat, and to serve as an advocate for the taxpayers. I am also concerned about the tax burden the county places on senior citizens who live on fixed incomes.

Kelley: I have experience in Okaloosa's key economic drivers--tourism, military and farming, and want to put that experience to the betterment of Okaloosa for all its citizens. It is time to put our focus on good public policy, not politics.

In what significant ways do you differ from your opponents?

Amunds: I have the experience of not only being on the board and knowing the workings of the county but I have developed and managed properties for 25 years. I do not cater to special interests and I stand firm in my decisions. I have kept my promises to taxpayers. (See vote4donamunds.com for details.) I have lived in District 4 for 24 years and know the specific issues of District 4. Neither of my opponents have lived in this district for more than a few months. I am working full-time as a commissioner. I have served in the U.S. military as a paratrooper and I have worked law enforcement for 18 years.

Goodwin: First, I am not a politician and never want to be one. I have the highest level of competency and ability to do the job right, based upon my education, experience and common sense. I pay taxes in Okaloosa County, just like those I seek to serve. I believe in self-imposed term limits for offices that do not have statutory limits, unlike my three-term opponent. I oppose new taxes, while my opponents seek to place new taxes on a county referendum.

Kelley: My ability to be focused on policy, not politics, differentiates me from my opponents. Further, I have a wealth of experience in our key economic drivers--military service from a tour in Desert Storm where I received a Bronze Star, tourism from working for Wyndham Vacation Resorts and Disney and farming as the general manager of Akers of Strawberries in Baker. It is time to elect someone who understands the entire county, and has the vision to look forward for the next 50 years.

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

Amunds: Infrastructure, roads and storm water issues: We have a gas tax that provides for infrastructure, roads and storm water issues that are related to the roadways. This past year the board dedicated one-half of the incorporated parks MSBU funds to storm water throughout the unincorporated county. With these two funding sources it generates just under \$1 million a year. We also need to work on partnerships with state and federal government agencies and other grant opportunities."

Water Quality issue: I tried creating a citizen's advisory group with the health department, the cities and the chambers to look into what we can do short-term and long-term but did not get the board's support. I will try to get the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance to run point on another citizen run group.

Goodwin: (1) Accountability and integrity - too much money has been wasted or stolen from the taxpayers. We must increase oversight and move away from cozy relationships with high level bureaucrats and county contractors.

(2) Control taxes and spending - Our taxes continue to rise while the people see little or no benefit from the increased burden. The County is currently advocating a 10 percent budget increase for the coming year. I oppose government growth and believe government should perform only its limited intended purposes.

(3) Infrastructure planning - Our community must begin to plan for transportation and utility needs looking to the future in Okaloosa County. The failure of the past decade to anticipate the growth impacts on core county services has led to traffic gridlock, flooding and inadequate essential services for residents.

Kelley: Storm water and water quality: I will lead the charge to create a dedicated funding source that will enable Okaloosa County to effectively compete to get federal and state grants to pay for the estimated \$75 million in needed repairs.

Road improvements: I will focus on areas like our growing north end, where we have the newest schools in the county, and yet parents have to drive their children to school on dirt roads.

Traffic flow: To work on the replacement Brooks Bridge, P.J. Adams bypass, and other issues as needed to improve both North-South and East-West traffic flow.

Okaloosa County government is expecting millions of dollars in BP oil spill funds. Should this money be spent by public agencies, as is currently the plan, or instead be returned to taxpayers in the form of lower taxes?

Amunds: The Department of Treasury distributes RESTORE monies for projects based on conditions. Projects must be designed to restore and protect natural resources, must carry out specific activities and have been selected with public input and best available science. The funds would not be permitted to be returned to reduce taxes.

Goodwin: BP money should be used to offset the burdens placed on the property taxpayers. My opponents seek to put a new tax on a county referendum to pay for utility improvements. In direct contrast, I oppose new taxes and advocate using BP money for those purposes.

Kelley: This money should be spent on one time, non-recurring expense items like replacing the aging and failing storm water and sewage systems. When our neighbors across this county have sewage in their yards, homes and property, we have to address this issue.

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Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

Housing subdivision OK'd

Parkview Place subdivision off State Road 285 North next to Rocky Bayou Christian School received final approval by the Niceville Planning Board Commission Monday. The subdivision, which will consist of 24 residential lots and 2 commercial properties, is being built by Ruckel Properties Inc.

Niceville sets budget meetings

City council considers leaving millage unchanged

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

Budget hearings are coming up in September for the city of Niceville. In the meantime, the city council passed a preliminary millage rate of 3.70, the same as in fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

Over the last few weeks of August, the city council will be in budget workshops which will end in public budget hearings Sept. 11, 16 and 18, all at 6 p.m. in the City Council meeting room at the city complex at 208 N. Partin Dr.

Council members Dan Henkel, Bill Schaeztle, Judith Boudreaux and Sal Nodjomian were present at a July 29 meeting where the preliminary rate was passed. Councilman Heath Rominger was absent.

Due to a 4.6 percent projected increase in property tax values, the city should collect \$188,334 more than in 2014 at the same 3.70 millage rate. The total collected with the 3.70 rate is projected by city staff to be \$3,053,134.

The local ad valorem property tax only makes up about 25 percent of the total revenues for the entire budget which will be close to \$11 million according to City Manager Lannie Corbin.

City Clerk Dan Doucet asked the council to consider raising the millage to 3.75. Doucet highlighted over a million dollars in additional expenses for the 2015 budget, including an increase in health insurance, worker compensation, state



retirement, information technology and equipment expenses.

Doucet also said that money had to be taken from the city's bank account to balance the budget in 2014 and he suspected it would happen again in fiscal year 2015.

Doucet said once the rate is set it cannot be increased unless a first class mailing is sent to each property owner which is an expensive prospect. Corbin added his support for the 3.75 millage rate requested by Doucet, saying that after public input, it could be rolled back.

Councilmen Nodjomian said he would rather find \$41,000 in savings, the difference projected between the 3.75 and 3.70 rates,

then say they were increasing taxes. Nodjomian told Corbin to inform the departmental heads that the council would "bring sharp pencils" to the budget workshops in preparations for cuts.

Boudreaux made a motion to keep the preliminary 3.70 millage rate which passed unanimously.

After the meeting, Corbin said he would have liked the millage rate to go to 3.75 at least for discussion, but perhaps they could have compromised somewhere in between. Corbin said that a 3 percent increase in employee pay was part of the budget plan and that he hoped it would not be cut.

CANDIDATES

From page A-1

gay rights, or other issues that have been the topics of controversial court decisions. By answering such questions, said the candidates, they could disqualify themselves from ever actually hearing cases related to such issues.

Thus, the two rival candidates restricted their remarks at Monday's forum to discussions of their backgrounds and qualifications for office.

Kinsey told listeners that she has been an assistant state attorney for Escambia and Santa Rosa counties from 2010 to 2014, prosecuting over 9,000 cases ranging from traffic infractions to homicides.

Kinsey also told listeners that she would bring to the bench the values that she learned growing up in Pensacola, where she said, "I was raised in a home where discipline, hard work, and accountability were expected." As a judge, she said, she would "hear every case on an individual basis, be fair and impartial, and hold people accountable for their actions."

Inere also talked about her background as a practicing attorney for the last 19 years, to include work as a defense attorney and as a general magistrate. She said she has also been a community leader, college basketball coach, soccer coach, and volun-

teer youth sports coach, and has served on a county Restore Act committee to review potential projects to be funded with reparation funds from the 2010 BP oil spill. She described herself as an expert in child welfare and family law, and in mediation.

While neither candidate would answer questions about how they might rule in cases involving controversial issues, they suggested that questioners visit their websites or review past cases in which they have been involved.

Kinsey said that as a circuit court judge, her job would be to apply existing law to any cases that come before her, and that circuit judges have little opportunity to set legal precedents or engage in the sort of "judicial activism" sometimes attributed to judges at higher level state or federal appeals courts, or supreme courts.

Inere took a similar approach, saying that she supports the "separation of powers" between legislative and judicial branches of government, and that as a circuit court judge, she would "follow and use the laws that the Legislature passes."

Silver Sands Republican club member Libby Hill, who chaired Monday's meeting and forum, told listeners that the evening's candidate forum, although sponsored by a Republican organization, was not an official Republican event. She said that judicial elections are treated as

nonpartisan affairs, so that each judicial candidate's name will appear on both Republican and Democratic primary ballots in this year's election.

During a more partisan portion of Monday's meeting, Hill also chaired a brief "campaign rally" for school board candidate David Scholl, an active Republican and Niceville-Valparaiso Tea Party leader who is challenging incumbent Okaloosa County School Board member Melissa Thrush, a registered Democrat, for a seat on the school board. The election ballot for school board is nonpartisan.

Scholl briefly addressed the meeting, saying that if elected, he will support the school district's science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM) education program, to include the special STEMM middle school in Valparaiso, with greater enthusiasm than has been shown by Thrush, whose support for the STEMM program he called "lukewarm, even on a hot summer day."

Scholl said that as the parent of a student at the STEMM school, he would vigorously support the program, and would make an effort to seek input from parents before voting on such issues as whether to provide busing to either Ruckel or Destin middle schools for local students whose parents opt to send their children to either of those two schools.

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Troop 52 gets Lewis ready for new school year

Boy Scouts from Troop 52, Valparaiso, were at Addie Lewis School recently helping spruce things up just in time for school to return on Aug. 18. They spread approximately six tons of mulch around the elementary recess area and pulled weeds. Troop 52 is chartered through Valparaiso's AmVets Post 78.

UNION

From page A-1

emergencies during that shift.

The fire chief has asked for six more firefighters in the 2015 budget being considered by the council. However, the Niceville

station does get mutual aid from other agencies such as the North Bay and East Niceville fire districts, and the Eglin and Valparaiso fire departments. Also, during the day the chief and other staff members are available.

Corbin said he heard from firefighters that they want more

training. He said one complained that there were too many leaders at the station.

Saying he was neither pro-union nor anti-union, Nodjomian stated that if pay, manning, management and/or training were unsatisfactory, then there might be a "legitimate issue."



Henkel reminded everyone that the council must decide at its next meeting, Aug. 12, whether to recognize the union as bargaining agent for Niceville firefighters.

Powell said it's "hard to prevent" the firefighters from unionizing.

If the council rejects the union bid for recognition, the union can appeal to a Florida state labor board.

City workers have a right to unionize, although not to strike, under Florida law. The Niceville police department was formerly unionized, but left the union, according to Corbin.

Powell said that even with a union, it doesn't mean the firefighters will get everything they want. It just means they can bar-

gain for a labor contract.

Nodjomian said he saw no reason not to recognize the union and Henkel agreed.

Corbin asked what training the firefighters get and what they might want in addition.

Mayville replied that firefighters must have emergency medical training and he likes for them to start training in the first two years as a step-up driver, which requires 80 hours of training and passing a test. He also said that he prefers that firefighters have at least a two-year college degree, and to eventually become driver operators.

Mayville said they can get training in many other areas like hazardous materials, extrication or highline rescue. But he added

that sometimes firefighters get all their classes and then they leave for better opportunities elsewhere.

Nodjomian asked if having a union changes the way the station would be run. Mayville said that business would continue as usual in any case.

Nodjomian said, "I hope something good comes out of all of this."

Corbin had provided the councilmen with information regarding the North Bay Fire District contract since it is the union local that the Niceville firefighters have joined, and the Crestview Fire Department contract. At the end of the meeting, the group decided to also look at other fire departments such as Fort Walton Beach.



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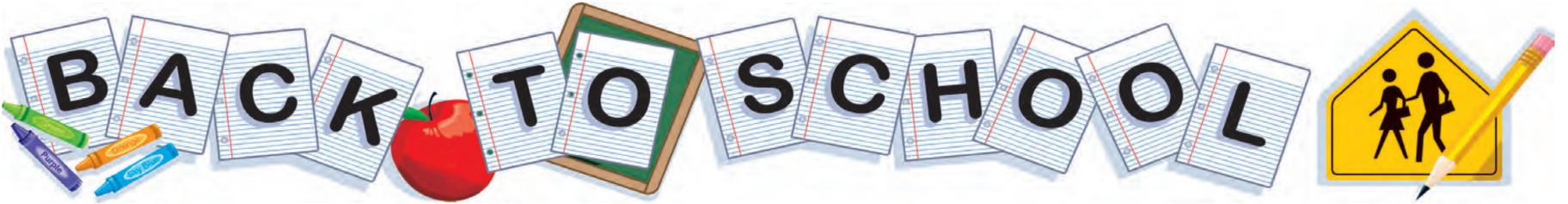
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Plugging leaks

Workers from Edwards Roofing Co. of Pensacola at work on a new roof at Valparaiso City Hall last week. The job will cost \$58,998.

Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders



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 JOCELYN G. DONAHOO

Dustin and Natalie, an interracial couple's marriage is already on the brink, when a racial slur is made by a family member following the birth of their son. Tempers flare, and the comment threatens to separate not only the couple, but an entire family. Will anyone be willing to forgive - or even harder - forget?

Jocelyn G. Donahoo, a published author of poetry and fiction, is a medically retired home health nurse. Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1988, she believes despite any challenges, she has to press, think positive, and encourages others to do the same. She lives in Niceville, Florida with her husband Carl.

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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 23, Niceville police arrested Richard Justin Thompson, 26, a window cleaner, of 135 Strike Eagle Dr., Crestview, for one count of dealing in stolen property.

The arrest was made on an Okaloosa Circuit Court warrant stemming from an incident on May 23, in which Thompson allegedly took rings worth \$20,000 from a victim at whose condo Thompson was doing some work for his company. Later that day Thompson allegedly sold the stolen rings for \$200 to Gold Wave Inc. in Niceville. On May 28, the victim filed an affidavit of complaint with Niceville police, and on May 29 the victim went to Gold Wave, identified the rings that had been stolen from her condo in Walton County, and purchased the rings back from Gold Wave for \$200.

Also on May 29, Thompson's employer told the Walton County Sheriff's Office that Thompson had confessed to him that he stole the ring and sold it to Gold Wave.

On July 1, under questioning, Thompson told police that he took the rings from the condo while working and sold them to Gold Wave. He told police that he had made a mistake, and that he had attempted to give his boss the money to get the rings back for the victim.

On July 25, Valparaiso police arrested Tanner J. Lewis, 22, unemployed, of 506 Oak Ave., Niceville, for one count each of possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Also arrested was Tiffany Jaye Murphy, 20, a housekeeper, of 308 Springwood Cr., Crestview, for one count each of possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia and for one count of providing a false name to law enforcement.

On July 25, a Valparaiso officer responded to the Tom Thumb food store on S. John Sims Pkwy. in reference to a possible intoxicated person sitting behind the wheel of a vehicle. Upon arrival the officer observed Lewis and Murphy in the front seats. The officer banged

on the window several times, and Lewis and Murphy woke up and appeared to be dazed and confused.

The officer observed a spoon with a white powdery substance in a bowl sitting in plain view on the center console between Lewis and Murphy. Police also located some syringes inside the vehicle and in the pockets of Lewis and Murphy.

Lewis and Murphy denied any knowledge of the spoon or the white powder located in the bowl, and Murphy attempted to give a false name and date of birth to police. The white powder was field tested positive for methamphetamine.

On July 25, Niceville police arrested Samantha Jo Hill, 31, of 203 W. John Sims Pkwy., Apt. M, Niceville, for one count of possession of drug equipment.

On July 25, a Niceville officer initiated a traffic stop on Hill's vehicle for having both brake lights out. During the traffic stop, the officer learned that Hill had a suspended drivers license and was aware of her suspension. The officer arrested her for knowingly driving with a license suspended or revoked.

An inventory of Hill's vehicle was conducted prior to the vehicle being towed. During the inventory, three glass pipes and two cut straws were discovered. One of the glass pipes was in an eyewear case, located to the right of the driver seat. Two other pipes were located in a sock within Hill's purse. Residue in the pipes was field tested and yielded a presumptive positive result for methamphetamine. Hill told police that the three pipes were all hers.

On July 27, Niceville police arrested a 17-year-old male for one count of retail theft shoplifting. The youth had entered the Walmart supermarket in Niceville, grabbed an empty grocery bag, selected several items to put in the bag, proceeded toward the grocery exit passing all points of sale, and was stopped by a store employee, to whom the youth admitted that he intended to steal the items. The stolen items were valued at \$28.48.

DUI arrests

On July 21, Niceville police arrested Morgan Lee Fuller, 23, a marina employee, of 313 East County Hwy. 147, Laurel Hill, for DUI. The arrest was made following a crash on State Road 20, and Fuller showed signs of intoxica-

tion during a field sobriety test. She refused a breath or blood alcohol test. Fuller was also cited for failure to maintain lane.

Criminal summons

On July 27, Niceville police served a criminal summons to Sarah Nichole Robinson, 28, of 211 Marquette St., Niceville, for one count of retail theft shoplifting. Robinson had entered the Niceville Walmart with a receipt from prior purchases, and while in the store, collected items matching the receipt from the shelves within the store. Robinson then took those items past the last point-of-sale to the customer service desk and tried to redeem them for cash.

Other

On July 25, Valparaiso police received a 911 call stating that police were needed quickly, and then disconnected. Upon arrival, police learned that the call was related to a domestic dispute. Police helped the parties resolve the argument, and no arrest was made.

Later on July 25, Valparaiso police received a 911 call from a man who asked police for help resolving a dispute with his landlord. Police advised him that 911 is to be used for emergencies only.

On July 28, a man made a 911 call to the Valparaiso Police Department, saying that someone had knocked on his door and asked him if he was looking for a fight. The caller reported that an individual had been lurking around his vehicle. The caller said he then followed the individual to that person's vehicle and wrote down its tag number. However, the tag number reported by the caller did not match the description of the vehicle the caller gave police. A search of the area met with negative results in locating a vehicle matching the given description.

On July 1, Valparaiso police responded to an address on John Sims Parkway regarding a report that several catalytic converters had been removed from a locked storage unit.

On July 21, Valparaiso police responded to an address on N. Bayshore Dr. regarding a report that several items had been taken from a workshop sometime within the previous week.

On July 21, Valparaiso police responded to an address on North Bayshore, where a victim reported that a generator and chainsaw had been taken from her property by unknown persons sometime within the previous month.

On July 22, Niceville police responded to the Walmart, where four counterfeit \$20 bills had been found by employees during a money count.

On July 22, Valparaiso police received a report from a woman who said that she had been advised by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service of a suspicious charge on her credit account. She said she did not make the transaction, and AAFES canceled her card and sent her a new one.

On July 23, a Valparaiso officer responded to an address on Lincoln Avenue for a medical emergency. Investigation revealed

Fire Department Reports

Niceville



The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from July 28, 2014 through August 3, 2014.

1 Structure Fire.....21	Emergency Medical Calls
1 Vehicle Fire.....6	Vehicle Crash
1 Other Fire.....0	Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn.....3	Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms.....2	Hazardous Conditions

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
23rd Street	Medical	7/28/14	06:57
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle Crash	7/28/14	11:07
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	7/28/14	11:11
SR85N/SR123	Vehicle Crash	7/28/14	12:50
3rd Street	Structure Fire	7/28/14	18:39
2nd Street	Lightning Strike	7/28/14	19:10
SR85N	Vehicle Crash	7/28/14	19:54
Coconut Palm Dr.	Medical	7/28/14	20:32
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	7/28/14	20:59
SR285/SR293	Vehicle Crash	7/28/14	21:06
Kelly Rd.	Medical	7/29/14	02:54
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	7/30/14	16:36
Minger St.	Medical	7/30/14	16:52
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	7/30/14	20:03
Kelly Rd.	Medical	7/30/14	21:07
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	7/31/14	10:37
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	7/31/14	15:46
Regatta Dr.	Medical	7/31/14	20:44
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/01/14	01:04
Julia Ave.	Medical	8/01/14	02:33
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Service Call	8/01/14	11:48
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	8/01/14	17:10
Valparaiso Blvd.	Alarm Activation	8/01/14	17:46
S. Palm/Valparaiso Blvd.	Powerline Down	8/01/14	17:47
Valparaiso Blvd.	Medical	8/01/14	18:46
Edgewater Dr.	Medical	8/01/14	19:09
Mulry Dr.	Medical	8/01/14	19:34
SR285	Good Intent	8/01/14	21:12
Nathey Ave.	Medical	8/01/14	23:53
Bay/Poquito Rd.	Boat Fire	8/02/14	08:22
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle Crash	8/02/14	10:02
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle Crash	8/02/14	21:21
College/Palm Blvd.	Vehicle Fire	8/03/14	00:57
Kelly Rd.	Medical	8/03/14	02:09
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	8/03/14	15:19

Weekly Safety Tip: Cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Never leave cooking unattended. If grease catches fire, turn off the burner and carefully slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames.

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 28, 2014 through August 3, 2014.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
N. White Point Rd.	Vehicle accident	7/28/14	11:07
Parkwood Sq.	Medical	7/28/14	15:06
3rd Street	Building fire	7/28/14	18:41
Antiqua Way	Medical assist.	7/28/14	20:20
N. White Point Rd.	Dispatched & cancelled	7/30/14	14:59
Hwy. 20 E.	Medical	7/30/14	15:44
Windward Way	Public assist	7/30/14	23:23
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	7/31/14	11:32
Hwy. 20 E.	Medical	7/31/14	14:07
St. Lucia Cove	Medical	7/31/14	16:21
Canterbury Cir.	Medical	7/31/14	19:36
Muirfield Way	Medical	7/31/14	23:04
E. Hwy. 20	Dispatched & cancelled	8/1/14	08:03
Ida Coon Cir.	Medical	8/1/14	08:47
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	8/1/14	13:46
Kate Ct.	Public assist	8/1/14	15:44
Parkwood Cir.	Medical	8/1/14	16:10
Montrose Dr.	Dispatched & cancelled	8/1/14	18:00
Fairway Lakes Dr.	Medical	8/2/14	03:06
White Point Rd.	Vehicle accident	8/2/14	09:50
Bay Dr.	Dispatched & cancelled	8/2/14	12:49
N. Lakeshore Dr.	Medical	8/2/14	13:50
Bay Dr.	Medical assist.	8/3/14	10:29
N. White Point Rd.	Medical assist.	8/3/14	15:10
N. White Point Rd.	Medical assist.	8/3/14	23:43

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

that after an altercation, a man had broken a window, causing a traumatic injury to his left arm. The man was transported to Twin Cities Hospital, and no arrest was made.

On July 24, Valparaiso police responded to the Heritage Museum to assist firefighters with a possible structure fire. Some museum patrons said that they smelled an odor of something burning, but no fire was found.

On July 24, Valparaiso police received a report from a resident who said that she had received two phone calls from someone claiming to be with the Internal Revenue Service, saying that they had a lawsuit against her. She believes it is a scam.

She told police she had received two separate phone calls from a machine recording which

stated that an individual from the IRS had information regarding a lawsuit against her. She stated that she has attempted to call back the number, but it only gives a voice mailbox, which is full. Police advised the complainant to contact her phone company and attempt to have them block the number if the problem persists.

On July 25, Niceville police responded to the Texaco store and gas station on Redwood Avenue regarding a reported theft of a wallet. The victim stated that he had accidentally dropped his wallet while at the station, and noticed it was missing after he got home. He then returned to the Texaco, and was told by a store clerk that the clerk had seen a woman get out of the passenger seat of another vehicle, pick up the wallet, and leave along with the driver. The case remains under investigation.

On July 26, a Valparaiso police officer found a key in the roadway near the intersection of Cadillac and Detroit.

On July 26, Niceville police received a report of unauthorized charges on someone's credit card. Police advised the victims to contact their credit card company to remove the unauthorized charges.

On July 27, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a burglary that had occurred the previous day at a dwelling on 23rd St. in Niceville. The case status is pending.

On July 28, Valparaiso police received a report from a complainant who said that someone had entered his unlocked vehicle sometime within the last few days and removed two items.

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The Bay Beacon and Beacon Express, incorporating the Bluewater Breeze, is published every Wednesday by Bayou Enterprises Inc. Free total-market home delivery to Niceville, Valparaiso, Bluewater Bay and Seminole, as well as mid-Walton County from Villa Tasso to Basin Bayou, including Choctaw Beach. Subscriptions: One year, mail, \$104. One year, electronic subscription, \$52. All submissions for publication become property of The Bay Beacon.

Niceville's Newspaper



THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

Who is mostly responsible for the fighting between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip?

Location: Niceville civic complex



"I'd say they're both at fault."

Dustin Lennon, 32, Niceville, unemployed systems analyst



"Religion."

Zack Jones, 17, Niceville, student



"I think both are equally to blame. It's a never-ending cycle."

Scott Mignot, 38, Niceville, manager



"I definitely blame Hamas one hundred percent for the fighting."

Gabriele Meyer, 53, Niceville, domestic engineer



"Whoever hit first."

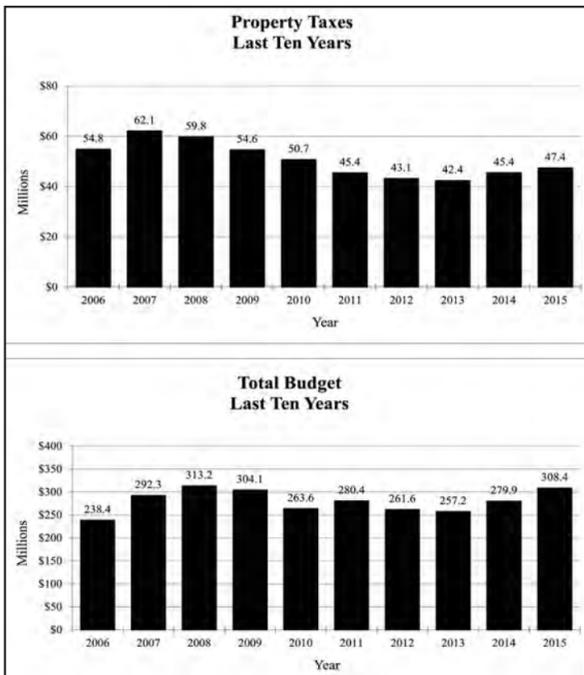
Cynthia Richardson, 26, Niceville, childcare provider



"The conflict has been going on for so long that it's hard to tell who started it. I'm more on Israel's side than Hamas'."

Kim Pekala, 29, Niceville, homemaker

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



Okaloosa County Commission Okaloosa County government budget trends.

COUNTY

From page A-1

as a stormwater utility, a sales tax, or a dedication of a share of property taxes to stormwater projects. The increase in MSTU millage, by 0.119 mills, to 0.2990 mills, is slated for stormwater needs. The vote on the MSTU millage increase was 4-1, with Commissioner Don Amunds dissenting. The MSTU tax is levied only

in unincorporated areas, not cities. Padgett also said that using tourist development tax dollars to offset increased requirements for law enforcement may be necessary.

Overall, the county budget is slated to increase by nearly \$28.5 million to almost \$308.4 million in fiscal year 2015, the majority of which is from increased tourist development funds and capital outlay construction trust funds.

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Advertising Feature

Have you ever wondered what it's like to walk in the shoes of someone with Alzheimer's disease or other related dementias? Superior Residences is hosting its 2nd annual Virtual Dementia Tour experience on August 13th from 10am – 4pm. The Virtual Dementia Tour experience is a scientifically proven method designed to increase sensitivity toward those with dementia. The purpose of the Virtual Dementia Tour is to help others better identify with someone who has dementia with their day-to-day struggles. "Learning to create a positive environment for those with dementia can only come from attempting to walk in their shoes," states Second Wind Dreams, founder of the Virtual Dementia Tour Kit. "Through the use of special adaptive devices which are utilized in the tour experience, you really experience what it is like to walk in the steps of someone with dementia through trying to complete everyday tasks and routine activities", states Nichole Keith, Senior Solutions Director. "As witnessed by last year's participants, this Virtual Dementia Tour proved to be an emotional and eye opening experience for them," stated Sarah Mullins, Assistant



Participants experiencing the Virtual Dementia Tour.

Executive Director. We invite all of those interested in taking the Virtual Dementia Tour to call the community at (850) 897-2244 ext. 4002 to make your reservation for this unique and enlightening experience.

Superior Residences of Niceville is known as the areas Memory Specialists. They specialize in the care for those that have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Although this special

community has been open for a little more than four years, Superior Residences of Niceville has gained notoriety for their 'memory care' services. Superior Residences has earned the trust of area local medical professionals, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities when it comes to referring their patients for specialized care.

"One thing that sets this community apart is our specialty licensure. Superior Residences is the only assisted living community in the area with two specialty licenses. That means that we are able to provide more care than your standard assisted living communities," says Keith. "We have highly trained personnel that have experience with caring for those with all forms of memory loss." We offer three different programs: regular residential stays, guest stays and day stays. Our community features specialized suites that meet the needs of our memory care residents, along with dining rooms, activity and living rooms, television rooms and two

secured outdoor patios. This community has 60 suites which can accommodate up to 80 residents.

Superior Residences of Niceville is owned and operated by Superior Residences, Incorporated, which manages multiple other assisted living communities in Florida. Superior Residences will be opening their new independent living community in Bluewater Bay in the spring of next year.

For more information on upcoming events, or more on Superior Residences of Niceville, visit their website at superioralf.com. If you would like to schedule a lunch and a tour of the community, please contact Nichole at (850) 897-2244, or email her at nkeith@superioralf.com. Superior Residences is located on 2300 Partin Dr. in Niceville, FL 32578.

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Dr. Staats, a 30+ USAF veteran, has owned a home in Niceville for 25 years. She is Board Certified and a Fellow in Family Medicine.

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Photo credit Lynn Watson

Pictured from left, Carmen Little, Megan Simpson, Elijah Schneidewind, Hannah Schneidewind and Samantha Sargent stand in front of the gathered supplies for the 2014-2015 school year.

Key Club helps Cram the Van

The Key Club helped gather materials July 19 and 26 for Sharing and Caring's annual Cram the Van, a drive to gather school supplies for children whose families can't afford it.

Key Clubbers helped gather the supplies in front of the Niceville Walmart, then went to Sharing and Caring, to help sort the gathered materials, everything from notebooks to pencils and crayons.

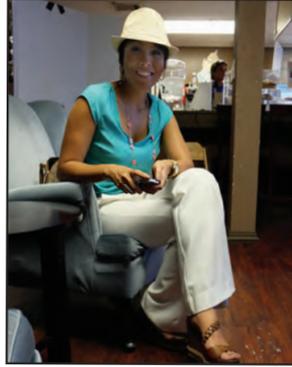
Sharing and Caring is a food

pantry in Niceville that provides food for families in need once a month. The food is mainly gathered by donations, and each has to be counted and recorded. They are completely volunteer run.

The supplies gathered from Cram the Van go towards the children of Sharing and Caring clients who can't afford to pay for their children's supplies. Last year, they were able to provide supplies for 325 children.

Niceville woman stars in 'webisodes'

By Angela Yuriko Smith
Beacon Staff Writer



It looked like Hollywood paid a visit to Cafe Liquid on John Sims Parkway recently when Gelin Vicente, Niceville, was on set filming with the crew of "Actor Factor," a fictional episodic series of shows, also known as "webisodes," based on the ups and downs of a career as a performer.

The fifteen episodes, when filming is finished, will air on YouTube beginning this fall as

well as be turned into a full length independent film.

The film takes place in the world of acting," said Niraj Trivedi, director and producer. "It's a comedy drama."

The crew hopes to enter the film in competitions and festivals such as the Sundance Independent Film festival held every year in Utah.

Halfway finished with their filming, Vicente, who plays an aspiring actress named Vanessa, says the experience

has been a positive one that has mirrored the real trials and joys of being an actor or actress alongside their fictionalized careers.

"The talents here are competitive," said Vicente. "Most of the cast are also crew. We specifically wanted to highlight the emerald coast." The production has kept focus local to showcase the area and the talents available here. Cafe Liquid was selected as the Niceville location.

Everyone on the crew of the "Actor Factor" filming fills in several jobs said Niceville actress Gelin Vicente, pictured above left. The 15 part "webisode" is planned to be released online this fall and then compiled into a full length independent film. Vicente plays actress hopeful Vanessa.

Beacon photos by Angela Yuriko Smith



Brothers make final F-18 flights together

Niceville brothers Christopher P. Allain, Major, USMC, left, and his older brother, Richard J. Allain, Major, USMC recently took their last flights in the F-18 Hornet during the same mission. Each flew their own aircraft; they were in different squadrons but based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The brothers, along with their sister, Suzanne A. Williams, moved to Niceville in 1988, shortly after their father was killed in an F-16 mishap in Germany. Their mother, Victoria Allain, still lives in Niceville. They were given a water salute upon landing.



Who's News

Lindsay Davis, a junior at University of Central Florida, in Orlando, was named to the Dean's list for the Spring Semester 2014. She is the daughter of Melissa Duhaime of Niceville and David Davis of Freeport.



Lindsay Davis

Niceville resident Joe Purka, Vice President, Kirby-Smith Associates, was inducted into the Southern Public Relations Hall of Fame in a ceremony held in Starkville recently.



Joe Purka

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Okaloosa County school resource officers named 'Agency of the Year'

As schools prepare for a new year, parents and teachers can feel good about the school resource officers keeping the schools safe. Sheriff Larry Ashley recently announced that the Okaloosa County School Resource Officer Unit has earned top honors as "Agency of the Year" from FASRO, The Florida Association of SROs. "Our mission is to protect and serve and I can think of no more critical public safety goals than protecting our most precious resource and working to help them become good citizens," said Sheriff Ashley.



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 9:00am ~ Traditional Spirit-filled Worship with Holy Communion
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Niceville PD awarded at breakfast

The Niceville Police Department was the July recipient of the "Say It Forward!" award at the Niceville Valparaiso Wednesday Second Breakfast. Pictured from left, Chief David Popwell, Niceville Police Department; Chairman of the Board Patsy Bland, Century 21 Wilson Minger Agency; Danny Cain, ER Director, Twin Cities Hospital; Lt. Steve Gaiser, Niceville Police Department.

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The Mid-Bay Bridge Authority is seeking applicants for the position of Executive Director.

The Executive Director acts as the chief administrative representative of the Authority and is responsible for the overall administration, financial management, and day-to-day activities of the Authority. The Executive Director reports to the Board of the Authority and acts at the Board's direction. The ideal candidate will be a highly energetic, creative self-starter with a proven track record of leading institutional or department growth. Applicants should have strong verbal and written communication skills and experience in Engineering / Construction, Contract Administration and Financial Management. Qualified applicants should send a cover letter, resume and salary requirements to: Matthews&Jones,LLP Attn:DawnE.Stuntz 4475LegendaryDrive Destin, FL 32541 Email: dstuntz@destinlaw.com A complete job description may be requested from dstuntz@destinlaw.com. Resumes will be accepted through August 31, 2014.

If you want Niceville to know, say it in the F. Call 678-1080 or email info@eglinflyer.com

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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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Shalimar United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time accountant for 15-20 hours per week. Applicant must have an accounting degree and extensive experience to include financial reporting, A/P, A/R, payroll and bank reconciliations. Experience with Shelby Software a plus. Email resume to shalimarumc@gmail.com or fax to 850-651-2494 or mail to P.O.Box 795, Shalimar, FL32579

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Niceville-24X24 private storage building with electricity available plus paved parking area. Enclosed by 6' chain link fence with double gate. Only \$285/month. 850-974-3345

Yard Sales

Multi-family garage sale. Saturday 7am-noon on Aug. 9. 538 Wildflower Ct., Niceville. Variety of items.

Indoor sale. Downsizing, renovating, furniture, antiques, housewares, hobby supplies, books. 138 Raintree Blvd. Niceville. 7-11am. Fri. & Sat. Aug.8&9 and Aug. 15&16.

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MAINTENANCE HELP

The Bluewater Bay Tennis Center is in need of part-time help (10 to 20 hours per week) to assist in the maintenance of the courts. No experience necessary. Very flexible hours; mornings and middays.



Applications available at the Tennis Center: 777 Bay Drive., Niceville (Bluewater Bay)

Looking For a Job? Be Sure to Check the Classified Ads Every Wednesday.



Woman's Club donates to children

Twin Cities Woman's Club recently donated \$1,000 to Take Stock in Children. Pictured from left, TCWC Childhood Concerns Chairperson JoAnn Dunnam, Superintendent of Schools Mary Beth Jackson, TCWC Childhood Concerns Co-Chair Brenda Brown, TSIC Program Coordinator Cindy Frazier and TCWC President Lillian Lewis.

Obituary

Richard Denman Shoemaker

1948-2014

Richard Shoemaker, 66, of Oxford, Mississippi died of natural causes recently at home. He was preceded in death by his parents William Millard and Alice Vivian Shoemaker and his older sister Susan Shoemaker Hume (Robert) of Fort Payne, Ala. He is survived by his older brother William (Sara) of Santa Rosa, Calif.

Rick was born January 9, 1948 in Meridian, Miss. and grew up in Jackson and Meridian. He graduated from Meridian High School and, like many in his family attended The University of Mississippi. Academics did not suit him so he left the University and enlisted in the Army in 1970. He served as historian for his unit which was deployed to Vietnam.

Rick had strong native abilities to interact effectively with people and to be creative with food and drink, which led him to a career involving a wide range of positions at a variety of restaurants all over the US

including Cliff House at Pike's Peak, Colo., Poets in Jackson, Miss., Syd & Harry's on the square in Oxford, Miss., and Bay Gourmet Cafe (jointly with his sister) in Niceville. He concluded his career as chef and restaurant manager at the Seasons Restaurant on Bluewater Bay Country Club in Niceville.

Rick had a big heart and was committed to things he loved regardless of their apparent goodness. He cheered for the Cubs and all Ole Miss sports teams. To him there was no dog better than his faithful companion Raisin, a mutt of uncertain lineage but total charm. If we measure a person by the animals they raise, Rick was a totally trusting soul. Everyone Rick knew or worked with received a goofy nick name, and in turn, Rick was "Big Daddy" to many. He was always willing to give anything he had to a friend in need and will be missed by many who crossed his life path.

No formal memorial service is planned. Rick will be laid to rest alongside his parents at Lakewood Memorial Park, Jackson, Miss. Memorial donations may be made to the William M. & Alice D. Shoemaker Scholarship in Biology, P.O. Box 249, University, MS, 38677.

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BEACON CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: 2:00 p.m. Fri. for Wed. DROP IN: The Bay Beacon, 1181 E. John Sims Pkwy., Parkway East Shopping Center. Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. M-F. After hours, use mail slot in our door.

MAIL: Beacon Newspapers, 1181 E. John Sims Pkwy., Niceville, FL 32578. Enclose check. E-MAIL: Classified@baybeacon.com Type "Classified" in subject field. (Do not include credit card information. We will call you for credit card info. \$5 processing fee.)

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Scrabble fun

For everyone that enjoys playing Scrabble, there's an opportunity to have fun and meet new people at the Niceville Public Library. Boards will be set out for the adult community to play and enjoy on Wednesday, Aug. 6 and 20 beginning at 9:30 a.m. All skill levels are welcome. For further information please phone 279-4863 x 1504.

Open mic poetry night

Join fellow poets Aug. 6 for "Say the Word," an open mic poetry reading at the French Quarter Bar & Grill, 714 Howell Rd., Niceville, at 7 p.m.

The event is free of charge and all are welcome to take the mic. Each performer should plan to share about 2-3 pieces.

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 video-grapher 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.

Kayak adventure

Join a Park Ranger at Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park on Friday, Aug. 8 from 8-10 a.m. for a unique opportunity to paddle Rocky Bayou. The paddle will go along the shoreline of Rocky Bayou to Rocky Creek and back to the park. Rocky Bayou is a fresh to brackish water system supporting a large variety of fish and shellfish, including the federally endangered Okaloosa darter.

Space is limited to 12 people for the trip. There are five double kayaks and two single kayaks available for our use. A signup sheet will be available in the ranger station at Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park until Aug. 7 and will be on a first come first serve basis.

Park admission fees do apply. Kayak rental fees will be waived.

Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park is located at 4281 S.R. 20, Niceville. For more information, call 833-9144.

Stitch and visit

The Sand Dunes Chapter of Embroiderers' Guild of America, celebrating various forms of hand embroidery, has their annual August membership coffee Saturday, Aug. 9 from 11a.m.-1p.m. at the Holy Name of Jesus Church, 1200 Valparaiso Blvd., Niceville Fellowship Hall.

The 2014-15 program will be presented and snacks will be served. Visitors are welcome. Call 496-3466 with any questions.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Sunday, Aug. 10 at Christ Our Redeemer Church, 1028 White Point Road, Niceville from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. All donors will receive a beach towel.

Community band

The Emerald Coast Community Band welcomes new members with no try-outs or auditions. They play several concerts a year and urge local musicians to dust off their instruments and come play. Practice is Aug. 12 and every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Meigs Middle School band room, Shalimar. Call 865-8902 for more information.

Reading pal

Baci, a Bichon Frise therapy dog, loves a good book. Children ages 7 and older are invited to read a story to Baci in the Youth Services program room Wednesday, Aug. 13, at 2 p.m. This is a first come, first served program. Bring a book or choose from the library collection.

Senior moments

The Twin City Senior Citizens Club, 268 Glenview Ave., Valparaiso, will meet Aug. 14 at 1 p.m. Entrée provided, please bring a covered dish to share games, food, and fun. For information call 543-0869.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Thursday, Aug. 14 at Niceville City Hall, 204 N. Partin Drive from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. All donors will receive a beach towel.

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. Discover, explore and experience days-gone-by as campers aged 5-12 travel back in time.

Cost is \$60 for the week, \$50 for family membership members. Become a new member at the \$50 family level, and receive one child's camp registration half off.



Museum seeks donations

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Niceville, is requesting donations for their annual Inside-Outside Yard Sale Spectacular planned for Saturday, Aug. 30 from 7 a.m.-12 p.m. Donations, except for clothes, are now being accepted during regular museum hours from Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Outside spaces available for sellers for \$10.

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida is dedicated to providing affordable and fun, quality programs. Space is limited, please pre-register. Call 678-2615.

Basket weaving

There will be a Heritage Alive! basket weaving class for beginners at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, August 16 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Instructor Lou Holt will be teaching students to make a basket designed to hold paper plates.

The cost is \$35 or \$30 for Museum Members and includes all materials. Space is limited. Register by calling 678-2615.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Saturday, Aug. 16 at Fantastic Sam's, 1136 W. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. All donors will receive a beach towel and a Fantastic Sam's haircut voucher.

There will also be a blood drive Monday, Aug. 18 at Walmart, Niceville from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. All donors will receive a beach towel.

Pine needle basketry

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, is offering a class in Pine Needle Basketry with a two part class Tuesdays, Aug. 19 and 26 from 5-8 p.m. Early Native Americans in the region originally wove abundant

longleaf pine needles into beautiful and useful baskets. Learn to use Seminole techniques and local pine needles to create something uniquely yours.

The cost is \$55 or, \$50 for Museum members. Materials included.

Space for the class is limited, so please call the museum to pre-register 678-2615.

Driver's safety

The AARP Drivers Safety Course will be at the Niceville Library Wednesday, Aug. 20 and Thursday, Aug. 21 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. in the Niceville Community Center Classroom next door to library.

The cost is \$12 per person for AARP members or \$14 for non-members. Please make your checks out to AARP. Space is limited.

Sign up is required at the Reference Desk or if you have questions call Lora Glass at 279-4863 ext. 1504.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Thursday, Aug. 21 at Twin Cities Hospital, Niceville from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All donors will receive a beach towel.

Free movie night

Niceville United Methodist Church, 214 Partin Drive South, invites everyone to free showing of the movie "Home Run," PG-13 Friday, Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. Register online for a free BBQ

meal, free child care, and to reserve your seat by Aug. 22.

For more information call 678-4411 or visit nicevilleumc.org/recovery.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Monday, Aug. 25 and 26 at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All donors will receive a movie ticket.

Alzheimer's support group

Covenant Alzheimer's 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, August 27 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 during the meeting, please contact Covenant Alzheimer's Services in advance at 866-478-7790.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Wednesday Aug. 27 at Niceville United Methodist Church, 214 Partin Drive from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. All donors will receive a beach towel.

Book discussion

The Niceville Library invites readers on Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 10:30 a.m. to visit and discuss "I Shall Be Near You" by Erin Lindsay McCabe.

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

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.

Weaving workshop

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, is offering a weekly seat weaving workshop every Thursday from 1-3 p.m. beginning Aug. 28. Participants will learn how to replace the seats on their own chairs. Weaving styles to be taught

include the classical cane open weave, closed weave of fiber rush common on ladder-back chairs, and herringbone pattern using flat or oval reed. Some chairs and stools are available for learning.

The fee per day is \$10; \$8 for Museum Members, plus \$10 (one-time fee) for materials and use of tools. Space for the class is limited, so please call the museum to pre-register 678-2615.

Benefit yard sale

The annual Inside Outside Yard Sale at The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, will be Saturday, Aug. 30 from 7 a.m.-12 p.m.

Birders to meet

A rare bird and plant walk will be Aug. 30 led by rare plant biologist, Tom Greene, on a tour of wet prairies of Point Washington State Forest which harbor a multitude of carnivorous plants, and possibly Bachmann's Sparrow. Bring water, insect repellent, long pants and shoes or boots that can take wet conditions and meet at the eastern end of the Sandestin Walmart parking lot at 8:15 a.m. For more information, call Tom Greene at 694-6403.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Sunday, Aug. 31 at St. Jude's Episcopal Church, 200 Partin Drive North from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All donors will receive a movie ticket.

Freeport festival

The City of Freeport will be hosting their first Bayfest on Saturday Sept. 20 at Freeport Regional Sports Complex at Hammock Bay from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The festival will feature a variety of entertainment for everyone including country, gospel, jazz, blues and rock-n-roll. Other events include a fishing tournament, hosted by Nick's Seafood Restaurant, a 5k run and gumbo cook off the morning of the festival, antique car show, kids fun zone, arts and crafts, as well as plenty of food vendors.

Armbands will be sold at the gate the day of the event. Admission prices are \$5 for students and \$10 for Adults. Freeport Regional Sports Complex is located at 671 Hammock Trail East, Freeport. This is a tobacco-free facility. No alcohol, no pets, no coolers, no bikes, no skateboards.



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Oktoberfest

The 20th annual Oktoberfest and Arts and Crafts Festival, sponsored by the Mid-Bay Rotary Club, will be at Winn Dixie Plaza in Bluewater Bay on Friday, Sept. 26 from 5 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 27 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

THE BEACON'S AT YOUR SERVICE

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BEACONSPORTS



FDD basketball teams teach responsible citizenship



Coach Jerome Strutchen Sr., who coaches basketball at Niceville High School, also coaches several FDD teams in his free time. Faithfulness, Discipline, Diligence, Inc. is a organization serving the youth of Okaloosa County, and Coach Strutchen's teams have won many of the tournaments they have participated in. Pictured above from left, kneeling, Deandra McLane, Brooke McBride, Amanda Wilson, Ashley Lane and Brenda Gulley. Standing from left, Gabrielle Brown, Dajuana Matthews, Brittany Rollins, Madison McNabb, Tasharah Sanders, Michaela Mitchell, Taylor Broadnax, Krista McQueen and Coach Jerome Strutchen Sr.

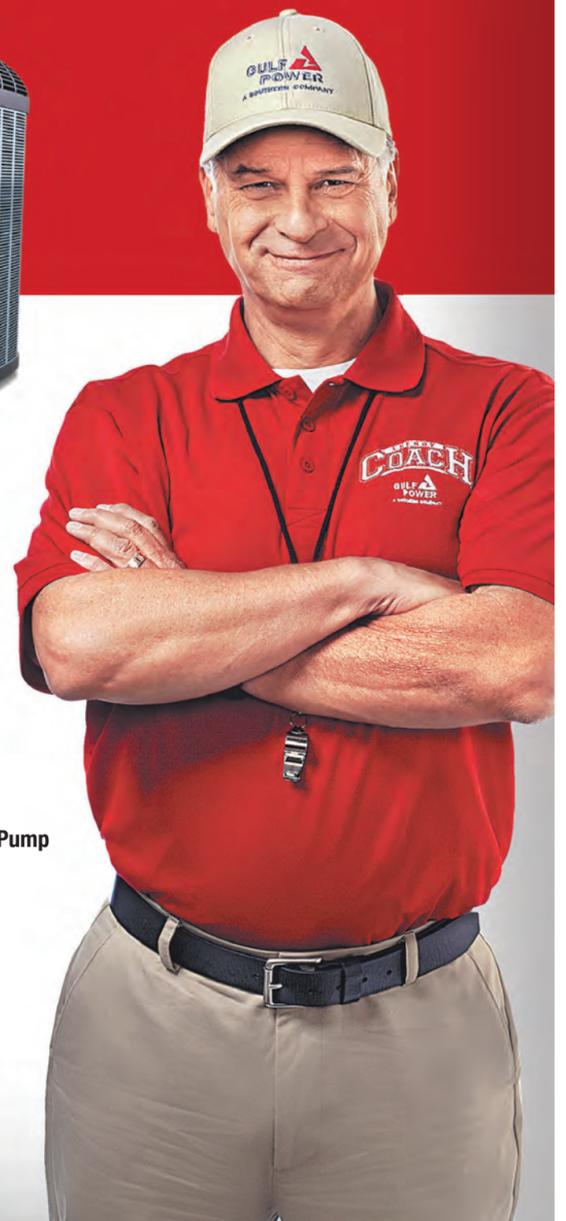


Above, pictured from front row left, Taylor Broadnax, Krista McQueen, Tasharah Sanders, Amanda Wilson and Coach Jerome Strutchen Sr. Back row from left, Brenda Gulley, Michaela Mitchell, Ashley Lane, and Brooke McBride.



Standing from left, Isabella Cain, Tamia Cooper, Trinity Cooper, Akiyah Alden, Damia McLane and Jerome Strutchen Sr. Kneeling from left, Makayla Brown and Miranda Brown.

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