

# The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A4

10 Pages, 2 Sections, 4 Inserts

Wednesday, August 27, 2014

50¢

**UP  
COMING**

Wed., 3-8 p.m.



**Blood drive at Niceville United Methodist Church, 214 Partin Drive. All donors will receive a beach towel.**

Thurs., 8-9 am.



Women are invited to join **Moms in Prayer International** weekly at **Niceville High School** to pray for schools. 897-1292.

**Thurs., 9 a.m.-Noon "Healthcare Reform For Your Business"** seminar at the Costa Leadership Institute at **Northwest Florida State College**. \$25 per person. 678-2323.

Sat., 8:15 a.m.



**Rare bird and plant walk at Point Washington State Forest.** Meet at the eastern end of the **Sandestin Walmart** parking lot. 694-6403.

## Niceville proposes tax levy increase

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

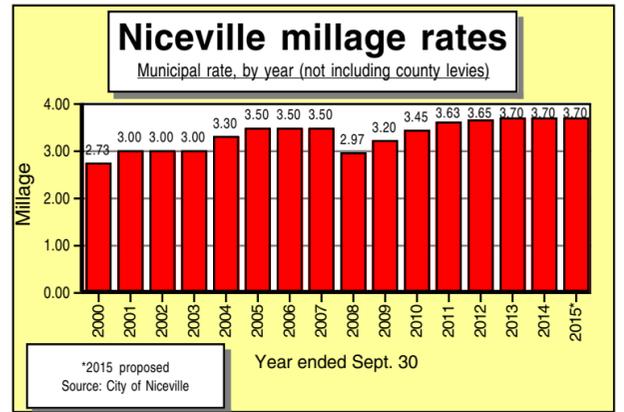
During an Aug. 19 budget workshop, members of the Niceville City Council discussed the city's proposed general fund budget for fiscal year 2015.

Public hearings on the budget and tax rate will be held Sept. 11, 16 and 18.

The general fund budget, which covers tax-supported departments of the city government, calls for \$11,319,280 in revenue and expense. It also calls for a proposed ad valorem tax millage rate of 3.7 mills, the same millage rate that is currently in effect, but which will nevertheless result in a higher tax levy.

At 3.7 mills, Niceville property owners pay \$3.70 in property tax for every \$1,000 of assessed taxable value of their property. For example, the owner of a home assessed at \$200,000 taxable value, after homestead exemptions and other discounts, would pay \$740 in property tax to the city. This

**Please see INCREASE, page A-3**



## Chilly challenge



Ruckel Middle School teachers and staff accept the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge which has spurred nationwide donations to fight ALS in the last month of \$79.7 million. The Niceville Fire Department completed the challenge, held Friday in the school parking lot, with a spray from a fire hose after school employees poured buckets of ice water on their heads to spread awareness and raise funds to find a cure for ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease. School board member Melissa Thrush joined in, doing the challenge in memory of a neighbor who succumbed to the disease.

## Bridge revenue hopes slashed by \$3 million for fiscal year 2014

By Marcia Anne Sanders  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

The Mid-Bay Bridge Authority plans to complete in April a study of traffic to determine the size of its next toll increase. Consultant URS will do the study.

Meantime, URS has lowered its forecast for fiscal year 2014 toll revenue by nearly \$3 million.

URS reported its findings at the Aug. 21 meeting of the bridge board. The company reported that the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector, a feeder highway that opened in January of this year, has been running 15 percent under its toll forecast levels for revenue for the fiscal year that will end Sept. 30.

July was the first month since its opening that the connector had more average daily traffic than estimated. For the year so far, the highway has had 94 percent of the paying traffic it was projected to have.

The reason connector traffic is higher than revenue is that the highway tolls are collected by electronic "toll by plate," under which invoices are mailed to the owner of the vehicle based on a photo of the license plate. Receipt of payment can take more than a month for the \$1.50 toll.

Many toll-by-plate motorists never pay at all, according to the Florida Department of Transportation. In south Florida, where toll-by-plate has been

used on parts of the Florida Turnpike for several years, about 30 percent of all invoices went unpaid in 2012 and 2013, according to the DOT.

MBBA Board Chair Gordon Fornell said "way too much money (is) not being collected." He noted that collections have been made from 46 states which can also slow down the process. "Anything we can do to move that along would be good to close the gap," said Fornell.

Toll-by-plate is not used on the bridge itself. By far the authority's biggest income source, bridge revenue for the first 10 months of fiscal 2014 is up 2.7 percent over the year-ago period, but below forecasts

**Please see BRIDGE, page A-3**



The toll plaza at the Mid-Bay Bridge on Monday afternoon. Estimates for increased bridge traffic due to a bypass connector that opened in January have not met expectations, and bridge revenue projections for 2014 have been cut by \$3 million.



The pond in Bluewater Bay between Aruba Way and Dominica Way was peaceful Monday. Residents living around the pond reported at the Aug. 19 Municipal Services Benefit Unit board meeting that it has risen and flooded yards around it several times this year and gotten into two houses, as well as flooding Curacao Way, the road south of the pond.

Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

## BWB residents seek answers on pond flooding

By Marcia Anne Sanders  
*Beacon Staff Writer*

The Bluewater Bay Municipal Services Benefit Unit board will hire an engineer to determine the source of a problem residents have had with flooding around a pond bounded by Aruba Way, Dominica Way, Curacao Way and Southwind and Woodlands drives.

Several residents came to the Aug. 19 MSBU meeting to ask for help with the problem of water in their yards and houses following April and July storms. The residents presented a petition that the MSBU, Okaloosa County Commissioner Kelly Windes, the county road department and Bluewater Bay Resort find a

solution.

MSBU board member Felix Beukenkamp said after being contacted by the residents he talked to Clay Simmons of the county public works department and learned that the county will not take responsibility for the drainage of the dam on the south end of the pond at Curacao Way. Beukenkamp said the road is basically the spillway for the dam.

The pond itself is owned by Bluewater Bay Resort according to property tax records. Beukenkamp said he also contacted the resort. "No one has the money to fix the problem," he said. Beukenkamp said funding

**Please see FLOODING, page A-3**

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## FLOODING

From page A-1

to make changes might come from FEMA.

Hal Tiaht, Aruba Way, who has seen his house flooded twice this year, said, "We really do have to get something done. The bottom line is too much water is going into a pipe that is just two feet in diameter."

Tiaht has lived there since 1987 and has gone to FEMA and used his personal flood insurance and his savings to fix his house after his house flooded six times over the years. "In my personal experience, it's getting worse," he said.

Another resident, Chris Olson, thinks the pond pipe is clogged and needs cleaning. Several residents said they are willing to spend their own money to get it cleaned if necessary but Olson later said he wants to pursue having this done by the resort.

Other residents said the overflowing of the pond is a safety issue when the water gets so high

that it covers people's decks and yards. Citizens also expressed concern that with the hurricane season, which started June 1, more rain would be coming.

Chairman of the MSBU board Steve Hall told the crowd that they need to suggest a solution to county officials in order for anything to happen.

Hall said the MSBU's help would be limited. "The only area where we might have jurisdiction is at road crossings on Southwind and Curacao," he said, and he called even that a "stretch."

Beukenkamp said that the engineer who would be retained by the board would not design a solution, but would "evaluate the performance of the overflow structure" to prevent future flooding on the lake. The board passed the motion and Beukenkamp said he would share the results with the homeowners.

Beukenkamp said the MSBU would develop a request for proposal for the engineer in the next 30 days.

Board member Jonathan Tallman said he felt more action



The living room of Hal and Mary Tiaht on Aruba Way in Bluewater Bay after heavy rains July 21 caused the pond behind their house to rise and send six inches of water indoors. It is the sixth time the pond has flooded their house, Mr. Tiaht said.

Courtesy photo

needed to be taken by the MSBU. He made a motion to make an emergency ordinance to send to the county commissioners, the golf course and the Department of Environmental Protection. This motion also passed.

The county has experienced extensive storm water problems this year and in an interview after the meeting, Simmons said that it estimates a need for \$50 million

for storm water improvements. The board of county commissioners has proposed an increase to the Municipal Services Taxing Unit for unincorporated areas which would generate \$781,207 in new revenue for storm water issues. County Administrator Ernie Padgett has also recommended taking \$500,000 from the county parks MSTU reserves for storm water projects.

Simmons said that gas taxes can be used for storm water in transportation related projects although he said it is limited as well. Since the pond and drainage is private, he does not see the county having a financial contribution to the solution in this situation at Bluewater Bay.

However, he said that the county will meet with Beukenkamp, adding, "We are working to partner with the MSBU and with the golf course to see what sort of solution we can come up with."

In other business at the meeting, the board also discussed the selection of a landscape contractor for fiscal year 2015. The four companies that presented bids to the MSBU were Bayou Lawn and Landscape Services (\$186,317), Dogwood Services Inc. (\$213,455), ValleyCrest Landscape Companies (\$244,688) and Russell Landscape Services (\$247,501).

The board budgeted \$214,000 for the contract. After rating the contracts, the board chose ValleyCrest, which submitted the third highest of the four bids.

Board members did not discuss their reasons.

The current contractor, ValleyCrest, has a nine-month contract at \$92,016.

The board also decided to extend the contract of Bluewater Management Services Inc., which provides staff support for the MSBU, without putting it out to bid. Beukenkamp asked that a request for proposals be developed and voted against the no-bid extension.

Association Manager Darlane Landsberger got an estimate for paving the Winged Foot sidewalks for \$31,955 which was seven percent higher than what the county will charge to do it. The county will not be able to do it for a long time so the board wanted to investigate other options.

Tallman said the board should proceed with the RFP for the sidewalks. Judy Griffin suggested having this be the first project of a landscape designer the board wants to retain to do a master plan. The board decided to wait to pursue a concrete contractor until a design could be created.

## INCREASE

From page A-1

does not include taxes by other jurisdictions such as the county and the public schools.

During the meeting, City Clerk Dan Doucet told the council that at the 3.7 millage rate, the city property tax is expected to produce \$188,334 more in ad valorem tax revenue than under the current fiscal year 2014 budget, due to a projected increase of 4.6 percent in taxable property values.

Property taxes make up about 25 percent of the city's total revenues, with additional funds com-

ing from such sources as intergovernmental aid from state and federal governments of about \$3,032,550, other revenue sources such as transfers, of \$1,596,750, as well as licenses and permits, which will bring in \$1,305,000, plus other sources.

Highlights of the proposed budget include:

The police department budget would decrease by just under 1 percent. This would include funding for one additional patrolman at a cost of \$48,692. However, the police department has requested a total of three additional full-time personnel, which would cost

\$146,076 if approved. The police department currently has 24 officers and would like to have 27.

The proposed police budget also includes \$4,800 to purchase 24 body cameras to be worn by officers while on duty. The cameras would provide a record of officer's actions throughout their shifts, including their interactions with other people.

Police Chief Dave Popwell told the council that such devices could be useful in providing evidence of crimes, and in resolving disputes over such things as potential future accusations of excessive force by a police officer.

The fire department budget would increase by about 14.7 percent, to include hiring an additional firefighter and other expenses. Because of budget constraints, the department is currently only able to fund one additional firefighter for FY 2015 at a cost of \$62,828. The fire department, however, has requested five additional full-time personnel, at a cost of \$314,140. The increase would provide a full-time crew of four (up from three) during each of the fire department's three 24-hour shifts.

The street department budget

would increase by a little over 8 percent, maintaining four full-time positions.

The parks department budget would increase by a little over 12 percent, to include improvements at Turkey Creek Park and other parks.

The budget for the Niceville Children's Park would increase by a little over 4 percent, to include the installation of shade structures over playground equipment to help offset the heat index during the summer and allow the park to remain open more hours each day.

The youth center skate park

budget would increase by more than 45 percent, to include the cost of building a variety of skating ramps during the coming year.

Also during the meeting, city councilmember Sal Nodjoman asked why the proposed FY 2015 budget appears to include some significant increases in the total amount of salaries paid to city employees.

City Manager Lannie Corbin replied that he was not certain of the reason for this, but would research the matter and report back to the council during the city's next budget workshop.

## BRIDGE

From page A-1

because full projected traffic from the connector has "not yet materialized," according to the URS report.

URS estimates the bridge toll revenue in fiscal 2014 will come

in at \$16.3 million, 14 percent below the \$19 million forecast.

As a result, URS has revised its fiscal year 2014 toll revenue forecast for the bridge and connector together from \$20.7 million to \$17.8 million.

MBBA Executive Director Jim Vest said it's difficult to make projections for traffic on a new road.

Vest added, "As we meet our bond covenants, revenue is a little bit below projections."

In other news at the meeting, Fornell reported that he spoke with the Eglin Air Force Base Test Wing commander about a proposed phase IV of the connector, which would complete the half circle of the Niceville bypass with

a road connecting to Highway 85 north of the Northwest Florida Regional Airport.

Fornell said there has not been as much dialogue with the base about this phase. "We're trying to keep everything alive and well," he said.

MBBA lawyer Dawn Norris announced that the posting seek-

ing a successor to Vest, who will retire Sept. 30 as executive director, will be open until Aug. 31.

She already has over 25 applicants and will narrow down the resumes to 10, which she will email to the board members to rank. The top five candidates will be interviewed by herself and Fornell on Sept. 8. The board will

discuss the candidates Sept. 12 and possibly announce a new director Sept. 18.

The special meeting of the authority for the purpose of discussing the candidates for Vest's replacement will be held at 9 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 12, at the Destin City Hall Board Room, 4200 Indian Bayou Trail, Destin.

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*Niceville's Newspaper*

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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 Aug. 7, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office arrested Michael David Anthony Weiland, 29, of 1307 Pinewood Ln., Crestview, for theft. The arrest was made on a four-count warrant stemming from an incident that occurred in Niceville on July 25, in which Weiland allegedly took a vehicle from an address on Maple Avenue without authorization.

He returned the vehicle later that evening, but without several items that had previously been in the vehicle. The missing items were valued at \$3,800. Also missing from the victim's home were some prescription medications, valued at \$300.

On July 31, an Okaloosa County deputy sheriff arrested Brittany Nicole Brahmstedt, 21, a cleaner from 1567 Pine St., Niceville, for driving while license revoked for being an habitual traffic offender, and providing a false name while lawfully detained.

The arrest was made in connection with a traffic stop in which Brahmstedt was cited for driving 83 mph in a 60 mph zone on Highway 85 just south of Highway 123 in Niceville.

On Aug. 2, Niceville police arrested Alan Craig Dorris, 47, unemployed, of 1213 Willow Ln., Niceville, for one count of possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, and one count of violation of conditions of pretrial release.

On Aug. 6, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office arrested Charles Cortland Caswell, 24, unemployed, of 100 Arrowhead Way, Niceville, for grand theft. The arrest was made in connection with the theft of a computer from the Walmart in Niceville.

On Aug. 8, Valparaiso police arrested Heather Michelle Riedel, 31, unemployed, of 284 Montana Ave., Valparaiso, for one count of resisting arrest without violence.

A Valparaiso officer observed Riedel in the passenger seat of a vehicle as it pulled off the road in front of her residence. The officer knew that there was an active Escambia County warrant for Riedel for felony violation of probation. When the officer made contact with her, she climbed into the lap of the driver and out of the vehicle's driver side window, then fled on foot, failing to comply with the officer's orders to stop. After a short foot pursuit, Riedel was taken into custody.

On Aug. 11 Carlos Fernando Gautier, 25, of 2800 Red Oak Court, Eglin Air Force Base, was booked into the Walton County jail for reckless driving, first offense, and for driving with a suspended or revoked license. He was released later that day.

On Aug. 11 the Walton County Sheriff's Office arrested Sonny Preston Wood, 24, an odd job worker, of 453 Howard St., Niceville, for one count of marijuana possession, not more than 20 grams, and two counts of narcotic equipment possession and/or use.

On Aug. 12 Angie Marie Fannin, 39, of 325 Parkwood Pl., Niceville, was booked into the Walton County jail for smuggling contraband into a detention facility. She was released on Aug. 14.

On Aug. 14, Valparaiso police arrested Sharon Elizabeth Lisovich, 45, unemployed, of 119 Judith Dr., Valparaiso, for 14 counts of fraud/illegal use of a credit card, and four counts of uttering forged bills/checks/drafts/notes.

Lisovich allegedly used another person's debit card to make withdrawals totaling \$800.86, and used four of the victim's checks to obtain goods and cash totaling \$125.49.

On Aug. 14, Valparaiso police arrested Jackie Coogan Mott III, 31, retired, of 23 Ruby Way, Mary Esther, for one count each of DWLSR habitual offender, fleeing or eluding a law enforcement officer, having no tag or registration on his vehicle, and having no motorcycle endorsement on his driver's license.

While responding to a call in reference to an individual driving a motorcycle on the sidewalk, an officer observed Mott driving a motorcycle in a grassy area at the intersection of State Road 397 and S. Bayshore Dr. When the officer attempted to make a traffic stop, Mott fled, but stalled the motorcycle in sand near Sunset Lane, where he was taken into custody.

On Aug. 16 Kacey Ann Sallee, 23, of 1013 Judith Ave., Niceville, was booked into the Walton County jail for larceny petit theft second-degree, first offense.

On Aug. 17, Valparaiso police arrested Maurice James Coughlin, 49, a construction worker, 108 21st St., Niceville, for one count of being a fugitive from justice. He was located in Valparaiso and placed under arrest for an outstanding federal warrant for possession of amphetamine.

On Aug. 19, Niceville police arrested Matthew Edwards Wood, 36, of 756 Live Oak St., Freeport, for one count of leaving the scene of a crash involving damage to property.

On May 26, the vehicle Wood was driving allegedly struck another vehicle from behind on John Sims Parkway, but failed to stop to exchange information with the other driver. The other driver was able to copy the fleeing vehicle's tag number and stored it into his cell phone.

After several attempts to contact him by phone, Wood contacted the Niceville Police Department on June 3, admitted to being involved in a hit-and-run traffic crash, and stated he was willing to stand up to any damage he did. He did not, however, make any further contact with police until he was arrested on Aug. 19.

On Aug. 2, Niceville police arrested Byron Enrique Torres Osorio, 42, a handyman, of 318 Nimrod Cir., Niceville, for DUI. He was stopped on State Road 20 east of Cedar Avenue, admitted to having had a "couple of drinks," and showed other signs of intoxication. His blood alcohol level registered at or above .089.

On Aug. 7, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office arrested Hector Martinez, 38, USAF, of 307 Olde Post Rd., Niceville, for DUI.

Martinez was arrested after police responded to a report of a man passed out and unresponsive behind the wheel of his vehicle, which was sitting in the middle of the road at a stop sign at the intersection of Meadow Woods Lane and White Point Road.

When the officer arrived, he observed North Bay Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services personnel on scene checking Martinez's vitals. Martinez appeared to be intoxicated and was verbally combative with fire, EMS and law enforcement personnel. He refused a breath alcohol test.

On Aug. 16, Niceville police cited Amanda Lynn Huedepohl, 27, a restaurant employee, of 322 Tislow Dr., Crestview, for DUI. When stopped while driving along State Road 20, Huedepohl showed multiple signs of intoxication, and a breath alcohol test registered at or above .174.

### Summonses and citations

On Aug. 7, Niceville police served a criminal summons to Herman R. Singleton, 31, a floor care worker, of 32 7th Ave., No.

## Fire Department Reports

### Niceville



**Niceville Fire for 8/18/14 - 8/24/2014**

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from August 18, 2014 through August 24, 2014.

0 Structure Fire	18 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	2 Vehicle Crash
1 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	5 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	1 Hazardous Conditions

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Reeves St.	Medical	8/18/14	10:18
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Alarm activation	8/18/14	13:40
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	8/18/14	18:05
23 <sup>rd</sup> Street	Medical	8/18/14	18:51
23 <sup>rd</sup> Street	Medical	8/18/14	22:02
Yacht Club Dr.	Alarm activation	8/19/14	15:17
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Alarm activation	8/19/14	15:40
Frijar Tuck Dr.	Medical	8/20/14	08:34
27 <sup>th</sup> Street	Cancelled	8/20/14	16:01
Date Palm Dr.	Medical	8/20/14	23:40
Edgewater Dr.	Medical	8/21/14	07:20
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	8/21/14	09:43
Magnolia Shores Dr.	Medical	8/21/14	11:15
Lanman Rd.	Alarm activation	8/21/14	12:32
Alderwood Way	Medical	8/21/14	19:59
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/22/14	07:28
SR 85 N.	Medical	8/22/14	08:37
Twin Cities Blvd.	Medical	8/22/14	11:20
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/22/14	11:47
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	8/22/14	12:46
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/22/14	14:23
N. Palm Dr.	Fuel spill	8/22/14	16:00
Bayshore Dr.	Vehicle crash	8/22/14	23:58
Forest Lake Terr.	Medical	8/23/14	11:10
26 <sup>th</sup> Street	Medical	8/23/14	17:05
27 <sup>th</sup> Street	Brush fire	8/23/14	18:57
37 <sup>th</sup> Street	Medical	8/24/14	10:10

Weekly Safety Tip: Store unused charcoal in a cool dry place, because damp charcoal can ignite itself. Use a metal pail/garbage can with tight lid and place in an open space where heat can escape if self-ignition should occur.

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

### North Bay



The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from August 18, 2014 through August 24, 2014.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Troon Dr. W.	Public assist	8/18/14	10:26
E. Hwy. 20	Medical	8/18/14	16:38
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	8/18/14	22:51
Merchants Way	EMS call	8/19/14	09:09
Wright Cir.	Medical	8/19/14	18:37
Southwind Ct.	EMS call	8/19/14	19:29
White Point Rd.	Vehicle accident	8/21/14	01:13
Summit Ct.	Medical	8/21/14	07:19
Range Rd.	Medical assist	8/21/14	08:29
Cat Mar Rd.	Medical	8/21/14	09:15
E. Hwy. 20	Good intent	8/21/14	09:54
E. Hwy 20/Lancaster	Medical	8/21/14	18:05
N. White Point Rd.	Medical assist	8/21/14	20:38
Windlake Dr.	Public assist	8/21/14	21:59
Mid Bay Bridge N side	Vehicle accident	8/22/14	01:10
Caribbean Way	Public assist	8/22/14	15:59
Hwy. 20 E.	Medical	8/22/14	16:03
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	8/22/14	18:11
Muirfield Way	Medical	8/23/14	19:04
Glen Eagles Dr.	Medical	8/24/14	15:36
Emerald Coast Pkwy.	Equip. fire	8/24/14	18:56
E. Hwy. 20	Dispatched & cancelled	8/24/14	19:14

Visit [northbayfd.org](http://northbayfd.org) for more information.

115, Shalimar, for one count of marijuana possession, not more than 20 grams.

On Aug. 15, Niceville police cited Robert William Nowicki, 55, of 1126 Bayshore Dr., Niceville, for knowingly driving while license suspended or revoked.

On Aug. 17, Niceville police cited Chase Ira McCullough, 25, of 344 Chicago Ave., Valparaiso, for knowingly driving while license suspended or revoked.

On Aug. 17, Niceville police cited Brandon Alexander Crawford, 32, of 1627 26th St., Niceville, for knowingly driving while license suspended or revoked.

On Aug. 17, Niceville police cited John Keith Bennett, 32, a cook, of 1215 Shipley Dr., Niceville, for knowingly driving while license suspended or revoked.

### Other

On Aug. 8, Niceville police responded to an address on Chip Lane regarding the theft of an Xbox.

On Aug. 11 the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office responded to a reported burglary to a vehicle at an address on Commercial Drive in Niceville.

On Aug. 11 the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office responded to a possible narcotics violation at a location on Bluewater Boulevard in Niceville. The case remains active.

On Aug. 12 a couple walking reported to a Valparaiso police officer that they had observed a spoon and syringe on the sidewalk. They reported that they had already thrown away the spoon, but left the syringe. An officer obtained the syringe and secured it for destruction.

On Aug. 13, Valparaiso police responded to an address on Valparaiso Parkway regarding the reported theft of an orange marker light from a rental truck.

On Aug. 14, the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office recovered some narcotics from a location on Maple Avenue in Niceville.

On Aug. 14 a man came to the Valparaiso police station to report a lost wallet.

On Aug. 15 Valparaiso police assisted with traffic control at a location along College Blvd. at Crystal Lake Estates while public works employees repaired a water leak.

On Aug. 15, a person came to the Niceville police station to report a stolen bicycle.

On Aug. 15, Niceville police responded to the Dairy Queen on John Sims Parkway regarding a vehicle that had been scratched.

On Aug. 16 Valparaiso police responded to an address on Westview Avenue, regarding some found drug paraphernalia.

On Aug. 16, Niceville police responded to an address on John Sims Parkway regarding criminal mischief.

On Aug. 17, Niceville police responded to an address on Government Avenue, regarding the theft of some medicine, as well as a Florida driver's license and Social Security card, from a woman's purse.

On Aug. 18, Niceville police responded to an address on 21st Street regarding the theft of a cell phone.

On Aug. 18, Niceville police responded to an address on John Sims Parkway regarding an alleged simple assault. The case remains open.

THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER -by Mike Griffith



What do you think about raising backyard chickens in residential neighborhoods?

Location: Walmart



"I would prefer hens to roosters, because roosters crow too much - like having a barking dog."

Kathy Williams, 59, Niceville, sales associate



"I wouldn't be for it - not in a residential neighborhood."

Lance Polous, 30 Niceville, cook



"There should be a limit to the number of chickens in a backyard, but I'm all for fresh eggs."

Linda Oldroyd, 50, Niceville, graphic designer



"It would be fine with me if my neighbors had chickens."

Jason Copeland, 34, Niceville, tile installer



"I'm all for it. We raise chickens. I believe in knowing what you feed yourself, versus buying whatever's at the store."

Lauren Helms, 30, Mossy Head, business owner



"If it's all right with your neighbor, then go ahead."

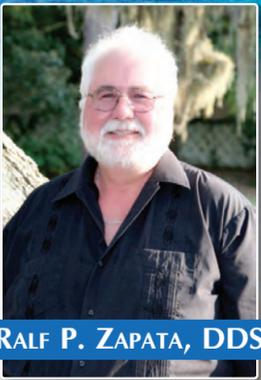
Ann Roberson, 84, Choctaw Beach, retired

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



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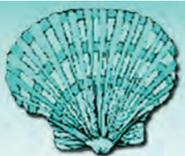
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 Dr. Ottesen is a Florida native, raised in Fort Pierce, Florida. She received her Bachelor of Science in 1993 from Florida State University. Dr. Ottesen graduated with honors in 1999 from The University of Florida College of Dentistry with her Doctorate of Medical Dentistry. In 2000, Dr. Ottesen received advanced dental training by completing a General Practice Residency at The University of Vermont. In addition, Dr. Ottesen has completed the advanced post-graduate training

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## Eagle Ram tennis courts to open Sept. 8

By Marcia Anne Sanders  
Beacon Staff Writer

For all the tennis players in Niceville, a new day is coming right around the corner. Sept. 8 the tennis courts at the corner of Partin and Palm at Ruckel Middle School are scheduled to open to the public. Labor Day weekend will be the last weekend for the final touches to be made on the courts by the Eagle Ram steering committee.

It's the final chapter of a three-year, more than \$300,000 journey. That's how much the steering committee has raised and it has gotten in-kind donations of tens of thousands more. The City of Niceville cleared the land, did preparation work and will also lay crushed gravel for the parking area.

It wasn't always as possible. Steering Committee Chair and Niceville High School tennis

team coach Chris Poate said, "I don't think anyone expected it to happen when we first started."

The courts will not be open to the public during school hours because they are on school property and will be used by Niceville and Ruckel school athletics departments.



Chris Poate

Further guidelines for the court and hours of operation are being developed by the committee and were not available at press time.

Poate said that his high school players will start practicing at the courts in about a week in their 7th period tennis class. Their season will begin in January. A couple of months later they will be joined by the middle school players.

Ruckel tennis coach Brett Beattie is excited about having a home court advantage. "We can walk out back and have your schoolmates cheer for you. It's

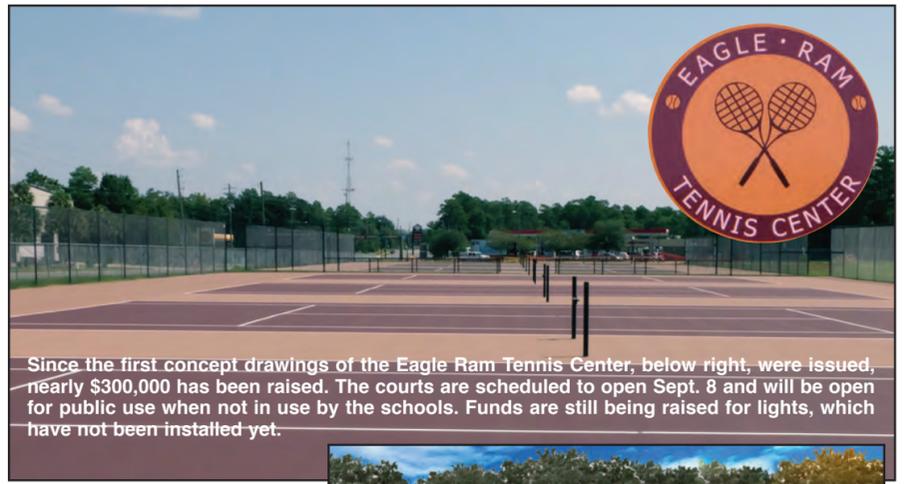
going to be huge," said Beattie.

Both Ruckel and Niceville High have used courts all over the city, including those at Eglin Air Force Base, Northwest Florida State College and, most recently, at Bluewater Bay. Ruckel was practicing on clay courts at Bluewater Bay but playing on hard courts during its season, a difficult switch for players to make.

There are additional plans for the center in the second phase when the steering committee will raise \$60,000 more to light four of the seven courts available and a shade awning will be set up in between the courts. Beattie said a hitting wall is in the future as well.

In the meantime, a juniors United States Tennis Association tournament is planned for Sept. 6-7. To participate, junior tennis players must be USTA members aged 12 to 18 and they can sign up at the USTA site.

Beattie said to look for tournaments for ten and under players in the future, as well.



Since the first concept drawings of the Eagle Ram Tennis Center, below right, were issued, nearly \$300,000 has been raised. The courts are scheduled to open Sept. 8 and will be open for public use when not in use by the schools. Funds are still being raised for lights, which have not been installed yet.

The grand opening of the facility will be in mid-October when grass, signage and other final details will be complete. For now, everyone is excited and relieved that the end is in sight.

Poate said, "Everybody should go through this once in a lifetime. It's very rewarding and it's great to be part of a community that comes together like this."



Beacon photo by Dave Shelikoff

## Eagles lose first game of the season

Niceville High School Eagles lost their first football game of the season against Clay-Chalkville with a score of 44-23 in an away game in Alabama. The game was televised on ESPNU. Pictured, the Niceville offense returns to the field after one of many television timeouts.

## New officers for Classical League

Rocky Bayou Christian School announces the Junior Classical League's new officers for the 2014-2015 school year: Ian Kampert, James Sung, Will Makarov, Trever Knie, Clayton Jago, Amber Grete, Sarah Stovall and Charis Allen. Julie Mosley remains the faculty sponsor.





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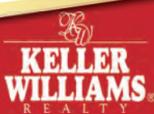


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**Plew gets gift of supplies**

Plew Elementary School got some help from the Niceville-Valparaiso Rotary Club when they donated school supplies they had collected. Pictured from left, rotary president Carrie Ely, delivers supplies to Plew Elementary principle Carolyn McAllister along with fellow Rotarian Peter Loffler.

**Winners of fishing tourney at BWB marina**

Nearly 20 teams of anglers participated in the 3rd Annual Bluewater Bay Marina Pinfish Grand Nationals on Saturday, Aug. 16 at the Bluewater Bay Marina Complex. Tournament winners received a cash grand prize and medal.



Chris and Wyatt Brunson won first place with a 10 fish total weight of 1.60 pounds.



Kyle and Easton Corbitt won second place with a 10 fish total weight of 1.15 pounds.



Trey and Cade Nick won third place with a 10 fish total weight of 1.10 pounds.



**Rotary gives to Fisher House**

The Mid-Bay Rotary Club contributed \$100 to the Fisher House. Pictured from left, Mid-Bay Rotarian Dave Swanick II presented the check to Tom Rice along with Mid-Bay Rotary President Jeffrey Rink. The money was raised from donations from Mid-Bay's Annual Golf Tournament and Oktoberfest.

**Backpack blessing sends kids back to school**

St. Jude's Episcopal Church, Niceville, held a Blessing of the Backpacks Aug. 17. The children and young people who would be starting school the next day were presented with some items to place in their backpacks and Father Greg Hein gave a blessing for the occasion.



**Obituary**

**Robert G. Perry**

May 1, 1922-August 14, 2014

Born May 1, 1922 in San Jose, California to Leo and Martha Perry. He leaves behind his beloved wife of nearly 68 years, Phyllis "Bonnie" (Kammerer) Perry of Niceville and his five children: William (Kathy) Perry of Arizona, Marilyn Perry of California, Jan (Gene) Trafficante of New Jersey, Joan (Brian) Joseph of California, Mary Ann (Larry) Sisk of Niceville; his beloved sisters Gloria Carlson and Dolly Graber of California, 15 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Leo and Ben, sister Alice, and his infant son Ernest Richard,



Robert G. Perry

Robert was a WWII U.S. Army Veteran with the Third Infantry from 1940 until 1945. He retired from the City of Santa Clara, California where they raised their family. He Honored and Cherished his Bride, Bonnie. He loved God, Family and his Country. He had a Big Heart for Children and Animals. He was a Gentle Giant and Peaceful to be around with a Strong Sense of Humor. He was Loving, Honorable and Forever Loved. We Were Blessed.

The funeral was held on the 19th of August at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Niceville by Father Dominic Dat Tran. The burial took place on August 20 in Pensacola at Barrancas National Cemetery with Honors while Father Dominic officiated.

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### Stitchers to meet

The Sand Dunes Chapter of Embroiderers' Guild of America celebrates various forms of hand embroidery with the final summer stitch-in of the summer Thursday, Aug. 28 from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Niceville United Methodist Church, Room 400. Free and open to the public, for more information call 496-3466.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

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

#### 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.

#### Moms in Prayer

Moms in Prayer International invites mothers and grandmothers to join together to lift up our students, teachers and schools in prayer beginning Aug. 28. They will meet weekly at Niceville High School on Thursday mornings from 8-9 a.m.

For more information please call 897-1292, or visit momsinprayer.org.

#### Healthcare seminar

The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce will offer "Healthcare Reform For Your Business" on Thursday, Aug. 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.

#### Republican dinner

The Okaloosa County Republican Club will host their monthly meeting on Aug. 28 at the American Legion Post 235, 105 S.W. Hollywood Blvd., Fort Walton Beach.

Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. and dinner is served at 7 p.m. Ted Corcoran, President and CEO of the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce is the guest speaker. Price for dinner is \$15 and includes drinks and gratuity. All welcome.

To make reservations, call Don Adams at 586-1325.

#### Republican women to meet

The Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 3 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on Okaloosa Island. Socializing begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon. A "Dine and Dash" table will be available as well.

Ted Corcoran, president and CEO of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber, will speak.

To RSVP, contact Donna Pattison at 651-5416 or email donnapattison@cox.net by noon on Friday, Aug. 29.

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# College has 50th anniversary closing fete



Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

Northwest Florida State College officially ended their 50th year celebrations at a closing celebration Tuesday, Aug. 19 held in the Student Services Center. President Ty Handy gave a brief talk about the college before the cake was cut by Jim Durham, one of the charter administrators from when the college first opened as Okaloosa-Walton Junior College in 1964 in the building that now houses the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida. "I guess this begins the next 50," said Handy during his closing remarks.

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Esquibel is the son of Michael L. and Stephanie J. Esquibel of Niceville and the brother of Josh, Taylor, and Renee Esquibel of Niceville and a 2013 graduate of Niceville High School.

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Dr. Mayes obtained his bachelor's degree and medical degree at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. He performed his residency training in internal medicine at The University of Texas at Southwestern in Dallas, Texas, and served as chief resident from 1998-1999. He then trained for three years in general cardiology at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. He remained at Duke for fellowship training in interventional cardiology and congenital heart diseases.

Dr. Mayes has practiced for the past 10 years in Panama City, Lafayette, La., Hattiesburg, Miss., and most recently at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola.

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