

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-4

10 Pages, 2 Sections, 4 Inserts

Wednesday, September 24, 2014

50¢

UP COMING

Thurs, 7:30 p.m.

RECYCLED PERCUSSION

Recycled Percussion, a percussion performance, will be at the **Mattie Kelly Arts Center**, Niceville. Tickets are \$35 each with a group discount for 10 or more tickets. 729-6000.

Sat., 7:30 a.m.



Choctawhatchee Audubon Society is having a **bird walk** at the Niceville bayous and spray fields. Meet in front of Badcock Furniture in Bayou Plaza, 699 John Sims Parkway. 863-2039.

Sat, 9 a.m.-noon



Learn to knit at the **Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida**, Valparaiso. Bring yarn and size 8 needles. Space is limited, pre-registration required. 678-2615.

Mon., 6:30 p.m.



The **NWFSC Film Club** presents a showing of **"Philomena,"** rated PG-13 in Room J328 at the **Mattie Kelly Arts Center**. Open to the public, refreshments provided.

Niceville hikes tax levy 6.6 percent

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Staff Writer

The Niceville tax levy will increase by \$200,000 or 6.6 percent to \$3.2 million in fiscal year 2014-15. This is based on an \$11.5 million increase in tax rolls from \$814.2 million to \$825.7

million. The millage rate for city residents will stay the same as last year at 3.70 mills.

The Niceville City Council gave final approval to the tax levy on Thursday for the fiscal year that will begin Oct. 1.

Since most property values

rose last year, owners of property that has increased in value will pay more in taxes. In addition, city taxes will rise on homestead property that has not increased in value due to a "recapture" rule built into Florida's "Save Our Homes" exemption.

These factors, coupled with new development, are why the city can boost tax revenue while keeping the millage unchanged.

At a millage rate of 3.70, property owners will pay \$3.70 in property tax per thousand dollars of appraised, taxable value of

their property to the city of Niceville, in addition to other taxes from such entities as Okaloosa County and the Okaloosa School District.

Niceville will be going forward into the new fiscal year with **Please see TAX LEVY, page A-2**

Missionary returns from his work in war-torn Ukraine

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Staff Writer

Many young Mormon men at age 19 take two years to perform mission work in the U.S. or abroad. Their focus is on bringing people to salvation, but sometimes other things get in the way. For Isaac Riley, the civil war in Ukraine was what got in the way of his plans.

Riley, now 21, served 17 months in Ukraine from December 2012 to May 2014. He had to be evacuated to Kiev in the final month of his stay and was finally sent to Salt Lake City to finish his missionary experience, returning home to Niceville Sept. 16.

His mother, Alicia Riley, said she knew that the mission board would take care of her son, and said, "What worried me the most was when they told him to stay away from demonstrations and he wanted to go to one."

Whether or not he wanted to, Riley did see demonstrations that filled Freedom Square in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second

largest city, with chanting people and a statue of the early Soviet dictator Lenin in the background.

He said he saw a division by age between the people who wanted Ukraine to be part of the European Union and those who wanted it to be part of Russia. "The majority of younger people wanted to join the European Union and were pro-West," he said. Older people seemed to have a "nostalgia for Russia."

Earlier this year, during his work for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Riley was in Kharkiv (called Kharkov by Russians) when a local referendum was taken for Crimea, site of an important Russian naval base, to become part of Russia. He said that public opinion in Kharkiv, which is not part of Crimea and thus did not participate in the referendum, was "split down the middle" on the issue.

Riley said, "The Russians can make a pretty good case for

Please see UKRAINE, page A-3



Niceville resident Isaac Riley, shown above outside Kharkiv, Ukraine, returned home from Mormon missionary work in that war-torn country last week. Below, Riley, far right, back row, at a church meeting with people of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city.

Courtesy photos



Proposed highway link hits roadblock

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Staff Writer

The Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA) hopes to build another link in the bridge connector highway, but has run into an objection, at least temporarily, from Eglin Air Force Base.

The proposed segment would complete a half circle around Niceville of the connector by linking the current west end of the toll roadway with Highway 85 South near the Northwest Florida Regional Airport.

The MBBA's proposal for the link was objected to recently by the 96th Test Wing Commander's Eglin Range Development Executive Steering Committee.

At a meeting Sept. 18, MBBA Board Chair Gordon Fornell reported that he had spoken with Brig. Gen. David Harris, 96th Test Wing commander, who said he was in favor of the project, despite the Eglin panel's reservations.

Fornell suggested that MBBA staff stay in contact with Col. Shawn Moore, Eglin 96th Civil Engineer Group commander, regarding the project.

After the meeting, Fornell said the reason the project was disapproved was a lack of communication. Fornell said that Gulf Power has a plan to put a solar array in the area of the connector. MBBA had worked with Gulf Power to coordinate a solution for both parties, but the MBBA did not present that plan.

Fornell said, "Gen. Harris said they will be contacting us with further potential action and we can present a plan."

In other business at the MBBA meeting, although the number of users of the Mid-Bay Bridge has decreased with the end of summer, revenue is up 6.2 percent over last year's collections for the month of August. However, the ratio of actual to estimated revenue is 87 percent

Please see ROADBLOCK, page A-3

Bluewater panel discusses broken dam

MSBU also decides to move meeting location

By **Mike Griffith**
Beacon Correspondent

During the Sept. 16 meeting of the Bluewater Bay Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) board, members discussed efforts to correct flooding problems.

Members also agreed to move future public board meetings, from the current location at the Regency Inn on State Road 20 near White Point Road, to the office suite of MSBU management consultant Darlane Landsberger, located at 4400 State Road 20, Suite 311, in the Merchants Walk office and shopping area of Bluewater Bay.

The MSBU is a unit of Okaloosa County government, in charge of managing street lighting, street signs, and landscaping along main roadways and common areas throughout the unin-

corporated Bluewater Bay community. It is governed by an elected five-member board of directors, who hold monthly public meetings.

During the Sept. 16 meeting, Landsberger told the board that her office suite is undergoing renovation, following which there will be a large enough space for the board to hold most of its public meetings. The next public board meeting of the MSBU is scheduled for 6 p.m. Oct. 21.

Also during the Sept. 16 meeting, board member Felix Beukenkamp told fellow board members that he has been working closely with Okaloosa County officials, the manager of Bluewater Bay Resort, and with members of an ad hoc committee of local residents, to determine how best to prevent future flood-



Heavy rains in April apparently caused a dam to fail at a lake on the Bluewater Bay golf course, which some believe to have contributed to flooding downstream. Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

ing incidents like the one in April. During that incident, rains caused some homes to flood along a waterway near Curacao, Dominica, and Aruba, downstream of an earthen dam on the Bluewater Bay golf course which gave way, according to officials.

Beukenkamp said that the ad hoc committee had met twice. He

said that during the two meetings, the committee has had "positive responses from the resort and the county." He said the committee is currently working with Okaloosa County Engineer Clay Simmons and with Bluewater Bay Resort manager Tom Hanks to see how the Resort, County, and Bluewater Bay community can

work together to find an engineering solution for repairing the broken dam and for improving overall storm water and flood control throughout the Bluewater Bay community.

Beukenkamp also briefed the MSBU board on a related issue—the possibility of organizing local volunteers to do some tree and

shrub trimming and general cleanup in areas where roadways in Bluewater Bay pass near some of the community's lakes and ponds, in order to provide better sightlines of those lakes for passing motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians, thus improving the scenic atmosphere of the Bluewater Bay community.

Board member Steve Hall congratulated fellow members on their efforts at creating citizen committees to address such issues as flooding and community cleanup. Hall said such committees help the MSBU to address communitywide quality-of-life issues that are not strictly within the statutory authority of the MSBU. He said that many such issues in Bluewater Bay are complicated by what he called "a crazy quilt of jurisdictions," and that committees of citizen volunteers may be a good way of getting such jurisdictions to work together to overcome communitywide problems.

Please see BLUEWATER, page A-3

Standing Up to Breast Cancer Dinner

Thursday, October 9th
5:30pm to 7:30pm

Holiday Inn Resort, Okaloosa Island
1299 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach

Please join Dr. Tara Harden and Billie Chappell, Breast Cancer Survivor, for a FREE dinner event promoting awareness, prevention, and survivorship. Be sure to wear pink and enjoy an educational night out for a great cause.

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TAX LEVY

From page A-1

a total \$29.5 million budget, about nine percent above its \$27.2 million budget for 2013-14.

The general fund makes up \$11.4 million of the overall budget with water, sewer, sanitation and stormwater adding the rest of the \$18.1 million.

The stormwater budget itself is going from \$1.3 to \$5.5 million but it is dependent on whether the city will get a \$4.2 million grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation. If it does get the grant, there are three projects it will fund. Two are water quality improvement projects and one is a restoration of 2,500 feet of Boggy Bayou shoreline.

Public Works Director Bruce Price said that even if the city does not get the grant, it will complete the least expensive of the projects for \$370,000 for a treatment vault and new drainage system on Partin Drive, 31st Street and Bayshore Drive by getting a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan.

The stormwater budget has gone from under \$200,000 in 2010-11 to the \$5.5 million it might be for this year if the city gets the grant. Price said the reason it's gone up so much is that the city facilities plan was amended in 2006 to include 15 major projects, six of which have been completed. Five repair and retrofit projects are in various stages of permitting or construction as well.

The department will get \$452,000 from its stormwater customers and is planning to get a CWSRF loan for \$839,000 as well.

Although water and sewer's budget is going down six percent this year, it, too, has increased since 2010, going from a \$5.6 million budget to a \$9.7 million budget this year.

Price said, "We have been very aggressive in the past few years trying to prepare ourselves for new development." Price referred to the 1,100-acre parcel owned by Ruckel Properties in northeast Niceville next to the Ruckel airport. In preparation for its development, the city has relocated and increased the size of a lift station and is placing new water and sewer lines along Rocky Bayou Drive.

The water and sewer department will get two new employees in the new fiscal year. Also, there will be three new vehicles for a total of \$666,000: a new truck with a 6,000-pound crane, a 6,000-gallon tank truck and a sewage vacuum truck.

Other highlights of the municipal budget approved Thursday are:

—Information Systems Technology, whose budget is \$594,060, is hiring a GIS and Web/IS technician to reduce or eliminate outsourcing of these services.

—The Police Department, whose budget is \$2,045,180, is hiring three additional police officers, getting 3 new police vehicles and also getting body cameras and six replacement Tasers.

—The Fire Department, with a \$1,299,680 budget that has increased 15 percent over last year, is asking for three new fire-fighters but is waiting to add them until union negotiations begins.

—Children's Park, with a \$209,670 budget, will be installing shade structures over playground equipment.

—Youth Center Skate Park, whose budget is \$78,900 is requesting a used pickup to transport materials for skate ramps.

—The Library budget is \$1,207,670.

—The Parks Department budget is \$1,045,500, a 13 percent increase, and includes extending the Turkey Creek boardwalk and replacing 5 scoreboards.

—Sanitation budget is \$2,854,800.

—Executive and Finance and Administration budget is \$148,310.

—The Building Inspector budget is \$226,970 and a contractor will be used to perform building inspection duties instead of a full-time employee.

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UKRAINE

From page A-1

having a right to Crimea, but everything else that is going on in the east of Ukraine is ridiculous. Russia has no right to be meddling in Ukrainian politics. Ethnic Russians living in eastern Ukraine who want to be part of Russia should go live in Russia. I don't think either side is above reproach, but I think the pro-EU Ukrainians have a better cause."

Riley also said that from what he could tell, there was "more communication between Russians and rebels than they let on." Riley sees the situation in Ukraine more as an invasion than a rebellion.

Riley served in three cities while in Ukraine—the northeastern city of Kharkiv, where ethnic unrest was relatively nonviolent,

and the eastern cities of Donetsk and Luhansk, where fighting was heavy.

He said an older woman in his congregation who was in the wrong place at the wrong time was killed in a raid when government forces were trying to close in on rebels.

When the protests started getting more dangerous and the atmosphere heated, including a bus of policemen getting attacked near where some of the missionaries in his group were living, Riley was given two days' notice that he had to pack and move.

Before the situation deteriorated, Riley was making friends in the country, talking to people in the street, knocking on doors and doing community service. "I felt sympathy for the Ukrainians because they've been fought over

more than any other country in European history and they just want to live in peace. I was concerned about what was going on around me, concerned for the country."

Riley noticed the standard of living was lower in Ukraine than in the U.S. and found that people were struggling to make enough money to live because of corruption. Several times he was stopped by the police and asked for his papers. After seeing them, the policemen asked for bribes, too.

One of the common topics of conversation is whether Ukrainian is considered a dialect of Russian or a language all its own. Although the official language of the areas he lived in was Ukrainian, he said he became fluent in Russian while living there because it was what everyone

spoke, due in part to seven decades of Russian rule which ended with the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 and Ukrainian independence.

Riley said most Ukrainians he met were "pretty skeptical" about religion because of corruption in the church. He said there were many atheists in the areas where he lived.

Riley said the experience of living in Ukraine changed him for the better. "I can't take anything for granted. I think we're just unbelievably blessed." He added, "I hope I never hear myself complain again because I don't really have anything to complain about."

Riley hopes to study economics and Russian at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, and wants to return to Ukraine, maybe to Kiev to study abroad.

BLUEWATER

From page A-1

Also during the meeting, board member Judy Griffin said that she has been working with landscaping contractors to change the seasonal color of flower beds along Bluewater Bay roadways, and is seeking bids for a contractor to install and maintain holiday lights near entrances to Bluewater Bay dur-

ing the coming Christmas season.

At Griffin's suggestion on another matter, the board voted to extend by one month the period for potential contractors to respond to a Request For Proposals for creating a digital mapping system for Bluewater Bay. Griffin said that only one bid has been received thus far in response to the original RFP, and she is hoping for more contractors to submit proposals in order

to provide the MSBU with a wider range of choices and prices to select from.

Griffin also said that she would be willing to organize a committee of community volunteers to perform annual spring and fall community cleanups. She said she plans to post information about this on the MSBU website at bluewaterbay.org.

Landsberger reported to the board that she has been in touch with county officials who have

told her that the road resurfacing project along State Road 20 through Bluewater Bay is nearing completion, despite some recent rain delays. She said that pedestrian crosswalk signal lights will soon be activated, and that she expects completion of the road resurfacing through Bluewater Bay by the end of this month. She said that she is posting more detailed information on the MSBU website.

ROADBLOCK

From page A-1

for the fiscal year to date, meaning the bridge is collecting 13 percentage points less than expected.

Paying traffic on the new Mid-Bay Bridge connector, which accounts for a small fraction of MBBA revenue, exceeded estimates for the second month in a row in August and the ratio of actual to estimated revenue was 121 percent for the month. However, the ratio of actual to estimated revenues for the year was 82 percent, 18 percentage points less than expected for the highway.

MBBA Executive Director Jim Vest said that there are two problems with collections of tolls on the connector, which uses a toll-by-plate electronic tolling system that photographs license plates and bills the vehicle's owner. Vest said that some plates are obstructed or absent. He also said sometimes the invoice is sent to the wrong address.

He said that the MBBA is collecting 80 to 90 percent of the amounts invoiced.

Vest explained that the Florida Highway Patrol sometimes tickets people on the connector who have obstructed license plates. Vest added, "That's an enforcement issue. We may have to consider addi-

tional enforcement."

In other business at the meeting, the board considered selling a construction office it no longer uses and purchasing a larger office space in Merchant's Walk. Vest said the construction office is no longer needed and that the current office space at Merchant's Walk in Bluewater was "overflowing with files." He said that MBBA is paying \$200 a month for storage as well. MBBA owns the offices at Merchant Walk in Bluewater Bay that it is using presently.

Vest suggested that the board sell the construction office and existing office while looking at purchasing a larger, 1,500-square-foot office, also in Merchant's Walk.

Vest said the construction office would need "considerable remodeling" to be used as the MBBA office because it used to be a cabinet shop. The office available at Merchant's Walk would also need to be renovated at an approximate cost of \$102,700.

The construction office, which was purchased for \$375,000, was appraised at \$270,000 and Vest estimated the existing office at Merchant's Walk, which was purchased for \$84,000, would sell for \$120,150.

He also estimated the purchase of a 1,500-square-foot office to be \$202,500, which

with the renovation cost would be \$305,200.

Board member Daniel Bowers said that he did not think this was a good option since the board would be putting approximately \$200 a foot into the new Merchant's Walk office but it would only have a value of \$130 a square foot.

Board member James Neilson said there were other things to be considered besides the cost of the building.

Vest said that the construction office is set back off the road and is not in a good location. Vest said that the administrative assistant would be alone in the office at some times and he did not feel comfortable doing that in the construction office. He also said that the roof on it was leaking and had to be patched.

The board voted to sell the construction office and purchase a new one at Merchant's Walk, giving the board attorney and chair power to negotiate a deal. The vote was 4-1, Bowers dissenting.

The MBBA closed its Sept. 18 meeting by saying good-bye to Executive Director Jim Vest, who will retire Sept. 30 after 23 years. The board announced that

it is pursuing negotiations with Claude Van Fuller for his replacement.

Fornell congratulated Vest on a job well done. "You devoted your life and professional career to the project. We are proud and thankful and thank you for your service."

Town hall

State Rep. Matt Gaetz and other Okaloosa County elected officials will hold a town hall meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 30, from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Niceville City Hall, 208 N. Partin Drive.

According to a statement issued by Gaetz, "Okaloosa citizens are urged to attend and participate in what is being called the Accountability Okaloosa initiative."

The meeting will be an open forum for citizens to come and express concerns regarding issues at all levels of government, according to Gaetz.

A number of municipal and county elected officials are expected to attend.

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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 Sept. 8, Niceville police arrested Alexis Meredith Grider, 24, a retail worker, of 397 Evans Rd., Niceville, for one count of retail theft shoplifting. Grider entered the Beall's outlet on John Sims Parkway, selected three clothing items with a total value of \$41.31, then left the store. Grider admitted that she took the items with no intent to pay. She said she has had a very hard year, and did not know why she stole the items.

On Sept. 9, Niceville police arrested Caitlyn Hueston Worthen, 24, of 142 Baywind Dr., Niceville, for one felony count of battery on an officer, one felony count of resisting an officer with violence, and one misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer without violence.

Worthen was witnessed walking through the parking lot of Palm Plaza, arguing with a friend and throwing trash cans at business windows in the parking lot. The witness called police.

When an officer found Worthen walking down a nearby

Then officer grabbed hold of Worthen's shoulder, she turned and hit him with her fist. Worthen continued to display physical violence toward the officer until she was wrestled to the ground and placed in handcuffs.

Once Worthen was restrained, another officer escorted her to his patrol car. During the second officer's attempt to place her in the car, she kicked the officer in the right temple with enough force that his eyeglasses were knocked from his face.

On Sept. 10, Johnathan Tyler Harvard, 20, of 1598 Pine St., Niceville, was booked into the Walton County Jail for a misdemeanor probation violation.

On Sept. 10, Derrick Wightman Jee, 18, of 1377 Windward Lane, Bluewater Bay, was booked into the Walton County Jail for marijuana possession, not more than 20 grams. He was released later that day.

On Sept. 11, Niceville police arrested Mark Anthony Ellington, 48, of 8987 East River Road,

parole.

On Sept. 12, Chris Ryan Johnson, 51, of 1912 Benton Ave., Niceville, was booked into the Walton County Jail for a misdemeanor probation violation.

Summonses

On Sept. 9, Niceville police cited Stephen Glen Brown, 35, of 1602 26th St., unit B, Niceville, for driving without a seatbelt, and for knowingly driving with license suspended or revoked.

On Sept. 11, Niceville police cited Shon Kristopher White, 37, of 1406 South Palm Blvd., Niceville, for one count of retail theft shoplifting. White allegedly took a shirt from Walmart and exited past the last point-of-sale without paying.

Animal control

On Sept. 8, Valparaiso police received a report of a 6 foot bear running around the neighborhood near Kelly Way. The bear had departed the area by the time police arrived.

On Sept. 9, Valparaiso police received a report of a brown bear in someone's yard at an address on Kelly Mill Road. An officer drove through the area twice, but was not able to locate the bear.

On Sept. 4, Valparaiso police received two complaints about a dog barking all the time near an address on Chicago Avenue. An officer drove through the neighborhood, but was unable to hear or locate any barking dogs.

On Sept. 4, Valparaiso police received a report from a woman who said a large white dog in her front yard was preventing her from going outside. An officer was able to capture the dog and returned it to its owner.

On Sept. 7, Valparaiso police received a report of a large dog running loose along Cadillac Avenue. A responding officer was unable to locate the dog.

On Sept. 12, Niceville police received a report of a bear in someone's yard at an address on Niceville Avenue. Police advised the caller to "leave the big black bear alone."

On Sept. 13, Niceville police

received a call from an address on Azalea Drive, where a resident said she had a bear at her back door, and that the bear had then moved to a tree in her yard. She said she would stay in her house the rest of the evening and would call again if she needed help.

Other

On Aug. 11 the Walton County Sheriff's Office responded to an address on Howard Street in reference to a reported disturbance.

On Aug. 26 Walton County Sheriff's deputies responded to a possible theft at an address on County Line Road, Niceville.

On Sept. 3, the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office responded to a reported theft at an address on Commercial Drive, Niceville.

On Sept. 3, Valparaiso police responded to a landlord-tenant dispute. Police advised the parties that it was a civil matter and if they could not come to an agreement, they needed to contact the clerk of court.

On Sept. 4, Valparaiso police responded to Lincoln Park, where they assisted some boaters whose motor had fallen off their boat into Boggy Bayou, leaving them stranded.

On Sept. 4, Valparaiso police responded to an automated emergency call from the Okaloosa Gas building on Valparaiso Parkway. Police were unable to locate the source of the call, and found no emergency.

On Sept. 4, Valparaiso police responded to an address on Lincoln Avenue, regarding a commercial vehicle parked at a residence. Police made contact with the vehicle's owner, who said that he would move the vehicle.

On Sept. 4, Valparaiso police responded to an address on Bayshore Drive, where they helped a citizen move a stalled vehicle from the roadway.

On Sept. 5, Okaloosa deputies responded to a possible aggravated battery.

On Sept. 6, Valparaiso police responded to a restaurant on John Sims Parkway and assisted an Okaloosa Sheriff's deputy in taking possession of a stolen vehicle found at that location.

On Sept. 6, Valparaiso police responded to a domestic disturbance.

On Sept. 6, a Walton County Sheriff's deputy responded to an address on Crestview St.,

Niceville, regarding the recovery of some stolen .

On Sept. 7, Valparaiso police received a report that someone had broken into a vehicle and removed a pair of reading glasses and approximately \$5 in change, at an address on Lincoln Avenue.

On Sept. 7, Valparaiso police responded to a domestic dispute.

On Sept. 8, Valparaiso police responded to an address on Kelly Way, where a caller advised that he was hearing a noise and wanted to make an official complaint. The caller did not know where the noise was coming from or what it was, but wanted it stopped. Police made contact with a neighbor who said that he and his son had been using a steam cleaner in the rental property next door.

On Sept. 9, Valparaiso police responded to the Tom Thumb store on John Sims Parkway regarding a person who was at the store despite a no trespass warning not to be there. Police reissued the trespass warning and the person said he understood and would not return to the property.

On Sept. 9, Valparaiso police received a report of persons steal-

Please see BLOTTER, page A-5

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BLOTTER

From page A-4

ing batteries, metal, and other miscellaneous goods from the Auto Tech shop on John Sims Parkway.

On Sept. 9, Valparaiso police helped to settle a business dispute.

On Sept. 9, Niceville police responded to an address on Howell Road, where someone's tires had been slashed.

On Sept. 11, Valparaiso police received a report from someone who had been receiving harassing phone calls at her place of employment. Police advised the person to contact the clerk of court to seek information about an injunction.

On Sept. 11, Niceville police responded to an address on 27th Street regarding a vehicle burglary in which sunglasses had been stolen from a truck.

On Sept. 12, Valparaiso police assisted the fire department in responding to a fire alarm at an address on Washington Avenue. No sign of fire or smoke was found, although someone had apparently pulled the fire alarm.

On Sept. 12, the Okaloosa Sheriff's office responded to an address on Caribbean Way, Niceville, regarding an incident of fraud. The resident had received a phone call from someone claiming to be her granddaughter, and also claiming to have been arrested in New York City and needing money for bail.

The Caribbean Way resident later received a phone call from a man claiming to be a New York City police officer, who also said the granddaughter needed bail money. When the woman asked the supposed police officer what phone number she could call him back at, he responded with an obscenity, and the statement

"Ma'am, you're very smart." She dismissed the caller and contacted the sheriff's office.

On Sept. 13, Valparaiso police responded to an address on James Avenue, where a caretaker reported sparks coming from an electrical outlet. Police notified the fire department, and remained on scene until the incident was cleared.

On Aug. 27, Niceville police received a report of a domestic dispute, but determined the matter to be not of a criminal nature.

On Aug. 27, Valparaiso police received a call from someone who said her school account at Northwest Florida State College had been tampered with by someone with whom she had a past relationship. Police advised the caller regarding working with the college to prevent her account from being accessed.

On Aug. 27, Valparaiso police discovered two individuals in the back seat of a vehicle in Lincoln Park, in a state of undress. Police warned them about their actions and informed them they needed to leave the park, as it had closed approximately one hour earlier. No further action was required.

On Aug. 28, Niceville police received a report of a pole saw that had been stolen. The victim said the pole saw was valued at \$600.

On Aug. 28, Valparaiso police received a report that someone had observed a Coca-Cola truck pulling a double trailer, in which the back tire was about to catch fire. Valparaiso police were unable to locate the vehicle, but it was later located by an Okaloosa deputy who escorted it back to the Coke plant.

On Aug. 28, Valparaiso police

responded to Panhandle Performance on John Sims Parkway regarding a report of the theft of six car batteries from in front of the business.

On Aug. 30, Niceville police responded to the Walmart regarding a report of the theft of a camera valued at \$299 and a bicycle accessory valued at \$49.99.

On Aug. 30, Valparaiso police confiscated a license tag that did not match the vehicle that it was attached to. The driver of the vehicle told police he would get a ride home from a coworker.

On Aug. 30, Valparaiso police responded to an address on Rose

Court, where someone had spray-painted obscene verbiage in the middle of the road. Police contacted the city yard to arrange for the obscenity to be removed or covered up.

On Aug. 31, Niceville police responded to an address on Bayshore Drive regarding the theft of a boat motor.

On Aug. 31, Niceville police responded to an address on Arrowhead Way regarding the reported theft of a number of items from a home while the owner was out of town. The homeowner estimated the total value of the stolen items at \$18,700.

Man arrested in road rage incident

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

In an alleged incident of road rage, a Crestview man was arrested for attacking a Federal Express driver on the ramp of the Mid-Bay connector at State Road 85, Niceville, on Monday, according to Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office reports.

Ted Robert Simmons, 77, unemployed, of 429 Mara Dr., Crestview, made hand gestures and then stopped his Mercedes on the side of the road in front of a Fed Ex delivery truck driven by Tim Pierson, with whom was riding a passenger, Wesley Eitel, according to the reports.

Pierson told investigators he stopped to see if Simmons was all right. Simmons then walked toward the Fed Ex truck with a gun in his hand, yelling threats to "blow your . . . head off," according to the sheriff's accounts.

Pierson said Simmons fired the gun near his head as he was getting out of the vehicle with his hands up. Meanwhile, Eitel got behind Simmons and grabbed him. Pierson and Eitel wrestled Simmons to the ground and took away the gun.

Investigators say Simmons told them Pierson's truck was tailgating him on State Road 85. Simmons said he grabbed Pierson's leg to pull him out of the truck and then Eitel jumped him. Simmons said he fired the gun over Pierson's head because he was outnumbered and afraid.

Two witnesses corroborated Pierson's version.

Simmons complained of a shoulder injury and was taken to Twin Cities Hospital in Niceville for treatment prior to his arrest for two counts of aggravated assault with a weapon without intent to kill, according to the reports.



Ted R. Simmons

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At right: Voted Finest on the Emerald Coast for Sunday Brunch, the lavish buffet at Compass Rose offers a little bit of everything.

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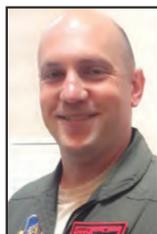
Who's News

Jenna Rae Montgomery plays the Hospital Secretary in the Boardroom of The Knickerbocker Hospital for the duration of Steven Soderbergh's 10 episode series of "The Knick" starring Clive Owen on Cinemax. This new series is about the sacrifices made in the year 1900 to achieve advances in what transforms into modern medicine. Montgomery is the daughter of Wayne and Donna Montgomery in Niceville.



Jenna Rae Montgomery

Captain **Jason T. Vanta** has been promoted to the rank of Major, USAF. He is an F-16 pilot, currently stationed overseas and a 2000 graduate of Niceville High School and 2004 graduate of the Air Force Academy. Vanta is married to the former Sandra Schares of Köln, Germany and is the son of Tom and Beth Vanta of Niceville.



Jason T. Vanta

Justin M. Hand has been promoted to the rank of Major, USAF. He is a B-52 pilot, currently stationed in Louisiana. Hand is married to the former Sarah Vanta of Niceville and is the son-in-law of Tom and Beth Vanta of Niceville.



Justin M. Hand

Oktoberfest celebrates 20 years this weekend

Staff Reports

Two decades ago the Mid-Bay Rotary Club decided to throw an Oktoberfest to raise money for charity.

"The Oktoberfest is a community event for our neighbors to get together and have a good time," said event organizer Bert Melnick. "Prior to our 20 years doing the Oktoberfest a Bluewater Bay German Restaurant, now closed, had a small Oktoberfest. We took it over from them and made it bigger and better.

"Over the last 20 years the club has given over \$200,000 to charities," Melnick continued.

The event has grown to become a tradition, each year growing bigger and better.

"We had about 9,000 people attend last year and expect close to 10,000 this year," said Melnick. "We went through 32 kegs of German and American beer. We are ordering 36 kegs this year."

This year Oktoberfest is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 26



The Mid-Bay Rotary Club's annual Oktoberfest celebrates their 20th year this weekend.

and Saturday, Sept. 27, in the market Place Shopping Plaza, in front of the Bluewater Bay Winn-Dixie supermarket. There is no admission charge.

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

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

The music will be provided

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

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

A wide variety of arts and crafts items such as original paintings, woodcrafts, jewelry, pottery, embroidery, homemade crafts and artwork, photos, metal work and toys will be available for purchase.

Children's activities such as Coco the Clown and giant slides will be available both days. On Saturday, North Bay firefighters will have a fire engine and other fire safety displays. Friday's festivities will wind down about 10 p.m.

Saturday, Oktoberfest gets under way at 11 a.m. and the festival continues until the Joe Occhipinti band closes the festival down around 11 p.m.

All revenue will be used to support local charities.



Entertainment schedule

Friday, Sept. 26

4:30-6:30 p.m. Coco the Clown
5:00-7:15 Accordionist Walter Kasprzyk.
7:15-8 p.m. Highsteppers.
8-10 p.m. Joe Occhipinti German Band

Saturday, Sept. 27

2-4 p.m. Musicians Tom Phillips & Gary Schmitz.
4-5:30 p.m. Accordionist Walter Kasprzyk.
4:30-6:30 p.m. Coco the Clown
5:30-7:15 p.m. Joe Occhipinti German Band.
7:15-8 p.m. Highsteppers.
8-10 p.m. Joe Occhipinti German Band.



Where the money goes

Some of the causes the Mid-Bay Bridge Rotary Club raises money for are:

- Children's Advocacy Center
- Autism Center
- Take Stock In Children
- College scholarships
- Seniors programs
- Niceville High Interact
- Collegiate High Interact
- Challenger Little League
- Polio eradication
- Rotary Youth Leadership
- Sharing and Caring
- Theory of Constraints
- Education Program
- Military Booster Clubs
- Shelter Box
- Niceville High Boosters



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Opus One performs for 9/11 ceremony

Niceville High School's Opus One ensemble was honored to perform the National Anthem and the Battle Hymn of the Republic Sept. 11 at a pre-dawn ceremony to reveal the newly cast bell for the Veterans Tribute Tower. Pictured at the Uptown Station event are Michael Dye, NHS Choral Music Director, and members of Opus One pictured from left, Rebecca Johnson, Lyndon Clifton, Isabel Schrack, Jacob LyteHaven, Seth Pecore, Ben Huston, Maggie LaFratta, Tia Patel, Ken Angell, Kimberly Pickler, Nicole Paci, Xander Johnson, Daniel Schlegel, Jared Herzog, Colleen Ellis, Gabrielle Schrack, Chelsea Anderson, Kirsten Herzog, Zachary Schwantz and Anna Bills.



Ruckel singers choose council

The Ruckel Chorus announces the 2014-2015 Council members from the Ambassador Chorus: Presidents Ricky Kozak and Yolanda Stallworth; Vice President Hannah Sjostrom; Secretaries Sally Clifton and Zachary Wendt; Librarians Kayla Stephensen, Ashleigh Wallace, Hannah Vitt, Josh Riley; Special Projects Tabitha Hanson, Barret Mullinix, Chloe Keiran. Not pictured, Simrun Sharma and Bill Danielak.



Edge Safety officers picked

Deputy Jeff Moore has selected his Student Safety Patrol officers for Edge Elementary School. Pictured, Capt. Caroline Gray, LT. Sean Dickerson and SGT. Josey Dickerson.



Kids learn about bullies

C.D. Williamson Karate had a free Bully Awareness Class Friday Sept. 12. Over 100 kids showed up to learn how they can make a difference to bullying. Pictured, Sensei Coy Williamson, Program Director and instructor of the Bully Awareness classes. The next free class is Friday, Oct. 17.

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Volunteers needed

Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center is seeking volunteers for their Okaloosa and Walton County Centers that can greet families, answer telephone calls, front desk administrative assistance,

light kitchen duties and bake chocolate chip cookies. Interested individuals are asked to please contact Dianne Lewellyn at the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center at 833-9237 ext. 222 or by email at Dianne@eccac.org.

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 HON wood office desk. Top is 5ft. by 2.5 ft. Rolling chair included. \$75.00. Call 897-5068.
Help Wanted
FREELANCE NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENT
 The Bay Beacon, Niceville, FL, seeks a freelance reporter to cover meetings of government agencies in Niceville, Valparaiso, and elsewhere in Okaloosa County. You must be available most nights, most days, or both. We pay \$30 per story and \$5 per photo, when published. Writing experience is essential, as are use of a home computer and a reliable vehicle. Some reporting and photo experience is helpful, but not required. This a great chance to learn more about your community. E-mail cover letter, a statement of qualifications, and info on whether you are available most days, most evenings, or both, to hrdept@baybeacon.com
 Bus driver needed for Christian school. Must live in Niceville and have CDL driver license. Please call 678-9355 or go to www.ourwell.org to email.
 Assisted principal/music teacher for Christian school. Please call 678-9355 or go to www.ourwell.org to email.

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 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
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 Saturday, September 27th. 7am-? Swift Creek Community Multi-Family

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Community band

Emerald Coast Community Band welcomes new members with no try-outs or auditions.

The band plays several concerts a year. Practice is every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Meigs Middle School band room, Shalimar. Call 865-8902 for more information.

Alzheimer's support

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, Sept. 24 at the Niceville United Methodist Church, Chandler Center, 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.

Jewelry benefit

The Auxiliary of Twin Cities hospital is sponsoring a Masquerade \$5 Jewelry and Accessory Sale in the hospital Wellness Center on Thursday, Sept. 25 from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. and on Friday, Sept. 26 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All proceeds benefit health care related scholarships. For more information, contact the TCHA gift shop at 729-9481.

Broadway production

The 2014-2015 national touring Broadway season at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center presents an unprecedented combination of extreme percussion, engaging humor and extraordinary athleticism with Recycled Percussion Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Originally seen on "America's Got Talent", Recycled Percussion has been called "STOMP on steroids". Tickets are \$35 each. There is a group discount for 10 or more tickets.

Call the Box Office for tickets at 729-6000 or visit online at MattieKellyArtsCenter.org.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Thursday, Sept. 25 at Walmart, Niceville from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All donors will receive a T-shirt.

Republicans to meet

The Okaloosa County Republican Club will host their monthly meeting on Thursday, Sept. 25 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.

Sheriff Larry Ashley is the guest speaker and will discuss Florida's Right to Medical Marijuana Amendment on the upcoming November ballot, and other matters of importance to Okaloosa County Residents.

Price for dinner is \$15 and includes drinks and gratuity. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information about the Republican Club or to make dinner reservations call Club President Don Adams at 586-1325.

Student recitals

Enjoy free music with vocal and instrumental Student Recitals Friday, Sept. 26 at 3 p.m. in the Tyler Recital Hall, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville.

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.

Author appearance

The Niceville Library Friends will host a program featuring bestselling Florida author, Tim Dorsey on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 5 p.m. in the Niceville Council Chambers. His newest book is "Tiger Shrimp Tango." For more information call 279-4863 extension 1504.

Bird walk

Choctawhatchee Audubon Society is having a bird walk Sept. 27 at Niceville bayous and spray fields. Lenny Fenimore will lead a bird walk in the Niceville area searching for a variety of water birds, migrating songbirds and even wild turkeys. Bring a



Eaglette Dance clinic Saturday

The Eaglette Dance team will host a dance clinic Saturday, Sept. 27 from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. The cost is \$30. Participants will learn a dance routine that will be performed during the NHS vs Tate football game on Friday, Oct. 3. Registration information can be picked up in the Niceville High School attendance office. For more information, email Brooke James at jamesb@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us.

hat, sunscreen, and any spotting scopes or binoculars which you may wish to use.

Meet in front of Badcock Furniture in Bayou Plaza, 699 John Sims Parkway, at 7:30 a.m. Call Lenny at 863-2039 for more information.

Woman's expo

What Women Want at the Emerald Coast Convention Center, Okaloosa Island, is the Emerald Coast's premier women's expo on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission and parking.

For additional information, please contact Ashley at 243-2323.

Learn to knit

Make your own Christmas gifts this year by learning the fun and useful craft of knitting at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida during a Heritage Alive! Craft Class

Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Learn basic stitches and begin a project of your choice to be ready by fall. Bring your own yarn and size 8 needles. Space is limited, pre-registration required. Call 678-2615.

Fun run

The inaugural "Closing the Gate On Drugs" 5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile fun run, hosted by the Emerald Coast Young Marines and Children in Crisis, will be Sept. 27 at the Winn Dixie parking lot, Bluewater Bay, starting at 8 a.m. with registration at 7 a.m. Both the run and the 5K Run/Walk and the 1 mile Fun Run will be \$20 each.

All of the funds raised will be shared between the Emerald Coast Young Marines and Children in Crisis.

Swordfish tourney

Bluewater Bay Marina and Bluewater High and Dry present the 2nd annual Bluewater Bay Marina Complex Swordfish Showdown.

The month long tournament will begin Sept. 27 and last until Oct. 25. Yellowfin, Wahoo and Dolphin divisions have been added to the tournament. Boat fees for the tournament are \$500. All fish are to be weighed in at the Bluewater Bay Fuel Dock.

For more information please call 897-2821 or visit bluewaterbaymarina.com.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Monday, Sept. 29 at the Walmart, Niceville, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. All donors will receive a T-shirt.

Free film showing

The NWFSC Film Club presents a showing of "Pholomena," rated PG-13, on Sept. 29 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Room J328 at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center. Open to the public, there will be free food and drinks and a discussion afterwards.

Basketball sign ups

Youth basketball registration starts Sept. 29 and ends Oct. 31. K-8th grade may register online nicevilleumc.org/recreation or in person at the Community Life Center, 214 Partin Drive South, Niceville.

Fine arts show

The 31st Northwest Florida Tri-County Fair Fine Arts Show, sponsored by the Arts and Design Society, the Northwest Florida Fair Board and Cox Communications, will be Monday, Sept. 29 through Friday, Oct.

3 from 5-10 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 4 from 2-10 p.m.

The Opening Reception for the Show is on Sunday, Sept. 28 from 2-4 p.m. Artwork in every medium will be on display; high school and middle school art will be a special feature. There is no charge for the reception or show; both are open to the public at C.H. Bull Rigdon Fairgrounds and Recreation Complex, formerly The Northwest Florida Fairgrounds, Fort Walton Beach. For more information, call 582-1329.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Tuesday, Sept. 30 at Walmart, Niceville from 12-5 p.m. All donors will receive a t-shirt.

Elvis is back

Chris MacDonald is back with his popular tribute "Memories of Elvis in Concert" in the Mainstage Theater at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville, on Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m. All seats are reserved. Tickets are \$35 each.

Call the Box Office for tickets at 729-6000 or visit online at MattieKellyArtsCenter.org.

Birders to meet

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will meet Oct. 2, the first Thursday of the month, in Room 130 of the NWFSC Student Services Center at 6:30 p.m.

The program starts at 7 p.m. following conservation topics at 6:45 p.m.

Open to the public, contact Gary Parsons at parsonskg@cox.net or 699-0977.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER June Well Monitoring Requirements Not Met For City of Niceville Water System

Our water system recently failed to meet a drinking water monitoring requirement. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor (or test) your drinking water for the presence of total coliform bacteria on a regular (monthly) basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. We normally collect one raw (untreated) water sample each month from each of the system's operational wells. In June 2014, our Well 8 was operational, however, it was offline on the normal sampling date and was not sampled later in the month after the well was returned to service. With this, we did not meet our monthly well monitoring requirement for total coliform bacteria for June 2014, and we cannot be entirely sure of the quality of the drinking water produced by the well during that time. Please note that raw samples taken from Well 8 in May and July were absent for total coliform bacteria (that is, none were found). Also, samples taken from our distribution system (mains) during the month of June were all absent for total coliform.

What Should I Do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time:

- You do not need to boil your water or take any other precautionary actions.
- You do not need to use an alternate (e.g., bottled) water supply.

What Does This Mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. We did not find any total coliform bacteria in our routine distribution system testing for the month of June 2014. (Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.)

What Has Been Done?

We are enhancing our tracking procedures and communications to assure this error does not happen in the future. Well 8 was sampled properly in July and August with no Coliform Bacteria found.

For more information, please contact:
Ronald Mathews
Lead Water Operator
City of Niceville
850-200-2825

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or by distributing copies by hand or mail.

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