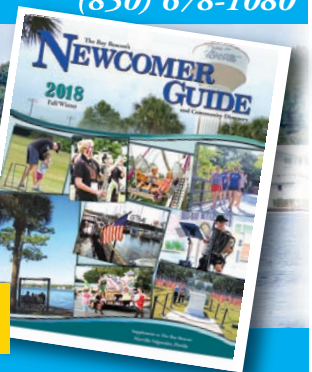


The Bay Beacon



32 Pages, 2 Sections, 5 Inserts

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Newcomer Guide Inside

Okaloosa County tax levy set to rise 6%

Beacon Staff

The Okaloosa County Commission is scheduled to hold a public hearing next week before setting its final property-tax rates for next year.

The taxes would help fund a \$387 million budget for the fiscal year that will begin Oct. 1.

The commission last week, meet-



ing in Crestview, unanimously gave preliminary approval to a countywide millage rate of 3.8308, unchanged from this year's rate.

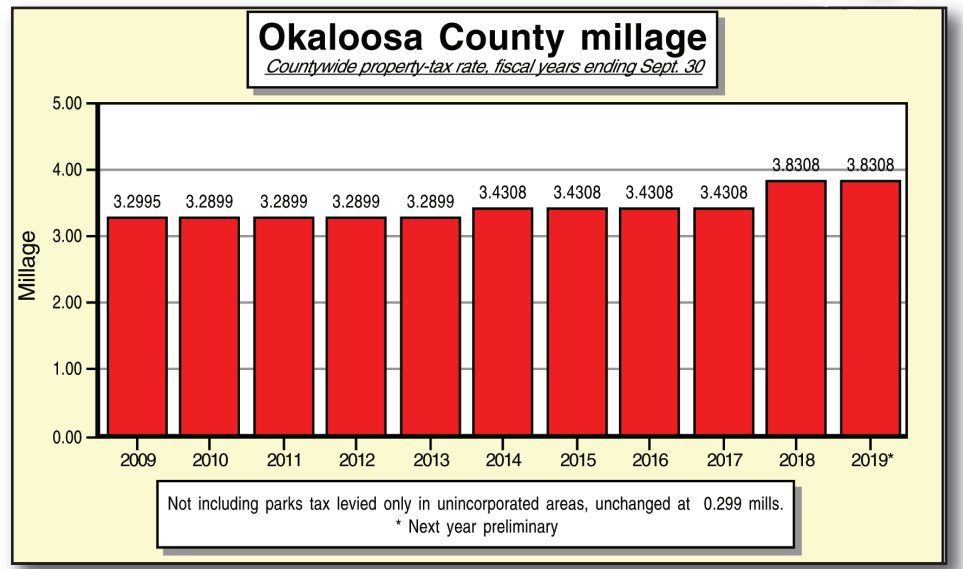
The panel also endorsed a special-district millage rate of 0.2990, also unchanged.

This rate is charged only to owners in unincorporated areas of the county.

Although the proposed millage rates would be unchanged, they would result in higher tax bills for many, if not most owners. The rates would result in an overall increase in property-tax collections of more than 6 percent, due to generally rising taxable values of existing real estate and to new construction.

The countywide property tax helps

Please see COUNTY, page A-4



Niceville increases sewer rates

Tax levy hike eyed

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Niceville City Council tentatively approved a budget of \$33,001,180 for the fiscal year that will begin Oct. 1.

Final approval of the measure, voted Sept. 6, requires two more public hearings, scheduled for 6 p.m. Sept. 18 and 20 at Niceville City Hall.

The council also approved increases in sewer rates and garbage fees.

The budget approved Sept. 6 includes \$15,661,700 for the city's general fund, \$92,850 for Niceville's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), \$3,183,590 for sanitation, \$9,174,500 for water and sewer, and \$4,888,540 for storm water management.

Also given tentative approval at the meeting was a property tax rate of 3.7 mills, the same as for the current fiscal year.

A millage rate of 3.7 means that Niceville property owners will pay \$3.70 in city property tax for each \$1,000 of appraised, taxable value of their property, after homestead exemptions and other discounts. For example, the owner of a home with a taxable value of \$175,000 would owe the city of Niceville \$647.50 in property tax, in addition to any other property taxes owed to such other taxing entities as Okaloosa County or the county school district.

While the millage rate remains the same from this fiscal year to the next, the amount of tax revenue expected from it will increase due to new construction within the city during the past year, as well as general appreciation in value of homes.

Please see SEWER, page A-2

Honoring Florida's fallen

On Saturday morning, the Niceville Exchange Club and the Fisher House of the Emerald Coast held a dedication ceremony for the Field of Valor at the Mullet Festival grounds, Niceville. This is a tribute to the men and women from Florida who lost their lives fighting for our nation's freedom since 9/11. Each of the 350-plus flags bears a name of a service member from Florida who made the ultimate sacrifice. The Field of Valor display is open to the public daily through Saturday, Sept. 15. From left: Field of Valor ceremony dignitaries with Niceville first responders in front of a replica of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The musical group Gloryland sang the National Anthem and "God Bless America." Niceville's Chief of Police, David Popwell, and his officers attended the ceremony. Florida House District 4 Rep. Mel Ponder spoke. Sonia Anderson, U.S. Army retired, looks at a tag on one of the flags that honor Florida's fallen.

Beacon photos by Paula Mims

Fire board votes to hike tax levy

Millage rate to remain unchanged

By Cynthia Richardson
Beacon Correspondent

East Niceville Fire District held the first of two public hearings on its proposed budget and tax rate for next year.

During the meeting, held Thursday at the firehouse on 27th Street, Niceville, members of the independent district's elected governing board tentatively approved a budget of \$1,329,949 for the fiscal year that will begin Oct. 1.

They also voted to keep the

tax rate the same as the past two years at 3.0176 mills, which would result in a 6.7 percent increase in the total tax levy because of increasing property values and construction in the East Niceville Fire District.

Three members of the five-member board were present: Chairman Ed Dunbar, Treasurer C. J. McEntire, and Commissioner Tony Evans.

The proposed budget marks an increase of just over \$150,000

Please see FIRE, page A-2



Niceville High Homecoming Court

Niceville High School's 2018 Homecoming Court was named last week. The Homecoming football game and parade will be Friday at Eagle Stadium. The parade begins at 6 p.m., the game at 7 p.m. Homecoming King and Queen will be crowned during halftime. The court, top row, from left: Jacoby Jackson (9th grade), James Baird (10th), Dante Barrett (11th), Felipe Siquara (12th), Kenny Ketcham (12th), Liam Ordner (12th), David Cathey (12th), Blayne Johnson (12th). Bottom row: LuLu Harrington (9th), Marleigh Moore (10th), Madison Riley (11th), Holly Chavis (12th), Sydney Green (12th), Alex Koullis (12th), Hannah Farley (12th), Katie Lightfoot (12th).

THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

Should private owners of “dry sand” areas of beaches be compelled to admit members of the public?

Locations: Turkey Creek Walk and Valparaiso T-Pier



“The other day I was walking along the beach to our favorite fishing spot with my nine-year-old son. Someone ran us off, and we had to swim around a seawall to get away.”

John Bartleson, 31, Fort Walton Beach, boat repair



“It’s all about respect. People should be allowed to walk across the beach, but if they go onto private property to do damage or cause problems, they should have to leave.”

Austin Carr, 19, Mossy Head, mover



“Yes. The beaches belong to everyone.”

Joseph Walenta, 52, Deland, business owner



“They want us to clean the beaches up, so we should be able to use them.”

Paul Brooks, 39, DeFuniak Springs, painter



“I think there should always be a water-access easement.”

Ken Miles, 57, Niceville, electrician



“Everybody should be allowed on the beaches. Our tax dollars go to reconstruct them, don’t they? We used to be able to go everywhere, but I had to buy a boat so I could take my kids fishing. That’s how I got into the fishing charter business.”

Kent Peckham, 38, Florala, fishing charter captain

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

FIRE

From page A-1

from that of the current year. The estimated carryover from this year’s budget is \$295,000.

The budget covers necessities such as payroll, utilities, training, and goods and services.

The tax rate, also called the millage rate, refers to the amount levied per \$1,000 of taxable property value. For instance, at the proposed rate, a property valued at \$200,000 after exemptions would end up paying \$603.52. This figure does not make up the entirety of a

given owner’s property taxes. Owners are also subject to other taxes with various millage rates outside of the fire district, such as county and school levies.

Other business was discussed during the fire commission meeting, including the need to attain new air bottles for firefighters and the recent replacement of fire truck tires, as well as future raises for firefighters.

The budget and tax rate require final approval before they can be put into effect. Another public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 20, at 6 p.m.



East Niceville Fire District officials during a meeting Thursday, from left: Commissioner CJ McEntire, Commissioner Ed Dunbar, Fire Chief Mike Wright, Commissioner Leo Tisa.

Beacon photo by Cynthia Richardson

Other sources of revenue will include the city’s portion of motor-fuels taxes and usage fees on such utilities as electricity, water, sewer, and gas, business taxes, fees and permits, and intergovernmental revenue such as state and federal transfers of tax money to the city.

In Niceville, a discount on property taxes applies to certain senior citizens. According to a city ordinance, Niceville allows “an additional homestead exemption of up to \$50,000 for any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, who has attained age 65, and whose household income does not exceed the current adjusted income limitation of \$29,454 for 2018.”

According to City Clerk Dan Doucet, “As of today, there are 88 Niceville residents who applied for Senior’s Exemption. The additional Senior exemption could potentially save a

property owner up to \$185. Thus, it was a good decision by the city council to approve this provision for our lower income seniors.”

In addition to the budget and millage rate, city council members also approved an increase in the city’s commercial and residential sanitation tipping fees of 29 cents a month, or 2.16 percent. This increase parallels an increase of the same percentage for Okaloosa County landfill charges.

Council members also approved a 2 percent increase in sewage-disposal rates charged to Niceville customers, but did not increase rates for potable water consumption. This is the first time in 11 years that water rates have not increased, while sewer rates have risen each year.

Glenn Stephens, an engineer employed to advise the city council on such things as water and sewer rates, told council members that the sewage rate increase is necessary in order to keep the city’s revenue above its expected payments on bond debts used to finance various improvement projects in the city’s water and sewer system. Despite the increase, he said, Niceville’s rates for water and sewer compare favorably with those of most other communities in Northwest Florida.

Council members also heard a briefing from Bill Fray, a financial consultant, who told them that the city has “a good position with respect to debt” and that the city has not issued any new debt during the past year.

“The city’s outstanding debt is minimal,” Fray said, “is being retired on schedule and presents certain favorable circumstances. This may result in improvement of the already strong credit structure of the city.”

SEWER

From page A-1

businesses and other properties.

Property taxes are expected to generate about \$3,875,390 in revenue during the coming fiscal year, up \$288,787. This represents only a small portion of the city’s total budget.



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Calendar

Chorus concert

The Emerald Coast Chorus and the Sugar Beach a Cappella Chorus invite you to a public concert on Saturday, September 22 at 7 p.m. The event will be held at the Rocky Bayou Baptist Church, 2401 Partin Dr N., Niceville.

The featured guest quartet is the Pink Flamingos; winner of the Mixed Quartet trophy for the Sunshine District of the Harmony Society.

Tickets for the event are only \$15 and can be purchased from a chorus member or at the door.

For more information about the Emerald Coast Chorus see their website: www.EmeraldCoastChorus.com and similarly for Sugar Beach a Cappella Chorus see their website: www.SugarBeachChorus.com.

Both chorus’ rehearse locally and are seeking new voices to add to their sound.

More Calendar on page, A-6.

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. 21 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Essence Alyssa Meshell Banks, 25, at large, on a charge of shoplifting.

The arrest was made on a warrant stemming from an incident in Niceville on Jan 7 in which Banks and another person took items, including a "bed in a bag" and two pillows, from Walmart valued at a total of \$232.92.

On Aug. 22 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Carol Diane Davis, 50, of 56 East Tchaikovsky Cir., DeFuniak Springs, on a charge of grand theft of between \$300 and \$5,000.

The arrest was made on a warrant stemming from an incident in Niceville on Nov. 22, 2017, in which Davis and another person had been seen taking items from Walmart valued at a total of \$337.36.

On Aug. 25 Niceville police arrested Charles Randolph Wiggins Jr., 29, at large, on an out of county warrant.

Police responded to a hotel regarding a report of stalking. While there, they encountered Wiggins and learned that he had a warrant from Santa Rosa County for failure to appear on a charge of driving while license suspended or revoked, second offense.

On Aug. 25 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Marissa Rae Tucker, 33, of 522 23rd St., Niceville, on a charge of driving while license suspended, third or subsequent offense.

The arrest was made on a warrant stemming from an incident in Niceville on June 26. An off-duty officer who recognized Tucker from previous dealings as not having a valid license saw her driving a vehicle, and used a police database to confirm that her license was suspended. He reported his observations and Tucker was later arrested.

On Aug. 26 Niceville police arrested Nicholas Ducati, 40, of 509 23rd St., #4, Niceville, on a charge of grand theft of between \$300 and \$5,000. Ducati was seen taking items from Walmart valued at a total of \$641.01.

After a Miranda warning, Ducati told police he did not have any money, so he stole the items to sell them later.

On Aug. 26 Niceville police arrested Corzetta Chante Phillips, 20, of 102 Jones Ave., #D, Niceville, on an Escambia County warrant for violation of probation.

On Aug. 26 Niceville police arrested Nicklus Ryan Black, 23, of 1501 North Partin Dr., #125, Niceville, on charges of battery on an officer, resisting an officer with violence, and resisting or obstructing an officer without violence. Officers responding to an alleged trespassing by Black discovered that he was at his own residence, and could not be issued a trespass warning. However, Black was swaying from side to side, could not answer simple questions, and had obviously consumed alcohol prior to police arrival. Police requested medical assistance to check on his health, and Black became agitated, pushed an officer twice, and when the officer began to put handcuffs on him, Black resisted and tried to get the officer in a wrestling hold on the floor.

The officers managed to gain control of Black and handcuffed him, and took him to the police station where he continued to try to fight with police, and while in a holding cell, slipped his handcuffs to the front of his body.

On Aug. 27 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Rachel Renee Gehrke, 27, of 172 Edge Ave., Valparaiso, on charges of grand theft of a firearm and grand theft of a motor vehicle.

The arrest was made on a warrant stemming from an incident in Niceville on Sept. 20, 2017, in which Gehrke's roommate awoke to find his 2016 Kia Optima missing, along with Gehrke.

Through use of the "find my phone" app on an iPhone, police were able to trace the vehicle, and Gehrke was apprehended in Baldwin County, Ala. A search of the vehicle revealed a pistol that had also been stolen from the victim.

Gehrke was also arrested on charges of swindling/defrauding a financial institution, using another's ID without consent to gain \$5,000 or more, and illegal use of

credit cards for less than \$100, and used more than twice within 6 months for more than \$100.

On Aug. 27 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Catherine Leigh Gillis, 43, of 591 Hill Ln., Niceville, on charges of marijuana possession not more than 20 grams, and uttering a false instrument.

On Aug. 28 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Alondra Dashell Rose Blackwood Hognans, 25, of 212 Madison St., Niceville, on a charge of theft of between \$300 and \$5,000.

On Aug. 28 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Joey Dwayne Campbell, 41, of 215 Deer St., Niceville, on a charge of probation violation, felony.

On Aug. 28 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested William Charles Flack, 26, of 522 23rd St., Niceville, on a charge of probation violation, felony.

On Aug. 28 Valparaiso police arrested Charles Michael Manza, 24, of 224 Bambi Pl., Santa Rosa Beach, on charges of knowingly driving while license suspended or revoked, and forgery or alteration of a registration decal.

A police officer made a traffic stop on Manza's 1998 Chevy two-door for a severely cracked windshield. During the stop, Manza said he did not have his license with him, adding that it was suspended. A police database confirmed this.

The officer observed that Manza had altered the expiration date on the registration decal on his car with a black marker. Manza said he was in the process of getting his vehicle registered, but made the decal to give himself more time.

On Aug. 29 Valparaiso police arrested Aydin Hasan Sonmez, 23, of 500 Kelly Mill Rd., #156, Valparaiso, on a charge of driving while license suspended, first offense.

On Aug. 29 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested April Anne Shaw, 46, of 200 Spencer Pl., Niceville, on a charge of criminal mischief with damage less than \$200.

Shaw had destroyed a guitar belonging to someone else by smashing it against an air-conditioning unit. She admitted to police without being asked, "I did tear up his guitar."

On Aug. 29 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Johnny Ray Smith, 22, of 122 Live Oak St., Freeport, on a charge of falsely identifying himself to a law enforcement officer.

On Aug. 30 Valparaiso police arrested Jessica Ann Brand, 34, no address, on a charge of drug equipment possession and/or use.

Also arrested was Robin Lee Fletcher, 35, of 1217 North Bayshore Dr., Valparaiso, also on a charge of drug equipment possession and/or use.

During a traffic stop on a vehicle occupied by Brand and Fletcher, police discovered that neither was qualified to operate the vehicle, and a subsequent inventory of the vehicle revealed an assortment of syringes, and residue of suspected drugs.

On Aug. 30 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Connie Charlene Goodwin, 48, of 400 Kelly Rd., Niceville, on charges of possessing a controlled substance without a prescription, and drug equipment possession and/or use.

On Aug. 30 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Mary Ruth Rich, 48, of 593 Hill Ln., Niceville, on two counts of failure to appear for a felony offense.

On Sept. 1 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Frederick Hunter, 51, of 232 Madison St., Niceville, on a charge of battery on an officer or firefighter.

On Aug. 18 Niceville police arrested Mildred Marcelina Toni Schriber, 37, homeless, on charges of possessing a controlled substance without a prescription, marijuana possession not more than 20 grams, and drug equipment possession and/or use.

Also arrested was James Lee Roddenberry, 46, homeless, on a charge of drug equipment possession and/or use.

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from Aug. 31, 2018 through Sept. 9, 2018.



- 0 Structure Fires
- 0 Vehicle Fire
- 1 Other Fire
- 0 Illegal Burn
- 0 False Alarms
- 28 Emergency Medical Calls
- 6 Vehicle Crash
- 0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
- 9 Other Emergency Calls
- 1 Hazardous Conditions

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Bullock Blvd	Medical	8/31/18	06:54
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	8/31/18	10:31
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	8/31/18	12:36
Shadow Ln.	Cancelled	8/31/18	15:29
Kelly Road	Electrical problem	8/31/18	23:23
S.R. 85 N.	Medical	9/1/18	06:50
Crooked Creek Cv.	Medical	9/1/18	08:45
Boyd Cir.	Medical	9/1/18	13:28
Regatta Dr.	Service call	9/1/18	15:50
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	9/1/18	22:19
Rue De Palms	Medical	9/2/18	05:16
E. College Blvd.	Alarm activation	9/3/18	15:57
S. Cedar Ave.	Medical	9/3/18	16:15
Rocky Bayou Dr.	Service call	9/3/18	18:29
S.R. 293.	Vehicle crash	9/3/18	19:58
Pontevedra Ln.	Service call	9/3/18	21:04
Kazmira Ct.	Medical	9/4/18	03:55
Biscayne Ln.	Medical	9/4/18	04:49
N. Partin Dr.	Vehicle fire	9/4/18	11:24
Bayshore Dr.	Medical	9/4/18	22:56
Finck Rd.	Medical	9/4/18	23:01
S.R. 293.	Vehicle crash	9/5/18	05:10
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	9/5/18	09:24
Derby Downs Cir.	Medical	9/5/18	11:40
Partin Dr.	Vehicle crash	9/5/18	14:56
Derby Downs Cir.	Service call	9/5/18	17:52
Spafire Ln.	Medical	9/5/18	19:49
Spartleberry Cv.	Medical	9/5/18	19:44
3rd Street	Service call	9/6/18	08:07
N. Partin Dr.	Vehicle crash	9/6/18	15:05
McKinney St.	Medical	9/6/18	18:23
Maple Ave.	Medical	9/6/18	19:20
Marion Dr.	Alarm activation	9/7/18	08:49
Pontevedra Ln.	Medical	9/7/18	12:42
Woodbridge Rd.	Alarm activation	9/7/18	14:13
S. Cedar Ave.	Medical	9/7/18	17:32
Pontevedra Ln.	Medical	9/7/18	22:26
23rd Street	Medical	9/8/18	10:20
Cedar Ave.	Vehicle crash	9/8/18	12:38
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	9/8/18	17:19
23rd Street	Medical	9/9/18	09:06
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	9/9/18	18:20
Peachtree Way	Medical	9/9/18	18:20
Keller Ct.	Medical	9/9/18	22:00
E. College Blvd.	Medical	9/9/18	22:17

Weekly Safety Tip: Escape Plans: Every member of the household should know at least two exits from each room. Plan and practice your escape at least twice a year. Make sure that doors and windows needed for escape are unobstructed and easy to open.

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

North Bay



The North Bay Fire District responded to the following calls from Sept. 3, 2018 through Sept. 9, 2018.

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Windward Cir.	EMS call	9/3/18	00:12
N. Bermuda Cir.	Medical assist.	9/3/18	03:05
Wright Cir.	Medical assist.	9/3/18	04:11
N. Turnberry Cv.	Dispatched & cancelled	9/3/18	12:58
Sailboat Dr.	EMS call	9/3/18	14:03
Bluewater Blvd.	Severe weather	9/3/18	16:37
E. Hwy. 20	Alarm activation	9/3/18	17:06
N. White Point Rd.	EMS call	9/4/18	19:40
Bayshore Dr.	EMS call	9/4/18	22:56
N. White Point Rd.	EMS call	9/5/18	04:40
E. Hwy. 20	Medical assist.	9/5/18	11:35
Blue Pine Ln.	EMS call	9/5/18	18:30
Sandalwood Cir.	EMS call	9/6/18	09:19
Napa Way	EMS call	9/6/18	16:00
Prestwick Dr.	EMS call	9/6/18	18:00
Merchants Way	Medical assist.	9/6/18	19:02
Parkside Cir.	EMS call	9/7/18	01:56
Sandalwood Cir.	EMS call	9/7/18	09:20
Bluewater Blvd.	Dispatched & cancelled	9/7/18	20:53
N. White Point Rd.	EMS call	9/8/18	09:38
N. White Point Rd.	Medical assist.	9/8/18	10:19
Kokomo Row	Dispatched & cancelled	9/8/18	15:56
E. Kathy Ln.	Medical assist.	9/8/18	16:06
Bay Drive	Medical assist.	9/9/18	02:42
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Dispatched & cancelled	9/9/18	18:20

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

An officer responded to the Tom Thumb store on N. Palm Blvd. in reference to suspicious people reported going through trash bags. The officer encountered Schriber and found Roddenberry, and found Schriber with marijuana, as well as syringes and approximately 0.46 grams of suspected methamphetamine, all of which field tested positive.



Roddenberry had a pipe containing burnt residue of suspected marijuana.

On Aug. 19 Niceville police arrested Laura A. Haley, 32, of 52 Wolverine, Valparaiso, on charges of uttering a false bill, drug equipment possession and/or use, and destroying, tampering with, or fabricating physical evidence.

Haley had attempted to pass a fake \$100 bill at Walmart, and further investigation indicated that she had also tried to pass such a bill at the Tom Thumb food store on Palm Boulevard. A torn-up counterfeit \$100 bill was also found in the police car after Haley was transported in it. When questioned after a Miranda warning, Haley admitted to passing fake \$100

bills. She said she had ordered them online.

On Aug. 19 Niceville police arrested Timothy John Regan, 47, of 28 Virginia Court, Niceville, on charges of marijuana possession not more than 20 grams and drug equipment possession and/or use.

Regan was stopped for driving 48 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone on State Road 20 near Jones Avenue.

He gave consent to a search, and the search revealed suspected marijuana which field tested positive, and a large sum of money in his pocket.

On Aug. 20 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Bionka Cauchet McDonald, 26, of 909 Linden Ave., Niceville, on a charge of probation violation, misdemeanor.

On Aug. 21 Niceville police arrested Lacy Richelle Owens, 25, of 593 Hill Ln., Niceville, on a charge of shoplifting. She had taken items valued at \$52.57 from Walmart.

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

From page A-1
fund government services and operations, while the special-district tax, levied only in unincorporated areas, funds county parks and recreation.

The millage rate sets the amount of tax owed Okaloosa County government by property owners for each \$1,000 of appraised, taxable value of their property, after homestead exemptions and other discounts.

For example, the owner of a home within a city, appraised at \$175,000 taxable value, would pay \$670.39 in annual county property tax, in addition to other taxes owed to such other government entities as cities and the Okaloosa County School District.

An owner in an unincorporat-

ed part of Okaloosa County, such as Bluewater Bay or Seminole, whose property has a taxable value of \$175,000, would pay \$722.72.

Residents of unincorporated areas may also owe property

The final tax hearing is set for Tuesday, Sept. 18, at 6 p.m., at the county administration building in Shalimar.

taxes to the school district, the East Niceville or North Bay fire districts, and such other taxing authorities as Bluewater Bay's Municipal Services Benefit Unit.

The final tax hearing is set for Tuesday, Sept. 18, at 6 p.m., at the county administration building in Shalimar.

Countywide property tax revenue budgeted for the current fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, was \$60,648,365, but is expected to be \$64,496,382 next year. Revenue budgeted for the parks district for FY 2017-18 is \$2,226,078, and is expected to grow to \$2,360,877 in FY 2018-19.

Next year's countywide "rolled-back" millage (the hypothetical rate that would have resulted in the same revenue as this year) would be 3.7052, not counting the parks tax.

Property tax revenue accounts for only a portion of the total county budget of \$387 million, up 2 percent, with other funding sources including state and federal assistance, assorted fines and fees, and customer service fees charged for such "enterprise fund" services as the county water and sewer system.

Golf tourney proceeds aid ECCAC



Presented by the Emeril Lagasse Foundation, the 12th annual Chi Chi Miguel fund raiser took place recently and raised \$2 million for eight area charities. From the overall monies raised, the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center (ECCAC) received a generous \$93,973.94. Founded in 2006 by co-chairs Valerie and Mike "Chi Chi Miguel" Thompson as a small backyard barbecue competition, the Throwdown Benefit Auction & BBQ has since expanded to a three-day, star-studded event and one of the most successful fundraisers along the Emerald Coast. ECCAC also directly benefited from the 10th annual Chi Chi Miguel Golf Tournament at Burnt Pines in Sandestin, and chaired by ECCAC supporters, Jim and Ann Barri. Pictured: Major sponsors Jim Pearce/Isagenix and Frank Flautt at Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa with Chi Chi Miguel founder, Mike Thompson, at the Chi Chi Miguel tournament.

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Bluewater Bay MARINA

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AF Lab and Doolittle donate backpacks to kids



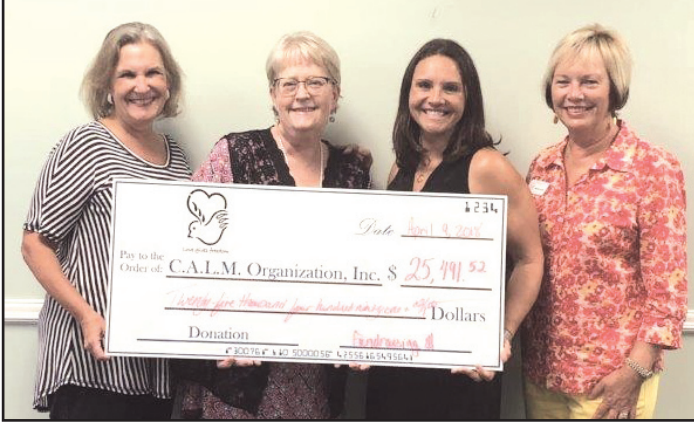
Air Force Research Laboratory and Doolittle Institute partnered to stuff 80 backpacks for the Emerald Coast Child Advocacy Center in Niceville. These backpacks and supplies will go to children across the county that are in need of these items for a successful school year. The LEGACY (Leadership, Experience, Growing Apprenticeships Committed to Youth) program had supplies remaining from their STEM camp and donated them to help in this effort.

Republicans grant scholarship



Trinity Helton, a 2018 Summa Cum Laude graduate of Fort Walton Beach High School, received a scholarship from Niceville Republican Women Federated. Trinity met members and read her essay on "Why I Am a Republican" at a recent meeting. She will be attending the University of West Florida. (L-R: Diana Gilbert, Dee Gulbranson, President Barbara Roberson, Trinity Helton, Lourdes Adams, and Jane Stevens).

CALM receives generous donations



CALM, Crisis Aid for Littles and Moms received an outpouring of donations of condo weeks, original art, spa packages and services from the local community recently at their silent auction fundraiser. Thanks to the generosity of donations and bids at the silent auction, they received over \$25K. Monies raised go toward opening CALM House; a place that offers single mothers and their children in crisis, such as homelessness, the opportunity to find stability and consistency by teaching life skills to break the cycle of generational poverty. Pictured: The CALM Executive Board members, Phillipa Bedsole, Grace Nuffer, Chanie Erb, Wanda Siefke and (not pictured) Terri Steadman.

Plew principal speaks to Kiwanis



Plew Elementary Principal, Carolyn McAllister, spoke to the Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso about her school. Niceville's three public elementary schools rate academically; #1, #2, and #3 of the 24 public elementary schools in Okaloosa County. Plew Elementary School rates in the top 6% statewide. Carolyn attributed the success to the great community, parents and teachers. Pictured L-R: Kiwanis President Lynn Gauthier and Carolyn McAllister.

Edge welcomes new resource officer



Edge Elementary School welcomes new SRO Deputy Tim Siren for the 2018/19 school year. Pictured on the left is Lawren Isbell a 4th grader in Mrs. Seifert's class.

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days:
 Sept. 11, between 9:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.
 Sept. 12, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
 Sept. 13, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.
 Sept. 14, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
American Pride Speaking
 The AF Armament Museum Foundation is proud to sponsor the American Pride Speaking Series. This quarter's presentation will be held at the Armament Museum on September 12 at 2 p.m. The subject will be Sled Driver: Recollections of an SR-71 Pilot given by Mr. Robert Behler, USAF Major General, Retired.
 Admission is free.
Volunteer opportunity
 The Bluewater Municipal Service Benefit Unit, MSBU, has

Road closure
 Eglin Air Force Base, The 96th Test Wing is scheduled to conduct testing on the Eglin range complex requiring the closure of State Road 285.
 Testing is scheduled to take place Sept. 11-14. The roads will be closed for the entire duration of the scheduled times on the following

approved formation of a Landscape Committee to provide guidance to the MSBU board for current and long-term landscape planning, design and implementation. The Landscape Committee is looking for volunteers. If you are a Bluewater Bay resident and looking for a way to get involved in the betterment of our community, please join us. Contact Judy Griffin for more information at 850-685-8595 or email: judygriffin1511@gmail.com.

Valp. Garden Club
 Valparaiso Garden Club's first meeting will be held September 12 at 9 a.m. at the Trinity Presbyterian Church fellowship hall (entrance is in the back of the building) 44 Southview Ave, Valparaiso.

Marie Harrison will give a presentation on "Who Is Valparaiso Garden Club". Kat Spieker will give a quick intro to navigating the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) website.

BWB Garden Club Meeting
 The Bluewater Bay Garden Club will have their first meeting of the season on Thursday, September 13, at 9:30 a.m. at the Bluewater Bay Clubhouse on Bluewater Boulevard. Our guest speaker will be Mary Gutierrez with a program "Let's Turn the Sunshine State into a Solar State."

Camp Connect
 Though many people associate Covenant Care with hospice patients, the regional nonprofit also offers specialized programs for children, including Camp Connect, a free one-day camp for children ages 6-17 who have suffered a loss or who have a terminally-ill loved one. Camp Connect is staffed with bereavement specialists who use confidence-building exercises and artistic activities to give children the opportunity to explore and express their emotions in a supportive and fun environment.

The next available Camp Connect will take place Saturday, Sept. 15 at Camp Timpochee, located in Niceville at 4750 Timpochee 4-H, Niceville. Check in is between 8-9 a.m., and the one-day camp concludes with closing family activities at 7 p.m. For more information or to watch a video about Camp Connect, visit Covenant Care's website or Facebook page. If you have questions or would like to request a registration packet, please contact Monica Koetters, Camp Connect

Orchestra begins season



Join our community as we welcome Maestro Devin Patrick Hughes for the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra's opening night concert at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville, Saturday, at 7:30 p.m., as the dramatic and electrifying come to life with Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony. Also featured will be Sergei Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini with guest pianist Yinuo Wang. Also performed will be Leonard Bernstein's Overture to Voltaire's Candide. Tickets \$25 at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center box office.



Devin Hughes

Coordinator, at 850-384-7778 or CampConnect@choosethecovenant.org

Cardboard boat race
 Bluewater Bay Marina is hosting its 11th Annual Cardboard Boat Race on Sunday, September 16. Registration is now open at Bluewater Bay Marina. Late registration will begin day of event at 3 p.m. with actual races beginning at 4 p.m. Early registration fee is \$25.00. Registration day of event is \$30.00. Cash Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place each division. Prizes awarded for Best Design Each Division, and Titanic Award (Best Sinking). For more information, rules and regulations or to pre-register, call (850) 897-2821 or visit our web page, Bluewaterbaymarina.com.

Computer Fundamentals
 Valparaiso Goodwill Career Campus Training Center will be providing a free Computer Fundamentals evening training class to anyone who is interested on Sept. 18. Class will be from 5 - 8 p.m. Participants will learn the history of computers, basics of computer security, and how to navigate computers quickly and effectively. Participants will also learn how to manipulate windows, how to cut, copy, and paste, identification, and using the recycle bin. This is a hands-on class so participants will be completing exercises during the class session. We have limited seating so you must reserve your spot. Call 850-729-8690 to register. Located at 143 N. John Sims Pkwy.

Food handler certification

Valparaiso Goodwill Career Campus Training Center will be providing a free Foodhandler Certification training class to anyone who is interested on Sept. 19. Class will be from 9 a.m. - Noon. Participants will learn about food contaminants and cross-contamination in proper food storage. They will learn about food prep safety and best hygiene practices. This class preps participants for certification and for a cost of \$10 can obtain SafeStaff Certification. This is a hands on class so participants will be completing exercises during the class session. We have limited seating so you must reserve your spot. Call 850-729-8690 to register. Located at 143 N. John Sims Pkwy.

President's speaker series

Northwest Florida State College will host Sarah Palin and Donna Brazile in the college's inaugural speaker series event, Bridging the Political Divide, at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, September 21.

The NWF State College President's Speaker Series is a new initiative that will feature renowned speakers sharing their expertise with our community," says Dr. Devin Stephenson, President. "We are proud to bring esteemed speakers to the Emerald Coast and to offer these events at Northwest Florida State College."

The event is free with a cash donation or a donation of nonperishable food items supporting the SGA Feed-A-Raider program.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. Limited

seating available.

Sponsorship opportunities for the event are available. Contact the NWF State College Foundation at 850-729-5357 or foundation@nwfsc.edu for more information.

Craft bazaar

Twin Cities Pavilion would like to invite everyone out to the 27th annual craft bazaar. It will be held on Saturday, September 22, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. All of the proceeds raised at this event will go towards meeting the needs of our residents here at Twin Cities Pavilion. There will be a variety of crafts to choose from. We will have something for everyone. Please come out and support this amazing event.

Hocus Focus

Join us, October 13 at 2 p.m., for an afternoon of magic and illusion with Kevin Spencer. This sensory-friendly performance of is designed to create an experience that is welcoming to all families including those with children with autism or with other developmental or intellectual disabilities that create sensory sensitivities. The performance was specifically designed to be baffling and entertaining for all members of the audience.

Admission for this event is free, but donations will be warmly accepted.

For more information, call 850-729-6000 or visit us at www.MattieKellyArtsCenter.org.

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Who's News

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com

U.S. Air Force Airman **Christopher M. Brittingham** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.



Christopher Brittingham

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Brittingham is the son of Britnee M. Brittingham of Niceville.

Cole Herring of Niceville earned his private pilot rating on August 9th, 2018 in an RV-12 light sport aircraft through Gulf Coast Aero Adventures.



Cole Herring

Cole had Chris Dupin as his flight instructor.

Niceville High School choir director, **Michael Dye** of Valparaiso, was inducted into the Florida Vocal Association Hall of Fame at the 2018 FVA Summer Convention in Altamonte Springs recently. Dye joined retiring director Jamie Bryan (Palm Beach Gardens High School), and Connie Drosakis (Bak Middle School of the Arts), into the now 29-member Hall of Fame that includes founding members of the FVA.

Dye began his 29th year as choral director at Niceville High School this fall and his 43rd year as a vocal music educator.

Dye began his directing career at Southwest Junior High School in Hot Springs, AR. After one year he accepted the choir director's position his alma mater, Dollarway High School, in Pine Bluff. He served there for 12 years before being named a graduate assistant at Arkansas State University.



Michael Dye

While teaching in Arkansas, Mike was elected state president of the Arkansas Choral Directors Association and later as the president of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. Dye was chosen as the ArkCDA's Senior High State Director of the Year in 1989.

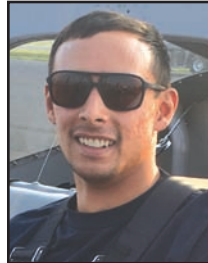
In 1990 Dye was hired as the choral director at Niceville High School. In 2004 Dye was selected Niceville High School's Teacher of the Year, and runner-up for the Okaloosa County Teacher of the

year. Dye was twice the FVA District 1 chair and later served as president of the Florida Vocal Association. While FVA president, he served on the board of the Florida Music Education Association. He also served as the All-State and State Music Performance Assessment Chair. Dye is currently the chair for the FVA Past-President's Committee. In June, Dye completed a two-year term as president of the Florida School Music Association.

In 2013 Dye conducted the Florida All-State Men's Chorus. In 2017 he was chosen to direct the Arkansas All-State Female Chorus. Under his baton Niceville choruses have earned 15 FVA State MPA "Choirs of Distinction", the most of any secondary school in Florida. During the 2016-2017 season, Mike conducted the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra Chorus.

Dye is married to Wanda Thomas Dye, a Niceville High School graduate. They have two sons, Matthew Norton of Pensacola, and Timothy Norton of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, also Niceville High School graduates.

Ross Spock of Niceville recently successfully soloed a RV-12 light sport aircraft at the Crestview Bob Sikes airport. His instructor was Chris Dupin of Gulf Coast Aero Adventures.



Ross Spock

Princess Ball aids Arc



The Arc of the Emerald Coast is honored to accept a check from Emerald Coast Hospice from the 2018 Emerald Coast Princess Ball. Over the past 4 years Emerald Coast Hospice has been the top sponsor of The Arc of the Emerald Coast event, The Emerald Coast Princess Ball, a father daughter style dance and dinner for girls 2-18 years of age. The proceeds raised will go to support the Arc's mission "From Disability to Capability". The Arc of the Emerald Coast relies on these sponsorships and the support from our community to continue to provide the services needed to the men, women and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities they serve.

College helps keep history alive



Northwest Florida State College donated approximately \$60,000 worth of land to the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida to assist them in expanding their operations and building their proposed Folk School. From left: NWF State College VP of Administrative Services Randy White, Heritage Museum Board of Trustees Chair Barbara Palmgren, Heritage Museum Trustee Marie Hallion, Heritage Museum Manager Kelli Knudsen and NWF State College President Dr. Devin Stephenson showcase a blueprint of the museum's planned expansion.

Destin wine festival aids CAC



Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation donated \$280,000 to the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Centers (ECCAC) in Okaloosa and Walton Counties. From left in photo: Greg & Keri Atchley, Bill Fletcher, Jennifer Clark, Audie Rowlie, Julie Hurst-Porterfield, Merissa Ingram, Chelsea Fox, Artie Rodriguez, Caroline Boone, Myra Williams and Doug Ingram.

Sorority begins season



Xi Beta Pi, a Niceville chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, celebrated Beginning Day for their upcoming 2018-2019 season with a luncheon at the home of Diane Chiquette recently. This season will mark the chapter's 60th birthday. We look forward to another great year of "Life, Learning and Friendship" and service to our community. Pictured from left: Ashley Lambert, Janice Jean, Monica Prevatt, Sharon Hargreaves, Dottie Kime, Debbie Hember, Ima Cheatum, Marja Wilson, Brigita Krasauskas, Diane Chiquette and Adrienne Coley. Not pictured are Dee Purka and JoeAnn VanGronigen.

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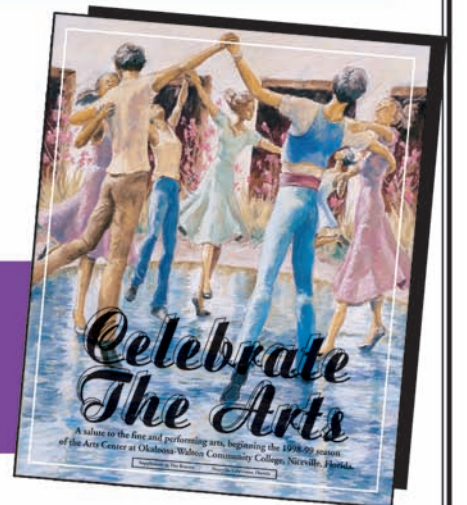
BEACON ARTS GUIDE

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A win for Niceville golfers

A beautiful Thursday afternoon on the Rocky Bayou Country Club golf course was the setting for Niceville's boys golf team win over Fort Walton Beach. Playing nine holes, the Eagles defeated the Vikings by a score of 153 to 199. Niceville's Dylan Hopper had the low score of the day with 35. The next home match for the boys will be on Thursday, September 20th at Eglin Air Force Base's golf course at 3:00 p.m. Parker Milam, Blake Rigdon, Dylan Hopper pause for a picture at the end of the match. Blake Rigdon watches his tee shot sail down the fairway. Dylan Hopper takes a look at his putt on the last hole.

Beacon photos by Paula Mims

Strong start for RBCS cross-country



Both the Knights and Lady Knights Varsity Cross-Country teams scored 2nd place in their first meet of the Division 1A season, 30 August. Micah Wyn finished 1st for the Knights, 4th overall and Mori McCain finished 1st for the Lady Knights, 6th overall. Rocky competed against: Baker, Walton, Freeport, Central and Laurel Hill. The meet was hosted and held at Paxton High School.



Lewis dominates Freeport

The Lewis Falcons celebrated their home opener with a 38-6 pounding of the Freeport Bulldogs last Thursday night at Niceville's Eagle Stadium. Up 14-6 at the half, Lewis scored its third touchdown of the night less than a minute into the third quarter. The team added another touchdown in the third quarter and one more in the fourth to close out the game. Next up for the Falcons will be Destin when they play each other at Niceville High School on Thursday, September 20th at 6:30 p.m. Pictured: The Freeport Bulldogs couldn't get anything going with Lewis' swarming defense. The Lewis cheerleaders kept up the crowd's spirit.



Beacon photos by Paula Mims

Destin defeats Lewis



Lewis volleyball suffered a straight set loss last Thursday to Destin Middle School. The Falcons had many unforced errors, but hope to bounce back in their next home match against St. Mary's on Monday, September 17th at 5:00. Pictured: The Falcons talk things over with their coach during a timeout. The team celebrates a point. Arena Arina prepares to serve the ball.

Beacon photos by Paula Mims



Rocky Bayou suffers first loss of the season

Rocky Bayou Christian School football ran into a brick wall last Friday night when they took on Jay High School at Meigs Middle School in Shalimar. The Knights, previously undefeated, lost to the Royals 52-0. Rocky Bayou's defense gave up four rushing and one passing touchdown. The Knight's offense had their share of woes as well, giving up a fumble recovery and an interception for touchdowns. Rocky Bayou is on the road this week at Baker, but will play their next home game at Meigs on September 28, against John Paul II (Tallahassee) at 7:00 p.m. Pictured: Head Coach Josh Childers talks to his team after the game.

Beacon photos by Paula Mims

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Appreciating a great place to live

Small-town charm draws families and retirees alike

Beacon Staff

The “Twin Cities” of Niceville and Valparaiso live up to their names. It really is nice in Niceville, and Valparaiso, which means “Vale of Paradise,” offers a quality of life as close to paradise as one is likely to find this side of the real thing.

Once the area was known as “Boggy” due to the proximity of Boggy Bayou, an inlet that leads to Choctawhatchee Bay and thence to the Gulf of Mexico. The bayou, however, is not the weedy swamp the name implies. It is a pleasant and popular place for swimming, sailing and fishing.

Along the shores of Boggy Bayou, as well as creek-fed Rocky Bayou and the north shore of Choctawhatchee Bay, nestle Niceville, Valparaiso, and the communities of Bluewater Bay, Seminole and Choctaw Beach. The area attracts people seeking a warm climate, friendly communities, and plenty of activities ranging from hunting, fishing and water sports to art galleries,

concerts and stage plays.

The pleasant climate is a top attraction for new residents as well as vacationers. There is no hard winter, by northern standards. Spring begins soon after the camelias blossom in January. A hot, humid summer starts around mid-June. A colorful, leisurely autumn extends from early October through Christmas.

Outdoor activities abound, with such sports as tennis and golf played year-round. You can drive over the Mid-Bay Bridge to the busy night life of Destin, Fort Walton Beach, and the sugar-white beaches of the Gulf of Mexico. Or you may take the children to calmer waters at beaches in Valparaiso’s Lincoln Park and the military recreation area at White Point, which extends into the bay. In Niceville, you can visit the cool swimming holes of Turkey Creek Park, or explore the park’s mile long boardwalk through the swamp and jungle-like forest of the “true Florida.”

People are also attracted by the friendly, welcoming atmosphere of local communities, where people feel safe walking, jogging, riding bicycles or pushing baby strollers at any hour.

Residents cite the sense of community, the good schools, low crime rate and the variety of outdoor activities. It’s the perfect place to raise a young family.

Economic opportunities abound. Although the area was once a center of fishing, turpentine harvesting, and agriculture, the economic base nowadays is Eglin Air Force Base, one of America’s largest military installations and a focus of research, development and testing of advanced bombs and missiles.

The 720-square-mile military installation is also home to such elite military training and operational units as the 33rd Fighter Wing, which schools pilots and maintainers for the new F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal School, the Army Ranger School, and the Army 7th Special Forces Group.

The base attracts many of the nation’s top defense contractors, engaged in advanced weapons research and development programs. In recent years, business and government leaders have been seeking to attract other high-technology industries to the area, in such fields as aerospace, pharmaceuticals, and medical technology—industries that are attracted by the abundance of technically-trained people, as well as by the high quality of life along the north Florida coast.

For many residents, a military career is what initially brought them to the area, but the friendly people and safe community are what kept them. Numerous retired members of the U.S. armed forces have returned to enjoy their golden years.



The bay, bayous, creeks and ponds that embrace Niceville, Valparaiso and Bluewater Bay are the area’s most distinctive and inviting features.

Transportation options include the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport, five minutes from Valparaiso, served by four airlines flying to and from such air hubs as Atlanta, Dallas, Houston and Charlotte. Traffic arteries include local highways connecting to Interstate 10, some 20 minutes to the north.

Commercial and charter fishing also remain important parts of the local economy, and help to attract tourists and vacationers to the area.

Local history can be studied at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida in Valparaiso, the Air Force Armament Museum, and other facilities.

Archeological sites can be found in the area, including the remains of early settlers’ cabins and sawmills, and the earthen ceremonial mounds of American Indians.

But it is the here and now that makes the area such a great community with something to do for all ages.

Education is an important part of the community. Local schools from elementary through middle and high school are consistently ranked among the best in Florida.

Advanced middle-school students can attend the Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medical (STEMM) Center in Valparaiso, and other schools offer special programs in fields ranging from auto mechanics to computer technology and aeronautics.

In addition to public education, private schools are also available, such as Rocky Bayou Christian School, Niceville, which teaches students from early grades through high school and is top-rated academically.

For higher education, there is Northwest Florida State College, which offers two- and four-year degrees in such varied fields as nursing, education, medical technology, law enforcement, and business management. The Niceville-based institution also serves as a launching pad for stu-

dents who prefer to complete their first two years of college close to home, then transfer to one of Florida’s big public universities.

Niceville’s Twin Cities Hospital has a state-of-the-art emergency room and 65 beds for in-patient care. It is top-ranked for patient satisfaction. Other nearby medical facilities include the Eglin Air Force Base Regional Medical Center, Fort Walton Beach Medical Center, North Okaloosa Medical Center in Crestview, and Sacred Heart Hospital near Destin. There are also numerous outpatient clinics, and several local assisted-living facilities, nursing homes, and a memory-care facility for people with Alzheimer’s.

The state college campus in Niceville is also home to the Mattie Kelly Fine and Performing Arts Center, where symphony concerts and touring Broadway-caliber shows routinely entertain local audiences. The school also offers one of the state’s best education programs in art, music, and drama.



Niceville and Valparaiso are known for their patriotic traditions.

Also in this guide

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The Mattie Kelley Arts Center, Niceville, hosts a variety of cultural events.

Activities for the young and old

4-H Club
689-5850, ifas.ufl.edu/okaloosa/4-h-clubs/
Adventure Club
Bruce & Pat Blackwelder 301-9452
AF Armament Museum Foundation
882-4062, afarmamentmuseum.com
Alaqua Animal Refuge
880-6399, Alaqua.org
Alcoholics Anonymous
244-2421; www.fwb-area-aa.org
All Sports Association
allsportsassociation.org
Alzheimer's Family Services
850-478-7790; alzfamsv.org
American Business Women's Association
376-4304; abwa-ecc.org
American Cancer Society
244-3813, cancer.org
American Flag in your yard
Kiwanis Club, Stan Claypool 897-2654
American Legion
Post 221 - 678-2682
Post 235 - 243-0221
American Red Cross of NWF Chapter
850-432-7601; redcross.org
AmVets Post 78
678-3828; amvets78.valp.net
Arts and Design Society
244-1271, artsdesignsociety.org
Autism Society of the Emerald Coast
496-3062; asecl.com
Awana Clubs:
First Presbyterian Church of Niceville 678-2521
Rocky Bayou Baptist Church 678-6062
First Baptist Church of Niceville 678-4621
First Baptist Church of Valparaiso 678-4822
Baby Bookworms Program
279-4863, ext. 1514; cityofniceville.org/library



Boy Scouts of America is just one of the dozens of ways for residents to get involved in the community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters
664-KIDS (5437) , bbbsnwfl.org
Blue Knights Law Enf. Motorcycle Club
blueknightsfl26.org
Bluewater Bay's Nine-Hole Ladies Golf
Diane Chiquett 897-4498
Bluewater Bay Men's Golf Association
BWB Resort 897-3241
Bluewater Bay Sailing Club
commodore@bbbc.com, bbbc.com
Bluewater Elementary School PTO
833-4240; bluewaterpto@gmail.com
Bowling Leagues Hurricane Lanes
654-5251, hurricanelanesdestin.com
Boy Scouts of America
beascout.org or gulfcoastcouncil.org
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast
862-1616; emeraldcoastbgc.org



Bridgeway Center 24 Hr. Crisis Line
833-7500 bridgewaycenter.org
Building Industry Association
863-5107, biaow.org
Business Empowered
Alan Niedbalski 850-586-1472
Keith Pace 850-520-0315
Butterflies & Dragons Book Club
279-4863 ext. 1514
cityofniceville.org/library
Button Club
Don Lanier 729-7594
floridastatebuttonociety.org
Camp Timpoochee
897-2224; florida4h.org/camps_timpoochee
BWB Roots Genealogy Group
897-4721; gwynnalcom7@gmail.com
Children in Crisis
Ken Hair 864-4242, childrenincrisisfl.org
Choctaw Bay Music Club
Lisa Cyr 850-231-3199;
choctawbaymusicclub.org
Choctaw Bowmen Archery Club
choctawbowmen.com
Choctawhatchee Audubon Society
Walt Spence 678-3965, choctawhatcheeaudubon.org
Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance
200-4171, basinalliance.org
CIL - Disability Resource Center
1-877-245-2457, 595-5566, cil-drc.org
Civil Air Patrol National HQ
Maxwell A.F.B. 877-227-9142
Coast Aquatics
coastaquatics.org
Covenant Hospice
800-541-3072, covenanthospice.org
Cribbage Club
Pete Seda 678-0153



Daughters of the American Colonists Eucheanna Chapter
Margaret Nichols 897-1278; https://eucheannachapterdac.wordpress.com
Daughters of the American Revolution, Choctawhatchee Basin Chapter
Carolyn Ketchel 850-651-1123, cketchel@outlook.com
Daughters of the American Revolution, West Florida Chapter
Democratic Women's Club
850-888-3321, okaloosademocrats.com
Disabled American Veterans Ch. 112
678-3525,
davmembersportal.org/chapters/fl/112
Distinguished Young Women
251-438-3621; distinguishedyw.org
Early Learning Coalition Child Care Services
833-3627, elc-ow.org
Economic Development Council
362-6467, 800-995-7374, florida-edc.org
Edge Elementary School PTO
833-4138; okaloosaschools.com/edge
Elder Services
833-9165, elder-services.org
Elks Lodge
729-3557, elks.org
Embroiderer's Guild
Laura Gamble 496-3466
Emerald Coast Archaeology Society
Pat Balanzategui, 862-8968;
https://fasweb.org/ecas
Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center
833-9237, eccac.org
Emerald Coast Chorus
John Scott, 850-714-3405;
emeraldcoastchorus.com



Continued on page 5

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Take part in the community—join a club

From page 4

- Emerald Coast Community Band**
Band Director 865-8902, emeraldcoastband.com
- Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers**
863-TIPS (8477), 1-888-654-TIPS, emeraldcoastcrimestoppers.com
- Emerald Coast Cyclists**
John Stamp 897-6862, eccyclists.com
- Emerald Coast Parrot Head Club**
Mike Whitley, 704-576-3425; ecparrotheads.org
- Emerald Coast Pipes & Drums**
Leslie Matheson 243-2879, ECPipesAndDrums@cox.net
- Emerald Coast Sailing Association**
John Dezzutto 714-809-1291, ecsasailing.com
- Emerald Coast Tennis Council**
Steven Czonstka 897-4775, Facebook
- Emerald Coast Woodturning Guild**
Earnest Nettles 585-6064; woodturner.org
- Exchange Club of Niceville**
850-306-0131, nicevilleexchange.club
- Faithfully Fit Exercise Program**
678-4411; yourcrosspoint.org
- FL. Council on Compulsive Gambling**
1-888-ADMIT-IT (236-4848); gamblinghelp.org
- FL. Retired Educators Association**
727-577-6400; frea.org
- Flying Needles Quilt Guild**
flyingneedlesquiltguild.org
- Fresh Start for Children & Families**
243-5648, Freshstartfl.com
- Friends of the Museums, Inc.**
833-9595, fwb.org/museums/volunteer-info/
- Friends of the Niceville Library**
279-4863; cityofniceville.org/lib/foundation.php
- Garden Club, Bluewater Bay**
Donna Lassiter, 897-4778
- GED Classes**
NW FL State College 729-5387, nwfsc.edu



Garden clubs are available for those with a green thumb or want one.

- Genealogical Society**
Val Moreland, 243-0352; rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flocgs
- Girl Power Book Club**
279-4863 ext. 1514; cityofniceville.org/library
- Girl Scout Council of the FL Panhandle**
873-3999, 888-271-8778, gscfp.org
- Goodwill Industries**
729-0131; goodwillbigbend.org
- Habitat for Humanity**
315-0025, habitatfwb.org
- Heritage Museum**
678-2615, heritage-museum.org
- Junior League of the Emerald Coast**
460-8980; jlec.org

- Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso**
nvkiwanisinvie@gmail.com; facebook
- Knights of Columbus #7667**
Grand Knight Paul Robert kofc7667.org
- Knights of Columbus #13527**
Grand Knight Bob Gualtieri 719-314-8914
- Lego Club**
279-4863 ext. 1514
cityofniceville.org/library
- Lewis School PTO**
833-4130; okaloosaschools.com/lewis/pto
- League of Women Voters Okaloosa County**
621-4088; lwowc.org
- Linux User Group**
Tom Browder, 830-8078

- Lions Club of Niceville-Valparaiso**
Dan Doucet 279-6436, ext. 1104
- Local Color Artists Club**
Lou Kaunzinger; 897-1456
- Mac Users Group**
Jean Dutton, 862-3327
- Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation**
650-2226, mattiekellyartsfoundation.org
- Mentor Program**
Diane Meredith 833-7614, okaloosaschools.com/district/sos-mentor
- Military Order of the World Wars**
John Cahoon 862-5078; Leslie Matheson 243-2879; moww.org
- MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)**
Crosspoint-Niceville, 678-4411
First Baptist Church-Nv., 678-4621; mops.org
- Narcotics Anonymous**
850-496-1673; pensacolana.org
- Niceville High School Booster Club**
850-729-1737, nicevillehighschool.org
- Niceville Library**
Main 279-4863, ext. 1500, Youth, ext. 1514; city-of-niceville.org/library
- Niceville Republican Women**
Debora Mahoney Cain, 850-974-8285
okaloosagop.com
- Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce**
678-2323, nicevillechamber.com
- Niceville-Valparaiso Little League Baseball**
699-2112; nvlb.net
- Niceville-Valparaiso Tea Party**
Doug Davis 830-4610; facebook
- Nicotine Anonymous**
Andy C. or Gwynn A. 897-4721, nicotine-anonymous.org



Continued on page 6

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Contacting clubs and other organizations

From page 5

Northwest Florida Symphony Guild
Linda Snider 850-217-6331,
nfsymphony.org/guild/

NW Florida Astronomy Association
Tom Haugh 678-64883, nwfastro.org

Okaloosa Arts Alliance
Amy Baty 499-8335, okaloosaarts.org

Okaloosa Citizens Alliance
850-897-4775, Facebook

Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women
Gail Waller 685-7786; occsw.org

Okaloosa County Head Start
Niceville 543-6960;
okaloosaheadstart.org

Okaloosa Democratic Exec. Committee
okaloosademocrats.com

Okaloosa Men's Baseball
864-7529, ombl.org

Okaloosa Republican Exec. Committee
Steve Czonstka, 897-4775; okaloosagop.com

PAL Soccer
Howard Hill 678-2182
nicevillepalsoccer.org

Panhandle Animal Welfare Society
850-243-1525, Emergencies – 850-685-6003,
paws-shelter.com

Physician Referral & Consult-A-Nurse
Twin Cities Hospital 850-864-0213,
TCHospital.com

Plew Elementary Parent Leader Assn.
833-4100; okaloosaschools.com/plew/pa

Poetry Club
Dennis Wilson, 279-3248



PAL Soccer is a great way to get the kids involved in sports at a young age.

Preschool Story Time
279-4863, ext. 1514; cityofniceville.org/library

Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated
Jean Dutton, 862-3327; rwof.org

Rocky Bayou Christian School PVO
Holly Riches 850-279-3729

Rocky Bayou Kiwanis Club
Grant Williams, 678-3277 or 830-0376; rocky-bayoukiwanis.com

Rotary, Mid-Bay
Dave Underwood, 240-4599; midbayro-taryclub.org

Rotary, Niceville-Valparaiso
Peter Loffler, 217-6911

Ruckel Middle School PTO
833-4142; okaloosa.k12.fl.us/ruckel/about/Pto

Salvation Army
243-4531; salvationarmy.org

Sharing and Caring
678-8459, sharing-n-caring.org

Shelter House, Inc.
243-1201, shelterhousenwf.org
Hotline: 863-4777 or 1-800-44-Abuse

Sons of the American Revolution
Leslie Matheson 243-2879,
John Cahoon 862-5078

Stage Crafters Community Theater
243-1101, opt. 3, stagecraftersfwb.com

Stockstarters Club
Stan Chandler 585-8237

Survivor and Friends (Cancer Support Club)
Lynette L. Connelly 499-4396

TOPS 111 Niceville
Faye Ellis 478-2296; tops.org

Twin Cities Bass Club
Craig Vinson, 582-3006;
Twincitiesbassclub.com

Twin Cities Hospital Auxiliary
678-2391; tchospital.com/about/volunteers

Twin Cities Seniors Club
Patricia Daniel 543-0869

Twin Cities Woman's Club
Lorraine Philips 307-7688

United Way, First Call for Help
Call 211

United Way of Okaloosa-Walton County
243-0315, united-way.org

Valparaiso Community Library
729-5406, vcl.valp.org

Valparaiso Senior Center
Tom Jackley 850-833-9291

VFW Post 7674
244-3834, Facebook; myvfw.org/fl/post7674

White Sands Bowling Center
Bowling league 200-0646, wsbc Bowl.com

Youth Sports Leagues
678-4411; yourcrosspoint.org

Eglin AFB clubs

Auto Hobby Shop
882-2484; eglinlife.com/autosshop

Bayview Club
651-1010; eglinlife.com/bayview

Eglin Aero Club
882-5148; eglinaeroclub.com

Eglin Aero Modellers
Phil Connor 217-5526;
eglinaeromodellers.org

Eglin Assoc. of Chief Master Sergeants
Steve Sabin 729-1857

Eglin Pet Welfare
678-5066; petwelfare.net

Eglin Spouses' Club
850-687-0275, Facebook

Eglin Youth Programs
882-8212; eglinlife.com/youth

Honor Guard
882-2156 or 882-2157
eglinlife.com/honorguard

Outdoor Recreation
882-5058; eglinlife.com/outdoorrec

Sand and Spur Riding Club
240-1821; eglinlife.com/sandandspur

Yacht and Dive Club
eglinyachtclub.org

Is your organization missing from this list?
Email info@baybeacon.com with "Newcomer club listing update" in the subject line.



Cathy Alley



Donna Bennett



Mandy Campbell



Stacey Driver



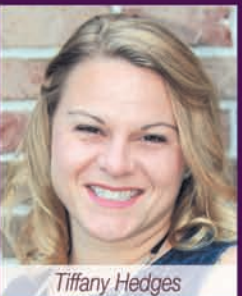
Chanie Erb



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Obtaining utilities and other services

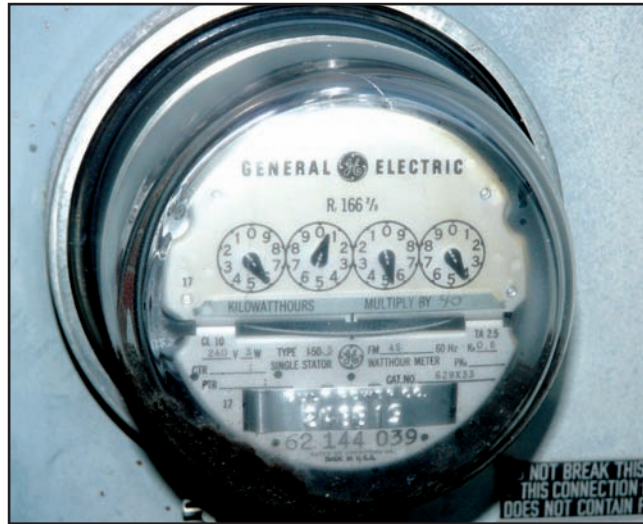
(Area code: 850)

Electricity

Cities of Niceville, Valparaiso and areas west of Rocky Bayou bridge

Gulf Power Co.

1057 E. John Sims Parkway
Niceville, FL 32578
Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Phone: 800-225-5797
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
gulfpower.com



Two electric utilities, Gulf Power and Chelco, serve the Twin Cities area.

Bluewater Bay and other areas east of Rocky Bayou bridge

Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative (CHELCO)

1401 Cat-Mar Road
Niceville, FL 32578
Phone: 800-342-0990
Local: 892-2111
Weekdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
chelco.com

Natural gas

Okaloosa Gas District

P.O. Box 548
364 Valparaiso Parkway
Valparaiso, FL 32580
Phone: 729-4700
Weekdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
okaloosagas.com

Water and sewer

Niceville and adjacent unincorporated areas between Valparaiso and Rocky Bayou bridge

Niceville City Hall

Utility Billing & Finance Dept.
208 N. Partin Drive
Niceville, FL 32578
Phone: 279-6436 ext. 1100
Weekdays, 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



Public Works Dept.: 279-6436 ext. 2004
Fax: 279-6945
920 S. Cedar Ave., Bldg. B
Mon.-Thurs., 6 a.m.-5 p.m.
publicworks@niceville.org

Valparaiso

Valparaiso City Hall
465 Valparaiso Parkway
Valparaiso, FL 32580
Phone: 729-5402
Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
valp.org

Areas east of Rocky Bayou bridge to Okaloosa County line

Okaloosa Co. Water & Sewer
1804 Lewis Turner Blvd., Suite 300
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Phone: 651-7171
Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
812 James Lee Blvd.
(same bldg. as Health Dept.)
Crestview, FL 32539
Phone: 689-7922
Tues. & Thur. only, 8 a.m.-noon, 1-4 p.m.
co.okaloosa.fl.us

Villa Tasso & Choctaw Beach

North Bay Water System
112 Highway 20 West
Freeport, FL 32439
Phone: 835-2822
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
freeportflorida.gov

Garbage and other waste

Niceville city limits

Niceville City Hall

Utility Billing
208 N. Partin Dr.
Niceville, FL 32578
Phone: 279-6436 ext. 1100
Weekdays, 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
cityofniceville.org



Valparaiso city limits

Valparaiso City Hall

465 Valparaiso Parkway
Valparaiso, FL 32580
Phone: 729-5402
Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
valp.org

Unincorporated areas in Okaloosa and Walton counties

Waste Management Inc.

108 Hill Ave.
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
Phone: 850-244-3970 or 800-862-7141
Weekdays, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
wm.com

Household hazardous waste, countywide, Okaloosa County

Okaloosa County Recycling Office

Public Works
South County Public Works Yard, 2 doors down from 84 Ready Ave.
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
Phone: 301-2013
Residential - Tues.-Sat. 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
Business - By appointment. Call 609-6168
Crestview drop: 1759 S. Ferdon Blvd.
Weekdays, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. No appt. needed
co.okaloosa.fl.us (see drop listings)

Continued on page 8



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Materiales de la Universidad son disponibles en Español llamando a la Oficina de Admisiones de Northwest Florida State College al 850-729-5205.

Garbage and recycling collection

From page 7

Used motor oil dropoff

City of Niceville
 City residents only (county residents, call 651-7395)
 Public Works yard, 723 27th St., Niceville
 Phone: 279-6436 ext. 2004
 Publicworks@niceville.org
 Mon.-Thurs., 6 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Oil dropped off by appointment only.

City of Valparaiso
 600 Valastics Ave.
 Valparaiso, FL 32580
 Phone: 729-5407
 24 hour drop-off

Auto Zone
 193 E. John Sims Parkway
 Niceville, FL 32578
 Phone: 678-3881

Recycling newspapers, cans, bottles, weekly curbside pickup

All areas
 Waste Management inc.
 Phone: 862-7141 or 800-284-2451
 Weekdays, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Call for pickup schedule for your street.
 wm.com



Recycling to benefit fireworks show

All areas
 To help fund the July 4th fireworks display, donate your aluminum cans anytime in the recycling bin behind Niceville City Hall Complex 208 N. Partin Drive.



Curbside garbage pickup is the norm in the area.

Also benefiting the fireworks, the City of Valparaiso collects aluminum cans at Valparaiso City Hall, at 465 Valparaiso Parkway, open 24/7. Lewis School collects cans only at 281 Mississippi Ave., Valparaiso.

Telephone (landline)

CenturyLink
 Residential: 1-800-339-1811
 Business: 1-800-201-4102
 centurylink.com



Cable television

All areas except Valparaiso

Cox Communications
 34904 Emerald Coast Pkwy. Ste. 136
 Destin, FL Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
 850-460-7167
 99 Eglin Pkwy. Ste. 21 & 22, Ft. Walton Beach, FL Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
 850-226-6872 or 1-866-961-0027
 cox.com



Valparaiso

Valparaiso Broadband Communication Systems
 465 Valparaiso Parkway
 Valparaiso, FL 32580
 Phone: 729-5404
 Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
 valp.net

Newspapers

The Bay Beacon (weekly)
 1181 E. John Sims Parkway
 Niceville, FL 32578
 Phone: 678-1080
 Weekdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
 info@baybeacon.com

Northwest Florida Daily News (daily)
 2 Eglin Parkway NE
 Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548
 Phone: 863-1111
 Weekdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
 nwfdailynews.com



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DESTIN 850-662-3713
 7720 Hwy. 98 W., Suite 200

CRESTVIEW 850-398-8600
 120 East Redstone Ave., Suite B

Getting a car tag or a driver's license

Vehicle registration

All motor vehicles in Florida must be registered and/or titled within 30 days of becoming employed, placing children in public school, or establishing residency in Florida. Trailers 2,000 pounds or more must be registered and titled; trailers under 2,000 pounds need only to be registered. Trailers less than 2,000 pounds will need a bill of sale and certificate of origin for a new purchase. If not a new purchase, a bill of sale along with the most recent registration is required. Sales tax may be applicable. In most cases a certified weight slip is required.

The county tax collector, as an agent for the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, processes registrations and titles and collects the necessary fees.

To obtain a Florida vehicle title and registration, motorists must bring the current original vehicle title, proof of Florida insurance, all owners must be present (or provide an original power of attorney) the vehicle itself (if from out of state) and current state identification to any office of the county tax collector.

Proof of current insurance from a certified Florida agent or broker (binder, policy or card) is required to purchase and renew a license plate in Florida. The vehicle owner must present at a county tax collector's office documentation of Personal Injury Protection (PIP) in the amount of at least

\$10,000 and Property Damage Liability (PDL) insurance in the amount of \$10,000. Motorcycles, mobile homes, vessels and trailers are exempt from Florida insurance requirement.

To transfer a Florida vehicle title, the seller must complete the transfer information on the current title, including purchaser's name, the selling price and the odometer reading at the time of the sale. A bill of sale may be submitted as proof of purchase price. Sales tax will be collected if applicable. All transfers must be completed within 30 days of the date the vehicle is assigned by the seller or a late fee is levied at the time of transfer.

Active duty members of the U.S. armed forces, who are stationed in Florida, but maintain their legal residence outside of Florida, are classified as nonresident military and are eligible for reduced registration fees.

To qualify for the lower military nonresident rates, the owner must submit out of state registration in the military member's name, a copy of current military orders, and



Visit the tax collector's office to transfer vehicle titles and registration, and for driver's license services.

provide their driver license or state ID. Proof of Florida insurance is mandatory. Vehicle must be present.

Military personnel who apply for non-resident status on a vehicle will not be eligible to file for homestead exemption in Florida. Call the property appraiser's office, 651-7240, for additional information.

Local Okaloosa County Tax Collector's office and hours:

Niceville

701 E. John Sims Pkwy.

Niceville, FL 32578

Phone: 850-651-7300

Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m. Driver license services end at 3:30 p.m.

Website: OkaloosaTax.com.

There are also tax collector's offices in Crestview, Shalimar, Destin, Eglin Air Force Base, and Hurlburt Field. Florida vehicle registrations may also be renewed online at www.OkaloosaTax.com

The Walton County Tax Collector has offices in Santa Rosa Beach and DeFuniak Springs.

Driver's license

A Florida motor vehicle operator's license is required within 30 days after becoming a permanent resident of the state (i.e., children enrolled in school system, employment established, etc.). Those with a valid license from another state may get a Class E non-commercial Florida license by passing a visual exam and paying an original license fee. No written or driving test is required. The Florida license is valid for six to eight years for immigrants and U.S. citizens and up to four years for non-immigrants.

Documents required, but not limited to, are a current U.S. passport or an original U.S. birth certificate (complete chain of original legal name change documents or certified copies may be required), an out-of-state driver's license and Social Security card. In addition, two proofs of residential address are required. Examples include: a piece of mail with your address, a mortgage statement or a rental lease agreement. Utility bills will also be accepted. Call 651-7300 or visit www.GatherGoGet.com to find out the necessary documents needed.

Driver's license manuals may be downloaded from the tax collector's website at www.OkaloosaTax.com.

Available at Okaloosa County Tax Collector's offices are most services, such as original and renewal licenses, change of

Continued on page 10

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4400 Highway 20 E, Suite 201 • Niceville, FL 32578

(850) 897-3678

Register at least 29 days before election

From page 9

name or address and learner's tests. Limited driver license services are offered in Niceville, Crestview, Shalimar, Destin, and by appointment at Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field.

The Okaloosa County Tax Collector's office also offers the issuance of birth certificates for those born in Florida at all locations.

Concealed-weapons carry permit applications are processed in the Crestview and Niceville tax offices, by appointment.

Contact the Okaloosa County Tax Collector's office for a more detailed list of services offered, (850) 651-7300.

Auto insurance

Florida law requires that all automobile operators have no-fault insurance, also known as personal injury protection. Under the no-fault law, a motorist's insurance company pays for treatment of any personal injuries received as a result of an auto accident, no matter who is at fault, up to \$10,000. You must show proof of this insurance, along with property damage liability in the amount of \$10,000, to obtain automobile tags.

Boat registration

When purchasing a boat, Florida residents have 30 days to get their vessel titled and registered. Active duty non-residents

are exempt from changing their out of state vessel registration to Florida, unless the registration expires. Register at any branch of the Okaloosa County Tax Collector's office. For more information, call 651-7300.

Voter registration

Register to vote at either of the Supervisor of Elections offices located at 302 Wilson St. N, Suite 102, Crestview, or 1250 Eglin Pkwy, Ste 103 Shalimar, weekdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Call the Crestview office, 689-5600, or the Shalimar office, 651-7272, for additional information.

Forms may also be obtained at and submitted to Niceville Public Library, 206 N. Partin Drive, and at the Valparaiso Community Library, 459 Valparaiso Parkway.

Registration forms can also be completed and printed off the Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections website, govote-okaloosa.com.

Eligibility to register is defined on the form, and no witnessing or administration of an oath is required. Voters must be registered at least 29 days before an election to cast a ballot.



Register at least 29 days prior to an election to cast a ballot. Forms are available throughout the county.

Absentee voting, military and overseas voting and early voting information is available online and at the Supervisor of Elections office.

For more information, visit the Supervisor of Elections website at govote-okaloosa.com or find them on Facebook.

Employment services

—Career Source

Okaloosa/Walton, 409 N.E. Racetrack Rd., Fort Walton Beach. Weekdays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. 833-7587.

Careersourceokaloosawalton.com.

—The Northwest Florida State College Career Center, is in building 410 room 119, Niceville campus, 100 College Blvd. Weekdays, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 729-5227.

—Manpower, 1191 N. Eglin Parkway, Suite D., Shalimar. Weekdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 476-0327 or manpower.com.

—Kelly Services, 1500 Freedom Self Storage Road, Suite 4, Fort Walton Beach. Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., 664-7649 or kellyservices.com.

—Landrum HR, 73 Eglin Pkwy. NE, Ste.

110, Ft. Walton Beach. Weekdays 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 244-0026 or landrumhr.com.

Post offices

Niceville: 90 N. Palm Blvd. Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-noon. 678-2021 or 800-275-8777.

Valparaiso: 306 Edge Ave. Weekdays, 9-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9-11:30 a.m. 678-2921 or 800-275-8777

Eglin A.F.B.: 307 W. Van Matre Ave. Weekdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-12 p.m.. 882-3548 or 800-275-8777.

Libraries

Niceville Public Library, 206 N. Partin Dr., Tues. and Thurs., 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Wed. and Fri., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday. 279-6436, ext. 1500, cityofniceville.org/library.html.

Valparaiso Community Library, 459 Valparaiso Parkway, Mon., 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tues.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Saturday & Sunday. 729-5406, vcl.valp.org.

Both Niceville and Valparaiso libraries are open to residents of either city and of unincorporated areas of Okaloosa County.

Northwest Florida State College Library, Niceville campus, Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri., 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 729-5318. Hours vary on weekends and during summer term.

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4502 E. Hwy. 20, Suite A
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(850) 682-4357
866 N. Ferdon Blvd.
Crestview, FL 32536
www.cricpa.com

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

Holt Phillips Services, Inc.
(850) 897-5559
4618 Hwy. 20 E.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.holtphillips.com

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Gary Bullard, PA-C
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4592 E. Hwy. 20, Suite 3
Niceville, FL 32578
www.southcoastallergy.com

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**Twin Cities Transmission
& General Repair**
(850) 729-6629
610 Elm St.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.twincitiesautomotiverepair.com

BANKS

CCB Community Bank
(850) 279-3886
1502 E. John Sims Pkwy.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.bankccb.com

PNB
(850) 678-3110
1020 E. John Sims Pkwy.
Niceville, FL 32578
(850) 835-2143
15835 331 Business
Freeport, FL 32439
(850) 892-1035
1452 US Hwy 331 S
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
www.pnbon.com/

BOUTIQUES

Indulge!
(850) 424-7162
1538 E. John Sims Pkwy.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.facebook.com/IndulgeNiceville/

CHURCHES

First Baptist Church of Niceville
(850) 678-4621
622 Bayshore Dr.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.fbcniceville.org

Immanuel Anglican Church
(850) 837-6324
250 Indian Bayou Trail
Destin, FL 32541
www.iacdestin.org

Rocky Bayou Baptist Church
(850) 678-6062
2401 Partin Dr. N
Niceville, FL 32578
www.rockybayoubaptist.org

COLLEGES

Northwest Florida State College
(850) 729-6922
100 College Blvd.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.nwfsc.edu

DENTISTS

Gulf Coast Dental
(850) 897-9600
4566 Hwy. 20 E., Suite 108
Niceville, FL 32578
www.gulfcoastdental.net

Niceville Family Dental
Ralf P. Zapta, D.D.S.
Tyler Baker, D.M.D.
(850) 729-1223
908 S. Palm Blvd.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.nicevillefamilydentalcenter.com

FITNESS CENTERS

Bluewater Fitness
(850) 279-6767
4591 Hwy. 20 E.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.bluewaterfitness.net

FLOORING

Simpler Carpet & Tile
(850) 678-7925
209 Government Ave.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.simplercarpetandtile.com

FLORISTS

Flowers From the Heart
(850) 729-0004
410 Government Avenue, Suite EF
Valparaiso, FL 32580
www.flowersnicevillefl.com/

Katie's House of Flowers
(850) 678-7811
402 Bayshore Dr.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.nicevilleflowers.com

FUNERAL SERVICES

**McLaughlin Twin Cities
Funeral Home**
(850) 678-7768
1405 E. John Sims Pkwy.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.mclaughlintwincities.com

McLaughlin Mortuary
(850) 244-5163
17 Chestnut Ave. S.E.,
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548
www.mclaughlinmortuary.com

GOVERNMENT

City of Valparaiso
(850) 729-5402
465 Valparaiso Pkwy.
Valparaiso, FL 32580
www.Valp.org

HAIR SALONS

Ritz Salon
(850) 897-4466
4550 E. Hwy. 20, Suite E
Niceville, FL 32578
www.ritzsalonniceville.com

HEARING

EarCare Associates, Inc.
Niceville Hearing Center
(850) 678-3277
1001 W. College Blvd., Bldg. 2, Suite I
Niceville, FL 32578
www.NicevilleHearingCenter.com

Destin Hearing Center
(850) 830-0376
4012 Commons Dr. W.
Destin, FL 32541
www.NicevilleHearingCenter.com

Fort Walton Beach Hearing Center
(504) 442-6652
36 Eglin Pkwy. NE
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
www.NicevilleHearingCenter.com

Valparaiso Hearing Center
(850) 678-3277
www.ValPHearingCenter.com

HOSPITALS

Fort Walton Beach Medical Center
(850) 862-1111
1000 Mar-Walt Dr.
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547
www.fwbmc.com

Twin Cities Hospital
(850) 678-4131
2190 N. Hwy. 85
Niceville, FL 32578
www.TCHospital.com

NEW HOMES

Ruckel Properties, Inc.
(850) 678-2223
1003C E. John Sims Pkwy.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.ruckelproperties.com

NEWSPAPERS

The Bay Beacon
(850) 678-1080
1181 E. John Sims Pkwy.
Niceville, FL 32578
info@baybeacon.com

OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Eye M.D. of Niceville
(850) 760-0500
1-866-786-7773
1480 Hickory Street, Ste. 104
Niceville, FL 32578
www.eyemdofniceville.com

ORGANIZATIONS

Rocky Bayou Kiwanis Club
Grant Williams
(850) 678-3277
www.RockyBayouKiwanis.com

ORTHOPEDICS

Bluewater Orthopedics
Thomas M. Fox, DO
William J. Markowski, MD
Steven S. Donchey, MD
Bradley J. Goeke, MD
(850) 897-8081
1950 Bluewater Blvd., Suite 100
Niceville, FL 32578
(850) 398-8600
120 E. Redstone Ave., Suite B
Crestview, FL 32536
(850) 622-3713
7720 U.S. W. Hwy. 98, Suite 200
Destin, FL 32541
www.bluewaterorthopedics.com

PEDIATRICIANS

ABC Pediatrics
Luis F. Gomez, M.D., FAAP
Alberto Barbon, M.D., FAAP
Lela Stround, ARNP
Sharon Skrabacz, ARNP
(850) 729-3575
1403 Cat Mar Road
Niceville, FL 32578
(850) 689-0900
182 E. Redstone Ave., Suite B
Crestview, FL 32536
www.abcpediatricsofokaloosa.com/

PHYSICIANS

Niceville Family Practice
(850) 897-3678
4400 State Hwy. 20 E., Suite 201
Niceville, FL 32578
www.NicevilleFamilyPractice.com

REAL ESTATE

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
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1073 E. John Sims Pkwy.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.bhhspenfed.com

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1050 Bay Drive
Niceville, FL 32578

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Valparaiso, FL 32580
www.boathouselanding.com

Café Bienville
(850) 678-2233
777 John Sims Pkwy.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.cafebienville.com

Crazy Madhatters Salon De Tea
(850) 499-4432
1114 John Sims Pkwy.
Niceville, FL 32578
www.Facebook.com/CrazyMadhatters

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Niceville, FL 32578
www.pitapitusa.com

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Niceville, FL 32578
www.mid-bay.com

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Overviews of public, private schools

Niceville High School

-800 E. John Sims Pkwy., Niceville
 -nicevillehighschool.org
 -Grades: 9-12
 -Phone: 833-4114
 -Hours: 6:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m.
 -Principal: Charles Marello
 -Enrollment: 2,101
 -Staff: 155 teachers and staff
 -Booster president: Jim Evans
 -SAC chair: Philippe Miceli
 -Volunteer coordinator: Cheryl Medina (cheryl.medina@kalooschools.com)
 -Volunteers: Over 400
 -School Grade: A
 -College board average scores: ACT composite, 24.1; SAT writing 596; SAT math 589; SAT critical reading 596.
 -Highlights: 201 AP Scholars and 21 AP National Scholars, Advanced Studies Students earn up to 60 college credits, Leading Edge Information Technology Institute, Award-Winning Performing Arts Programs, and Winning Athletic Programs
 -Academic Programs: Advanced Placement, AICE program, Honors and Gifted programs, Informational Technology Institute, intensive reading and math, career readiness programs, executive internships, ESE services, credit recovery programs, art and music programs, physical education programs, foreign languages.
 -Organizations: Academic Team, Air Force Junior ROTC, Band, Chorus, Drama and Debate, Dance Team, FBLA, Forensics Team, IDEAS, Junior Classical League, Literary Guild, Math and Computer Team, NaGISA, National Honor Society, Newspaper and Yearbook, and Step Team.
 -Sports: Baseball and softball, Basketball (boys and girls), Cheerleading, Cross-country (boys and girls), Football (boys and girls) Soccer (boys and girls), Swimming (boys and girls), Tennis (boys and girls),



Collegiate High School

-100 E. College Blvd., Niceville
 (Northwest Florida State College)
 -nwcollegiatehigh.org
 -Grades: 10-12
 -Phone: 729-4949
 -Hours: 9:10 a.m.-3:10 p.m.
 -Director: Anthony Boyer
 -Enrollment: 285
 -School grade: A
 -Admission decision by application
 -Staff: 14 plus Northwest Florida State College faculty
 -This public charter high school allows students to complete their high school diploma and earn college credit simultaneously. Students participate in college classes alongside college-age students.
 -Special facilities or programs: All NWFSC student facilities are open to Collegiate High School students.
 -Collegiate HS students may participate in extracurricular activities at their home school if class schedules permit. Sports, bands, clubs: All NWFSC student organizations are open to Collegiate High students. The Collegiate High School also has its own organizations such as yearbook, student government, academic team and clubs.
 -Average college board scores: ACT composite, 25.6; SAT critical reading, 606; SAT math, 600; SAT writing, 606.



Rocky Bayou Christian School

-2 campuses: Niceville 2101 N. Partin Dr.; Crestview 951 S. Ferdon Blvd.
 -www.RBCS.org
 -Grades: K3-2
 -Phone: 729-7227
 -Hours: 8 a.m.-3:10 p.m.
 -Tours any Tuesday 9 a.m., or by appointment.
 -Superintendent: Dr. Michael Mosley
 -Enrollment: 750 students
 -Staff: 140
 -College preparatory K3-12 programs: special services certified by NILD, serves special needs students; online programs; home-school assistance; summer programs.
 -Bus services available; Florida McKay and Step up for Students scholarships accepted; dual-enrollment and AP classes taught on campus.
 -Extracurricular: Elementary school band and intramural sports. Middle and high school students may participate in a variety of bands, choirs, theater, academic clubs and inter-scholastic sports. Opportunities include jazz band, concert band, chamber choir, concert choir, praise band, football, cross-country, track, swimming, tennis, wrestling, baseball, softball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, golf, cheerleading, weightlifting, drama, chapel, missions, Junior Classical League, academic team, Leadership Trek, Beta Club, Spanish, robotics, math club and FCA.
 -College board exam average scores: ACT composite, 24.5; SAT 1198
 -\$3,585,550 in college scholarships offered to most recent seniors.



Ruckel Middle School

-201 N. Partin Drive, Niceville
 -ruckelmiddleschool.com
 -Grades: 6-8
 -Phone: 833-4142
 -Fax: 883-3291
 -Hours: 7:45 a.m.-2:20 p.m.
 -Principal: Paul Whiddon
 -Enrollment: 1190 students
 -Staff: 87 faculty and staff
 -School grade: A
 -PTO president: Tanya Warden
 -SAC chair: Garrett Floyd
 -More than 500 volunteers
 -Course offerings: Remediation, regular, advanced and gifted core classes.
 -Courses for high school credit: Introduction to Information Technology, Web Design, Algebra I Honors, Geometry Honors, Physical Science Honors and Spanish 1.
 -Elective offerings: Band, Chorus, 2D & 3D Art, Physical Education, Physical Fitness, Spanish, Introduction to Information Technology, Web Design, Digital Art & Design, 6th grade research classes (Italian, Spanish, Computers, Art), STEM, Critical Thinking.
 -Special facilities or programs: Mobile and regular computer labs, mobile Chromebook and iPad labs, STEM class, Junior Student 2 Student (JS2S) Ambassadors, Science Fair, Success Center (afterschool tutoring)
 -Sports: Football, cross-country, baseball, softball, volleyball, track, basketball, golf, tennis, soccer, swimming, cheerleading and dance team, Majorettes.
 -Arts: Football band, concert/symphonic band, jazz band, ambassadors select chorus, girls audition chorus, grade 5 band, majorettes, 2D and 3D art classes.
 -Clubs: Math Counts, National Junior Honor Society, Multicultural Club, Academic Team, Yearbook, Chess Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Odyssey of the Mind, Builders Club, Debate Team



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Local schools awarded high marks

Bluewater Elementary School

-4545 Range Road, Niceville
 -okaloosaschools.com/bluewater
 -Grades: Pre-K through 5
 -Phone: 833-4240
 -Fax: 833-4232
 -Hours: 8:50 a.m.-3:20 p.m.
 -Principal: Amy Klugh
 -Enrollment: 975 students
 -Staff: 90 (faculty and staff)
 -School grade: A
 -Full-time counselor
 -Sports, music programs, yearbook clubs, Student Council (grades 3-5), Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Full time music and art program, Italian, Mobymax, Young Astronauts Club, Camp Invention and art summer camps, Safety Patrol.
 -Full-time immersion class for gifted students in grades 1 through 5.
 -Daycare hours: 6:00-8:45 a.m., 3:15-6 p.m. Daycare coordinator: Gina White
 -PTO president: Tracy Haas
 -Volunteer coordinator: Martha Watts
 -350 volunteers. Received Golden School Award for volunteer program.
 -Consistently scores in the top 10 percent of all tested Florida schools. A school for 17 years in a row.



Edge Elementary School

-300 N. Highway 85, Niceville
 -www.okaloosaschools.com/m/edge/
 -Phone: 833-4138
 -Hours: 8:20 a.m.-2:50 p.m.
 -Principal: Samantha Dawson
 -Enrollment: 640 students
 -Staff: 65 (faculty and staff)
 -School grade: A
 -PTO president: Jessica Isabell and Daphne Fay
 -SAC chairperson: Dr. Tom Gilbar
 -Volunteer coordinator: Maria Lewis
 -400+ volunteers
 -Sports, band, clubs: chorus, K-Kids, and Safety Patrol.
 -Gifted classes, speech occupational therapy, physical therapy.
 -Closed circuit TV studio, computer lab.
 -Mentor, tutoring programs, quarterly awards program (academics and character).



Plew Elementary School

-220 Pine Ave., Niceville
 -www.okaloosaschools.com/plew/
 -Grades Pre-K through 5
 -Phone: 833-4100
 -Hours: 8:20 a.m.-2:45 p.m.
 -Principal: Carolyn McAllister
 -Enrollment: 798 students
 -Staff: 65 teachers
 -School grade: A
 -Full time guidance counselor
 -Full time music and art teacher
 -Junior deputies
 -Member of Niceville Chamber of Commerce
 -Chorus, Young Astronauts (5th), Knowledge Masters, Mile Club, Oval Art, Smiley Math, Accelerated Reader, Accelerated Math, Robotics, Evening of the Arts, Team Alpha, gifted program, 4th & 5th grade chorus, Character Counts.
 -PLA: Marisela Plante, President
 -SAC chair: Marcy Spitznagel
 -Daycare coordinator: Sherri Cadenhead
 -Volunteer coordinator: Crystal Campbell
 -350 volunteers
 -Day care hours: 6:30-8:05 a.m., 2:50-6 p.m.
 Summer day care hours: 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Lewis School

-281 Mississippi Ave., Valparaiso
 -www.okaloosaschools.com/lewis
 -Grades: K-8
 -Phone: 833-4130
 -Hours: 7:30 a.m.-2:05 p.m.
 -Principal: Mike Fantaski
 -Enrollment: 715 students
 -Staff: 100 teachers and staff
 -School grade: A
 -200 volunteers
 -Special facilities or programs: art suite, technology, girls' varsity complex, soccer, baseball, softball complex, band suite, air-conditioned gym and wellness room, exceptional education, television studio, networked and Internet-accessible computer lab.
 -Sports: cross-country, volleyball, football, basketball, soccer, golf, tennis, softball, baseball, track, cheerleading, dance team, summer sports. Many opportunities for fifth and sixth graders.
 -Programs: Encore fine arts program including marching band and symphonic band, beginning band, jazz band, select chorus, show choir, advanced art, Web design, Spanish, television/radio/multi-media production. Accelerated, meritorious and enhancement courses in all grade levels. Intensive reading, writing and math, talented and gifted, high school credit courses.
 -Co-curricular activities: National Junior Honor Society, Sign Language Club, academic team, and yearbook.



Destin Middle School

-4608 Legendary Marina Drive, Destin
 -www.okaloosaschools.com/destinms
 -Grades: 5-8
 -Phone: 833-7655
 -Hours: 9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.
 -Principal: Grant Meyer
 -Enrollment: 750
 -Staff: 59
 -School grade: A
 -SAC Chair: Dana Chandler
 -Volunteer coordinator: Kim Stanford
 -Special facilities or programs: emphasis in technology and fine arts (band, dance, media production, tumbling, Spanish, visual arts, graphic art and design), "School of Choice" for Bluewater community, football stadium, lighted fields, weight room with state-of-the-art fitness equipment, two networked Internet-accessible computer labs, tech lab, art studio, air-conditioned gym, certified counselor, accelerated math.
 -Sports: cross-country, volleyball, football, basketball, soccer, swimming, tennis, softball, baseball, track, golf.
 -Programs: cheer/dance team, tumbling, band, academic team, Builders Club, yearbook, Knowledge Masters, art exhibit, Beta Club, state science fair finalists, jazz band, marching band, symphonic band, beginning and intermediate band, algebra, web design, algebra for high school credit, biology, Intro to IT for high school credit, anti-bullying campaign, gifted/advanced courses, community mentoring program, Interact Club.



Hearing information available at no charge at The Valparaiso Hearing Center in Valparaiso, FL



The brochures above are available at no charge from The Valparaiso Hearing Center in Valparaiso, FL. Just call 850-678-3277 to reserve your copy.

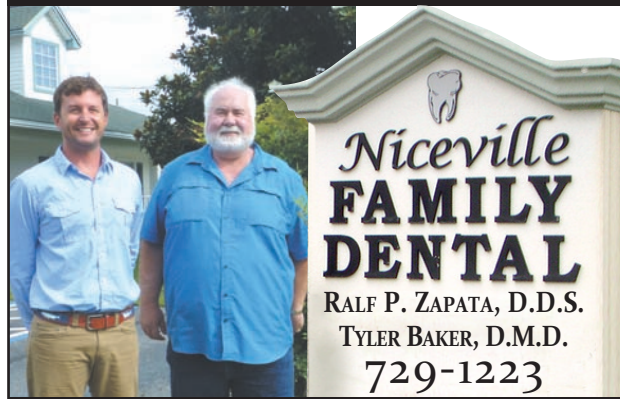
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Portraits of Twin Cities schools

Okaloosa STEMM Academy

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 –379 Edge Ave., Valparaiso
 –www.okaloosaschools.com/STEMM
 –School grade: A
 –Grades: 6-8 & PreK
 –Principal: Wanda Avery
 –Phone: 833-4120
 –Fax: 833-4177
 –Hours: 7:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m.
 –Enrollment: 285 students
 –Staff: 32 (faculty and staff)
 –#1 school of all schools in Florida on the state ELA, Math and Science Assessments.
 –13 STEMM students qualified for the state science fair.
 –Teams/Clubs-robotics: Odyssey of the Mind, Math Counts, Academic Team, Beta Club, Chess Club, Students In Action.
 –Advanced & H.S. credit in core classes w/electives in the following: 3D, Engineering, Aviation, Robotics, Biomed/Forensics, Digital Art & Design, Technical Theater, Creative Writing and Speech & Debate.



Beauty Careers Training Center

–864 John Sims Pkwy. Niceville, FL
 –beautyschoolsokaloosa.com
 –Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tues.-Sat.
 –Post secondary school
 –Phone: 850-678-5176
 –Director: Cee Cee Sidler
 –Enrollment: 25
 –Staff: 4
 –Programs: Cosmetology, an eight-month, 1,200-clock-hour program of study designed to prepare the student for state licensure and employment in the areas of hair, nail and skin care.
 –Licensed by: Commission for Independent Education, Florida Dept. of Education.
 –Purpose: To ensure that all students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to be employed in the beauty profession.
 –Approved for veterans training and MyCAA.



Eglin Elementary School

–200 Gaffney Road, Eglin AFB
 –okaloosaschools.com/eglin
 –K-4th grade
 –Phone: 833-4320
 –Hours: 8:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m.
 –Principal: Dennis Samac
 –Enrollment: 523
 –Staff: 60
 –School grade: A
 –150 volunteers
 –Accelerated Reader Program
 –Gifted education K-4
 –Mentor program
 –Reading, math and writing remediation
 –State-of-the-art science lab



Freeport Elementary School

–15381 331 Business, Freeport
 –fes.walton.k12.fl.us/
 –Grades: Pre-K-4
 –Phone: 892-1211
 –Hours: 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 –Principal: Kristin Lewis
 –Enrollment: 756
 –Staff: 87
 –School grade: C
 –Volunteer coordinator: Laurie Langford
 –PTO president: Margaret Aresco
 –Mascot: Wildcats
 –Special programs: gifted, accelerated reading, FES Student Council, music, art, Positive Behavior System, Sophisticats, Safety Patrol, First Lego League and Jr. Lego League, Odyssey of the Mind



Freeport High School

–12615 Business Hwy. 331, Freeport
 –Grades: 9-12
 –Phone: 892-1201
 –Hours: 7:40 a.m.-2:40 p.m.
 –Principal: Tripp Hope
 –Enrollment: 470
 –School grade: A
 –Faculty and staff: 48
 –SIP Chair: Jennifer Burnham
 –Volunteer specialist and volunteer coordinator: Donna Simmons
 –Counselor: Jessica Obert
 –Special programs: Various dual enrollment classes, DCT, teacher assisting program, Web design, AP classes, engineering classes and business computer classes, FCAT remediation and grade retrieval programs.
 –Extra-curricular programs: Band, baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross-country, football, golf, soccer, softball, track, volleyball, tennis, weightlifting, academic team, yearbook, Ambassador Program, Anchor Club, Youth for Christ, History Club, National Honor Society, newspaper.



Freeport Middle School

–360 Kyle Laird Drive, Freeport
 –fms.walton.k12.fl.us
 –Hours: 7:27 a.m.-2:25 p.m.
 –Grades: 5-8
 –Phone: 892-1221
 –Principal: Joshua Harrison
 –Enrollment: 498
 –School grade: B
 –Staff: teachers 32; staff 24
 –School grade: B
 –SIT chair: Mary Job
 –Programs: Academic Team, Drama Club, TV Productions, 5 computer labs, Youth for Christ, after school tutoring as needed, Student council, Yearbook and Clear Touch in each class.
 –Sports: lighted football field, air-conditioned gym, girls volleyball, basketball, soccer and softball, boys baseball, basketball, soccer and football, cheer leading, boys and girls cross country, and boys and girls golf.
 –Also offered are beginning band, advanced band, art.



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Many attractions within easy reach

Beacon Staff

One of the most common questions asked by newcomers (and many old-timers too) is: What's there to do around here?

Happily, there is no shortage of answers.

Following are top attractions within a two-hour drive of the Niceville-Valparaiso area, except where noted. Area codes are 850 unless otherwise indicated.

Niceville

Turkey Creek Walk

-20-acre conservation area. 1-mile nature boardwalk, swimming holes, picnic pavilions. City provides free rides for seniors and handicapped. Free.

-South end: W. John Sims Pkwy. at Evans Street, Niceville. North end: off College Blvd. west of Highway 85 North.

-Daily, 6:30 a.m.-dark.

-279-6436 or 685-9405 for rides; cityofniceville.org/271/Turkey-Creek-Park.

Niceville Children's Park

-One-acre playground, picnic pavilions, seasonal sprinkler. Free.

-204 N. Partin Dr., next to Civic Center.

-Wednesday-Sunday. Hours vary.

-279-6436 ext. 1402 or 642-7457; cityofniceville.org/245/Childrens-Park



Lions Park is a great spot for picnics, relaxing with friends and family and taking a stroll along the Boggy Bayou. It is also the site of the annual Boggy Bayou fireworks show held on the 4th of July.

Lions Park

-Two-acre park on Boggy Bayou, boat ramps, pavilions. Free.

-Bayshore Dr., Niceville.

-279-6436 or cityofniceville.org

Youth Center

-Five-acre skate park with ramps, skate track, observation area. No fee, helmet

required (rentals available). Bikes, skateboards and in-line skates welcome. Ages 6 and older.

-200 Campbell Drive off North Palm Blvd.

-Thursday-Sunday, 1 p.m.-8 p.m.

-279-6436 ext.3005 or cityofniceville.org/275/Youth-Center

Rocky Bayou State Park

-357-acre state park. Picnic area, playground, camping, boat ramp, kayak and canoe rentals, nature trails. Fee.

-4281 Hwy. 20, east of Rocky Bayou.

-8 a.m.-sunset daily.

-833-9144 or floridastateparks.org.

Eglin Reservation

-250,000 acres for recreational use, biking, hiking, camping, hunting, fishing.

-Annual permit required (fee); maps.

-Eglin Natural Resources office, 107 Highway 85 N., Niceville.

-Monday-Saturday. Hours vary.

-882-4165

White Point Recreation Area

-74-acre bayfront park on Eglin Reservation. Swimming, fishing, picnic tables. Eglin recreation permit required (annual fee).

-White Point Rd., northwest of Mid-Bay Bridge.

-Eglin Natural Resources office, 107 Highway 85 N., Niceville.

-Monday-Saturday. Hours vary.

-882-4164

Niceville Public Library

-Youth services, story time, reference, large print collection, books, magazines,

Continued on page 18

Internal Medicine Specializing in Allergy, Asthma, Immune & Thyroid Disease

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Grant Williams

Forty years ago, a compassionate, community-minded young man joined Kiwanis in Louisiana and became a member of a new Club in that area, the Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club. His main reason for joining at the time was the fact that he was a single parent of a young son. He wanted his son to be in the company of fine, outstanding men...KIWANIAN!! He is still a member of that Kiwanis Club!!

During his Kiwanis years, Grant has held every Kiwanis Club office during his membership in Dawn Busters Kiwanis and Niceville-Valparaiso Club. During his years as a "Dawn Buster" he was awarded Distinguished Lt. Governor for the LAMISSTENN District.

He has received numerous awards during his Kiwanis years, including the Walter Zeller award under The Eliminate Project, a project to raise funds to eliminate tetanus throughout the world. \$1.80 for one vaccine can save a baby and mother from tetanus and death.

As the President of the newly established Rocky Bayou Kiwanis Club, he is still carrying on the mission of Kiwanis International...LOVE IT, LIVE IT, and SHARE IT! Our Club is looking forward to accomplishing great things during the upcoming years. Kiwanis empowers people at every stage of life to become competent, capable, and confident. Young and old leaders learn new ways to change the world by serving...ONE CHILD AND ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME.

If you would like to be a part of this Kiwanis Organization, come join us at the Rocky Bayou Country Club each Tuesday at 11:07 a.m. Visit our website at: RockyBayouKiwanis.com.

First Baptist Church of Niceville

Worship and Bible Studies- Sunday at 9:00 and 10:30 AM

Believe in Jesus

Belong to God's Family

Become who He created you to be

Connect with us on Facebook @firstbaptistniceville or visit www.fbcniceville.org

622 Bayshore Drive 850.678.4621

Taking your time to explore the area

From page 17

study areas, DVDs, music CDs, books on CD, Internet access.

-206 N. Partin Dr.

-Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed Sunday & Monday.

-279-4863 ext. 1500 or

cityofniceville.org/169/Library

Mattie Kelly Arts Center Gallery NW Florida State College

-Changing exhibits.

-100 College Blvd., Niceville

-Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Also open 90 minutes prior to most Mainstage and Sprint Theater events. Free.

-729-6000 or mattiekellyartscenter.org

Eglin Golf Course

-36-hole course.

-1527 Fairway Drive off Hwy. 85 N.

-Hours vary.

-Open to DoD cardholders and guests.

-882-2949 for tee times or

eglingolf.com

Eagle Ram Tennis Center

-7 court facility on Ruckel Middle School property. Usage subject to availability with school functions having priority.

-Corner of Palm Blvd. and Partin Dr.

-Open daily outside of school hours from 8 a.m. to dark. Calendar posted on information board at the courts has monthly activity schedule.

-833-4142

Valparaiso

Lincoln Park

-6.5-acre park on Boggy Bayou. Boat ramp, swimming, pavilions, playground.

-North Bayshore Dr., Valparaiso.

-Sun up to sun set daily. Boat launching and recovery anytime.

-729-5402 or valp.org

-Check water quality before swimming.

Florida Park

-3.45-acre park on Boggy Bayou. Swimming, pavilions.

-South Bayshore Dr., Valparaiso.

-Sunup to sunset daily. Boat launching and recovery, as well as pier fishing.

-City offices, 729-5402 or valp.org

Continued on page 19

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850-835-2143



1452 US Hwy. 331 S, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
850-892-1035

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Hit the beaches for sun and swim

From page 18

T-Pier Park

–Fishing pier on Toms Bayou off south end of Bayshore Drive North. Free. Parking.

Valparaiso Community Library

–More than 41,000 items, books, reference materials, DVDs, VHS videos and music CDs. One of the largest genealogy collections in Fla. Panhandle.

–Children's area and 18 public computers with Internet access.

–459 Valparaiso Pkwy.

–Mon., 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Tues.,-Thurs., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday 9-5 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.

–729-5406 or vcl.valp.org

Heritage Museum of NW Fla.

–Exhibits show region's history. Fee.

–115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso.

–Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

–678-2615 or heritage-museum.org

Bluewater Bay

Bluewater Bay Golf Resort

–Three 9-hole courses.

–Open to the public, driving range, golf memberships.

–2000 Bluewater Blvd.

–Times vary.

–Golf shop, 897-3241. Sports bar, 897-2583 or bwbresort.com



Northwest Florida's snow-white beaches and emerald-green waters are a short drive from the Niceville-Valparaiso area.

Bluewater Bay Marina

–Beach area, boat slips, restaurant, Ship store and tackle store, fishing & hunting licenses offered.

–290 Yacht Club Dr., Bluewater Bay

–Open daily, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., standard time (to 6 p.m. daylight saving time).

–897-2821 or bluewaterbaymarina.com

Bluewater Bay swimming

–Recreation Services sells swim memberships to Bluewater Bay pools.

–1050 Bay Dr., Bluewater Bay

–Seasonal hours. Call ahead for details.

–897-3664

Bluewater Bay Tennis Center

–12 lighted clay courts.

–777 Bay Dr., Bluewater Bay

–Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.;

Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

–897-8010 or bluewatertennis.com

Destin

Destin History and Fishing Museum

–Artifacts and photos illustrating the history of Destin's fishing industry. Fee.

–108 Stahlman Ave., Destin

–Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Sundays & Mondays.

–837-6611 or destinhistoryandfishing-museum.org.

Destin Army Recreation Area

–15-acre beach resort for DoD card-holders.

–Hotel, RV sites, community center, 300-foot fishing pier, marina, rental equipment, charter fishing, pool, playgrounds.

–557 Calhoun Ave., Destin.

–Marina: Hours are seasonal.

–benningmwr.com or 837-6423.

Henderson Beach State Park

–208-acre state park on the Gulf of Mexico. Beach, camping, pavilions, playground, A.D.A. accessible. Fee.

–17000 Emerald Coast Pkwy., Destin.

–8 a.m.-sunset daily.

–837-7550 or floridastateparks.org

James Lee Park

–Gulf-front park in Destin. Beach, pavilions, swimming, restrooms. Free.

–3510 Scenic Hwy. 98, Destin.

–Open daily dawn to dusk.

–689-5772 or

co.okaloosa.fl.us/pw/parks/james-lee

The Track Family Recreation

–Go-karts, bumper boats, mini golf, kids games, arcade, bungee jumping. Fee.

Continued on page 20

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Making memories close to home

From page 19

- 1125 Highway 98, E., Destin.
- Hours vary. Call ahead or visit website.
- 850-654-4668 or destintrack.com
- Big Kahuna's Water Park**
- 25-acre park with 40+ play areas, mini-golf, go-karts. Fee.
- 1007 Highway 98 East, Destin
- Hours vary. See park calendar for dates and times.
- 837-8319 or bigkahunas.com

Okaloosa Island

John Beasley Park

- 25-acre park on Okaloosa Island. Swimming, pavilions, restrooms. Free.
- Highway 98, Fort Walton Beach.
- 1 hr. before sunrise-1 hr. after sunset.
- 689-5772 or
- co.okaloosa.fl.us/pw/parks/john-beasley

Okaloosa Island Fishing Pier

- 1,262-foot fishing pier, pole rentals, bait & tackle, snacks & beverages. Fees.

- 1030 Miracle Strip Pkwy., Ft. Walton Beach.

- Hours vary. Call or visit website.
- 244-1023 or okaloosaislandpier.net

Eglin Beach Park

- (DoD ID required.)
- Gulf beach on Okaloosa Island just west of the Destin bridge.
- Hours vary.
- Open to all DoD personnel with proper ID—all ranks, retirees, family members, civilian personnel (including all federal employees regardless of duty station) and federal facility contractors—and their guests.

- Four large pavilions, central deck area, two sets of restrooms with showers, and access to the Gulf.

- April through October, admission fee is \$3 per vehicle weekdays and \$5 per vehicle weekends/holidays. Pavilions are available for reservation by calling 883-1243.

- Eglin Outdoor Recreation: 850-882-5058. www.eglinlife.com

Gulfarium

- Live dolphin shows, marine animal demonstrations and interactions. Fee.
- 1010 Miracle Strip Pkwy. Okaloosa Island.
- Daily 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., admission closes at 4:30 p.m.
- 243-9046 or gulfarium.com

Fort Walton Beach

Heritage Park & Cultural Center

- Indian Temple Mound Museum. Fee.
- Camp Walton Schoolhouse, Garnier Post Office, Civil War exhibits. Fee.
- 127 & 139 Miracle Strip Pkwy. SE, FWB
- Days and hours vary. Check website or call for current times.
- 833-9595 or fwfb.org/museums

Emerald Coast Science Center

- Hands-on science museum. Fee.
- 31 S.W. Memorial Parkway., Fort Walton Beach.
- Monday-Saturday 10a.m.-4p.m. Closed Sunday,
- 664-1261 or ecscience.org

Fort Walton Skating Center

- Roller rink with snack bar.
- 202 Racetrack Road NW, Fort Walton Beach.
- Specializes in birthday parties and has roller and in-line skates for sale.
- Hours vary, call for times. 863-1223.

Goofy Golf

- Mini golf, two 18-hole courses. Fee.
- 401 Eglin Pkwy NE. FWB
- Hours seasonal. Call.
- 862-4922 or goofygolffwb.com

Continued on page 21

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NEWCOMER MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

Recreation Services, Inc. located in Bluewater Bay, is offering a great membership special. Join the swimming pool membership from now until Feb. 15, 2019, and receive a 50% discount on the enrollment fee! Membership includes 3 pools (1 heated and open year round). We also offer water aerobics, swimming lessons and facility rental for special occasions.

Present this ad & get 50% OFF ENROLLMENT

Recreation Services, Inc. office is located at 1050 Bay Drive (Bay Drive Pool). For more information call 897-3664.

BOAT & RV STORAGE AVAILABLE

Swim membership and storage facilities are not exclusive to Bluewater Bay Residents. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN!**

Attractions within a two-hour drive

From page 20

Shalimar

Air Force Armament Museum

-More than 1,500 artifacts on exhibit, armament, aircraft. Gift shop. Free.
 -100 Museum Dr., Eglin AFB.
 -Monday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
 Closed Sundays & federal holidays.
 -882-4062 or afarmamentmuseum.com

North Okaloosa County

Baker Block Museum

-Living history museums showcasing local history. Free.
 -1307 Georgia Ave., intersection of Route 189 and Highway 4 in Baker.
 -Tuesday-Friday and every third Saturday, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 -537-5714 or bakerblockmuseum.org.

Blackwater River State Park

-600 acres, 30 campsites. Pavilions, trails, fishing, swimming. Fee.
 -7720 Deaton Bridge Rd, Holt.
 -8 a.m.-sunset year-round.
 -983-5363 or floridastateparks.org

Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge

Zoological Park, Crestview
 -10 acre zoo with 130+ animals. Fee.
 -5262 Deer Springs Dr., off Hwy. 90, 8 miles east of Crestview near Mossy Head.
 -Tuesday-Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



The Niceville Children's Park, a year-round attraction, offers a place to cool off in summer.

Closed Monday, Thanksgiving and Christmas
 -682-3949 or emeraldcoastzoo.com

Walton County

Alaqua Animal Refuge

-No kill facility on 10 acres. Tours available. Free entrance.

-914 Whitfield Rd. Freeport
 -Daily 12 p.m.-5 p.m., Last tour 4:30p.m.

Grayton Beach Recreation Area

-Nearly 2,000-acre state park on the Gulf of Mexico. Beach, nature trails, boat ramp, fishing, camping, picnic area. Fee.

-357 Main Park Rd., Hwy. 30-A, Grayton Beach
 -8 a.m.-sunset daily.
 -267-8300 or floridastateparks.org

Deer Lake State Park

-172 acres of beach and lake area, east of Seagrove Beach off Hwy. 30-A.
 -1,700 acres of hiking trails through native vegetation, hiking, picnic tables, swimming, beaches, fishing. Fee.
 -8 a.m.-sunset daily.
 -267-8300 or floridastateparks.org

Topsail Hill State Park

-1,640 acres with 3.2 miles of beach. Campsite, cottage rentals, fishing, trails, bicycling, pavilions, swimming. Fee.
 -7525 Hwy. 30-A, Santa Rosa Beach
 -8 a.m.-sunset daily.
 -267-8330. Reservations: 800-326-3521 or floridastateparks.org/topsailhill

Seaside

-This small, planned beach community in Walton County gives a sense of an old-fashioned Southern town. Restaurants, shops, art galleries. "The Truman Show" was filmed in Seaside.
 -County Road 30-A in Walton County.
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Continued on page 22

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Many things to do here and elsewhere

From page 21

Eden State Gardens

- 163-acre. Gardens, fishing, historic mansion, boating, picnic area. Fee.
- 181 Eden Gardens Road, Santa Rosa Beach.
- 8 a.m.-sunset daily.
- 267-8320 or floridastateparks.org

Panhandle Opry

- Live country music from local bands.
- 657 Deshoza Rd., Crestview.
- Shows every first and third Saturday, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Fee.
- 892-4050 or panhandleopry.net

Chautauqua Vineyard & Winery

- 40-acre vineyard, fall grape harvest. Free wine tasting daily.
- 364 Hugh Adams Rd., DeFuniak Springs.
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.
- 892-5887 or chautauquawinery.com

Arnett's Gulfside Farm & Stables

- 20-acre horse ranch. Horses available for any age or ability. Picnic area and camping. Fee.
- 613 County Highway 393 S. Santa

Rosa Beach.

- 208-3114 or gulfsidetrailrides.com
- Jolee Island/Baytowne Wharf**
- Jolee Island: five acres, playground, hiking trail, picnic area
- Baytowne Wharf: activities, shops, restaurants, entertainment.
- Admission to both is free
- Hwy. 98 east of Destin to Sandestin. Turn on Sandestin Blvd.
- 267-8000 or baytownewharf.com

Santa Rosa County

Gulf Breeze Zoo

- 5701 Gulf Breeze Pkwy.
- Opens daily at 9 a.m.. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Fee.
- 932-2229 or gulfbreezozoo.org

Panhandle Butterfly House

- View over 300 butterfly specimens.
- 8581 Navarre Parkway, Navarre
- Admission fee by donation
- Open Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., May-August. Monarch Madness annually in October. Call ahead for availability.
- 623-3868 or panhandlebutterfly-house.org.

678-6062 www.rockybayoubaptist.org

Gathered Worship
10:15 am

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Grant Williams, HAS, HIS, ACA, AudioProsthologist and Owner of EarCare Associates, Inc. believes that military veterans who have paid the price of hearing loss related to military service deserve the best possible solution to their hearing problems. Don't wait to get help for tinnitus or other hearing problems. Schedule a visit with Valparaiso Hearing Center to find out how to start the process to help you hear and understand what you've been missing. A complete audiometric hearing evaluation and product demonstration will be provided at no charge to all Veterans. **Give us a call now to schedule your hearing evaluation.**



Are you a Military Veteran? Ask us how we can help you today!

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www.NicevilleHearingCenter.com

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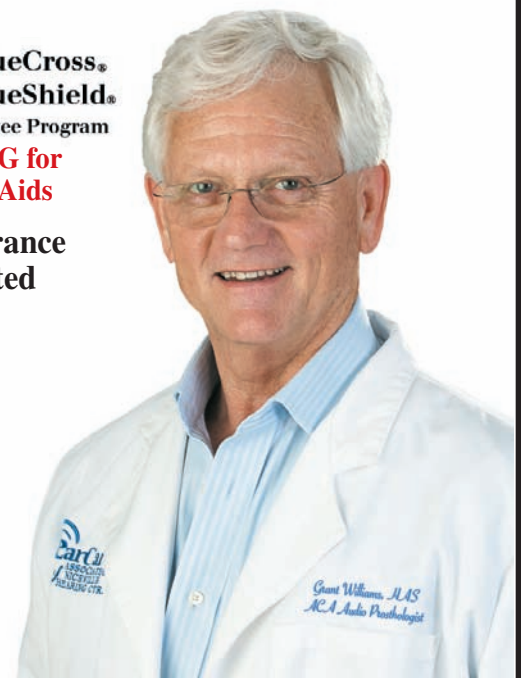
The founders of our company started in a kiosk on Eglin Air Force Base in 1978. We've been leading the way in helping people experience healthier hearing lives. We're a locally owned independent (not a franchise), full-service hearing healthcare company. We SERVICE and SELL most major brands of hearing aids.

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