

# The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-3

8 Pages, 1 Section, 4 Inserts

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

50¢

## Niceville youth council seeks wider membership

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

Members of Niceville's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) agreed to broaden the rules for membership in their organization, in an effort to make membership more inclusive for high school students in the Niceville area.

The YAC is a youth organization that parallels the functions and procedures of the adult, elected Niceville City Council. The group usually has five voting members, as well as an unspecified number of nonvoting members who take part in community service projects and

other activities sponsored by the YAC, but do not vote during meetings.

The stated mission of the YAC is to "provide a voice for youth in the City of Niceville and establish a direct medium for civic involvement among this group. The council is meant

Please see YOUTH, page A-2



Niceville Youth Advisory Council member Martin Bouldo, left, speaks to a potential applicant for council membership.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

## 'He is risen'



Christians in the Twin Cities and worldwide will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday with many church services, including an ecumenical sunrise service at Lincoln Park, Valparaiso, at 6:15 a.m.

Beacon photos

## City charter review panel winds up

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

The Niceville Charter Review Committee held its final meeting April 9, ending its three-month life with mostly minor recommendations for change in the city's foundational document.

The group of volunteers appointed by the Niceville City Council has been meeting since January to discuss how the charter might be brought up to date, and what changes, if any, should be made to improve governance of the city.

During one of the review committee's first meetings, City Clerk Dan Doucet noted that the charter is the basic document that defines the organization, functions and essential procedures of the city government. The committee was to study the charter and recommend any changes which, if also approved by the city council, would be put before the citizens of Niceville for a vote. The current charter dates from 1983, successor to one written when the city was founded in 1938.

On April 9, the review committee voted to recommend that proposed ordinances or amendments be read and approved during two city council meetings, rather than the currently required three meet-

Please see CHARTER, page A-6



The Niceville Charter Review Committee completed its work April 9.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

## Funds sought to rehab homes

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

The city of Niceville will apply for a grant of up to \$700,000 from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, to continue its Community Development Block Grant program to replace or fix up substandard housing in Niceville.

During the April 9 meeting of the Niceville City Council, consultant Dennis Dingman briefed council members on the next cycle of grant applications for the federal-state program. He said the city is eligible to apply for up to \$700,000 in U.S. grant money, for which the city must provide \$50,000 in matching funds.

He said the money would be sufficient to replace or rehabilitate up to 10 dwellings within Niceville.

Please see FUNDS, page A-2

## Cops switch to digital radios

By Mike Griffith  
*Beacon Correspondent*

Niceville police officers are now using a digital two-way radio system, replacing a previous, outdated, 20-year-old analog system, according to Police Chief Dave Popwell. Although the new system may make it more difficult, but not impossible, for civilians to listen to police communications via scanners, the advantages of the new system include greater



Niceville Police Sgt. Waylon Gill demonstrates the use of one of Niceville's new digital radios. The main part of the small radio is shown at Gill's right, below the computer screen.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Please see DIGITAL, page A-5



## Last Doolittle Raider is gone

Richard E. Cole, last survivor of the 80 Doolittle Raiders who struck America's first blow against WWII Japan, died in San Antonio, Texas, on April 9. He was 103. Cole (second from right in crew photo) was copilot for Col. Jimmy Doolittle, leader of the daring mission that sent 15 carrier-launched U.S. bombers over Japan in April 1942. The airmen trained at Eglin Field for the top-secret mission. Inset, Cole during a visit to Northwest Florida March 3.

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## THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

### What does Easter mean to you?

Niceville farmer's market



"The resurrection of Jesus, and spending time with family."  
Rachel Lee, 26, Niceville, stay-home mom



"For me personally, I don't have a problem with the religious side, but it's more about getting together with my family for Sunday dinner."  
Joe Migliorino, Fort Walton Beach, CBD retailer



"We celebrate Jesus' resurrection."  
Alisia Hunter, 29, Crestview, nanny



"It's a wonderful holiday. Jesus died and rose again on Easter Sunday."  
Wendy Cahill, 50, Crestview, self-employed



"It's all about the risen Christ."  
Shirlon St. Armour, 39, Port St. Lucie, social worker



"It's for the kids - all about eggs and bunnies. When our kids get older, we'll let them know where Easter derives from, as far as the Christian religion."  
Chalon Pittman, 36, Crestview, military



"It's about finding eggs."  
Will Lear, 7, Niceville, Plew Elementary School student

## YOUTH

From page A-1

to represent the diverse youth population in Niceville."

Prior to the YAC's April 9 meeting, membership requirements for voting members were:

—Live within city limits of Niceville

—Attend Niceville High School, Rocky Bayou Christian School, Collegiate High School, Florida Virtual School (or other online school), or be home-schooled.

—Preparing to enter grades 9 through 12 in the fall of the current year.

—Have a grade point average of at least 2.25.

Requiring YAC members to live within Niceville city limits was intended to parallel the eligibility requirements for adult elected members of the city council, said Councilman Sal Nodjomian, the adult advisor to the YAC.

During the meeting, however, YAC members recommended opening voting membership to

students who live anywhere within the 32578 ZIP Code, as long as they meet the other requirements. The city council approved the recommendation later that evening.

Member Martin Bouldo said the expanded eligibility would make it easier to recruit members, and will make the YAC "more inclusive."

Bouldo and YAC Chair Katie Lightfoot said that the Niceville community includes "patches" of unincorporated areas, such as East Niceville and Bluewater Bay, which are not within the city limits, but in which students have an interest in the well-being of Niceville, and may want to participate in a youth organization that models the function of an elected city council, but have no opportunity to join such an organization in the places where they live.

Following the meeting, a reporter asked YAC members whether students who live in Valparaiso, but who also attend local high schools, would be eligible for Niceville YAC mem-

bership under the new rule. Bouldo said they would not, but that the YAC is open to considering such membership if students from Valparaiso suggest it. Valparaiso has no youth advisory council reporting to the city commission.

About 13 potential recruits for the Youth Advisory Council attended Tuesday's meeting. They received applications for membership, observed the YAC meeting, and chatted with current YAC members and with Niceville City Councilman Sal Nodjomian, the adult advisor to the YAC. None of the potential recruits at the meeting raised the issue of membership for students from Valparaiso.

According to the city of Niceville website, "All those interested in joining the Niceville Youth Advisory Council should fill out the application (PDF) and submit it to the City Clerk, Mr. Dan Doucet. His office is located in the Niceville City Complex."

"Five youth members will be selected from the group of appli-

cants. This coincides with the five city council members. Each city council member will select one applicant to sit in the youth advisory council."

Students selected for membership in the YAC are expected to:

—Attend meetings regularly.

—Maintain positive conduct inside and outside the council chamber

—Report on youth issues to the city council.

## FUNDS

From page A-1

Of the \$700,000 applied for, said Dingman, about \$582,000 would be used for actual construction work, with the remaining funds used for administration and for temporary relocation expenses of people who may be displaced from their homes while the structures are being replaced or renovated.

In the past, the city has received such grants, and used the money to rehabilitate or replace a number of homes in Niceville. Dingman said that after the current grant cycle is complete, another is expected to begin in October, at which time the city may apply for further funding.


After hearing from Dingman, the council approved a resolution to make application to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for the grant.

In other business, the council approved spending up to about \$123,000 to purchase and install a metal building on a site behind the city community center. The new building will be used to store equipment and supplies for the city's water and sewer department. Although the council authorized up to \$123,000 for the project, it is hoped that the work can be done for less.

Also during April 9 meeting, council members approved a proposal from the city's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) to broaden membership eligibility rules for YAC membership (see related story, Page A-1). The YAC is a youth organization that parallels the procedures and functions of an elected adult city council, and performs charitable and community service projects.

The new rules, according to YAC members who addressed the city council, will allow some students from unincorporated areas such as East Niceville and Bluewater Bay to become eligible for membership, even though they do not live within the city.

**Have a Blessed Easter!**




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# Police Blotter

The following accounts of the activities of police are according to records of the Niceville and Valparaiso police departments, the Okaloosa County and Walton County sheriff's offices, other law-enforcement agencies, and the Okaloosa County and Walton County jails.

## Arrests

On March 29 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Robert Gabriel Gonzalez Febus, 23, of 58 Wolverine Ave., Valparaiso, on a charge of shoplifting.

The arrest was made on a warrant stemming from an incident in Niceville on Jan. 1, in which Gonzalez Febus was seen taking a doll, valued at \$13.88, from Walmart, and trying to make it appear as though he was scanning the doll, but was actually scanning a 20-cent shot glass. He was also seen swapping price tags to obtain a game case valued at \$12.96.

On March 29 Valparaiso police arrested Corey Howard Williams, 39, of 389 Glendale Ave., Valparaiso, on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill.

Williams had confronted three juveniles at the foot of his driveway. He allegedly reached under his shirt and pulled a handgun.

Williams told police that he had tried to draw a firearm, but it had failed to disengage from the holster.

On March 30 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Leslie Karen Moulton, 23, of 109 Midland Ct., Niceville, on charges of heroin trafficking of between four grams and 30 kilograms, and drug equipment possession and/or use.



Leslie Karen Moulton

On March 30 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Roshellie Williams Wilson, 53, Valparaiso, on a charge of probation violation, felony.

On April 1 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Richard Daniel Holcombe, 23, of 400 Kazmira Court, #B, Niceville, on charges of battery touch or strike and battery on a person 65 years of age or older.

Holcombe had been seen in Walmart arguing with a 69-year-old store employee. During the argument, he was seen poking the employee on the tip of the nose with a finger, yelling some racial slurs, and then departing.

Later, when interviewed after a Miranda warning, Holcombe told police that the employee had "touched my face," and, "I think I might have pushed him away."

On April 2 Niceville police arrested Cassandra Marie Jones, 48, of 1045 Everglade Dr., Niceville, on a charge of DUI.

An officer responded to a traffic crash on Linden Avenue in which Jones had been involved and had fled, but was located a short distance away.

She failed a field sobriety test at the Niceville police station, but a breath sample revealed no alcohol. A urine sample was obtained to be sent to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) for analysis.

On April 3 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Jessica Ann Brand, 34, of 101 Sasser St., Niceville, on three counts of probation violation, misdemeanor.

On April 3 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Philip Sage Sollecito, 20, of 8 Bayshore Pt., Valparaiso, on a charge of possessing a hallucinogen with intention to sell, manufacture, or deliver a schedule I, III, or IV drug.



Philip Sage Sollecito

On April 4 Niceville police arrested Toni Lyn Henderson, 43, of 5851 Huckleberry Ln., Crestview, on a charge of shoplifting. Anderson had been seen in Walmart swapping price stickers in order to obtain merchandise valued at \$108.61 while paying only \$7.43.

On April 4 Valparaiso police arrested Michael James Abron, 34, of 500 Kelly Mill Rd., #139, Valparaiso, on a charge of knowingly driving while license suspended or revoked.

An officer stopped a Mercedes because of an inoperative headlight and expired registration. During the traffic stop, a police database indicated that Abron, the driver, had a suspended license since November 2018.

On April 4 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Scott Dwyer Frisbee, 27, of 112 Bayou Dr., Niceville, on a charge of probation violation, misdemeanor.

On April 4 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Amy Virginia Mallette, 34, at large, Niceville, on a charge of probation violation, misdemeanor.

On April 4 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Johnathan Blake Russell, 21, of 637 Crestview Ave., Niceville, on a charge of violation of probation.

On April 4 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Ashley Nicole Smith, 34, of 1482 Live Oak St., Niceville, on charges of battery touch or strike and resisting or obstructing an officer without violence.

On April 5 Niceville police arrested Adam Blake Stephens, 37, at large, on a charge of shoplifting. He had been seen in Walmart taking a jacket and a hoodie valued at a total of \$27. He told an officer he took them because he was tired of being cold and wet.

On April 5 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office arrested Melanee Michelle Martin, 40, of 822 Spence Cir., Niceville, on charges of resisting or obstructing an officer without violence and possession of marijuana; not more than 20 grams.

On April 5 Niceville police arrested Christian Jaymes Reavis, 27, at large, on charges of shoplifting and resisting or obstructing an officer without violence.

An officer responded to Walmart in response to a report that Reavis had been seen taking items from Walmart valued at a total of \$37.80. As the officer attempted to detain him, Reavis

forcefully pulled his hand/arm away from the officer, and refused several lawful commands before finally allowing himself to be handcuffed.

On April 5 Valparaiso police arrested Chase Tyler Van Meter, 18, a busboy, of 317 Olde Post Rd., Niceville, on charges of cocaine possession, and marijuana possession not more than 20 grams.

An officer stopped a Hyundai on Grandview Avenue for failure to obey a traffic control device. When speaking with Van Meter, the driver and sole occupant, the officer smelled the odor of marijuana. A search revealed a powder which field tested positive for cocaine, and a leafy substance which tested positive for THC, the intoxicating ingredient in marijuana.

On April 7 Andrew Alexander Alvarez, 28, of 54 Tomahawk St., Niceville, was booked into the Walton County jail on a charge of DUI alcohol or drugs. He was released on bond the following day.



## Other

On April 1 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office responded to an address regarding a reported battery.

On April 1 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office responded to an address on E. State Rd. 20 regarding a vehicle theft.

On April 2 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office responded to an address on E. John Sims Parkway regarding a juvenile alcohol offense other than DUI.

On April 2 Niceville police responded to an address on Palm Boulevard where some people were reported panhandling. Police informed the people that they needed a permit from the chief of police, and the people departed.

On April 3 the Okaloosa Sheriff's office responded to an address on Wright Drive regarding a vehicle burglary.

On April 3 Niceville police responded to an address on Cedar Avenue, S. regarding the theft of a red Gauntlet brand mountain bike, valued between \$200 and \$300.

On April 4 Niceville police responded to an address on Bailey Drive regarding a report of an injured possum. The animal, however, began acting normally when a tomcat began chasing it, and it ran off.

On April 5 Niceville police responded to an address on Reeves Street where a red Suzuki had been racing down the street and struck a mailbox.

At 2:52 a.m. on April 6 Niceville police responded to an address on Linden Avenue, where they contacted two juveniles who had snuck out to ride their bicycles. Police turned the juveniles over to their father.

On April 6 Niceville police responded to an address on Willingham Drive regarding a report that people may have been staying in a trailer on the caller's property. Police contacted the people in the trailer and told them that they would have to leave.

On April 7 Niceville police responded to the Dunkin' Donuts shop on John Sims Parkway, where a manager had found needles and a syringe in the bathroom.

On April 8 Niceville police responded to the Murphy Express store on John Sims Parkway regarding a report of someone who became angry when the store would not accept his Walmart card.

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Street	Situation	Date	Time
ShIPLEY Dr.	Lightning strike	4/8/19	06:00
Merchants Way	Medical assist	4/8/19	12:01
N. White Point Rd.	EMS call	4/8/19	16:06
Merchants Way	Medical assist	4/9/19	00:08
Ida Coon Cir.	Medical assist	4/9/19	10:46
Lake Drive	EMS call	4/9/19	20:17
Westlake Ct.	EMS call	4/10/19	01:18
Brookhaven Way	Detector activation	4/10/19	02:18
Range Rd.	Detector activation	4/10/19	05:56
Merchants Way	EMS call	4/10/19	16:07
Baywind Dr.	Dispatched & cancelled	4/10/19	18:12
Lake Amick Dr.	Dispatched & cancelled	4/11/19	17:28
E. Hwy. 20	EMS call	4/12/19	06:00

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### CALM holds successful fundraiser

Rocky Bayou Country Club was the scene of the sold-out 3rd annual CALM fundraiser dinner. CALM, Crisis Aid for Littles and Moms, is a 501c3 non-profit in Niceville. The delicious buffet dinner, emceed by Christopher Saul and Mike Chesser, included several opportunities to contribute to CALM while shopping at the silent auction for beautiful items, as well as a live auction, numerous raffles, and door prizes. The beautiful painting is by local artist Donna Ammons. Ed Wrann entertained with live music. Grace Nuffer, President of CALM, welcomed the attendees and thanked all who participated and/or contributed to such a worthwhile cause.

### Shooting range celebrates opening



Emerald Coast Indoor Shooting and Sport celebrated their grand opening in Valparaiso with a Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting.



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MORNING PRAYER AT 8:30 A.M.  
AT 7:00 P.M.  
EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER  
† † †

#### GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>

MORNING PRAYER AT 8:30 A.M.  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT 3:00 P.M.  
AT 7:00 P.M.  
VERNERATION OF CROSS

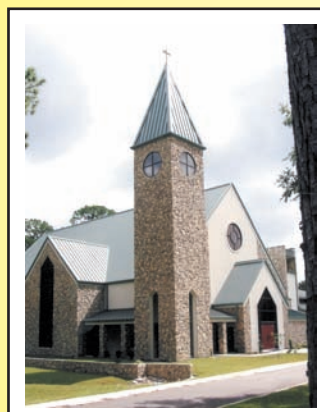
#### HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>

MORNING PRAYER AT 8:30 A.M.  
AT 8:00 P.M.  
EASTER VIGIL  
† † †

#### EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 21<sup>st</sup>

MASS OF THE  
RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD  
7:30 A.M. AND 10:30 A.M.

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#### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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6:30 p.m. Holy Communion  
Stripping of the Altar

##### GOOD FRIDAY, April 19

6:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service  
Seven Last Words/Sealing of the Tomb

##### EASTER SUNDAY, April 21

6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service  
Beasley Park, Okaloosa Island

##### SERVICES at St. Paul

8:30 a.m. Festival Worship  
9:30 a.m. LMM Bagel Breakfast and  
Children's Easter Egg Hunt  
10:30 a.m. Festival Worship

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Sunday, April 21

#### EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH

9 a.m.-1 p.m.



Costume Contest 9 p.m.

Saturday, April 20

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Live Entertainment  
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Dockside Restaurant & Oyster Bar

Sunday, April 28

#### Sunset Cook-Out

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#### Sunday Brunch

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



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**DIGITAL**

From page A-1

range, elimination of "dead" areas, and a wider variety of frequencies on which police may communicate.

Niceville, said Popwell, is not the only police force in Northwest Florida to make the switch from analog to digital. Others, he said, include Fort Walton Beach and Crestview. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is also in the process of switching to digital.

"We can now communicate to and from anywhere in Niceville," Popwell said, "without the dead spots that previously existed in some parts of the city." Such dead spots, he said,

posed potential dangers to police, and to the people they serve, by making it more difficult for police to communicate.

The new radio system has no such dead spots, and allows reliable communication between Niceville officers and those from Fort Walton Beach and Crestview whenever it becomes necessary to back each other up during emergencies. In addition, the system allows Niceville officers to stay in communication with their own police station even when traveling to or from Crestview or Fort Walton, as is sometimes necessary for administrative reasons, court appearances, or when participating in joint operations.



David Popwell

Please see RADIO, page A-6



**'Granny' retires after decades of service**

Niceville Crossing Guard Christine Lockett affectionately known to all of the children as "Granny" officially retired from her post at Edge after decades of keeping children safe. The faculty and students from past to present applaud you Granny and want you to know that you have touched so many lives. You will always be an Edge Tiger. If local Niceville families would like to drop off a gift for Mrs. Lockett, they may bring it to the front office at Edge and we will get it to her.



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 Matthew 28:5-6

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*Holy Week and Easter 2019*

<p><b>Holy Thursday</b>                  April 18, 7:00 pm                  Mass of the Lord's Supper,                  Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight</p>	<p><b>Holy Saturday</b>                  Easter Vigil Mass                  April 20, 7:15 pm</p>
<p><b>Good Friday</b>                  Passion of the Lord,                  April 19, 3:00 pm                  Living Stations of the Cross                  April 19, 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Easter Sunday</b>                  The Resurrection of the Lord                  8:00 am &amp; 11:00 am Mass                  will be celebrated in the Father Butler Parish Life Center</p>

Come join us; celebrate the Last Supper, Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord

**2019 CALENDAR**

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com by 5 p.m. Wednesday.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

The Auxiliary of Twin Cities Hospital, Highway 85 N, Niceville, has openings for men and women with smiling faces who can serve 3-4 hours a week as hospital volunteers in many different areas. Stop in to the lobby to see what we do and obtain an application. Your work will be appreciated by the staff and patients.

**Art Display**

For the month of April, we invite you to Niceville Library to view the display by local artist, Michelle Ruschman. Walk through to read the stories behind her art and see her work in dotilism, pyrography and alcohol ink

on yupo paper and tiles. Framed art includes "3:33" which was shown at the Pensacola Museum Art in 2018. In addition to the art work, Ruschman, who is also a jewelry artisan, has her fused glass pendants in the display case along with a selection of her ink drawings. Among this collection, look for her signature series of crosses, Beautifully Broken. To purchase jewelry or to inquire about commissioned art, email prodigalartist333@gmail.com.

**Garden Club meeting**

On April 17, Dara Dobson will present "Gardening With Native Plants." Dara, a Walton County Master Gardener and the owner of 7 Pines Nursery in DeFuniak Springs, is an advocate for using native plants in our landscapes to support our insect pollinators, birds and wildlife. Learn how using native plants will also reduce the need for pesticides, fertilizer and extra irrigation.

The Valparaiso Garden Club will meet at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 17, at Trinity Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall located at 44 Southview Avenue in Valparaiso.

Visitors and new members are welcome.

**Easter Services & Activities**

St. Jude's Episcopal Church, 200 Partin Drive, Niceville has announced the schedule for the 2019 Easter services and activities. Wednesday, April 17, the construction of the Easter Garden and Egg Coloring will take place at 4:30p.m. The Tenebrae Service will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17. The Maundy Thursday service will be held Thursday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m. There will be a Good Friday service at noon on Friday, April 19. Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday evening, April 19, at 6:00 p.m. There will be two services on Easter Sunday morning, April 21 - at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. An Easter Egg Hunt will follow the 10:30 service.

**Luncheon & Fashion Show**

NWFL Retired Officers' Wives Club Luncheon and Fashion Show, Thurs, Apr 18, 10:30 a.m. Social, 11:00 a.m. Lunch \$12 at Eglin Golf Course Restaurant located at 1527 Fairway Dr., Niceville. New Members - wives of retired officers from all services - always welcome. RSVP for lunch or for more info call Laura 850-897-8079.

**Poetry Club**

The Poetry Club will meet on April 18th at 11:00 a.m. in room 802 at Crosspoint Church, Niceville. Everyone welcome.

Bring your favorite poem or your own creation to share with us. This month's suggested theme is Easter or Passover, and the suggested form is Constanza. However, feel free to use any topic or form you wish.

Come and rekindle interest in writing and enjoying poetry in a non-threatening setting. Please contact Dennis Wilson 279-3248 for more information.

**Sweet Sounds for Life**

On Thursday, April 18, at 6 p.m., join the Ruckel Pop Ensemble and the Niceville Opus One Chorus for an evening of music at the Ruckel gymnasium. Sweet Sounds is a fundraiser for the Ruckel Relay for Life team and all proceeds will go towards fighting cancer. Enjoy coffee, desserts, and

**Easter Egg Dash**



The 2019 Egg Dash will take place on the day before Easter, Saturday, April 20 at the Niceville Recreation Complex on Campbell Drive. The event begins promptly at 11:00 a.m. The Egg Dash is for children ages 8 & under. Each age group (2 & under, 3 & 4, 5 & 6, 7 & 8) is assigned to a specific softball field. Plastic eggs filled with candy and small toys are scattered across each field, and the dashers make them disappear within minutes. Please arrive early to find a parking space and allow time to get your child lined up at the correct field.

door prizes while listening to our talented singers. Tickets are \$5/pp or \$20/family and will be sold at the door. For more information, please contact Jeff Sobel at 703-772-3270.

**TCWC Luncheon**

The Twin Cities Woman's Club meets for their monthly luncheon Wednesday, April 24 at the Bluewater Bay Golf Clubhouse. Social time is at 11 a.m.; lunch at 11:30 a.m. Cost for lunch is \$15, which includes gratuity. The guest speakers will be from Bikers Against Child Abuse. Women in the community are invited to attend. Reservations required by contacting Glenda Hudkins, 850-240-1158, no later than Friday, April 19.

**Library Easter Egg Hunt**

The Valparaiso Community Library will have its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, April 19 at 10 a.m. This event will feature a guest storyteller and the program is for all pre-school children and their caregivers. For additional information, call the library at 729-5406 or visit us

on Facebook.

**Niceville Easter Egg Dash**

The 2019 Egg Dash will take place on the day before Easter, Saturday, April 20 at the Niceville Recreation Complex on Campbell Drive. The event begins promptly at 11:00 a.m.

The Egg Dash is for children ages 8 & under. Each age group (2 & under, 3 & 4, 5 & 6, 7 & 8) is assigned to a specific softball field. Plastic eggs filled with candy and small toys are scattered across each field, and the dashers make them disappear within minutes.

Please arrive early to find a parking space and allow time to get your child lined up at the correct field.

**Easter Eggs in Valparaiso**

Join us Saturday, April 20, in Lincoln Park, Valparaiso, beginning at 9:00 a.m., for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Kids can also enjoy free train rides on the "Valparaiso Express."

This free event is open to the public for children between the ages of 0-

12. The first egg hunt begins at 9 a.m. for ages 0-3. Children are organized into groups according to age. Each group is scheduled to begin shortly after the conclusion of the previous group - from youngest to oldest. There will be one "Golden Egg" prize per age group.

Parents are welcome to assist children ages 0-3. Parents are not permitted in hunting area with children 4 or older.

**Easter Saturday event**

Bluewater Tennis Center is hosting their annual Easter Celebration on Saturday, April 20th, from 9:45 a.m.-11 a.m. Bring the entire family for games, prizes and an Easter Egg Hunt starting at 9:45 a.m. for ages 4 and under and at 10 a.m. for ages 5+. There will be a special appearance by the Easter Bunny so be sure to bring your camera for an Easter family photo.

For more information, contact Christina Milidonis at 850-897-8010 or email c.milidonis@cliffdrysdale.com.

**Open House**

The inaugural Emerald Coast Boat Club open house has been slated for Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and will be held on the docks of Emerald Coast Marine, 115 West John Sims Parkway in Niceville. The event will include complimentary tours of the facility and free boat rides. This event is open to the public. To reserve a spot in advance, register email annamarie@emeraldcostamarine.com.

**Resurrection Sunrise Service**

Please join us for a Sunrise Service on Easter morning, April 21, at 6:15 a.m. in Lincoln Park, Valparaiso. Please bring lawn chairs and blankets.

The service will be followed by a free pancake breakfast at nearby Trinity Presbyterian Church, 44 Southview Ave. Valparaiso.

The Churches of Valparaiso invite you to worship with them at their regularly scheduled worship services following this service and breakfast.

In case of rain, the service will be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

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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.

Niceville's Newspaper

**CHARTER**

From page A-1

ings.

Changes to the charter recommended during earlier sessions of the committee include:

—Including a brief statement of how the city was incorporated. The addition would state, "On July 7, 1938, some of the registered voters of Niceville, Florida signed a petition to determine whether or not to incorporate. The final count was

329 in favor and 4 against. House Bill number 13022 to 'establish a municipality in the city of Niceville' was introduced in the Senate, May 18, 1939."

—Including a statement that, "On May 14, 2013, the city Council voted to add to the seal the established date when the community first received mail service on July 28, 1868."

—Adding "medical marijuana" to the intoxicating products subject to city regulation.

—Adding storm water control to the list of city services.

During the committee's March 22 meeting, members discussed whether to update procedures for city elections.

They heard a briefing from Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections Paul Lux, who described alternative ways of electing city council members, such as at large, by individual council seats, or by geographic districts.

During the April 9 meeting, committee members decided to recommend no changes to current municipal election procedures, in which the five city council members are elected by citywide vote to specific seats.

Committee members also discussed whether Niceville's mayor and city council members should be paid for the work they do. The committee decided

the elected officials should remain unpaid. They do receive reimbursement for official expenses.

Committee members also discussed whether to recommend regulation of short-term vacation rentals of homes within Niceville, but decided to make no such recommendation, because the issue can more easily be addressed, if necessary, by the city council through the passage of city ordinances.

Copies of the Niceville city charter, and changes proposed to it, can be obtained through the Niceville City Clerk.

**RADIO**

From page A-5

Popwell said that hobbyists, news media, and other people who use scanners to listen to police radio calls will still be able to do so, but will probably need to upgrade their own equipment from analog to digital. Digital scanners are available from commercial sources, he said.

"I encourage listening,"

Popwell said. "I want people to know what their police are doing, what we are dealing with, and how we are serving the public." The only exceptions to such open communication, he said, are during some sensitive investigations or during such tactical situation as hostage negotiations or rescues, when police use encrypted channels to avoid being overheard.

In Valparaiso, Police Chief Joe Hart told the Beacon that his

department is researching and trying out digital radios, but emphasized that no decisions have yet been made about if, when, or how to make such a change. "We currently are using two handheld digital radios," Hart said. One is at the dispatch center in the city police station, and one in a patrol car.

The two digital radios, said the chief, "provide a safety net, and allow us to communicate with our sister cities."

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## Rocky Mathletes excel in competition



Twenty-three Rocky Bayou mathletes attended the March 2 Regional Mu Alpha Theta Competition held at Rickards High School in Tallahassee, Florida. Stephen Tian, 12th grade, took the 4th place individual trophy, competing among 42 students in Pre-Calculus.

The competition included 11 schools of all size classifications, seating a total of 17 teams. Rocky

Bayou placed 4th in the overall sweepstakes, with Rocky Bayou Team One placing 4th out of 17 teams, and Rocky Bayou Team Two placing 9th out of 17 teams.

Pre-calculus team (Stephen Tian, Cynric Chen, Micah Wyn, and Frank Choi) took third place. Calculus team (Christian Phillips, Julia Jeong, Hannah Suh, and Parker Athearn) took the Fourth place team trophy. Algebra I's solo

team member Christopher Seeling and Statistics' solo team member Rominey Willner both took 5th place trophies in their categories. Fifth place team trophies also went to Geometry (Sarah Chauhan and Logan Bourgeois) and Algebra II (Joshua Pruitt, Caden Thackeray, and Abigail Richmond).

The top RBCS competitors in each category were (Algebra I)

Christopher Seeling, (Geometry) Sarah Chauhan and Logan Bourgeois, (Algebra II) Joshua Pruitt and Caden Thackeray, (Pre-calculus) Stephen Tian and Madeline Athearn, (Calculus) Malachi Hofman and Christian Phillips, and (statistics) Rominey Willner.

## Elks give to Healing Paws for Warriors



Twin Cities Lodge #2747 Exalted Ruler Rick Woelfl and Lodge House Committee Chairman Kathy Casey presented a \$2,500 check to Mike Arena, co-founder and executive director of Fort Walton Beach-based Healing Paws for Warriors. They provide American Disabilities Act- certified canines to veterans.

## DAR celebrates essay winners



The Choctawhatchee Bay National Society Daughters of the American Revolution honored the winners of the American History and Christopher Columbus Essay Contests with awards and a Dessert Extravaganza. Pictured are (l-r) Ashley Place, American History Essay Chairman, Brianna Hendricks, 8th grade, Rocky Bayou Christian School, Bella Farran, 5th grade, Rocky Bayou Christian School, Adam Mistretta, Rocky Bayou Christian School Good Citizen Scholarship finalist who received a \$500 DAR Scholarship, Sydney Virginia Athearn, 7th Grade Rocky Bayou Christian School, Alicyn Grete, 12th grade, Homeschooled, and Katherine Grete, Good Citizen Chairman.

## Plew donates to local charities

Students at Plew Elementary School raised over \$4,000 in their change for charities campaign by bringing in coins. Mrs. LaPointes Kindergarten class was the top class raising over \$500.00 and they received an extra PE time complete with bubbles and silly string. At a recent faculty meeting at Plew, Harvest Hands (weekend food/backpack program) and Children in Crisis (The Children's Neighborhood) were presented with checks in the amount of \$2,035.92 each. Plew's theme this year is Kindness and this campaign showed student kindness in action.





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## NHS lacrosse team lauds seniors



Niceville girls lacrosse celebrated its three seniors, Maddie Hakanson, Abby O'Laughlin, and Rene Johnson Friday night at Niceville's Eagles Stadium. This is the first year that lacrosse has been a sanctioned sport for Niceville and the Lady Eagles finished their inaugural season with a record of 4-8-1. They lost the game Friday night against West Florida by a score of 13-9. Rene Johnson fights for control of the draw.



## Niceville crushes Choctaw



The Niceville Eagles put nine runs across the plate in the second inning to come away with an 11 to 1 drubbing of the Choctaw Indians last Tuesday April 9. Niceville's two pitchers, Sean Goodwin and Christian Ford combined for eight strikeouts and only one hit. Teammates came out to celebrate Brice's homerun.



## Rocky defeats Pensacola Christian

Rocky Bayou staged a late inning comeback to defeat Pensacola Christian Academy last Friday by a score of 13-8. Coley Embry went three-for-three on the night and batted in five of Rocky Bayou's runs including a homerun. The last home game of the season for the Knights will be on April 29th against Booker T. Washington at 4:30.



## Eagles softball honors our military

Last Wednesday, the Niceville High School softball team celebrated military appreciation night. Military members past and present were invited onto the field to take part in pregame activities. The Lady Eagles donned special uniforms to honor our nation's military. The colors were presented by the Niceville High School Air Force JROTC. The Eagles, after giving up three runs in the top of the first inning, roared back and came away with a 14-3 win over Milton High School. There are only two home games remaining for Niceville. The Eagles play Choctaw on Thursday (5:00) and Paxton next Tuesday (6:00).



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