

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-6

12 Pages, 2 Sections, 6 Inserts

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

50¢

**UP
COMING**

Wed., 7:30 p.m.
"Les Misérables"

opens at the **Mattie Kelly Arts Center**, Niceville and runs until July 20 and from July 25-27. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by 729-6000 or visiting online at mattiekellyartscenter.org. Read the complete story on A-4.



Sat., 6 p.m.

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 1200 Valparaiso Blvd, Niceville, invite the public to a buffet style dinner in the **Life Center Hall** featuring Filipino entrees and desserts. Cost is \$7 for ten years and up, \$4 for 7-9 years and six and under eat free. Price includes entree, dessert and beverage. For more information please call 678-3000.



Tues., 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Sandra L. Davis, author of "So, What's A Nice Girl Like You Doing In A Place Like This?" will be speaking at the **Niceville Public Library**. Free and open to the public. For more info please call the Niceville Library at 279-4863 x1514.



Tues., 5:30 p.m.

The **Quit Smoking Now (QSN) program** will be at **Twin Cities Hospital's Wellness Center**, 2190 N Hwy 85, Niceville. The QSN program is a tobacco cessation program with group support, providing Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) in a six week program led by a Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist. To register for a class, please call 398-6965 or visit westfloridaahec.org.



Calendar, B-2.

Mixed reaction to Eglin F-35 plans

Air Force hears public on jet-noise issues

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

Opinions differed sharply during a public hearing held July 9 at the First Baptist Church in Valparaiso, to discuss an environmental study of various options for conducting F-35 flight operations.

The Air Force-sponsored hearing began with an informal question-and-answer period among visitors and Air Force officials who spoke one-on-one with citizens who wished to ask them questions or discuss the F-35 program.

During the introductory peri-

od, visitors were also given printed material about the F-35 program, and were allowed to fill out cards requesting three minutes of speaking time during the formal portion of the public hearing. They were also allowed to submit written comments about various flight operation options for the F-

35, and about the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)—a recently issued report of an Air Force study of the likely environmental impacts of F-35 training flights to take place from Eglin Air Force Base now and in the future.

During the question-and-answer period, Eglin environmental public affairs officer Mike

Spaits answered some questions from the Bay Beacon, about claims by some Valparaiso residents that noise from F-35 flight operations would render some homes in Valparaiso "incompatible with residential use," and would therefore mean that residents must move out of such houses.

Please see F-35, page A-5

Lift off



Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser
Tryston Garvey launches his skateboard off a ledge near Bayshore Drive and Edge Avenue, Niceville July 12, while Devon Glenn walks to set up a jump of his own. The Niceville High School students were filming the stunts for a video-editing class. "We're making a summer movie," said Devon, 15. "It's for school, but we're also doing it for fun."

Valp. eyes millage hike

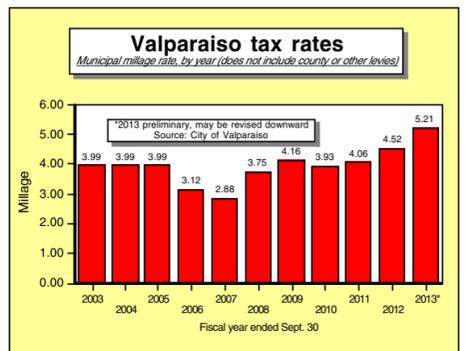
By Daniel Elsesser
Beacon Staff Writer

The Valparaiso City Commission voted unanimously to approve a proposed millage rate of 5.21 for the next fiscal year, a 15 percent increase over the current tax rate of 4.52 mills.

Valparaiso Mayor Bruce Arnold said the figure was purposefully set high, so the commissioners can ensure they have enough funds to work with before working on lowering the rate at subsequent budget hearings before a final tax rate is approved in September.

The millage rate is the amount per \$1,000 charged on ad valorem taxes, or taxes on real estate or business property. On property carried on the tax rolls at

Please see MILLAGE, page A-3



MSBU names a new member

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

During their July 9 meeting, members of the Bluewater Bay Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) governing board chose Bluewater Bay resident Jonathan Tallman as the newest member of the panel.

The board also discussed enforcement of deed covenants in the community.

Tallman succeeds Dale Blanchard, who recently resigned in conjunction with a move to St. Petersburg.

Although MSBU board members are usually elected to four-year terms as unpaid volunteers on the board, when a vacancy occurs during a term the remaining board members may appoint someone to fill out the remainder of the term.



Jonathan Tallman

Please see MSBU, page A-2

Officials act to speed warnings on sewage spills

No illnesses reported despite two-day lag on notification

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

The Okaloosa County Health Department has received no reports of anyone becoming sick as a result of exposure to sewage-contaminated water during the July 4 weekend, and does not expect any such reports now, said Dr. Karen Chapman during a meeting held Monday in Niceville.

Meantime, officials acted to prevent any recurrence of a communications foul-up that delayed warnings to the public of the spills for two days.

During Monday's meeting, officials from the Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety, the county branch of the Florida Department of Health,

which Chapman heads, and from local water and sewer utilities discussed proposed changes to streamline the way notifications of sewage spills are handled in Okaloosa County.

On Saturday, July 6, a week of heavy rains caused storm water to find its way into sanitary sewage systems in Valparaiso and other parts of the county. In Valparaiso, the result was an overflow of tens of thousands of gallons of sewage from manholes into some city streets near the north shore of Toms Bayou. From there, an estimated 58,000 gallons found its way into Toms Bayou and Boggy Bayou, according to the city.

Meantime, a similar spill in

Please see SEWAGE, page A-2



Valparaiso city employees pump rainwater out of a city lift station near Toms Bayou July 11. The work was done as a preventative measure to keep overflow from the lift station from running into the bayou. The previous weekend, efforts to prevent a sewage overflow failed, partly due to a shortage of pump trucks, resulting in a spill of 58,000 gallons of Valparaiso wastewater into area bayous. Public Work Director James Valandingham said the city borrowed an Okaloosa County sewage truck to pump the station on July 11.

Beacon photo by Daniel Elsesser

SEWAGE

From page A-1

Fort Walton Beach caused about a half-million gallons of sewage to be spilled into Santa Rosa Sound, near Fort Walton Beach and Destin.

When the spills occurred, public works officials in Valparaiso and elsewhere responded immediately to the emergency. In Valparaiso, a suction truck with a capacity of about 3,000 gallons was used to withdraw water from the affected sewer manholes, and to transport it to the regional sewer plant in Niceville for proper treatment and disposal, according to city Public Works Director James Valandingham.

That effort prevented about 150,000 gallons of additional sewage from reaching the bayous, rather than the 58,000 gallons that actually got into the local waterways, which include public beaches at Lincoln Park, Valparaiso, and Lions Park, Niceville. Public works employees also placed lime around the affected manholes, in

an effort to kill bacteria before the untreated sewage could reach the bayous.

While working to mitigate the spill, Valparaiso employees also notified the Florida state "warning point" of the Florida Department of Health, as they are required to do by law, according to Valandingham. However, no direct notifications were made to the Okaloosa County branch of the Florida Health Department, until Monday, July 8, a day after many local residents came out on Sunday, the only sunny day of the July 4 weekend, to swim and play at local beaches and to go boating on the bayous.

According to Valandingham and to Destin water and sewer director Richard Griswald, who both attended this Monday's meeting, the notification to the state warning point was the only such notification they were required to make, and they did not think they were allowed to notify other agencies, but that any further notifications, including those to local health officials or news media, were the sole responsibility of



Beacon photo by Daniel Elssesser

Young bathers played in Boggy Bayou at Lincoln Park, Valparaiso, Monday evening not far from a warning sign erected a week earlier. The sign went up two days after sewage spilled into area waterways.

state authorities.

Chapman, however, said that the only notification her office received from the state was an apparently routine email sent to her office during the weekend,

which went unnoticed until Monday, when county health officials immediately posted health advisories along beaches at the affected bayous—a day too late for those who had already gone boating, wading and swimming the previous day. She said that relying solely on state officials in Tallahassee, who are about 150 miles away from local communities and who must deal with reports from all 67 Florida counties, proved inadequate during the July 4 weekend.

At Monday's meeting, Chapman and Okaloosa County Public Safety Director Dino Villani presented a proposed change to the Okaloosa County comprehensive emergency management plan (CEMP), to streamline notification procedures in the event of future sewage spills. According to the revised CEMP, in the event of future sewage spills exceeding 1,000 gallons, "the responsible party or sewage provider will notify the Okaloosa County emergency communications center of any sewage releases by calling" the center or 911.

The new plan continued: "The provider will report the amount of sewage released, populations affected, land areas affected, or waterways affected. This notification will be made as soon as possible after the discovery of the release."

"Okaloosa County Emergency Management will make direct phone contact with members of the Okaloosa County Health Department. Emergency Management will request that the health department initiate a public press release that details the information of areas impacted and safety precautions that the public should take to protect life and property."

"The Okaloosa County emergency management division will be available to carry out the above duties 24 hours a day, and will initiate the above duties upon notification of the release by the emergency communications center."

Chapman said that for local water and sewer departments, the change simply means that "From now on, you will make two phone calls instead of one," in the event

of sewage spills. Chapman also said that she will ensure that she or members of her staff will carry cell phones 24/7 to receive such emergency notifications from County Emergency Management, and in the event of a sewage spill that threatens public health, will issue press releases and post health advisories at local beaches. This, she said, will avoid delays in notifications such as the one that occurred over the July 4 weekend.

Chapman said that since the sewage spill on July 6, there have been no reports to her department of anyone actually becoming ill as a result of exposure to local waters, and that she no longer expects to receive any such notifications now that more than a week has passed since the spill.

She said that although spills of raw sewage are relatively rare occurrences, the most common cause of bacterial contamination of local waters is storm water runoff, in which pollutants from the surface of lawns, roads, and other areas are washed into local waterways by rainwater. Such

Please see SPILLS, page A-8

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MSBU

From page A-1

Tallman owns The Tallman Group LLC, a financial advisory firm in Niceville. He is also a member of the Okaloosa Restore Act Committee, an honorary commander of the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, and is involved in several other local community, church, and charitable organizations. He holds a bachelor's degree from Flagler College, St. Augustine.

Tallman was one of five candidates considered by the remaining four members of the five-member MSBU board. Other volunteer candidates were Steve Boswell, Dan Holmes, Robert (Joe) Jellison, and Debbie Mock.

Tallman told the Beacon his reasons for volunteering to serve as an MSBU board member. "Some parts of Bluewater Bay's common areas are start-

ing to go downhill," he said, "and I would like to see those areas improved. Also, I think our 'brand' has become outdated. The blue-and-white signs and stucco themes throughout Bluewater Bay reflect the early 1980s. We can do better now."

Tallman said that Bluewater Bay should look at some more recent developments such as the Hammock Bay development near Freeport and the WaterColor development along Highway 30-A in Walton County as examples. "We should bring in some new amenities such as a dog park, and improved walking and biking trails."

In other business during a meeting July 9, the MSBU board received three proposals from homeowners association management companies for a contract to manage the administrative affairs of the MSBU.

Board members plan to interview representatives from

the companies during their next meeting, Aug. 13. A decision as to which contractor will be chosen may or may not be made during that meeting.

The MSBU board also agreed to spend \$2,600, to be paid to Shalimar Fence LLC, to extend an existing split-rail fence located along Bay Drive all the way to the end of Bay Drive near the Bluewater Bay Marina.

The MSBU board also heard a briefing from Bluewater Bay attorney Jerry Zivan, who is the enforcement authority for community covenants throughout those parts of Bluewater Bay that do not have their own homeowners associations.

In an interview with the Beacon following last week's MSBU meeting, Zivan said that his company, Europco Management Co. of America LLC, now holds covenant-enforcement authority as the current "developer" of the Bluewater Bay Planned Unit Development (PUD).

Although the Bluewater Bay MSBU itself has no covenant-enforcement authority according to its charter, said Zivan, the MSBU does maintain a copy of Bluewater Bay's covenants on its website; BluewaterBay.org.

Zivan said the most common violations of community covenants involve boats parked in driveways or in front or side yards. "In the 35 years since Bluewater Bay was established," he said, "boats in the community have gotten bigger, while garages have remained the same size, and become filled with people's accumulated possessions."

"We try to be reasonable about enforcing covenants," Zivan said. "For example, some boats are okay if they are kept in the rear yard of a home rather than the front or side yard."

Zivan said that similar rules apply to motor homes, some of which can be as large as 40 feet in length. Such large vehicles, he said, can be a problem if routinely parked in someone's yard or driveway, where they tend to become an eyesore and nuisance to neighbors. A similar nuisance, he added, is "cars not in service" that are kept in people's yards, or front yards that become overgrown and unsightly. "Some people prefer to keep their yards in a 'natural' state," Zivan said, "but it becomes a problem if the yards are simply weedy or overgrown."

Zivan said that most of his enforcement actions take the form of letters advising property owners of their violations. Such letters, he said, usually are the result of complaints he receives from neighbors of the offenders, although he occasionally does "drive-throughs" of his own in various parts of Bluewater Bay. To enforce covenants, he said, "I mainly rely on people who care about the community."

Zivan said that people who wish to file a covenant complaint may pick up a written form for that purpose at Zivan's office, located in the Bluewater Bay shopping center upstairs from the Beef O'Brady's restaurant. People may also phone Zivan at 897-6430 or may contact him by email at zivanlaw@aol.com.

He said that while most violators respond positively when notified by letter, there have been rare cases in which legal action was instituted against people who did not respond to letters, but he emphasized that such cases have been very rare. "I haven't had to go to court in years," he said.

"The best way to deal with an alleged covenant violation," Zivan said, "is for neighbors to simply talk to each other in a friendly fashion." He said that if you think a neighbor is violating a community covenant, "Don't try to bully your neighbor. Simply sit down with him and try to work out the problem." For example, he said, if a neighbor has been failing to mow their lawn, a friendly conversation may reveal that the neighbor is elderly or in poor health, and simply cannot mow it themselves. To be a good neighbor yourself, you may offer to mow their lawn for them, or help them find someone who can.

Another alternative for people who are having difficulty with unresponsive neighbors, said Zivan, may be to contact Okaloosa County code enforcement officials, since some covenant violations are also violations of county building and safety codes, which may be enforced more aggressively by County authorities than can be done through community covenants alone. An example of a County code violation, Zivan said, might be "possession of excess or non-domestic pets" in someone's house or yard, especially if these become a health or safety hazard to nearby residents.

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Carol Beason, and Annie Harris-Sutera.

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Trustee leaves college board after spat with president

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

In recent interviews with the Bay Beacon, some officials discussed their reactions to the resignation of Northwest Florida State College Trustee Patrick Byrne, who stepped down last week after a dispute between him and NWFSC President Ty Handy became public during a trustees meeting June 18.



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Pat Byrne, foreground, and Northwest Florida State College President Ty Handy, right, during confrontation at NWFSC Board of Trustees meeting June 18. Byrne resigned as a trustee July 9 in what he called, "an effort to ensure that the college Board of Trustees continues to function as a cohesive body."

During that meeting, Handy presented a letter to the Board of Trustees, in which he complained about alleged attempts by Byrne to force Handy out of office.

Byrne acknowledged that he had tried to get Handy to resign, but denied Handy's allegations that Byrne had resorted to such tactics as threats against Handy and his family.

In a July 9 resignation letter addressed to Gov. Rick Scott, who appointed him earlier this year, Byrne, a Niceville land developer, wrote, "Due to personal reasons and, after much discussion with my family, I must regretfully resign from my position as a member of the Board of Trustees of Northwest Florida State college, effective immediately."

In a written public statement accompanying his resignation letter, Byrne wrote, "With the appointment comes a duty and responsibility to the governor and to this community to work as an advocate for the college. In the short period of my appointment to the college's board, that is exactly what I have attempted to accomplish. I've served on the board previously, and also had the opportunity to serve as a member of the state board of community colleges. My commitment and desire to see the college continue to grow and deliver a high quality educational program is unwavering."

"It is with that desire, to make a positive impact for the college, that I communicated with Dr. Handy, after my appointment, to discuss with him matters that I believe to be impacting the success of the college. I believe that a trustee has not only the right, but the obligation to maintain such communications directly

with the college president. After all, one of the most important duties and responsibilities that the Board of Trustees has is to work directly with the college president to ensure that solid visionary leadership is provided to the college."

Byrne also wrote, "I disagree with Dr. Handy's interpretation and characterizations of our recent communications. The way in which issues have been presented regarding my concerns with Dr. Handy, have been unfortunate and unnecessary. In an effort to ensure that the college Board of Trustees continues to function as a cohesive body, I have determined that it is in the best interest of the college and myself that I resign my position as a trustee. Service on the Board of Trustees should be effective and meaningful. Unfortunately, because of the way this matter has unfolded, I do not think that the potential for my effective service continues to exist. I will continue my longtime commitment and support for the college."

In an interview last weekend, Board of Trustees Chairman Brian Pennington said, "Pat's behavior was unacceptable, and he knew that. Pat had only been

on the board a short time. I think his resignation was about the only thing he could do at this time."

Pennington said that he has no knowledge yet as to who will succeed Byrne as a trustee, or when such a successor may be appointed. "I've not been in contact with the governor," Pennington said, adding that Scott has the option of leaving the trustee position vacant for some time.

"My own initial appointment expired in August 2011," Pennington said, "but I'm still on the board, and still awaiting my official reappointment. The Board of Trustees is authorized to have nine members, but has had only 8 for the last 12 years, and now has seven."

"We just need to do what we were appointed to do," said Trustee Rachel Gillis. "As I said in our last meeting, I support Dr. Handy. He has had a tough job to do under difficult circumstances, and he has not hesitated to move forward from his first day on campus. I have no idea when the Governor will appoint a replacement for Mr. Byrne. As you know my seat was up on May 30, 2013. I am 'living on borrowed time' myself."

Trustee Mike Flynt, who, like Byrne, was appointed this year, said, "Pat is an old friend. We worked together in Valparaiso," when Flynt was city administrator there. "I believe his resignation was the best course to get things back on track and avoid distractions from the business of the college. I appreciate that he went ahead and did that."

"It has been my observation," said Flynt, "that appointments to the Board of Trustees can be very slow. I have been encouraged to get people to apply, but I have no specific ideas yet. I'm thinking about finding someone from Walton County." Flynt said that the recent dispute between Byrne and Handy "put things on edge" for the Board of Trustees. "That will now go away, hopefully, and things will work more smoothly."

Flynt said that in the past, the appointment of new trustees has been a slow process. "I suspect that we will keep the board we have for a couple of months, anyway," he said. "I am not aware of anyone who has applied."

Asked for his own reaction to news of Byrne's resignation, Handy said that he was "satisfied" with the outcome of the recent conflict between the two men.

"I am pleased that he said he would continue to support the college," said Handy. He added, however, that "I stand by my original statements."

The Beacon also asked Gov. Scott for his reaction to Byrne's resignation, and particularly asked about the status of finding a successor to fill Byrne's former position.

Jackie Schutz, the governor's press secretary, replied as follows: "We always appreciate the service of our appointees and their commitment to serve the State of Florida. As a result of the resignation, we are accepting applications. There is no timeline for an appointment to be made. Below are those who have applied: Wanda Cook Batson, Laura Creighton, Col. Bill Head, Lori Kelley, Thomas T. Knighten, Steve McLaughlin, Gillis Powell Jr., Maj. Gen. Jeff Riemer, Patric Roesch, Marijo "Mary" Strauss."

MILLAGE

From page A-1

\$100,000 after all exemptions, a millage rate of 5.21 would draw a tax payment of \$521.

The proposed municipal rate is set independently of that of other taxing districts, such as Okaloosa County and the school district, which levy their own taxes.

The city commission made its preliminary decision Monday to

raise the tax rate based on budget projections for the next year provided by City Clerk Tammy Johnson, which indicated that the city's projected total revenue for next year would be \$121,587 less than its projected expenditures if next year's tax revenue was the same as this year's.

Arnold and Commissioner Heyward Strong said the \$121,587 budget gap should be closed only by increasing the millage rate. Strong said the only other way to finance the gap

would be to draw from the city's general reserve fund, which holds about \$800,000.

The taxable value of property in Valparaiso increased by 3.37 percent this year, according to the Okaloosa County property appraiser, from \$179,448,630 to \$185,436,660. This increase means the same millage rate from last year would garner almost \$23,000 more in ad valorem taxes than were collected last year.

With the proposed millage

rate, the city would collect a projected \$917,907 in property taxes in the next fiscal year.

Strong suggested, and the other commissioners agreed, that the reserve fund should be left for any capital improvements the commission decides to make in next year's budget.

The commission set the date for the hearing and first reading of the budget ordinance for the millage rate for Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. in the Valparaiso City Commission chambers.

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Niceville man plays lead in 'Les Misérables'

Musical opens tonight at arts center for 7-night run

As soon as they learned "Les Misérables" would be presented as the summer musical at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, the family duo of Michael Dye and Tim Norton, knew it would be their last opportunity to work under Cliff Herron, the retiring dean of the renowned fine and performing arts programs at Northwest Florida State College and the show's director.



Cliff Herron, director.

"We always said that when Herron retired on 'Les Misérables,' that we'd audition for the show together," said Tim, a 26-year-old Niceville native and stepson of Michael Dye, the long-time choral director at Niceville High School.

The college-produced show is scheduled to open tonight, Wednesday, for a seven-night run.

Dye earned the lead role in the epic musical and appears as Jean Valjean, a former convict who violates the terms of his parole but finds redemption through a series of virtuous and philanthropic deeds—despite being hounded incessantly for

20 years by police inspector Javert, played by NWFSC theater professor Clint Mahle of DeFuniak Springs.

Norton, who is enrolled at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston, drove back to Niceville immediately after his final exams in early May so he could begin rehearsals for his role as Enjolras, an idealistic student activist, in what has been called "the world's most famous musical."

Staging "Les Mis" is "a major theatrical and musical undertaking," according to Herron, who called the production, "the finest we've ever done—I truly believe it is on par and even better than many of the national touring Broadway shows we've brought in over the years."

Based on the novel by Victor Hugo, the college's full-scale theatrical production will be performed almost entirely through song—just as in the long-running Broadway hit and 2012 motion picture.

Dye, who holds a master's degree in music education, said, "The music is the easy part. . .



Michael Dye as Jean Valjean in "Les Misérables," will Annie Melia of Niceville as Fantine, the self-sacrificing mother who devotes her life to ensuring the welfare of her daughter, Cosette. The college-produced musical opens July 17 at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville. "The hardest part was memorizing the whole thing," said Dye, the long-time choral director at Niceville High School.

the hardest part was memorizing the whole thing." He started committing to memory "a mountain of text" more than six months ago to prepare for his lead role.

A plethora of more than 200 costumes will grace the production's more than 40 actors who will bring the 19th-century tale to life. The musical features a massive 30-foot high set, constructed from the ground up by

college crews with "\$8,000 of lumber, two blood drives worth of blood and 10 gallons of sweat," according to technical theater Bob Whittaker, who runs the back-stage operations at the performing arts complex on the college's main campus in Niceville.

Les Misérables will appear for seven nights, opening July 17 and continuing July 18 to 20 and July 25 to 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 apiece.

Among the other lead roles in "Les Misérables" is Annie Melia of Niceville as Fantine, the self-sacrificing mother who devotes her life to ensuring the welfare of her daughter.

Fantine's daughter, Cosette, is played by Hannah Moore of Niceville. The roles of Thénardier and Mme Thénardier are played by Denis Milonas of Mary Esther and NWFSC vocal

music professor Allison Everitt. Mallory Olds of Niceville is the Thénardiens' daughter, Eponine.

Student activist Marius is played by Sivu Schlegel of Niceville. In addition, several children are taking on named roles, including Destin resident Sophie Hagle as the Young Cosette, Santa Rosa Beach resident Catherine Coble playing Young Eponine, and Niceville resident Nathan Burdge portraying Gavroche.

A full chorus ensemble for the sing-through pop opera includes the following:

Male members—DeFuniak Springs: Joe Taylor; Fort Walton Beach: Josh Riley, Sean Royal, Stephen Shouse; Miramar Beach: Okeye Mitchell; Navarre: Donovan Black, Blake Williams; Niceville: Brett Huston, Zachary Pecore, Zachary Phillips, Jeremy Ribando, David Simmons, Brian Snyder, Paul Tessier, Dominick Trolian; Pensacola: Jeremy Gibson.

Female members—Fort Walton Beach: Meghan Erlacher, Gabrielle Lindley; Mary Esther: Maddie Ostrowski; Niceville: Victoria Bishop, Kimberly Bridges, Marielena Burdge, Danielle C. Fox, Laura Hernandez, Megan James, Holly Johnson, Madeline Kirkpatrick, Katie Pickler, Brittany Swain; Santa Rosa Beach: Catherine Coble; Valparaiso: Wendy Justice.

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F-35

From page A-1

Parts of the SEIS stated that areas subject to average jet-noise levels of more than 65 decibels would be incompatible with residential use, unless homes in such areas are renovated with additional soundproofing, while areas exposed to more than 75 decibels would be incompatible with residential use, even with such soundproofing. The 65-decibel level resulting from the Air Force's "preferred alternative" for F-35 flights would blanket much of Valparaiso and part of northwest Niceville.

Spaits replied that such allegations are a misconception. He said language about incompatibility in the SEIS was merely a "recommendation," meaning that the study recommended that property in such areas should be zoned for industrial or other nonresidential uses in the future.

"People can still live wherever they want," said Spaits.

Spaits was also asked whether military flights exposing existing residential areas to such noise would constitute a "taking" in the sense that the Air Force would be required to provide owners of such homes with "just compensation" in accordance with the U.S. Constitution.

"Absolutely not," Spaits said, again stating that the language in the SEIS was "a recommendation only."

Many Valparaiso residents who spoke during the formal portion of the hearing disagreed with Spaits' assessment. Foremost among these was Valparaiso Mayor Bruce Arnold, who was allowed to speak for longer than the usual three-minute time limit, because several other Valparaiso residents had donated their allotted time to him.

"Consider the expected impact of preferred alternative 1-A on the city of Valparaiso," Arnold said, referring to the Air Force preference for flying the F-35 from

Eglin's north-south runway, something it does not now routinely do.

Arnold stated: "Since the city will be forced to adopt the Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act of 1979, 4 CFR Part 150, into our comprehensive plan, which states all buildings in noise contour lines of DNL 75 decibels or greater cannot be used for residential purposes and those structures located within contour lines at DNL 65 decibels to DNL 75 decibels must have sound attenuation materials installed before uses of residential occupancy, at minimum, 170 of our homes will have to be destroyed, displacing 600 members of our population because their property will only be suitable for parking lots, mining and agricultural uses. Further, the SEIS clearly spells out that Eglin can only remediate those structures that are 'on' base and that no funding has been provided for mitigating the homes for all the people residing within the 65-75 dB noise contours that will require remediation at between \$40,000 and \$50,000 per home to soundproof. Thus we are left with a document that negatively impacts half of our municipal population with no federal government responsibility for 'takings' due to encroachment the Air Force refuses to curtail."

Arnold went on to say: "\$3 million will be required in demolition costs. Remediation or relocation costs at the City Hall complex and public works office is estimated at \$3.8 million. Another \$32 million will be required in expected costs to sound attenuate existing structures. The city will lose at a minimum \$575,000 per year from our various revenue streams; and the city will face a continuing population decline and surrounding neighborhoods will suffer a collapse of life. All told, an additional 18.5% of the city budget becomes unavailable for the continued prosperity of our city as a very conservative estimate. We believe that the net effect of lost



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Members of the public at an Air Force hearing July 9 in Valparaiso concerning expected environmental effects of operating a training wing of 59 F-35 strike fighters at nearby Eglin Air Force Base. The meeting, during which a proposed increase in jet noise over the city was extensively discussed, was held at the First Baptist Church.

revenues under alternative 1-A will drive the city to fiscal demise given the already tight operating parameters. Certainly at risk will be the city's ability to make it's scheduled bond payments for lack of sufficient revenues. Once our bonds fall into default, the city may have no choice but to seek bankruptcy options."

In his speech, Arnold emphasized that he and most other Valparaiso residents do not oppose the basing of F-35 fighters at Eglin, but merely want the Air Force to conduct F-35 training flights in a way that will minimize noise levels in nearby communities, and prevent any need for demolition or expensive modifications to existing homes. Arnold recommended that the Air Force adopt SEIS alternative 1-I as the preferred method for Eglin's flight operations. That option, if chosen, would require Eglin to build an additional runway to route most F-35 takeoffs and landings away from the city of Valparaiso. Another option among several discussed in the SEIS would be option 2-A, which would move most F-35 flight operations to Duke Field, an auxiliary field located away from most residential areas, including Valparaiso and Niceville.

The Air Force, however, has stated its preference for alternative 1-A, which would include launching most F-35 flights from existing runways at Eglin's main base—the alternative which would impose the highest noise levels on Valparaiso.

Several other Valparaiso residents spoke in support of the mayor's position. Claude Canell said that he recently recorded a noise level of 130 dB at his home on Grandview Avenue. He said the future noise levels resulting from adoption of alternative 1-A would "devastate our city." He also questioned the wisdom of conducting training flights directly over Valparaiso, exposing residents to the potential of plane crashes.

Valparaiso resident Robert Webb, a sound engineer who was Valparaiso's representative on a now-defunct base-community noise committee, said that he is disappointed that the Air Force did not choose option 2-A rather than 1-A. He said alternative 1-I would also be acceptable for Valparaiso, and would allow the base to make maximum use of infrastructure already installed at the base in support of F-35 training operations. He said the cost of building a new runway at Eglin would probably be less than the cost of renovating

on-base military housing with additional noise attenuation. He said the cost of a recently-built runway near Panama City was \$96 million, compared with recent estimates of \$100 million to replace base housing.

Ann Kirkpatrick, who said she has lived in Valparaiso since 1957 and grew up as part of a military family, called the selection of option 1-A "a bad disservice to the people of Valparaiso."

"We don't want to have to keep our children locked inside" to protect them from high noise levels, she said.

Former Valparaiso city commissioner Neal Shermer said that adopting option 1-A would violate principles established by America's founders, that the military should be restrained by civilian authority, and that the federal government should respect private property rights in accordance with the Constitution.

Valparaiso resident Harry Wolfgang questioned why the Air Force is so insistent on alternative 1-A. "There is no justification stated in the SEIS for option 1-A," he said.

Other speakers, mostly from communities other than Valparaiso, expressed their support for the Air Force and for the basing of F-35's at Eglin, to include option 1-A for flight operations.

Gordon Fornell, a Niceville resident and former Air Force general, congratulated the Air Force on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. "I know the difficulty," he said, of preparing such a report, and said the service had "done a marvelous job."

Fort Walton Beach resident John Scott, a retired Air Force flier, supported its choice of option 1-A. Building another runway, he said, would only "take the problem toward Fort Walton Beach."

"Most people outside Valparaiso don't care," he said, about the noise issue. "I don't care

if property values drop in Valparaiso." Most of the current value of property in Valparaiso, he added, results from the city's proximity to Eglin Air Force Base.

Niceville resident Frank Green said, "Can the F-35 and civilian quality of life coexist? Yes. The end of the world is not at hand." Green added that most flight operations from runway 01-19 (the north-south runway that takes planes over Valparaiso and northwest Niceville), the route most likely to cause noise problems, are only likely during about 10 percent of the year, in order to avoid winter crosswinds on the east-west runway, which typically does not result in overflights of populated areas.

Some attendees who did not speak publicly nevertheless expressed their opinions directly to the Bay Beacon.

Niceville resident Mike Evans, who said he lives in Niceville but owns a rental house in Valparaiso, said the Air Force should have based the F-35 training program at Tyndall Air Force Base near Panama City, rather than at Eglin. He said that Tyndall already hosts flight training programs for the F-15 and F-22 fighters, and could have easily accommodated the F-35 program without creating the noise issues that currently surround Eglin. Evans expressed pessimism about whether Valparaiso and Eglin will be able to resolve their conflict. "I don't see much hope in this for the little guy," said Evans. "There are going to be lawsuits."

Bobby Griggs, a Fort Walton Beach city councilman, said that noise complaints about F-35 operations at Eglin are "reckless," because they threaten the continuation of the base and its positive effect on the economy of northwest Florida. "With complaints like this," he said, "the Air Force will continue to branch off wings to different states. The lifeblood of our local economy is the military. It provides hundreds of jobs."

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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

Falicia Marie Bender, 23, of 507 23rd St. Lot B, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 8 on a charge of battery domestic violence.

Bender allegedly threw a lighter at someone, hitting the victim in the right arm.

Bender's required court appearance is July 30.

Michael Julian Dampier, unemployed, 32, of 28 Garden Lane Apt. 9, Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 6 on charges of resisting an officer with violence and battery domestic violence.

Dampier allegedly threw someone on the hood of his neighbor's vehicle and struck the victim on the left arm.

An officer responded and attempted to interview Dampier, who repeatedly interrupted the officer and refused to leave. The officer attempted to handcuff

Dampier, who pulled away from the officer and unintentionally kicked two officers in the legs. Dampier was tased three times before he complied with officers. Dampier's required court appearance is Aug. 13.

Justin Douglas Prevatte, a zip line company employee, 19, of 1215 S. Cedar Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police July 5 on charges of possession of marijuana less than 20 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia.

An officer responded to 1215 S. Cedar on an investigation and was "overwhelmed" by the smell of burning marijuana upon being greeted at the door.

The officer asked about the smell of marijuana. Prevatte and another man had approximately one gram of marijuana each and several "bongs and pipes."

Prevatte and the other man gave the officer permission to

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

This information is from reports by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.



Name: Clifford W Booty
Wanted for: FTA-Grand Theft/Making False Statements to Obtain Credit Report/Conspiracy to Commit a Felony
Height: 6-feet, 0-inches
Weight: 250, **Age:** 52
Date of birth: 05-01-1961
Hair: Unknown, **Eyes:** Blue



Name: Joseph M. Gainey
Wanted for: VOP-Grand Theft
Height: 5-feet, 10-inches
Weight: 170, **Age:** 24
Date of birth: 01-29-1989
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Blue



Name: Keith Douglas Carter
Wanted for: VOP-Possession of Cocaine
Height: 5-feet, 9-inches
Weight: 245, **Age:** 58
Date of birth: 01-12-1955
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown

This information is from reports by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. A reward is offered by Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers, 863-8477, or 1-888-654-8477. Information can also be provided anonymously by texting "TIP214 plus the message" to CRIMES (274637)

search the residence, and the search revealed 14 grams of marijuana, which field tested positive for the presence of THC, two "bongs" one scale and four pipes used for smoking marijuana.

Prevatte's required court appearance is July 23.

Kenesha Shondara Mays, a housewife, 25, of 107 Harding Road Lot H, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 9 on a charge of battery domestic violence.

Mays allegedly hit someone in the face, causing swelling above the victim's right eye.

Mays' required court appearance is July 30.

Leah Ann Scarborough, unemployed, 20, of 1505 Ruckel Drive, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 8 on a charge of possession of marijuana less than 20 grams.

A deputy responded to the business at 248 Main St., Destin, in reference to a report of two people passed out in a car in the

parking lot.

The deputy made contact with someone later identified as Scarborough, who was sitting in the driver's seat. The deputy smelled marijuana coming from the car.

During a search of the vehicle, the deputy found three grams of a green leafy substance that field tested positive as marijuana.

Scarborough's required court appearance is July 30.

Luke Martin Bayer, a student, 20, of 4555 Redbud Trail, Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on charges of bat-

Please see BLOTTER, page A-7

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from July 08, 2013 through July 7, 2013.

3 Structure Fire	20 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	5 Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	0 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	0 Hazardous Conditions

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Valparaiso Blvd.	Medical	7/8/13	12:37
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	7/8/13	13:06
Summerwood Ct.	Medical	7/8/13	13:45
N. Palm Blvd.	Medical	7/8/13	14:56
Reeves St.	Medical	7/8/13	19:21
Spencer Pl.	Medical	7/8/13	21:56
Antiqua Way/BWB.	False alarm	7/9/13	02:38
22nd St.	Medical	7/9/13	04:43
Oak Ave.	Structure fire	7/9/13	15:52
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	7/10/13	12:15
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	7/10/13	18:27
Grove Park Dr.	Medical	7/10/13	20:08
Park Ave.	Medical	7/11/13	01:50
SR 85 N.	Vehicle crash	7/11/13	04:55
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	7/11/13	10:31
Regatta Dr.	Medical	7/11/13	11:43
SR 285	Vehicle crash	7/11/13	11:49
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	7/11/13	15:51
22nd St.	Medical	7/12/13	05:51
Benton Ave.	Vehicle crash	7/12/13	07:40
N. Palm Blvd.	Medical	7/12/13	10:26
Campbell Dr.	Medical	7/12/13	15:15
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	7/12/13	18:13
McFar Dr.	Structure fire	7/12/13	18:13
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	7/13/13	10:57
Willow Ln.	Medical	7/13/13	18:55
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	7/13/13	19:37
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	7/14/13	01:28
Roberts Dr.	Service call	7/14/13	11:29
Green Palm Cir.	Structure fire	7/14/13	17:18

Weekly Safety Tip: Never put synthetic fabrics, plastic, rubber or foam in the dryer because they can retain heat. Clean the lint screen before and after use. Dryers must be vented to the outside and plugged into its own outlet. Never leave home with the dryer running.

Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook



North Bay

The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following call through July 14, 2013.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Antiqua Way	Fire, other	7/9/13	02:38
Lancaster Dr.	Medical assist	7/9/13	03:33
E. Highway 20	Vehicle accident	7/9/13	07:41
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	7/9/13	11:57
Oak Ave.	Building fire	7/9/13	15:54
Merchants Way	Medical assist	7/10/13	09:51
Sandalwood Cir.	Medical assist	7/10/13	11:11
Glenlake Cir	Medical assist	7/10/13	11:16
Benton Ave.	Dispatched & cancelled	7/12/13	07:40
E. Highway 20	Medical	7/12/13	09:58
McFar Dr.	Dispatched & cancelled	7/12/13	18:16
White Point Rd/N. Lake	Vehicle accident	7/12/13	18:31
S. Hampton Ct.	Medical assist	7/13/13	14:49
Green Palm Cir.	Fire, other	7/14/13	17:18
Windward Cir	Dispatched & cancelled	7/14/13	17:39

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith



What do you think about the Not Guilty verdict in the trial of George Zimmerman?

Location: Oak Creek shopping center



"There is nothing that can be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. Our court systems are too relative at this point."

Mark Boyd Jr., 24, Niceville, cook



"I didn't see it coming. Zimmerman should have stayed in his vehicle after the 911 operator told him to. Zimmerman instigated the fight. That's why he was guilty in my opinion."

Doug Swanson, 54, Niceville, commercial fishermen



"Legally, Zimmerman was found 'not guilty,' but he is not innocent."

Thelma Underwood, 57, Niceville, manager



"My opinion is that the Florida justice system appeared to work as it should, and came to the right conclusion."

Randall Rowland, 49, Bluewater Bay, Chief of Environmental Management at Eglin Air Force Base



"The jurors listened to all the evidence, weighed the issues, and found him not guilty."

Brian DeGroat, 43, Niceville, wastewater operator



"I think he should have at least been convicted of manslaughter. As a Neighborhood Watch person, he was told not to intervene, but did. If he had a gun with hollow-point bullets, he probably intended to use it."

Samantha Lucas, 18, Fort Walton Beach, tree surgeon

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

BLOTTER

From page A-6

tery on a law enforcement officer and resisting an officer without violence.

Deputies responded to 1467 Live Oak St., Niceville, in reference to reports of loud music. Deputies reported underage drinking and use of narcotics occurred at the residence.

Bayer allegedly attempted to shut the residence's back door twice to keep deputies out. Bayer pulled away when a deputy attempted to handcuff him. Bayer ran away, grabbed a pillow, turned and threw it, hitting a deputy in the face.

Bayer's required court appearance is Aug. 13.

Tyler Alexander Fleet, a beach attendant, 18, of 527 31st St., Niceville, was arrested by sheriff's deputies July 4 on a charge of resisting an officer without violence.

Deputies responded to 1467 Live Oak St., Niceville, regarding reports of loud music. Fleet, who allegedly was hiding in the

residence, came close to a deputy, and the deputy instructed Fleet to back up.

Two deputies took Fleet in custody, having to forcefully remove him from a bed and place him on the ground before handcuffing him.

Fleet's required court appearance is July 23.

David James Scannell, a laborer, 42, of 226 Palmetto Ave., Niceville, was arrested by Walton County sheriff's deputies July 3 on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

A deputy stopped someone later identified as Scannell for driving without wearing a seat belt. The deputy asked for consent to search the vehicle. As Scannell got out of the vehicle, some items fell from his person. These items field tested positive for methamphetamine.

DUI arrests

Gabriel Paul Chavez, 27, of 139 2nd St., Niceville, was arrested by Niceville police for DUI at 1st Street at Park Avenue, Niceville, July 6 at 9:57 p.m.

Chavez was also cited for driving with an expired tag. His required court appearance is July 23.

Thefts

A Niceville resident of the 500 block of Matthew Street reported July 5 someone stole his iPhone 4 and iPod from his unlocked truck parked at his residence.

The manager of the Ruby Tuesday at 1919 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, reported July 7 a couple ate at the restaurant and walked out without paying.

An officer spoke with one of the people who allegedly ate without paying, and he said he had left without paying because he could not find his waiter and had been without service for thirty minutes, as the restaurant's employees were outside watching fireworks.

The officer informed the subject that he could be charged with theft for not paying, but the restaurant had agreed not to pursue charges if the bill was paid. The person paid the bill, and

the manager filled out a drop charges form.

A Niceville resident of the 1000 block of Everglade Drive reported July 7 someone stole important papers from a lock box in her residence.

The papers missing were titles to the victim's vehicles, a birth certificate and a rental contract.

A Valparaiso resident of the 200 block of Grandview Avenue reported July 4 someone stole his boat, worth approximately \$5,000, and his boat trailer, worth approximately \$1,500, from the front yard of his residence.

An employee of AA Auto Clinic at 1595 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, reported July 5 someone had climbed over the fence at the business

and stolen a radio from a vehicle he had towed.

The office manager of the business at 4565 Commercial Drive, Niceville, reported July 8 someone stole \$400 of child's playground equipment from the building's parking lot, where it had been left out for cleaning.

Criminal mischief

A Valparaiso Public Works employee reported July 7 someone had broken out the lower half of the plumbing system on the toilet in the middle stall of the bathroom at Florida Park, Valparaiso. The public works employee said the damage was likely caused by someone discharging firecrackers in the bowl of the toilet.

Other

Travis Wade Potter, 18, of 85 County Highway 1087, DeFuniak Springs, was served a

summons by Niceville police July 2 on a charge of retail theft shoplifting.

An employee of the Kmart at 1140 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, allegedly observed Potter take CDs, headphones and face cleaner from the store and conceal them in the front of his pants and pockets. Potter left the store without attempting to pay for the merchandise, worth \$67.80.

Potter's required court appearance is July 23.

Dylan James Detiege, 20, of 2435 Roberts Drive, Niceville, was served a criminal summons by Niceville police July 5 on charges of possession of marijuana less than 20 grams and drug equipment possession and/or use.

Detiege's required court appearance is July 23.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor on any subject are welcome. To allow room for all views, please keep your letters short. Also, don't forget to sign them and include your phone number. We reserve the right to edit or refuse any submissions. Please send items to: The Beacon • 1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, FL 32578 Fax: 1-888-520-9323 • Email: info@baybeacon.com

Valp. can live with F-35 fighter noise

By Frank Greene Niceville

Can the Air Force F-35 strike fighter program and Valparaiso's quality of life co-exist? Yes it can. The Air Force has taken the time

to evaluate the evolution of the strike fighter for everyone's benefit and regarding the use of the North/South runway.

It is not possible to avoid wintertime over-flights above Valparaiso. When a Canadian cold front moves through the area, it is always a wise decision to avoid any crosswinds and operate the strike fighter from runway 01/19 in a safe and secure manner.

There will be a number of days

during the winter season when the tempo of F-35 over-flights can and will be a nuisance. However, for the most part, outstanding flying conditions 90% of the year will only require a few hundred F-35 flight operations over the City of Valparaiso.

This is my optimistic, best-case scenario regarding the basing of the F-35 JSF at EAFB. What the Air Force is doing, is presenting an unlikely worst-case scenario regarding the much feared "monster" sound power of the F-35.

What is the right thing to do? The Air Force has done the right thing and has brought forth a less-powerful student pilot training engine for our benefit. We hear it every day.

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SPILLS

From page A-2

rains usually push bacterial levels above safe limits for swimming or boating for a day or two after each heavy rain, so that storm water runoff is a much more common threat to public health than occasional sewage spills. "Our beaches will remain as

they are," said Chapman, "until we as a community do something about storm water." She advised that anyone considering swimming, wading, or boating in local waters delay doing so until a day or two after heavy rains. Also, said Chapman, "If the water looks murky or cloudy, assume that it is contaminated with fecal coliform or other bacteria." She also added

that County health officials conduct weekly tests of water quality at numerous points in local waters, and post the results on the County website at HealthyOkaloosa.com.

County Emergency Manager Randy McDaniel said that in addition to press releases and posting of health advisories regarding future sewage spills or other health hazards regard-

ing local waters, that the County's "Code Red" emergency telephone notification system may also be used to issue advisories to the telephones of people who have registered their phones and addresses in the vicinity of affected waterways.

However, he added, people whose addresses are not near the affected waterways will not necessarily receive such warnings on their cell phones, even if they are physically located near the water at the time of the warning, because the Code Red system sends warnings only to phones whose owner's addresses are located near the affected area.

Valandingham said that he will also look into the possibility of using Valparaiso's city-operated cable TV system as

another potential channel for issuing public health advisories to Valparaiso residents when necessary.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Villani said that he would brief Okaloosa County commissioners on the revision to the comprehensive emergency management plan during a county commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 16.



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Valp. boy refuses limitations

By Angela Yuriko Smith
Beacon Staff Writer

Like many boys, Ben Baltz, an eleven year old from Valparaiso, is excited to go off to camp this summer. A rising seventh grader at the STEMM Academy, Ben's camp will offer the usual activities such as canoeing, zip lining and hikes except for one special difference: Ben's camp is only for kids who have limb loss or limb difference.

Ben lost his right leg at an early age due to osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer, at the age of 6. "He doesn't remember having a 'normal' leg," said his mom, Kim Baltz. "He is not going to let it slow him down and he doesn't give it much thought. He puts his leg on as his morning routine just like other kids get dressed."

Last December 6 Ben underwent surgery to install a metal plate intended to slow the growth of his right leg and keep his knees even

when he matures into adulthood.

Ben fully recovered from that surgery, said his mom, and goes back in December 2013 to have the plate removed.

Ben was granted a scholarship to attend the camp which covers all expenses, including airfare to Ohio, where the Amputee Coalition's Paddy Rossbach Youth Camp is located. A seasoned camper, this will be Ben's third year at Paddy Rossbach, with 90 other campers, ages 10-17, from throughout the United States.

"His favorite part of camp is the rope course and zip lining," said his mom. "He also enjoys



Photo courtesy by Paul Buchanan - SuwaneeSports.com

The rainy weekend couldn't stop Ben Baltz from running in the 2013 Freedom Springs Triathlon July 4 in Marianna. He placed second in his age group.

reconnecting with friends he has met the past two summers. He is excited about seeing two boys he met at a softball camp in June, who will also be attending amputee camp."

Ben doesn't save all his energy just for camp, however. He remains active throughout the year playing baseball with the Lewis Falcons, NVLL Athletics and recently participated in a softball camp sponsored by the Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team. "I love sports and I am very happy to be competing," said Ben.

He spent his Independence Day in Marianna competing in the 2013 Freedom Springs Triathlon where he came in second place for his age group. During his down time Ben is an avid reader.

Despite his full schedule, the once a year trip to Paddy Rossbach remains a highlight

Ben looks forward to all year long.

"It provides kids with limb loss a time to socialize and inspire each other to accomplish anything they want in a new or different way than their peers with all their limbs," said Kim Baltz. "They are supported in their endeavors by counselors who also have limb loss."

Despite missing a right leg Ben has traveled far. Last October he and his family were flown to New York City to make an appearance on NBC Today Show as a result of an incident where a friendly Marine helped him cross the finish line after his prosthetic had a malfunction.

Whatever obstacles Ben Baltz faces, he keeps moving forward. "I made straight A's this year at STEMM," said Ben. "I finally placed in a triathlon. Life is good right now and I think I can do anything."

Births

Thomas J. Carter III and Dawn Crippen of St. Petersburg, proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Ava Marie Carter.



Ava Marie Carter

She was born June 13, 2013, weighing 7 lbs and 5 ozs. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Crippen, and Donna Crippen of Ocala. Paternal grandparents are Steve and Patty Mixon of Niceville.



Pearce awarded Eagle rank

Niceville's Troop 546 scout troop is proud to announce the award of scouting's highest rank to Hudson Pearce, pictured with his fellow members of Troop 546, from left, Gavin Tolbert, David Bobbitt, Mike Klinger, Connor Lynch, Hudson Pearce, Alexander Johnson, Conner Nelson and Andrew Knight. For Hudson's Eagle Project, he led other scouts in the construction of a new entrance to the Bluewater Bay Garden Club Nature Trail and constructed other enhancements to the trail as well. More information on the troop can be found at troop546.net.



Valparaiso Garden Club officers

Valparaiso Garden Club recently installed their new officers for the 2013-2014 season. Pictured from left, Marion Bushey, Kathy Gresko, Scotta Mahugh, Carole Cardwell, Marie Harrison, Darolyn Weiss, Roxanne Ruckdeschel and June Jones. Not shown is Carole T. Smith.

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Makeup and movies

The Valparaiso Community Library would like to invite families to a special Disney movie Thursday event on July 18 starting at 12 p.m. with "Aladdin", a costume contest at 1:45 p.m. followed by "Beauty and the Beast" at 2 p.m., and "Lion King" at 4 p.m. Come in costume for a chance to win prizes.

Fans of YA books

All readers of young adult fiction are invited to attend a book club to meet, discuss and share a love of YA books. This book club is merging with the young at heart adults group. Share your inner teenager at the Niceville Library on Thursday, July 18 at 1:30 pm. Ages 14 - adult to read and discuss "The Talk-Funny Girl" by Roland Merullo. A limited number of books available. Please call 279-4863 x 1514 or stop by to sign up.

Author appearance

The Niceville Library Friends are hosting "Treasures of the Panhandle: A Journey Through West Florida" with guest speaker & author, Dr. Brian Rucker, Pensacola State College. This free program will be held in the Niceville Community Center on Friday, July 19 at 10:30 a.m. For more information or to reserve a seat please call the Niceville Library at 279-4863 x 1504. For ages 12 to adult.

Spaghetti dinner and auction

A spaghetti dinner and silent auction held by Boy Scout Troop 52 will be Friday, July 19 from 5-7 p.m. at the AMVETS, 910 Valastics Ave,

Valparaiso, and costs \$5 per person. The auction items are currently listed online for bidding at <http://troop52.valp.net/auction.htm>. Items include restaurant certificates, gift cards. Check out the items and make your bid. Bids will continue at the dinner until 7:30 p.m.

HEART adoption event

HEART Animal Rescue of Niceville will be having an adoption event at Destin Petsmart, 34940 Emerald Coast Pkwy., Destin, Saturday, July 20 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more info please call 650-3145.

Night at the museum

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida presents Night at the Museum, Saturday, July 20 at 7 p.m., featuring the Emerald Coast Theatre Company. Guests will enjoy a guided tour and experience area history through characters from the past. During the tour there will be a wine tasting, sponsored by the Yellow River Winery, a silent auction, and a variety of foods from participating restaurants.

By reservation only. Group reservations are encouraged with discounts for 6 or more. \$30 or \$25 for Museum members. Call 678-2615 for more info.

Filipino buffet

The Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church will sponsor a charity buffet dinner at the Life Center Hall on July 20 from 6 p.m. Filipino dishes and desserts will be served. All our welcome, please invite family and friends. Cost is \$7 for ten years and up, \$4 for 7-9 years and six and under eat free. Price includes entree, dessert and beverage. For more information please call 678-3000.

Author signing

Two authors will be signing books Saturday, July 20 from 1-3 p.m. at Bayou Books, Niceville. Author Danielle Dail will be signing her book, "Shoo Fly Shoo" and John J. Kelley will be signing copies of his book, "The Fallen



Photo courtesy of Heart Animal Rescue

HEART adoption event

Make a new friend Saturday, July 20 at an adoption event held by HEART Animal Rescue of Niceville at the Destin Petsmart, 34940 Emerald Coast Pkwy., from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more info please call 650-3145. Pictured, Joshua Bucy gets a cuddle from his new canine pal Delilah at a recent event.

Snow", a ForeWord Reviews 2012 Book of the Year Award Finalist.

Tea Party meets

The Niceville-Valparaiso Tea Party will meet at Niceville City Hall on July 22, at 6 p.m. Representative Matt Gaetz will be the guest speaker and speak on the impact of the 2013 Florida legislative session.

Basketball camp

Basketball camp will be held in the Rocky Bayou Christian School Gym and will be run by coaches Jared Owen and Tatisha Bowles from July

22-25 from 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m. for boys and girls grades 3-7. Cost is \$90. Please call the summer camp office at 279-3700 and get your athlete registered or go online and fill out the registration form at rbcs.org.

Eagle football camp

The tenth annual Niceville Eagle Football Camp will be July 22-23 for ages 7-12 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Preregistration is required, cost is \$35. For more information call 833-4263 or 833-4114 x1362

Author appearance

Dr. Sandra L. Davis, author of "So, What's A Nice Girl Like You Doing In A Place Like This?" will be speaking at the Niceville Public Library July 23 at 6:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. For more info please call the Niceville Library at 279-4863 x1514.

Pine needle basketry

Learn an age old skill using original Seminole techniques and local pine needles to create something uniquely yours at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso.

The two part class will be Tuesdays, July 23 and 30 from 5-7 p.m. The cost is \$55 or \$50 for Museum members, all materials included. Space is limited. Payment due at registration. For more info call 678-2615.

NARFE meets

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), Chapter 1428, will meet Tuesday, July 23, at the Golden Corral, Fort Walton Beach. Lunch at 11:00 a.m., meeting at noon. The speaker will be Larry Williams, Horticulture Agent with the Okaloosa County Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida since 1994, who will discuss growing tomatoes in our area. Open to all current and retired federal employees.

Quit smoking

The Quit Smoking Now (QSN) program will be Tuesday, July 23 at 5:30 p.m. at Twin Cities Hospital's Wellness Center, 2190 N Hwy 85, Niceville.

The QSN program is a tobacco cessation program with group support, providing Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) in a six week program led by a Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist. Meetings are an hour and occur once a week for the duration of the six week program. New participants are accepted during the first two sessions only.

To receive more information about the QSN program or register for a

class, please call 398-6965 or visiting westfloridaahec.org.

Butterfly lecture

A lecture on "Butterflies and Butterfly Plants" will be presented by Sheila Dunning, IFAS County Extension Office at the Niceville Community Center at 10:30 a.m. on July 24. Free program open to the public. For more info call the Niceville Library at 279-4863 x1504.

Youth program

Make and take your own Star Wars finger puppet characters at 2:30 p.m. in the YS program room July 25.

This program is offered for children ages 7-12 and registration is required. Please call 279-4863 x1514 or stop by YS to reserve your spot beginning July 1. Space is limited. All supplies will be provided.

Volunteer training

Covenant Hospice is seeking individuals and groups to join its award-winning volunteer team. A training workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, July 25 at the Covenant Hospice branch office, 220 Eglin Parkway NE., Fort Walton Beach. The workshop is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

Volunteers receive ongoing educational opportunities and are honored annually for their contributions. To register or to learn more, call Kappy Smith 729-1800.

Youth program

Youth Power Night is Thursday July 25, 7 p.m. at the First United Pentecostal Church of Niceville, 1217 Finck Rd.

This gospel presentation will be made with the use of gadgets, gimmicks, giggles and grins. All ages are invited. Come and behold this special service conducted by Brother Craig Cooper and assisted by Brother Grayson Moye. Light refreshments will follow.

For more information please contact Pastor Harley Moye at 232-6315 or visit NicevillePentecostalChurch.com

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Engagements

Weaver-Vucovich
Mr. and Mrs. R. Scott Weaver of Bluewater Bay announce the engagement of their daughter, Ashley Marie Weaver to Brandon Todd Vucovich, son of Todd Vucovich and Ashley Marie Weaver.

Merts-Howze
Mr. and Mrs. John Merts of Niceville are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Katherine Merts, 22, to Kaleb Howze, 23, son of Terrie Hudson of Niceville and Anthony Howze of Ft. Walton Beach. An April wedding is planned.

Brandon Todd Vucovich and Ashley Marie Weaver.

Kaleb Howze and Katherine Merts.

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Gamma Epsilon go to St. Petersburg

Members of the Gamma Epsilon Master, Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, recently attended the 2013 Beta Sigma Phi's state convention held in St. Petersburg. Pictured, Marge Ballon and Mattie Williams.

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Ken's Gas Piping is taking applications for dependable helper. Construction experience a plus but not necessary. Will train. Valid driver's license and reliable transportation preferred. For more information call 897-4149

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY

Earn extra cash of \$45 to \$140 or more each week in your spare time! The Bay Beacon seeks a reliable independent contractor to insert, bag, and deliver newspapers Tuesday night. You must be over 21 and have a reliable vehicle, a good driving record, a Florida driver's license, and proof of current liability insurance. No collecting duties. Earnings vary according to route and work load. Stop by the Bay Beacon for an information sheet and to fill out an application. The Beacon 1181 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville • 678-1080 (Parkway East Shopping Center across from PoFolks)

Homes for Sale

Swift Creek home for sale. Lowest price per sq. ft. in Swift Creek. Built 2010. 4,396 sq. ft., 4 bd, 3.5 bath. Visit www.swiftcreeksales.com or call Ken Gettinger Realtor 850-4420-3333.

See news happening? Call the Beacon at 850-678-1080.

Homes for Sale

CONDO FOR SALE \$88,500

Lakeside-BWB Condo. Unfurnished, 1BR/1BA with upgraded appliances. Short drive to Eglin & Hurlburt AFB. Close to beach. Call 850-803-4563.

Legal Notices

Dr. Thomas Holt will be retiring from the practice of medicine effective July 19, 2013. Your medical records will remain at White-Wilson Medical Center and be available for other White-Wilson physicians. Or, you may request copies of your records for physicians outside of White-Wilson by calling the Medical Records Department

Services

House cleaning in BWB and Rocky Bayou areas. Call 850-376-4610.

Piano and voice lessons in Niceville available now. Call 731-334-2941

Warehouse for Rent

Warehouse space available, 700sf warehouse. \$425/month. For more information, call 897-4149. 419 Adams Ave., Valparaiso.

The more you tell, the more you sell!
Call the Beacon Newspapers at 678-1080 to place your ad today!

Homes for Sale **Homes for Sale** **Homes for Sale** **Homes for Sale**

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Call **(850) 678-5178**

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If you want Niceville to know, say it in the Beacon.

CONVENIENT WAYS TO PLACE YOUR BEACON CLASSIFIED AD!

MAIL: Beacon Newspapers, 1181 E. John Sims Pkwy., Niceville, FL 32578. Please enclose check.
DROP IN: The Bay Beacon, 1181 E. John Sims Pkwy., Parkway East Shopping Center **Office hours:** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. M-F. After hours, use mail slot in our door.
E-MAIL: Classified@baybeacon.com Type "Classified" in subject field. (Do not include credit card information. We will call you for credit card info. \$5 processing fee.)

BEACON CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE
2:00 P.M. FRIDAY FOR WEDNESDAY

Please write ad on form. Include phone number as part of ad. Minimum charge \$11.00* for up to 10 words. Each additional word 20¢. Attach more paper if needed.

First Word		
\$11.00	\$11.20	\$11.40
\$11.60	\$11.80	\$12.00
\$12.20	\$12.40	\$12.60
\$12.80	\$13.00	\$13.20
\$13.40	\$13.60	\$13.80

*Base price includes \$5 weekly discount for walk-in or mail-in prepaid ads.

50% discount for additional weeks or papers. Check publications to publish ad:

Bay Beacon (Number of weeks) _____ Price of First Run\$ _____
 Eglin Flyer (Number of weeks) _____ + Price of subsequent runs ..\$ _____
 Hurlburt Patriot (Number of weeks) _____ = Total Price\$ _____

Ads are non-refundable.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Please make checks payable to the Beacon Newspapers.

Beacon Newspapers, 1181 E. John Sims Pkwy., Niceville, FL • (850) 678-1080

