

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-4

12 Pages, 2 Sections, 5 Inserts

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

50¢

**UP
COMING**

Thurs., 6 p.m.

The **Good News Jail and Prison Ministry** annual fundraising banquet is open to the public at the **Niceville United Methodist Church** Community Life Center. Free, donations welcome. 678-5827.

Fri., 7:30 p.m.



Okaloosa Chamber Singers will perform "An Evening for Song and Singers" at **St. Paul Lutheran Church**, Niceville. Free, with a suggested donation of \$10. 682-9651.

Sat. 9 a.m.



The **14U High Intensity Girls Fast Pitch Softball** team will be conducting their inaugural **golf tournament and silent auction** at the Eglin Golf Course. \$75 per person or \$300 per team. 517-5499.

Mon. 1-6 p.m.



The **Bloodmobile** will be at **Walgreens**, 4582 East Highway 20, Niceville. Donors will receive a \$10 Walgreens voucher.

Calendar B-3, B-2

Candidates woo voters

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

This year's Okaloosa County election season got a start last week with a candidate forum for the District 2 and District 4 seats on the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners.

Okaloosa County commissioners must each reside in one of the county's five districts and run for the seat representing their home district, but they are elected "at large," meaning that all voters in Okaloosa County may vote for candidates for each of the five district seats, two of which are up for election this year.

The primary election is Aug. 26. Since all the current commission candidates are Republicans, the primary will decide the elec-

tion unless a non-Republican enters the race. The general election is Nov. 4.

The March 26 forum, hosted by the Condo Alliance of Okaloosa Island and the Florida Panhandle Patriots, took place at the El Matador condominium on Santa Rosa Boulevard, Fort Walton Beach. About 68 people attended the forum, where they had a chance to meet and hear from District 2 candidate Carolyn Ketchel and District 4 candidates Henry Kelley and Trey Goodwin.

Incumbent commissioners Dave Parisot, of District 2, and Don Amunds, of District 4, did not attend, so the Beacon e-mailed them questions asked during the forum, offering them a chance to respond.

Following the forum, a straw poll was

Please see CANDIDATES, page A-5



Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

Voters took stock of three Okaloosa County Commission candidates March 26 during a forum in Fort Walton Beach.

Fish stories



Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

Tristan "Popeye" Sweeney, 4, recently enjoyed an afternoon of fishing with his grandfather, Warren Sweeney, on one of the ponds along 27th Street, Niceville. "My daddy actually built this pond for John Bullock years ago," said Warren Sweeney. "Pushed it out with a 'dozer."

Bluewater motorcyclist, 64, killed in crash with dump truck

A 64-year-old Bluewater Bay man died in a traffic crash Sunday night when the motorcycle he was driving hit a truck on State Road 20 at Edgewater Drive, according to the Niceville Police Department.

At about 8 p.m., the cycle, driven by Thomas Moore, was traveling east on State Road 20 in a marked and active construction zone, according to police.

A dump truck, working at the construction zone, driven by Chris Everidge, was turning south from State Road 20 onto Edgewater when the motorcycle collided with the rear of the truck, police stated.

Moore was pronounced dead at the scene.

The accident is being investigated by the Niceville Police Department. Anyone with information is asked to contact Staff Sgt. Joseph Kearnes at 729-4030.

Okaloosa Gas moves to take over Eglin system

The Okaloosa Gas District has approved an agreement to take over and operate the part of the natural-gas distribution network on Eglin Air Force Base that the utility doesn't already own.

A Memorandum of

Agreement between Okaloosa Gas and the Air Force has been signed and delivered to Eglin for Air Force approval, according to gas district spokesman Eddie Springle.

Based on the facts outlined in the agreement, the federal gov-

ernment, in an effort to privatize the natural gas system located on the Eglin Reservation, will aid in the facilitation that will assign ownership of the natural gas utility system to the Okaloosa Gas District, a self-governing agency of the state of Florida which is

based in Valparaiso.

After the final utility bill of sale is executed, Okaloosa Gas, which already owns much of the Eglin system, will assume responsibility of the complete natural gas distribution system within Eglin Air Force Base,

Hurlburt Field, Duke Field, and the 7th Special Forces base as part of the base's utility privatization initiative, according to Okaloosa Gas.

This will include the various housing projects maintained by the military or its contractors.

2.5 miles of streets being resurfaced in BWB, Niceville

By Mike Griffith
Beacon Correspondent

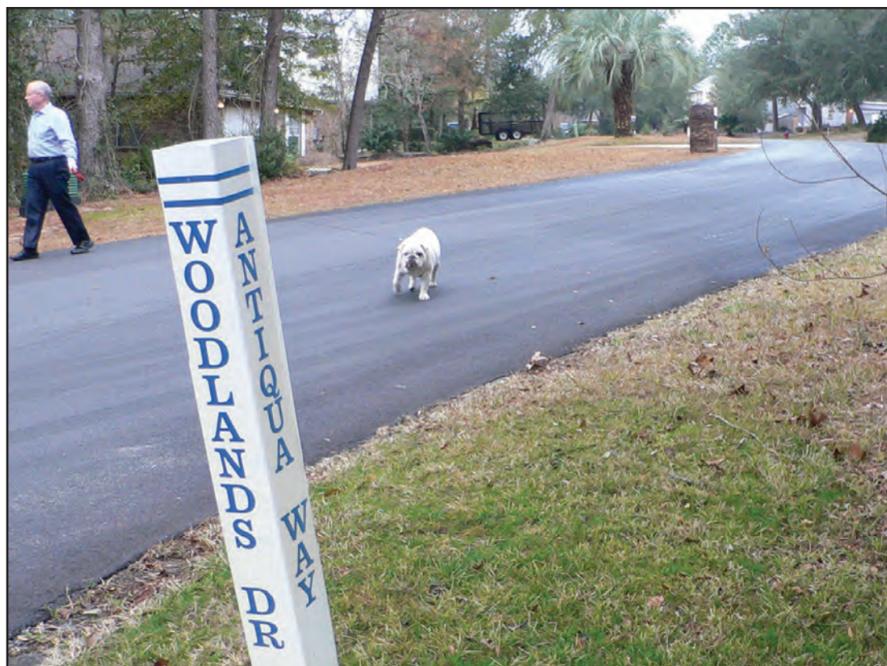
Okaloosa County is resurfacing 2.56 miles of streets in Bluewater Bay area and elsewhere in the Niceville area.

The resurfacing projects approved this year for county streets in county commission District 5, which includes Bluewater Bay, Seminole, and parts of East Niceville, are:

- Midland Court between two points along Blue Pine Lane.
- Summit Court between two points along Blue Pine Lane.
- Ivy Avenue from 48th St. to the end of Ivy.

- Nassau Drive from Antiqua Way to Barbados Way.
- Blue Pine Lane from Meadow Brook Court to Range Road.
- Meadowbrook Court between two points along Blue Pine Lane.
- Kates Court from Meadowbrook Court to the end of Kates Court.
- Caribbean Way from Bluewater Boulevard to Providence Way.
- Antiqua Way from Bluewater Boulevard to

Please see STREETS, page A-2



Okaloosa County is resurfacing a number of streets in the Bluewater Bay area and unincorporated East Niceville.

Beacon photo by Mike Griffith

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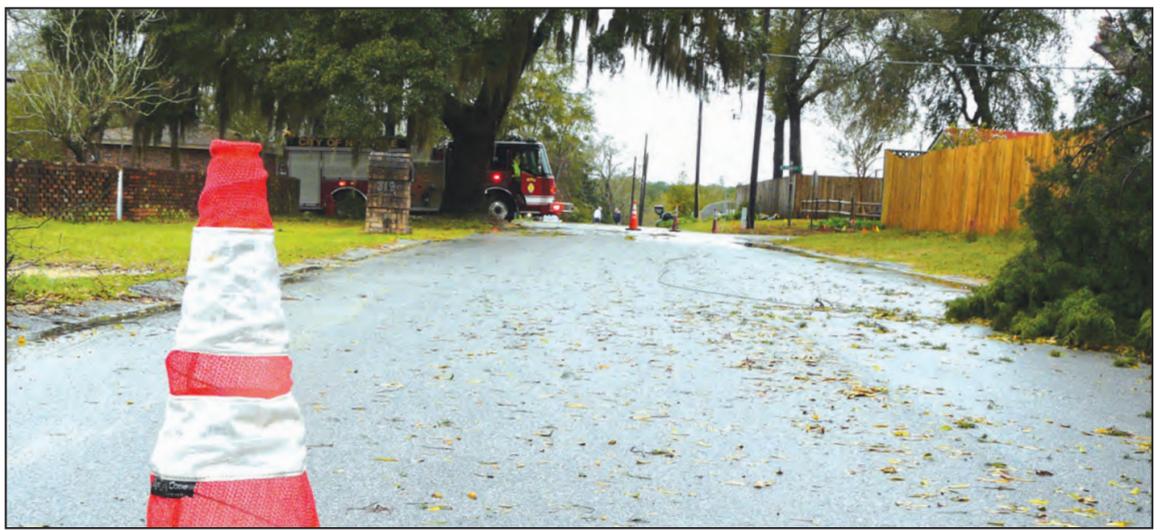
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Friday's storm causes damage

A sudden storm Friday blew down power lines, temporarily trapping residents in a house on Florida Street, Niceville, (street scene above), and causing power outages. Another line was partially blown down at Palm Boulevard and John Sims Parkway, below, making it necessary for Niceville police to redirect traffic. Multiple trees were toppled throughout the area, including the one pictured at right on Rocky Bayou Drive, Niceville. No serious injuries were reported.

Beacon photos by Angela Yuriko Smith and Stephen Kent



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2014 CALENDAR

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com

Lunchtime lecture

All are invited to enjoy a free lunch-time lecture Friday, April 11 at 12 p.m. at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, presented by Nathan Chesser, author of "Creek by Blood."

Bring a sandwich and take your lunch break at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida for History Sandwiched-In, an informal

lunchtime education program. Space is limited. Please call to reserve a seat at 678-2615.

Delicious good deeds

The second annual "Grab a Fork, Lend a Hand" event, will be Saturday, April 12 at 6 p.m. at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church's Parish Life Center in Niceville.

For more information call Catholic Charities at 737-0864.

Yard sale extravaganza

Saint Paul Lutheran Church will hold its Annual Yard Sale Extravaganza from 7 a.m. - Noon Saturday, April 12 in the Church parking lot at 1407 E. John Sims Parkway in Niceville.

Proceeds from the yard sale will be used for a Lutheran scholarship fund and various other charitable purposes throughout our community. For more information call the Church Office at 678-1298.

STREETS

From page A-1

Woodlands Drive. —Ridge Lane from Meadowbrook Court to Blue Pine Lane.

The resurfacing projects will include "micro-surfacing" in all but the Ivey Avenue project, for which the new surface will be an "overlay" of the existing surface.

In correspondence with the Bay Beacon, some county public works officials discussed details of the projects.

"Microsurfacing and chip sealing are less-expensive alternatives to an asphalt overlay," said County Public Works

Director John Hofstad.

"We use these technologies in various applications where the roadway is not suitable for, or does not require, an asphalt overlay. An example would be a cold-mix asphalt road which is not suitable for an asphalt overlay, but can have its service life extended by a chip sealing renovation. Also, many of our asphalt roads do not require extensive reconstruction or a complete asphalt overlay, but may benefit from microsurfacing to extend their service life."

"These are several of the technologies we employ to maximize the dollars we receive through the local option gas tax," Hofstad stated. Referring to a three-cent-per-

gallon increase in the county motor-fuels tax that took effect Jan. 1, Hofstad added: "The additional gas tax dollars that the county will be receiving will be used to broaden these types of programs, build new roads in the county, and purchase much needed replacement equipment used in the maintenance and upkeep of our county transportation network."

County Road and Parks Division Manager William "Clay" Simmons explained how county funds are allocated for road resurfacing projects. "In terms of dollars," Simmons said, "our road resurfacing funding is broken down by the separate commis-

sioner districts. Each district is held in a separate account."

Simmons said the account breakdown for the current fiscal year is as follows:

- District 1: \$99,207.
- District 2: \$87,664.
- District 3: \$99,823.
- District 4: \$99,326.
- District 5: \$99,371.

All but about \$4,000 of the District 5 total is projected to be spent in the Bluewater Bay-Niceville area, according to county figures.

"In general," Simmons said, "monies do not transfer from one commissioner district to another except under very unique circumstances."

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Richard



Office Staff



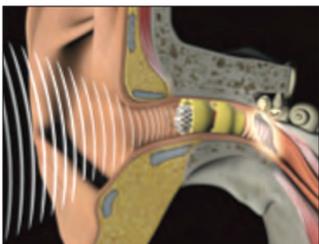
Howard



Grant

Dr. Richard C. Rebeck, Ph.D., HAS, BC-HIS - Nationally Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences, Office Staff (left to right): LaNika Lindsey, Office Manager, LauraNan Wheat, Director of Outreach, WreaFaye Nieft-Paris, Chamber Ambassador Niceville/Valparaiso, Raye Norell, Chamber Ambassador Crestview/Walton County, Doris Arrington-Holloway, Chamber Ambassador Ft. Walton Beach, C. Howard Foote, MBA, BSAE, HAS, Masters in Business Administration, Retired Aeronautical Engineer & Hearing Aid specialist, Grant Williams, HAS, ACA, Audio Prosthologist Chamber Ambassador Destin.

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Gaetz lauds state 'GI Bill'

Florida Senate President Don Gaetz (R-Niceville) Monday attended Gov. Rick Scott's signing of House Bill 7015, the Florida GI Bill in Panama City.

The legislation, unanimously passed by the House and Senate during the first two weeks of the 2014 legislative session that began March 4, establishes Florida as the top "Welcome Home" state by expanding education and career development opportunities for military service members, veterans and their families, according to Gaetz.

"The Florida GI Bill makes Florida the most military-friendly state in the nation and supports the brave men and women who protect us at home and abroad," said Gaetz. "Through this bill, tens of thousands of active duty servicemen and women, military retirees and their families will see expanded education and employment options. Additionally, critical investments will be made to protect our military base missions and strengthen our National Guard Armories."

The Florida GI Bill is a key component of the joint House and Senate "Work Plan Florida 2014" agenda authored by Gaetz and House Speaker Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel). To date three of the five Work Plan agenda items, including a nearly \$400 million recurring reduction in vehicle registration fees and a comprehensive package of legislation to protect against sexual offenders have passed the Senate and House and been sent to Scott for signature. The governor is expected to sign these priorities into law later this week, according to Gaetz.

The Florida GI Bill increases funding for the Educational Dollars for Duty (EDD) program to cover career certification and continuing education for maintaining licensure, provides for out-of-state student veterans to receive in-state tuition rates, and encourages military base commanders and the Commissioner of Education to work together to increase military-family student achievement.

Specifically, \$1.53 million in recurring funding is allocated towards the EDD program to expand education options for National Guard members to include industry certifications and continuing education to maintain license certifications. Preference in the distribution of funds is given to those National Guard members who have deployed on federal military orders.

Textbook costs may be reimbursed after tuition has been paid for all eligible members in that year. The state Department of Military Affairs (DMA) will receive \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds for IT upgrades associated with administering and auditing the EDD program.



Gov. Rick Scott signs the Florida GI Bill in Panama City Monday as, among others, State Senate President Don Gaetz (R-Niceville), far right, looks on.

The GI Bill creates the Congressman C.W. Bill Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program which directs state universities, state colleges, career centers, and technical centers to waive out-of-state tuition fees for honorably discharged veterans. Tuition and fees charged to an out-of-state student veteran may not exceed the tuition and fees charged to a resident student.

The bill provides legislative intent that the unique needs of military families be met and a framework be established to provide children of military families with a high-quality education. Military installation commanders are encouraged to work with the Commissioner of Education to increase military family student achievement, which may include the establishment of charter schools on military bases.

The GI Bill expands the veterans preference for jobs in state, local and regional governmental entities, including the public education system, to all veterans, current members of the Reserves and the Florida National Guard, and the parents and spouses of service members who died in combat. The bill also establishes a permissive preference in private employment which allows businesses to establish hiring policies to give veterans and the spouses of disabled or deceased veterans' preference.

The bill exempts an active duty service member's spouse and dependents with out-of-state driver licenses who reside with him or her from the requirement to obtain a Florida driver's license if the service member's spouse begins employment in Florida or a dependent enrolls in a Florida public school.

The bill also clarifies the spouse and dependent are eligible for an automatic extension without reexamination for a Florida driver license that expires while he or she is stationed outside of Florida. Additionally, the bill waives the initial licensing fees for 60 months for licenses obtained through the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and the Department of Health (DOH) for honorably discharged veterans and their spouses.

The GI Bill removes the one-

Reciprocity is provided to license health care practitioners in their respective fields if those applicants have received, or will receive, an honorable discharge from service in the U.S. Armed Forces, including Reserve and National Guard components, or the U.S. Public Health Service.

The DOH application process for veteran and active military physicians applying for a temporary certificate for practice in underserved communities is streamlined. DOH must make a determination within ten days of receipt of the application.

The bill adds experience with handling prescription drugs for the U.S. Armed Forces to the list of qualifying experiences to become a certified representative of a wholesale drug distributor.

year residency requirement to allow veterans, who meet all other requirements for admission and are currently residents of the state, immediate access to vacancies in the state nursing homes.

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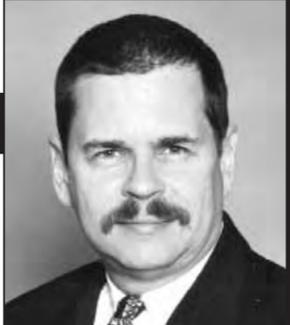
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Police Blotter

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 11, Niceville police arrested Lorinzo Lee Tew III, 52, 403 31st St., Niceville, for one count of carrying a concealed weapon (firearm), four counts of possession of harmful new legend drug without prescription, and one count of carrying a concealed weapon.

At about 11:10 p.m., a Niceville officer made a traffic stop on Tew's vehicle after seeing it driving with no headlights. Instead of stopping, Tew continued across some grass, went over a curb, glanced off a trash dumpster, and finally came to a stop. Other officers arrived, and stated that an officer safety warning had been issued for someone who might be Tew.

During a pat-down, officers discovered a small silver handgun in Tew's pocket and a 5-inch knife worn in a sheath. Officers conducted an inventory of Tew's vehicle, where they discovered a lock-box obtaining 318 800 mg Metaxalon pills (muscle relaxers). Tew did not have a concealed weapon carry permit or a prescription for the pills. He said he had forgotten that the gun was in his pocket.

On March 13, Niceville police arrested Jonathan Bakari Johnson, 19, a student, 6421 Sugar Creek Dr. S., Mobile, Ala., for one count of possession of marijuana over 20 grams.

An officer observed Johnson driving 54 mph in a 35 mph zone. While conducting a traffic stop, the officer noticed a strong odor of marijuana coming from Johnson's vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed a "blunt," (a type of marijuana cigarette) on the right side of the front passenger seat and a glass mason jar filled with two bags of marijuana in the duffel bag (belonging to Johnson) in the trunk of the vehicle.

The blunt was later weighed at 1 gram and the marijuana from the mason jar was weighed at 48 grams. Johnson admitted that the blunt and the rest of the marijuana belonged to him. The suspected marijuana was later field tested and yielded a presumptive positive result for THC.

On March 17, Niceville police arrested Antonio Berand Gray, 26, a driver, 300-G Kazmira, Niceville, for one count of resisting without violence.

Gray was the driver of a vehicle stopped for failure to use due care. After completing a DUI investigation on Gray, the arresting officer asked Gray if he had any more alcohol in the vehicle. Gray had already handed the officer an open glass pint of Bud Light from underneath the driver seat.

Gray had been uncooperative throughout the traffic stop, and had been told to sit down multiple times. When the officer began asking Gray about more alcohol being in the vehicle, Gray walked toward the passenger truck door, which was open. Gray began telling the officer he was going to shut the door and lock the truck

and go home. Gray was told to stop and go back to the sidewalk and sit down. Gray continued toward the open door of the truck while the officer was telling him to stop. Gray got near the door, and the officer grabbed him and placed him in handcuffs.

On March 20 Rebecca Christine Pike, 18, of 1411B 29th St., Niceville, was arrested in Miramar Beach for liquor possession by a person under 21 years of age, first offense. She was booked at the Walton County jail and released on \$250 bond 10 minutes later.

At about 2:12 p.m., March 20, a Walton County deputy in Miramar Beach arrested Mick-Doohan Kaliski, 18, 4296 Ida Coon Circle, Niceville, for one count of liquor possession by a person under 21 years of age, first offense. The officer observed Kaliski in possession of a Sprite can which by Kaliski's admission contained "Four Loco," an alcoholic beverage.

On March 22, Valparaiso police arrested Joshua Allen Brown, 21, unemployed, of 327 Washington Ave., Valparaiso, for three counts of burglary to an unoccupied conveyance, one count of grand theft, one count of vehicle theft, and two counts of theft in a string of car burglaries in Hidden Cove.

Brown allegedly entered an unlocked vehicle parked at a residence and took a pill bottle containing 13 diphenhydramine 25 mg and four lighters valued at approximately \$5, and entered another unlocked vehicle next door where he stole two active duty military camouflage hats with rank bar stitched on the front, valued at approximately \$40. He also entered a third vehicle nearby, where he took some clothing, running shoes, sunglasses, a GPS unit, some tools, a backpack, and some other items totaling in excess of \$1,100 value.

Also arrested was Austin Cole Adams, 18, unemployed, also of 327 Washington Ave., Valparaiso, on three counts of burglary to an unoccupied vehicle, one count of grand theft, and two counts of theft.

Adams told police that after he and Brown got back to their residence, he went to sleep, but when Adams awoke, Brown told him that he had gone back and taken one of the victims' vehicles. Adams said that Brown told him he threw the vehicle keys in the yard, where they were subsequently found. The vehicle was driven approximately 123 miles.

On March 24, Valparaiso police arrested Bobby Patrick Culver, 42, self-employed, of 311 Glen Ave., Valparaiso, for one count of battery (DOMV), one count of assault, and one count of disorderly intoxication, five weeks after Culver was shot in the abdomen by a neighbor whom Culver had attacked after Culver had assaulted his own wife.

Please see BLOTTER, page A-7

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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



Wanted As Of: 08/03/2012
VOP-Grand Theft and Uttering Forged Check Misdemeanor VOP-Worthless Checks
Name: Jason Michael Oliver
Sex: Male Race: Caucasian
Age: 27 DOB: 02/13/1987
Height: 5ft 9in Weight: 160 lbs
Hair: Brown Eyes: Hazel



Wanted As Of: 08/19/2013
Larceny and Burglary
Name: Carlos Urbina-Suarez
Sex: Male Race: Hispanic
Age: 27 DOB: 04/09/1987
Height: 5ft 6in Weight: 150 lbs
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)

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from Mar. 24, 2014 through Mar. 30, 2014.

0 Structure Fire	18 Emergency Medical Calls
1 Vehicle Fire	0 Vehicle Crash
1 Other Fire	1 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	6 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	3 Hazardous Conditions



Street	Situation	Date	Time
Hudson Cir.	Cancelled	3/24/14	08:39
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	3/24/14	09:33
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	3/24/14	15:50
Redman Ct.	Medical	3/25/14	13:51
Kildare Cir.	Smoke scare	3/25/14	14:19
Judith Ave.	Medical	3/26/14	08:43
Reeves St.	Medical	3/27/14	12:53
E. John Sims Pky.	Medical	3/27/14	13:16
Cadillac Ave.	Medical	3/27/14	13:18
E. John Sims Pky.	Power line down	3/28/14	11:25
Rooky Bayou Dr.	Service call	3/28/14	11:25
E. John Sims Pky.	Power line down	3/28/14	11:32
Mayo St.	Power line down	3/28/14	11:33
Florida St.	Brush fire	3/28/14	11:51
Niceville Ave.	Service call	3/28/14	11:51
S. Cedar Ave.	Service call	3/28/14	12:18
Davis Dr.	Medical	3/28/14	16:53
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	3/28/14	07:28
Roberts Dr.	Medical	3/29/14	17:00
Kelly Rd.	Medical	3/29/14	19:48
Valparaiso Blvd.	Alarm activation	3/29/14	19:54
SR 85 N.	Vehicle fire	3/29/14	21:00
E. John Sims Pky.	Medical	3/29/14	23:08
Niceville Ave.	Medical	3/30/14	08:57
SR 85 N.	Medical	3/30/14	09:39
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	3/30/14	11:52
E. John Sims Pky.	Medical	3/30/14	12:44
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	3/30/14	13:09
Bayshore Dr.	Medical	3/30/14	14:00
E. John Sims Pky.	Vehicle extrication	3/30/14	20:58

Weekly Safety Tip: Keep candles at least one foot away from anything that can burn and put them out when you leave the room or go to sleep. Never leave lit candles unattended around children. Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook

North Bay



The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from Mar. 24, 2014 through Mar. 30, 2014.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/24/14	21:57
Scenic Hwy. 98	Dispatched & cancelled	3/25/14	12:10
Kildare Cir.	Dispatched & cancelled	3/25/14	14:24
Range Rd.	Explosive/bomb removal	3/26/14	14:44
Parkwood Cir.	No incident found	3/26/14	16:28
E. Hwy. 20	Dispatched & cancelled	3/26/14	18:33
E. Hwy. 20	Outside rubbish fire	3/26/14	19:00
Merchants Way	Medical	3/27/14	03:11
Merchants Way	Medical	3/27/14	03:27
E. Hwy. 20	Medical	3/27/14	10:23
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/27/14	10:55
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/27/14	14:06
N. Lakeshore Dr.	Vehicle accident	3/27/14	15:56
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/27/14	19:01
Legendary Dr.	Dispatched & cancelled	3/28/14	12:12
Ida Coon Cir.	Smoke detector activation	3/28/14	12:20
Barrington Ln.	Wind storm	3/28/14	12:47
Bluewater Blvd.	Service call	3/28/14	13:11
Bluewater Blvd.	Service call	3/28/14	13:12
Caribbean Way	Service call	3/28/14	13:31
Meadowbrook Ct.	Service call	3/28/14	13:46
Midland Ct/Blue Pine	Service call	3/28/14	14:17
Cat Mar Rd.	Assist invalid	3/28/14	15:49
Tumberly Pl.	Medical	3/29/14	11:55
Ridgewood Way	Medical	3/29/14	14:33
Pine St.	Medical	3/30/14	03:12
E. Rosewood Way	Medical	3/30/14	06:52
Cat Mar Rd.	Medical	3/30/14	09:32
Samana Way	Alarm system activation	3/30/14	10:55
Napa Way	Medical	3/30/14	13:59
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	3/30/14	14:20

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CANDIDATES

From page A-1

conducted among those who attended, to see which candidates audience members would be most likely to vote for if the election were held immediately. Results of the straw poll were:

—District 2: Dave Parisot, 5; Carolyn Ketchel, 63;

—District 4: Don Amunds, 3; Trey Goodwin, 34; Henry Kelley, 31.

Following some brief opening remarks, each of the candidates had an opportunity to respond to questions asked by members of the audience.

In opening remarks, Ketchel said she is running for the county commission because she is "frustrated and disappointed with the government we have in Okaloosa County." She said she is experienced in government affairs, having worked with President Ronald Reagan on a panel that helped refinance the U.S. Social Security system. She said she has also worked closely with Florida State Senate President Don Gaetz and Dist. 1 Congressman Jeff Miller.



Carolyn Ketchel

Ketchel said she has lived in Okaloosa County for 27 years, where she has raised two sons and has worked as a medical social worker and a broadcaster on a Christian radio station. She heads the local chapter of Catholic Charities.

Kelley said he has lived in Okaloosa County since 1969. A former executive with Walt Disney World and with Wyndham Resorts, Kelley is the part owner of a strawberry farm in the north part of the county, and has been active in economic development issues, to include helping to attract the new FAMU pharmacy college to Crestview, and helping to attract businesses to the county.



Henry Kelley

Kelley said that if elected, he will bring his vision from the private sector to county government, and work to help promote what he called the county's "four economic drivers"—the military, medical industry, farming, and tourism.

Goodwin said he grew up in Okaloosa County, and is "proud of our county, but not of its government." He is an attorney, and a former member of the Fort Walton Beach City Council. Goodwin said he opposes tax increases, and wants to bring "common sense and conservative leadership" to county government. He said he is concerned that county government tends to "burden property owners for those not paying their way."

Goodwin said, "I think the best ideas come from citizens. If elected, I won't forget who the boss is—you."

In his emailed response, Parisot began by explaining his absence from last Wednesday's forum, and criticized the forum's organizers. "Just got back from Tallahassee yesterday afternoon," he wrote, "from representing Okaloosa County at a Gulf Consortium (RESTORE) meeting, meeting with a Governor's staff representative and local legislators, and participating in Legislative Day on Thursday."

"I had informed (the forum organizers) of my inability to attend over six weeks ago, and I informed the Panhandle Patriots Tea Party organization on Feb. 19 via email."

Questions asked by audience members during the forum, and

responses from candidates, included:

What will you do to attract quality businesses to Okaloosa County?

Goodwin said that commissioners and others should not compete among themselves, such as between North and South regions of the county, for new business. He said he will revise Okaloosa County's tax incentive program, to include a grace period from paying county taxes for new businesses.



Trey Goodwin

Ketchel said she will emphasize improving county infrastructure, such as roads, Interstate 10, and railroad access. She said she would not increase property taxes, as these tend to hurt small businesses.

Kelley said he has already helped attract business to Okaloosa County by helping to recruit the FAMU pharmacy college. He said he has also worked with the Economic Development Council to recruit new businesses for the county, with emphasis on attracting high-tech/high pay industries.

In his e-mailed response, Parisot wrote: "I have been actively involved with the Economic Development Council and Chambers of Commerce in economic development. We also have approved an RFP for the Phase III analysis of the Gulf Power Industrial Park Certification Program. I also support the renewal of the ad valorem property tax incentive program. This issue will be on the Aug. 26 ballot for the people to vote on."

Amunds, in his e-mailed reply, wrote: "Continue to do tax abatements and to possibly share the dark fiber in the county's network to businesses as incentive to relocate here."

What will you do to improve the Florida Retirement System (FRS), and Okaloosa County's state-mandated contributions to it?

Kelley said that recent scandals in Okaloosa County, such as the county commission's failure to prevent or detect thefts from the Tourist Development Council (TDC) by its former executive director, seriously harmed Okaloosa County's ability to work effectively with the Florida Legislature. He said that the county should emphasize spending cuts rather than tax hikes in order to pay for state-mandated spending, such as for the FRS.

Ketchel said that there are always federal and state mandates imposed on counties, but that does not mean that counties must raise taxes. She said her experience running Catholic Charities has taught her how to manage a budget carefully. "I know what it's like to count the copy paper," she said.

Goodwin also criticized the county commission for raising taxes to help pay for last year's \$1.8 million FRS mandate. He said the county is "swollen with human resources," and that some county employees have approached him saying that Okaloosa County has too many layers of supervision, which can be cut without harming the effectiveness of county departments. He also criticized the county commission for approving "\$2 million extra in pay increases, on your back."

Parisot wrote: "The 'rule-making' and rate structure for FRS lies entirely with the State Legislature with the Governor's approval. However, I would support the FRS going to a 'defined contribution' program (similar to a 401K) for new employees."

Amunds wrote: "The Florida Retirement System is governed by the state not the individual counties."

How will you improve the county commission's oversight of spending and toll increases by the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority?

Goodwin said he is willing to look into the issue, and do a close examination of other parts of the county budget, including enterprise funds such as the water and sewer department. He said all parts of county spending should be scrutinized.

Ketchel said that infrastructure is a problem throughout Okaloosa County. She said that one third of the county's population now lives north of the Shoal River, where lengthy traffic jams often take place during busy periods. She also said that U.S. Highway 98 in the south county has become dangerously accident prone, and that a decision must soon be made as to how and where to build a new bridge over Santa Rosa Sound. She said a severe hurricane could trap many people in low-lying areas if county roads are not adequate for evacuation. "I'll get to the bottom of it," she said.

Kelley said that if elected he will ask the heads of all county departments and agencies, including the state-appointed Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, to give the county commission monthly briefings on their budgets and spending, and to explain how they conduct their business on a monthly basis.

Parisot wrote: "The spending and toll rates for the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority are under the control of the Florida Department of Transportation and the MBBA Board of Directors."

Amunds wrote: "The Board of County Commissioners have no oversight of operations or tolls of the Mid-Bay Bridge."



Don Amunds

What will you cut from the county budget?

Kelley said that Okaloosa County's current economic development program spends hundreds of thousands of dollars, and that he would prefer to let the private sector run such programs. He criticized county government for "just accepting" whatever insurance companies charge for employee health and life insurance, and said that such policies should be more carefully negotiated by the county.

Ketchel said, "We can find places to cut" without laying off county employees, whom she praised for doing tough jobs, often under difficult conditions. She said she would look for waste in other areas of county government, adding, "we can make changes."

Goodwin said he would have voted no on spending \$1.5 million on new county buses. When he sees such buses go by, he said, "I often see only one or two heads in the windows." He criticized the county commission for raising property taxes "without cutting a single job" from county departments. In fact, he said, the county has added positions to some departments.

Parisot wrote: "If we had a choice, I would cut the costs of unfunded mandates from the county budget and give this money back to county taxpayers through reduced property taxes."



Dave Parisot

Amunds wrote: "As county commissioner I have continued to cut the budget every year and have voted no to all tax increases, even lowering the millage two years in a row."

What will you do to control the cost of county employee health insurance?

Ketchel replied that her experience as a medical social worker will help her to tackle this issue. She said she will do "whatever it takes to balance the budget," and that she is "utterly frustrated" with excessive spending by county, state and federal governments. She said the solution is to "elect new leaders at every level."

Kelley said it is difficult to plan for insurance costs when, "No one knows what will be legal under Obamacare tomorrow or next week." He said Okaloosa County should not overspend on insurance, and that he takes the issue very seriously. He said that regarding county spending, he will emphasize public safety and infrastructure, while looking for cuts in less important areas.

Goodwin said that insurance is very important to county employees. However, he said, he does not favor keeping Okaloosa County's current "Cadillac" health policy, if it means having to pay fines to the federal government under provisions of the new health care law which penalize employers who provide more health insurance than the federal government approves of. Goodwin said he will look at alternatives such as health savings accounts and patient-managed health care programs for county employees.

Parisot wrote: "Since changing the county's health insurance consultant, we have instituted a wellness program which has had positive impacts in reducing claims by employees. As a result, the county has received rebates of over \$3 million on health insurance premiums as well as a 10% reduction in our premiums for the current FY 2014."

Amunds wrote: "We need to continue to compare benefits and costs for more economical health plans each budget year."

How should Okaloosa County spend whatever money it receives from the BP oil spill settlement?

Kelley said the county will have to choose between spending the money on many small projects or on a few large projects likely to have a big impact, such as transportation. He said he would like to do a "sand tracer study" of how sand drifts and accumulates around local beaches and the

Destin pass. He said that sometimes great changes can come through small changes, such as improving a run-down neighborhood by fixing broken windows.

Goodwin said that Okaloosa County should use such money to shore up its reserves. He said it is important for the county to save money for special events such as preparation and recovery from hurricanes. He also said that some of the BP money should be used to improve local roads, and to address water quality issues. He warned that the county should not spend BP funds on any projects that would "start continuous funding obligations."

Ketchel told the audience, "I'd ask what you want to do with it." She also said she will improve the county's storm water runoff control, to include fixing some sewer pipes that are now collapsing throughout the county. She said she will also try to draw upon the technical expertise available among military residents, and will form "citizen task forces" to help determine how such money should be spent. She said the BP settlement offers Okaloosa County "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to improve its infrastructure.

Parisot wrote: The county com-

mission "has established the Okaloosa RESTORE Advisory Committee (ORAC) composed of 11 county citizens to help draft our Multi-Year Implementation Plan, part of which is to take in project proposals, evaluate the projects, and make recommendations" to the county commission.

Amunds wrote: "The BP oil spill settlement should be spent on economic enhancement for job creation and growth. It should also be spent on any environmental impact issues that could strengthen our ecosystem and our water quality."

Neither of the absent incumbents seemed concerned about their apparently poor showing in the straw poll.

"Straw polls are useless," wrote Amunds, "since everyone brings their own support with them, especially if they are told about it."

Parisot expressed a similar view. "Straw polls at candidate forums are pretty meaningless" he wrote, "as most candidates will bring an 'entourage' of their supporters to fill the audience and 'cheer them on'. I would expect very few votes to be cast at such a gathering for a candidate who was unable to attend due to prior job commitments."

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BEACONSPORTS



Beacon photo by Dave Shelkoff

Eagle runners compete in Pensacola

Florida and Alabama sent 21 high school track and field teams to Pensacola to compete in the FCA and Justin Gatlin Panhandle Championships March 29. Niceville High School girls won 2nd place overall while the boys won 10th place overall. Pictured, Jack Massey, Tripp Davis, Tristan Hammer and Caden Ewing took second place in the 4x800 relay race with a time of 8:18.13. The Eagle's next meet will be in Mobile, Ala. April 4-5 at the Mobile Challenge of Champions.

Niceville softball beats Pace

Niceville High School girls softball beat Pace 10-0 in a home game March 27. Pictured, Aja Brechtel on the pitcher's mound. The team will be in Kissimmee April 4-5 for the Kissimmee Classic.

Beacon photo by Sarah Clauson



Traveling Eagles 9U win division

Traveling Eagles 9U Maroon are the division champions of the King of The Diamond Tournament held in Milton on March 15-16. Pictured, front row, Christian Sweat, Ayden Morales, Aiden Garrity, Camden Chambers, JT Lupella and Jake Hill. In middle row, Cooper Mee, Aaron Jenkins, Braden Holcomb, Brody Bankston, Raiden LaFortune and Connor Folley. In back row, Coach Marcus Chambers, Coach Trevin Eubanks and Coach and Manager Randy Eubanks.



Volleyball wins Hall of Fame tourney

The U18 Prostyle volleyball team recently won the Hall of Fame tournament in Pensacola. Pictured, front row, Sierra Burris and Sami Mims. In back row, Sammie Williams, Heather Young, Erin Batcho, Kayla Henrie, Marley Peters, Ashley Hagood and Coach JM Plummer. The team members are from Bay, Choctaw and Niceville High schools.



High Intensity wins March Madness

10U-2003 High Intensity team won the March Madness tournament in Mobile, Ala. on March 8. They went undefeated and only gave up five runs in four total games. Pictured, in front row, team members Riley Gibson, Haylee Hayes, Morgan Childress and Makenzee Ely. Back row, Ella Randall, Miranda Treadway, Brooke Leshner, Rachel Hester, Melaina Bryant and Kaylee McIver.



The colorful semiannual "Welcome" issue for military newcomers is nearly here! Military members, civilians and their families will receive this comprehensive guide to the Okaloosa County community!

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

Have you or anyone you know signed up for health insurance on the federal website healthcare.gov under the Affordable Care Act, or "Obamacare?"

Location: Oak Creek shopping center



"I don't know anyone who has. I'm not planning to. I'm just going day by day right now."

Rickey Caillouet, 41, Niceville, painter



"My husband and my daughter – they both liked it."

Evelina Applewhite, 69, Crestview, retired



"I don't know anyone who has. Most people I know already have their own insurance."

Joseph Jones, 51, Crestview, wastewater supervisor



"I have not, and no one that I know has either. I'm thankful that my wife is Civil Service, so we haven't had to address that yet."

Greg Daniels, 40, Bluewater Bay, mortgage originator



"I have not, and I don't know anyone who has. I have gone to their website, but found it very confusing."

Elijah Lambert, 20, Niceville, donation attendant



"No, and I don't know anyone who has. Everyone I know has a job, and already has insurance."

Leonard Bowman, 49, Niceville, store department manager

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-4

On Saturday, Feb. 16, Culver and his wife returned home from a night out and entered into a verbal argument, and he attacked her. She fled to a nearby home, where she sought help.

Culver threatened and charged the neighbor in whose house his wife had taken refuge. The neighbor, who was on his front porch, reported that Culver charged him multiple times, creating a "well-founded fear" that violence was imminent and that Culver would cause him great bodily harm.

The neighbor defended himself by pulling a 9 mm handgun from his jacket and discharged one round into Culver's torso. Culver fell to the ground.

Culver was hospitalized, eventually released from the hospital, and is recovering from his wound, according to police.

After questioning by police, the neighbor was released, and no charges were filed against him.

Other incidents

On March 14, an Okaloosa deputy responded to an address on Wright Circle in Niceville, regarding a grand theft. A victim reported that two packages that had been delivered by FedEx, and left on the victim's porch, had apparently been stolen while the victim was not at home. The stolen items included a car stereo valued at \$257.95 and some head-rest LCD monitors valued at \$205.89.

On March 14, a Walton County deputy responded to an address on Darrell Court, in reference to a credit card fraud. A victim stated that unknown persons had made an unauthorized online charge to her Wells Fargo card. The unauthorized purchase was made at a company in California, and the amount charged to the card was \$375.99.

The card account has since been canceled and the credit card company has assumed the loss.

On March 19, Niceville police responded to an address on Reeves Street, where a complainant said that someone had thrown a brick through a window.

On March 21, a Niceville officer responded to St. Paul Lutheran Church on John Sims Parkway in Niceville, in reference to a report of a stolen computer. Upon arrival, the officer spoke with a witness who said someone had stolen the pastor's Dell Laptop Inspiron 15 inch notebook valued at \$798.99. The witness said the intruder had apparently also taken some ham and some juice from the kitchen. No signs of forced entry were observed at the church.

On March 21, a Niceville officer responded to an address

on Bayshore Drive in regard to a reported theft. The victim told the officer that sometime around March 1 someone had stolen some items from his back yard. The items were 400 feet of half-inch rope valued at \$500, and six 12 x 24 bumper buoys valued at \$50 each. The victim said he now keeps his other items locked in his garage.

On March 22, Valparaiso police responded to the East Gate Plaza parking lot in regard to a possible criminal mischief. Police observed that a motorcycle had apparently been knocked down and damaged by unknown persons.

On March 24, Niceville police responded to the Parkview subdivision in regard to some items that had apparently been stolen from a work trailer.



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Mattress Outlet

One of the newest businesses in Niceville

Advertising Feature

Although most people tend to take their mattresses for granted and pay little attention to them, mattresses are one of the most important items in anyone's home.

"You spend a third of your life on your mattress," said Mike Conner, owner of Mattress Outlet, one of Niceville's newest businesses. "The quality of your mattress affects your health and the overall quality of your life. If you have a sore back, other chronic pain, or difficulty sleeping, you probably have the wrong or worn out mattress. Choosing the right mattress depends on what kind of sleeper you are. For example, if you sleep on your side, you may need a softer mattress to reduce pressure points, which cause discomfort, tossing and turning. If you sleep on your back, choose a firmer mattress to provide support and help you breathe easily."



Mike Conner

Conner, who has been in the mattress business for nine years,



Mattress Outlet offers a wide range of choices among mattresses and other bedding supplies.

said the Niceville store is the fourth in the Mattress Outlet chain, with others in Destin and two in Pensacola. He said the main thing that attracts people to his stores is "great beds for a great price."

One way Mattress Outlet keeps prices low, Conner said, is by offering "irregulars" – mattresses with minor scratches or dents which make no difference

to the comfort they provide, but lower the price dramatically. "We offer famous name brands, often at 40 to 60% off the prices you would find in a normal retail location."

Another attraction of Mattress Outlet, said Conner, is rapid delivery. "We have lots of mattresses in stock, and a 15,000 ft.² warehouse in Pensacola," he said. "We can deliver within 24 hours."

Although the Niceville store is new, Conner said, Mattress Outlet is well-established and respected, and has won "Best of the Bay" business awards each of the past two years – something he plans to continue with the addition of the Niceville store.

When shopping for a new mattress, said Conner, "Comfort has a lot to do with it. Everybody is a little different, so you need to pick the mattress that's just right for you. After all, it will be the most used piece of furniture in your house, and will last you 10 years or more."

Another tip for a successful night sleep, said Conner, don't forget about your pillow. A pillow will account for 20% of your spinal alignment. So as you look for your next mattress, try out the different types and styles of pillows and feel the difference it will make.



Mattress Outlet is located at 1075 E. John Sims Parkway, and can be reached by phone at 850-279-4220 or you can visit our website at www.mattressoutletllc.com.

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Who's News

Brandon Simpson of Niceville has become a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, National Leadership and Honors Organization at Florida State University.



Brandon Simpson

Nicholas Harvey graduated from Florida State University last December with a Bachelor of



Nicholas Harvey

Arts, Political Science with a minor in History and is a graduate of Niceville High School and Northwest Florida State College.

Harvey plans on entering missions field with Chi Alpha Student Ministry at Florida State University.

Brockton Higgins was part of The Northwest Florida State College (NWFS) Forensics Team that finished in first place overall in debate at the Florida College System



Brockton Higgins

Activities Association (FCSAA) State Championship Tournament held Feb. 6-8 in Jacksonville.

NHS student wins 'People's Choice' and donates \$1,700 for Alaqua

By Angela Yuriko Smith
Beacon Staff Writer

Sarah Silvani of Niceville High School recently raised \$1,700 for the Alaqua Animal Refuge in Freeport. The money was raised as a result of Sarah competing in the Miss Niceville High School Pageant.

As part of the competition, each contestant put a donation jar out in the school to raise money for their charity of choice and students, teachers and parents voted for their favorite contestant by placing money in that contestants' jar.

At the end of the competition, the contestant with the most money in their jar won the People's Choice title as well as receiving the money from all the jars to donate to their favorite charity.

Since Sarah had chosen Alaqua, she won a donation from all the jars that totaled \$1,700.

"I chose Alaqua because it's a no-kill shelter and that is very important to me," said Sarah. "I have three dogs of my own and they are all rescue dogs." Sarah lives in Mossy Head

with her family on six acres and entertains the idea of getting a fourth dog, something the Alaqua volunteers assured her they could assist with.

Sarah visited the refuge in person with her father March 19 to personally deliver the funds to Laurie Hood, founder of Alaqua.

To maximize the donation, Sarah contributed the funds to Project ARC, a matching grant fund, that would double her contribution making it a total of \$3,400. This will go towards the building of a new refuge property.

Project Arc, the Alaqua Relocation Campaign, is the result of a donation of 85 acres of land to Alaqua for a new, expanded animal refuge. The land is located across from the Biophilia Center in Freeport. Alaqua presently sits on seven acres. All funds raised for Project ARC are being matched by a private donor and will be used to clear the new land and build a new refuge.

Before leaving, Sarah filled out a volunteer application and committed to becoming a volunteer at the refuge.



Sarah Silvani was chosen as the People's Choice in the Miss Niceville High School pageant, raising \$1,700 from the competition for Alaqua Animal Refuge, her charity of choice. Pictured at left with the Alaqua founder Laurie Hood, Sarah chose to donate the money to a matching grant program making the total donation \$3,400.



Rocky students learn to dissect

Rocky Christian Bayou School teacher Evbet Dewitt had her fifth graders dissecting frogs out in the sun before the spring break. Pictured from left, Victoria Maggie Denbow, and Grace Ann Matolla give their complete focus.



Scout volunteers lauded

Scout volunteers Mark Harris, left, and Adrian Banegas received the 2013 District Award of Merit from the Choctawhatchee District of the Gulf Coast Council of the Boy Scouts of America for their outstanding service to the organization. For more information on Scouting go to gulfcoastcouncil.org.

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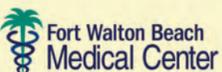
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CALENDAR

From page B-3

more information, please contact the Chamber at 678-2323, events@nicevillechamber.com, or sign up online at nicevillechamber.com.

Be prepared

Okaloosa County Public Safety will be hosting the Make Mitigation Happen Workshop for homeowners to gain additional knowledge on how to prepare their home for hurricane and other disasters that threaten Florida residents. The workshop will be held April 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the 911 Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located on the main campus of Northwest Florida State College.

For more information, call Okaloosa County Emergency Management Division at Public Safety, 651-7150 or visit BeReadyFlorida.org today for additional information and to register.

Second Wednesday Breakfast

Join the Chamber for the April Second Wednesday Breakfast, April 9 at 7:30 a.m. at the Niceville Community Center, sponsored by The Northwest Florida Daily News. Breakfast is \$5 cash per person.

or members can purchase a \$45 punch card valid through December 2014. For more information, contact the Chamber at 678-2323.

Garden club meets

The Bluewater Bay Garden Club will meet on April 10 at the Bluewater Bay Clubhouse on Bluewater Boulevard at 9 a.m. for social time, meeting starting at 9:30.

Guest speakers will be Matthew Newton and Tristan Harrenstein speaking on "Native American Presence and Significance in Florida."

Guests are welcome, for information, call Karen Williams at 897-5560.

Motorcycle rodeo

The Emerald Coast Motorcycle Challenge Rodeo and Skills Training is scheduled for April 10-12 at The Boardwalk parking lot on Okaloosa Island.

Hosted by the Emerald Coast Blue Knights FL XXV, the Rodeo features various motorcycle challenges that test a rider's skill and ability. Motorcycles must be in as equipped from the factory and at least 1000cc.

April 10 will be a practice day with the competition taking place April 11-12. The registration fee is \$45 per competitor with proceeds benefitting the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center.



Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

New music label in Niceville signs musicians

Apple Row Records, a new music label in Niceville owned by Dr. Polla Cunningham and Kate Hart, both of Niceville, just signed two new artists. Niceville High School sophomore Amber Fling, 17, and Northwest Florida State College student Mike Oceans, 19, will be releasing their first singles this summer. For more information applerowrecords.com.

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Bible play

Ladies of the Niceville Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints performed "Women of the Well," a portrayal of the women in the life of Jesus directed by Valerie Bidstrup of Niceville and performed at their yearly conference. Pictured from left, Alissa Clifton, Rebecca Wendel, Amy Gouker, Heather Pitcher, Valerie Bidstrup, Mandy Asmus and Wanda Scharmen. Not pictured, Tammy Fleck.



Youth soccer league

Register now until April 12 for Youth Indoor Soccer League for ages 4 through fourth grade. Cost is \$85 a player. Visit nicevilleumc.org/recreation to register. Practices being in May and games are played in June and July.

Cobia tourney

The Bluewater Bay Marina will be hosting its 19th annual Cobia Tournament. The tournament runs from April 1-30. There will be a Small Boat Division (29 feet and under) and an Open Division (30 feet and above). Tournament payout is 50/30/20. Sponsorships are available.

For more information and for a registration form, please call Bluewater Bay Marina at 897-2821 or visit bluewaterbaymarina.com.

For more information and for a registration form, please call Bluewater Bay Marina at 897-2821 or visit bluewaterbaymarina.com.

Open mic poetry night

Celebrate National Poetry Month in April with fellow poets April 2 at "Say the Word," an open mic poetry reading at the French Quarter Bar & Grill, 714 Howell Rd., Niceville, at 7 p.m.

The event is free of charge and all are welcome to take the mic. Each performer should plan to share about 2-3 pieces.

Jail Ministry Banquet

The Good News Jail and Prison Ministry Annual Fundraising Banquet will be held Thursday April 3 at 6 p.m. at the Niceville United Methodist Church Community Life Center, 214 S. Partin Drive.

The Banquet is open to the public. For tickets and information on how you or your church can sponsor a table at the Banquet to keep the Chaplain "behind the bars," contact Chuck Turk at 678-5827 or Chaplain John Lennon at 974-0301.

Early release movie

The Valparaiso Community Library would like to invite families to our next Early Release Movie on April 3. We will be showing "Frozen," rated PG, with two showings: a regular showing at 1 p.m. and a costumed sing along showing at 3:40 p.m. Popcorn will be served. For more information, call 729-5406.

Birding optics

Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will be having their monthly meeting April 3 at 6:30 p.m. with a presentation by Walt Spence on "Optics for Birding," a discussion on binoculars and spotting scopes.

The meeting will be held in Room 130 on the ground floor of the Student Services Center at the Niceville campus of Northwest Florida State College, and will begin with socializing and light refreshments. The meeting is free and open to the interested public. For more information, call Walt Spence at 582-7064.

Jazz recital

There will be a guest artist recital by Scott Jarrett in the Tyler Recital Hall, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville, on April 3 at 7:30 p.m. The piano, guitar and vocal jazz performance will be free of charge. Donations welcome.

Star gazing

Henderson Beach State Park will host a star gazing program April 4 from 4-10 p.m. Volunteers from the Northwest Florida Astronomy Association will set up several telescopes for public viewing of star clusters, planets, and galaxies and answer questions about the night sky. Prior to sunset, telescopes will

be equipped for safe viewing of the sun. All ages invited, park will close at sunset. Please arrive prior to sunset. Event weather permitting.

Chamber Singers in concert

Okaloosa Chamber Singers will perform "An Evening for Song and Singers" Friday evening, April 4 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1407 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville. The evening will feature guest artist Kathryn Bowden, coloratura soprano, who will highlight her performance with the Queen of the Night aria from Mozart's "The Magic Flute."

Okaloosa Chamber Singers concerts are free and open to the public, with a suggested donation of \$10. For further information contact Dr. Overturf at 682-9651 or marilynno@cox.net.

Fundraiser fun

The Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated will be hosting "Spring Magic," a fundraiser for their scholarship fund to be held on Friday, April 4 from 3-5 p.m. Flowers, gifts and jewelry, provided by Alyce's Florist, will be for sale. In addition, there will be a patriotic wreath raffle. Appetizers and wine will be provided.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the RWOF April 2 meeting or by calling 651-3511. For more information visit rwof.org.

Artist reception

An opening reception and awards ceremony to celebrate the student artists for the 2014 Arnie Hart Juried Student Exhibition and NWFS Faculty Exhibition will be held Friday, April 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Mattie Kelly Arts Center Galleries, Niceville.

The Arnie Hart Juried Student and NWFS Faculty Exhibitions will remain on display through May 2.

The opening reception and exhibitions are both free of charge and open to the public.

History weekend

Make history part of your future with "Home School Fridays" and "Hands-On History Saturdays," a monthly program based on the Florida core standards for education for children ages 5-12 at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso.

April's program will be "Be a Curator!" on April 4 and 5 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$7 per child or \$5 for museum family members. Special deal for new family members. Groups welcome, space is limited so please pre-register at 678-2615.

Give blood

Give blood on Saturday, April 5, at Walgreens, 4582 E. Hwy. 20, Niceville from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. All donors will receive a \$10 Walgreens voucher.

Golf tourney

The 14U High Intensity Girls Fast Pitch Softball team will be conducting their inaugural golf tournament and silent auction with superior prizes on April 5 at the Eglin Golf Course. Format will be a 4-man Best Ball scramble with a 9 a.m. start. Cost is \$75 per person or \$300 per team. Contact Richard Byrd 517-5499 to sign up or for more information.

Glowing performance

Northwest Florida Ballet presents Lightwire Theater in "Lightwire: The Show" one night only on April 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville. Call 664-7787 for tickets. Adults \$28, \$14 for children 12 and under.

Scout-o-rama

The public is invited to attend the annual "Scout-O-Rama" being held at Uptown Station, Fort Walton Beach on April 5 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Admission is free but there is a nominal fee for the inflatable attractions.

The "Crossing Over Ceremony," where the Cub Scouts cross over to

their new Boy Scout troops, will be at 2:30 p.m. For information on joining a local Boy Scout unit visit us at gulfcoastcouncil.org.

Fun run

The Niceville Exchange Club will hold its 15th annual Prevention of Child Abuse 5K Run/Walk and 10 and Under Kids Fun Run on April 5 at the Niceville Children's Park. Proceeds will benefit the Children's Advocacy Center. Entry fee is \$23 and \$6 for the 10 and under fun run.

Checks should be payable to the Niceville Exchange Club, P.O. Box 342 Niceville 32588. Race day registration and package pickup at the Children's Park starting at 6:30-7:45 a.m. day of race. For information and registration forms contact Dorothy Miller 678-4984.

Bible simulcast

There will be a Bible teaching simulcast Saturday, April 5 with Bible teacher and best-selling author Priscilla Shirer called "The Word, Closer to Home" at Niceville United Methodist Church, 214 Partin Dr. South in Niceville.

Doors will open at 8 a.m., with the simulcast starting at 8:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. A love offering will be accepted. To register, visit nicevilleumc.org/women.

Arts fest

Bluewater Bay Marina Complex, 290 Yacht Club Drive, Niceville, will be having the second annual Bluewater Bay Marina Cultural Arts Festival Saturday, April 5 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

For more information please visit bluewaterbaymarina.com or contact Colleen Hinely cehinelyphotography@earthlink.net.

Birding retreat

Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will have their annual retreat April 5-6 at St. George's Island, Sportsman's Lodge, 99 N Bayshore Drive, Eastpoint. Call 850-670-8423 for reservations.

Meet on veranda of Room 12 at 5 p.m. on Friday for planning and convivial beverages. For questions call Margaret Benner at 678-6665.

Give blood

Give blood on Sunday, April 6, at Christ Our Redeemer Church, 1028 White Point Road, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. All donors will receive a t-shirt.

Piano recital

Choctaw Bay Music Club will present the 23rd annual Duo-Piano Recital on Sunday, April 6 at 3 p.m. at Tyler Recital Hall, Northwest Florida State College in Niceville with a reception following.

Choctaw Bay Music Club is affiliated with the Florida Federation of Music Clubs and the National Federation Music Club.

Mac Users meet

The April meeting of the Mac Users Group will be held on Monday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northwest Florida State College, Student Services Building, Room 132.

For more information, visit FWBMug.com or contact Jean Dutton at 862-3327 or jeandutton@mac.com.



Gallery reception Friday

The public is invited to the opening reception and awards ceremony, a free event, to celebrate the student artists for the 2014 Arnie Hart Juried Student Exhibition and NWFS Faculty Exhibition will be held Friday, April 4, from 5-7 p.m. in the Mattie Kelly Arts Center Galleries, Niceville. The Arnie Hart Juried Student and NWFS Faculty Exhibitions will remain on display through May 2.

Give blood

Give blood on Monday, April 7, at Walgreens, 4582 E. Hwy. 20, Niceville from 1-6 p.m. All donors will receive a \$10 Walgreens voucher.

Linux group starts

Linux user and advocate, Tom Browder, has started the "Northwest Linux User Group" to educate the public on choosing, obtaining, installing, and using a suitable GNU/Linux distribution.

The group will meet the first Monday of every month, from 4-6 p.m., in Room 400 of the Niceville United Methodist Church, 214 Partin Drive South. The initial meeting will be held on Monday, April 7. Those planning to attend

should email Tom at tom.browder@gmail.com. Visit at nwflug.org for more information.

Social media workshop

The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Costa Leadership Institute to offer "Social Media for Your Business," held on April 8 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Costa Leadership Institute, Northwest Florida State College.

The cost of the seminar is \$60. Businesses and individuals do not have to be a Chamber member to sign up for this seminar and future seminars.

To register for the seminar, or for

Please see CALENDAR, page B-2

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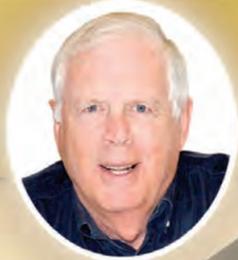
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