

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-4

10 Pages, 2 Sections, 6 Inserts

Wednesday, August 13, 2014

50¢

**UP
COMING**

Thurs., 1 p.m.
Social event for Twin City Senior Citizens Club, 268 Glenview Ave., Valparaiso. Area senior citizens welcome. Entrée provided, please bring a covered dish to share. 543-0869.

Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Niceville author **Jocelyn Donahoo** signs her book "The Cookie Cutter House" at Bayou Book Co., Niceville.

Mon., 12-2 p.m.

Blood drive at Walmart, Niceville. All donors will receive a beach towel.

Tues., 5-6:30 p.m.

Hurricane Grill & Wings sponsors the Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce's **Business After Hours** networking event. Free and open to the public.

Early voting begins

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

Early voting for the Aug. 26 primary election started Monday and will continue daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., through Aug. 23.

Voters may cast early ballots at any one of five places: Niceville City Hall; the Supervisor of Elections office, Crestview; the Robert Sikes Public Library, Crestview; the

Okaloosa County Fairgrounds, Fort Walton Beach; and the Destin Community Center.

On the ballot are the following races: Republican voters will decide whether John Krause or Jeff Miller, the incumbent, will be the Republican candidate for Congress, District 1. They will also choose the Republican candidate for governor from

Please see **EARLY**, page A-3



Clerk Bill Ham and Warehouse Foreman Alan Freiberg checked the serial numbers and seals on the ballot boxes and counters at Niceville City Hall on Friday for early voting. Early voting started Monday and will continue through Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day.
Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders



Sandy Walker was already preparing her classroom at Bluewater Elementary School last week for a new crop of kindergarteners. This is her third year teaching kindergarten at Bluewater. For Okaloosa County public-school students, classes will begin Monday, Aug. 18.

School to start Monday for 30,000

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

Students, teachers, parents and school staff around the county are preparing for the beginning of a new school year. Classes will begin Monday for over 30,000 Okaloosa County public-school students.

At Rocky Bayou Christian School, Niceville, classes began today. At Collegiate High School, Niceville, students started Aug. 11.

Aug. 11 was also the first day for Okaloosa County School District teachers to report to work but many have been in and out of the school all summer long, said Edge Elementary Principal Samantha Dawson.

Dawson said she's expecting more students this year and already has 577 signed up. "Typically, we'll see a lot of growth right before school starts and right after school starts," she said.

She's also expecting five new teachers along with her new assistant principal, Kristina Clark. Clark is one of a bevy of assistant principals hired by the school district for the elementary and middle schools to help principals with added teacher-evaluation duties.

Teachers at all the schools will be dealing with the new Florida Standard Assessments, replacing the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) this year. According to the Florida Department of Education, the new standards "focus on in-depth critical thinking and problem solving skills rather than rote memorization

Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

Please see **SCHOOL**, page A-4

Valparaiso tackles municipal budget issues

By Rich Byrd
Beacon Correspondent

Efforts by the Valparaiso City Commission to prepare for fiscal year 2015 continued with its third budget workshop that convened on Aug. 4.

The primary focus of this workshop centered on an extensive line item review of all new capital items submitted for budget consideration by the General Fund departments. General Fund departments that submitted capi-

tal requirements included the library, police and fire departments, and parks and recreation.

Each department supervisor and assigned oversight commissioner presented detailed justifications to substantiate their case warranting the inclusion of their capital requirements in the new budget. Intense debate surrounded each item as the pros and cons were addressed. Additionally, department supervisors identified budget offsets

and deductions in order to garner the support of the commission.

A total of \$93,835 in capital items were validated and will be reviewed further in the budget process. This was a decrease from the \$112,685 that was originally submitted for consideration. Specific items that were tentatively approved include the following:

—Library, \$18,000, including part-time employee wages and benefits, \$15,000; and new

employee, 14 percent raise, \$3,000.

—Police department, \$42,685, including patrol vehicle, \$30,125; and computer upgrade, \$12,560.

—Fire department, \$11,450, including bunker gear, \$4,000; and fire hose and nozzle replacements, \$7,450.

—Parks and recreation, \$21,700, including T-pier repair, \$10,000; security lighting TJ Brooks Park, \$1,700; and

Doolittle Park, \$10,000.

City Clerk Tammy Johnson indicated that there may be a \$45,000 carryover from the FY14 budget. However, given some of the budget offsets and realignment of funds by department supervisors, she said she would have to revalidate with each department and would present the results to the commission as soon as the information was verified.

There was no discussion on

the proposed increase to the millage rate for 2015 during this budget workshop. However, further review and approval of any or all of the capital items presented could impact the millage rate increase proposal of 5.261 from the July 21 budget workshop.

A secondary topic that sparked considerable discussion was the subject of applying a cost of living adjustment

Please see **ISSUES**, page A-3

State earmarks \$2 million to fund Lake Pippin sewers

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

Okaloosa County has obtained \$2 million in state funds toward the cost of extending county sewers to a lakeside residential community east of Bluewater Bay.

Eventually the project will require residents of the 120-home Lake Pippin community to switch from septic tanks to the county sewer system.

County officials say it will be at least 18 months before work begins on the project.

The project is expected to cost as much as \$4 million, double the \$2 million state contribution approved by the legislature earlier this year.

The goal is to improve water quality in Lake Pippin and Choctawhatchee Bay, into which the lake flows. The Okaloosa Water and Sewer Department estimates that the community generates about 40,000 gallons of wastewater daily.

An existing lift station, a big

Please see **SEWERS**, page A-4



Lake Pippin residents will be connected to Okaloosa County sewer, replacing their septic systems, to reduce pollution of the lake on which they live.

Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

Four school board candidates on background and issues

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

The Bay Beacon today publishes information on the candidates for two of the three Okaloosa County School Board seats at stake in the Aug. 26 election.

Lamar White and incumbent Cindy Frakes are running for the District 1 seat.

David E. Scholl and incumbent Melissa Thrush are running for District 5.

Information on the District 3 race is scheduled for publication Aug. 20.

Early voting will take place between Aug. 11 and 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at five locations in the county, including the city complex at 208 Partin Drive North in Niceville. On election day, voting will take place at each voter's assigned precinct polling place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters may also obtain absentee ballots from the Supervisor of Elections office until Aug. 20.

The school board elections are nonpartisan, so all registered voters will be allowed to cast their votes in this primary, which will decide the election.

Voters may see the ballot they will be given by going to the Okaloosa County Supervisor of

Elections website govotekaloosa.com and putting their last name, birth date and house number into the Voter Lookup tool.

The Beacon asked the candidates to answer a set of questions so voters could learn about their backgrounds and their views on the issues. The answers follow.

Okaloosa TIGER (Together in Government and Education Reform), a political committee affiliated with the union that represents Okaloosa County public-school teachers, has endorsed Melissa Thrush for District 5. It did not endorse a candidate for District 1.

District 1 Cindy Frakes



Date and place of birth: Jan. 12, 1946, Braxton County, W.Va.

Occupation: School Board member, Realtor/First Vice President

Employer: Okaloosa County School District, American Realty of Northwest Florida Inc.

Formal Education: B.A., University of Oklahoma; M.A., University of West Florida

Number of years in Okaloosa County: 38

Home address: 113 Lisa Marie Place, Shalimar

Spouse and children: Bernie; Russ and Steven (plus 9 grandchildren)

E-mail: cfrakes64@gmail.com

Lamar White



Date and place of birth: July 24, 1953, Ozark, Ala.

Occupation: Retired (2012) Okaloosa County School Principal

Employer: Previous employer Okaloosa School District 1977-2012

Formal Education: Ed.D., Educational Leadership, Florida State University; M.A., History, University of West Florida; B.A., Political Science, University of West Florida

Number of years in Okaloosa County: 53 years

Home address: 88 Meigs Drive, Shalimar

Spouse and children: Connie; Ben

E-mail: lamarwhite@cox.net

Background in public service as elected or appointed official

Frakes: School Board, 16 years; West Florida Regional Planning Council (appointed by Governor Bush), 2000-present; ORAC (Okaloosa RESTORE Advisory Committee), presently serving; Okaloosa Value Adjustment Board, presently serving

White: Okaloosa principal/administrator at four schools (Ocean City Elementary, Plew Elementary, Ruckel Middle School and Meigs Middle School) from 1986-

2012. Okaloosa master teacher and coach from 1977-1986.

Chief accomplishments

Frakes: The work I've done that has the most impact on life-long student outcomes is imbedding career technical classes into our curriculum and emphasizing STEM across all grade levels.

White: As a principal, I earned 13 consecutive Florida A school grades at four different schools. No budget deficits. Florida Master Teacher. Outstanding Professor. Mentor Principal.

Why are you running for office?

Frakes: To solidify our CHOICE Academies (Career Technical Education) and ensure more students have an opportunity to pursue career ready and nationally recognized certifications. I also want to ensure our STEM curriculum is rock solid and available at all levels. This is important to the economy of our region and nation.

White: I am seeking election to the school board because my unique experiences as an Okaloosa principal, teacher, and coach are sorely needed on the school board. I possess the unmatched qualifications and insights into our schools that are

critically needed to get our schools headed back in the right direction.

In what significant ways do you differ from your opponent?

Frakes: I bring a strong, commonsense business background to the office. School boards were created, in the early 1700s, as a citizen panel, the community's input into their schools. Not educators, but parents and community leaders. That purpose continues today. I have 16 years experience on the School Board, as a tough decision maker and watchdog of a \$400,000,000 budget, largest in the county. Our millage is 1.2 mills lower than when I took office. I have a proven record of getting things done that benefit our students, of building partnerships and cooperation. I am approachable and an effective communicator.

White: This election is about education. My 16-year incumbent realtor opponent does not possess my academic preparation, my qualifications, my experiences in education, or my recognized fiscal conservatism. Unlike my opponent, I have "hands-on" knowledge of every aspect of educational operations. I have been responsible at every

level: elementary, middle, high, district office and university.

I am better prepared to serve. I have real qualifications, and I do not claim credit for the work of others.

I am recommended for election to District 1 by the Emerald Coast Association of Realtors as "Best Qualified." I will be a full-time board member.

What are the top three issues facing the office, and how would you address them?

Frakes: We will continue our academic turn around. We still have some weak spots, which we are addressing, but overall, our progress is going in the right direction. We are 6th in Florida, in all subject areas and all grade levels. We are adding more resources to the classrooms, in the form of math, science and reading teachers.

Maintenance of our schools continues to be an area of struggle. Most are over 40 years old; some 50 and 60 years old. We will consider an energy savings plan that should save 15 percent on energy costs; this savings could be put into maintenance needs.

Other districts have opened their own employee health clinic

Please see BACKGROUND, page A-5

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ISSUES

From page A-1

(COLA) versus a merit (step) increase for employees for 2015. For the past three years, a COLA was approved by the commission (FY12 = 2%, FY13 = 2% and FY14 = 1%). The last merit increase was during FY11.

Johnson indicated that "continued application of COLAs could have implications on retaining its skilled employees." As an example, she stated that at present a new hire would be basically paid the same rate as an employee that has been on staff for 3 years.

Police Chief Joseph Hart cited several examples where an officer left the Valparaiso Police Department and started as a Step 1 deputy sheriff for Okaloosa County and got an immediate \$5,000 pay increase.



Beacon photo by Rich Byrd
Valparaiso Librarian, David Weatherford, provides details justifying his capital requirements to commissioners.

An in-depth discussion on the use of merit increases ensued. Mayor Bruce Arnold said that "use of merit increases was used in the past, but was unsuccessful because supervisors were unable to make the difficult decisions and all employees would be

approved for the merit increase."

No action was taken on this subject, but the commission agreed this was an item worthy of further assessment. Arnold asked each commissioner to review this issue with their various departments and be prepared

to discuss at the next meeting.

The next budget meeting will be held on Aug. 18 at 6 p.m. Budget hearings to finalize the budget will be held on Sept. 3 at 6 p.m. and Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. at the Valparaiso Commission Chambers.

EARLY

From page A-1

between three candidates: Yinka Abosede Adeshina, Elizabeth Cuevas-Neunder and incumbent Rick Scott.

On the Democratic side, primary voters will choose between former Gov. Charlie Crist and former Senate Leader Nan H. Rich to be the party's candidate for governor. They will also choose the Democratic candidate for state attorney general in a race between George Sheldon and Perry E. Thurston.

For the rest of the primary ballot, voters of any political affiliation will cast ballots since all candidates are from the same party or are nonpartisan. In other words,

for all county-level races in Okaloosa County, the primary will decide the election.

Although there are two county commission seats open this year, the District 2 seat will not appear on the ballot because Republican Carolyn Ketchel won unopposed after incumbent Dave Parisot withdrew.

Incumbent Don Amunds, who has served since 2004 in the county commission District 4 position, has two opponents: Trey Goodwin and Henry Kelley. All are Republicans.

Three candidates stepped up to run for Okaloosa County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller after incumbent Don W. Howard announced his retirement in mid-term. They are: Charles Baugh Jr.,

J.D. Peacock and Dan Spence. All are Republicans.

Michelle Inere and Jennie Kinsey are running for Circuit Judge, 1st Judicial Circuit, Group 22, which covers Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties. The other nine 1st District Circuit judgeships are unopposed, with the incumbents all running. Judicial elections are nonpartisan.

There are three Okaloosa County School Board races this year, in districts 1, 3 and 5, in nonpartisan balloting.

School Board District 1 incumbent Cindy Frakes faces Lamar White.

In District 3 of the school board, incumbent Rodney Walker will face two opponents:

C.W. Soldier Hyden and Joseph Slusser. If no one candidate gets a majority in this race, then there will be a runoff on Nov. 4.

School board District 5 incumbent Melissa Thrush faces David E. Scholl in the primary.

A countywide referendum to allow the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners to grant temporary property tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses that create new, full-time jobs will also be on the ballot.

Voters in Valparaiso will also consider changes to their city charter in a referendum that would take some authority from elected city commissioners and give it to a hired city administrator.

Fire at Bluewater Car Wash

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

The car wash that is part of the Kangaroo Express at the corner of Bluewater Boulevard and John Sims Parkway in Bluewater caught fire Sunday morning. North Bay Fire Department Operations Chief Butch Parker estimated the damage to the Washaroo Express to be \$140,000.

The car wash is in a separate building to the left of the convenience store and the fire did not spread to the store. The fire occurred at 10:42 a.m. on Sunday and North Bay Fire Department was onsite by 10:46 a.m. Parker said the fire was in the automated



Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders
The car wash mechanism at the Pantry's Kangaroo Express on the corner of Bluewater and John Sims Parkway in Bluewater caught fire Sunday. Fire fighters were able to put out the blaze in minutes but could not isolate the electricity to the building until Monday with the help of electric provider Chelco Inc.

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ALL SESSIONS ARE HELD MONDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30 P.M.**

Road closure

Nathey Avenue, Niceville, will be closed between Highway 85 North and Niceville Avenue for the installation of utilities Aug. 13 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to the city public works department.

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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 July 27, Johnny Howard Lee, 48, of Boundary Line Road, Choctaw Beach, was booked into the Walton County Jail for a municipal ordinance violation. He was released on July 31.

On July 30, Tammy Ann Stroppel, 46, of 304 Reeves St., C-12, Niceville, was booked into the Walton County Jail for a felony probation violation.

On July 29, Niceville police arrested John Travis Hart, 41, of 6103 Magnolia Ave., Crestview, for one count of providing a false name to law enforcement.

When encountered by a police officer on John Sims Parkway, Hart gave another name when asked. The officer knew this was a false name as the officer has known Hart for over 15 years. Hart's true name and date of birth were checked and revealed an active warrant for a parole violation. Hart stated that he had knowledge of the possible violation, and this was the reason he attempted to conceal his identity.

On Aug. 3, Matthew Aaron Warner, 34, of 1623 26th St., Niceville, was booked into the Walton County Jail for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, and for possession and/or use of drug equipment.

On July 29, Niceville police arrested Cassandra C. Rasmussen, 49, unemployed, of 226 Southview Dr., Crestview, for one count of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

An officer conducted a traffic stop of Rasmussen's vehicle, and upon checking her driver's license learned that Rasmussen had an active warrant. It was determined that her vehicle would have to be towed. During the vehicle inventory prior to towing, police found one 10 mg diazepam tablet. Rasmussen said, "That Valium you just found is mine, and I have a prescription." She was unable to produce a prescription.

On July 31, Valparaiso police arrested Benjamin Edward Bailey,

23, unemployed, of Valparaiso, for one count each of burglary to an unoccupied structure and resisting arrest without violence.

On July 30, a victim reported to police that sometime during July 29 or July 30, someone had forcefully entered his storage shed and stolen a red, silver, and black bicycle valued at approximately \$300.

On July 31, an officer found Bailey riding a bicycle matching the description of the one reported stolen. Bailey admitted post Miranda that he entered the victim's shed and removed the bicycle, which he claimed belonged to him. Bailey was subsequently detained for further investigation and transported to the Valparaiso police station. Bailey fled the police station on foot. He was subsequently located at his mother's residence, where he was taken back into custody.

Other

On July 23, an Okaloosa County deputy sheriff was servicing his vehicle at the Kangaroo Express on East Highway 20 when he was approached by the store manager, who said she had found a counterfeit \$20 bill in the safe drop on July 22. The case remains under investigation.

On July 29, Niceville police responded to the Taco Bell on John Sims Parkway, where a juvenile customer had thrown a soda filled with hot sauce in the face of an employee. The employee did not pursue charges, but the juvenile was advised that she is no longer allowed at Taco Bell and can be arrested for trespassing if she goes back.

On July 29, Niceville police responded to the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant on John Sims Parkway regarding a report of some stolen tools.

On July 29, Valparaiso police received a call from a man who said that a female friend had been calling him, leaving harassing messages and threatening to kill him. The man did not want to file charges, and police advised him of the injunction process to try and prevent further calls.

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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



Wanted as of: 04/26/2011
Non-Payment of Child Support
Name: Roderick Lenoris Wade
Sex: Male
Race: Black
DOB: 09/01/1978
Height: 6ft 5in
Weight: 235 lbs
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown



Wanted as of: 06/20/2014
VOP-Possession of Narcotics
Name: Demarcus Antwaun Taylor
Sex: Male
Race: Black
DOB: 09/25/1985
Height: 5ft 7in
Weight: 190 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)

On July 29, a Valparaiso police officer performing a security check of the STEM Academy, 379 Edge Ave., found the door to the flight lab unsecured. A check of the building indicated that nothing appeared to have been disturbed inside.

On July 30, Valparaiso police received a call from a man who said that while driving along John Sims Parkway, he had seen a car driving ahead of him, and as the vehicle passed a group of Department of Corrections inmates who were working in the median, the caller saw what appeared to be an object thrown from the window toward the workers.

Police contacted the corrections officer supervising the inmate work crew, and the officer reported that such events are frequent. The corrections officer said he would check the inmates from that location to determine if any contraband had been passed on to them by anyone.

On July 31, Niceville police responded to an address on Crestview Avenue regarding a report that an all-terrain vehicle had been taken during the previous night and that all four tires on the complainant's vehicle were flat.

On Aug. 1, an Okaloosa deputy sheriff responded to A-1 Towing on North Partin Drive in Niceville in regard to a recovered stolen Florida license tag. The owner of A-1 Towing had conducted a private party tow from the parking lot in front of Lenny's Sub Shop in Bluewater Bay at the request of the shopping plaza owner. He reported the tow to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, which informed him that neither of two Florida license plates mounted to the car were assigned to that vehicle and one of the tags was reported as stolen in DeFuniak Springs.

On Aug. 2, an Okaloosa deputy sheriff responded to a home on 15th Street in Niceville in response to a call regarding a burglary to an unoccupied residence that had already occurred.

On Aug. 3, Valparaiso police were informed by the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office that an accidental 911 call came from an address on Hickory Lane. Valparaiso officers contacted the occupant of that address, who said she had misdialed her phone while trying to call 511. 511 is the Florida Department of Transportation traveler information advisory number.

Fire Department Reports

Niceville

The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from August 4, 2014 through August 10, 2014.



3 Structure Fire 35 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire 3 Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire 0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn 1 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms 0 Hazardous Conditions

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Dartmouth Way	Medical	8/04/14	02:30
E. John Sims Pkwy	Service call	8/04/14	09:33
Judith Ave	Medical	8/04/14	10:53
Als Drive	Medical	8/04/14	11:20
Reeves St	Structure fire	8/04/14	17:40
E. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	8/04/14	19:25
2nd Street	Medical	8/04/14	21:32
22nd Street	Medical	8/05/14	13:19
23rd Street	Medical	8/05/14	16:23
Hickory Ave	Structure fire	8/05/14	22:05
23rd Street	Medical	8/06/14	01:15
Nathay Ave	Medical	8/06/14	03:46
N. Partin Dr	Medical	8/06/14	13:36
W. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	8/06/14	16:59
Turkey Creek Bridge	Medical	8/06/14	19:41
N. Palm Blvd	Medical	8/07/14	10:22
Crestview Ave	Medical	8/07/14	14:56
W. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	8/07/14	17:12
E. John Sims Pkwy	Vehicle crash	8/07/14	18:06
Campbell Rd/Palm Blvd	Medical	8/07/14	19:11
Nathay Ave	Medical	8/07/14	23:24
Powell Dr	Medical	8/08/14	01:06
Lincolnshire Dr	Medical	8/08/14	03:39
N. Partin Dr	Medical	8/08/14	05:47
N. Partin Dr	Medical	8/08/14	09:11
College Blvd	Medical	8/08/14	12:26
23rd Street	Medical	8/08/14	13:02
Crestview Ave	Medical	8/08/14	13:40
23rd Street	Medical	8/08/14	15:55
Biscayne Ln	Medical	8/08/14	17:51
Bullock Blvd	Vehicle crash	8/09/14	09:30
College Blvd/SR85N	Vehicle crash	8/09/14	10:39
E. College Blvd	Medical	8/09/14	14:03
23rd Street	Medical	8/09/14	20:20
Canal Dr	Medical	8/09/14	20:24
N. Partin Dr	Medical	8/09/14	20:40
E. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	8/09/14	23:01
W. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	8/09/14	23:08
Landman Rd	Medical	8/10/14	00:08
Landman Rd	Medical	8/10/14	00:30
E. SR20/BWB	Structure fire	8/10/14	10:40
N. Partin Dr	Medical	8/10/14	23:56

Weekly Safety Tip: The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends that you replace your home fire extinguisher every 12 years and replace your smoke alarms every 10 years.

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

North Bay



The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from August 4, 2014 through August 10, 2014.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
S. Dominica Cir	Medical assist	8/4/14	00:59
Providence Way	Medical	8/4/14	01:38
N. White Point Rd	Medical	8/4/14	08:14
Hwy. 20	Vehicle accident	8/5/14	10:47
Evans Rd	Detector activation	8/5/14	15:41
St. John Cv	Medical	8/5/14	18:33
Summit Ct	Dispatched & cancelled	8/5/14	21:09
Hickory Ct	Fuel burner	8/5/14	22:07
N. White Point Rd	Medical	8/6/14	11:38
Knollwood Rd	Dispatched & cancelled	8/6/14	12:06
Olde Post Rd	Medical	8/7/14	08:09
Birkdale Cir	Medical	8/7/14	10:52
N. White Point Rd	Medical	8/7/14	18:34
White Point Rd	Police matter	8/7/14	22:22
Cat Mar Rd	Dispatched & cancelled	8/8/14	01:32
Samana Way	Medical	8/8/14	07:11
N. White Point Rd	Medical	8/8/14	08:30
Hwy. 20 E	Medical	8/8/14	13:37
N. White Point Rd	Medical	8/8/14	15:13
E. Hwy. 20	Alarm system activation	8/8/14	18:04
Ida Coon Cir	Medical	8/8/14	18:47
St. Martin Cv	Dispatched & cancelled	8/9/14	07:57
N. White Point Rd	Medical	8/9/14	09:18
Meadow Woods Ln	Medical	8/9/14	09:49
E. Bermuda Cir	Medical	8/9/14	13:04
Sailboat Dr	Alarm system activation	8/9/14	16:41
E. Hwy. 20	Medical	8/9/14	16:46
E. Rosewood Way	Dispatched & cancelled	8/10/14	07:36
Hwy. 20	Bulldozing fire	8/10/14	10:42
Emerald Coast Pkwy	Dispatched & cancelled	8/10/14	15:45

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

SCHOOL

From page A-1

and 'teaching to the test.'"

Lewis School Principal Mike Fantaski said he's still waiting to hear what the writing section will be like. "They haven't given everything out," Fantaski said. But he's sure the district will be setting up professional development for teachers to help them prepare.

Fantaski is enthusiastic about his new band director, Michael Wilson, a graduate of Niceville

High School. "He's very energetic," he said. About a third of the school's 300 middle school students are in the band.

Niceville High School Principal Jeff Palmer started at the school in March, so this will be his first full year as principal. He's joined by two new assistant principals Ryan Gore and Jason McClelland and 13 new teachers.

Palmer said: "I'm just excited to be here. Niceville's a great place. The school's a great place but the community's a great place, too."

Although Gore has been a

teacher and administrator, he had been working at the district level when he decided it was time to return to a school. "I was looking forward to getting back to interaction with students and teachers," he said.

Rocky Bayou Christian School is making quite a few changes this year. The school is adding more dual-enrollment courses which it provides with RBCS teachers qualified to teach college classes. The classes are through Palm Beach Atlantic University and Colorado Christian University. The school is also working on adding

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) classes in the second semester that could allow RBCS students to get certification in aeronautical engineering.

RBCS is also adding a Gold Seal vocational scholars track in information technology, which is part of the Bright Futures scholarship program through the state. Since the required ACT scores have increased for Bright Futures, RBCS Superintendent Michael Mosley said this program will make Bright Futures available to some kids who probably wouldn't

meet the new requirements.

Superintendent Michael Mosley said, "One of our goals is for our kids when they graduate to have as many doors open as possible." Adding college enrollment courses and a vocational track for students are two ways to do that.

Bluewater Elementary School Principal Connie Hall said last year she had to add a new fifth grade class due to late enrollments. She said that's the hardest part of the new year because she doesn't want to have to shuffle kids into new classrooms. "We try to use coteachers if you have

greater than 18 kids in a classroom so you don't have to move the students," she said.

Florida law prohibits teacher workloads greater than 18 students per class in kindergarten through grade 3, 22 students in grades 4-8, and 25 students in grades 9-12 in core subject areas for the upper grades.

Hall said the school may need to use coteachers in several classes because they are over the limits already.

Hall said she enjoys that first day back to school when she visits all the classrooms and sees the enthusiasm of the kids.

SEWERS

From page A-1

pump that moves sewage along the line toward a treatment plant, is at White Point Road near the North Bay Fire District firehouse. It will be enlarged to handle the added flow.

Okaloosa Water and Sewer Director Jeff Littrell said, "We're going to go ahead and upsiz the lift station and then lay a sewer line down to their neighborhood. Then we will convert as many houses as we can until we run out of money."

Littrell said the county will ask the state for more money for the project next year, and would also seek money from other sources.

Michael Fell, chairman of the Lake Pippin Municipal Services Benefit Unit, estimates it will take three to four years to complete

the project.

Littrell said it shouldn't take that long.

Fell said, "Everybody's happy to get on sewer," despite the prospect of hookup costs of as much as \$3,200 per household that would be paid by each customer. Sewer service will be mandatory once the system is completed.

Littrell said his department will have a town hall meeting for Lake Pippin residents when it has a schedule and other information for them about potential costs.

Littrell said he wants to have the state appropriation pay for as much of the work as possible.

"We are trying to make this as painless for the homeowners as possible," he said. "In the past when doing this type of project, the homeowners were subject to certain costs such as capacity expansion charges, abandonment

of septic tank and running new service lines."

While he wants to cover as many expenses as possible, he says there will be a one-time cost to the homeowner, in addition to monthly charges based on usage. The one-time "tap on" costs have not been finalized, but were once estimated at \$3,200.

Littrell said it's hard to say if that estimate will hold true since he's not sure if the county will be putting in a gravity sewer, which was what the original project was designed for, or a low-pressure sewer, which has shallower, smaller pipes, better for an area with such a high water table.

The low-pressure sewer has advantages in cost and time savings since it would not be laid as deep, but it would require a small pump station at each residence.

Littrell said two to three regular pump stations will have to be

built in any case. About 120 septic tanks will be replaced by the system.

Gary Brown president of the south side Lake Pippin Property Owners Association, said he has not been happy with his septic system. "I will be thrilled to get away from it," he said. "I always wanted to live in a neighborhood with a sewer system."

Littrell said the project will improve water quality on the lake and bay.

Fell said he and his family swim, ski and fish in Lake Pippin, and that charter boats also fish on the lake.

Littrell thinks all will benefit from the project. "When we do projects like this, we try to make a win-win situation. I think this will be a win-win-win-win, good for homeowners, for the county, for the lake and for Choctawhatchee Bay."

FIRE

From page A-3

machine that washed the vehicles and that heat from the fire melted the roof of the building.

Parker said that it was electrical issues that possibly started the fire. He returned to the car wash on Monday with electricity provider

Chelco Inc to turn off electricity to the car wash.

There were no vehicles or people in the car wash at the time of the fire. One emergency worker on scene got an electrical shock while trying to turn off the utilities but did not seek treatment.

Parker said the fire was under control in seven to eight minutes

but the fire department had difficulty isolating the power to the building so it was on the scene for an hour.

The Pantry Inc., which owns the Bluewater Kangaroo Express as well as more than 1,500 locations in 13 states in the Southeastern United States according to its website, declined

to return calls regarding the property.

Fire stations that helped with the blaze include North Bay Fire Control District, East Niceville Fire District and Niceville Fire Department. Destin Fire Department assisted by covering the North Bay Fire station in the event of other fires.

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Do you plan to vote in the August 26 local elections?

Location: Walmart



"I have no knowledge of the local elections."

Joe Meyer, 45, Niceville, photographer



"No."

Jermaine Robinson, 28, Niceville, unemployed



"I absolutely do plan to vote."

Ed Lowrey, 76, Niceville, retired



"Oh yes, definitely."

Francis Acosta, 78, Niceville, retired Air Force



"As far as I know, yes. We always vote in elections."

Maryanne Provaznik, 57, Niceville, photographer



"I'm too busy to vote. I've got a lot of stuff going on right now."

Chastity Power, 22, Crestview, resident aide

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

BACKGROUND

From page A-2

ic, creating a substantial savings on insurance costs to the district. I've begun investigating the feasibility of this for our district. Escambia County opened theirs last year and report much higher than expected usage by employees and dependents.

White: Okaloosa schools have great students, parents, teachers and citizen supporters. The number one issue - academic decline. Honest accountings of student achievement will reveal that our students are not achieving at previous levels.

There are multiple measures that demonstrate this fact and confirming media reports. The second issue - reduced instructional time. Local school board mandates like "early release/late start" and locally mandated testing (neither required by law) have reduced learning time. Increased teacher paperwork and data collection burdens have also reduced instructional time.

The third issue - growth in the number of administrative positions and non-teaching positions and antiquated facilities. I would move to reverse the practice of early release/late start and other local mandates that have reduced instructional time.

I would move to reduce teacher paperwork and data collection burdens. We must cautiously control our expenditures for non-teaching positions. We must look to alternative sources of revenue other than property taxes.

Is it too difficult to fire teachers who aren't performing?

Frakes: All new hires since 2011 are on annual contracts. Teachers rated as "needs improvement" will be placed on an improvement plan, with resources to help them. If that fails, they will no longer have a position. With our new accountability measures in place, it will no longer be difficult.

White: No. Florida has a new performance-based teacher evaluation system. Florida's old teacher tenure laws have long passed. Effective administrators have the tools to measure effective and ineffective teacher performance. I will say that some of the requirements of Okaloosa's

new teacher evaluation system are burdensome and cumbersome for our teachers.

District 5

David E. Scholl



Date and place of birth: Mar. 23, 1959, Honolulu, Hawaii

Occupation: USAF Retired, Pilot

Employer: Delta

Formal Education: B.S. Mechanical Engineering, U.S. Air Force Academy; U.S. Air Force Squadron Officers School; U.S. Air Force Air Command and Staff College; U.S. Air Force Air War College; U.S. Air Force Under-graduate Pilot Training; U.S. Air Force Advanced Fighter Training (F15); M.S. Human Factors in Aviation, Embry Riddle

Number of years in Okaloosa County: 27

Home address: 1318 Bluelake Cove, Niceville

Spouse and children: Shelley; Brooke, Samuel and William

E-mail: dave@electscholl.com

Melissa Marie Thrush



Date and place of birth: Mar. 5, 1968 Chapel Hill, N.C.

Occupation: School Board Member, District 5

Employer: Okaloosa County School District

Formal Education: 1986 Graduate Choctawhatchee High School; B.S. Electrical Engineering, North Carolina State University; Masters of Integrated Manufacturing Systems Engineering, North

Carolina State University
Number of years in Okaloosa County: 23

Home address: 50 Lanman Road, Niceville

Spouse and children: Dr. Christopher Scott Reid; Hannah, 8th grade, Emily, 6th grade, Marie, 4th grade, and Richard, kindergarten

E-mail: melissathrush@gmail.com

Background in public service as elected or appointed official

Scholl: Served as North Bay Fire Commissioner; Republican Precinct Committeeman

Thrush: I have served the citizens of Okaloosa County as the District 5 School Board Member from November 2010 to present.

Chief Accomplishments

Scholl: Recognized as the nation's top recruiter for the Air Force Academy in 2004; keeping services up and taxes down as a North Bay Fire Commissioner

Thrush: I have served with integrity to ensure that each decision I make is best for our students and is the best use of our limited resources.

Why are you running for office?

Scholl: I believe I best represent the conservative values of our community. The beauty of representative government allows us the opportunity to replace our elected officials when we feel they no longer represent us. This is our duty as Americans, and this is why I entered the race for School Board.

Thrush: My desire to serve on the school board is sincere. I am encouraged and inspired by the dedication and passion of our teachers, staff and administration to fulfill our mission to provide a safe educational learning environment for our students. I am a mother of four children in public schools.

In what significant ways do you differ from your opponent(s)?

Scholl: My top priority is school safety. I solidly support School Resource Officers. My opponent originally opposed and voted against SROs.

I strongly support our

STEMM Academy. STEMM is the bridge that helps our students prepare for future jobs in science, engineering and medicine. My opponent opposed and voted against the Okaloosa STEMM Academy.

I believe public school parental choice (waivers and dual-enrollment zones) is good for parents, students and improving our schools. My opponent sought to eliminate public school parental choice in the Niceville area. Eliminating public school parental choice is the government thinking it knows what's best for us.

Thrush: Raised and educated in Okaloosa County; AFROTC 4-year scholarship to NCSU, Raleigh, N.C.; B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Masters of Integrated Manufacturing Systems Engineering; full time school board member who has never missed a school board meeting and attends school events throughout Okaloosa County; regularly attends student advisory council meetings at District 5 schools and volunteers in classrooms; accessible to constituents to listen and address concerns; makes decisions based on information gathered and thoughtful research; realizes that we must make decisions that affect people with our limited resources; does not make false promises to constituents; supports STEMM programs for all students.

What are the top three issues facing the office, and how would you address them?

Scholl: Academic Standards. I support a tough and challenging academic curriculum, expanding studies in math, science, engineering and technology, and exercising local control of our classrooms. I oppose Common Core. Parents and teachers working together here in Okaloosa County can best determine a challenging curriculum for our students, not a distant bureaucrat.

Controlling Costs. I am a fiscal conservative who opposes higher taxes. As a member of the North Bay Fire Commission, I acted to end wasteful spending of our precious tax dollars and held the line on tax increases. As

Please see BOARD, page A-6

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BOARD

From page A-5

a member of the school board, I will turn to cutting administrative overhead and putting the savings into our classrooms. Involving Parents. The more parental involvement the better. Parents know what is in the best interests of their children. I will encourage and listen to parents,

not shut them out. I also strongly support public school parental choice (waivers).

Thrush: Continued academic learning gains for students. Achieved through the collaboration of our school board, administration, teachers, staff and community partners to create a curriculum that engages our students and provides them an opportunity to be active and productive members of society.

Aging facilities and transportation infrastructure. Will continue efforts to effectively budget our capital expenditures on prioritized capital needs. Consistently advocate for the removal of capital discretionary funds for individual board members. Support school administrators' consideration of attendance waivers for all eligible students to attend a school of their choice. It is not fiscally respon-

sible to offer multiple transportation options to a small subset of students living in one area of the county. Our budgeted revenue for student transportation (~\$6M) is about half of our budgeted appropriations (~\$12M). Technology access for our students and staff. Allocate funding for hands-on equipment and devices for use in the classroom, professional development, STEM programs and

CHOICE programs.

Is it too difficult to fire teachers who aren't performing?

Scholl: We are fortunate in Okaloosa County to be blessed with honest and hard working teachers, but like any large organization, occasionally there is a need to release an individual when they fail to meet the needs of our students. Our current

method of employment suits our needs.

Thrush: No. We have a teacher evaluation committee that has created a teacher evaluation instrument that is objective and fair. As long as the Administrative Supervisor is following procedures, school board policies, and correctly documents the teacher's performance a teacher can be terminated.



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Dr. Staats is a former U.S. Air Force physician, board certified and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, with more than 30 years experience caring for military personnel and their families.

The letters D.O. after her name, rather than M.D., stand for Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, meaning that Doctor Staats earned her medical degree through training that emphasizes treating the whole patient, mind and body, paying special attention to the overall structure and function of the human body.

"In addition to conventional medical training," said Dr. Staats, "Osteopaths receive additional training on anatomical assessment and manual medical therapy, similar to our more well known Chiropractic colleagues.

The "whole person" approach behind Osteopathic medicine, she explained, begins by really



Doctor Julie Staats, left, along with staff members Coleen Welton and Mary Benson, look forward to helping you and you family stay healthy.

getting to know each patient. "Our first appointment will probably be about an hour long,"

she said. "I'll want you to tell me the 'story of your life,' to help me gain a full medical and psychosocial history of you. We'll discuss your family history in detail and I'll also conduct a complete physical exam." Such attention to detail during a patient's first visit, she said, is essential to accurate diagnosis and an effective preventive medicine assessment. "You can't out-run your genes," she said. "many diseases are heritable, but can be prevented or delayed with lifestyle modification or medication. If you have a relative with a certain type of cancer, you could have up to 10 times the average risk for developing that or another type of related cancer." Knowing about such risks, she said, enables you to work with your doctor on a surveillance strategy and preventive measures, to decrease risk and detect such illness early enough to be effectively treated should it appear.

By taking the time to really get to know you, Dr. Staats can research and offer options for treatment in line with your beliefs and lifestyle. She can help you make sound decisions about diet, exercise, and lifestyle choices, specifically tailored to your personal health situation and the kind of life you want to lead. When necessary, she even does house calls.

"I look forward to working with you as your family doctor," said Dr. Staats, "I encourage you to make my clinic your medical home. It's my hope that we can have a relationship where the lines of communication are open, where your medical care is accessible and cost-effective, and where it is all about you."

Dr. Staats' private practice opens July 1 at 4566 Hwy 20 East, Courtyard Plaza, Suite 102, at Bluewater Bay. Call her today at 850-279-3040 for your first appointment on the way to a more healthy life.

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Dr. Staats, a 30+ USAF veteran, has owned a home in Niceville for 25 years. She is Board Certified and a Fellow in Family Medicine.

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Curran has yard of the month

The Niceville Garden Club chose Mark Curran's yard as yard of the month for August. The Niceville Garden Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month, from Sept. through June, in the city hall building.

Herron lauded at peace exhibit at college

Dr. Clifford Herron, the founding director of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center and former dean of the Humanities at Northwest Florida State College, will be recognized with a Gandhi, King, Ikeda Peace Award Saturday, Aug. 16 at 1 p.m. at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center at Northwest Florida State College in Niceville with a ceremony and address by Dr. Lawrence E. Carter, Sr., Dean of the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College in Atlanta.

The opening ceremony will be presented in the mainstage theater of the arts complex followed by the exhibit viewing in the center's two art galleries. The ceremony, guest address and exhibit are all free of charge and open to the public.

The exhibit, "Gandhi, King, Ikeda: A Legacy of Building Peace" promotes the ideals of non-violence and celebrates

peace builders and human rights champions, opens The Legacy of Building Peace exhibition will continue on display weekdays through Aug. 29 during regular gallery hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The exhibition highlights the contributions to humanity of Mohandas K. Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Daisaku Ikeda. The three men came from different cultures and continents, but shared a commitment to improving the lives of all people.

Having fought selflessly in their respective time, each left an enduring legacy for humanity, illuminating the path to non-violence, human rights and peace.

This didactic exhibition explores themes of the innate dignity of humanity, principles

of nonviolence, triumph over adversity, and shaping the future through action. The exhibit features colorful photographs, inspiring quotes and factual information about the three luminaries, displayed in free-standing, flowing, curved walls.

"I hope that by examining the lives of these great individuals, viewers would be inspired to create value in the context of their own daily lives through the application of the ideals of peace and non-violence," said Dr. Lawrence Carter, who developed the exhibition.

Carter holds degrees in social science and psychology, theology, pastoral care and pastoral psychology and counseling. He is an ordained Baptist minister and founded the Gandhi

Institute for Reconciliation at Morehouse College in 2000.

Dr. Carter is also the College Curator and tenured Professor of Religion at Morehouse College. He is the author of numerous books and articles and teaches the Psychology of Religion, Religion and Ethics, Introduction to Religion and The Life and Thought of Mohandas K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.

The "Gandhi, King, Ikeda: A Legacy of Building Peace" exhibition is sponsored locally by Soka Gakkai International, Gulf Coast and Emerald Coast Chapters.

The Mattie Kelly Arts Center is located on the Niceville campus of Northwest Florida State College at 100 College Boulevard E. and is minutes from Destin and Fort Walton Beach. For more information, call 729-6044.



Clifford Herron



Dr. Clifford Herron retired last year after staging his 18th and final summer production "Les Miserables." Pictured at far right, Herron was given a standing ovation from the audience and cast.

In the Service

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Christopher J. Duckworth** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Duckworth earned distinction as an honor

graduate. He is the son of Raymonde and E. Michael Duckworth of Niceville and a 2006 graduate of Niceville High School.



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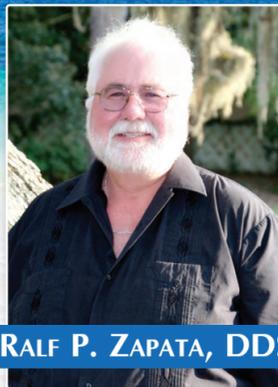
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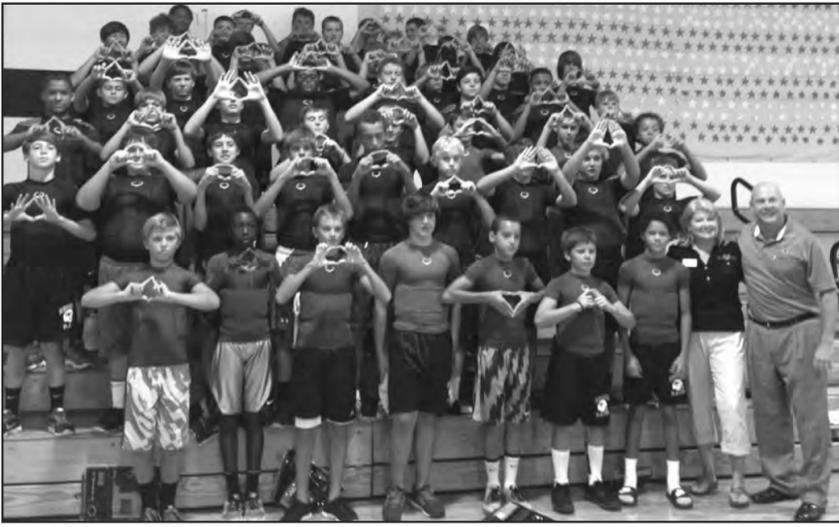


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Middle school football teams get 'rib shirts'

With a donation from the Dugas Grant, the Taylor Haugen Foundation equipped 55 Ruckel Middle School football players, above, and 39 Lewis School football players with special compression shirts, also known as "rib shirts," designed to protect their vital organs from injury.



Bank donates to food bank

Beach Community Bank donated funds and a shopping cart full of school supplies to help area needy children through Sharing and Caring's Tools For School program. Pictured from right, Michelle Johnson, Assistant Vice President of Beach Community Bank, presenting a check to Sharing and Caring volunteers Sandy Reyes, Tools For School Coordinator and Lynn Watson.



Kiwanis selects award recipients

The Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso selected three outstanding members of the Niceville High School Key Club to receive a Key Club Leadership Award. They have distinguished themselves throughout their years as Key Club members with many areas of service and leadership, not only at Niceville High School, but throughout the community.

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MBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION
 The Mid-Bay Bridge Authority is seeking applicants for the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director acts as the chief administrative representative of the Authority and is responsible for the overall administration, financial management, and day-to-day activities of the Authority. The Executive Director reports to the Board of the Authority and acts at the Board's direction. The ideal candidate will be a highly energetic, creative self-starter with a proven track record of leading institutional or department growth. Applicants should have strong verbal and written communication skills and experience in Engineering/Construction, Contract Administration and Financial Management. Qualified applicants should send a cover letter, resume and salary requirements to: Matthews&Jones,LLP Attn:Dawn E. Stuntz 4475 Legendary Dr. Destin, FL 32541 E m a i l : dstuntz@destinlaw.com A complete job description may be requested from dstuntz@destinlaw.com. Resumes will be accepted through August 31, 2014.

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Second breakfast

The Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce will have their Second Wednesday Breakfast at 7:30 a.m., at Northwest Florida State College. Sponsored by Northwest Florida State College. Cost is \$5 cash or \$6 credit card at the door.

Reading pal

Baci, a Bichon Frise therapy dog, loves a good book. Children ages 7 and older are invited to read a story to Baci in the Youth Services program room Wednesday, Aug. 13, at 2 p.m. This is a first come, first served program. Bring a book or choose from the library collection.

Senior moments

The Twin City Senior Citizens Club, 268 Glenview Ave., Valparaiso, will meet Aug. 14 at 1 p.m. Entrée provided, please bring a covered dish to share games, food, and fun. For information call 543-0869.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Thursday, Aug. 14 at Niceville City Hall, 204 N. Partin Drive from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. All donors will receive a beach towel.

Summer camp at museum

There will be a week-long "Time Traveler's" Summer History Camp at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, August 11-15 from 9 a.m.-noon. Discover, explore and experience days-gone-by as campers aged 5-12 travel back in time.

Cost is \$60 for the week, \$50 for family membership members.

Become a new member at the \$50 family level, and receive one child's camp registration half off.

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida is dedicated to providing affordable and fun, quality programs. Space is limited, please pre-register. Call 678-2615.

Basket weaving

There will be a Heritage Alive! basket weaving class for beginners at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, August 16 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Instructor Lou Holt will be teaching students to make a basket designed to hold paper plates.

The cost is \$35 or \$30 for Museum Members and includes all materials. Space is limited. Register by calling 678-2615.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Saturday, Aug. 16 at Fantastic Sam's, 1136 W. John Sims Parkway, Niceville, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. All donors will receive a beach towel and a Fantastic Sam's haircut voucher.

Pinfish tourney

The third Annual Bluewater Bay Marina Pinfish Grand Nationals will be Saturday, Aug. 16 at 10 a.m. at the Bluewater Bay Marina Complex. There will be an Anglers meeting at 9:20 a.m. before the tournament. Cash Grand Prize for 1st and 2nd place winners. Goody bags will be given to all registered teams.

Early registration \$20, Late registration Aug. 5-16 is \$25. For more information and for a registration form, please call 897-2821 or visit bluewaterbaymarina.com.

Book signing

Local author, Jocelyn Donahoo will be signing on Saturday, Aug. 16 from 10 am - 2 p.m. at Bayou Book Co., Niceville.

Donahoo is a medically-retired home health nurse who took up creative writing after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1988. She believes, despite any challenges, that she has to



Oktoberfest looking for artists

The 20th annual Oktoberfest Arts and Crafts festival at Winn-Dixie Plaza, Bluewater Bay, is looking for artists and craftsmen interested in selling their work. The festival is sponsored by the Mid-Bay Rotary Club and will be Sept. 26-27. Vendor spots are available at \$100 for the two days. For an application, call 897-3190.

press, think positively, and encourage others to do the same. Winner of an award in 2005 for her poem "Aren't You All's Daughter," the mother of four sons lives in Niceville with her husband Carl of 32 years.

Call 678-1593 for more information.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Monday, Aug. 18 at Walmart, Niceville from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. All donors will receive a beach towel.

After hours

Hurricane Grill & Wings, Bluewater Bay, presents the Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours networking event Tuesday, Aug. 19 from 5-6:30 p.m. at . Free and open to the public.

Pine needle basketry

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, is offering a class in Pine Needle Basketry with a two part class Tuesdays, Aug.

19 and 26 from 5- 8 p.m. Early Native Americans in the region originally wove abundant longleaf pine needles into beautiful and useful baskets. Learn to use Seminole techniques and local pine needles to create something uniquely yours.

The cost is \$55 or, \$50 for Museum members. Materials included.

Space for the class is limited, so please call the museum to pre-register 678-2615.

Driver's safety

The AARP Drivers Safety Course will be at the Niceville Library Wednesday, Aug. 20 and Thursday, Aug. 21 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. in the Niceville Community Center Classroom next door to library.

The cost is \$12 per person for AARP members or \$14 for non-members. Please make your checks out to AARP. Space is limited.

Sign up is required at the Reference Desk or if you have questions call Lora Glass at 279-4863 ext. 1504.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Thursday, Aug 21 at Twin Cities Hospital, Niceville from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All donors will receive a beach towel.

Look to the stars

There will be Star Gazing by the Shore at Henderson Beach State Park Friday, Aug. 22 from 5-10 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.

Also, prior to sunset, their telescopes will be equipped for safe viewing of the sun.

All ages are invited to enjoy an evening of star gazing. The park will close at sunset. All those attending the star gaze should arrive prior to sunset. Call park for sunset time. Event is weather permitting. Program included in the park admission fee. Call 837-7550 for more information.

Candidate open mic night

The Niceville-Valparaiso Tea Party will meet at Niceville City Hall on Monday, Aug. 25, at 6 p.m.

All candidates on the Okaloosa County Aug. 26 Primary Ballot are invited for a candidates Open Mic Night to make a plug for their candidacy and to answer individual questions from the audience, time permitting. Please come with questions.

Free movie night

Niceville United Methodist Church, 214 Partin Drive South, invites everyone to free showing of the movie "Home Run," PG-13 Friday, Aug. 29 at 7 p.m.

Register online for a free BBQ meal, free child care, and to reserve your seat by Aug. 22.

For more information call 678-4411 or visit nicevilleumc.org/recovery.

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Good-bye summer

For Okaloosa County students, a new year begins

The annual Fourth of July celebration at Lincoln Park, Valparaiso, was packed with kids participating in watermelon eating contests, water slides and a tug of war.



Kaitlyn Saltsman, 7, left, and her sister Kylee, 9, made the most of their last days of summer by opening a lemonade stand. Both girls plan on heading to Plew Elementary School Aug. 18.



Turkey Creek Park in Niceville has been the place to be for cooling off during the hot and humid days.



A kayak trip at Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park Aug. 8 was perfect for seeing wildlife. "We saw an osprey catch a fish right in front of us," said Park Services Specialist Kit Snyder. "The dolphins and mullet were really jumping."

Beacon photos by Angela Yuriko Smith

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