

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-6

12 Pages, 2 Sections, 7 Inserts

Wednesday, August 20, 2014

50¢

**UP
COMING**

Wed., 8:30-11:30 a.m.



The **AARP Drivers Safety Course** will be in the **Niceville Community Center** classroom. Cost is \$15 per person for AARP members or \$20 for non-members. Space is limited. 279-4863, ext. 1504.

Thurs., 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Give blood at Twin Cities Hospital, Niceville. All donors will receive a beach towel.

Fri., 5-10 p.m.



Star Gazing by the Shore at Henderson Beach State Park. Park closes at sunset, please arrive prior. Program included in park admission fee. 837-7550.

Mon., 6 p.m.



The **Niceville-Valparaiso Tea Party** will meet at **Niceville City Hall**. All candidates on the Okaloosa County Aug. 26 Primary Ballot are invited to speak.

Alcohol easing stopped by community outcry

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Staff Writer

The attempt to ease alcohol laws in Niceville to promote business development in the city was quashed Aug. 12. It was standing room only at the city council meeting regarding the proposed ordinance. At least 17 people spoke against the ordinance, with only five speaking in favor of it.

The vote was 3 to 2 with council members Dan Henkel, Bill Schaetzle and Heath Rominger voting against the ordinance and Judith Boudreaux and

Sal Nodjomian voting for it. People from both sides presented their views on the use of alcohol in the city. Current code does not allow alcohol to be served or sold until 1 p.m. on Sunday and businesses selling alcohol for on premise consumption must be more than 500 feet from schools or churches.

Ruckel Properties Inc. President and CEO Steve Ruckel brought the ordinance before the council at its July meeting. Ruckel asked that the distance requirement be exempted for

places serving full meals and that alcohol be allowed for sale at 9 a.m. on Sundays for restaurants, which was amended to 11 a.m. by the Council.

One of the properties Ruckel has mentioned developing for a restaurant is land in front of Plev Elementary School and near Rosemont Baptist Church and Niceville Christian Church.

Plev Elementary School principal Carolyn McAllister spoke at the Aug. 12 meeting about her objection to the proposed change

Please see ALCOHOL, page A-5



Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders
Pictured, many people were present at the Aug. 12 Niceville City Council meeting where a proposed ordinance to ease alcohol laws was discussed.

School bells ring



Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders
Students stream into Lewis School from their buses and head for class on the first day of school Monday. Teachers and other staff welcomed the 605 students who were expected that day. Countywide, 30,880 K-12 students have enrolled this year.

Hattie's Grove approved despite opposition

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Staff Writer

A 23-house proposed subdivision on county land near the end of Bullock Boulevard in Niceville was approved for development by the Okaloosa County Planning Commission in a 3-0 vote Thursday despite the protests of several nearby residents.

The subdivision, which will be known as Hattie's Grove, will contain single family houses by builder Randy Wise on land developed by Stephen Rose of Okaloosa Walton Development Company. Planning Commissioners Larry Patrick, Bruce Ravan and Robert Cadenhead voted for the development order. Felix Beukenkamp, who is the commissioner for the area in question, was not in attendance.

The Okaloosa County Planning Commission conducted a public hearing Thursday after receiving five petitions requesting it and five Memorandums of Error from citizens living near the property. Two of the citizens who wrote MOEs were allowed to present at the meeting Thursday evening and one more spoke during the public comment

Please see HATTIE'S, page A-7

Referendum causes dispute at city commission meeting

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Staff Writer

The referendum which will be on the ballot Aug. 26 concerning amendments to the city of Valparaiso's charter giving more power to the city administrator caused dispute between Mayor Bruce Arnold and Valparaiso City Commissioners at their meeting Aug. 11.

Arnold asked that a newsletter containing an explanation that he and City Manager Carl Scott had written of the proposed changes be approved to send to the citizens of Valparaiso.

Arnold found opposition from

three of the four commissioners as well as two citizens. Commissioner Heyward Strong responded by saying, "I don't agree with the write-up." He later said that the newsletter piece was "misleading."

Commissioner Joe Morgan said, "It has a lot of generalities which in fact are false." He went on to say, "A taxpayer-funded article that shows only one side of the discussion is wrong."

Commissioner Tom Browning said that some commissioners and even citizens had issues with the newsletter.

Commissioner Kay Hamilton

supported the article, saying it was needed for citizens to get a "clear understanding" of the proposed changes to the city charter.

Brandon Wilson, a citizen from the audience who suggested redoing the article addressed the commission and said, "If we don't understand what was changed--the facts--we're not going to make a good decision."

Terry Griffin, another citizen, said that Valparaiso has the proposed changes to the charter laid out on its city website in the Announcement section. He said that the newsletter was "very skewed and should not be pub-

lished."

The commissioners voted on whether to approve the article with Hamilton and Arnold voting for it and Browning, Strong and Morgan voting against.

Following the vote, Heyward Strong said the commission should remove the referendum from the ballot. City Attorney Hayward Dykes said what the commissioners would do is make it non binding.

Morgan asked for a roll call in favor of doing so, which is not an official vote but a verbal statement of support or lack of support. Arnold said that an ordi-

nance must have three hearings implying that there was not enough time before the Aug. 26 primary to make the change. Morgan said they could amend a motion to take it off the ballot, contingent on what could be done legally.

Hamilton responded by saying, "I think it's disgusting you're taking it out of the hands of the voters."

Arnold said he would not take a roll call vote because he did not think it was "proper."

In a later interview, the mayor said, "The referendum was put on the ballot with public hear-

ings and the passage of an ordinance. I feel if any other commissioner wants to stop that, they would have to go through that process legally. When you pass an ordinance, it stays on the books and that's serious business."

Arnold drafted the original basis of the ordinance and then there were workshops that were open to the public and attended by the commissioners to go through his recommendations.

Arnold added, "I'm not saying there were not objections. There were a lot of things set to vote

Please see CITY, page A-3

Okaloosa seeks OK to renew tax breaks

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Staff Writer

Voters will decide whether to continue tax credits to some new and expanding businesses in Okaloosa County in the Aug. 26 election.

A measure giving the county commission the power to give property-tax exemptions for up to 10 years to businesses that create new jobs is up for renewal by referendum.

The economic development ad valorem tax exemption was first approved in 1981, renewed in 1992, and then rejected in September 2002. In March 2004 it was approved again.

Each time the measure had a 10-year "sunset" provision. Now the question of renewal is on the ballot again.

The exemption is an incentive program that has been very successful, according to Nathan Sparks, Okaloosa County Economic Development Council executive director.

Over the last 10 years, seven companies have applied for the exemption, of which four ended up participating in it, according to Sparks. From those four companies, 402 jobs have been created and \$34,595,612 invested in business in the county

Please see BREAKS, page A-2



North Okaloosa Medical Center was one of four companies in the past 10 years to obtain an Okaloosa County tax exemption for an expansion that created jobs.

Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

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School Board candidates answer questions

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

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

C. W. Soldier Hyden, Joseph Slusser and incumbent Rodney Walker are running in the District 3 race. Information on the school board elections for districts 1 and 3 was published Aug. 13.

Early voting will take place through Aug. 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 through today.

The school board elections are nonpartisan, so all registered voters will be allowed to vote in this primary. If no candidate gets more than 50 percent of the votes in the three-way race for District 3, there will be a runoff in the Nov. 4 election.

Voters may see the ballot they will be given by going to the Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections website govotek-Okaloosa.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. Answers have been edited for length as to specifications given the candidates.

Okaloosa TIGER (Together in Government and Education Reform), a political committee affiliated with the union that represents Okaloosa County public-school teachers, has endorsed Rodney Walker for District 3.

District 3

C.W. Soldier Hyden



Date and place of birth: 1977, Killeen, Texas

Occupation: not permitted to reveal

Employer: not permitted to reveal

Formal Education: A.S. Aerospace Science and Technology; A.S. Intelligence Technology, B.S. Government: Politics and Policy (exp. 2015)

Number of years in Okaloosa County: 1

Home address: Laurel Hill
Spouse and children: Patricia; Nathan and Noah, both under 2

E-mail: hyden1977@yahoo.com

Joseph Slusser



Date and place of birth: Jan. 29, 1949, Fairdale, Ky.

Occupation: Retired (2014) Teacher

Employer: Previous employer Okaloosa School District

Formal Education: B.A. Education, Western Kentucky University; M.Ed. Special Education, University of Louisville; Ed.D. Western Kentucky University/University of Louisville

Number of years in Okaloosa County: 14

Home address: 2009 Hidden Springs Drive, Baker

Spouse and children: Pamela; Jason, Jeremy and Chris, 5 grandchildren

E-mail: drjoeslusser@gmail.com

Rodney Walker



Date and place of birth: Nov. 23, 1937, South Bay, Fla.

Occupation: Retired educator, school board member

Employer: Okaloosa County School Board

Formal Education: Master's in Education Leadership

Number of years in Okaloosa County: 52

Home address: 106B Star Drive, Fort Walton Beach

Spouse and children: 2 children

E-mail: N/A

Background in public service as elected or appointed official

Hyden: I have never held elected office nor have I ever been appointed to any elected office or position. Neither did Don Gaetz when he first

Slusser: no background as elected or appointed official

Walker: Elected official - 5 terms as school board member; 10 years as the chairman

Chief accomplishments

Hyden: I was born into poverty and rose above it by becoming the first in my immediate family to graduate from high school and college. By

Slusser: Educator over 44 years (teacher, coach, guidance counselor, curriculum coordinator, administrator and Student Affairs Liaison). Designated as Distinguished Educator in Kentucky.

Walker: I have been able to

help maintain a balanced budget and serve as the board's representative in construction programs facilitating the construction of several new schools

Why are you running for office?

Hyden: My wife and I have reviewed our school system and are vexed that our sons will not receive a good education in these schools per our standards. We believe it can be better, it requires someone who has the internal strength of honesty and courage to return to sound proven

Slusser: I am running for the school board in hope of providing an involved voice for the entire county. The parents and teachers of our children need someone who listens to and represents them in our school system.

Walker: I want to continue to assist in providing an excellent education for all students.

In what significant ways do you differ from your opponent?

Hyden: I am not a 20 year incumbent without children in our schools. I believe in term limits and he does not. I am completely independent of the establishment political system controlling this county and the incumbent is embraced by it. The incumbent has received PAC money whose purpose is to remove incumbents from office in Okaloosa County yet he is a multi-term incumbent. Dishonest politics? I absolutely oppose Common Core (Florida Standards) but the incumbent voted for it. I will never vote for a tax increase without public consent but the incumbent has voted twice for tax increases without public

Slusser: My opponents differ greatly as I differ greatly from both of them. One opponent has been on the board for over two decades, and he has been away from working with students since the 1980s. He voted to deny the teachers and staff their pay raises, even though it was a contractual agreement, I would never break a binding contract. It's time for a positive change. The other candidate is a young compassionate parent, a newcomer in the arena, as am I. He has never been an educator, as he is career military.

Walker: I feel that my education background and knowledge of the entire school system far exceeds my opponents. I worked 30 years as a teacher, guidance counselor and administrator in the Okaloosa County school district and I have served 5 terms as a school board member.

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

Hyden: Common Core (now known as Florida Standards). This is the most damaging concept ever devised against academic education. Its purpose is conformity of thought and data collection and has nothing to do with proper education. It will not prepare our college bound chil-

dren for a proper university education and it will not prepare our workforce bound children to be successful in the workplace. I also oppose all standardized testing. These tests serve no purpose at all except to collect data for the state in order to rate our schools. A teacher's effectiveness and academic abilities are unfairly judged and targeted based on the results of these tests, given one time a year. These tests never take into account the child's progress during the year, quarterly/semester grades, and the child's parents are never privy to the actual test when it is scored. Teachers are stressed out over the tests, that stress

Slusser: The top three issues are declining student academics, due to reduced classroom instruction time. Teachers are pulled away from their classrooms with unnecessary paperwork and non-instructional procedures, much of which are not state mandated. Secondly, we must make our schools safe and secure for all, students and staff. The School Resource Officers provide a very needed presence in our schools, yet we must become more proactive. Detecting and preventing a situation before it actually becomes a problem. Children cannot learn in an environment where they do not feel safe and secure. Lastly, we must address Common Core and its standards. Our state has adopted it, making a few changes, calling it Florida Core. Many states have tried CC and decided to dump it, some are still in the process. We need to follow state mandates, although, this could be crucial in our children's educational future.

Walker: 1) Lack of capital revenue to construct new schools and repair aging facilities that are 40 years old or older.

2) Address rapid changes from federal and state mandates that we must find ways to implement without adversely affecting the education of students or the budget.

3) Find more efficient ways to utilize our total revenue.

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

Hyden: Florida does not have tenure so I will state that it is easier to fire teachers here than elsewhere where tenure still exists. I am also concerned though that the "last in-first out" mentality still exists during tough economic times resulting in layoffs or terminations. I would really like to see

Slusser: Teachers which are not "measuring up" should be placed on probation, and be coached, improving of their techniques. Experienced teacher coaches can mentor the "failing" teacher, increasing their effectiveness. If improvement does not occur, by the end of the probationary period, termination could be put into place. Documentation and perseverance

Walker: No, we have an outstanding state and local evaluation plan that works effectively if we follow all procedures.

BREAKS

From page A-1

while \$638,094 in exemptions have been granted, he said.

The companies that have gotten the exemption range from a

size of 30 people to 700 and include North Okaloosa Medical Center in Crestview, Bit Wizards in Fort Walton Beach, Advanced Sawmill Machinery in Holt and L3 Crestview Aerospace in Crestview, according to the EDC.

David Fuller, chief executive of North Okaloosa Medical Center, said having the exemption made a difference when the hospital considered doing a major expansion. "It pushed us to make the decision to do it here rather than somewhere else," Fuller said. Fuller added that it was a measure of the community's support for the project and it made it "more financially viable" to do the expansion. North Okaloosa Medical Center has saved \$151,694 of the total \$379,235 it will be exempted in taxes from 2012 to 2016.

Sparks explained that the program is important today because cities have to woo businesses. "The focus on economic

development locally, regionally, nationally has never been greater. There's more competition," he said. "That's where incentives like the ad valorem tax exemption come into play."

Sparks said that a lot has been learned from the recession of 2008-9 and the intervening years, mainly that being competitive is important, not to put too many eggs in one basket and that the economy needs manufacturing as well as services in the overall economic recovery. The new jobs that businesses must provide to get the exemption must pay 110 percent of the county's average wage of \$36,152. That means the new jobs must pay at least \$39,767. Additionally, the company must add at least 10 jobs for manufacturing companies or 25 for other types of businesses.

The county commission determines the amount of the exemption and how long the business will receive it. The exemption is on new construction, not current buildings. The

property tax collector must certify that the investment was made to the level committed to by the business.

County Commissioner Kelly Windes agrees with Sparks that having the exemption is key to growing business in the area. Windes said, "Getting these companies in here is very important. Adjoining counties have these tax exemptions. We really need to be competitive with the other areas."

The exemption would be open to both existing businesses and those seeking to come to Okaloosa County. Additionally, Fort Walton Beach and Destin have put municipal referendums on their ballots for the same type of exemption to be offered in their cities on top of the county exemption.

Sparks said, "Anything we can do collectively or individually to enhance the job growth of businesses in Okaloosa County, we should do."

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Valparaiso voters consider amendments to charter

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

Voters in Valparaiso will be casting their ballots on whether to make changes to their city charter at the primary election on Aug. 26. Many changes are being considered and today The Bay Beacon will be publishing editorials from both sides of the issue by Mayor Bruce Arnold and Commissioner Joe Morgan.

The gist of charter changes is that there will be a stronger city administrator and city commissioners will lose power. Some of the changes proposed include the following:

-The minimum age for com-

missioners would be reduced from 25 to 21.

-The city would have three main departments: the Department of Financial Management, Department of Public Services and Department of Public Safety. Departments would be assigned to commissioners but they would only have oversight responsibility and they may no longer suspend employees.

-The City Clerk would be head of the Department of Financial Management and could employ and dismiss any employee of his/her office.

-The City Administrator

would be the administrative head of the Department of Public Services and could employ and dismiss any employee of his/her department.

-The Police Chief would be over the Department of Public Safety which would include the supervision, staffing and budgetary responsibilities of the fire department as well as police.

-Commissioners would appoint a person to replace the Mayor or other commissioners if a seat becomes vacant until the next regular election rather than calling a special election.

-The offices of City Tax Assessor, Tax Collector,

Treasurer and Municipal Judge would be deleted.

Additionally, several articles would be amended including articles VII on taxation and revenue, VIII on purchasing and running public utilities, XI on general laws of Florida and XIII on miscellaneous items.

Other articles would be deleted altogether including Articles IX on making improvements, X on annexation of territory and XII on elections.

Citizens may view the proposed changes in the document at the Announcements Quick Link on the City of Valparaiso website, which is valp.org.

PRO

Having over fifty years of experience in city government, I believe there is one basic question citizens need to ask themselves in deciding their vote on the proposed change from a commission system to a modified commission system.

How do we perceive the nature and purpose of city government? Is the overriding consideration: (1) the direct democratic election by the citizens of the city's commissioners or (2) the appointment of a professional city administrator by an elected commission to create an efficient operation of the city's government services?

Problematic is Option 1; the current system fails to meet the most basic concerns of citizens by not meeting the democratic and participatory civic values of an executive directly responsible to the people.

In our present form of government, all commissioners are legislators and equally executors. There is no separation of powers and no distinction between the legislative and administrative functions of local government. Administrative decisions become politicized and only the needs of certain groups within the community are met.

Option 2, the proposed change, stresses the value of efficiency and organizational operation as found in corporate management. This form of government serves as a platform for acknowledgement that basic public services are complex, professional processes and should not be vulnerable to political influences.

Government should never be compromised because of those traits that make a person electable



Mayor
Bruce Arnold

but in no way guarantee that he or she will have the management skills to run a highly intricate, administrative apparatus. A bad manager can be replaced at the will of the commission. A bad commissioner gets to serve a full four years before facing the voters.

Those in favor of the modified commission form of government, as I am, understand that the neutrality and objectivity indicative of the city administrator's position eliminates the bottleneck of conflicting ideologies in getting things done.

The modified commission form of government from its beginning has been promoted as a model which separates policy and politics from administration. The administrator's job is to administer, not to govern; nor is it to seek to impress his or her values on the commission. Like a corporation, the commission, as the board of directors, directs the manager to implement commission policy, efficiently dispatching administrative duties and rendering services to the public.

There is a reason nearly 100 percent of the cities in Florida have moved away from the pure commission form of government. And no one disputes the fact that there will be a shift of power and authority, duties and obligations, under the proposed charter amendments. The city will restore the power of checks and balances, infuse in the citizens a degree of trust by limiting the power of individual commissioners and ensure accountability and transparency in achieving municipal goals. Please join me in voting yes for change.

By Mayor Bruce Arnold

CON

The proposed amended charter for the City of Valparaiso is not in the best interest of the City, the citizens it serves, or the staff that serves it.

The change to essentially a city manager form of government would potentially be more expensive, and lessen the strengths of the current 'commission' form of government and its benefits, which are founded in grass-roots democracy, true self-governance and home rule powers that results in a responsive local governing body.

It has been stated that our system of government is 'antiquated.' While it is true that fewer cities use a 'commission form' of government, it is patently false that we have not updated how we operate within our current charter to keep up with the times. We have changed.

Currently, each Department has a paid 'director' that has been given day to day authority to execute the duties of the departments as they currently operate. In some cases, directors have assistant directors - both paid and volunteer - that further carry-out said executive duties.

Valparaiso has hired an 'at-will' position - a full time city administrator that by appointment and designation of the commission can and does carry out further executive duties as prescribed.

When the commission examined the four separate forms of government, no specific advantages could be found, or more specifically, no perceived faults were discussed that could not be addressed within our current charter that would be 'solved' by a



Commissioner
Joe Morgan

simple change in the 'form' of government.

The real effectiveness of government is not its form - but who you elect and hire to execute its functions. I have worked with many local governments the world over, from South America to Europe, to the Middle East where I worked for the Department of State as a governance and financial advisor, and I feel the current 'commission form' of government especially suits Valparaiso.

Yes, it is unique, but it works. It provides for a Responsive, Responsible

Government that engenders: Citizen Involvement and Volunteerism; A 'small town', friendly feel - the citizens know they have real, elected, 'belly-butons' to push for both general and specific issues; and a Low Cost managerial level/layer (elected volunteer citizens) that otherwise would have to be paid for.

Furthermore, without a clear mandate, or stated issue to fix, and with only negative citizen input during its development, this change transfers responsibilities to the Executive, and in-fact establishes more overhead and layers, while reducing the current Directors' ability to respond effectively.

Additionally, it reduces citizen input and elected officials oversight, and unnecessarily forces wholesale changes in the way we operate - including some that by referendum have not been approved in the past (residency requirements for example).

The current charter is flexible and works - Vote NO to change.

By Commissioner Joe Morgan

CITY

From page A-1

and there were close votes." At this time, Browning was not on the commission because Diane Kelley was commissioner.

The original vote to put the changes to the city charter on the ballot was a 3-2 vote with Hamilton, Mayor Arnold and former commissioner Kelley voting for it and Morgan and Strong voting against it.

Arnold said that if commissioners don't continue with items voted on by previous commissions, there would be gridlock and nothing would get done.

After the meeting, Strong said that his personal feeling was that more work needed to be done because the referendum change needed to be quantified. "You need to say why, what you got is not working, what you're going to change and what it's going to cost."

The changes to the charter would give additional duties to an administrative manager at the city and what that manager would be paid has not been decided.

After the meeting, Browning said, "I don't think the city is of the size or of the ability to pay for that position. The city doesn't have need for it."

After the meeting, Morgan said the referendum should be decided by the voters, but that the way it's being portrayed to them is inaccurate. He said the roll call vote was to let people know where the commission stands now.

In other news at the meeting, commissioners heard from James Butler, General Manager of the

Valparaiso Broadband Communication System, regarding changes to cable programming and Internet speed. Butler warned the commission that prices will be going up this year and for the next seven years for cable television because of price increases being set by the big ten networks.

Butler said the Valparaiso Please see MEETING, page A-8



Valparaiso commissioners and staff at the beginning of the Aug. 11 meeting of the city council.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Eglin Air Force Base announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for RCS 13-320, Overland Air Operations for public review and comment.

The Proposed Action of RCS 13-320, Overland Air Operations would be to authorize and implement an increased level of activity for Eglin overland air operations to update/validate the current approval process for routine military users of Eglin overland airspace and to provide a quick response to priority needs during war or other significant military involvement.

Your comments on this Draft EA are requested. Letters and other written or oral comments provided will be addressed and may be published in the Final EA. Any personal information provided, including private addresses, will be used only to identify your desire to make a statement during the public comment period or to compile a mailing list to fulfill requests for copies of the Final EA or associated documents. However, only the names and respective comments of respondent individuals will be disclosed: personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published in the Final EA.

The Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact are available on the web at www.eglin.af.mil/environmentalassessments.asp from August 22 until September 20, 2014. All area libraries have computers available to the general public and librarians who can provide assistance linking to the document. Hard copies of the document may be available for a limited time by contacting: Mike Spaits, 96th Test Wing Environmental Public Affairs, 101 W. D Ave., Rm. 238, Eglin AFB, Fla., 32542, or email: michael.spaits@us.af.mil. Tel: (850) 882-2836.

The documents will be available on the web from August 22 until September 20, 2014. For more information or to comment on the Proposed Action, contact Mike Spaits, at the contact listed above. Comments must be received by September 24, 2014.

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Kobe Cafe

High end dining at great prices

Kobe Cafe is the newest spot in Niceville to enjoy Japanese cuisine with high end dining at great prices. Whether you are joining friends at the sophisticated bar or relaxing with family in the comfortable booths, Kobe Cafe is an experience not to be missed. Centrally located in the new Publix shopping center, once you step through Kobe Cafe's doors you will be pleasantly surprised at the expansive restaurant you will find waiting.

Offering a full range of culinary delights from hibachi, sushi, steak, Bento Box and tempura to traditional noodle dishes such as soba and yaki udon, Kobe Cafe offers take-out or dine-in options along with special menu options for children. The open kitchen design allows patrons to watch the chefs prepare their hibachi meals and the friendly staff are always ready to serve. Each meal is an edible work of art with the goal of culinary excellence behind every bite.



Kobe Cafe offers take-out or dine-in options along with special menu options for children. The elegant bar offers a wide range of crafted beers, quality wines and six different cold saki selections with prices that encourage socializing.



The atmosphere is comfortably cosmopolitan and provides the perfect place to visit with friends. The elegant bar offers a wide range of crafted beers, quality wines and six different cold saki selections with prices that encourage socializing. The dining experience is also value

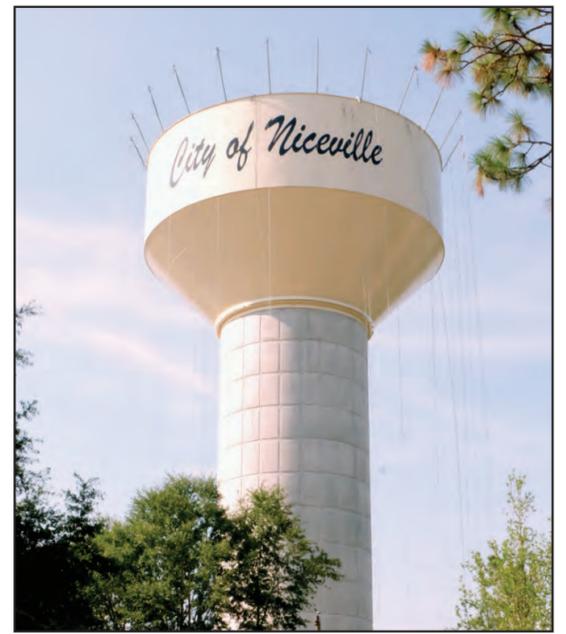
based with a wide variety of dining options at great prices. From beverage to dessert, every aspect of Kobe Cafe is designed to please the palate without breaking the budget.

"We know this area," said Keith Ling, Kobe Cafe's manager. "We try our best to take care of all the people here." Kobe Cafe gives an excellent dining experience back to the community with good prices. From being the perfect lunch spot to catch up with friends to a late dinner, Kobe Cafe accomplishes that goal and more.

For an impressive new dining experience that ranges from adventurous sushi presentations to savory hot hibachi, Kobe Cafe offers a well rounded experience that

is sure to delight. Located in the Publix shopping center, they are open seven days a week with lunch Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner beginning at 4 p.m. Sunday hours are from noon to 9:30 p.m. For more information, call Kobe Cafe at 279-6668.

Try Kobe Cafe the next time you are looking for an exciting culinary experience that will keep you coming back.



Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders
The exterior of the 750,000 gallon 160-foot high water tower at Marysa Road in Niceville is now complete with some interior painting work still to be finished by Labor Day. About 400 gallons of paint will be used on the tower which sports "City of Niceville" in almost 12-foot high black letters on a beige background.

GRAND OPENING

Kobe Cafe

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Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders
Steve Ruckel, President/CEO of Ruckel Properties Inc. addresses the Niceville City Council in support of easing of alcohol laws. Ruckel brought an ordinance before the city to remove restrictions barring restaurants serving full meals from being 500 feet from a school or church. He also asked that they be able to service alcohol on Sundays starting at 9 a.m.

ALCOHOL

From page A-1

to the current ordinance. McAllister said, "The number one concern of this city council should be the safety of our children."

McAllister said she had already had one incident with someone who was drunk being on school property this year. She requested that a 10-15 foot natural barrier of plants be put in between the school and any business nearby serving alcohol as it became necessary.

Another concerned citizen who spoke said there was an established relationship between alcohol serving establishments and crime.

John Scott, minister at Niceville Christian Church said that restaurants would only be able to serve alcohol three more hours a week and that the markup for soda and alcohol was comparable. He suggested alcohol sales may not be the main reason that restaurants are not coming into Niceville and said that lower lease rates or taxes might be a solution.

First Baptist Church of Niceville Senior Pastor Mike McGough told the city council to think of the public good. "Don't sacrifice the uniqueness of Niceville on the altar of progress," said McGough.

Ruckel opened his presentation by saying he had been a pastor and served in churches for 20 years. He said, "Our intent in suggesting the exemption to this ordinance is not to promote drunkenness and encourage use of alcohol." He said that a casual dining restaurant would employ 30-60 people and bring \$390,000 into the community.

"This is about additional choices and appropriate development in our city," he added, later implying that lack of development could mean that taxes would increase and the city might struggle to continue.

Schaetzle asked if a "blanket ordinance" was needed or if businesses could request an exemption. Ruckel said that it's rare that you get inquiries on particular properties. Nodjomian said, "As I understand it, if the encumbrance stays in place, we won't even get to the conversation."

Chris Cartenuto, owner of Joey's Italian Grill, spoke for the proposed change, saying when he worked in Madison, Miss., restaurants would not come into the city until laws on serving alcohol on Sunday were eased.

Chairman of the Ruckel Properties Board Marion Ruckel Skalicky said she wanted to keep retail money here in Niceville, rather than give it to Destin. She said that the assumption that a restaurant that serves alcohol will mean more drunks in the area is false because alcoholics are unlikely to pay \$6 a drink at a restaurant when they can get a six-pack for the same amount.

After some more community input largely against changing the ordinance, council member Nodjomian asked Police Chief David Popwell about crime near restaurants. Popwell said that he had found no problems in restaurants in Niceville in the last 15 years and that Fort Walton Beach did a study that showed no increase in alcohol-related instances of crime related to alcohol being served on Sunday.

After the vote, Senior Pastor of Rosemont Baptist Church Doug Fannon said he was happy the proposed changes were

stopped. "The big problem is we don't want to go down that slope. We gotta respect our churches," said Fannon.

Council member Rominger, who cast the deciding vote, said he did not want the ordinance "carte blanche" throughout the city.

In other news, the city also approved the request for unionization by city fire fighters. The application for unionization will be sent to the Public Employees Relation Commission. City Attorney Dixie Dan Powell said PERC will take about eight weeks to review it and then contract talks can begin.

Additionally, Vickie Ritchson and Tony Namlick were appointed to serve on the Niceville City Planning Board.

CARDIAC CARE from the Heart

Charles Mayes, Jr., MD
Interventional Cardiologist

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Emerald Coast welcomes Dr. Charles Mayes, a board-certified, highly-trained cardiologist. His medical interests include interventional procedures to restore blood flow to coronary arteries and peripheral arteries, management of hypertension and cholesterol, heart valve disease, and peripheral vascular disease. He likes to spend a lot of time talking to his patients and tailoring their care based on their individual needs.

Dr. Mayes obtained his bachelor's degree and medical degree at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. He performed his residency training in internal medicine at The University of Texas at Southwestern in Dallas, Texas, and served as chief resident from 1998-1999. He then trained for three years in general cardiology at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. He remained at Duke for fellowship training in interventional cardiology and congenital heart diseases.

Dr. Mayes has practiced for the past 10 years in Panama City, Lafayette, La., Hattiesburg, Miss., and most recently at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola.



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-Alexander Hamilton

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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.

On Aug. 1, Niceville police responded to the Tom Thumb store on Highway 85, where a complainant stated that he had left his wallet and cell phone in the restroom and the items had been stolen. The complainant said that he had about \$400 cash in his wallet.

On Aug. 7 someone came to the Niceville police station to report that the tag had been stolen from his vehicle, and that he later received a bill from the Bridge Authority for \$17.80 in unpaid tolls. The complainant said he did not realize his tag had been stolen until he received the bill for unpaid charges.

On Aug. 4, Niceville police responded to the Spanish Trace Apartments on John Sims Parkway, where a couple said that they had arrived home to find their door standing open. It appeared that nothing had been taken, but the complainants wanted to report the incident, in case they later realized that something had been taken.



On Aug. 1, Valparaiso police responded to an address on Kelly Way, where a complainant reported that someone had gotten into his house, stolen some tools, and removed the kitchen stove.

On Aug. 7, Niceville police received a report that someone had apparently been stealing plants from a yard on Reeves Street.

On Aug. 7, Valparaiso police received a report of a silver four-door car with dark tinted windows that had been repeatedly seen speeding down Lincoln

Nordberg. The complainant said he had attempted, in a friendly manner, to ask the vehicle occupants not to speed down the street because children play in that area. The two men in the vehicle, however, became belligerent, according to the caller. Police advised the caller to notify them if he sees the vehicle again.

On Aug. 9, Niceville police responded to an address on College Boulevard regarding a broken fence and window screen.



On Aug. 2, Niceville police responded to the Helen Back restaurant on John Sims Parkway, where a complainant told them that a paint sprayer had been stolen from the back of his vehicle, which he had left overnight near the restaurant.

On Aug. 9, Niceville police responded to an address on Sterling River Way regarding a possible attempted burglary.

On Aug. 9, Niceville police responded to an address on Cedar Avenue, where a complainant stated that some of her narcotic medication was missing, and may have been stolen the day before.

On Aug. 10, Niceville police responded to an address on Paradise Road, where a complainant stated that someone had stolen some medication from her on April 13.

On Aug. 4, Valparaiso police responded to an address on Andrew Drive regarding the theft of some pills.

On Aug. 5, Niceville police responded to an address on Reeves Street, where someone had thrown eggs at a vehicle.

On Aug. 5, a man came into the Valparaiso police station to report that he believed his dog has been stolen. It turned out, however, that the dog was at the city yard. Police reunited the man with his dog and gave them both a ride home.

On Aug. 5, Valparaiso police received a 911 open line call from a location on Eglin Air Force Base. Investigation revealed that someone had accidentally hit the SOS button on a communications device.

On Aug. 6, Valparaiso police received a report from a resident of Edge Avenue that someone had stolen a toy truck from his carport area.

On Aug. 6, Niceville police responded to an address on Kailyn Court where a resident said that his brick mailbox had been knocked over by a vehicle. A witness stated that he had heard a loud bang, and when he went to his kitchen window, he noticed a white utility truck leaving the scene quickly. He said the vehicle looked like a bucket truck.

Valparaiso



The Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department responded to the following calls during the month of July 2014.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Southlake Ct.	Fire alarm	7/1/14	09:11
Sardinia Cv.	Unknown problem	7/1/14	09:26
Ellis Ave.	Sick call	7/2/14	11:08
Lincolnshire Dr.	Chest pain	7/3/14	01:42
Edge Ave.	Fire service call	7/4/14	23:16
N. Edgewater Dr.	Psychiatric	7/5/14	13:09
23rd Street	Cardiac arrest	7/6/14	06:56
27th Street	Child birth	7/6/14	10:47
Parkwood Pl.	Fire alarm	7/7/14	17:49
26th Street	Unknown problem	7/8/14	16:02
Bailey/E. John Sims	Vehicle accident	7/9/14	14:27
Windward Way	Structure fire	7/10/14	15:01
Windward Way	Structure fire	7/10/14	15:46
Lake Way Dr.	Heart problem	7/10/14	21:11
Ruckel Dr.	Sick call	7/12/14	17:02
23rd Street	Sick call	7/12/14	19:55
N. Edgewater Dr.	Sick call	7/13/14	22:22
15th Street	Sick call	7/14/14	06:13
Keturah St.	Sick call	7/14/14	14:18
E. Hwy. 20	Fire alarm	7/15/14	11:15
E. College/N. Partin	Vehicle accident	7/15/14	14:20
Lake Amick Dr.	Heart problem	7/16/14	22:24
Montrose Dr.	Fall	7/17/14	15:10
Edge Ave.	Diabetic	7/18/14	12:18
Glenwood Ct.	Back pain	7/18/14	12:29
E. Hwy. 20	Fire alarm	7/21/14	03:05
EOD Complex	Fire alarm	7/21/14	03:08
Marysa Dr.	Unconscious	7/21/14	05:29
Government Ave.	Structure fire	7/24/14	09:22
Lake Way Dr.	Sick call	7/24/14	13:43
Callaway Dr.	Headache	7/25/14	11:42
Wava Ave.	Cardiac arrest	7/26/14	07:34
Matt Blvd.	Fire service call	7/26/14	08:51
Reeves St.	Child birth	7/26/14	10:24
N. Edgewater Dr.	Diabetic	7/26/14	21:00
Hill Ln.	Unconscious	7/27/14	15:07
Edrehi Ave.	Unconscious	7/27/14	20:40
3rd Street	Structure fire	7/28/14	18:39
SR 285/SR 293	Vehicle accident	7/28/14	21:06
Wava Ave.	Unconscious	7/29/14	15:29
Bayshore Dr.	Unconscious	7/30/14	21:11

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Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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



Wanted as of: 08/08/2014
Aggravated Battery
Name: Lonzell J. Knox
Sex: Male
Race: Black
DOB: 07/31/1987
Height: 5ft 7in
Weight: 130 lbs
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown



Wanted as of: 08/05/2014
Burglary, Possession of a Firearm by Convicted Felon & Grand Theft of Firearm
Name: Dustin Dewayne Briehn
Sex: Male
Race: Caucasian
DOB: 10/26/1987
Height: 5ft 11in
Weight: 200 lbs
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Blue

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 August 11, 2014 through August 17, 2014.

1 Structure Fire	31	Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	6	Vehicle Crash
1 Other Fire	0	Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	2	Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	0	Hazardous Conditions

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
Judith Ave.	Medical	8/11/14	09:24
23rd Street	Medical	8/11/14	19:47
S.R. 85 N.	Medical	8/12/14	03:04
Aldenwood Way	Medical	8/12/14	06:02
Hickory Ave.	Medical	8/12/14	08:56
W. College Blvd.	Medical	8/12/14	14:08
E. College Blvd.	Medical	8/12/14	16:11
23rd Street	Medical	8/12/14	17:10
Ellis Ave.	Medical	8/12/14	23:41
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	8/13/14	06:20
Edgewater Dr.	Medical	8/13/14	10:16
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/13/14	16:59
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/13/14	23:45
S.R. 85 N.	Vehicle crash	8/14/14	09:49
23rd Street	Medical	8/14/14	11:15
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	8/14/14	11:51
23rd Street	Medical	8/14/14	12:05
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	8/14/14	12:24
S.R. 85 N.	Medical	8/14/14	14:45
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	8/14/14	16:01
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle crash	8/14/14	17:45
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Good intent	8/14/14	18:18
22nd Street	Medical	8/15/14	00:47
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/15/14	07:56
Woods Dr.	Medical	8/15/14	09:03
Magnolia Shores Dr.	Medical	8/15/14	09:46
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	8/15/14	09:58
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	8/15/14	12:55
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/15/14	17:35
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/16/14	08:14
S.R. 85 N.	Medical	8/16/14	10:07
Balsam Dr.	Good intent	8/16/14	10:51
Pontevedra Ln.	Structure fire	8/16/14	12:14
Bayshore Dr.	Excessive heat	8/16/14	16:25
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	8/16/14	19:00
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/17/14	00:18
W. John Sims Pkwy.	Medical	8/17/14	01:25
E. John Sims Pkwy.	Vehicle Crash	8/17/14	01:39
Davis Dr.	Medical	8/17/14	05:45
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/17/14	11:18
23rd Street	Medical	8/17/14	19:53

Weekly Safety Tip: Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame. The pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space. Use hot water or a laboratory tested device such as a hand held dryer for thawing.

Like the Niceville Fire Department on Facebook

North Bay



The North Bay Fire Department responded to the following calls from August 11, 2014 through August 17, 2014.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
Laura Ln.	Dispatched & cancelled	8/11/14	11:09
Cedar St.	Medical	8/11/14	13:41
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	8/11/14	14:30
St. Lawrence Dr.	Medical	8/11/14	20:32
Fairway Lakes Dr.	Public assist	8/12/14	03:46
Hwy. 20 E.	Good intent	8/12/14	11:03
Hwy. 20 E.	Vehicle accident	8/12/14	11:39
Bay Dr.	No incident found	8/12/14	12:16
Valparaiso Pkwy.	Dispatched & cancelled	8/12/14	16:13
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	8/12/14	17:21
Emerald Coast Pkwy.	Alarm activation	8/12/14	17:52
Providence Way	Medical assist.	8/12/14	21:39
Evans Rd.	Smoke detector activation	8/12/14	22:10
Shay Lin Ct.	Fire	8/12/14	23:50
White Point Rd.	Dispatched & cancelled	8/13/14	02:05
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	8/13/14	07:22
Range Rd.	Medical	8/13/14	16:06
Ida Coon Cir.	Medical	8/13/14	17:02
Range Rd.	Unintentional transmission	8/14/14	06:37
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	8/14/14	07:10
Wright Cir.	False alarm	8/14/14	09:15
E. Hwy. 20	Medical	8/14/14	14:22
E. Hwy. 20	Dispatched & cancelled	8/14/14	17:25
Shadow Ln.	Medical	8/14/14	17:51
N. White Point Rd.	Medical	8/15/14	18:10
Balsam Dr.	Dispatched & cancelled	8/16/14	10:53
Pontevedra Ln.	Building fire	8/16/14	12:14

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

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Presenter: Scott Collins
Title: Regional Vice President
Organization: MFS
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Where: The Boathouse Landing
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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

How do you feel about going back to school?

Location: Chick-fil-A



"I'm going to work again all day. I feel sort of happy, because I'll get to see my friends."

Nora Cook, 7, Niceville, Plew Elementary School



"Good! It's fun, because I get to play on the playground."

Logan Hamilton, 6, Niceville, Edge Elementary School



"I'm really excited about it. Summer gets boring after a while. In school, things keep changing."

Kinley Childress, 16, Crestview, Collegiate High School



"I feel excited. I think my teacher is really nice, and I look forward to being with my friends."

Preston Taylor, 10, Crestview, Antioch Elementary School



"I'm feeling very excited. I love to learn. I like all subjects."

Taylor Rumsey, 13, Crestview, Shoal River Middle School



"Good, because I want to go to school and start learning math."

Max Diehl, 7, Niceville, Edge Elementary School

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



Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

The corner on Bullock Boulevard leading to where the Hattie's Grove subdivision will be located. Residents are concerned the sharpness of the turn might be dangerous once the additional traffic due to the new subdivision is added.

HATTIE'S

From page A-1

Joe Tanet in his statement of objection expressed concern over the narrowness of the curve leading to the subdivision near the end of Bullock Boulevard. He said, "The addition of up to 42 more vehicles from Hattie's Grove will likely create a higher frequency of encroachment onto my property." At the time, only 21 houses were planned with an estimated two cars per house. Following the meeting, Tanet said he had accepted the decision of the planning commission and wished to make no further comment. In an interview before the meeting, Deborah Peterson, the other resident who submitted an MOE and spoke at the meeting, was more specific in her request. "They're putting the entrance to the subdivision on Bullock Boulevard. We want them to use King Street rather than Bullock."

Peterson also expressed concern about the curve, but was more interested in preserving the nature of the neighborhood. "This was a beautiful neighborhood that we bought into. Now, they're going to throw in 21 more families on that tiny road and the very essence of our neighborhood will change. When this is all done, every parcel of land will have two or three houses on each parcel. It's gonna become this main thoroughfare." In an interview prior to the meeting, Rose said there would be no entrance on King Street. He also said he has offered to improve the condition of the curve on Bullock Boulevard. "I offered that quite some time ago and the longer that we wait, the more money that could have been available to improve the curve is going to end up going as interest on a loan to the bank." Rose added that there have been no accidents on that curve according to the complaining residents and the Okaloosa County

Sheriff's Department. Rose said, "The curve is not considered dangerous per the county engineers. The county staff has publicly stated that the primary problem is not with the road but with driver action." Rose had an off-site traffic operational analysis done of the curve by Gustin, Cothorn and Tucker Inc. in which engineer

Matthew H. Zinke said "it was difficult to maintain lane discipline at 25 mph." Zinke recommended adding horizontal alignment warning signs, double yellow striping on the road and posting a speed limit of 10 mph. Rose said, "I'm going to fix it, because it's in the best interest of everyone there." Rose said he will comply with code and do everything allowed by the county to fix the curve. Zinke spoke in favor of the subdivision at the hearing as well as another neighbor in the area Jeremy Whittenburg, who is for the development. Department of Growth Planning Manager Terry Jemigan was not surprised that the development was approved. He said the department had issued the notice of intent to issue a development order on June 30. If the planning commission had not upheld the development order, it would have gone to the Board of County Commission for review. At this point, the residents only recourse is to file a writ of certiorari in circuit court for judicial review.

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Elect ✓ Vote • Aug. 26th Primary
Dr. Lamar White
 Okaloosa School Board, Dist. 1

Endorsements for Lamar White

Recommended by **Lamar White is "recommended by the Association [ECAR] for election to the office of Okaloosa County School Board Member for District 1 as 'most qualified.'"**

Smart Vote Educators like Champee Kemp, Jean Hood, Sheila Olsen, and many more support Lamar.

Former students, athletes, parents, friends, & members of our community support Lamar.

- Lamar and Connie grew up in Okaloosa, attended our schools, and taught in our schools for over 30 years.
- Lamar was a high school teacher and coach of tennis, cross-country and football. He supports all extra-curricular programs.
- Lamar worked for Okaloosa as a school administrator for 26 years with never a budget deficit. Lamar is a proven fiscal conservative.
- Lamar has the highest credentials and qualifications and worked at every level in Okaloosa schools.
- Lamar has a proven record of honesty, integrity, and success: 13 consecutive A+ school grades while serving as the principal of 4 different Okaloosa schools.
- Lamar supports local control of our schools and opposes intrusive federal programs.
- Lamar will work to make our schools the "Best in Florida."
- If elected, Lamar will be a full-time board member and will serve no more than 8 years if re-elected.

Please Join Us in Voting for Lamar White on August 26, 2014

Lamar & Connie Bone Creek

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 1 (Vote for One)
 Cindy Frakes
 Lamar White

www.ElectLamarWhite.com

Chuck & Carol Kuzma of Niceville, FL are proud to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were married August 15, 1964 in Hamilton, NY.

Their Children, Deborah O'Bryan of Cooper City, FL; Pamela McCafferty of Lompoc, CA; and Gregory Kuzma of Marietta, GA and their families threw a surprise Anniversary Party at the Boathouse Landing Restaurant in Niceville July 12. They plan a second honeymoon in Hawaii.

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Send Resumes ATTN: Chairman James W. Boswell, 1024 White Point Rd., Niceville, FL 32578.

NOTE: Faxed or Emailed resume's WILL NOT be ACCEPTED! Include Cover Letter, Resume limited to 3 pages in Bullet Format (NOT Narrative), and contact information for (5) professional references. Deadline is (5PM Central time, September 12, 2014). Selected Candidates will be informed when they are scheduled for initial interviews.

Final employment selection will be contingent on a "Fit for Duty" physical to include drug testing and a psychological evaluation. The North Bay Fire Control District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Niceville's Newspaper

MEETING

From page A-3

cable authority was getting rid of three of its digital packages and keeping a digital starter pack that had 14 more channels than the basic package but less than some of the packages it was deleting.

Butler said the ability to get additional paks would be added at \$10 each. Mayor Bruce Arnold asked what will happen

to the people currently using packages that are being deleted. Butler said they would be set to the digital starter package.

The schedule of prices Butler provided included premium channels with the first one being \$13 and each additional one being \$10 more. Prices of video combo packages were increased and will be based on the digital starter pack with other paks and services added to it.

Internet speeds will be increasing at all levels with a small increase in price. An additional 25 megabit per second level called Premier Max is also being added to both residential and commercial Internet service. The cost will be \$61 for residents and \$164.99 for businesses.

Strong asked for a motion to approve the changes. Arnold said he was concerned about the

subscribers. Morgan said that he supported what Butler was doing because of the limitations of the contracts. Morgan asked that an amendment be made to Strong's motion that a public announcement describing the new packages be made. The motion with amendment passed unanimously.

Butler will be making a bill insert for explanation and will also provide information on

local channel 37 on the changes, which will go into effect in approximately 30 days.

A citizen also spoke to the commission regarding the Florida Park in Valparaiso. Mary Weston said the park has become "real boggy and real snaky." She said that children have not been able to use the playground because of the water around it. Weston suggested filling in dirt around the playground or build-

ing a sidewalk to it.

Hamilton responded that the cost was prohibitive and that the commission was limited in what it could do because the area is wetlands. She added that she was concerned about it and that the city may have to determine a different use for the area.

After the meeting, Browning said that he thought the streams should be dredged out and the park filled in as needed.



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McBride to headline Mullet Festival

By Marcia Anne Sanders
Beacon Staff Writer

Country music star Martina McBride will lead the slate of musical performances at the Boggy Bayou Mullet Festival, scheduled this year for Oct. 17-19.

McBride will perform Saturday, Oct. 18, after a performance Friday by Dustin Lynch and before Neal McCoy's appearance Sunday.

A country sensation since the early 1990s, McBride has won "Female Vocalist of the Year" from the Country Music

Association four times and "Top Female Vocalist" from the Academy of Country Music three times.

Known for such number one tunes as "Wild Angels," "A Broken Wing," "Wrong Again" and "I Love You," McBride has been wowing audiences with her beautiful and soulful vocals for more than two decades. Her newest album released this year is called "Everlasting."

With three platinum albums and one gold album, Texas country singer Neal McCoy should

also be a crowd pleaser in his appearance on Sunday. McCoy's most well-known hits include, "Then You Can Say Goodbye," "The Shake," "For a Change" and "You Gotta Love That." Last year McCoy released a tribute to his hero Charley Pride, entitled "Pride."

Platinum-selling recording artist Dustin Lynch will be singing his top 10 radio hits such as the new "Where It's At" and "Cowboys and Angels" on Friday night, Oct. 17 at the festival. Lynch performed at the 2013 CMT Music Awards and FOX and Friend's All American Summer Concert Series as well as MTV's Best of 2012 concert.

The mullet festival, which will celebrate its 38th year in October, will be held in its traditional site at the corner of Highway 85 North and College Boulevard, Niceville.

City Manager Lannie Corbin said booking entertainment this year has not been easy. "It's been a difficult year because there's so many big tours and they've got all these acts." McBride was not available two months ago because of her tour, but it turned out the tour brought her to the area just at the right time to do the mullet festival.

Additional acts at the festival this year will include Maddie and Tae, Blackjack Billy and Mustang Sally. Admission price at the gate is \$10 per day, except for Friday night when tickets will be \$15. Tickets are also available now for \$9 for each day. For more information, check the official website of the festival at boggybayoumulletfestival.info.



Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

Student promotes reading

Brianna Cupp, pictured left, a student at Collegiate High School, is working with therapy dogs to promote literacy at the Niceville Public Library. Part of her Capstone Project, a requirement for Collegiate seniors for graduation, Brianna chose the project because it involved reading. "Reading is one of my favorite pastimes," said Brianna. Above, Katie Schroeder reads to Sneakers while her owner, Bonnie London, listens in.



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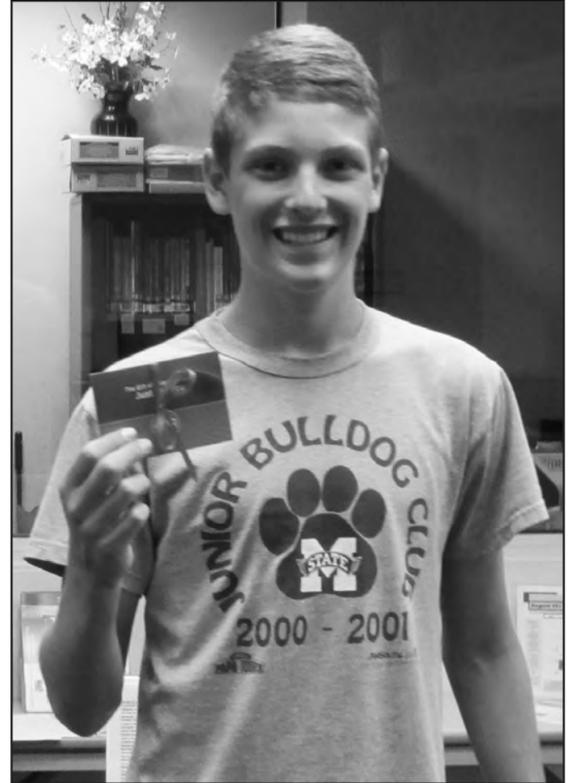


August 'Say it Forward' recipient

BayArea Awards and Engraving, Dennis and Linda Dwyer, were the August recipients of the Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce "Say it Forward" award. Pictured from left, Dennis Dwyer, Linda Dwyer, Chairman Patsy Bland of Century 21 Wilson Minger Agency and Niceville Police Chief David Popwell. BayArea Awards will select a business and will recognize them at the September Second Wednesday Breakfast as the "Say it Forward" initiative continues.

Reading winner

To inspire teens to read over the summer the Niceville Public Library offered many incentives as part of the 2014 Summer Reading Program "Spark A Reaction!" After teens read a certain number of books, they received a prize and an entry into the grand prize drawing July 31. Grady Wright, 13, won the drawing and received a \$50 gift card to AMC motion pictures in Destin Commons.



PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Eglin Air Force Base announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for RCS 13-052, Test Area C-52 Complex for public review and comment.

The Proposed Action of RCS 13-052, Test Area C-52 Complex would be to authorize and implement an increased level of activity for C-52 Complex operations at Eglin AFB to update/validate the current approval process for routine military users and to provide a quick response to priority needs during war or other significant military involvement.

Your comments on this Draft EA are requested. Letters and other written or oral comments provided will be addressed and may be published in the Final EA. Any personal information provided, including private addresses, will be used only to identify your desire to make a statement during the public comment period or to compile a mailing list to fulfill requests for copies of the Final EA or associated documents. However, only the names and respective comments of respondent individuals will be disclosed: personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published in the Final EA.

The Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact are available on the web at www.eglin.af.mil/environmentalassessments.asp from August 22 until September 20, 2014. All area libraries have computers available to the general public and librarians who can provide assistance linking to the document. Hard copies of the document may be available for a limited time by contacting: Mike Spaits, 96th Test Wing Environmental Public Affairs, 101 W. D Ave., Rm. 238, Eglin AFB, Fla., 32542, or email: michael.spaits@us.af.mil. Tel: (850) 882-2836.

The documents will be available on the web from August 22 until September 20, 2014. For more information or to comment on the Proposed Action, contact Mike Spaits, at the contact listed above. Comments must be received by September 24, 2014.



Kiwanis gives school supplies

Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso recently donated to the Tools For School project at Sharing and Caring, Niceville. Pictured, George Murphy from Kiwanis and Pat Torre, a volunteer at Sharing and Caring, sort some of the donated supplies.

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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 Email: 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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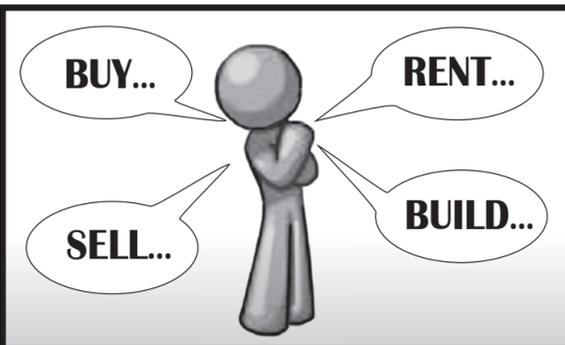
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3D archery tourney winners

Choctaw Bowmen held a 3D archery tournament July 26 at their range located behind the Mullet Festival grounds. The next tournament will be Aug. 23. Visit choctawbowmen.com for more information.



Winners of the bowhunter class, from left, Justin Herrin, Daryl Todd, and Greg Mayo.



Winner of the youth class was Hunter Bise.



Winners of the traditional class, from left, Eric Stiffler and Kurt Heitman.



Winners of the open class, from left, Tyler Thompson and Jeremy Hartmeyer.



Winner of archery poker was Billy Brown.

Winners of the women's bowhunter's class, from left, Rachel Kinsler, Renee Walker and Myra Schaar.



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Library luncheon

Friends of the Niceville Library began their new year with a luncheon and meeting Aug. 11. One of the discussions at the meeting was their annual booksale to be held Sept. 19-20, proceeds of which benefit the library.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith



2014
CALENDAR
E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com

Driver's safety

The AARP Drivers Safety Course will be 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 \$15 per person for AARP members or \$20 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.

Networking opportunity

The August meeting of SHRM – Emerald Coast will include a Fundraiser for SHRM Scholarships. Aug. 20 at 5 p.m. at Two Trees Restaurant, Fort Walton Beach and will include hors d'oeuvres, networking and bidding. Members are \$10, non-members are \$15. For more information, contact Alonzo Smith at president@shrm-emerald-coast.org or call 259-7365.

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.



Seat weaving class begins

A new seat weaving workshop begins Aug. 28 and will continue every Thursday as participants learn to replace the seats on their own chairs. Some chairs and stools are available for learning. Class costs \$10 for non members, \$8 for museum members plus one time materials fee of \$10. Call the museum to sign-up, 678-2615.

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.

Archery tournament

There will be a 3-D archery tournament Aug. 23 at 10 a.m. for at the Choctaw Bowmen Archery Range behind the Mullet Festival Grounds

on Hwy. 85. Need not be a member of Choctaw Bowmen to compete.

For more information visit choctawbowmen.com.

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.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Monday, Aug. 25 and 26 at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All donors will receive a movie ticket.

Alzheimer's support group

Covenant Alzheimer's Services will hold a support group for family members or friends coping with a loved one with Alzheimer's disease at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, August 27 at the Niceville United Methodist Church, Chandler Center, located at 214 S. Partin Drive.

The support group is free and limited respite care is available. To make arrangements for respite during the meeting, please contact Covenant Alzheimer's Services in advance at 866-478-7790.

Blood drive

There will be a blood drive Wednesday Aug. 27 at Niceville United Methodist Church,

Please see CALENDAR, page B-4

CHURCH DIRECTORY

First Baptist Church of Valparaiso
ENGAGING GOD, CONNECTING WITH OTHERS, SERVING ALL
Sundays Bible Study • 9:30am
Celebration Service • 11:00am
Discipleship • 5:00pm
Wednesdays Adults, Youth, & Children • 6:00pm
444 Valparaiso Pkwy. 850-678-4822
www.fbcvalparaiso.org

Immanuel Anglican Church
Sunday Morning Worship Services
9:00am ~ Traditional Spirit-filled Worship with Holy Communion
11:01am ~ Walk In...Worship (Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion)
Nursery, ages 6wks-2yrs; Sunday School, ages 3-12, both services
Youth Outreach
Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm in The Shed
Hang out ~ Engage ~ Worship ~ Grow!
MORE! Holy Spirit Night
Tuesday, August 26, 6:30pm
"POINTING THE WAY TO JESUS"
www.iacdestin.org • 250 Indian Bayou Trail, Destin • 850-837-6324

NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES
JOHNPACE@THISISNEWLIFE.ORG FACEBOOK.COM/THISISNEWLIFE13
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CALENDAR

From page B-3

214 Partin Drive from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. All donors will receive a beach towel.

Book discussion

The Niceville Library invites readers on Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 10:30 a.m. to visit and discuss "I Shall Be Near You" by Erin Lindsay McCabe.



Free program, there are multiple copies available for check out. Call Lorla at 279-4863 x 1504.

Healthcare seminar

The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce will offer "Healthcare Reform For Your Business" on Thursday, Aug. 28 from 9 a.m. - noon at the Costa Leadership Institute at Northwest Florida State College.

This seminar will be presented by Ted Kircharr, Landrum Human Resources who will help business owners to better understand the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

To register for this seminar, or for more information, please contact the Chamber at 678-2323 or events@nicevillechamber.com.

Stitchers to meet

The Sand Dunes Chapter of Embroiderers' Guild of America celebrates various forms of hand embroidery with the final summer stitch-in of the summer Thursday, Aug. 28 from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Niceville United Methodist Church, Room 400.

Weaving workshop

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso, is offering a weekly seat weaving workshop every Thursday from 1-3 p.m. beginning Aug. 28. Participants will learn how to replace the seats on their own chairs.



The fee per day is \$10; \$8 for Museum Members, plus \$10 (one-time fee) for materials and use of tools. Space for the class is limited, so please call the museum to pre-register 678-2615.

Community

Niceville Community Guild is now looking for vendors for their Market Day to be held Sept. 13 in the rear parking lot of the Niceville city complex.

size of two parking spots. Proceeds go to buying decorations for the Niceville Christmas in December. For more information please contact Nicevillechristmas@cox.net or call 678-7595 or 678-3593 for application and information.

The Valparaiso Garden Club invites everyone who wants to learn about gardening and floral design to join them as members.

Membership information and form at mariesgardenanddesign.com or contact membership chairman Darolyn Weiss at darolynweiss@cox.net.



weiss@cox.net.

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida is looking for sponsors for their annual "Biker's Blast for the Past" Motorcycle Poker Run on Saturday Sept. 20.

Cash or in-kind donations are tax deductible and sponsor support will be acknowledged at the event and

through promotions including radio and Thunder Roads Magazine.

Sponsorship packages available at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue Valparaiso, or call 678-2615.



Real estate advertisement for a property in Niceville, Florida. Includes photos of the house and pool, and contact information for Prudential PenFed Realty agents Donna Bennett and Marion Russell.

Family Dental Care advertisement. Features a photo of Dr. Ralf P. Zapata, DDS, and lists services such as Comprehensive Family Care, Preventative Dentistry, and Custom Crowns/Bridges.

Advertisement for Dermatology Surgery Center featuring Dr. Scott Beals. Includes a photo of Dr. Beals and text describing his expertise in surgical and general dermatology.

Advertisement for Niceville Family Dental Center. Includes the center's logo, phone number (729-1223), website, and address (908 S. Palm Blvd., Niceville).

Advertisement for CCB Community Bank. Features a man looking through binoculars with dollar signs on the lenses. Promotes a Certificate of Deposit with a 1.10% APY* for a 12-month term.

Advertisement for Gulf Power. Features a man in a red polo shirt and a Gulf Power cap standing next to an electric heat pump. Text promotes heat pumps as the No. 1 choice for heating and cooling.