

The Bay Beacon

Police Blotter, page A-4

10 Pages, 2 Sections, 5 Inserts

Wednesday, September 3, 2014

50¢

**UP
COMING**

Wed., 8:30 a.m.



The **Bluewater Bay 9-Hole Ladies' Golf** season begins. All are welcome. 897-4498.

Thurs., 2-4 p.m.



Reception for Florida First Lady **Ann Scott** at the **Bluewater Bay Golf Clubhouse**. Hosted by Silver Sands Republican Women. All welcome. 678-2182.

Thurs., 1 p.m.



Free showing of "Muppets Most Wanted," rated PG, at **Valparaiso Community Library**. 729-5406.

Sat., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The annual **Mullet Festival Pageant** will be in the Niceville High School auditorium with contestants under five competing first and then contestants six years and up in the evening. 974-0220.

Valparaiso charter change fails

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Staff Writer

Voters in Valparaiso decided to keep the city commission-based government rather than give more power to a city administrator through proposed changes to the municipal charter.

The Aug. 26 referendum to change the Valparaiso charter was voted down 55.7 percent to 44.3 percent.

Mayor **Bruce Arnold**, who wrote the first draft of the proposed charter changes, said "residents missed an excellent opportunity to bring our antiquated 1921 charter up to the 21st century. The day of authoritarian rule of government has passed with



Joe Morgan

municipalities needing representation by professional management."

Commissioner **Joe Morgan**, who opposed the changes as unneeded, expressed his pleasure at their



Kay Hamilton

people were able to look at the scope and breadth of it and see that the commission form of government

works for them," he said.



Bruce Arnold

At an Aug. 11 city commission meeting, a proposal to cancel the referendum was advanced by Commissioner **Heyward Strong**. Discussion followed but no vote was taken.

A majority of the commissioners asked the mayor to change

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

Summer's last hurrah



An impromptu football game didn't keep **Justice Turner, 2**, of Niceville, from enjoying the lawn at **Lions Park** over the **Labor Day** weekend. She was there attending a birthday party.

Beacon photo by **Angela Yuriko Smith**

Niceville eyes 7.7% increase in water, sewer bills

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Staff Writer

The Niceville City Council discussed an increase in water and sewer rates for fiscal year 2015 at its Aug. 28 budget workshop. The initial recommendation by **Glenn Stephens**, of Polyengineering, who consults with the city, was for a 7.7 percent increase followed by a zero percent increase the next year.

From 2004 to 2014, water and sewer rates for Niceville have increased over 54 percent.

If passed, the 7.7 percent increase would mean a water and sewer customer who uses 7,000 gallons a month would pay about \$5.10 more a month. Customers of the City of Niceville's water and sewer system will have a chance to ask questions and offer comments about proposed price increases at the first budget hearing scheduled for Sept. 11 when **Stephens** will present his final rate proposal. There will also be two more budget hearings Sept. 16 and 18.

Stephens said he is working with City Manager **Lannie Corbin** to find ways to get by

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

Okaloosa Gas sets slight rate cut

Okaloosa Gas District said it plans to reduce retail rates slightly effective Oct. 1.

An increase in the Valparaiso-based utility's base rate will be more than offset by a decline in other rates, resulting in the overall decrease.

The gas district, an autonomous agency of the state of Florida, based the changes on the recommendations of an out-

side rate consultant.

A residential Okaloosa Gas bill is divided into four components (not including city, county, and state taxes): a monthly customer charge, cost-of-gas, compliance charge and distribution charge.

The residential customer will see an increase in the customer charge from \$11.64 per month to \$12.

Meantime, the distribution charge for such a customer will increase \$.02368 per therm.

However, both the compliance charge and cost-of-gas charge will decrease—the compliance charge by \$.01212 per therm and the cost of gas by \$.028 per therm.

District chief executive **Jose Lozano** stated, "We are always conscious of any rate adjustments

and we always strive to minimize negative impact on our customers."

The typical residential customer consumes 24 therms of gas per month. Due to the decrease in the customer therm rate, such a customer will see a reduction in his overall bill of 3 cents a month.

Gordon King, vice president of operations, said, "The rate restructure allows us to achieve

this while providing less volatility in the residential customer rate."

A residential customer who would like to review exactly how the rate restructure affects his bill can log on to www.okaloosagas.com/about-us/rate-information/ and use the Okaloosa Gas Rate Calculator to see a comparison before and after the rate restructure.

Amunds, Frakes unseated in primary election

By **Marcia Anne Sanders**
Beacon Staff Writer

The results of the Aug. 26 primary election are in and there will be some new faces when Okaloosa County school board members and county commissioners take office Nov. 18.

In Okaloosa County, turnout was 20.89 percent with 25,536 of the 122,256 registered voters casting ballots.

Trey Goodwin unseated county commissioner for District 4 **Don Amunds** in a three-way universal-primary match between **Amunds**, **Goodwin** and **Henry Kelley**, all Republicans. **Goodwin** received over 52 percent of the vote while **Amunds** got 30 percent.

Goodwin, a lawyer, said he believed his victory was "directly attributable to the desire in our community for better local

government."

Goodwin added that there are several issues he would be dealing with as county commissioner. "We have a lot of work ahead of us in the county, including dealing with aged infrastructure, making sure BP dollars coming to the county are utilized for the benefit of the citizens and continuing the process of restoring trust and confidence in county government."

Amunds was appointed in 2004 to fill a commission vacancy, and was elected subsequently in 2006 and 2010. Reflecting on his defeat, **Amunds** said he thought his accomplishments outweighed the Tourist Development Council scandal in the county, involving funds that were used inappropriately by former director **Mark Bellinger**.

Please see **ELECTION**, page A-2



Slippery slope

Even tractors get stuck sometimes. **Okaloosa County** workers were out Aug. 27 trying to free an industrial mower that had slipped into a muddy drainage ditch next to **Valparaiso Boulevard** the day before. "It's stuck good but we'll get it out," said county worker **James Alevs**.

Beacon photo by **Angela Yuriko Smith**

ELECTION

From page A-1

Amunds said, "The people just decided that they wanted a change." He said he might return to law enforcement, where he served as an officer for almost 18 years, or look for a position in management.

Incumbent Cindy Frakes of School Board District 1, who has served four terms, lost to Lamar White by a narrow margin in a nonpartisan race. Neither candidate was endorsed by Okaloosa TIGER, the political committee affiliated with the Okaloosa County Education Association.

White said he looked forward to hearing from Okaloosa citizens about issues that are important to them. He said, "We are very excited that the voters of Okaloosa have entrusted me with this important position." He added, "I feel energized and prepared to meet the challenges ahead."

Carolyn Ketchel will be the District 2 county commissioner, having run unopposed after incumbent Dave Parisot withdrew his candidacy. Both are Republicans.

Ketchel, a family counselor, said that storm water problems and finding funding sources from the state, BP and county budget funds for them would be one of her most important issues. She said she is not in favor of creating a new tax to pay for the problem however.

Building infrastructure such as roads and bridges and finding effective ways to make county government more efficient are two other issues Ketchel thinks are important.

The winner of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller position, which will be vacated due to Don Howard's retirement



In Okaloosa County, just under 21 percent of voters cast ballots in the Aug. 26 primary election.

Beacon photo by Angela Yuriko Smith

in mid-term, was J.D. Peacock. Peacock captured near 43 percent of the vote against opponents Charles Baugh and Dan Spence.



Trey Goodwin



Lamar White

All three are Republicans, but voters of any affiliation could cast ballots because no one else was running.

There will be one runoff on the Nov. 4 ballot for school board District 3 between incumbent Rodney Walker and Joseph Slusser. With 46.8 percent of the votes, Walker did not get a majority in the nonpartisan contest, so there must be a



Carolyn Ketchel



Melissa Thrush

runoff. Walker has been on the school board since 1994 and was also endorsed by TIGER.

Incumbent school board District 3 winner Melissa Thrush, who was also endorsed by TIGER, will retain her seat, having defeated David E. Scholl.

Winning nearly 59 percent of the vote, former Assistant State Attorney Jennie Kinsey will be the Circuit Judge for the first judicial circuit, group 22, in a nonpartisan matchup.

A county referendum to continue to offer tax exemptions for certain businesses that create jobs passed resoundingly with



Jennie Kinsey

almost 75 percent of the vote. The results of the primary are printed below.

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
Charles Baugh 21.02%
J.D. Peacock 42.77%
Dan Spence 36.21%
County Commissioner District 2
Carolyn Ketchel, unopposed
County Commissioner District 4
Don Amunds, incumbent 30.51%
Trey Goodwin 52.08%



J.D. Peacock

Henry Kelley 17.41%
School Board District 1
Cindy Frakes, incumbent 49.62%
Lamar White 50.38%
School Board District 3 (runoff Nov. 3)
Christoffer Hyden 20.57%
Joseph Slusser 32.6%
Rodney L. Walker, incumbent 46.83%
School Board District 5
David E. Scholl 46.41%
Melissa Thrush, incumbent 53.59%
First Circuit Court, Group 22

Michelle Inere 41.17%
Jennie Kinsey 58.83%
Governor
Republican candidate
Yinka Abosed Adeshina 1.77%
Elizabeth Cuevas-Neunder 10.59%
Rick Scott, incumbent 87.65%
Democratic candidate
Charlie Crist 74.36%
Nan Rich 25.64%
U.S. Representative
Republican candidate
John Krause 24.66%
Jeff Miller, incumbent 75.34%
Fla. Attorney General
Democratic candidate
George Sheldon 60.66%
Perry E. Thurston 39.34%

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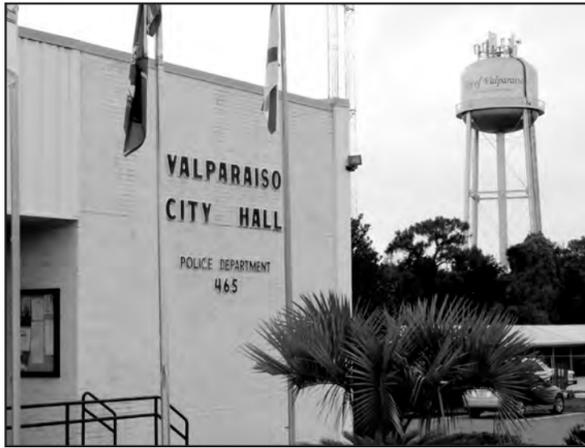
CHARTER

From page A-1

the next budget workshop on Aug. 25, the day before the election, to a special meeting to discuss a proposed ordinance to repeal the referendum. At that meeting, citizens and city commissioners spoke for and against a referendum. No action was taken on repeal, however, and the referendum went ahead as scheduled.

Commissioner Kay Hamilton, who was one of the commissioners who originally voted to place the referendum on the ballot, said although she was disappointed it had not passed, she was ready to move forward.

Hamilton said of the voters, "I think that they did initially understand the changes but with the conflict over it, they got scared. When there's a note of contention, people are less likely to change the current condition."



Valparaiso's city charter will stay the same voters decided in the Aug. 26 primary election. A referendum giving more power to a city administrator failed to pass, meaning the government will remain city commission-based.
Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

Hamilton said she had no plans to introduce ordinances that might make piecemeal changes such as those suggested in the referendum.

Hamilton said that if the attempt to cancel the referendum had succeeded, the city would have been subject to possible liti-

gation, something which she did not want to happen.

Morgan said the proposed cancellation of the referendum was important because so much time had passed since workshop meetings about the charter changes.

"The intent was to ensure that

we as a commission felt that the public was informed," Morgan said. "It was only to be used if we felt the moral obligation to withhold it from the ballot. At the meeting there was a vibrant discussion by both sides by citizens. We made the best decision to have the vote."

WATER

From page A-1

with a lower increase, perhaps spreading the increase over two years.

One of the reasons that Stephens said an increase is needed is that the city must have revenues minus its operations and maintenance costs of 115 percent of debt service on its utilities bond payments. The city will have an increase of about \$300,000 in operation and maintenance of the system in the next fiscal year which starts Oct. 1.

Additionally, the Niceville-Valparaiso Regional Sewer Board has increased its budget and passed on increases in sewage-treatment costs to the city of Niceville of about \$410,000, according to Stephens.

Corbin said that the regional wastewater plant was purchasing sludge dewatering equipment and charging the city about \$300,000 for its share of the new equipment. He suggested one way to keep the water and sewer rate increase down would be to pay the plant directly for the equipment out of the money saved from the refinancing of \$5.1 million in 2005 water and sewer bonds in April of this year. About \$900,000 was saved due to the refinance. Corbin said doing so would keep the 2015 rate increase closer to 3 percent.

Another factor has been the amount of rain the area has gotten this year. The above-average rainfall has meant lower revenue for the water system as people have needed to water their yards less. Corbin estimated that \$200,000 to \$300,000 was lost due to that.

The council also considered the water and sewer department budget of \$9.1 million, which includes \$666,000 for three new trucks. One \$91,000 truck with a 6,000-pound crane used to pull the tops out of lift stations is 16 years old. A second one is a \$375,000 Rod-Vac Truck for cleaning sewers which is 13 years old. The third is a 6,000-gallon tank truck for \$200,000 used to pump the sewers in lift station failures.

Water and Sewer Superintendent Jerry Regans said that truck broke down two years ago and the city has been borrowing trucks from other counties or cities when needed. He said it's only needed two to three times a year but that its use is often linked to a storm event so neighboring cities may be using their trucks for the same event.

Regans said that most water and sewer equipment has a seven-year life expectancy.



Niceville City Council members look over a water and sewer budget and rate proposal with a 7.7 percent increase for fiscal year 2015. L to R: Judy Boudreaux, Bill Schaetzle, Sal Nodjomian and Heath Rominger (not pictured Daniel Henkel).
Beacon photo by Marcia Anne Sanders

Councilman Bill Schaetzle asked if during a sewer spill, the city could be fined by the Environmental Protection Agency. Regans said that the Department of Environmental Protection could fine the city in the event of a spill if not cleaned up in a timely manner.

Councilman Sal Nodjomian asked which truck is most important for day-to-day usage and Regans responded that the Rod-Vac truck was used most regularly.

The budget also included more than \$500,000 in water

extension projects which Corbin said were mainly to put in bigger lines for water pressure and fire department use.

Over \$500,000 in sewer projects included \$400,000 for relocation of a lift station at Valparaiso Boulevard and Bayshore Drive.

Corbin brought up the topic of the impact fees for sewer and water hookups, saying that the water impact fee should be raised and that the sewer impact fee could be lowered to offset the increase.

Corbin said, "The impact fee

for water is not keeping up with the demand. It could make a lot of difference on these projects we have to do."

Corbin also said a water tank is needed in the south end of town but there is no place for a tower so a ground tank could be used.

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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 Aug. 22, Niceville police arrested Tracy Lynn Davis, 36, of 117 Polk St., Freeport, and Christie Lena Chapman, 41, of 1424 Cat Mar Rd., Niceville, for one count of grand theft less than \$5,000, greater than \$300. Davis and Chapman had entered the Walmart in Niceville and concealed numerous items in backpack style bags and rubber containers obtained from Walmart. The amount of stolen and recovered property was \$3,483.57.

Davis resisted apprehension by a store employee, and also resisted police officers who arrived later, forcing the officers to place her on the ground to restrain her. Davis was also charged with one count each of resisting the recovery of items (theft), and resisting an officer without violence.

DUI

On Aug. 16, Niceville police arrested Francisco B. Lopez, 55, self-employed, of 3810 Cherrywood Ave., Los Angeles, for DUI. Lopez was observed

driving erratically on State Road 20 and showed other signs of intoxication after being stopped. He initially stated that he had consumed one beer, but later stated that he had four beers and tequila. His alcohol level was measured at or above 0.158.

On Aug. 23, Niceville police arrested Joshua Allen Brown, 21, of 310 Lincoln Ave., Valparaiso, for DUI, after Brown was involved in a single-vehicle crash on Bayshore Drive. Brown had a strong odor of alcohol on his breath, and showed other signs of intoxication. He stated that he had consumed one hard lemonade. His alcohol level was measured at or above 0.121.

Summons served

On Aug. 20, Niceville police issued a criminal summons to Edmond Eli Gonzalez, 20, a cook, of 304 Reeves St., G16, Niceville, for possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana.

Gonzales was the front seat passenger of a vehicle stopped for an expired tag. When a sec-

ond police patrol car arrived, officers discovered a clear plastic bag containing a green leafy substance behind the right rear tire of the first patrol car. During a conversation with Gonzales and the driver, Gonzales said he threw the bag out of the car when he saw the first police officer pulling them over.

Gonzales said the bag contained "pot." During a search of the vehicle, approximately a half gram of marijuana was located in the passenger door pocket. The green substance later tested positive for the presence of THC.

Other

On Aug. 11 the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office responded to a possible burglary of a vehicle at the Discovery Learning Academy on Commercial Drive in Niceville. The case remains active.

On Aug. 18, Valparaiso police received a report that a black gas grill and propane tank had been removed from outside an apartment on Washington.

On Aug. 19, a man came to the Valparaiso police station to report that a canoe had floated to his dock the previous Saturday, where the man secured it. The canoe is a Yates brand containing two fishing poles, a cast net, and a Rayovac flashlight. The canoe was taken to the Valparaiso city yard for storage.

On Aug. 19, a citizen flagged down a Valparaiso officer to report that three juveniles were in the dog park and trying to kick in the bathroom doors. Police made contact with the juveniles, and reported their activities to their parents.

On Aug. 19 someone called Valparaiso police to report a female lying down in the road, talking on a cell phone.

Police made contact with the woman, who reported that she was just on the side of the road texting on her phone. She reported that she had not been lying down, due to her being on her bicycle. Police discussed with her the safety aspects of her being distracted on the roadway and she reported that she understood. No further action was taken.

On Aug. 20, Valparaiso police responded to a 911 call that had come from the East Gate Café on John Sims

Parkway. Police made contact with the caller, who said that she had pocket-dialed 911 by mistake.

On Aug. 21, Valparaiso police responded to an address on Madison Avenue to provide traffic control and assist the fire department in responding to a report of fumes and funny noises coming from an air-conditioning unit.

On Aug. 21, a Valparaiso police officer in the area of the Tom Thumb heard someone call out "officer." The officer then located the person who had spoken, who said that he was just joking and did not realize that the officer would be able to hear him. He was advised to not be yelling for the police unless he needed assistance.

On Aug. 21, Valparaiso police responded to a report of loud music at an address on Okaloosa Avenue. The person at that location agreed to keep his volume at a reasonable level.

On Aug. 21, Valparaiso police responded to an address on Kelly Way, regarding an open 911 call. The officer spoke with people at that location, none of whom said they had made the call, and the officer found nothing else out of the ordinary in the area.

On Aug. 22, Valparaiso police responded to the intersection of State Road 85 and Highway 190 regarding a report that some political signs had been stolen.

On Aug. 23, a Valparaiso officer responded to a 911 call that had originated in Florida Park. The officer made contact with a man who said that he was okay, but had accidentally pressed the emergency call button on his cell phone.

On Aug. 23, a Valparaiso officer responded to an address on Rockford Street regarding a 911 call hangup. The officer made contact with a man who reported that he had accidentally hit the emergency button on his smart phone, and did not need any assistance.

On Aug. 23, Niceville police received a report of a stolen rental car. The victim said she had loaned the car to someone else who had not returned it.

Fire Department Reports

Niceville



The Niceville Fire Department responded to the following calls from August 25, 2014 through August 28, 2014.

0 Structure Fire	14 Emergency Medical Calls
0 Vehicle Fire	1 Vehicle Crash
0 Other Fire	0 Vehicle Crash with Extrication
0 Illegal Burn	3 Other Emergency Calls
0 False Alarms	1 Hazardous Conditions

STREET	SITUATION	DATE	TIME
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/25/14	07:35
Hudson Cir.	Medical	8/25/14	09:29
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/25/14	17:53
Peachtree Way	Medical	8/25/14	20:05
Judith Ave	Medical	8/25/14	21:55
Valparaiso Blvd	Medical	8/25/14	23:12
27th Street	Medical	8/26/14	10:13
Gleneagles Dr.	Cancelled	8/26/14	16:13
Magnolia Shores Dr.	Medical	8/27/14	10:31
E. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	8/27/14	12:37
E. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	8/27/14	19:28
SR85N/SR123	Smoke scare	8/27/14	21:23
SR123	Smoke Scare	8/27/14	01:10
N. Partin Dr.	Medical	8/28/14	06:39
3rd Street	Electrical problem	8/28/14	07:32
E. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	8/28/14	10:51
E. John Sims Pkwy	Medical	8/28/14	11:04
N. Cedar Ave.	Vehicle crash	8/28/14	16:26
Morningbird Ct	Medical	8/28/14	19:22

Weekly Safety Tip: Escape Plans: Every member of the household should know at least two exits from each room. Plan and practice your escape at least twice a year. Make sure that doors and windows needed for escape are unobstructed and easy to open.

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

North Bay



The North Bay Fire District responded to the following calls from August 25, 2014 through August 28, 2014.

Street	Situation	Date	Time
E. Hwy. 20	Medical	8/25/14	10:43
Legendary Dr.	Dispatched & cancelled	8/25/14	15:32
Cat Mar Rd.	Medical	8/25/14	17:55
Emerald Coast Pkwy	No incident found	8/25/14	22:31
Hidden Lakes Dr.	Medical	8/26/14	02:37
Hwy. 20 E	Medical	8/26/14	12:17
Lost Horse Cir.	Medical	8/26/14	14:25
Hickory St.	Medical	8/26/14	15:08
Gleneagles Dr.	Fire, other	8/26/14	16:13
Hickory St.	Public assist.	8/26/14	21:17
Troon Dr. W.	Dispatched & cancelled	8/27/14	07:39
Range Rd.	Dispatched & cancelled	8/27/14	09:17
Bluewater Point Dr.	Medical	8/27/14	09:49
Parkwood Pl.	Rescue	8/27/14	14:47
St. Andrews Cv.	Service call	8/27/14	20:28
Lost Horse Cir.	Medical assist	8/28/14	02:32
Hwy. 20 E	Medical	8/28/14	09:13
Windward Cove W.	Medical	8/28/14	09:41
W. Birkdale Cir.	Medical	8/28/14	13:57
Range Rd/VPK room	Medical	8/28/14	14:16
Cat Mar Rd.	Dispatched & cancelled	8/28/14	18:49

Visit northbayfd.org for more information.

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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



Wanted as of: 08/25/2014
VOP-DWLSR & Possession of Methamphetamine
Name: Dora Bernice Tschetter
Sex: Female
Race: Caucasian
DOB: 03/09/1964
Height: 5ft 5in
Weight: 125 lbs
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Green



Wanted as of: 08/25/2014
Uttering False Instrument & Exploitation of Elderly
Name: April Melissa Siples
Sex: Female
Race: Black
DOB: 11/17/1977
Height: 5ft 3in
Weight: 120 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)

BEACON ARTS GUIDE

The Bay Beacon will publish a special pullout section celebrating the area's fine and performing arts.

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

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THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER —by Mike Griffith

What do you think about recent events in Ferguson, Missouri?

Location: Niceville civic complex



"I guess it depends which side of the fence you're on. It was terrible for the people involved. I hate to see anyone killed."

Roland Langley, 79, Niceville, semi-retired physician



"People shouldn't rush to judgment until all the facts are in."

Lacy Bartee, 52, Mossy Head, defense subcontractor



"I think both sides share responsibility."

Sabrina Jarboe, 40, Niceville, server



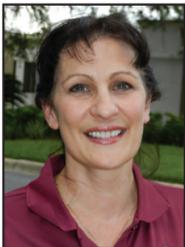
"I think it's gone too far, just as it did in Benton Harbor, Michigan in 2004. When Jesse Jackson gets involved, things get out of hand."

Brad Barrow, 59, Niceville, contractor



"I think it's tragic what happened, but looting and harming other people who weren't involved is wrong."

Sherry Lindsey, 77, Niceville, retired



"I think things got blown out of proportion and people got carried away."

Connie Jones, 46, Crestview, government contractor

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

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

Mac Users to meet

The next meeting of the Mac Users Group will be held on Monday, Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northwest Florida State College Student Services building, Room 130.

Frank Berte will be presenting a two-part program. The first part entitled "iTunes: Music and More" will be followed by information about Dropbox, a file hosting service.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their Mac devices.

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

Finances class

Niceville UMC is offering a Legacy Journey class on Monday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. starting Sept. 8.

For more information please contact Kim Colpitts at kimcolpitts@live.com or 461-0203. You may also register for the classes at daveramsey.com.

Film Club to meet

The Northwest Florida Film Club will have a free showing of "In the House," rated R, Sept. 8 at the Mattie Kelly Arts Room Center, Room J-328, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Public welcome, free food and beverages.

More CALENDAR on page B-3

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Blind veteran retains positive outlook while training for Air Force Marathon

By Angela Yuriko Smith
Beacon Staff Writer

Running a marathon is a big enough challenge for most people, even seasoned athletes. Aaron Hale, formerly Team Leader of the 760th Explosive Ordnance Disposal, is planning to run it blind.

Hale is staying in Niceville while he trains for the 2014 Air Force Marathon to be held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio on Sept. 20.

Hale's marathon training is assisted by Brad Butler, Crystal Greenlund and Team Red, White and Blue, part of a veterans' initiative whose mission is "...to enrich the lives of America's veterans by connecting them to their community through physical and social activity," according to its website at teamrwb.org. Greenlund and a group of 15 runners have been training with Hale for about eight weeks.

"We plan on running the Air

Force Marathon, Marine Corps Marathon, Pensacola Marathon and San Antonio marathon this fall," said Butler.

The training involves a group of runners, three across, surrounding Hale for safety and guidance. They typically train early on Sunday mornings, beginning at 6 a.m., to avoid traffic, and often carry a large American flag with them to increase visibility.

"People have been really good for the most part," said Greenlund. "But Aaron did get clipped by a car the other day while training in Fort Walton Beach." Greenlund hopes that people can become better educated about their mission to help veterans reintegrate into their communities. "This is how I can give back," said Greenlund.

One of the last images Aaron Hale holds in his mind are visions of his youngest son's first birthday and Thanksgiving dinner with family. Shortly afterwards an exploding Improvised Explosive Device, or IED, would permanently blind him.

The 14 year veteran of both the Navy and Army, was working on an IED, from a distance of about 30 feet, using a robotic

device when a secondary IED exploded, sending shrapnel everywhere.

"Every bone in my face was broken," said Hale. "And both of my eyes were damaged beyond repair." Surgery to remove shrapnel and assess the extent of his injuries concluded that his vision could not be saved. He was on his second mission to Afghanistan.

"My skull was cracked and leaking spinal fluid," said Hale. "My carotid artery was nearly severed with shrapnel piercing it, both eardrums were completely blown out and my sinuses were crushed."

Despite the severe injuries, Hale's long-term prognosis was good. After a month at Walter Reed Medical Center and two weeks at the Veterans Hospital in Tampa, he was sent to the VA Medical Center in Augusta, Ga. which specializes in blind rehabilitation. After his rehabilitation, Hale finished his military career teaching at the EOD school and retired.

"I now have my sights set on more mountains, marathons, the Marathon Des Sables," said Hale. "And I'm always looking for partners. Challenge accepted!"



Aaron Hale



Team Red, White and Blue, a veterans initiative, trains with Aaron Hale, pictured far right in front, a veteran blinded in the line of duty, to help him prepare to run the Air Force Marathon Sept. 20.



NHS girl makes national team

Niceville High School sophomore Candace Metcalfe was recently selected for the U16 United States Youth Futsal National Team. Candace played soccer for her 6-8th grade years at Ruckel Middle School and was one of the only freshmen selected to the Niceville High School Varsity Soccer Team last year. She now plays Legendary Street Soccer events all year round throughout Northwest Florida.

Who's News

While attending an Offense-Defense Football Camp this summer, Alexander Huston, 12, of Niceville, was named an Offense-Defense



Alexander Huston

All-American and invited to

Please see NEWS, page B-2



Troop 553 has summer adventure

Boy Scout Troop 553, Bluewater Bay, attended the Seabase National High Adventure Camp in the Florida Keys this summer. The scouts served as crew aboard the 41' sailboat, Moon Shadow, for five days and nights under the direction of Capt Tom O'Shea. Pictured from back row left, Christopher Kelton, Andrew Helms, Matt Helms, Mike Kelton, Charlie Helms and Capt Tom O'Shea. Front row from left, Camden Quick, Matt Parnell and Austin Jacobs. Seabase is one of four National High Adventure experiences offered by Boy Scouts of America.

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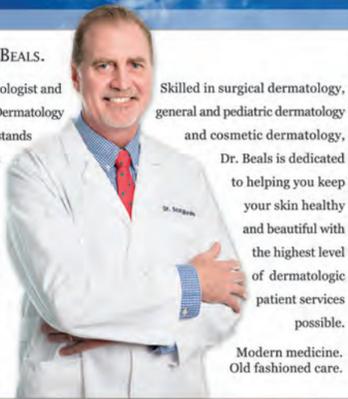
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Where there is no vision, the people perish" -Proverbs 29:18

NEWS

From page B-1

participate in the 9th-annual Offense-Defense Bowl Week festivities taking place at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando this December. Alexander, an outside linebacker and nose guard for the Niceville Eagles Panhandle Youth Football League, was selected for this honor from a group of young athletes numbering in the thousands across the country.

Corina Zalace just published her third book, "My Inner Child Must Be Heard," a story in poetry about her faith and how it has strengthened her.



Corina Zalace



BWB girl wins reserve champion

Maggie Bowers of Bluewater Bay won as a Reserve Champion at the AQHA Region 9 Horse Show in Jackson, Miss. Pictured, from left, Maggie riding on Dixie along with trainer Angie Reichert and Dixie's owner, Jamie Hall. As a result of her win, Maggie is invited to compete in the AQHA 2014 Novice World Championship East in Murfreesboro, Tenn.



GSOC welcomes historian

Amy Raley, the historian associate at the Local History and Genealogy branch of the Mobile Public Library, was the speaker at the Genealogy Society of Okaloosa County in July. Pictured is Raley and Jim Young, president of the GSOC. The GSOC meets the second Saturday of each month at the Heritage Museum, Valparaiso.



Mid-Bay Rotary donates to charities

The Mid-Bay Rotary Club recently made generous donations to Sharing and Caring, pictured above, from left, Jeffrey Rink, Gloria Price, and Tamara Schroeder. Pictured right, Staci Berryman, director and co-founder of the Emerald Coast Autism Center also accepted a donation from the Mid-Bay Rotary Club.



Bazaar needs vendors

Niceville United Methodist Church Women's Ministry is seeking vendors for their annual World Bazaar and Benefit to be held Oct. 25 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The church is located at 214 Partin Drive S. in Niceville. This is a huge, annual event has more than a hundred booths, a great silent auction, and a wonderful lunch counter and bake sale. People come from miles around every year to shop at this bazaar. All proceeds benefit missions.

Registration for vendors is ongoing and all forms may be downloaded at nicevilleumc.org/women/.

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Republican Women present award

Kathy Foster, left, was recently awarded a Florida Achievement Award from the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. Barbara Wall, Niceville, presented the award at a meeting of the Republican Women of Okaloosa Federated, one of the many organizations in which Foster has given her time, talents and guidance.



Young ranger at state park

Nora Jane, Niceville, recited the Junior Ranger Pledge and became the first Junior Ranger at Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park on Aug. 26. "I love animals," said Nora. "I would like to see wild animals in Florida's State Parks."

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Yard Sales

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Eagle Pride band gets donation from Chick-fil-A

Niceville High School Eagle Pride band received a donation from Chick-fil-A on Aug. 19. The money was raised during a special fundraising day at the restaurant. Pictured, NHS Band Director Dan Wooten, center, with the Chick-fil-A mascot and the band.

Photo courtesy of Wayne Jacobs

2014

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CALENDAR

E-mail items to info@baybeacon.com

Sorority luncheon

The September luncheon meeting of the Emerald Coast Alumni Chapter of Delta Delta Delta sorority will be Sept. 6 at 11 a.m. at the Boathouse Landing in Valparaiso.

For information or to make reservations call Kay Litke, 678-7743 or email dnklitke@cox.net by Sept. 3.

Golf group

The Bluewater Bay 9-Hole Ladies' Golf season starts at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 3, and continues every Wednesday though May. All are welcome.

For information contact Diane Chiquette at 897-4498.

Financial classes

Niceville UMC is offering two Financial Peace University Classes this fall on either Tuesday or Wednesday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 3.

For more information please contact Kim Colpitts at kimcolpitts@live.com or 461-0203. You may also register for the classes at daveramsey.com.

Find your roots

Eucheanna Chapter Daughters of the American Colonists will meet Sept. 3 at 10 a.m. in the Niceville City Administration Building.

All women over the age of 18 and who can connect to a colonial ancestor is welcome.

For information please call 897-1278.

Open mic poetry night

Join fellow poets Sept. 3 for "Say the Word," an open mic poetry reading at the French Quarter Bar & Grill, 714 Howell Rd., Niceville, at 7 p.m.

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

Birders to meet

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will host a special program on the History of our Rivers and the Role of our Forests Thursday, Sept. 4 with a presentation by Barbara Albrecht, Volunteer Watershed Coordinator for the University of West Florida.

The Choctawhatchee Audubon Society meets the first Thursday of the month in Room 130 of the NWFSO Student Services Center at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public. Contact Gary Parsons, at parsonsg@cox.net or call 699-0977 for additional information.

Early release movie

Valparaiso Community Library will have a free early release movie, Sept. 4 at 1 p.m. The movie shown will be "Muppets Most Wanted," rated PG.

For more information call 729-5406.

Ann Scott visits

Silver Sands Republican Women will host a reception for Florida's First Lady, Ann Scott on Thursday, Sept. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the



Symphony guest recital

Pianist Eric Himy of Washington, DC will appear Sept. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in a Guest Artist Recital to benefit the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra (NFSO), performing a program of Ravel, Rachmaninoff, Gershwin, and more. The soloist recital will be presented in the Tyler Recital Hall of the Mattie Kelly Fine & Performing Arts Center, Northwest Florida State College. Tickets are \$25 each from the center's Box Office by phone 729-6000 or web MattieKellyArtsCenter.org.

Bluewater Bay Golf Clubhouse.

All Republicans are invited to come and meet Ann Scott, hear her story, enjoy some refreshments and show our support for Governor Rick Scott's campaign for reelection.

For reservations please call Libby Hill 678-2182.

Kayak trip

Join a Park Ranger on Friday, Sept. 5 from 8 to 10 a.m. for a unique opportunity to paddle Rocky Bayou. The paddle will go along the shoreline of Rocky Bayou to Rocky Creek and back to the park.

Space is limited to 11 people for the trip. There are four double kayaks and three single kayaks

available for use. A signup sheet will be available in the ranger station at Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park until Sept. 4 and will be on a first come first serve basis.

Park admission fees do apply. Kayak rental fees will be waived. Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park is located at 4281 S.R. 20, Niceville. For more information, call 833-9144.

Read to Baci

Baci, a Bichon Frise therapy dog, loves to hear a good book. Children aged 7 or older who would like to read a story to Baci, are invited to join him in the Youth Services program room Friday, Sept. 5, at 3:30 p.m. This is a first come, first served program.

Book signing

Niceville resident Sylvia Jackson will be at Bayou Book Co., Saturday, Sept. 6 from 1-3 p.m. signing copies of her book, "Dream Interpretation Tool Kit." The book is a practical, how-to-guide designed to help Christians understand their dreams.

Mullet fest pageant

The annual Mullet Festival Pageant is Saturday, Sept. 6 with doors opening at 12:30 p.m. in the Niceville High School auditorium.

Under 5 contestants will be at 2 p.m., six years and up will be at 6 p.m. Sponsored by the Crestview Elks Lodge #2624.

Bargains that benefit

Rosemont Baptist Church, Niceville, is having an indoor yard sale on Sept. 6, from 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

Proceeds benefit Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

Auditions for Hamlet

Northwest Florida State College will hold open auditions for the Spring 2015 production of Shakespeare's Hamlet, directed by Clint Mahle, on Wednesday, Sept. 3. Sign-in begins at 6 p.m. and auditions start at 6:30 p.m.

Those auditioning are strongly encouraged to prepare a ten line serious monologue from Shakespeare. However, if unable to do so, monologues will be provided. Casting is open to all and nontraditional casting is a possibility. For further information, please contact Clint Mahle at 729-6007 or e-mail at mahlej@nwfsc.edu.

Hamlet will be presented March 18 to 21, 2015 in the Sprint Theater of the Mattie Kelly Fine & Performing Arts Center on the Niceville, Campus.

There will be two line rehearsals during the Fall semester for Hamlet, the first on Wednesday, Oct. 29, and the second on Wednesday, Dec. 10.

All rehearsals will begin at 6:30 p.m. and run to 9:30 p.m.

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Eagles smash Rutherford



Niceville High School Eagles beat Rutherford High School Rams 55-7 during the first home game of the season Aug. 29. Pictured above, Aaron Willis started the winning trend with a touchdown less than a minute into the game, shortly before a brief downpour drenched the stadium but failed to dampen the enthusiasm.

Beacon photos by Sarah Clauson

In the Service

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Stacie A. Lopez** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.



Lopez is the daughter of Cleotilde D. Pena of Corona Queens, N.Y. and daughter-in-law of Anthony L. Cruz of Woodside Queens, N.Y. She is a 2013 graduate of Niceville High School.



Beacon photo by Dave Shelikoff

NHS volleyball wins home opener

Niceville High School Junior Varsity won their home opener Aug. 27 against South Walton with a score of 3-0. Pictured, Sami Mims spikes the ball over two South Walton blockers.



First AIRHeart 1 award presented

Samantha Diaz of Niceville was recognized with the Sacred Heart Health System AIRHeart 1 Memorial Achievement Award. Presented for the first time, it memorializes the three-member helicopter crew of AIRHeart 1, killed nearly 10 years ago, when they crashed into Choctawhatchee Bay. Pictured from left, Ron Mosley, director of the AIRHeart program, presents the award to Diaz with Jeremy Morris, education coordinator for AIRHeart.



Popcorn sales raise money for Boy Scouts

Boy Scouts are making the rounds with the annual popcorn sales. The money raised goes directly to defray the costs of Scout programs for participating boys. Pictured from left, Adam Klamerus, Ryan Mathewson, Connor Chambon and Matthew Nelson with Troop 52.

thank you

Customer Appreciation Day!

Friday, September 26

- **Free Document Shredding 9 a.m. till 1 p.m.**
*Please note we are unable to shred Plastic (Credit Cards, CD's, etc), 3-ring binders, large metal objects. Staples, rubber bands, folders, paper clips, etc. do not need to be removed before shredding.
- **Northwest Florida Model A & T Ford Club car show**
- **Free Hamburgers and Hot Dogs 11 a.m. till 1 p.m.**
- **Door Prize Drawings**



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