Carrying a torch for the Olympics

Niceville girl named as link in 8,000-mile run-up to 2012 London games

By Kenneth Books

Niceville girl named as link in 8,000-mile run-up to 2012 London games

A Niceville teenager has been named to carry the torch for the 2012 Olympics.

By Kenneth Books

Bailey Reese, 16, will be among 8,000 torchbearers in the 8,000-mile relay later this year. She was selected for her work as founder and president of Hero Hugs, a Niceville-based military-assistance organization.

“Who knew him have memories

in Afghanistan. But those

after the war was ‘great kid, good friend’

Walt Maddox, center, watches as Andy Cole, left, and Don Sanders place American flags on a Korean War veteran’s grave at Early Cemetery in Niceville. Members of the Twin Cities Veterans Council will place flags on veterans’ graves in memory of those who served.

Boudreaux seeks seat on council

By Mike Griffith

Fmr. Niceville City Councilwoman Judy Boudreaux is the first to announce her candidacy for the council position vacated by William Thomas.

Boudreaux is the only candidate to publicly announce her candidacy thus far, although other candidates may enter the race within the next few days.

Interim TDC boss tackles job in scandal’s wake

By Mike Griffith

Greg Donovan, the new interim executive director of the Okaloosa County Tourism Development Council (TDC), told the Beacon Thursday that he views his new post as a temporary one, and has no plans to seek it as a permanent position.

Instead, he said, he expects to head the TDC “from two to four months,” before returning to his previous job as executive director of the Okaloosa County Airport District. The county, he said, has already initiated an executive search for a new, permanent TDC director.

A hundred and one graduations

Seniors graduating from the College at High School Northwest Florida State College in Niceville totaled 101.

Bridge budget OK’d

Citizen hits debtload

By Mike Griffith

The Okaloosa County Commission approved the annual budget of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA). It passed with MBBA Chairman Gordon Forrest and Executive Director Jim Vest voting no.

The commission also was cautioned by a private citizen about the bridge authority’s bond

Funeral arrangements for Army Sgt. Born

By Kenneth Books

Craig Born, Elizabeth Croft and Charlene Grafton, a local geneticist, will attend as their families served in the Navy, remembers

June 6, 2010. Megan had all kinds of plans for her future. She was a student at Northwest Florida State College and an avid Mazda RX-8 car fan.

“It was just 7 years old, has sent rough. 75,000 ‘goodie’ packages to U.S. service members around the globe in the last two years. The organization is run entirely by young volunteers. The terminating form from the

We ordered to sit still. He was as happy as could be. He was a good friend and a brother.”

Joshua was assigned to the 385th Military Police Battalion, 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne), XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Stewart, Ga.

He was an avid Mazda RX-8 car fan, ” said Joshua’s mother, Elizabeth Croft, Fort Walton Beach. “He met his wife, Megan, that way through an online sports car site. He liked being in the military. ‘That’s what he wanted to do. He and Megan had all kinds of plans made.’ They were married June 6, 2010.

Croft said Megan is “going on and doing some of the things they wanted to do together.”

“Seven Dancers” sculpture

The sculpture will be dedicated by the center’s well-known features in the “circus” surrounding the center’s sculpture garden. "Seven Dancers" will be dedicated later this year. It has been three months

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Wednesday, May 23, 2012

50c

A hundred and one graduations

Seniors graduating from the College at High School Northwest Florida State College in Niceville Thursday totaled 101. Before the commencement ceremony in the college arts center, gates, students and proud for pictures in the circus surrounding the center’s sculpture garden. “Seven Dancers” sculpture and fountain.

“Seven Dancers” sculpture

The sculpture will be dedicated by the center’s well-known features in the “circus” surrounding the center’s sculpture garden. "Seven Dancers" will be dedicated later this year.

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By Mike Griffith

Coral Fest, of Valparaiso, a member of the Libertarian Party, has submitted enough petitions to challenge Republican Jeff Miller on the Ballot for the District 1 Congressional seat. According to the Florida Secretary of State, Fest has obtained the required number of state-verified petitions needed to qualify as a candidate in the Nov. 6 election. Fest, a 27-year-old computer programmer, said he wants to challenge Miller, because "he is not the true representative he claims to be to the District 1, which Miller has represented since 2001, includes most of Northwest Florida west of Bay County.

In an interview with the Beacon Correspondent, Fest said his primary reason for voting in favor of a National Defense Authorization Act that Festt says gives too much new authority to President Barack Obama, and for voting to establish the “super committee” that last year avoided a lengthy partisan debate about the national budget by setting an automatic cut process in lieu of a regular budget process to be held in Congress. Festt also opposes continued U.S. military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, among other Libertarian principles of minimal government similar to those espoused by Republican and libertarian legislative candidate Ron Paul.

Asks whether his candidacy may have the effect of taking enough conservative votes from the incumbent Miller to allow a Democratic challenger to win the District 1 seat, Fest says that is unlikely. “But the election is about making the choice,” he said. “That is where we talk about what the candidates want to do. The Libertarian viewpoint is that we do not care about the candidates. We are making the choice about who we want to vote for. We have a unique leadership challenge, said Fest.

The country is offering between $76,000 and $85,024 a year for the job. Bellinger was paid $120,785.

While leading the TDC, said Donavan, he hopes to “get the council connected” to ensure that the TDC effectively promotes the local economy. Donovan said that local tourism is a major tourist in the local economy, and has been making a recovery from the times that were very serious and may be the turning point for the recovery. The 2010 BP oil spill caused a series of hurricanes that hit Florida and the Gulf Coast during the previous decade.

His initial steps as interim TDC director, he said, have been “to open communications with the TDC staff” and to learn all about the TDC and how it works. A large part of what we have to do is bring a large staff, which includes 10 to 12 employees. A large part of what we have to do is bring a large staff, which includes 10 to 12 employees.

The TDC is responsible for “open communications with the TDC staff” and to learn all about the TDC and how it works.

For now, however, Donovan said he is focusing his full attention to learning all he can about the TDC and ensuring that it continues to perform its mission of attracting tourists to Okaloosa County beaches along the Emerald Coast.

“I have no interest in keeping this for the long term,” Donovan said. “My role is to serve in this position until we start recruitment of a new director.”

Left unaddressed is the issue of who is to take the TDC director’s post after the new permanent director takes over. Donovan expects that he or she will be able to benefit from the notes I am taking and the decisions I am making now.”

Donovan said the TDC director’s post is already posted as available on the county website and is to be advertised nationally in an attempt to attract qualified candidates for the position in the near future. When the new permanent director takes over, Donovan expects that he or she will be able to benefit from the notes I am taking and the decisions I am making now.”
$2.5 million in new debt for sewers

By Mike Griffith
Regional Correspondent

A special meeting Thursday, the Niceville City Council approved the issuance of $2.5 million in new bonds to help fund improvements to the city’s water and sewer system.

According to city financial consultant Bill Fray, the $2.5 million in new bonds will become part of an overall funding package to improve the city’s water and sewer system. It will join $800,000 in water connection fees and $2.7 million in sewer connection fees and $900,000 in proceeds from an earlier low-interest loan, for a total of $6.9 million.

The total funding package, Fray said, will then be used to pay $4.7 million for “NVOC process upgrades,” or the city’s takeover of Okaloosa County’s current capacity at the regional wastewater treatment plant, as well as $1.9 million for a new elevated city water storage tank and $300,000 to upgrade the city’s Lift Station #32, also for a total of $6.9 million.

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10:00am - 1:00pm

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The Bay Beacon - Page A-3
Wednesday, May 23, 2012

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Joshua was an avid Star Wars fan, his mother said. Cindy Parker, his mother-in-law, said his obsession with the movie series was such that, as a High School fan, his mother said.

After graduating from Niceville the Army six years ago, shortly after graduating from Niceville High.

Joshua's soccer career began when he stepped on the field because at that time he was terrified when he stepped on the field. There was no beat-totally—and he hated to run. It took us about six weeks. 'One year, I took him on a 6,000-mile tent trip,' Joshua's father said. "We saw the major attractions, like the Grand Canyon. It was really good," his father said of Joshua's soccer career. Joshua also performed in several Scouting's national honor society. He also performed in several Scouting's national honor society. The voice of Niceville, Bluewater Bay and Valparaiso since 1992.

Joshua was a member of Cub Scout Pack 52 and Boy Scout Troop 546, as well as the Order of the Arrow. Scouting's national honor society. He also performed in several plays for Stagecrafters, a Fort Walton Beach community theater. Joshua's dramatic impulse.

Staghunters appealed to Joshua's dramatic impulse. "He was an excellent actor," his father said. "From first grade to his senior year, he got lead roles. He said he wanted to do better, so he went to Stagecrafters and he got to try out and we both ended up with parts at Stagecrafters. I was really proud of him. Joshua's sense of humor was never very strong," his father said. "Sometimes I couldn't figure out his jokes," he said with a chuckle. "He was really a great kid. All the time we spent together over the 10 years I had him, it was just a joy and he loved it." Craig Born said. "I never had to worry about dope and alcohol and stuff. He enjoyed helping people." Joshua was buried in Mount City National Cemetery, Ill., near his wife's hometown. A memorial service was held March 15 in Niceville.
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Where on May 17, it began a 70-by ship to the United Kingdom, locations in Greece, then taken of the ruins of the Temple of in Olympia, Greece, in front Greek god Zeus, began its jour-
memorates the mythical theft of (She) is a champion to soldiers (She) travels around the country and speaks to young people about support-
our troops and making a dif-
terence in the life of others. (She) is a chamion to soldiers like me and she’s inspiring oth-
ers by showing that anyone has the ability to make a huge differ-
ence in the world.” Bailey, a student of Florida Virtual School, said she “jumped up and down for a half hour” when she learned of her selection. “It’s still a big shock,” she said.

Bailey will carry the two-
pound torch July 10 through Athens, a village about 30 miles west of London. In all, 8,000 runners will carry the flame. Bailey’s portion will be 300 meters, or about one-
fifth of a mile, although some others will be longer; for a total of about 8,000 miles. The 2012 torch, which com-
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ney in Olympia, Greece, in front of the ruins of the Temple of Hera. It was carried to various locations in Greece, then taken by ship to the United Kingdom, where on May 17, it began a 70-
day relay. It will ignite the Olympic cauldron on July 27 to open the games in London. The torch’s origins lie in ancient Greece, where a fire was kept burning throughout the cel-
ibration of the ancient Olympic Games. The fire was rein-
vented at the 1928 Summer Olympics in Amsterdam and has been part of the modern Olympic Games ever since.

In all, they’ll spend three
weeks in Europe, leaving June
10 p.m., so she’ll probably sleep
most of the day. Bailey and her mother, Diana, plan to take full advan-
tage of the trip to Europe, which is my first time.”

Diana, said. “Without the soldiers’ sac-
tifices, we might not have our freedom.” Diana said.

Diana has lasagna. That’s one of the dishes Bailey and
Diana will make.

In the United Kingdom, among the attractions are Buckingham Palace and Ripple

Service members said Bailey “recognized Hero Hugs had the ability to do more than just
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Situation

Schwab made a motion to have the draft minutes among them—other business that is likely to come before commissioners for a vote.

“Nobody wants it (draft minutes) in their absence,” Marcolongo said. He added that other than the pressing, members of the public hardly want them, and Martin objected to the MBBA budget. He said the budget accounts for 40% of objecting to the MBBA budget. Activist Pete Blome, of Niceville, said that in the past budget issues have been done by the commission’s long time chairperson, Marcolongo, as a member of one.

“We don’t want to have to do the budget to every meeting that he opposed the use of email to send draft minutes because he was “fed-up” with recent news reports of elected officials from other government bodies getting surprised in alleged Sunshine Law violations because members used email to communicate government business with each other.

“Nobody wants it (draft minutes) except our workers,” Marcolongo said. He added that other than the press, members of the public hardly ever attend Niceville’s fire commission meetings. In other business at their May 14 fire commission meeting, commissioners settled their regular plan to a local law plan. That change has been made by most other fire districts in Florida, he said, and is aimed at strengthening already the lingering recession, although behind previous levels, due to result from hurricanes, the BP oil spill, the economy recovers.

EFT operates major programs in logistics, platform support, contingency planning, and capital expenditures of $22 million.aimed at strengthening already the lingering recession, although behind previous levels, due to result from hurricanes, the BP oil spill, the economy recovers.

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EFT operates major programs in logistics, platform support, contingency planning, and capital expenditures of $22 million.
SEEKS

less than a year into his second

ThomasRominger in the last regular city
election in July 2011, but is now
campaigning to fill the Thomas

vacant seat. All Niceville City
council members are elected “at

large” by voters from throughout the

city, rather than by separate
districts.

Asked by a reporter whether

Boudreaux replied, “Yes, absolutely.”

She said that if elected, she

intends to “resume where I left

off, serving the people of

Niceville.”

Boudreaux said that her prior-

ities as a council member would be as before: “public safety and
traffic.” She said she plans to

post some campaign information

on her Facebook page in the near

future.
Summer brings fun for kids

Children at WinnShape Camps, Niceville, have a “screeching” good time. WinnShape Camps is one of the many activities coming to the area this summer that will be sure to entertain kids and teenagers.

Camps, activities, vacation Bible school

With the end of the school year, it’s easy for children and teenagers to suffer bouts of boredom. There are, however, plenty of activities available this summer, from recreational, to sports, to vacation Bible school and academic activities that are guaranteed to keep area youth active and busy this summer.

This following are upcoming summer camps, programs and activities that will make summer planning a snap easier.

Vacation Bible School

First Baptist Valparaiso
First Baptist Church of Valparaiso will hold its vacation Bible school June 10-14, from 6-9:30 p.m. The theme for this year will be “Amazing Wonders.” Awards: Grades 1-8. Info: 678-4822. Pre-registration is not required, but forms are available at the church.

Niceville UMC
Vacation Bible School at Niceville United Methodist Church is now accepting registrations. The VBS will be June 11-13, from 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Ages 4-5th grade. Daily activities will include teaching lessons, music, crafts, snacks and recreation. Registration: nicemlumc.org/children. Cost: $15 per child. Scholarships are available. Info: 678-4411, ext. 187.

St. Paul Lutheran
Recreation is open for St. Paul Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School June 10-14. Registration June 14, 6-9:30 p.m. The theme this year will be “Transformed: Make a Difference.” Registration: $5. Scholarships are available. Nursery will be available for all volunteers. Info: Susan McClaun, children@stplutheran.org or 651-0721.

Memorial Day events
to honor, remember

By Tessa Hollis
Beacon Staff Writer
As part of the city’s observance of Memorial Day, May 28, the Tri-Cities Veterans Council will hold a ceremony at Doolittle Park, as well as place flags on deceased veterans’ graves. Memorial Day services will begin on Saturday, May 26, as members of CVCC, along with Boy Scout Troop 52, of Valparaiso, and any community members who wish to volunteer will place flags on graves of deceased veterans. The flags will remain on the graves at Sunset, Rockly, Evergreen, Swansea and Early Cemeteries through 5 p.m. on Memorial Day. “Even though they’ve passed, it’s important that we never forget,” said DAV and VFW member Judy Cole, of Niceville. Anyone interested in volunteering please call Sarah Maton, page B-2

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WHO’S

Wesley Jordan, a 2008 graduate of Niceville High School, graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor of science degree from Florida State University, in 2009. Dr. Jordan will commence e m p l o y m e n t Nov. 1, 2012 at Sand Hospital in Gainesville in July. She is the daughter of Cathy Jordan, a Bank of America mortgage loan officer in Pensacola, and Lee Jordan, a nurse at University of Florida Hospital in Gainesville.

Bart Stewart, a 2004 graduate of Niceville High School, has been named to the President’s Honor Roll twice. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of West Florida in Pensacola, receiving a bachelor of science degree in exercise science. The son of West Jordan, he received his bachelor of science degree in exercise science from the University of West Florida in Pensacola, receiving a bachelor of science degree in exercise science.

Summer Program

For information about this and other programs, call 729-7227, ext. 273. For information about this and other programs, contact the Summer Program Office, 729-7227, ext. 273.

Shannon Burton

Call 729-7227, ext. 273.

Bart Stewart

Call 729-7227, ext. 273.

Shannon Burton

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From page B-2

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summer recreation for kids
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ning. To obtain a discount code,
months. This camp is mandatory for anyone who is going to be part of the Rocky Bay Christian School Marching Band. Information: 729-7277, ext. 237.

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Monday, Friday, 12-3 p.m. Grades 8-12. Cost: $80. Register and pay by 4 p.m. on July 16 to avoid a $10 late fee. Info: Rocky Bay Summer Program Office, 729-

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Softball
Northern Panhandle School
College will host a fast-pitch softball camp on the Niceville

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Golf
The Gulf Breeze Park at Bluewater Bay will offer a summer Junior Golf Clinic for boys and girls, ages 3-18, who want to learn or enhance rules, etiquette, long green play, and putting. The cost is $75 and covers six, one-hour clinics over a two
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Band Camps
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Camp programs
U.S. Department of Defense
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Barber, Adam Downing, Tyler Paskell, Rachel Mosley and Cooper Eaves. Not shown are Eddie Owen,
Winners of RBCS athletic awards for 2011-12 are, from left: front, Grace Stoner, Megan Slagle, Brittany
Mosley, Cooper Eaves and Tyler

Barber, Silver Shield Award—Hannah Barrett; Coach of the Year—Mark Ward, being challenged in philos-
ophy by the military heritage. The voice of Niceville, Bluewater Bay and Valparaiso since 1992

Brittany Tiller from Rocky Bayou Christian School and baseball,

No one actually carried and used this
rifles "painlessly" and are willing
Vietnam veterans can attest to
many great wars."

In case of inclement weather,
the refreshments will be served
outside.

By June 30. Adult cats who are
reduced adoption fees through the end
of June are between one- and two-years-old,
microchipped. PAWS is also offering
reduced adoption fees through the end
of June for six select Chihuahuas, who
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are between one- and two-years-old,
Members of the Rocky Bayou Christian School Class of 2012. The class, which will graduate Friday, May 25, is the largest in history and more than twice the size of the first graduating Class of 1961.

The Class of 1980 was made up of five graduates, two of whom are sisters, Gracia and Jesslyn Thomas, who both serve on the RBCS faculty. The Class of 2012 has 51 graduates, and in this largest class ever, 10 students will graduate with the honors diploma—the second highest in history, behind the 12 awarded in 2009.

The Class of 2012 also has the largest number of “fliers,” graduates who have attended RBCS since at least first grade. Bill Hudson, Joey Raley, Christiana Serban and Sarah Wilks have been RBCS students since K-3, while Joe Townsend has been at RBCS since K-4, Jonathan Anderson Will Bowers and Elizabeth Sober since K-5 and Jessica Kapp since first grade.

The current enrollment at RBCS is more than 700 students, including Tricare Springs and Hurlburt Field.

Ruckel raises $3K for Children in Crisis

More than 20 schools from Okaloosa County participated in the annual Change for Children Campaign during the 2011-2012 year. The schools raised more than $71,000 in change to benefit the abused, neglected and abandoned children of the community. Ruckel Middle School was the winner from the school district and raised $3,010. The Multicultural Club at Ruckel Middle School, along with Principal Debra Goolsby presented Ken Hair, Children in Crisis CEO, Niceville, with a check for the money raised.

Van Porter show recognizes Niceville students

Tamera Rustad (left) received an Honorable Mention at the Van Porter Student Artist of the Year exhibition held recently. Corrine Akins received a third place award. The exhibition was open to all seniors in the school district. Each senior could submit three pieces of art work with a written essay titled “What Art Means to Me.”

Stabilize Your Dentures Instantly!

Why Now? Why Wait? Why not turn your dreams of a more comfortable and attractive smile into a beautiful reality? Start smiling again with a simple, gentle, non-surgical procedure. Restore your comfort and confidence while speaking and eating. In one procedure you can walk out ready to enjoy the foods you wish, without the long healing times and high costs typically associated with conventional implants.

Lewis plays for Superior ratings

The Lewis Jazz Band earned All Superior ratings on May 4 at the Panama City Festival of Champions band festival. The three judges graded the band at an “A” level, including one judge who graded the band at an “A+” level. Lewis jazz members with first Superior trophy, from left, Taylor Duncan, Rebecca Hanard, Mindy Dennis, Madeline Cokin, Jessica Jones, Bethany Banaszak, second row, Josh Banaszak, Andrew Colón, Jeffrey Rhodes, Kyle Allman; third row, Zack Krouse, Keaton Smith, Matthew Smith. The Band Director at Lewis is Robert Colón, Zack Krouse, Josh Banaszak and Bethany Banaszak were also selected for the Northwest Florida State College Honor Jazz Band.