

# CRESTVIEW News Bulletin

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CONTEST WINNERS A5

## Duty calls for some over holidays

By Paula Kelley  
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@cnbpaula

While most people are celebrating Christmas, many area firefighters, policemen, deputies and other emergency personnel will be on duty.

Among them will be Melissa Long, a Crestview Police Department officer of three years who had previously worked eight years for the Fort Walton Beach Police Department.

This Christmas won't be

*"I'm ready for the calls from families who have been together all day, and there has been alcohol involved and someone is just not happy with the rest of the family. You see a little bit of everything during the holidays."*

**Melissa Long**  
Crestview Police Department officer

Long's first in a patrol car. "I'm ready for the calls from families who have been together all day, and there has been alcohol involved and someone is just

not happy with the rest of the family," Long said, smiling. "You see a little bit of everything during

See DUTY A3

**Right:** Crestview Police Department Officer Melissa Long prepares to work this Christmas Eve. This is not her first holiday to work, but the mother of two daughters has learned to "make the most of it."

PAULA KELLEY |  
Crestview News Bulletin



## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Santa spotted scouting out Crestview

Santa Claus was spotted in Crestview Wednesday at the South Ferdon Boulevard McDonald's making last-minute adjustments to his naughty and nice lists. As Santa handed out candy canes, the Archer children, Dylan, 2, Madison, 4, and Sydney, 6, forgot about Happy Meals and ran to meet the jolly old elf, who looked a bit like David Fitzpatrick, whose family annually distributes Christmas trees to local families in need.

BRIAN HUGHES |  
News Bulletin

## Winn-Dixie joins BI-LO No local changes foreseen in merger with S.C. company

By Brian Hughes  
brianh@crestviewbulletin.com

It was business as usual at the Crestview Winn-Dixie Monday night, with customers and store staff showing little interest in—or even knowledge of—an announcement earlier in the day that the supermarket chain had merged with another grocery company. Most shoppers weren't even aware of the transaction.

"I was getting stuff for Christmas dinner, that's where my head was at," customer Betsy Wilson said.

A media release said the Winn-Dixie chain merged



with Greenville, S.C.-based Bi-Lo, LLC, in a deal reported to be valued at \$560 million, creating one of the South's biggest grocery operators. The new company

**Left:** Lights come on at the Crestview Winn-Dixie one recent evening. Customers will see little, if any, changes now that the chain is merging with South Carolina-based Bi-Lo, store manager Tommy Price said.

BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

anything different when they shop at the grocery store.

"It's pretty much just a merge between the two," Price said. "It's more of a merger than being sold because they bought out all of our stock shares."

Shares of Winn-Dixie,

See WINN-DIXIE A3

## Yes Crestview, there is a Santa Claus

By Paula Kelley  
paulak@crestviewbulletin.com

"Is there a Santa Claus?" asked Virginia O'Hanlon, 8, in a letter to the editor of New York's Sun newspaper. Veteran newsman, Francis Pharcellus Church was quick with a "Yes" in his printed, unsigned editorial response in 1897.

This year, some Florida residents have been given a reason to believe again after discovering that anonymous people had paid off their Christmas layaway items at Walmart stores.

It happened in Crestview.

Pat Riley, Manager of Crestview's Walmart said that a customer came in on Friday, Dec. 16, went to customer service and asked to pay down a random layaway to a balance of \$1.

"They asked for a layaway that was full of toys for Christmas," Riley said. "They wanted zero recognition. They said they just wanted to help someone out this Christmas."

"In 28 Christmases of working with Walmart I've never heard of anything like it."

He explained that this is the first year that Walmart

See SANTA CLAUS A3

## Lost records worry vets

By Brian Hughes  
brianh@crestviewbulletin.com

- It's been more than three months since an employee of a federal subcontractor reported the theft from his car of back-up tapes containing the names, addresses, Social Security numbers and some clinical and prescription information of almost 5 million patients served by TRICARE, the government's health care program for service members, veterans and their families.

- Throughout the Crestview area and other military communities, nervous TRICARE patients have been monitoring their credit records after receiving letters last month from subcontractor Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) informing them of the security breach.

- "They just notified us that our information has been stolen and they offered only a year's worth of

### TRICARE SNAFU

If you want to know more about TRICARE's loss of patient information, call the SAIC Incident Response Call Center: United States, toll-free at 1-855-366-0140 or visit [www.tricare.mil/breach/](http://www.tricare.mil/breach/).

credit monitoring and restoration," disabled Army veteran Kristina Burdick said.

Burdick, whose active-duty Air Force husband Stephen also received a letter from SAIC, said one year of monitoring is not enough.

"There are 4.9 million personnel and family members whose information has been lost," Burdick said. "By the time whoever got hold of the information comes

See VETS A3



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**10,450** people  
every week



03039 28242

# Crestview man faces 50 counts of possessing child pornography

From staff reports

The Crestview Police Department arrested Richard Dwight Waterson III, 41, of the 100 block of South Savage Street in Crestview, and charged him with 50 counts of possession of child pornography.

The Crestview Police Department, in conjunction with the North Florida Internet Crimes

Against Children Task Force, conducted a yearlong joint investigation after a search warrant was executed at Waterson's home in December 2010.

A forensic examination of Waterson's computer and related materials seized during the search of his home resulted in the identifi-



RICHARD WATERSON

cation of 50 pornographic images involving children, according to a police press release.

Waterson was arrested at his home in Crestview Tuesday afternoon and booked into the custody of the Okaloosa County Jail where he is being held without bond.

To have an area event published here, email it to news@crestviewbulletin.com or call 682-6524 by 5 p.m. Friday. Announcements run on a space-available basis.

**FUNDRAISER:** Joy Fellowship will host a yard sale on Dec. 31, from 8 a.m. to noon at 5978 Old Bethel Road, Crestview. Proceeds will benefit their Youth Winter Retreat.

**LIBRARY EVENTS:** "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" (90 minutes long, rated PG) will be featured at the Crestview Public Library movie picnic Friday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. Pack a picnic supper. Please do not bring children who cannot sit through a feature length film.

Registration is not required for this free event, but you are welcome to sign up in the youth area for a courtesy reminder call or email. The library thanks Wolves Den 11 for providing the beverages and cleaning up and Crestview Library Friends for purchasing the movie license. Please call Heather at 682-4432 with questions.

"TAI CHI: TRY IT!" is the Jan. 3 First Tuesday program. At 10:30 a.m., Anna Dyess will demonstrate Tai Chi's basic principles and a few forms you can practice at home. To practice at the event, wear loose clothing and flat shoes that stay comfortably on your feet. Coffee and cookies will be served starting at 10 a.m.

The library is located at 1445 Commerce Drive behind the post office.

**DAV TRANSPORTATION:** The Disabled American Veterans van, which provides transportation to the Joint Ambulatory Care Center in Pensacola, will not run through Jan. 3. Transportation will resume on Jan. 4. The van

departs from Crestview, Niceville and Fort Walton Beach on Wednesday and Friday each week if required. For further information or to schedule a ride, please contact Okaloosa County Veterans Services at 689-5922 or 651-7258.

**LANDFILL CLOSURES:** The Baker and Wright Landfills will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 24, in observance of Christmas Eve. Any questions, call 651-7394.

**BLOOD DRIVES:** The Northwest Florida Blood Center will host the following drives:

Dec. 27 - Winn-Dixie, Crestview, 12-6 p.m., free gift card for all donors.

Dec. 30 - Marquis Cinema 10, Crestview, 4-9 p.m., free movie ticket for all donors.

**CITIZENS ACADEMY:** From Jan. 3 to March 27 every Tuesday evening from 6-9 p.m., the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office will have Citizen's Academy training in the administrative building. For more information, contact Ashley Bailey, crime prevention specialist, at 651-7153 or abailey@sheriff-okaloosa.org.

**SENIORS VS. CRIME:** The Okaloosa County Seniors vs. Crime is a special project under the Florida Attorney General's Office to assist senior citizens who believe that someone has taken advantage of them. The organization's office is located at 296 S. Ferdon Blvd., Crestview, in Suite 8. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, except holidays. For more information or to report a scam, call 306-3176. The organization's email address is okaloosacountysvc@yahoo.com.

**GSOC MEETINGS:** The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County meets every second Saturday at the Heritage Museum,

located at 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, across from the city park. For more information, contact Martha Trau at 259-4351.

**FOSTER AGENCY IN NEED OF BEDS:** Lakeview Center's FamiliesFirst Network is in need of beds for children in protective services.

Bunk beds, twin beds and toddler beds are needed to help local families. Beds do not have to be new, just in good condition. If you have beds that you would like to donate, please contact Elsie Green at 833-3840 or 585-1368.

**CRESTVIEW SOUP**

**KITCHENS:** Serving from 11 a.m. to noon except on Wednesdays, when the hours are from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mondays: Central Baptist Church, 951 S. Ferdon Blvd. (State Road 85), 682-5525.

Tuesdays: Our Savior Lutheran Church, 178 North Ave., Crestview, 682-3154.

Wednesdays: LifePoint Church (former First Assembly of God), 400 S. Ferdon Blvd. (State 85), 682-3518.

Thursdays: Community of Christ, 398 W. First Ave., behind Whitehurst/Powell Funeral Home, 682-7474.

Fridays: First Presbyterian Church, 492 N. Ferdon Blvd., intersection of State 85 and U.S. 90, 682-2835.

Saturdays: First United Methodist Church, 599 Eighth Ave., behind Tom Thumb across from Goodwill, 682-2018.

Volunteers are always needed. Please call any church to volunteer.

Emmanuel Baptist Church members are in need of bikes, which they repair and issue to the homeless. Please call 423-0711 if you can assist with this service.

## Miscellaneous

**WAMI CONFERENCE:** The

# Gulf Power warns of fraud

Special to The News Bulletin

Scam artists have victimized residents in Northwest Florida recently by impersonating utility company employees.

Gulf Power has received calls in the past few weeks from customers being contacted by someone posing as a Gulf Power employee, according to a press release.

The caller tells victims that their bill is past due and that electricity will be cut off if the customer does not provide a credit card

payment immediately. The card numbers are then used to make fraudulent purchases.

To prevent this from happening, Gulf Power is advising customers that:

• Gulf Power employees will never call a customer at home seeking any personal information, including credit card numbers.

• Gulf Power representatives will never ask a customer for money when they visit a residence.

• All Gulf Power representatives carry badges with picture identification

that includes the employee's name and the company's name and logo.

Customers should call Gulf Power at 1-800-225-5797 if they have any questions about the identity of anyone representing Gulf Power.

Gulf Power is working with local law enforcement agencies to identify the callers. Please call local law enforcement and contact Gulf Power at 1-800-225-5797 if you have received a call asking for personal information about your Gulf Power account.

## What's HAPPENING

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## Miscellaneous

**WAMI CONFERENCE:** The

second annual Shelter House WAM! (Women and Money) conference will be held Saturday, Jan. 28, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort.

It will offer workshops on topics such as organizing your finances, budgeting, cooking on a budget, investing and car basics.

Workshops under the Youth Economic Strategies program will include budgeting, banking, savings, interviewing, resume writing and entrepreneurship and are geared toward ages 12 to 18.

Attendees who register by Jan. 13 will be entered into a drawing for one of 20 books Shelter House is giving away.

Registration is \$25 per person in advance or \$30 at the door. It includes all workshops, the keynote address, breakfast and lunch. Scholarships are also available. To apply for a scholarship, get more information about sponsorship opportunities as a business, or for more information, call 243-1201.

**FLORIDA TRAIL SCHEDULE:**

For more information on Florida Trail Association activities, visit www.choctaw.floridatrail.org.

**ADVENTURE CLUB:** For more information on club activities, call Clarice Hebinck at 581-4591 or send her an email at freklz100@cox.net.

**ROWC SCHEDULE:** Eglin Retired Officers Wives Club programs and menus for 2011-12 are listed below.

To reserve your space a week before the program, please call Barbara at 651-1453.

Jan. 19 - "The

Lighthouse People," Bob

and Sandra Shanklin. Beef

stew, salad, rolls, dessert

and coffee/tea.

**STRICTLY WEAVERS**

**MEETINGS:** Held once a month by the Strictly Weavers Guild of the

Emerald Coast. For exact meeting location and more information, please call Alice (934-4403) or send an email to strictlyweavers@yahoo.com. Anyone interested in the art of weaving handwoven fabric is invited to attend.

**HERITAGE PARK EVENTS:**

Heritage Park and the Indian Temple Mound

Museum are open Monday

through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and are located at 139 Miracle

Strip Parkway SE. Regular

admission is \$5 plus tax for adults, \$4.50 plus tax for seniors 55 and older and active military, and \$3 plus tax for children 4 to 17. For further information, please contact Mike Thomin at 833-9595.

**DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY:** Pensacola Chapter 298 meets regularly every second Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Members of the lineage organization reside in Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Escambia counties. For more information, call Glenda Manis at 678-7318 or 902-7049.

**OCSO WEBSITE:** The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office invites residents to sign up at crimereports.com, where you can monitor crime in your or other neighborhoods, sign up for crime alert emails and keep track of sexual offenders' or predators' addresses.

are picked up and sold at auction. The funds generated are a helpful resource to the clubs. Donate your car and support your local club. For more information, call 800-246-0493.

**VEHICLE DONATIONS:**

Many not-for-profits, like Covenant Hospice, can accept cars, trucks, SUVs,

motorcycles, boats and RVs as donations, whether they are running or not.



BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

Crestview High School athletic director Kevin Pettis and his daughter Haydn-Grace, 4, emerge from the Crestview Winn-Dixie. Few customers were aware of the grocery chain's merger as they did their pre-Christmas shopping.

## WINN-DIXIE from page A1

which has more than twice the number of stores as Bi-Lo, jumped 70 percent Monday upon the announcement. The transaction is currently expected to close in the next 60 to 120 days, the release states, subject to the approval of Winn-Dixie shareholders and "other customary closing conditions."

"Following the completion of the merger, Winn-Dixie will become a privately-held, wholly owned subsidiary of BI-LO and Winn-Dixie's common stock will cease trading on the NASDAQ," the release states.

Executives from both companies said there is no overlap in service between the two companies. Jacksonville-based Winn-Dixie operates about 480 grocery stores in Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia and Mississippi. Bi-Lo runs 207 supermarkets in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia

*"Following the completion of the merger, Winn-Dixie will become a privately-held, wholly owned subsidiary of BI-LO and Winn-Dixie's common stock will cease trading on the NASDAQ."*

### Press Release

and Tennessee.

"Bi-Lo and Winn-Dixie do not currently expect any store closures as a result of the combination," the release states. "The combined company's executive management team structure and headquarters location will be decided as the companies move closer to finalizing the transaction; however, it is expected that the combined company will maintain a presence in both Greenville and Jacksonville."

Winn-Dixie has been in business since 1925 and employs about 46,000 people. The company had struggled in the past, entering into bankruptcy protection in 2005, emerging a year later, and has been revamping operations, the Associated Press reported.

There are no plans to change Winn-Dixie stores' names, according to media reports.

"They'd be dumb to change the name," Wilson said. "Everybody knows Winn-Dixie."

## VETS from page A1

across our information, that could be some years down the road."

SAIC, however, believes the thief will be unlikely to access the data on tapes swiped from an employee's car in San Antonio while he was transporting them to a back-up storage facility.

"The risk of harm to patients is judged to be low since retrieving the data on the tapes would require knowledge of, and access to, specific hardware and software and knowledge of the system and data structure," TRICARE officials stated in a Nov. 28 letter to those whose information was on the stolen tapes.

"So far there's no evidence that any of the information has been misused," TRICARE chief of public affairs Austin Camacho said. "There isn't any evidence that should make us think we need to go farther. But it's never a closed book."

Though most people who received the SAIC letter were never treated at a San Antonio military health center, they still were affected because health-related services "including filling pharmacy prescriptions and ... laboratory workups were processed in these same MTFs (military treatment facilities), even if the patients were receiving treatment elsewhere," the TRICARE letter states.

Burdick feels SAIC's attitude has been somewhat cavalier.

*"The risk of harm to patients is judged to be low since retrieving the data on the tapes would require knowledge of, and access to, specific hardware and software and knowledge of the system and data structure."*

### TRICARE officials stated

"In doing research I found the guy who lost the stuff reported it to the police and estimated the loss as only about \$100," Burdick said. "He valued his GPS system as being more valuable than 4.9 million patients' records."

Distrustful of SAIC and TRICARE, the Burdicks have taken the precaution of notifying their creditors of the potential for fraud on their accounts.

"It's a mess," Burdick said. "You have to call the credit agencies and the banks and reporting agencies. Somebody could take my property out from under my feet if they assume my identity."

Burdick said she was surprised not everyone who was affected is treating the incident as seriously as she and her husband are.

"I was talking to people at my church and they said they got letters, too. It's hit friends who have been in the

military," she said. "Some of them said they filed away their letter and didn't think anything about it."

Burdick is also worried about how the compromised records could affect her sons, one 3 years old and the other five months, in their later years if their stolen identity is abused.

"I'd hate to see that something like this, because somebody lapsed in judgment, that I'd have to see my sons (have trouble) getting a home loan because when they were three years old and five months old, they 'owned a house' that has past-due payments," she said.

"The company that TRI-CARE contracts through, they also deal with security for Homeland Security," Burdick said. "Doesn't make me feel very safe as an American citizen. Not only that, but we don't need this in the economic crisis we're in right now."



PAULA KELLEY | Crestview News Bulletin

Crestview emergency dispatchers have all worked previous Christmas holidays and are preparing to do so again this holiday season. The dispatchers, from left, Jodie Hooper, Kristin Caro and Melissa Olwick, pause between calls.

## DUTY from page A1

the holidays."

Like many emergency workers, Long, a mother of two daughters, Mikayla, 8, and Madison, 5, will juggle her work schedule and home life over the holidays.

"We have Christmas early or plan it after my shift," she said. "My girls are so understanding."

Crestview Fire Chief Joseph Traylor said Christmas is like any other day for firefighters and emergency responders.

"We have 15 personnel on shift every day of the year," Traylor said. "And administrative staff are on standby alert."

"Our usual holiday calls are medical calls and vehicle accidents," he said. "We do see a rise in the number of calls where a person fires up the fireplace and forgets to open the flue and the house fills up with smoke, or kitchen stove fires may increase this time of year but there is not a large number of increased calls."

Emergency dispatch workers like Melissa Olwick will be working too. Although last week was Olwick's first week on the job as an emergency dispatcher for the city of Crestview she knows the drill, having worked many holidays as a dispatcher for Walton County.

Like Long, Olwick adjusts her family's schedule during the holidays.

"I have a daughter who

*"Most of our calls will be people who have too much to drink at the office Christmas party or at a family gathering and then they get behind the wheel. Designated drivers are the answer to that problem."*

**Brian Mitchell**  
Crestview Police Chief

is 12, and a son who is 8 and we just plan the holiday gift opening around my work schedule," Olwick said. "It might make them a little sad if Mommy works (on Christmas day) but the celebration is still just as important to them even if it is not on the exact calendar that their friends' schedules are."

Working Christmas does have its high points.

"The neat part of Christmas is that families come to the station to celebrate lunch or dinner with their family member who is working," Traylor said.

"Most of our calls will be people who have too much to drink at the office Christmas party or at a family gathering and then they get behind the wheel," Mitchell said. "Designated drivers are the answer to that problem."

Crestview dispatcher Kristin Caro said fight calls also increase at Christmas.

"They drink when they get together and eventually someone says the wrong thing to the wrong person and the fight begins and we get called," Caro said. "By the end of the day they have all had too much turkey, and they're tired, and cranky and I think the holiday just catches up with them."

Working Christmas does have its high points.

"The neat part of Christmas is that families come to the station to celebrate lunch or dinner with their family member who is working," Traylor said. "The police can go home and eat with their family if they live near enough and their workload permits but the station becomes a big family gathering place on Christmas."

Follow Paula Kelley on twitter @cnbpaula and the Crestview News Bulletin @cnbulletin.

## SANTA CLAUS from page A1

has had Christmas layaway in seven years. The nation's largest retailer reintroduced layaway this year for toys and electronics. It had discontinued layaway on everything except jewelry five years ago because of a lack of demand.

"It was obviously something that had been missed and with the economy this year it was great for everyone," he said.

Someone paid off Santa Rosa Beach resident Meghan Hufty's layaway as well.

"My husband forgot to deposit his paycheck on Friday, also the last day to pick up layaways at the Santa Rosa Beach Walmart," Hufty said. "I called Walmart and asked a woman named Paula if I could come in on Saturday to pay my balance and pick my items up. She said unfortunately no."

Five minutes later, the young mother received a call back from Paula.

"She identified herself and said, 'Do you believe in angels?'"

"Yes, of course I do," said Hufty.

"She said, 'Well, you have one watching over you today. A woman came in just now, and told me that she had it in her heart that she wanted to pay off someone's layaway — someone who had toys for their children. She didn't care how much it was. She didn't want to be identified. She just felt it in her heart that this was something she needed to do. This

*"I just wish people would do for others in March and July as they have this Christmas."*

**Pat Riley**  
Manager of Crestview's Walmart

Similar stories have been reported across the state. At a Walmart in Orlando, Fla. a man paid off the accounts of random people who had bought toys.

In Ocala, Fla. a man paid for bicycles on layaway.

Riley said the anonymous donors' generosity has brought back the true meaning of Christmas to him.

"I just wish people would do for others in March and July as they have this Christmas," Riley said.



# Investigation into Crestview City Council expands

By Tom McLaughlin  
Florida Freedom Newspapers

The State Attorney's Office has expanded its three-month-long investigation into possible Sunshine Law violations committed by members of the Crestview City Council.

Bill Eddins, state attorney for Florida's First Judicial Circuit, said after reviewing more than 5,000 emails, investigators have issued subpoenas for additional records.

"As a result of our initial review, we've found there are a significant amount of additional records we need to look at in order to sufficiently evaluate this case," Eddins said.

Eddins could not specify what additional records had been requested.

Many of the original documents studied were emails sent back and forth from one city council member to at least one other council member and in many cases several others.

The emails were made public

in September, after the city received a records request from radio stations WAAZ-FM and WJSB-AM, Crestview-based WCVC TV.com and the Northwest Florida Daily News.

The Sunshine Law prohibits elected officials from discussing matters of public interest with one another outside of a public forum.

"You are not to use any form of communication device to avoid a public meeting," said Barbara Petersen, president of Florida's First Amendment Foundation, when told of emails.

"That's a violation of the Sunshine Law."

Elected public officials found in blatant violation of Florida's Sunshine Law can face fines up to \$500 and jail terms of up to 60 days.

They can also be removed from office and assessed attorney's fees.

Following the release of the documents, also in September, radio station executive Cal Zethmayr turned over a disk con-

taining all documents collected to the State Attorney's Office.

Assistant State Attorney Greg Marcille, who is leading the investigation, announced soon after the disk was received that he would investigate the city council's actions.

Along with reviewing documents, the State Attorney's Office is interviewing witnesses in the case, Eddins said.

He said several people have already been interviewed and several more, including the five members of the City Council, will be spoken to as the investigation continues.

The Crestview City Council is made up of President Charles Baugh and members Robyn Helt, Phillip Berezo, Ben Iannucci and Tim Grandberry.

Some of the emails sent by council members, such as one from Baugh on April 12, are addressed to city department heads — in this case then-City Clerk Janice Young.

Baugh's email courtesy copies to Finance Director Patti

Beebe and Mayor David Cadle.

It also blind courtesy copies — a method in which those receiving a document don't see the names of others receiving it — Okaloosa County Commissioner Wayne Harris and council members Berezo, Iannucci and Grandberry.

Baugh discusses "an existing contract between the city of Crestview and Mr. John R. Bale."

"I have questions about all areas of this contract and ask your investigation into this matter," Baugh said in the email.

State Rep. Matt Gaetz, an attorney well versed in the state's Sunshine Law, reviewed several emails made available to the Daily News in September.

"These discussions constitute a 'meeting' under 286.011 (Sunshine Law) and must occur in public — not via email," Gaetz, R-Fort Walton Beach, said after looking over the documents.

Eddins said Monday the decision to expand the scope of the

investigation would likely delay by several weeks any announcement of investigative findings.

Zethmayr said he was interviewed by the State Attorney's Office Dec. 5.

He said at the meeting he had turned over to investigators a spreadsheet "indicating the number of emails each (council member) had in their inbox on Dec. 1 and how many were provided" in response to the September joint media outlet public records request.

He said his spreadsheet indicates that in the case of one council member, 190 emails may have been deleted so that they didn't show up either in an inbox or in a deleted item file.

Attorney Mark Welton, who represents Helt, said he is confident the State Attorney's Office will conduct a thorough investigation and his client will be cleared of all allegations of wrongdoing.

"I am fully confident Ms. Helt has done nothing improper," he said.

## COMPANY DROPS IN



When folks from Spruce Creek, a South Florida community, decided to drop in on friends in Okaloosa County, they did so literally. Twenty-two private planes descended on Crestview Bob Sikes Airport, most of them arriving over the course of an hour on the afternoon of Dec. 1. "My ramp is packed full of planes!" Emerald Coast Aviation Vice President Brad Hall said. "We had to double-stack them," meaning planes were anchored nose-to-tail to fit all of the visitors in. Hall said the guests arranged in advance for a motor coach to meet their flights and transport them to their waiting friends.

**BRIAN HUGHES** | News Bulletin

## Duke Field to be hooked up with county sewer system

By Kari C. Barlow  
Florida Freedom Newspapers

**DUKE FIELD** — Okaloosa County officials have started the planning and purchasing phase to hook-up Duke Field to the county's sewer system.

County crews will do the work in-house and the project is expected to be completed by next September.

Duke Field will close its wastewater treatment plant in 2012.

"We are going to build ... a pump station at Duke Field and we are going to run a force main from Duke Field," said Jeff Littrell, the county's

water and sewer director. "It's going to kind of go southwest and it's going to tie into that 17-mile force main that we built for the 7th Special Forces."

The sewer line from Duke will run seven miles and connect to a larger pipe that ultimately empties into the Arbnennie Pritchett Wastewater Reclamation Facility in Fort Walton Beach.

The installation of the line will not affect any roads used by the public, Littrell said.

"It's going to be out there on the reservation," he said. "We're surveying right now, and ... we have engineers working on

construction plans."

Littrell said his staff

also is getting quotes on

the cost of materials.

Construction on the \$1.5

million project will start in

early 2012.

"It'll probably take us

about five or six months,"

Littrell said.

The Duke Field work

is the first phase of the

larger Eglin Wastewater

Treatment Configuration

Project.

"This is one of these

win-wins," Littrell said.

"Eglin wants to get out of

the wastewater treatment

plant business and ...

concentrate on their

mission. For Okaloosa

County Water and Sewer

and, more importantly, for our ratepayers, that is additional revenue for us."

The project is expected to generate an additional \$60,000 to \$70,000 annually for the county.

"It puts us in better financial shape," Littrell said. "Whatever rate increases may be required in the future, they will be incrementally smaller because of the revenue we will be getting from these projects we're doing with Eglin."

Future phases of the project call for hooking up two wastewater treatment plants on Eglin's main base and Camp Rudder to the county's sewer system.

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# Reindeer game winners

## Winners of News Bulletin contest announced

By Brian Hughes  
brianh@crestviewbulletin.com

Three area residents stopped by the News Bulletin's office last week to pick up \$25 Walmart gift cards, their reward for correctly deciphering the names of 22 local businesses in the annual Reindeer Scramble game. To be considered in the drawing, entrants had to have all 22 business names correct.

More than 75 readers entered the contest that was sponsored by the Crestview Walmart, account specialist Sherrie Stanley said. The most common mistake, she said, was many people listed a business by its common name rather than its official name.

Two of the winners said being lifelong Crestview natives was definitely an advantage.

"I know a lot of the businesses in town," winner Ray Crawford said. "I've been here all my life. I drive a truck part-time and when I see a sign, I remember it."

Charlotte Kennedy, another winner and local native, agreed that lifelong residency proved an advantage, as did trying the scramble contest last year.

"I'm familiar with all the stores in the contest," Kennedy said. "I've lived here all my life. And I helped a girl last year fill out her entry so I knew what to expect."

The third winner, Mike Sapp, credited his 16-year-old daughter Angela for his winning entry.

"My daughter helped. This is really her idea," Mike Sapp said. "She said, 'Dad, can you make this work and drop it by the News Bulletin?'"

Holding up the gift card, Mike Sapp said, "This is definitely going to her."

Crawford said a key to recognizing business names for next year's contest is keeping one's eyes open and being aware, useful advice for many things in life.

"Look where you're going and try to pay attention," he said. "That's how you learn things."



Photos by PAULA KELLEY | News Bulletin

Ray Crawford was one of three winners of the News Bulletin's Reindeer Scramble sponsored by the Crestview Walmart.



Charlotte Kennedy said the fact that she is a Crestview native helped her successfully complete the News Bulletin's Reindeer Scramble.



Mike Sapp won a \$25 Walmart gift card in the News Bulletin Reindeer Scramble sponsored by Walmart.

**With Christ, you are never alone. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!**

### Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

Saturday, December 24, 2011

4:30 p.m. **The Family Celebration Service**  
Special music and a dramatic presentation

7:30 p.m. **Service of the Word with Carols and Candles**  
Sanctuary Choir with String/Woodwind Ensemble

11:00 p.m. **Candlelight Holy Communion**  
Greet Christmas morning in Liturgy and Sacrament with the Sanctuary Choir, Harp and Candlelight

Traditional candlelight closing at all services.

Nursery provided at 4:30 and 7:30pm.

**Christmas Day -- Sunday, December 25**  
**One service at 10:00 a.m.**

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# Walking across America

By Paula Kelley  
paulak@crestviewbulletin.com

James Pierce, 42, is walking across America for no apparent reason other than the fact that he can.

"I'm just winging this," Pierce said Friday during a layover in Crestview. "Most people do this for a cause. I'm just doing it because I can."

Pierce is staying in the Crestview home of Dennis and Renee Knightens.

"The Knightens are really nice people. He (Dennis) found me on the Internet," Pierce said. "Dennis is interested in doing this as well and they said, 'If you ever walk near Crestview...' and I did and here I am."

Pierce arrived late last week and will begin his walk again this week as soon as repairs to his laptop computer are complete.

Pierce began his walk in Seattle, Wash., on May 30. He walks from sunrise until sundown most days, carrying a small tent in his backpack, along with his laptop, dry socks and T-shirts.

Pierce said blisters on his feet were bad in the beginning, and he admits to grumbling to himself a great deal. He has heard of other people walking across America who have a cushy RV following them with food, a bathroom and a place to lay their heads. He decided to forgo the comforts and tackle his fears.

"The closer I got to the Florida state line, the more I realized that I have an unreasonable fear of Florida wildlife," Pierce said. "It was bears in Montana and snakes in South Dakota, and



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS BULLETIN

James Pierce on day 204 of his walk across America. He stayed in the home of Dennis and Renee Knightens of Crestview for a few days and even helped put their Christmas tree up.

it is gators in Florida. I envision the middle of the state is just like walking across a bridge from one alligator back to another just like in a cartoon."

He said one gentleman told him that marshmallows are alligators' favorite food so he won't carry those in his backpack.

"Oh, I am being a silly girl telling you this gator fear," Pierce said with a laugh.

He relies on the kindness of people in towns he passes through and is amazed at the number of people who stop and talk with him about his journey and offer him food and lodging.

"People are kind, and food is good all across America," Pierce said. "Not everyone shares this madness though. That's my number one question from people, 'Why are you doing this?' And the answer is, because I can."

Pierce has taught English in Japan and worked in India to "try to improve call center service," he said with a laugh.

Pierce said there isn't a lot of science in what he's doing.

"I wake up, and I walk. I eat. Sometimes I sleep," he said. "I'm much better at it now. My bumbling efforts in the Cascades embarrassed me. I panicked when I got east of Billings. I crossed the Ohio on the wrong bridge. I took some wrong turns in Missouri."

Pierce said he had hoped to finish his journey in Miami in January, but his steps have slowed and he has a new destination in mind.

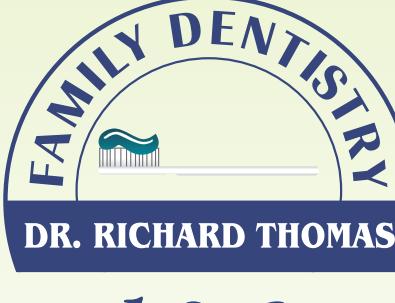
"I've heard that Key West is a great place, so now I think I'll just head on down to there," Pierce said. "I even had someone tell me the other day that I would fit in there. I may even find a reason to stay in Key West."

"I guess some part of me thought that eventually I would walk into a town and suddenly feel like I was at home, but I have not felt that yet."

Follow James' trip through his blog at [www.jamesacrossamerica.blogspot.com](http://www.jamesacrossamerica.blogspot.com).



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**CHRISTMAS FOR FAMILIES**

PAULA KELLEY | News Bulletin

First National Bank of Crestview Senior Vice President Pennie Hartzog, left, and President and CEO Dale Rice, right, present Carrie Lawson, a family support worker for FamiliesFirst Network, with their annual Christmas donation during the December breakfast of the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce. FNB of Crestview has supported the FamiliesFirst Network Child's Christmas wish list program for the past five years.

## Workforce Development Board announces new members

From Staff Reports

The Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton Counties and its JobsPlus One-Stop Career Centers are proud to welcome the following new members to its Board of Directors:

- Dr. Ty Handy: Northwest Florida State College
- Cathy Magnuson: Veterans Organizations
- Alan Baggett: Building Industry Associates
- Ron Shaw: Florida Transformer
- David Jefferson: Simple HR
- Scott Jackson: Gulf Power
- Kitty Whitney: Walton Area Chamber of Commerce
- Toni Beck: National Caucus & Center on Black Aged, Inc.
- Diane Jackson: Vocational Rehabilitation
- Scarlet Phaneuf: Walton County Economic Development Alliance
- Randy Fleming: Department of Children and Family Services

Board members are volunteers representing business and industry, economic development, education, organized labor, local and state government, and commu-

nity-based organizations. By legislative design, local business leaders must comprise a minimum of 51 percent of board membership.

Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development Councils nominate business leaders, and membership to the board is by appointment of the appropriate board of county commissioners.

The Board of Directors provides the executive director and chief operations officer with independent, informed advice and opinion concerning matters of workforce and is supported by a paid administrative staff.

The Workforce Florida Act of 1996 established the Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton Counties in 1996 and the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and Florida's Workforce Innovation Act of 2000 have reinforced its role.

The JobsPlus mission is to ensure that every citizen has the opportunity and skills necessary to engage in meaningful employment throughout Okaloosa and Walton counties and that every business has access to educated, trained and prepared employees that meet their needs.



PAULA KELLEY | News Bulletin

Margie Greene, owner of Margie's Sew Much Fun, presents Sharon Schinz with a Bernina B125 sewing machine she won with her apron design. **Below:** The apron Schinz made for her granddaughter, Alexia, 2, and for Alexia's doll, Bitte Baby, are monogrammed.

## Passing along a talent

By Paula Kelley

paulak@crestviewbulletin.com @cnbpaula

Sharon Schinz won a Bernina B215 from Margie's Sew Much Fun in Crestview after winning the store's apron design contest.

Schinz made matching aprons for herself, her granddaughter Alexia, 2, and Alexia's baby doll, "Bitte Baby."

"The matching aprons were so much fun to design and make," Schinz said. "I finished them in about two days."

Margie Greene has owned the fabric and sewing shop for more than 40 years in Crestview and was proud to have given away three sewing machines this year.

"The first two were names drawn from customers who had been in during a certain time, but this apron sewing contest is one of our first that showed off the sewing talents of our customers, and customers voted on the winner as well," Greene said.

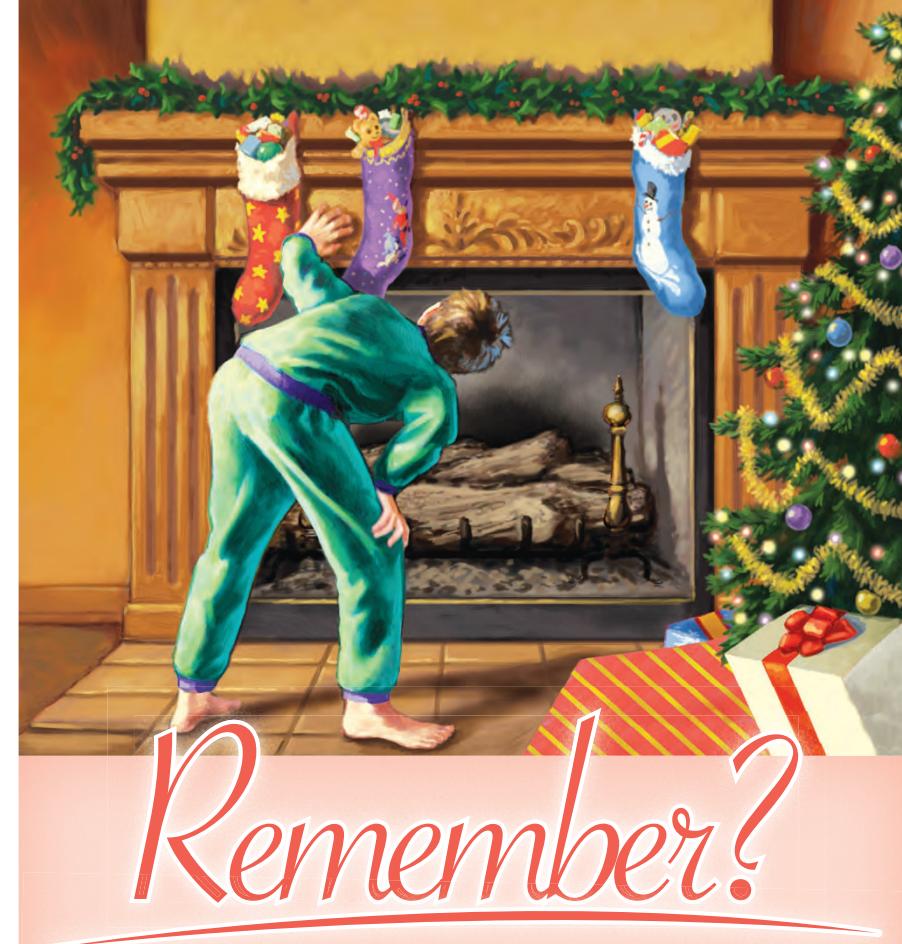
Schinz's creations are green and black and filled with details.

"My mother, Agnes Morris, from here in Crestview and a really patient 4-H leader, taught me how to sew when I was ten years old," Schinz said. "I hope to pass this sewing machine along to my granddaughter Alexia soon and hope to teach her how to sew."



"I appreciate each of our customers, and giving away this amazing sewing machine is one way to show it," Greene said. "The Bernina B215 is valued at over \$1,000 for each machine. It is not the pawn shop sewing machine that I learned to sew using."

Greene said she hopes customers like Schinz will foster the interest of younger generations of sewing enthusiasts.



# Remember?

The sights... the smells... the sounds. It's the one time of the year when just one whiff of a Christmas tree instantly brings us back to our childhood:

Dad, trying to untangle the lights, Mom, cooking up a storm.

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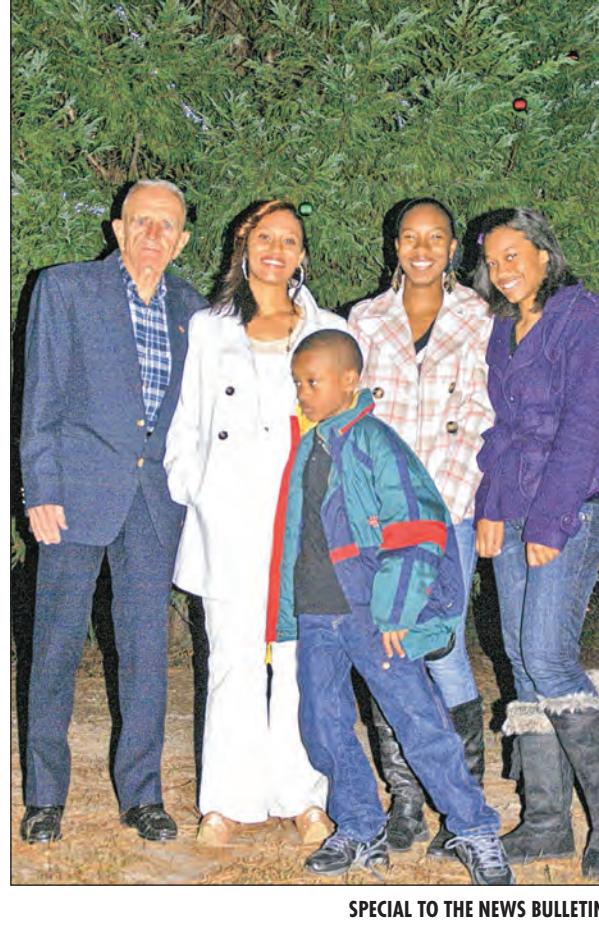
# Family of fallen soldier help light Christmas tree

Special to the News Bulletin

The wife and children of a local airman recently killed in Afghanistan helped Valparaiso's mayor, Bruce Arnold, light the city's Christmas tree Saturday, Dec. 10.

LaShana Douville, widow of Tech Sgt. Daniel "P-Nut" Douville, said, "We appreciate every opportunity to remember Daniel. He followed the example of the Christ of Christmas."

Trinity Presbyterian Church organized the Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Perrine Park as a part of the city's Yule of Yesteryear celebration. The Rev. Mickey Schneider read the Christmas story from the Bible before Arnold asked the Douville children to put the last three ornaments on the tree. A hearty "Merry Christmas" from the crowd turned the lights on for the season. Most of the crowd ended the evening by caroling throughout the neighborhood.



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS BULLETIN

Pictured from left to right at the tree lighting ceremony are Valparaiso Mayor Bruce Arnold and the Douville family, LaShane, Jadelynn, Ayjah-Danielle and Daniel (front).

## Church BRIEFS

### CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:

Live Oak Baptist Church at 4565 Live Oak Church Road in Crestview will host a candlelight service at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Everyone is invited to attend. Call 682-5160 for more information.

### ST. MARK CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

St. Mark United

Methodist Church will be holding three Christmas Eve services Saturday, Dec. 24. The family-oriented service will be held at 4 p.m. The contemporary candlelight service is at 5:30 p.m. and the traditional candlelight service is at 7 p.m.

The Christmas Day

service on Sunday, Dec. 25, is at 10 a.m. Children are invited to attend our Happy Birthday Jesus party during this hour.

The church is located at 2250 PJ Adams Parkway, Crestview. If you would like more information, call 682-5280 or visit [www.stmarkcrestview.org](http://www.stmarkcrestview.org).

There are many heart-warming stories that typically surround the celebration of Christmas. They touch our hearts, bring a smile, draw a tear, cause nostalgia to flow.

As a child living in New Hampshire, I can remember sitting in a snow bank one

winter's eve just before Christmas. I was alone and started to quietly sing a Christmas carol. When I finished, I felt a warm peace come over me. Years later I discerned it was God saying thank you for my song.

Christmas brings with it a message of peace: peace of mind, peace of heart, peace among persons. There is something wonderful that remembering the birth of our Savior brings to the surface that tends to remain buried most of the year.

As you know, war is a terrible thing. Amid the horrors of World War I, there occurred a unique truce when, for a few hours, enemies behaved like brothers because they remembered our Savior's birth.

Christmas Eve in 1914 was quiet all along France's Western Front, from the English Channel to the Swiss Alps. Trenches came within 50 miles of Paris. The war was only five months old, and approximately 800,000 men had been wounded or killed.

Every soldier wondered whether Christmas Day would bring another round

## FROM THE PULPIT

# Christ is God's eternal gift

of fighting and killing. But something happened: British soldiers raised Merry Christmas signs, and soon carols were heard from German and British trenches alike.

Christmas dawned with unarmed soldiers leaving their trenches as officers of both sides tried unsuccessfully to stop their troops from meeting the enemy in the middle of no-man's-land for songs and conversation.

Exchanging small gifts – mostly sweets and cigars – they passed Christmas Day peacefully along miles of the front. At one spot, the British played soccer with the Germans, who won three to two.

In some places, the spontaneous truce continued the next day, neither side willing to fire the first shot. Finally the war resumed when fresh troops arrived, and the high command of both armies ordered that further "informal understandings" with the enemy would be punishable as treason.

Enemies behaving like brothers. They came to realize there was a whole lot more to life than hating a stranger, just because someone else said they had to.

In a different location in World War I, the story is told of a soldier who asked his officer if he might go out into an area between the trenches to bring in one of his friends who lay grievously wounded.

"You can go," said the officer, "but it's not worth it. Your friend is probably killed, and you will throw your own life away." But the man went. Somehow he managed to get to his friend, hoist him onto his shoulder, and take him

back to the trenches.

The two of them tumbled in together and lay in the trench bottom. The officer looked very tenderly at the would-be rescuer, and then he said, "I told you it wouldn't be worth it. Your friend is dead and you are mortally wounded."

"It was worth it, though, sir," he said.

"How do you mean, 'worth it'? I tell you your friend is dead."

"Yes, sir," the boy answered, "but it was worth it, because when I got to him he was still alive, and he said to me, 'Jim, I knew you'd come.'"

God came to this earth as a tiny baby. He came to help us realize we are all the same. We are all his children whom he loves so much that he was willing to sacrifice his only Son so we could receive eternal life. The prophets of old told us he would come. And, by golly, he did!

Dear reader, take a few moments to remember why God came to this earth in Jesus. He came to bring newness of life, joy, hope, peace, and love. What better gifts are there than these?

Merry Christmas!

*The Rev. Mark Broadhead is pastor at Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, 8115 Fourth Street, Laurel Hill (652-2164) and First Presbyterian Church of Crestview, 492 N. Ferdon Blvd. at the intersection of U.S. Highway 90 and State Road 85 in the heart of Crestview. Sunday morning worship is at 9 in Laurel Hill and 11 in Crestview. For more information call 682-2835 or go online to [www.fpc-crestview.org](http://www.fpc-crestview.org).*

## Merry Christmas To All!!



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Christmas Day

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The gazebo at the end of the Lake DeFuniak fishing pier offers a dazzling panorama of the Christmas Reflections light display.

## Seasonal de-Lights in DeFuniak

By Brian Hughes  
[brianh@crestviewbulletin.com](mailto:brianh@crestviewbulletin.com)

Now that the tree is up and decorated, the Christmas cards are posted, the presents wrapped and the cookies are baked, head over the (Shoal) river and through the woods to neighboring DeFuniak Springs and let the wonder of the town's annual Christmas Reflections light display work their magic on you.

The community erects more than 3 million lights, wrapping the trunks of the stately trees in the park that surrounds Lake DeFuniak. Whimsical creatures glow in tableau, including Santa's elves, reindeer, nativities, angels, and even dinosaurs. (What's Christmas without a traditional festive brontosaurus?)

With such a plethora of glowing festivity, taking it all in can be a bit overwhelming for the first-timer. Here's a hint: drive around the lake first (slowly, and don't forget to dim your headlights to just your parking lights). Then park your car and do another circuit on foot. Don't hesitate to walk into the park and let the lights surround you.

Be sure to admire



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

Step into a dazzling wonderland of Christmas Reflections' more than 3 million lights in nearby DeFuniak Springs.

DeFuniak Springs display opens each evening from 5 - 9 p.m. Admission is \$3 per person, with children 6 and under free. Christmas Reflections will be open through New Year's Eve, so if you can't get over there before Christmas, you can go Christmas week. After all, the Twelve Days of Christmas begin, not end, on Dec. 25.

Take U.S. Highway 90 west into DeFuniak Springs, only about 25 miles east of Crestview. Turn right onto U.S. Highway 331 South, then left at the first red light (Live Oak Avenue). Follow this to the entrance of Christmas Reflections.

# REAL ESTATE CORNER

[www.crestviewbulletin.com](http://www.crestviewbulletin.com)

To list in the Real Estate Corner call Melissa Tedder or Diana Baker at (850) 682-6524.

To access online listings featured here, visit the Web site above and click on Real Estate in the main menu.



**5634 Park Place \$237,500**

Stone's throw to Grandview Heights Lake, your own park like setting right in the yard, just under 2 acres, workshop, greenhouse, gazebo, shade house, multi-level decks – and that is just the outside! Inside 3BR/2BA, open floor plan, cedar lined closets.



Jenny R. Teel  
499 N. Ferdon Blvd., Crestview  
(850) 682-6156 / (850) 582-3821



**5641 Cherokee Nene \$649,900**

Executive Style Custom Built 7 bedroom home with spectacular view has a private gated entrance. Two master suites – one with its own entrance. This kitchen has it all... custom cabinetry, top of the line Wolf 6 burner gas range, pot filler, convection & micro-convection built in ovens and two pantries! Enjoy a spectacular in-ground pool and an exterior Summer Kitchen with wet bar area on this property that is surrounded by lakes! Owner Financing Available!



Michelle Tate Styron  
5210 South Ferdon, Crestview  
(850) 902-2842



**414 Riverchase Blvd. \$179,000**

2409 s.f. 4 Bedroom/3 Bath. Located off PJ Adams south of I-10. Split Bedroom with large family room, separate living room & dining room & screened back porch. Privacy fenced back yard.

Property  
—  
Professionals Plus, inc. Debbi Sharon  
502 S. Ferdon Blvd., Crestview  
(850) 683-1714 or (850) 582-9405



**1213 Finkel Road \$149,900**

Hunters homestead, older country home in decent shape on 45 acres of land, with blackwater forest in front of you and beside you, paved road, several small ponds on property, abundant wildlife. Many options!

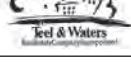


Jenny R. Teel  
499 N. Ferdon Blvd., Crestview  
(850) 682-6156 / (850) 582-3821



**520 Garden Street \$65,000**

Next door to CHS, so close to all schools, shopping, post office, banks! 3BR/2BA, landscaped yard, pecan and fruit trees, fenced, covered porch, gas fireplace, all brick construction, ready for move in. Location has future commercial potential.



Jenny R. Teel  
499 N. Ferdon Blvd., Crestview  
(850) 682-6156 / (850) 582-3821



**201 Grand Prix Dr. \$119,900**

1343 s.f. 3 Bedroom/2 Bath. Conveniently located south of I-10 with easy access from PJ Adams Rd. & Antioch Rd. Corner lot with privacy fenced back yard. Split bedroom.

Property  
—  
Professionals Plus, inc. Debbi Sharon  
502 S. Ferdon Blvd., Crestview  
(850) 683-1714 or (850) 582-9405



**911 B Street Owner Financing Available**

PRICED REDUCED... MOTIVATED SELLER... COUNTY... POND... ROOM FOR HORSES! Almost 16 acres conveniently located just off Highway 90 West. The seller updated most of the house in 1999. Tile or hardwood floors throughout, metal roof, the electrical panel for the home has been updated and a new 3 ton A/C unit just installed in July, 2011. Relax on the back screen porch & enjoy the view of the pond. 20x30 workshop with a 200 amp service is complete with 2 10' roll up doors to work on equipment or a toy. Partially fenced property.

Michelle Tate Styron  
5210 South Ferdon, Crestview  
(850) 902-2842



**1005 Capri Court**

**\$417,000**

3335 s.f. 3 Bedroom/4 Bath. .91 Acres. Newly remodeled Master Bath & Kitchen. Nearly an acre on lake with swimming pool. Very conveniently located south of Interstate 10 in Crestview.

Property  
—  
Professionals Plus, inc. Debbi Sharon  
502 S. Ferdon Blvd., Crestview  
(850) 683-1714 or (850) 582-9405

Debbi Sharon



**311 Powell Drive \$165,000**

Large lot in established and preferred neighborhood, 2214 SF, 3BR/3BA, ample space for entertaining indoors and out on the multiple lots and big brick patio area. Motivated estate sale, just reduced with financing cost assistance and allowance upgrades being offered as well!



Jenny R. Teel  
499 N. Ferdon Blvd., Crestview  
(850) 682-6156 / (850) 582-3821



**1119 Northview Drive \$96,900**

1172 s.f. 3 Bedroom/2. Located south of I-10 off PJ Adams Rd. convenient to Duke Field & 7th Special Forces Group. Vaulted ceilings in Great room & Master Bedroom plus fenced back yard.

Property  
—  
Professionals Plus, inc. Debbi Sharon  
502 S. Ferdon Blvd., Crestview  
(850) 683-1714 or (850) 582-9405

Debbi Sharon



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6513060

## 7th Special Forces Group recognizes 29 heroes

The word 'hero' is often used to describe men and women engaged in professional sports, but when it comes right down to it, the real hero is a guy who avoids the limelight and would argue he is only doing his job, but we the outsiders know better.

Nowhere has this been more clearly demonstrated than on Monday, Dec. 12, at the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) headquarters on Eglin Air Force Base, when 29 of America's finest were decorated for battlefield gallantry and valor.

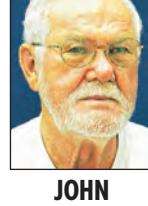
Sgt. 1st Class Clayton Blackshear was the awarded the Bronze Star with Valor device, and the Army Commendation medal with Valor device, while Staff Sgt. James Stillwell was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor device and the Purple Heart.

Another Purple Heart was posthumously awarded to Sgt. 1st Class Antony Venetz. Accepting was his widow, Crestview resident Jennifer Venetz.

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Steven Duff, deputy commanding general for the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne), officiated the pinning ceremony.

If you think these decorations aren't impressive, consider this. The Medal of Honor is the highest, single most honored and coveted combat medal presented to the American fighting man.

The Bronze Star is awarded for



JOHN PARROT

merit, and with the "V" for valor device awarded for heroism. It is the fourth-highest combat award of the U.S. Armed Forces and the ninth highest military award (including both combat and non-combat awards) in the order of precedence of U.S. military decorations.

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration and is presented in the name of the U.S. president for those who have been wounded or killed while engaging the enemy. The valor, or "V" device, is authorized for an act of direct combat valor or heroism. It also denotes an accomplishment of a heroic nature in direct support of operations against an enemy force.

The Army Commendation Ribbon w/V device is awarded for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service, and for actions in direct contact with an enemy force.

Col. Miguel Howe, deputy commander of the 7th Special Forces Group, zeroed in on valor in his opening remarks, quoting Gen. George Patton, who said, "Wars may be fought with machinery but they are won by men."

Howe went on to say on any given day between 300 and 1,300 warriors from the 7th Special Forces were engaged somewhere in world.

"The 7th have a long and proud history of combating transnational threats of tyranny, terrorism, drug trafficking and insurgency through the conduct of unconventional

warfare, foreign internal defense, and special reconnaissance, direct action and fighting terrorism throughout the globe.

"The sun never sets on the Red Empire," he added, meaning the threat of worldwide terrorism never rests.

"In the current conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan our soldiers have received the Distinguished Service Cross, 21 Silver Stars, 120 Bronze Stars with valor device, 124 Army Commendation ribbons with valor device, and 208 Purple Hearts. And 38 of our soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice by laying down their lives for this nation."

The list is truly impressive, but it only tells a small part of the story about the men of the 7th and their families.

Consider Bronze Star recipient and double amputee Capt. William Lyles, who with his wife and children spoke about his horrific injury and how it has affected them. He lost both legs above the knee in Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device detonated nearby.

"This has been a life changing experience, but I would like to stay in the Army if I can," Lyles said. "Although I realize things are different now, and I am prepared to accept what the future holds for me and my family. If Army is part of it, I accept that, but if not, I accept that as well."

This, then, is the voice of the true hero. He does his job without fanfare, accepts the consequences and remains resilient and faithful to the nation that he serves.

### ON SCHEDULE



Heavy equipment chugs around inside the gutted Alatex Building on a recent afternoon as workers from Peter Brown Construction bury mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems in the ground before a new floor slab is poured over them. The 1930s Crestview landmark is being refurbished into the Florida A&M University Rural Diversity Healthcare Center. Construction is on schedule, project managers said, aiming to admit the first pharmacy students in August 2012.

BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

# A message of hope

By Mike Chesser

Special to  
the News Bulletin

This is my New

Year's message.

The first part

comes from a

story about a

preacher's yard.

He owned a house

for years, preached well,

but never turned a hand

in his yard or worked

on his house. The place

became embarrassing to

the neighbors.

One day, the preacher went on to a bigger church and the place was sold to a young family that immediately set to work renovating it.

After months and

months of work, it was

beautiful, a showplace for

the community. One of

the neighbors stopped to

say how proud he must

be that God had made his

home so wonderful.

The young man said, "Yes, but

you should have seen the

place when God owned it

by Himself!"

We all have a duty to be good stewards of our property while we own it.

You can pray for a better market. But good things happen to those who work while they pray.

The second half of my

hope for the New Year

comes from the frog

story. You know the one

about a frog that plops

down in a cool pan of

water, without knowing

someone has just turned

the fire on under the

pan. The frog gets slowly

uncomfortable until he boils, without even

knowing what changed.

Some of us are doing

that with real estate.

Your property is overburdened

with debt, but you

manage, for now. If you're following rule number one above, something good may happen. But don't wait for a sign to come down from the sky that says,

"Now you must act." I predict that won't happen.

Ask yourself, what do I want my real estate ownership to be in five years? Then act! Act now. Plan for 5 years out, but act now. There's no benefit in keeping these matters a secret, and there's professional help available through lawyers

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1150 - Persons  
1160 - Lost  
1170 - Found



Legal # 1026381

IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF THE  
1ST JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR  
OKALOOSA COUNTY,  
FLORIDA  
CIVIL DIVISION:  
CASE NO.: 2009 CA  
000558

FEDERAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION,  
Plaintiff  
VS.

COURTNEY M. LEWIS;  
MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INCORPORATED, AS A NOMINEE FOR COUNTRYWIDE BANK NA; THE FLORIDA CLUB AT BLUE WATER BAY CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.; IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.  
Defendants.

RE-NOTICE OF FORE-CLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Resetting Foreclosure Sale dated the

**www.crestviewbulletin.com**

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5 day of Dec., 2011, and entered in Case No. 2009 CA 000558, of the Circuit Court of the 1ST Judicial Circuit in and for Okaloosa County, Florida, FEDERAL NATION MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION is the Plaintiff and COURTNEY M. LEWIS, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INCORPORATED, AS A NOMINEE FOR COUNTRYWIDE BANK, N.A. and THE FLORIDA CLUB AT BLUEWATER BAY CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC. IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. The Clerk of this Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash electronically at [www.okaloosa.realeforeclose.com](http://www.okaloosa.realeforeclose.com) at 11:00 AM on the 18 day of Jan., 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

**CONDONIUM UNIT 329, FLORIDA CLUB AT BLUE WATER BAY CONDOMINIUM, A CONDOMINIUM, TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED INTEREST IN THE COMMON ELEMENTS, ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM THEREOF RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORD BOOK 2664, PAGE 60, AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Sheila Sims, Chief Deputy Court Administrator, Office of Court Administration at (850) 595-4400 at the M.C. Blanchard Judicial Building, 190 Governmental Center, 5th Floor, Pensacola, FL 32502 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Dated this 6 day of Dec., 2011.

DON W. HOWARD  
Clerk Of The Circuit Court

By: K Brown  
Deputy Clerk

Law Offices of Marshall C. Watson, PA.  
1800 NW 49th Street,  
Suite 120  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309  
Telephone: (954) 453-0365  
Facsimile: (954) 771-6052  
Toll Free: 1-800-441-2438  
12/17/11  
12/24/11

Legal # 130522

**OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLD CONVERSION**

REQUEST FOR BIDS ON HOLIDAY ISLE/OKALOOSA ISLAND PROPERTY

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Board of County Commissioners of Okaloosa County, Florida will open sealed Bids on the 5th day of January, 2012, at 10:00 AM, Room 204, 302 N. Wilson Street, Okaloosa County Courthouse Extension, Crestview, FL 32536, From:

Jimmy D. Stuart and wife, Carole M. Stuart  
Unit No. 516, The Islander, Phase II, a Condominium according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof as recorded in Official

**LEGAL ADVERTISING****1100**

Records Book 1170, Page 1827, amended in Official Records Book 1170, Page 1987, Official Records Book 1239, Page 554 and Official Records Book 2913, Page 2495, of the Public Records of Okaloosa County, Florida, together with an undivided interest in the common elements if any, appurtenant thereto, subject to and in accordance with the covenants, conditions, restrictions, terms and other provisions of said Declaration

**Guy Tadlock and Aliee Tadlock**  
Lot 108, Block F, Holiday Isle, Residential Section No. 5, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 39, of the Public Records of Okaloosa County, Florida.

**Cary S. Wiggins as personal representative of the Estate of Cieille Lord Osborn**

Apartment No. 556, El Matador, a Condominium, according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof, as recorded in Official Records Book 616, Page 245 through 274, and all amendments thereto, of the Public Records of Okaloosa County, Florida, together with an undivided interest in the common elements appurtenant thereto.

**DVS World Properties, LLC**

Condominium Parcel: Apartment No. 519-A, of Jetty East, Unit 1, a condominium, according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof, as recorded in Official Records Book 826, Page 878, of the Public Records of Okaloosa County, Florida, on the 19th day of December, A.D., 1975, together with all of its appurtenances according to said Declaration of Condominium.

**Bryan P. Smith and Pamela M. Smith**

Unit C-3 Clipper Cove Subdivision, a Subdivision according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 82, of the Public Records of Okaloosa County, Florida.

**Banktrust, An Alabama Banking Corporation, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Jerry W. Dunn**

Unit No. 2- NO, Island Echos Condominium, a condominium according to the Declaration of Condominium recorded in Official Records Book 770, Page 907, as amended by Declaration of Condominium recorded in Official Records Book 770, Page 907, as amended by Declaration of Condominium recorded in Official Records Book 772, Page 962 of the Public Records of Okaloosa County, Florida.

**NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.**

**Leonard's Antiques**

Unit C-3 Clipper Cove Subdivision, a Subdivision according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 82, of the Public Records of Okaloosa County, Florida.

**Banktrust, An Alabama Banking Corporation, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Jerry W. Dunn**

Unit No. 3- NO, Island Echos Condominium, a condominium according to the Declaration of Condominium recorded in Official Records Book 770, Page 907, as amended by Declaration of Condominium recorded in Official Records Book 772, Page 962 of the Public Records of Okaloosa County, Florida.

**Connie Duncan, a life estate and Marguerite Spruill remainder interest**

Lot 29, Block 2, Santa Rosa Island according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 84-A of the Public Records of Okaloosa County, Florida.

**Bid Forms may be procured from Surety Land Title of Florida, LLC, 4100 S. Ferdon Blvd, Crestview, FL 32536 ([twiliox@suretyland.com](http://twiliox@suretyland.com))**

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive minor irregularities in the proposals submitted.

**OKALOOSA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

by: James Campbell Chairman

12/17/11

12/24/11

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Legal # 130516  
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION** File No 11-CP-1168 Division

**IN RE: ESTATE OF BETTE D. SCHWAB Deceased.**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of Bette D. Schwab, deceased, whose date of death was October 30, 2011, is pending in the Circuit Court for Okaloosa County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 101 E James Lee Blvd., Crestview, FL 32536. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court **WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.**

**WARNING:** Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

Dated: 12-14-11

**CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

**NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE; ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.**

The date of first publication of this notice is December 17, 2011.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Judy Karniewicz, Esq.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Florida Bar Number: 694185

1406 W. Fletcher Ave.

Tampa, FL 33612

Telephone: (813) 962-0747

Fax: (813) 962-0741

E-Mail: [jkarniewicz@tklg.net](mailto:jkarniewicz@tklg.net)

**BENEFICIAL FLORIDA INC, Plaintiff,**

**VS.**

**WALLACE F. HAMMOND JR., et al, Defendants(s).**

**NOTICE OF FORE-CLOSURE SALE**

Personal Representative: John C Schwab

408 Green Oak Lane

Niceville, FL 32578

12/17/11

12/24/11

**Legal # 130537**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**CASE NO.: 46-2010-CA-000088 DIVISION:**

WALTER B. STINSON, Petitioner,

And

ALIA EDITH GARCIA, Respondent.

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE**

TO: Alia Edith Garcia

919 Edith Boulevard, SE

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

**YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that an action has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Walter B. Stinson, whose ad-

dress is c/o Southern Star Immigration, P.O. Box 184 Eglin Parkway, NE, Suite 7, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548 on or before January 25, 2012, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at

any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale.

**WITNESS MY HAND** and the seal of this Court on 11-30, 2011.

Don W. Howard

Clerk of the Circuit Court

12/17/11

12/24/11

**LEGAL ADVERTISING**

**1100**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION** File No 11-CP-1168 Division

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION** File No 11-CP-1168 Division

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# SPORTS

Saturday, December 24, 2011

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## GATOR PRIDE

### Baker celebrates fall athletics successes

By Randy Dickson  
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**BAKER** — Thursday, Dec. 15, was a night to celebrate the accomplishments of the fall middle school and high school athletic teams at Baker.

The awards night was the first time all the teams from a particular season have come together for recognition at the same time.

Baker School Principal Tom Shipp said several people had input in the decision to bring all the fall teams together and that the school will do it again at the end of the winter and spring.

"It was kind of a joint decision," Shipp said. "We talked about it during the summer, and we talked about the different ways we could do it."

"We just felt like doing it by season would just give us an opportunity to talk about each student."

The Gator football team was recognized for a strong 7-3 season. Dylan Scott was honored for his cross-country performance that helped him win the District 1-1A championship, finish second in the region and 29th in the state.

But it was the volleyball team, fresh off a state runner-up season, that grabbed the spotlight.

Coach Tomikko Parks was recognized as being the All Sports Association/Northwest Florida Daily News Small School Coach of the Year. Laurie Steele was honored for bringing home the Player of the Year award, as were the rest of the Gators volleyball players that were named first or second team or honorable mention on the All-Area squad.

Steele was joined on the small school first team squad by Katie Wickery and Taylor Morgan. Alex Roy was selected for the second team and Haley Wagner, Jordan Linzy and Kathryn Quigg were named honorable mention.

Each member of the volleyball team was given a miniature replica of the team's state runner-up trophy, and the team got to share the love with the fans that supported them throughout the season one last time in 2011.

"I'm super proud of these girls," Parks said. "These girls have made this year fun for the entire community. The community got behind them and stayed behind them the entire season."

"They were behind them from the start, and they backed us the entire year. I am still super proud of them. I can't stop smiling about these girls."



Photos by RANDY DICKSON | News Bulletin

Senior members of the Gator football team look at the shadow boxes they received celebrating the 2011 football season. Below, senior football players Cory Harper, left, and Vada Moore, right, celebrate the evening with assistant football coach David Oglesby.



Parks said the success of the volleyball team was a tribute to the focus of the players and their single mindedness to work hard and accomplish their goals.

"Laurie Steele is a fine example in that she had a goal and her goal was to go to state and (accomplish) all these things," Parks said. "But she also wanted to be Player of the Year. She set out her senior season, and that was one of her goals, and at the end of the year she was rewarded with that accomplishment."

Matt Brunson, Baker's football coach and athletic director, praised the volleyball players for not only the way they conducted themselves on the court, but in the community and at the state tournament as well.

Turning to football, Brunson recognized the various statistical leaders on

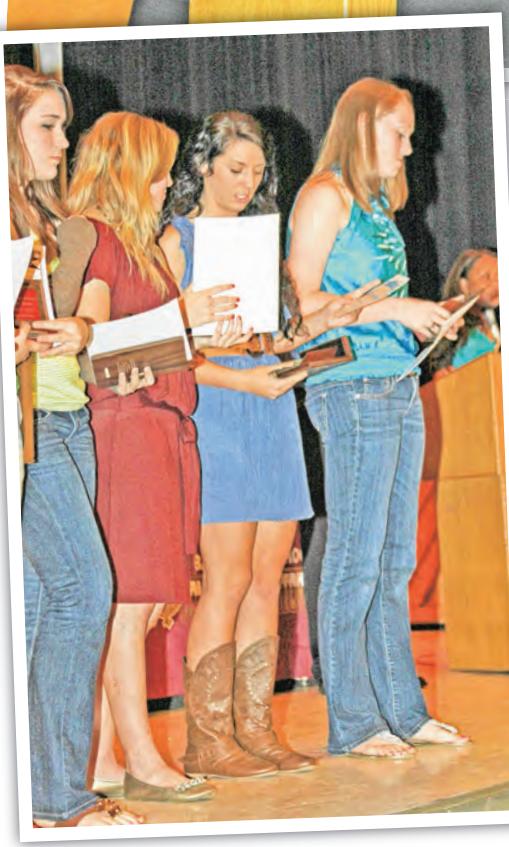
the team.

Each of the football seniors was given a shadow box commemorating their senior season as well as their white road jersey.

Brunson put on his athletic director hat when summarizing the many Gator fall successes.

"Our fall sports seasons were unbelievable," he said. "Dylan Scott did real well in cross country and won the district and advanced to state. Our girls were the state runner-up (in volleyball), and that is awesome any time you can make the state tournament."

"Our football team finished up 7-3, and I think these guys laid the ground work for success in the future and I'm excited about our athletics. There are just great kids at Baker to work with, and we are looking forward to a great future."



**From top,** Baker's Volleyball Player of the Year Laurie Steele receives a certificate from coach Jamie Kerrell during the Fall Sports Awards Night on Dec. 15. Baker football coach and athletic director Matt Brunson talks about some of the accomplishments of the 2011 Gator football team. Members of the Baker volleyball team look at their miniature replica trophies of the Class 1A state runner-up finish this year.

## Shelter House Luminaria Run results released

Special to the News Bulletin

**SANDESTIN** — Shelter House, the domestic violence center serving Okaloosa and Walton counties, presented its inaugural Luminaria Run to End Domestic Violence on Dec. 10.

The course was illuminated by more than 2,000 luminaries representing how Shelter House and its community partners light the way to a safer place for victims of domestic violence.

More than 260 runners turned out for the race, which included 5K and 9K courses winding throughout Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. The fastest male in the 9K race was Erich Lichtfuss of Fort Walton Beach with a time of 40:40.593. The top female on the 9K course was Anna Cothran of Santa Rosa Beach, clocking in at 44:39.308. The 5K was led by David Shearon of Panama City Beach, who came in at 19:09.533.

The fastest female in the 5K was Jennifer Talley of Niceville, finishing the run in 26:10.988.

"When we first announced this run, people asked why a 9K instead of the standard 10K," said Shelter House Executive Director Michelle Sperzel. "We wanted this event to not be a standard run or a standard fundraiser. It's about raising awareness, and the 9K distance serves as a reminder that a woman is assaulted or beaten every nine seconds in the U.S."

The twilight race brought in more than \$7,000 and was capped off with a post-race party at Sandestin's Baytowne Marina, featuring live entertainment provided by local favorite Cadillac Willy. Runners were kept warm with hot cocoa, apple cider, coffee, jambalaya, s'mores and more while the awards were presented.

Race sponsors for the event were Sandestin Golf and Beach



**Photos SPECIAL TO THE NEWS BULLETIN**  
The race course was lined with more than 2,000 luminary bags honoring those affected by domestic violence. At left: Some of the event's youngest runners, Eliza Scoper, Marlee Tobik and Olivia Scoper (left to right), were dressed in their holiday finest.

Resort, Silver Sands Factory Stores, 30A, Think it Wear it Express, Event Planner Beck England, Wagley Creative, Gold's Gym, San Gelato Café, Mrs. Fields, Kilwin's, Sysco, Publix and Pleat & Perry, P.A.

Because of the event's success, the second annual Luminaria Run to End Domestic Violence already has been scheduled for Dec. 8, 2012. For more information on the race or sponsorships, call Shelter House at 243-1201.