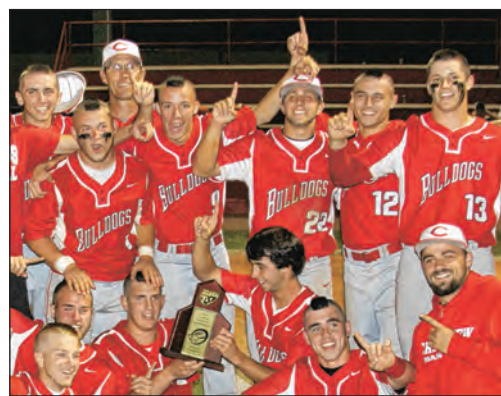


News Bulletin



MEET TULSA MOORE, SHOAL RIVER MIDDLE MULTI-TASKER, A4

Bulldogs baseball team wins District 2-6A title, A10



Saturday, APRIL 27, 2013

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38th Year, Number 34

50¢



SKILLS FOR LIFE

Jesse Dobbs, a Richbourg Exceptional Student Education School student, cleans a table at Uncle Bill's Family Restaurant.

BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin



BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

Downtown streets, which lack residences, typically are quiet after 5 p.m.

\$30K grant could boost downtown economy

Changes could allow residential zones

By BRIAN HUGHES
682-6524 | @cnbBrian
brianh@crestviewbulletin.com

tial units above most Main Street businesses remain vacant.

CRESTVIEW — As most downtown merchants can attest, there's one thing missing there after 5 p.m.: people.

Meanwhile, downtown residential opportunities could benefit students and staff at Florida A&M University's pharmacy school, growth management consultant Jack Dorman said.

However, if Crestview attracts a \$30,000 Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant from the state Department of Economic Development, empty nighttime sidewalks might echo with downtown residents' footsteps.

"It's our opinion — and this has been proven successfully — if you keep your first-level store fronts and businesses, but allow second- and third-floor residential uses, you then have a population base downtown that live there," he said.

The Crestview City Council at its Monday meeting unanimously approved submitting an application for the grant. The money would fund downtown rezoning, redrawing the city's comprehensive plan and creating a mixed commercial and residential Future Land Use district.

Downtown residents would drive up demand for services like dry cleaners, more restaurants, shopping and entertainment venues. The result could increase the city's tax base and provide more opportunities for all residents, Dorman said.

Currently, downtown residential properties are limited to single-dwelling units for commercial property owners or managers. Consequently, former residen-

tal units above most Main Street businesses remain vacant.

School-to-work program prepares ESE students for employment

By BRIAN HUGHES
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CRESTVIEW — A vocational preparatory class at Richbourg Exceptional Student Education School is preparing select high school students for post-graduation employment.

Tuesday at Uncle Bill's Family Restaurant, Jesse Dobbs scurried around the dining room busing and cleaning tables under the school-to-work program.

In the kitchen, Grace Stockton stacked dishes for cleaning; nearby, her classmate Jacob Luttrell helped restaurant staffer Jo Girona make coleslaw.

"The point of the program is to give students employable skills so they don't sit at home doing nothing when they can do something productive," Richbourg job coach Jeff Bowen said.

Students receive school credit as they learn on the job, Bowen said. Depending on ability, they



BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

Richbourg Exceptional Student Education School student Jacob Luttrell helps Jo Girona make coleslaw at Uncle Bill's Family Restaurant as owner Bill White, center rear, cooks.

may receive training in more involved tasks.

Richbourg students also gain basic work experience at the Crestview Wal-Mart, pick up range balls at Foxwood Country Club and work at Foster Families of America's downtown thrift store.

"Now that they have been here, they have work skills," Bowen said.

"That keeps the brain engaged. They have a good chance of getting hired."

Restaurant owner Bill White said he is glad to offer students an opportunity to learn work experience and is pleased with their performance.

"We know it's tough for kids like them to go out and find a job," he said.

DEDICATED GARDENERS

Garden Park dedicated after 3 decades

By BRIAN HUGHES
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CRESTVIEW — It took 31 years, but the triangular park at the south foot of Main Street has at last been dedicated to garden club members who created it and those who maintain it.

Garden Park, created in 1982 by the now disbanded Crestview Garden Club, was dedicated Thursday morning by city officials and Dogwood Garden Club members, who continue the park founders' efforts.

Event organizer Thea Duhaime presented the park's new red cedar sign, crafted by woodworker Bill Walton, a 1999 Crestview High School graduate, as a gift to the city and a way "to give back to the community," he said.

See GARDEN A5



BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

This red cedar Garden Park sign, crafted by Crestview High School alumnus Bill Walton, was officially presented during the Thursday morning park dedication ceremony.

The city's proposal for a \$30,000 Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant from the state Department of Economic Development involves these components:

- Create a zoning district and regulations tailored for downtown
- Create a Future Land Use category in the city's comprehensive plan to be imposed on the downtown district
- Prepare language to include a new vehicle and pedestrian circulation plan in the comprehensive plan.

The grant, if approved, expires May 31, 2014. Then, property owners can decide whether they want to put residential units in their buildings.

INSIDE

FORWARD!

A SPECIAL SECTION EXAMINING CRESTVIEW'S POTENTIAL

Forward tracks north county trends

Today's B section features Forward: A Special Section Examining Crestview's Potential, an unprecedented look at north Okaloosa County's strides in economy, health, education and recreation, areas crucial to our community's quality of life.

A shortened press run inadvertently prevented a significant number of households from receiving this special section in Wednesday's edition.

We regret the mishap, appreciate your patience and hope you enjoy the news and views in this eight-page special report.



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A Halifax Media paper read by 10,450 people every week



OCSO to take back drugs

By **MATTHEW BROWN**
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matthewb@crestviewbulletin.com

CRESTVIEW — Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office deputies stationed at Wal-Mart today will collect unwanted or unused medications, no questions asked. The OCSO and Drug Enforcement Agency's Drug Take Back aims to prevent drug abuse.

"We have had a great response to the organized events, which allow people to just drive up to the tent and get rid of the drugs," OCSO public information officer Michele Nicholson said in an email. "All the inventory is then destroyed per federal DEA guidelines."

Residents unable to at-

WANT TO GO?

The drug take-back runs 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the Crestview Wal-Mart.

tend Saturday's event can drop off medication from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the Judge Joe N. Livingston Jr. office on the corner of U.S. Highway 90 and State Road 85. Housebound residents can request an officer to collect unwanted prescription drugs.

Dropping off unused medication is officials' preferred method for disposal. Flushing it down a toilet or throwing it in the trash can present safety and health hazards, according to an OCSO news release.

Service set for Crestview man

FROM STAFF REPORTS

CRESTVIEW — The public is invited to celebrate the life of a man who died in a Tuesday head-on collision in Destin.

Visitation for Joseph "Joey" Tyrell, 23, is 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday. A celebration of life ceremony is 3 p.m. Monday at Brackney Funeral Service in Crestview.

Tyrell, of Crestview, and St. Petersburg resident James Bennett, 42, died

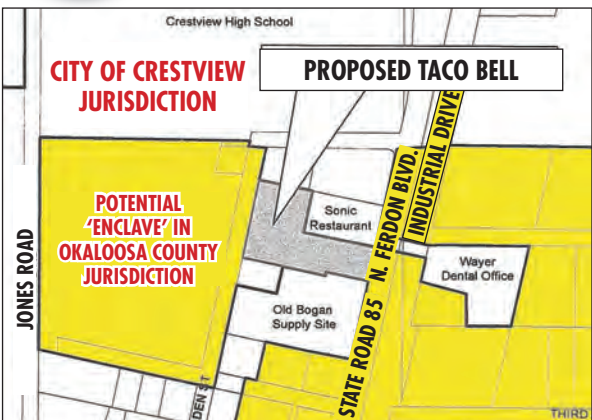
from a crash that occurred around 3 a.m. on U.S. Highway 98 and Danny Wuerffel Way. Traffic shut down for almost four hours.

Tyrell was driving westbound in a white Mazda at the time of the crash, according to Deputy Matt Christmas, who said there were no witnesses.

Tyrell's vehicle collided with the front end of Bennett's Chevrolet Blazer, according to the sheriff's office.



CITY GOVERNMENT



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS BULLETIN

This map shows how annexing the site of a planned Taco Bell near Crestview High School would surround county property (yellow) with city property.

Taco Bell, Dollar General plans require city annexation

By **BRIAN HUGHES**
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CRESTVIEW — North Crestview residents won't have to head too far south to "make a run for the border" if a Crestview City Council-approved Taco Bell opens as planned.

The council on Monday unanimously approved North Ferdon Development's request for out-of-city water and sewer service for the restaurant's planned location next door and south of the Sonic near Crestview High School.

Recently, a proposed Dollar General for the Roberts Trailer Park area — across U.S. Highway 90 from Valley Road — received the Local Planning Agency's approval for out-of-city water service.

Both projects must accept annexation into the city of Crestview to receive city water and sewer services. Owners have signed a Municipal Services Agreement with the city, guaranteeing they will annex with Crestview, according to city planner Eric Davis.

The city Technical Review Committee approved the restaurant's plans in October 2012, with a stipulation to address drainage concerns. The Garden Street area behind the proposed restaurant has flooded in severe rains.

The Local Planning Agency approved the project and forwarded it to the city council for final approval. There was no indication of when either project would be completed, nor how many jobs they would provide.

Crestview map gets comprehensive update

By **BRIAN HUGHES**
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FIND IT ONLINE

See **crestviewbulletin.com**, under News and Government, for the new city map.

CRESTVIEW — It took nine months and countless hours of research, but for the first time in 15 years, city officials and staff members can glance at a map and see Crestview's boundaries.

The City Council on Monday unanimously accepted the updated map and approved having future updates incorporated into the document within 30 days of approved changes, such as annexations.

Teresa Gaillard, the Administrative Services Department's mapping analyst and city planner, spearheaded the project to produce an accurate city map.

"She went back and researched all the ordinances and everything," City Clerk Betsy Roy said. "Now, going forward, she'll be able to update the map without going through the council. Now it can be updated whenever there's an annexation."

City attorney Jerry Miller expressed concern for the lack of an updated city map when he started his position

in spring 2012. On Monday, he called failure to update the old map a "ministerial deficiency."

"Knowing exactly where your city limits are and having them described in a uniform way is critical to so many jurisdictional issues," he said.

He called the previous map, which lacked updates on annexations, comprehensive plan amendments and rezoning, "an absolute heyday for any (legal) challenges."

From 2004 to 2010, the city has more than doubled in acreage, but updates to the previous map had not kept pace with the city's growth, Roy said.

Land surveyor Kermit George produced Crestview's last comprehensive map in 1998; it was sporadically but not comprehensively updated, Roy stated in an agenda brief.

Most city facility rental charges increase

By **BRIAN HUGHES**
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CRESTVIEW — City Clerk Betsy Roy has called a new city facilities rental fee schedule "simpler, easier and more fair across the board."

The fee schedule, which the city council unanimously approved April 22, delineates rental charges

for the Crestview Community Center, Warriors Hall in the Whitehurst Municipal Building and the Old Spanish Trail Park amphitheater.

Though the rental schedule was simplified, eliminating per-hour charges, most increased. For example, the Community Center rental period expanded to

See **RENTAL A5**

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BERNINA

Younger Girl Scouts plant butterfly garden at Riverside Elementary

By BRIAN HUGHES
682-6524 | @cnbBrian
brianh@crestviewbulletin.com

CRESTVIEW — An untended garden in the corner of Riverside Elementary School's playground sprouted Daisies Thursday afternoon: not flowers, but the youngest Girl Scouts.

Six- and 7-year-old girls of Troop 687 prepared a butterfly garden to commemorate children killed at Sandy

Hook Elementary School in Connecticut in December. Troop leader Tisha Davies said the conversation with the young girls was "very difficult," but the girls understood the Sandy Hook children were now in heaven, and wanted to do something to memorialize them in Crestview.

The girls, wielding rakes, hoes and shovels, were under the supervision of two dads, two moms and Joel Carden of Crestview landscaping company

7C's Services. Charlee Becker of the Crestview Kiwanis Club assisted them.

Kiwanis members donated a blue birdbath and an oval polished stone marker dedicating the butterfly garden to Sandy Hook victims. Carden donated mulch for the garden's flowers and shrubs.

Pitching in were Daisy Taylor Davies' twin older brothers, Alexander and Christopher, 7.

See **BUTTERFLY A5**



BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

From left, Daisy Girl Scouts of troop 687, Azlin Dowling, Taylor Davies and Shayla Douglass, assisted by Taylor's brother Alexander, weed their butterfly garden plot.

Four parks receive advisories for fecal matter

Special to the News Bulletin

FORT WALTON BEACH — Four parks may have potentially hazardous bathing water, The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County stated

this week. Garniers Park of Fort Walton Beach, Marler Park of Okaloosa Island, Henderson Beach of Destin and Rocky Bayou State Park of Niceville have received advisories

for enteric bacteria presence. This indicates fecal pollution, which may come from stormwater runoff, pets, wildlife and human sewage.

Current water quality ratings are below.

Site, Name, City	Enterococci Level	Water Quality
Liza Jackson Park, Fort Walton Beach	Pass	Good
Garniers Park, Fort Walton Beach	Fail	Poor
Marler Park, Okaloosa Island	Fail	Poor
Wayside Park, Okaloosa Island	Pass	Moderate
Poquito Park, Shalimar	Pass	Moderate
Gulf Islands National Seashore, Okaloosa Island	Pass	Moderate
East Pass, Okaloosa Island	Pass	Moderate
Lincoln Park, Valparaiso	Pass	Moderate
Henderson Beach, Destin	Fail	Poor
Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park, Niceville	Fail	Poor
James Lee Park, Destin	Pass	Moderate
Emerald Promenade, Okaloosa Island	Pass	Moderate
Clement E. Taylor Park, Destin	Pass	Moderate

Tax certificate sales workshops are available from May 1-22

Special to the News Bulletin

FORT WALTON BEACH — Okaloosa County Tax Collector's Office representatives next month will facilitate several workshops to inform potential bidders on the tax-certificate sales process.

Bidding opens May 10 and the sale ends June 1. Go to www.BidOkaloosa.com to see demonstrations, procedural information, links to public records and the Delinquent Tax advertising list. Bidders can pre-register and submit bids on the site before the event begins.

Winning bidders can earn anywhere from 5 to 18 percent interest. The average interest earned last year was 8.47 percent, tax collector Ben Anderson said.

Public advertisement of delinquent parcels is May 10, 17 and 24 in the Crestview News Bulletin. Ads also appear on the tax collector website. Copies are available

CRESTVIEW

May 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Crestview City Hall, 198 N. Wilson St.

May 16, 6-7:30 p.m.
Okaloosa County Tax Collector's Office, 302 N. Wilson St.

NICEVILLE

May 7, 6-7 p.m.
Okaloosa County Tax Collector's Office, 506 N. State Road 85

May 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Niceville City Hall, 208 N. Partin Drive.

FORT WALTON BEACH

May 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
City Hall, 107 Miracle Strip Parkway S.W., in council chambers

May 22, 6-7:30 p.m.
73 Eglin Parkway, Suite 111 in Uptown Station.

DESTIN

May 8, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
4100 Indian Bayou Trail,

in city council chambers
May 13, 6-7:30 p.m.
Okaloosa County Tax Collector's Office, 4012 Commons Drive W., Unit 122.

at all Okaloosa County Tax Collector Office locations.

Delinquent taxpayers have until 5 p.m. May 31 to pay on their account

or a certificate will be sold June 1. Acceptable payment forms are cash, a cashier's check, money order or a credit card.

Nonprofit competition seeks applicants

Special to the News Bulletin

CRESTVIEW — The Florida Minority Community Reinvestment Coalition and Let's Do Business Florida and Summit's Host Committee seek applications for the 2013 Florida Minority Nonprofit

of the Year Award. Florida-based nonprofit organizations that improve minority communities, disabled service members and other veterans' quality of life may apply at www.letsdobusinessflorida.com by May 31.

An independent judging panel will review applications. The committee will name the three highest-scored nonprofits on June 7. The top nonprofit will receive a 2013 Hyundai Sonata. The two runners up will win cash prizes.

Tax collectors celebrate Donate Life Month

Special to the News Bulletin

FORT WALTON BEACH — The Okaloosa County Tax Collector's Office has been supporting Donate Life Month by donning blue and green shirts each Friday and encouraging people to register as organ donors.

Visit www.DonateLifeFlorida.org to register or say

yes to donation when getting a driver license or identification card, if interested.

Seven million Floridians are organ, tissue and eye donors on Florida's Joshua Abbott Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. More than 117,000 men, women and children await a lifesaving organ transplant in the

United States. More than 4,600 needy patients are in Florida.

"Florida's registry is the second most populous in the country and, as a result, patients in need of life-saving transplants in Florida have shorter waiting times, on average," Ruth Bell, Donate Life Florida's chairwoman, said.

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Shoal River teacher takes on several tasks for school

By MATTHEW BROWN
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matthewb@crestviewbulletin.com

Editor's Note: This is the third in a series on north Okaloosa County Teachers of the Year.

CRESTVIEW — Tulsa Moore is quite a multi-tasker: She teaches computer-based curriculum at Shoal River Middle School and is the school's media specialist, the school's webmaster, and tackles other duties as needed.

"I do whatever the school needs me to," she said.

Moore spends one period in the school's media center, cataloging or orga-

nizing bookshelves. "What I enjoy the most is talking to students about books and helping them pick out a book they would enjoy," she said.

Moore teaches several levels of IT education.

"The way we divide our classes here is year one, year two and year three," she said. The first year is an introduction to computers. The second year helps students earn high school certifications in learning to use Microsoft programs like Word, Excel and PowerPoint. The third year involves web design, which students can use for high school credit.

Recently, Moore, an

Okaloosa County teacher since 1993, was named the school's Teacher of the Year.

"I would have been just as happy for any other teacher (if he or she won) because I know how hard everybody works," she said.

She previously earned the title in the 1998-99 school year, when she taught science at Richbourg Middle School.

"She is ultra professional," Principal Paul Whiddon said. "She is such a dynamic teacher."

Several students said they enjoy her class.

"She will work with students individually if they

need help," Isaac Suendermann, 13, said. "Overall, she is just very caring."

Hannah Nelson, 14, said she has found the IT classes to be beneficial.

"She has given me a lot more opportunities ... I have learned how to help people in the community with their computers and their electronics just by attending her class," Nelson said.

Sachit Sharma, 13, enjoyed Moore's class so much that he became her teacher's aide.

"Mrs. Moore is a wonderful teacher," Sharma said. "She does a wonderful job explaining to students what works best for them."



MATTHEW BROWN | News Bulletin

Tulsa Moore, who teaches computer-based curriculum at Shoal River Middle School, holds her Teacher of the Year award.



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS BULLETIN

Dr. Alberto Barbon of Crestview spars with an instructor during the Korean Martial Arts Festival on April 20 at Gordon Martial Arts.

Martial arts festival brings master instructors

By MATTHEW BROWN
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matthewb@crestviewbulletin.com

CRESTVIEW — Two martial arts students said recent seminars helped them improve their technique and inspired continued education in combat practices.

The Korean Martial Arts Festival on April 20 featured 21 master-level instructors from across the world who conducted seminars at Gordon Martial Arts.

"The more I attend these conferences or

festivals, the more I thirst for knowledge," said Crestview resident Dr. Alberto Barbon. Learning about various techniques, including forms, sparring and weapons training, reminded him "you can always improve on what you're doing," he said.

Crestview resident Angela Mobley agreed. She began practicing martial arts nine months ago following her children's participation in the program.

"It's something we can do together, it's exercise, it's learning something new," she said.

Northwood students celebrate Earth Day

Special to the News Bulletin

CRESTVIEW — Second-graders in Ashley Jefferson's class at Northwood Elementary School celebrated Earth Day by painting a picture of the planet and posting it outside their classroom.

Additionally, they submitted the following ideas on how to care for the planet:

- Don't litter. Pick up trash.
- Recycle and use reusable products.
- Turn off electronics when they are not in use.
- Don't leave the faucet on when you brush your teeth.
- Use a fan instead of an air conditioner.
- Use sponges or cloths to clean up a spill.
- Use a whole piece of paper before throwing it away.
- Ride a skateboard or bike.
- Walk instead of driving or taking the bus.



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS BULLETIN

Ashley Jefferson's second-grade class participated in an Earth Day program April 22 at Northwood Elementary School.

Antioch class recognized as a Book It! Top 100 Reading Classroom

Special to the News Bulletin

CRESTVIEW — Kelli Correa's fifth-grade classroom at Antioch Elementary School read for 114,520 minutes, a little more than 1,908 hours, during Pizza Hut's Book It! program. Ranked 70th in the country, Correa's Cougars earned a Top 100 Award and a Pizza Hut gift card.

During the six-month program, thousands of teachers and classrooms

across the nation tracked their reading progress with the Book It! Minute Tracker, an interactive online tool.

The Book It! Program wrapped up its 28th year with more than 14 million students in 680,000 classrooms throughout the country participating.

The first-place team in Matthews, N.C., cumulatively read 345,680 minutes, more than 5,761 hours to earn the top reading place.

TO THE MOON



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS BULLETIN

Benjamin Bailey works on his moon project.

Northwood Elementary class learns about moon phases

Special to the News Bulletin

CRESTVIEW — Ashley Hewett's class at Northwood Elementary School on April 19 made

Phases of the Moon posters using Oreo cookies. Students used Google Earth's imaging service to visit the moon virtually.

CRESTVIEW

News Bulletin

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ARRESTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Crestview Police Department and Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provided the following crime reports for publication.

Crestview

April 10
• John Travis Hart, 40, at large: criminal mischief totaling \$200 to \$1,000.
April 11
• Tyler Westly Apelskog, 19, Crestview: violence injunction violation.

April 12
• Kristopher Jay Bundy, 18, at large: drug paraphernalia.
April 13
• Megan Sherre Halford, 36, Crestview: retail theft.
April 14
• Michael Tirrell White, 29, Crestview: aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, battery and firearm possession by a convicted felon.
• Jonathan Ersel Mullins, 31, Crestview: battery.
April 17
• Kevin Ray Coupland,

30, Crestview: battery.
• Caleb Christian Gundlach, 23, Gulfport, Miss.: marijuana possession.
Okaloosa County
April 16
• Eric Chris Chatman, 24, Pensacola: out-of-county warrant.
• Candice Jade Palmer, 24, Crestview: habitual driving while license suspended or revoked.
• Fallon Selina Scanlan, 29, New York: out-of-county warrant.

April 17
• Merlyn Carl Fenter, 55, Baker: driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
• Richard Earl King, 18, Crestview: obstruction without violence, cocaine possession with intent to sell, manufacture or deliver.
• Gregory Lyvon Miller, 37, Crestview: out-of-county warrant.
• Lawrence Christopher Welsh, 36, Crestview: out-of-county warrant.
April 18
• Jessica Carol Booker,

28, Wing, Ala.: out-of-county warrant.
• David Anthony Fiducia, 45, Crestview: out-of-county warrant.
April 19
• Steven Euel Browning, 38, Laurel Hill: battery.
• Randall Dwight Johnson, 42, Baker: battery.
• Daryn Dean Russell, 30, Fort Walton Beach: out-of-county warrant.
• Rhonda Lee Worley, 42, Laurel Hill: driving under the influence.
April 20
• Justin Lee Kelley, 28, Baker: driving while

license suspended or revoked.
• Leonardo Francis Morgan, 28, Fort Walton Beach: out-of-county warrant.
April 21
• Zackary Lee Childree, 24, Crestview: attaching license plate not assigned.
• Joseph Kenneth Molbert, 43, Baker: drug equipment and marijuana possession.
April 22
• Riley Leon-Eugene Lunsford, 25, Crestview: battery and battery by strangulation.

BUTTERFLY from page A3

The girls took their work seriously. Azlin Dowling periodically proudly displayed a clump of weeds she'd pulled up, while Shuntay Douglass needed the playground fence's support to get a good jump onto her shovel to dig in around a weed. James Keller dutifully brushed off a stepping-stone on which he'd inadvertently flicked dirt. He also will build and donate a cypress butterfly house for the garden. Riverside Principal Marline Van Dyke and Assistant Principal Kelli Sanders stopped by to observe the progress. "It's beautiful!" Van Dyke said. "We love it."

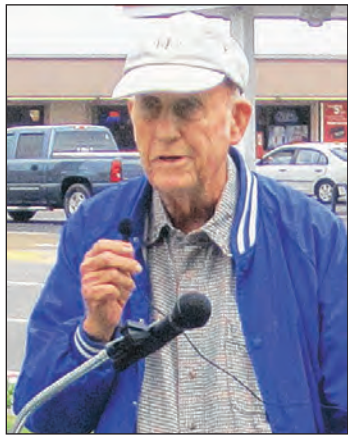


BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

The Crestview Kiwanis club donated this memorial marker for Riverside Elementary School's butterfly garden.

GARDEN from page A1

The club recognized retired forester John McMahon, founder of the city's McMahon Environmental Center, as a Viva Florida 500 "Noteworthy Person" and for "encouraging people to recognize the value of our environment," Dogwood president Sarah Petty said. "Even here in this beautiful place, we see the contrast with nature and the risk of pollution," McMahon said, indicating passing State Road 85 traffic. The Dogwood Garden Club will maintain Garden Park in conjunction with the city Public Works Department. It plans to work with city staffers on a master plan for the park. "Our hope is that residents and visitors to our city will discover the park as a place to have their lunch, a cup of coffee or just sit and watch the day for awhile," Duhaime said.



JOHN MCMAHON

NEW CITY FACILITY RENTAL FEES

The Crestview City Council's newly adopted fees are effective May 1. Rental applications are available at the city clerk's office in city hall. **Deposits:** \$100 per regular rental; \$200 for events at which alcohol is served. Only non-profit organizations may serve alcohol.

	0-4 hours	4-8 hours	8+ hours	2 days
Community Center				
No food	\$200	\$300	\$400	\$500
With food	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$600
Warriors Hall	\$100	\$200	\$300	\$400
Old Spanish Trail Amphitheater	\$75	\$150	\$200	\$300

RENTAL from page A2

four hours at \$200 per event without food, as opposed to the previous fee of \$100 for two hours and \$20 per additional hour. As under the previous schedule, rentals for events at which food is served are slightly higher, with the Community Center now renting for \$300 for four hours. Only catered food can be served at Warriors Hall, which lacks a kitchen. Refundable deposits on all three facilities were standardized to \$100 or \$200 for events at which alcohol is served. Only nonprofit organizations may sell alcohol on city property.

Correction to Finest Tab from Sunday, April 21, 2013 2013 Finest Automotive Aftermarket Services Restylers Aftermarket Specialist

Restylers is Fort Walton Beach's premier supplier of accessories from bed covers to lighting products. Since 2004, we have been providing our customers with the best in upgrade accessories and professional services. Restylers has been ranked as a Top 35 Rhino Linings Dealer in the US for 3 years straight. If you are in the market to upgrade your car or truck with high quality aftermarket accessories, Restylers is the place!



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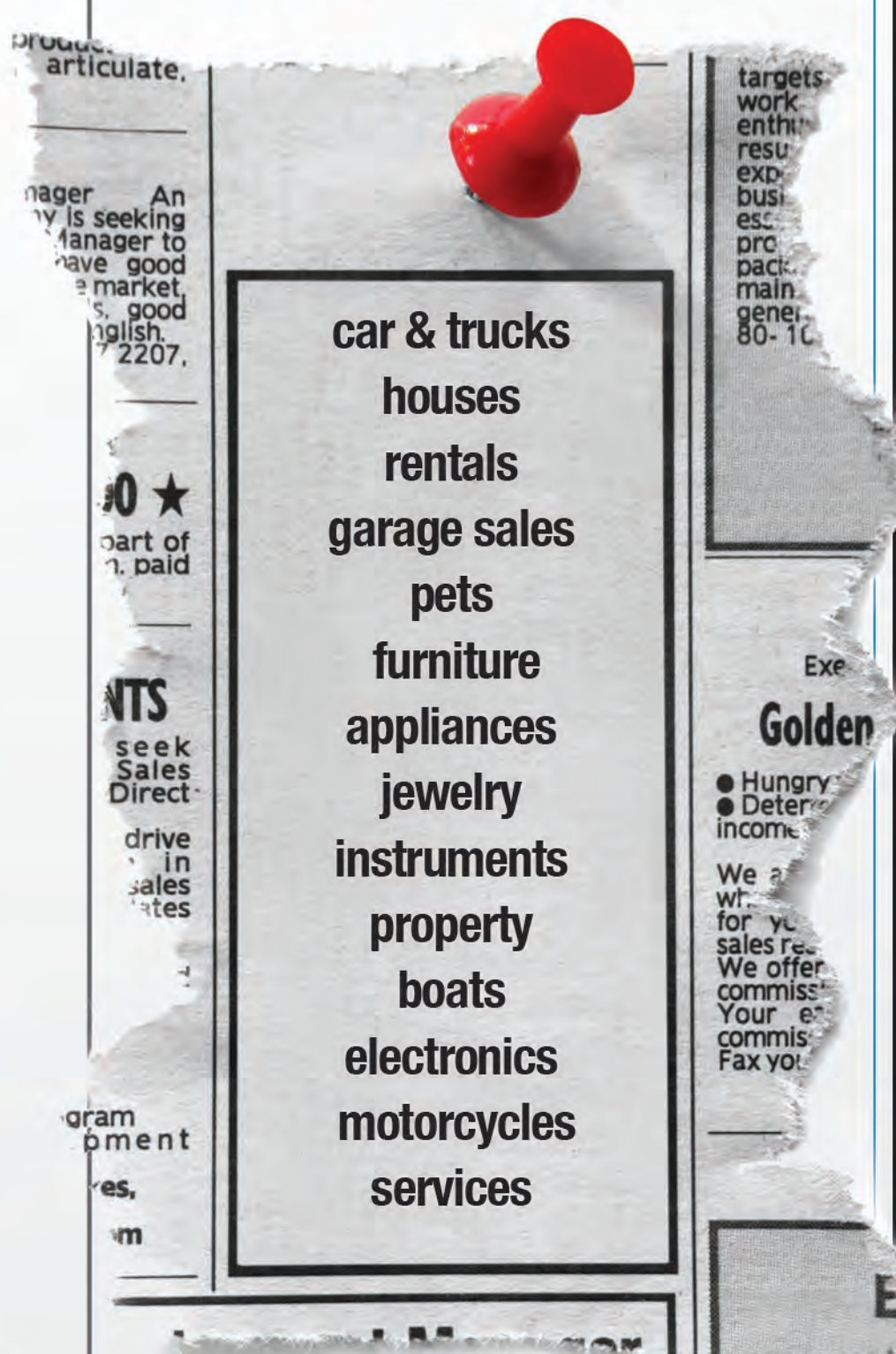
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Legal # 160884

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING THE RESIDENTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO VOICE THEIR OPINION ON THE ANNUAL UPDATE TO THE FIVE-YEAR AGENCY PLAN FOR THE CRESTVIEW

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HOUSING AUTHORITY.

THE HEARING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2013, AT 4:00PM, IN THE BOARD ROOM AT THE MAIN OFFICE LOCATED AT 371 WEST HICKORY AVENUE, CRESTVIEW, FL 32536.

JUDY M. ADAMS
Executive Director

03/16/2013, 03/23/2013
03/30/2013, 04/06/2013
04/13/2013, 04/20/2013
04/27/2013, 05/04/2013

Legal # 160944

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

Case No. 2013 DR 000998 F
Division:

Steve Michael Eley,

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

Petitioner,

and

Larrie Lashon Eley,
Respondent.

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

TO: Larrie Lashon Eley
314 Sidewinder Loop
Crestview, FL 32536

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Dissolution has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Steve Michael Eley, whose address is 115 Airforce Street Apt B Fort Walton Beach FL 32547 on or before May 15, 2013, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 1940 Lewis Turner Blvd, FWB, FL 32547 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail

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to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Notice of Current Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain

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automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

Dated: 4-3-13

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: Diane Watkins
Deputy Clerk

04/06, 13, 20, 27/2013
Legal # 160971

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

CASE NO.: 2008 CA 002470

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.
Plaintiff,
vs. SABRINA KROFT, et al.,

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment entered in Case No. 2008 CA 002470 of the Circuit Court of the First Judicial Circuit in and for OKALOOSA County, Florida, wherein, BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff, and, SABRINA KROFT, et al., are Defendants. The Clerk will sell to the highest bidder for cash online at www.okaloosa.realforeclose.com at the hour of 11:00AM, on the 3rd day of May, 2013, the following described property:

LOT 6, FOXWORTH ESTATES PHASE ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF ON FILE IN BOOK 11,

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

PAGE 83, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT, 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.

DATED this 18 day of March, 2013.

DON HOWARD
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: Tiffany Gardner
Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a court proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance.

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Please contact: Court Administration, ADA Liaison, Okaloosa County, 1940 Lewis Turner Boulevard, Fort Walton Beach Florida 32547, Phone (850) 609-4700, Fax (850) 652-7725, ADA.Okaloosa@flcourts.gov.

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.

MORALES LAW GROUP, P.A., 14750 NW 77th Court, Suite 303, Miami Lakes, FL 33016

04/20/2013
04/27/2013

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

Legal # 160999

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 13 DR 001505 C

IN THE MATTER OF: LONDON LEE KING

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION

TO: Candi N. Drake
Crestview, Florida

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for temporary custody, has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on Lesa A Straw, whose Address is 198 Woodlawn Drive, Crestview, FL 32536, on or before May 16, 2013, and file the original with the clerk of this court at Okaloosa County Courthouse,

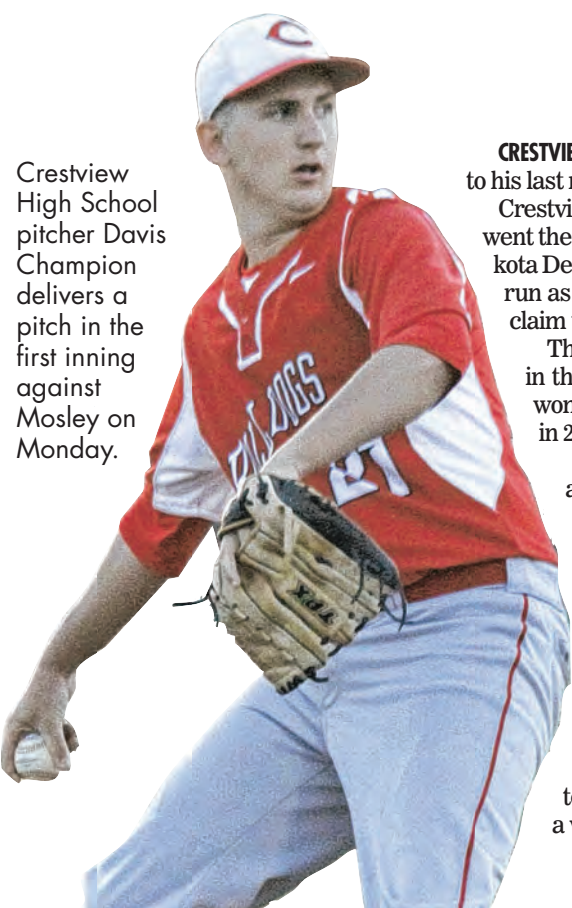
Heart of a 'Champion'



PHOTOS BY RANDY DICKSON | News Bulletin

Crestview High School's baseball team celebrates the District 2-6A championship Thursday night.

Bulldogs take second district title in 3 years



Crestview High School pitcher Davis Champion delivers a pitch in the first inning against Mosley on Monday.

By RANDY DICKSON
682-6524 | @BigRandle
randyd@crestviewbulletin.com

CRESTVIEW — Davis Champion lived up to his last name Thursday night. Crestview High School's senior pitcher went the distance on the mound, and Dakota Dean had a pair of hits and scored a run as the Bulldogs beat Mosley 3-2 to claim the District 2-6A baseball title.

The district title was the second in three years for the Bulldogs, who won the District 2-5A championship in 2011.

Crestview (21-5) will host Tate at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Class 6A region quarterfinals.

"It feels great to get our second championship in three years," Dean said, "especially since I'm a senior."

Champion earned the win the hard way, scattering 11 Dolphin hits to go along with just four strikeouts. But Champion made Mosley batters work to reach base, as he didn't allow a walk.

"This is the greatest feeling

ever," Champion said. "I was ready for it. I was ready to take the ball. This was four years in the making."

"This team has just bonded completely together. It's the greatest team out there now."

Crestview coach Tim Gillis couldn't say enough good things about of Champion's effort.

"He was just awesome," Gillis said. "Every pitch was working for him. I can't say enough for the way he stepped up and got the job done."

The Bulldog defense helped the cause with a pair of double plays. Crestview also came up with a big play at the plate in the second inning when Mosley's Connor Green was thrown out trying to score from second base on a base hit by Jordan Larry.

Bulldog right fielder Justin Rebolz made a perfect throw to cutoff man Seth Thomason. Thomason then fired a strike to catcher Austin Armstrong for the out.

The Dolphins (24-3), the state's No. 1 Class 6A team, looked as if they were going to make short work of things with four-consecutive one-out hits in the first inning. But Mosley got one run out of the threat, as the inning ended on the first double play.

The Bulldogs tied things up in the third inning as Dean tripled and scored on a passed ball.

Mosley strung together three more hits good for another run in the bottom of the fourth inning, but another double play snuffed out the threat.

Crestview got back-to-back doubles from Tate Sweatt and Roman Donofro to lead off the fifth inning and tie the game up. A two-out single by Corey Armstrong scored Donofro with the game-winning run.

Mosley had a runner in scoring position in the sixth and seventh innings, but Champion and the Bulldogs wouldn't be denied as they kept the Dolphins off the scoreboard to claim the win.

"We won a big game on Tuesday night (beating Niceville in the semifinals) and these kids didn't get satisfied," Gillis said. "It's going to be a tough row to hoe (in the playoffs). We are just happy to be in it, and we are going to give our best effort every day."

"We've got a lot of real good players on this team. I tell them we don't have to be great every night, we just have to be good enough. Tonight, we hung in there and we are very fortunate to get a win."

Donofro, Sweatt lead Bulldogs to semifinal win

By RANDY DICKSON
682-6524 | @BigRandle
randyd@crestviewbulletin.com

CRESTVIEW — Roman Donofro supplied the pitching and Tate Sweatt brought the power Tuesday as Crestview High School's baseball team faced Niceville in the District 2-6A tournament semifinals.

Donofro went the distance on the mound, throwing a five-hit shutout and striking out 11 Eagle batters. Sweatt had a pair of two-run doubles as the Bulldogs rolled to a 6-0 win, earning a spot in the state playoffs.

"What a game," Bulldog coach Tim Gillis said. "We battled all night. Roman was absolutely outstanding."

"Tate Sweatt had some huge hits with four RBIs. And again, we had contributions from everyone in the lineup."

The game's first three innings provided a pitching battle between Donofro and Niceville starter Nick Junger.

Donofro limited the Eagles (19-5) to two hits and a pair of walks through the first three frames.

Junger was slightly better through three as he gave up just one walk and one hit.

Niceville threatened in the third inning when Andrew Engle led with a single and Donofro walked

the next batter, Tyler Kinard.

The momentum swung Crestview's way when Donofro struck out Elliot Cary for the inning's first out. It compounded when Bulldog catcher Austin Armstrong threw Engle out trying to steal third for the inning's second out.

Crestview, the tournament's No. 3 seed, rode the momentum into the top of the fourth inning.

Seth Thomason and Armstrong led off the fourth by drawing back-to-back walks from Junger. Justin Rebolz, the inning's third Bulldog batter, dropped down a perfect bunt for a base hit to load the bases.

A Junger wild pitch allowed Thomason to score. Sweatt then drove a Junger fastball into right-center field to score Drew Graham, who ran for Armstrong, and Rebolz.

The Bulldogs (20-5) put the game out of reach with three more runs in the fifth.

Tyler Henderson led off the inning with a single. Corey Armstrong was next and drew a walk. Thomason took a two-strike pitch from Junger to right field, scoring Henderson.

Sweatt doubled down the third base line with two out to score Corey Armstrong and Thomason for a pair of insurance runs.

Sweatt said it was probably the best game of his high school career

at the plate.

After drilling a fastball for his first double, he turned on a Junger curveball for his second double.

Donofro struck out the side in the Niceville fifth inning. The Eagles threatened in the sixth inning as they loaded the bases on a pair of walks and a base hit. Donofro got out of the jam by striking out pinch hitter Zack Shield.

Engle walked to lead off the Niceville seventh, but three fly ball outs to the outfield sealed the Bulldogs' win.

"It feels better than any other feeling I've ever had," Donofro said. "This was our goal (to make the playoffs) from the beginning (of the season). We knew we had a chance this year and we are getting it done."

"There really are no words for how it feels to beat Niceville three times in the same season. When they beat us in the preseason, I had no clue what was going to be in store for us."

Sweatt, like Donofro, struggled to find the words to describe what the win meant to him.

"It's real big." "I've been thinking about it for weeks now and I've been praying about it. It just feels real good."

Rebolz topped the Bulldogs with three hits. Sweatt and Henderson each had two hits.



NICK TOMECEK | Daily News

Crestview High School's Roman Donofro pitches against Niceville on Tuesday.

Hospital eyeing innovations to meet patients' needs
B3



Military presence affects student population
B4



City leaders considering additional amenities
B5

FORWARD!

A SPECIAL SECTION EXAMINING CRESTVIEW'S POTENTIAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2013

"In the last several months, I've talked to several members who say, 'I've gotten too busy. I'm working seven days a week, and I have to start hiring somebody.' That's an encouraging thing that we're hearing."

Alan Baggett

executive vice president, Building Industry Association for Okaloosa and Walton Counties

Employment on the rise

Defense, hospitality remain region's main employers

By BRIAN HUGHES

682-6524 | @cnbBrian
brianh@crestviewbulletin.com

CRESTVIEW — Just as the regional military presence sheltered north Okaloosa County's real estate market during the recent recession, it also helped keep unemployment below the national average.

In February, the last month with available data, Okaloosa County had a 5.5 percent unemployment rate. That was down a half-percent from January and almost 1.5 percent from February 2012's 6.9 percent.

The county surpassed the February 7.5 percent statewide unemployment rate and the national 8.1 percent, said Linda Sumblin, Workforce Development Board's executive director.

"We're optimistic," she said. "We have the luxury of having one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state at this time."

Only Monroe County, with 4.2 percent unemployment for February, had a lower rate, according to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

SEQUESTRATION STILL A THREAT

A potential impediment to continued growth is sequestration, Sumblin said. However, the Department of Defense has lowered the number of possible furlough days for civilian employees, she said.

A senior department official speaking on background said more than 700,000 officials next month will receive notices of their 10 unpaid leave days expected in mid- to late June, according to the American Forces Press Service.

Though sequestration won't apply to active-duty military members, it will affect civilian workers, including those employed in defense contractors' companies.

"We're working with the defense contractors about how that's going to affect us," Sumblin said. "Right now, we haven't heard much from them, which we're ecstatic about."

See **EMPLOYMENT B6**

Military brings \$5.2 billion to county yearly

By BRIAN HUGHES
682-6524 | @cnbBrian
brianh@crestviewbulletin.com

CRESTVIEW — The Air Force and Army's Northwest Florida presence has been an economic generator for Crestview and surrounding communities.

The University of West Florida's Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development estimates the average earnings per military-related job is \$87,300, and the annual military economic impact to Okaloosa County is \$5.2 billion with more than 58,800 local jobs.

In Northwest Florida, military workers generate more than \$4 billion in annual sales activity and consume \$3.3 billion in goods. Defense annually brings capital investment of \$495 million, according to a 2012 report from the Association of Defense Communities.

The influx of an estimated 6,000 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) troops and airmen of the Eglin 33rd Fighter Wing, support staff and family members helped shield Crestview and its housing market from the recent recession. (See "Military presence helps spare housing market from recession," below.)

ARMAMENT DEVELOPMENT

Armament development, including creating the 2002 Massive Ordnance Air Burst bomb, commonly known as the "moth-



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

Crestview resident Louis Becker points out a detail on a drone aircraft to his wife, Lola, during the 7th Special Forces Group open house in October 2011. Below, the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) headquarters building on the group's cantonment, is viewed from the parade ground.

er of all bombs," remains an integral part of Eglin Air Force Base's mission.

Eglin test support personnel, mostly civilian employees, run and analyze weapons trials by the U.S. Air Force and allied nations. Foreign allies routinely rotate in and out of Eglin for training on the F-35 fighter jet.

Almost half the Department of Defense's spending in the state occurs in Northwest Florida, according to the Okaloosa County Economic Development Council.

Even with civilian

employee furloughs, which the Department of Defense said won't be as severe as anticipated, the average military salary is almost double the state average, the EDC said.

MILITARY AND MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP

With the Eglin reservation comprising almost half the county and the base's Military Influence Planning Area taking up almost two-thirds of the remaining half, community leaders mindful of the military's economic contribution are careful to not infringe on its missions.

See **MILITARY B7**

HISTORY LESSON: MILITARY IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA

The north county's eight-decade involvement with the military dates back to the 1930s and a Depression-era project that employed local workers to service Pensacola Naval Air Station planes landing in Crestview.

The aircraft, stationed at Crestview's old American Legion Field, joined planes from Maxwell Field Station in Montgomery, Ala., in area exercises. The Maxwell planes landed at a Valparaiso airfield, according to "Crestview: The Forkland," by Betty Curenton and Claudia Patten.

The \$2,000 allocated to improve and develop the Valparaiso field and build hangars for the Maxwell planes marked the origin of Eglin Field, a U.S. Army Air Corps training post.

World War II's beginning in Europe accelerated Eglin's importance and strengthened its relationship with the county seat. More than \$1.25 million was spent, before America's entry in the war, to enhance Eglin's mission as an aerial gunnery school, the book states.

See **HISTORY B7**



Military presence helps spare housing market from recession

By BRIAN HUGHES
682-6524 | @cnbBrian
brianh@crestviewbulletin.com

CRESTVIEW — The Hub City's proximity to Eglin Air Force Base has somewhat insulated the real estate market from the recent recession, according to Dino Sinopoli, a Re/Max Agency One Realtor and former Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce president.

"In general trends, because of the Air Force base being here, we didn't drop as much as other areas (in the south county) that were all second homes and condo markets," he said. "We had real people, with real jobs, that weren't losing their jobs."

The arrival of 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) soldiers and Eglin 33rd Fighter Wing airmen, along with their families and support staff, was a boon to area home rentals and sales.

At first, local agents barely kept up with the demand for

rental homes, which since has leveled off, Sinopoli said.

"When the Army first came here, you could rent anything for any price. It was nice," he said. "People were crawling over each other to get a rental. You put a rental on the market, and it would rent. This year, it's not happening like that. Now, it's a nice, even flow."

Newcomers would frequently rent a home or a townhome while having a new house built, taking time to pick the exact neighborhood in which to live, he said.

NEW BUYERS IN THE MARKET

"Two years ago, when the 7th Special Forces came in, I've never sold so many brand new homes," Sinopoli said. "They came down here (from North Carolina) with \$1,000 deposits. They consecutively kept coming down and buying new homes."

In addition to military families buying local houses, the economy's recovery is encour-



BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

New houses in Liberty Oaks await final touches. Most of the subdivision's houses have been sold.

aging once-skittish residents to make the investment.

"It's keeping our market very, very strong," Sinopoli said. "We've had a lot of investors. I've had more cash buyers than I had before. People aren't getting good returns in the bank, but they're getting 10 to 14 percent returns on their property."

Foreclosed and older houses can cost \$40,000 to \$80,000. The average range for a new house is \$175,000 for 1,800-square-foot homes to \$225,000 for four-bedroom, 2,200-square-foot homes. A three-year-old home in good condition sells for about \$175,000.

See **HOUSING B7**



BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

A visit by an Antonov An-124, the world's third-largest airplane, proved the Crestview Bob Sikes Airport's capabilities.

Bob Sikes Airport stands out from competitors

By BRIAN HUGHES
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CRESTVIEW — Location is the key to Bob Sikes Airport's lure, according to economic development experts.

"(The) airport's proximity to the interstate, to rail transportation and highways, Mobile, Pensacola, Fort Rucker and the various regional military bases puts it in a perfect location," said Derek Lott, a former Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce president, former chamber Airport Committee chairman and a private pilot.

The county's foresight to buffer the airport against residential encroachment allows the facility's industrial tenants to grow and new tenants to come in.

L3 Crestview Aerospace, north Okaloosa County's largest private employer, BAE Systems, Qwest Air Parts, Capital Aviation and Sunshine Aero Flight Testing are among regular runway tenants.



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS BULLETIN

This aerial view of Bob Sikes Airport's north end shows a 2012 taxiway-widening project and Qwest Air Parts' new hangar and apron.

To lure more tenants, particularly those in aircraft maintenance and modification fields, county airport staff and chamber of commerce members appear at aviation trade shows. The National Business Aviation Association's meeting, the nation's premier general aviation exposition, has generated promising leads, officials said.

A pre-permitting program

expedites the bureaucratic process for qualified tenants to begin building their facilities, county Assistant Airports Director Tracy Stage said.

"It allows a company to come in and essentially begin construction on facilities instead of waiting to obtain state and local permits," he said. "It drastically reduces those time frames."

Pensacola entrepreneur Dan Gilmore, the airport's newest tenant, is refining rental hangar construction plans by his company, RonDan CEW. "He saw what the airport did, and the steps the airport took, and that's what encouraged him to build facilities on speculation," Stage said.

AN EDGE ON COMPETITORS

General aviation and individual private pilots are served by Emerald Coast Aviation, the airport's fixed-base operator. The company soon will break ground on a planned \$600,000, 5,600-square-foot terminal building.

The airport has the latest instrument-guided landing technology, according to Lott. The full Instrument Landing System is supplemented by GPS and high-frequency omni-directional radio range. The combination allows aircraft to land "in almost any weather."

See AIRPORT B7

HISTORY LESSON: FROM AIRSTRIP TO ECONOMIC GENERATOR

Crestview Bob Sikes Airport, one of three aviation facilities operated by Okaloosa County Airports, descends from the city's original Savage Field. That "airport" was little more than a rough east-west airstrip built in the 1920s on the 100-acre site of Savage's turpentine still. It was near present-day Juke Hill and the Big Lots shopping center, according to "Crestview: The Forkland" by Betty Curenton and Claudia Patten.

In 1937, the Civil Aeronautics Authority constructed Crestview Municipal Airport farther north, approximately at present-day Crestview High School. It mainly provided an emergency landing strip for passenger planes between New Orleans and Jacksonville.

Today's Bob Sikes Airport started as a service field for Fairchild-Hiller, a company retrofitting and modifying Korea and Vietnam War aircraft. General aviation services were added in 1964.

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CEO: Hospital eyes robotic surgery among improvements

By BRIAN HUGHES
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CRESTVIEW — Whether at north Okaloosa County's hospital or at Physicians Plaza, "the four-story," health care here remains as personal and local as it was when brothers Dr. Justus O. and Dr. Olin Oliver Enzor opened the community's first hospital in 1926.

Today, North Okaloosa Medical Center has evolved into a modern hospital complex featuring innovative technologies found in a larger community, yet with personal care.

"We're caring for our neighbors," NOMC chief executive officer David Fuller said. "A hospital like this in a community like ours is not like being in Pensacola or Tallahassee or Atlanta, where the chances of bumping into one of your patients in the grocery store is slim to none."

The hospital evaluates new equipment and technologies as they become available, Fuller said. Though expense is a factor in acquiring equipment, even more important is having sufficient need for the devices.

"We're always looking at how we need to grow and what we need to expand to meet the community's needs," Fuller said.



BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

Some facilities, such as North Okaloosa Medical Center's heart catheterization laboratory, provide services that area patients once traveled out of town to obtain.

"You need to have a volume of procedures to keep your competency and quality level."

NEW FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The two-story Patient Tower, which opened in 2011, allows north county treatment of diseases and injuries that a few years ago required patients to travel to Fort Walton Beach, Pensacola or out of state.

Its expanded Intensive Care Unit and accompanying Step Down Unit have enhanced emergency care services. A heart

catheterization laboratory, with twin labs flanking a central control room, offers services that once required sending patients by ambulance to an out-of-town facility.

The four-story provides routine X-rays, lab work, physical therapy and other outpatient services through a facility NOMC shares with Sacred Heart Medical Center of Pensacola. Primary care clinics in Baker, Crestview and DeFuniak Springs provide similar services without the time and expense of hospital

admission.

The hospital's next goal is to attain national certification for its chest pain and stroke centers to offer primary stroke and primary cardiac intervention.

"We are moving to being the place that people think about when they have a cardiac issue," Fuller said.

LINKING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

On the technology side, NOMC wants to corral its several computer systems into one

FIND IT ONLINE

See crestviewbulletin.com for video of North Okaloosa Medical Center's various facilities and services.

interactive system that allows different departments and doctors to share information within the facility and at doctors' clinics, Fuller said.

"The expectation is that our information systems will communicate with the physicians' systems," he said. "That will enable them and us to provide better and more comprehensive care for their patients."

System integration will occur in phases, and that will take some time, administrators said.

"We've completed the first wave," Fuller said. "The next wave will be linking our outpatient clinics that we offer. Likely, the third and final wave will be bringing the physician documentation into that format. Once we move them into the final phase, that record will be complete."

See **HOSPITAL B8**

Smoking, obesity top local health concerns

Okaloosa children bucking the trends

By BRIAN HUGHES
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CRESTVIEW — Okaloosa County Health Department statistics underscore what director Dr. Karen Chapman calls "the major ongoing health issues in our community."

Sixty-four percent of the county's population is overweight or obese, and almost 20 percent smoke.

"Tobacco use and obesity are large cost drivers of health care," Chapman said.

The department's findings indicate locals surpass the state average in several unhealthy areas:

- 19.2 percent of the county population smokes, vs. 17.1 percent statewide.

- 13.6 percent of women smoke during pregnancy, vs. 6.9 percent statewide.

- 54.9 percent of adolescents were exposed to second-hand smoke in one week, vs. 47 percent statewide.

Obesity is increasing, according to data compiled by Katie Cholcher, the health department's Community Health Improvement coordinator.

In 2007, 22.4 percent of the adult population was obese. That figure had risen to 38.7 percent by 2010.

A COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN

To combat the problems, the health department is undertaking several initiatives under the Community Health Improvement Plan, Cholcher said.

Three CHIP work groups address tobacco use, prevention and cessation, and promote physical activity and nutrition to battle obesity. Additionally, a group is studying methods of increasing health care access.

The Mobilizing for Healthier Okaloosa initiative comprises government, health care, education, business, nonprofit and citizen representatives who collaborate on the health improvement objectives.

"Building a healthier Okaloosa County began as a community-wide initiative with the goal of establishing an ongoing process for identifying and addressing health needs," the county's 2013-15 health improvement plan states.

STARTING OFF YOUNG

On the upside, 61.1 percent of area adolescents receive adequate physical activity, according to Cholcher's statistics. Okaloosa kids beat the statewide average of 59.4 percent who daily exercise, but the county's goal is for 85 percent of young people to get enough exercise.

There's more encouraging news: 88.7 percent of area middle school students and 87.5 percent of high

FIND IT ONLINE
See www.crestviewbulletin.com for video of Crestview residents enjoying local parks and recreation.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

At top, health support technician Adrienne Ferguson, left, and administrative assistant Gloria Pasternak review patient information at the Okaloosa County Health Department's Crestview office. Above, Marilyn Stephens gets in her morning workout at Twin Hills Park. In addition to a half-mile trail, the park offers workout equipment.

school kids are at a healthy weight. County middle school kids are just about at the state average, while Okaloosa County's high schoolers surpass the state average of 85.7 percent.

However, county health authorities are tracking alarming substance abuse trends.

- 9.1 percent of middle school students and 28 percent of high school kids have used tobacco in the past 30 days.

- 6 percent of middle schoolers and 17.5 percent of high school students have smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days.

For them, comprehensive health information is necessary, Cholcher's report said. However, "only 4.8 percent of Okaloosa County high school students report receiving comprehensive

tobacco-use prevention education," contrasted with the state's 7.4 percent average, the report stated.

"Health trends that are going to impact our long-term health, such as tobacco use and physical obesity, are issues for our entire community," Chapman said.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

State Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fort Walton Beach, has suggested requiring people who use free public health services to invest in their own health care.

Though the county health department's Crestview office offers basic dental and pediatric care, one practitioner said the biggest problem is people failing to show up for

See **HEALTH B8**

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WORD ON THE STREET

What do you think about north Okaloosa County schools?



"I think they could offer more after-school academic activities for pre-k and children around that age. But, overall I think the schools are good."

Ronda Drake, Crestview



"The schools around here are a lot better than in other parts of the country, like Detroit, where I'm from."

Camron Ragland, Crestview



MATTHEW BROWN | News Bulletin

Crestview High School expects to enroll 600 freshmen next school year. The Bulldog student population has increased significantly since the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne)'s arrival in Okaloosa County.

FIND IT ONLINE

- See crestviewbulletin.com for a photo gallery of Crestview's FAMU pharmacy school and Northwest Florida State College's Collegiate High School.
- See nwcollegiatehigh.org for more information on Northwest Florida State College's Collegiate High.
- See pharmacy.famu.edu for more information on the FAMU Pharmacy School.
- See erau.edu for more on Embry-Riddle University.

City offers collegiate opportunities

By MATTHEW BROWN
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CRESTVIEW — Okaloosa County's diverse college options offer north county students educational opportunities in various fields.

PHARMACY SCHOOL

The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's Pharmacy School, in the Rural Diversity Healthcare Center that opened last August in downtown Crestview, features specialized labs and classrooms with synchronous distance-learning technology. Students can interact in real time with instructors and students from Tallahassee's main campus.



MARGARETH LAROSE-PIERRE

The American Council of Pharmaceutical Education recently accredited the school, which has 25 students and plans to add 39 more.

"Twenty-one of them are in their first professional year, and four of them are in their fourth professional year," said Dr. Margareth Larose-Pierre, associate dean of academic affairs. All students receive supervised training in local hospital and store pharmacies.

"The plan is for those students to stay here in the community, do their rotations and find jobs here in the northwestern part of Florida," she said.

NWFSC COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL

Northwest Florida State College's Collegiate High School in Niceville offers free advanced courses to eligible high school sophomores, juniors and seniors. Students attending the public charter school can earn a two-year Associate of Arts degree or transferable college credits.

See COLLEGIATE B8



MATTHEW BROWN | News Bulletin

Northwest Florida State College's D Building houses Collegiate High School, which offers a two-year Associate of Arts degree to Okaloosa high school students.

Military presence spikes student population

FIND IT ONLINE

See crestviewbulletin.com for video of north Okaloosa County school administrators explaining the state of their campuses and student populations.

By MATTHEW BROWN
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matthewb@crestviewbulletin.com

CRESTVIEW — Some north Okaloosa County schools have reported increased student populations because of military presence.

The 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) brought more than 2,200 personnel

to Eglin Air Force Base in 2010. Almost 3,000 of the personnel's children ages 5 to 18 attend north county schools, said Lt. Col. James Brownlee, a public affairs officer with the group. Forty-eight percent of the Special Forces' personnel have made the Hub City their home, particularly because of its affordable housing

near base. Brownlee said the number of military personnel is expected to grow.

"With the coming of our Regional Support Element and other support elements, our increase may be as great as 500 more soldiers, who will most likely all be here by this September," he said.

CRESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

Crestview High School has seen incremental increases in student population since the military installment's arrival, principal Bob Jones said.

Before military installation, the school enrolled 450 to 500 incoming freshmen; it expects 600 for the 2013-14 school year, he said.

Classrooms are at capacity, Jones said.

"If I have two more classes that we have to add, then we will have to have a teacher that is roving, meaning that (he or she) isn't going to be in the same classroom all day."



BOB JONES

Portable classrooms also are a possibility, he said. The school might add staffers to meet more than 1,800 students' needs, Jones said.

Academically, CHS might restart the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education program, which offers advanced courses and college credit.

"We're also looking at adding some additional technical and career courses for next year," including construction technology and cosmetology, Jones said.

BAKER SCHOOL

Baker School, a K-12 institution, has received steady growth in elementary grade levels, with 635 kindergartners through fifth-graders, according to administrators.

"I think the 7th Special Forces coming has had an impact," principal Thomas Shipp said. "We had some subdivisions built locally that have attracted them."

Finding room for the growth has caused concern.

"Right now, we have seven classes in portables, and we don't have any regular classroom space available," Shipp said. "So if we have another 2 percent growth for next year, we are going to have to do some figuring."

An option is converting one of four computer labs into a classroom.

"We have a science lab that we use for elementary and middle school, and that may have to become a classroom," Shipp said. "We hate to lose that, because that is something we worked hard to build up, which is ironic because as our numbers grow, we will need that computer lab more and more."

Administrators believe the school district will help find solutions for the overflow.

"I think the district's trying to look ahead and plan for that, so hopefully an action will be taken so that we can free up some space," Shipp said.

Meanwhile, Baker's curriculum is expanding to include culinary arts, a welding class and a child care program in which students can earn a Child Development Associate credential.



TOM SHIPP

LAUREL HILL SCHOOL

Military influx had no noticeable effect on Laurel Hill School's population, principal Susan Lowery-Sexton said.

"Our student population has been stable for the past seven years," she said. "We usually have around 450 students."

Lowery-Sexton said her school could facilitate growth, if it happens. About 80 students already attend LHS on waivers that allow students to attend a



SUSAN LOWERY-SEXTON

school outside their designated zone.

Last fall, Laurel Hill became the county's first school to offer an iPad-based curriculum.

"Our main interest is to increase the technology use in the school," Lowery-Sexton said.

"It's a great opportunity for kids to be prepared for an electronic society and gain those skills that make them competitive."

ONE-ON-ONE WITH CRESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR TIM HATTEN

Establishing identity, continuity keys to athletic programs' success

By RANDY DICKSON
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CRESTVIEW — Crestview High School athletic director and head football coach Tim Hatten, a month in his job, is still in the initiation phase.

Though he hasn't been here long enough to develop a clear vision for the Crestview football team and athletic program, he has broad ideas for the program.

ESTABLISHING IDENTITY

"When I came in here and I interviewed, I talked about a program having an identity," he said. "We haven't established an identity yet, but we want to be able to do something that we are known for."

"We have one of the best bands in the state here. When you talk about bands, you talk about Crestview High School, and you have to talk about the Big Red Machine. We



ERNIE MARTIN



TIM GILLIS



KATHY COMBEST

need to have something that mirrors that in football."

Crestview High's football program should be renowned for its discipline and polish, Hatten said.

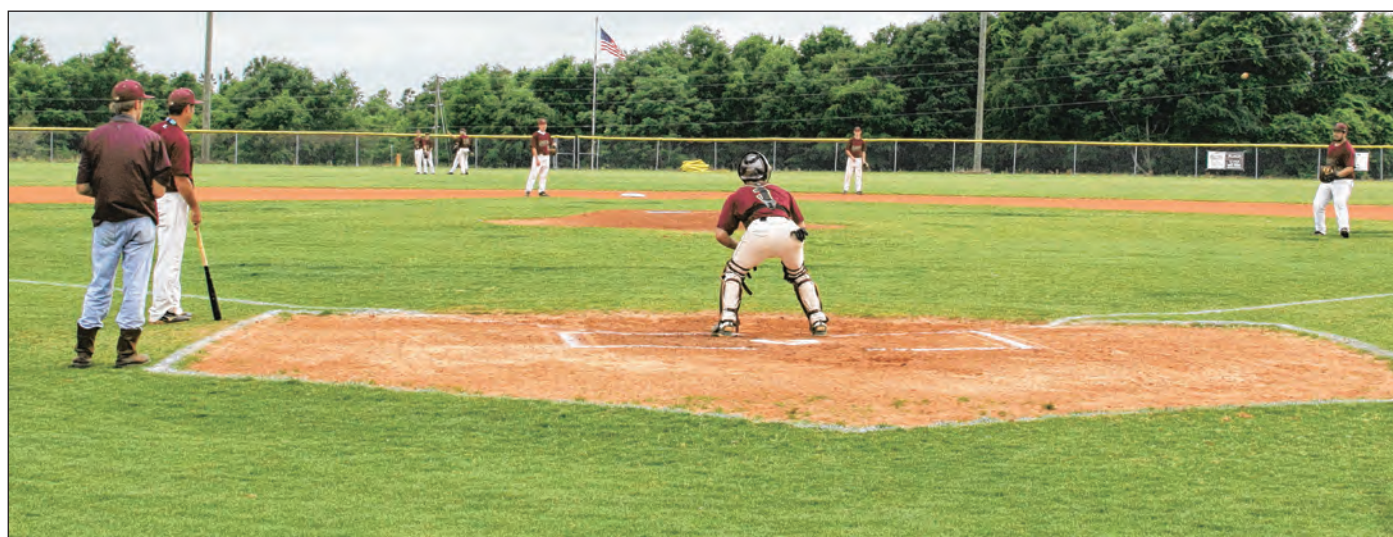
"They need to understand what I expect — and what I want as a head football coach — out of them as football players," he said. "It is going to take some time for us to figure that out between each other."

See HATTEN B5

"(If) you develop some tradition and some good habits, you end up molding these kids ... into great young men and women and great players. And when they graduate, they go off to college somewhere and — whether they participate (in athletics) or not — they go on and carry the values that you teach them."

Tim Hatten
Crestview High School athletic director and football coach





PHOTOS BY RANDY DICKSON | News Bulletin

Area coaches said their schools' athletics facilities are largely sufficient but sometimes come up a bit short. Pictured are Baker School's baseball field, Crestview High School's weight room and Laurel Hill's basketball court.

Recreational proposals could improve quality of life

By BRIAN HUGHES
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CRESTVIEW — If city leaders' visions come to fruition, traveling sports teams will play tournaments while moms and dads send their children to swim-team practice before attending pottery or yoga classes in the same facility. Kids will whiz around a skate park next to a park that dogs can call their own, and a pedestrian and bicycle corridor will link downtown Crestview to Twin Hills Park.

Each project has potential to see completion, and little, if any, taxpayer money is necessary.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

The city's consideration of a family entertainment center passed through review by Northwest Florida State College's Institute of Retired Professionals last month. The idea had evolved from its origin as an athletic complex.

Former Crestview City Council President Ben Iannucci III broached the idea of a sports center in 2011 after consulting with Sportsplex USA representatives. The Santee, Calif.-based company operates several multiple-sports facilities as public-private partnerships. Sprawling complexes offer play of baseball, soccer and other sports in one facility. Iannucci saw Crestview as a likely stop on the tournament route between south Alabama and Panama City games. Funding for such a structure could come from a tourist development tax, or bed tax, on hotels' overnight guests who are mostly out-of-town visitors. The tax could be as much as 3 cents per dollar, under state law.

Soon, Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce Arts and Culture Committee Chairwoman Rae Schwartz suggested integrating art studios, classrooms, a Crestview Public Library branch and a gallery beside locker rooms, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, gymnasium and three sports fields.

FACILITIES FOR DOGS AND SKATERS

The community dog park's rising popularity has motivated area dog lovers to request a similar facility for Crestview. Councilwoman Robyn Helt and Public Works Director Wayne Steele have identified a location in Twin Hills Park's southwest corner already enclosed by fencing on three sides. Fencing the fourth side, installing water fountains, "doggie toilet" stations and other improvements could cost less than \$20,000, Steele said. Funding could come from the Community Redevelopment District, which includes the park, Helt said. Funds are collected from businesses within the district as incremental taxes earmarked for improvements within the district.

See RECREATION B8

Athletic directors assess facilities

By RANDY DICKSON
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CRESTVIEW — In an era when competition has never been fiercer in high school sports, sometimes, the quality of facilities can make the difference between winning and losing.

From well maintained fields and gyms to weight rooms and locker rooms, Crestview High School and Baker and Laurel Hill schools' coaching staffs frequently improve what they have to make the experience more enjoyable for players and fans.

CRESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

So far, Crestview athletic director and head football coach Tim Hatten, who was hired last month, said he is impressed with the Bulldogs' venues.

Hatten, who came to Crestview from Pearl River Community College in Mississippi and was Haines City's head football coach before that, has visited numerous high school campuses in Mississippi and across Florida, and he said Crestview's facilities are among the best he has seen.

"We probably had 22 high schools in our recruiting district at Pearl River, and those schools ranged from 1A high schools to 6A high schools,

"As far as the niceness of our facilities and the upkeep job our coaches do, I would grade them high: an A. But as far as the feasibility and the square footage of our weight room facility and the lack of gym space for our teams, I'd grade it very low, a D maybe."

Matt Brunson

Baker athletic director and football coach

with the top-end enrollment being right at 2,000 students," he said. "Certainly, we would be in the top 5 percent in the state, from what I've seen in recruiting over the last 11 years. And in my 14 years in Polk County, I would say our facilities are as good (as) or better than any of the 20-something schools in Polk County."

The Bulldog's 3,400-square-foot weight room is the football facility's highlight, Hatten said. He praised Crestview baseball coach Tim Gillis and the Crestview softball program for their ball park maintenance.

However, he said, there is always room for improvement.

"Everyone that is going to come to your facility is going to have an idea here and there about how you can spruce it

up," he said. "A little bit of labor here and there and we will make it even better."

As a 6A school, Crestview has all the facilities necessary, but that's not the case for other north county schools.

BAKER SCHOOL

Baker athletic director and head football coach Matt Brunson is quick to express his gratitude for the Gators' facilities. Doug Griffith Memorial Stadium, which seats between 2,000 and 2,500 fans, is the perfect size for a 1A school and more than serves its purpose.

Brunson praised coaches and school maintenance staffers for the facilities' upkeep. However, he pointed out Baker has obstacles other

area schools lack. "At Baker, we have a very unique situation because we are a K-12 (school)," he said. We run a full middle school program with all of our middle school teams playing athletics. We have a full JV program and a full varsity program" of basketball, volleyball, football, soccer and track. "It handicaps us during, say, basketball season with only one gymnasium and we are splitting up between our middle school teams, boys and girls, our JV teams, boys and girls, and our varsity teams, boys and girls."

Additionally, the school lacks a baseball field and uses the community baseball and softball complex. "The baseball field down there is very nice," Brunson said. "The thing ... is, it's not on campus so our kids can't use it during the school day. And we don't have any dressing facilities down there."

The school mostly needs dressing rooms for athletes and bathrooms for fans, he said. Additionally, space in the 1,400-square-foot field house and weight room is getting tight, he said. "We definitely need more square footage in our weight room." Three-thousand square feet would be adequate.

See FACILITIES B8



HATTEN from page B4

In the meantime, "we will sure go out there and do things the right way, whether it's winning or losing," he said.

CONTINUITY VS. COMPLACENCY

Fostering continuity is another factor in Hatten's formula for success — with some considerations.

"I think you have to establish continuity without developing complacency," he said. "Complacency (in coaching) is what you've got to fight on the back end. You've got to be just as energetic in year 14 as you were in year one. That's part of staying with the program, keeping your nose to the ground, and letting the kids know what you expect. And doing that year in and year out."

Though some of the Bulldog programs, such as track and baseball, have remained stable through the years, the softball program has its fourth coach in as many years.

The team will never be successful until a coach stays for the

long haul, Hatten said.

"I think we have a strong nucleus of coaches, but obviously, you don't want to have that kind of turnover in one position," he said. "Continuity is always good because it helps the kids know what to expect."

"Having had a chance to watch our softball team play several games over the past two weeks, they are a very competitive group with some very, very good talent — both seniors and underclassmen as well. That's a very promising group, athletic-wise, and we need to make sure we give them a good atmosphere for being successful."

That strategy should work across the board, Hatten said.

"(If) you develop some tradition and some good habits, you end up molding these kids ... into great young men and women and great players. And when they graduate, they go off to college somewhere and — whether they participate (in athletics) or not — they go on and carry the values that you teach them."

MORE RESPONSIBILITIES

Hatten, as athletic director, oversees more than 20 sports, which he said dwarfs the six or seven sports his high school offered just more than 30 years ago.

"I think it makes it a little more difficult," he said. "You want to make sure you give attention to all of your sports. And the role I play, or I want to play, is to be an AD that helps programs."

"I don't want to be a regulator so much as I want to be someone that says, 'Hey, what do you need? What I can I do for you?' And provide that ... the time, need, work or whatever. That's the main thing you want to do when you try to manage all of these sports."

Time budgeting is the key to handling a large program, Hatten said.

"I think it's as much of a struggle for an administrator as it is for the AD because you have to cover all these sports, and there is something going on basically every night — certainly every other

night at the local high school — and those are the events that we cover administratively," he said. "Certainly, when you try to manage 22 sports, as opposed to six, there are different challenges you have to overcome. You have to manage your time."

SUPPORTING COACHES' VALUE

Having skilled assistant football coaches and head coaches in other sports makes Hatten's job easier, he said.

"You have to surround yourself with 10 or 11 guys helping you out as assistant coaches on the football side of it, and we have some great coaches in our other sports ... that do a great job in running their program," he said. "They are very, very low-maintenance, and they take care of their own fundraising and they run their complete program ..."

"That helps when you've got guys like (track coach) Ernie (Martin) that has been here a long time, (baseball) coach (Tim) Gillis has been here a long time, and coach Combest has been

through so many things. Those kind of folks can help you out a great deal so you can provide attention to some (other) areas you need to so you can try to get a couple of wins out there to keep us around a couple of years."

CATCHING UP

With spring football starting May 1, Hatten said the team is trying to catch up with other Bulldog sports.

"I think the other sports are handling their images and their identities," he said, adding, "I want to make sure we are all on the same page."

"From what I've seen, we need to get our program up to snuff with some of the other programs, in terms of baseball, volleyball the band, softball and that kind of thing."

Though the football program needs work, the players are doing their part, Hatten said.

"We are impressed with the way the kids are working, and the effort they are giving us," he said.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

LEFT: Trecia Chedister chats with artist Fred Gutshall — who, with his brother Keith, produce turned wood art — during the Laurel Hill Spring Arts Festival April 13. RIGHT: Crestview High School junior Allison Luna's self-portrait plastic sculpture "Average Girl" rests on the library floor during the school art program's annual student exhibition.

Visual, performing arts on the rise after committee's formation

By BRIAN HUGHES

Arts and Entertainment Editor
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CRESTVIEW — When local arts organizations extol the virtues of visual and performing arts in the community, it's easy to dismiss it as culture-vultures tooting their horns. However, when the Okaloosa County Economic Development Council praised the arts community's efforts to enhance the region's cultural life, community leaders took notice.

The Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce's 2012 establishment of an Arts and Culture Committee, along with increasing outlets of creative expression, has ensured north county residents have cultural influence, which can mean improved quality of life.

During a Florida League of Cities workshop last year, Arts and Culture Committee Chair-

person Rae Schwartz and former Crestview City Councilman Charles Baugh learned businesses seeking a location or to relocate look at the community's livability, which includes shopping, schools, sports and the arts.

Since its formation, the committee has worked to elevate the arts' visibility, including having a presence at festivals and other community gatherings. It has welcomed local arts and cultural organizations into its fold and is finalizing plans to have regional artists exhibit at monthly chamber of commerce breakfasts, generally attended by 200 or more business community leaders.

THE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER

Through its outreach to the arts community, including offering free exhibition space for artworks, the Crestview Public Library has evolved into the community's de facto arts cen-

ter. Bi-monthly rotating exhibits on the walls and in lobby display cases include local artists' works and collections including vintage film posters and World War II artifacts from Baker Block Museum.

The Music at the Library performance series presents local musicians, while monthly music and poetry jams allow fans to exercise their artistic passions. Regular creative events include children's crafting classes. Manga art shows allow teens to express their creativity in the popular genre of Japanese comic book graphic art.

NURTURING YOUNG ARTISTS

Local schools fulfill a vital role in identifying kids' inherent creative gifts and nurturing these skills. From elementary through high school, instruction in visual and performing arts broadens the young minds and, educators

say, sharpens their skills in subjects including mathematics and science.

Northwood Elementary School's recent conversion to an arts and sciences academy is a prime example. Its programs will prepare young artists for extended instruction at Davidson and Shoal River middle schools, from which they funnel to Crestview High School's state and nationally recognized choral and instrumental music, dramatic arts and visual arts programs.

Spring and fall theatrical productions and concerts by the 130-voice chorus and almost 300-piece Big Red Machine band demonstrate area students' performing arts capabilities. The visual arts department's annual spring art show at Crestview High School fills the school library for a week. The school's culinary arts program caters the opening reception.

A PERFORMANCE PLACE

Gigi Allen, whose husband Bob was, at the time, a Crestview City Councilman, formed the Friends of the Arts under the less fancy name of simply "the piano committee." It would find and procure, at no expense to Crestview taxpayers, a grand piano for Warriors Hall, the auditorium in the then newly acquired Whitehurst Municipal Building.

The piano committee shifted gears and established a fund to maintain the instrument, still at no cost to taxpayers. The committee chose as its new moniker the Friends of the Arts, indicative of its broad scope of artistic interests, including the addition of a theatrical chair. The Friends' mission has expanded beyond the piano to include enhancing the hall. Goals include securing funding for theatrical lighting and constructing a backstage area with dressing and green rooms.

EMPLOYMENT from page B1

Sequestration "certainly will have a ripple effect" on the area economy, as civilian workers will decrease their discretionary spending, potentially affecting other businesses, Sumblin said.

HOSPITALITY SEASON GEARS UP

Though much of the hospitality industry focuses on the county's south end, Crestview receives a boost because of its position as a gateway to tourist destinations, with visitor traffic passing through town on Interstate 10 and State Road 85.

"This time of year, with the hospitality season, there's more hiring going on," Sumblin said. "We're seeing a great increase from the positive tourist season last year."

Crestview area hotels saw a marked increase in bookings as snowbirds and spring breakers discovered north county hotels were a better bargain — and more likely to have last-minute

rooms available — than properties farther south.

Proximity to Fort Walton Beach and other nearby bodies of water helps.

"People can stay in Crestview and still participate in a beach vacation," Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce incoming President Dennis Mitchell said.

MOPPING UP THE OIL SPILL IMPACT

"We're anticipating an even better season this year as we recover from the unwelcome BP oil spill event," Sumblin said.

Though Crestview is 30 miles from the closest beach, the threat of oil from the April 2010 BP spill had local effects, she and Mitchell said.

"The advantage is clear," Mitchell said. "We get all those folks coming through, and they go to all three counties (Okaloosa, Walton and Santa Rosa). We see them a lot. We depend on those beaches a great deal.

"All you need to do is look at just the threat of the BP oil coming near here, and business dropped noticeably."

Rick Plante, Possum Ridge BBQ's pit master, said trade at his north State Road 85 location slowed to a trickle during summer 2010.

"I call it the ricochet effect," Mitchell said. "We didn't get the beach impact as hard as they did down south, but it certainly did affect us, which proves that a healthy beach and a healthy beach economy (are) important to us here."

NEW TRICKS FOR OLD DOGS

The local economy's recovery means less long-term unemployment in the area than elsewhere in the state, Sumblin said.

To combat what long-term unemployment there was, JobsPlus and the Workforce Development Board embarked on a retraining program. Programs included on-the-job training to prepare

existing and new workers for new positions at area companies including BAE Systems and L3 Crestview Aerospace.

New workers went through a crash course of intensive training in a mobile vocational school brought to Crestview through a grant. The rigorous curriculum mirrored work conditions, with students required to meet strict attendance and academic progress criteria.

Toward the multi-week training's end, students were integrated into the employers' businesses, spending some of the workday side-by-side with experienced employees.

CONSTRUCTION LOOKING UP

Skill saws' whines and hammers' thuds again echo over local neighborhoods as subdivisions rise in Crestview and Baker. They herald the local construction industry's revival.

"They are seeing a real incline of new building in our community," Sumblin said. "That was one sector that was really downsized during the difficult time."

"We used to be an association with almost 700 members, and we're down to 300 right now," said Alan Baggett, executive vice president of the Building Industry Association of Okaloosa and Walton Counties. "It's taken a toll."

Some former members turned to other professions, while others downsized their businesses, often assuming the jobs of manager and laborer, Baggett said.

"A lot of your builders are doing dual roles: they're the ones swinging the hammer," he said.

However, the local economy's uptick has brightened the building industry's outlook. Crestview real estate agent Dino Sin-



FILE PHOTO | News Bulletin

Inside the JobsPlus One-Stop vehicle, employment counselors Randy Hunter and Valerie McLaughlin, center and right, help a Crestview resident prepare her resume for a jobs fair.

opoli said planned developments that lay dormant during the recession have sprung to life.

(See "Military presence helps spare housing market from recession," C1.)

"In the last several months, I've talked to several members who say, 'I've gotten too busy. I'm working seven days a week, and I have to start hiring somebody,'" Baggett said. "That's an encouraging thing that we're hearing."

An announcement that construction of what could be as many as 1,000 or more housing units at Hurlburt Field has been welcome news for area contractors, Baggett said.

"That is going to be an opportunity for people to find some work," he said.

A GOOD OUTLOOK

Sumblin said her agency has been working with the county Economic Development Council to provide workforce information for potential employers considering moving to or expand-

ing in Okaloosa County.

Workforce Development also is working with educators as a liaison with local fast-growing, high-wage industries, including health care, information technology and communications, and manufacturing.

"We're looking at schools' training growth to guide them as to what kind of curriculum they can provide, not just postsecondary but the K-through-12 schools, too," Sumblin said.

"We work very closely with the CHOICE program," she said, referring to the Okaloosa County School District middle and high school industry-guided vocational training program.

"We see things turning around," Sumblin said.

Local business leaders agree.

"We in the chamber of commerce are expecting things here to start bucking the trend," Mitchell said. "We're expecting things here will be better than the rest of nation."



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A soldier checks out after shopping at the Crestview Wal-Mart. Service members and their families have direct impact on the local economy as they buy homes, shop in area stores and frequent local restaurants.

MILITARY from page B1

Crestview has joined eight regional municipalities, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton counties, and Eglin Air Force Base in the Military Sustainability Partnership, which plans strategies to enhance and support the military's Northwest Florida mission.

The Crestview City Council last month sent the state a revised comprehensive plan that, if approved, would adopt recommendations from the base's Small Area Studies report completed last fall. These include mitigating light pollution that can distract pilots' night vision and implementing structure height restrictions within approaches to Duke Field. Limiting residential devel-

opment potentially close to aircraft noise in flight corridors also is a factor.

THE SOUND OF FREEDOM

Visitors to Crestview sometimes flinch when a C-130 Hercules lumbers overhead on final approach to Duke Field — sometimes so low that folks on the ground can wave to pilots.

Just as the roar of Eglin's F-35 fighters often surprise south county visitors, but not people who live there, north county residents are used to the four-engine turbo-prop planes.

It's just the "sound of freedom," they say. And for many, it's also the sound of the region's economic engine.

In Northwest Florida, military workers generate more than \$4 billion in annual sales activity and consume \$3.3 billion in goods. Defense annually brings capital investment of \$495 million, according to a 2012 report from the Association of Defense Communities.

HISTORY from page B1

WAR EXPANDS EGLIN'S ROLE

In post-Pearl Harbor days, the Doolittle Raiders rehearsed at Eglin Field for the first U.S. attack on the Japanese homeland. Their mission buoyed the nation's spirits and fostered regional pride in the local base's role.

By then, Eglin armament experts were in the formative years of the base's mission, testing America's armaments. Among early experiments in guided missile technology, they reverse-engineered a captured German V1 flying bomb and enhanced it with Yankee expertise. One of those early weapons hangs from the Air Force Armament Museum's ceiling at Eglin Air Force Base.

ECONOMIC IMPACT BEGINS

Recognizing the field's personnel would have local effects, a downtown Crestview building boom began,

as "five new brick business houses" were constructed downtown before war came to America, according to the book.

When Eglin soldiers and airmen received weekend leave, their sights frequently turned north to Crestview. Main Street watering holes, eateries and movie houses swarmed with young men in khaki every weekend. Those who celebrated too much became well acquainted with the Hilton Hotel, present-day Desi's Restaurant, which rented cheap dormitory accommodations to soldiers who missed the last bus back to Eglin Field.

A local USO formed at the Crestview Woman's Club House in 1942; meanwhile, enlisted men could dance into the evening with locals at the Community Recreation Center. Area residents' donations funded the center.

HISTORY LESSON: HOUSING IN CRESTVIEW

Hamner "Doc" Powell, a Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad station agent, built Crestview's first house in the late 1800s. It stood near the downtown tracks, according to "Crestview: The Forkland," by Betty Curenton and Claudia Patten.

The city's first brick house, belonging to businessman William J. Rice, was erected in the 1920s and

still stands on the corner of Pearl Street and Hickory Avenue. Dr. Roy Nakaiye, who purchased it in 2011, promised to maintain it as a historic architectural landmark.

Downtown Crestview bears many legacies from its early days, including several historic homes and a diamond street layout that occasionally confuses newcomers until its original triangular blocks

meet the newer district's square blocks north of First Avenue.

Today, houses in new subdivisions rise on curving streets that sometimes confuse visitors and public safety agencies.

With developments popping up, the Crestview Fire Department relies on frequently updated GPS maps on tablets rather than a wall map of the community.

HOUSING from page B1

SUBDIVISIONS BEING COMPLETED

Economic improvements have revived developments dormant during the recession. The Zachary Estates, Carnegie and Lake Silver Homes subdivisions off Lake Silver Road can be completed because of the military influx.

Two-and-a-half years ago, Dugan Pond in southeast Crestview had two homes completed, but "now it's almost finished off" with 108 properties available, Sinopoli said.

Fox Valley, near Foxwood Country Club in southwest Crestview, has been completed.

Construction is booming north of U.S. Highway 90 in Liberty Oaks off Old Bethel Road.

"Well-priced homes move well in this market," Sinopoli said. "New-home prices have increased, but existing inventory homes, not so much so. Buyers are picking newer homes rather than a comparable 'used' home because 'new' is always better.

"If you have a used home in good condition and you have it priced well, you will sell it. If you're even a little overpriced, it won't sell."

With the local housing market's uptick, there has been a membership



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Workers construct a house in the Liberty Oaks subdivision off Old Bethel Road in northwest Crestview.

spike in the Emerald Coast Board of Realtors, which represents real estate agents from Pensacola to Panama City. Its membership — once around 3,500 agents — plummeted by more than a thousand when the recession struck, Sinopoli, a former board member, said.

However, with the area's strong

military presence, Crestview is rebounding faster than elsewhere in the state.

"Because of Eglin, we didn't drop as much," Sinopoli said. "Tampa dropped 50 percent of its market from '07. We dropped maybe 25 percent, at most. Some of those months were hard, but we pulled through."

AIRPORT from page B2

Competing airports lack comparable systems, which gives Bob Sikes Airport a distinct advantage, Lott said.

"If we ever get into repetitive traffic, such as a FedEx-type package delivery company, which I see our airport eventually having, it would be essential," Lott said.

The airport hosts North Okaloosa Fire District's main headquarters, and its two airport crash tenders are frequently on call, often hired to stand by during airport tenants' flight-testing.

MILLIONS IN IMPROVEMENTS

In recent years, Okaloosa County has embarked on an \$11 million infrastructure upgrade to Bob Sikes Airport. Improvements include repaving the runway, widening taxiways, installing runway lighting and signage, revamping the airport's storm-water drainage system and installing utilities for future tenants.

Infrastructure improvements, funded exclusively by user fees and grants, pave the way — literally — for continued growth, officials say.

"Over the last few years, airport (staffers) have been very engaged with promoting the future development of the airport," Stage said. "In doing so, we've been able to secure a substantial amount of grant funding and construct storm water utilities and infrastructure to promote future aviation development of the airport."

"Any plane in the world can land at our airport," Airport Committee chairman Dino Sinopoli said.

The airport accommodated the arrival of an Antonov An-124, the world's third-largest aircraft, in October 2010. The plane delivered a number of Fort Rucker-bound helicopters before taking off at dawn the next morning.

In addition to demonstrating the airport's capabilities, the flight showed the county and local airport personnel's adaptability, former



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Retired passenger jets wait in front of Qwest Air Parts' Crestview hangar for dismantling.

County Airports Director Greg Donovan said.

Officials planned the giant airplane's arrival, mapped its overnight position at L3 Crestview Aerospace's apron and planned its push back into takeoff position the next morning.

A rental "tug," or airport tractor, maneuvered the plane into position. Widening the taxiways, which occurred after the Antonov roared into the morning sky on its return flight to Russia, has eliminated the need to rent a tug.

HAMPERED AIRPORT ACCESS

Okaloosa County Airports and the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce want the issue of lacking airport access addressed soon.

From the south, airport traffic must meander from U.S. 90 through Shoffner City neighborhood residential streets, including Hare Street, a dirt road.

To visit L3 Crestview Aerospace and east-side airport tenants, drivers must use the two-lane Fairchild Road, which also goes through a residential neighborhood. Though paved between Highway 90 and Crestview Aerospace, south from Airport Road, Fairchild is a dirt road. The paved John Givens Road, on the airport's west side, serves the airport and the county's Industrial Air Park from Airport Road.

The city lacks direct access from the south, but the planned Foy Shaw Industrial Parkway — a four-lane access road facilitated by the airport's land acquisition in 2011 — should complete the link between airport property and Highway 90.

Though the first application for a grant to fund the road's construction was unsuccessful, airport staffers are eying other funding sources, including grants, Stage said.

Kay Rasmussen, the county Economic Development Council's interim president, has requested federal funding for Foy Shaw Parkway and paving Fairchild Road's dirt portion.

PROMISING FUTURE

Recognitions, including winning the General Aviation Project of the Year for a new surfacing compound developed for the BAE Systems apron refurbishment, pique potential tenants' interest.

"That's the kind of stuff that gets our name out there," Stage said. "Companies look at it and say, 'Wow, this place is perfect for our operation.'"

"The future of Bob Sikes looks extremely good. We put it in a position to do nothing but grow. Honestly, everybody wins when that kind of stuff happens — everybody from dry cleaners, to real estate agents, to businesses that support aviation."

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Retiree Larry Caskey enjoys his daily walk around the Twin Hills Park path.

HEALTH from page B3

appointments.

"We get four or five (cancellations) a day," county health department support technician Adrienne Ferguson said. "For some of our services, we went to same-day appointments because of that."

A modest co-pay, even if it's refundable, could remedy the situation, Gaetz has said.

Cindy Hammonds, an administrator with the Crestview Women, Infants and Children health program, said starting walk-in clinics has reduced no-shows.

"It kind of regulates itself," she said.

LOCAL HEALTH EFFORTS

The Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce's Health and Wellness Committee addresses residents' preventive health care and health assessment needs through its annual Community Health Fair, usually held in the fall.

Several vendors offer health care screenings and provide education during the health fair at the Crestview Community Center, which typically draws hundreds of residents.

Health awareness events also include the Baker Health Fair, presented at the community's school near the start of the school year. The Baker Lions Club, which counts children's health as an organizational goal, sponsors the program.

Local doctors and community leaders sponsor the Crestview No Child Without Health Care Fair at Crestview High School. It facilitates free health screenings and provides information as kids head back to school.

CRESTVIEW'S 'OUTDOOR GYM'

"One of our community planning groups is focusing on, 'How would we inventory the recreational opportunities where county residents could go walking safely, where they could go to a health facility and walk a track or ride a bike?'" Chapman said.

Such facilities exist at the city level. The Crestview Recreation Department's inclusion of exercise equipment along the half-mile walking, jogging and biking trail proved a popular addition to Twin Hills Park.

On a chilly March morning, Crestview resident Marilyn Stephens was getting in a vigorous workout on the rowing machine.

"I like it out here," she said. "There's no traffic. Why get a gym membership when this is available for free?"

Staying active is important to Larry Caskey, who made his morning walks around the track part of his daily routine — "like brushing my teeth," he said.

Stephens and Caskey said residents of all ages use the city's health facilities.

"Different times of day, you'll see different people out here," Caskey said, adding that college students, young mothers with infants in strollers, and "folks in their 80s" are among regulars he encounters.

"I even see military people in their uniforms walking the track before they go to work," Stephens said.

Except in the most inclement weather, regulars gather at the park for exercise; some meet exercise buddies to walk the circuit. Fitness groups and tai chi clubs also gather in the park's green spaces.

HOSPITAL from page B3

BUILDING THE TEAM

Recruiting caregivers for a hospital serving a smaller community takes finesse but yields a higher quality doctor, nurse, technician or specialist, Fuller said.

"We take a ton of time to identify the right type of players to be part of the medical staff we put together," he said.

Building a winning team in a community hospital is rewarding, Fuller said, because people who work there choose to do so.

"The people who are in a hospital like ours make a conscious decision to work in a hospital like ours," he said. "If you go to a big, big organization, people are specialists in one area. Our people serve a bigger need.

"There are a lot of misconceptions about being in a community



DAVID FULLER



BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

North Okaloosa Medical Center is the north county and Crestview area's community hospital.

hospital. It's a much more collegial atmosphere. It's a blessing. They back each other up to try not to put too much of a load on each other."

Plenty of recruitment time is spent attracting specialists, Fuller said, adding staffers con-

stantly evaluate patients' needs and expectations of growth and demand.

THE FUTURE

"People think hospitals and health care providers are somehow immune to the general

swings of the economy. Beep! Wrong answer," Fuller said. "We're watching what's happening in the federal government and sequestration. The federal government pays a huge amount of health care."

There is some uncertainty surrounding the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that President Barack Obama signed in 2010, Fuller said.

"That being said, we're continuously looking around to see what we can do to make things better for our patients," he said.

One such method is offering robotic surgery.

"We've got technology that we're evaluating right now to see if it makes sense in our market," Fuller said. "They have technology right now where they can make one tiny incision and do bladder repair; that sort of procedure."

In the end, Fuller said, the community's hospital care boils down to "locally taking care of local folks."



MATTHEW BROWN | News Bulletin

The FAMU Rural Diversity Healthcare Center on Main Street in Crestview allows students to pursue pharmaceutical careers.

COLLEGIATE from page B4

Accepted students can take collegiate classes ranging from honors English to Algebra II. They also can take a course that prepares them for college academics.

Prospective students must meet certain educational criteria, Principal Anthony Boyer said. "We take in 60 collegiate 10th-graders ... who have a 3.0 GPA or higher and have received passing scores on the college placement tests," Boyer said. Fifteen 10th-graders falling just short of these requirements can enter the program upon selection from a lottery. Those students are placed on a waiting list.

Since the charter school opened in 2000, the number of enrolled students has grown from 125 in 2000 to 285 students in 2012, the school stated. Participation is slowly catching on in Crestview, administrators said.

"I have seen a larger number of applicants from the north end of the county," Boyer said. Out of 186 applicants for next year, 29 are from the county's north end; 128 are from the south end. The remaining 29

students are from outside the county.

The school is among the state's A+ high schools.

Boyer gave much of the credit to the students.

"We have always set the bar high for our students, but they have always risen to the occasion," Boyer said, adding that last year's graduating class had an average 3.4 GPA.

EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

Embry-Riddle University, 5210B S. Ferdon Blvd. in Crestview, offers curriculum on operation, engineering, research, manufacturing, marketing and management of modern aircraft and supporting systems. The Crestview location has four classrooms in which students can earn an associate degree, bachelor's degree or other certifications. Online learning is available.

"The Crestview campus currently has 53 active (graduate and undergraduate) students and 17 more working through the admissions process," said Ashley McCallum, associate director of academic support, in an email.

The university is affiliated with the Okaloosa County School District, Bob Sikes Airport and regional airports and aeronautical clubs.



ANTHONY BOYER

WORD ON THE STREET

What do you think about north Okaloosa County's college choices?



"We don't offer enough. It would be nice to have more collegiate opportunities."
Laura Roberts
Crestview



"I wish I would have taken (Northwest Florida State College's) Collegiate High School when I was in school. It would have saved me time and money. I think it's great for high school students to earn an AA degree while in high school."
Daniel Rivera
Crestview

FACILITIES from page B5

Still, he said, "as far as the niceness of our facilities and the upkeep job our coaches do, I would grade them high: an A" he said. "But as far as the feasibility and the square footage of our weight room facility and the lack of gym space for our teams, I'd grade it very low, a D maybe. And as far as our baseball field being displaced down the road and our guys not being able to walk out back and having a practice facility and a dressing room facility, I'd grade that very low. But as far as us coaches making it work with what we've got and the upkeep of the facilities and it being what it is, I think it's fine. So overall it would be a C plus or B minus."

LAUREL HILL

Laurel Hill School, Okaloosa County's smallest public school with a high school athletic program, only fields teams in volleyball, boys and girls basketball, baseball and softball, but facility maintenance is still a concern.

The school takes pride in and frequently upgrades the facilities, Laurel Hill athletic director and head boys basketball coach Kent Zessin said. "Any time we are able to get funding for athletic facilities, it is greatly appreciated, and we try to stretch that money as far as we possibly can," he said. "We have done some ... renovation or remodeling to our three athletic facilities over the last 10 years, starting with the softball field, adding lights, and (as) recently as last year, adding two dugouts to that facility.

"As far as the baseball facility, it has been ... maybe eight years now that a new backstop was put in, a three-foot wall with the netting. Also, there was a renovation of the dugout, a new scoreboard, infield grass and irrigation system that brought that facility up to par with everyone in the county."

The Hoboes' gym that is home to the volleyball and basketball teams has received improvements in the last five years as the school made the gym handicap-accessible, stripped and refinished the court and upgraded restroom facilities. Gym renovations resulted in 150 fewer seats than the initial 750 capacity, but it was necessary for the gym to be handicap-accessible.

Going forward, Zessin would like to see the locker rooms — unchanged since the gym was built in 1969 — get a makeover. "The wish list would be to actually add dressing room facilities for visiting teams, both boys and girls as well as home team, so we would have four dressing rooms," he said. "That way, we could kind of take care of our own and the visitors when they come here. They would have something nice also and the physical education classes could use that ... It would take some planning, but it could be done."

RECREATION from page B5

Additionally, youth leaders, student and adult skateboard riders and parents frequently have approached city leaders about providing a safe skating environment. Meanwhile, community policing officers, including former skater Sam Kimmons, have watched as Stillwell Avenue's rolling hills become an impromptu skate site. The street's stormwater gully and concrete culvert overpasses provide challenges for skaters, while the steep incline allows them to build up impressive speeds. Steele and Kimmons have learned that a set of stairs tops the list of items skaters want, according to conversations with teen skaters at Crestview High School.

Under the council's direction, Steele has begun gathering information to produce a formal proposal for both parks, which CRA money might fund.

LINKING DOWNTOWN AND TWIN HILLS PARK

Providing a pedestrian and bicyclist link between downtown Crestview and Twin Hills Park, in Helt's vision, includes a safe, well-lit footpath from Main Street, under the Ferdon Boulevard overpass and into the park's southwest corner. Linking the downtown shopping and dining district with Twin Hills Park's recreational opportunities would maximize the most use of two existing city resources, she has said. Her idea includes historically inspired streetlamps, planters and benches along the foot and bike path.

Helt has said she envisions parents strolling to Main Street to eat and shop while their children play at Twin Hills Park's skate park or ball fields. Pharmacy students at Florida A&M University's Rural Diversity Healthcare Center could take



BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

Industrial Drive, seen from the State Road 85 overpass, would include a foot and bicycle path between Main Street and Twin Hills Park if Councilwoman Robyn Helt's vision becomes reality.

their lunch to the park to eat and study outdoors. During downtown festivals, a pedestrian link to the park's parking also is beneficial, she has said. Add picnic tables and shelters to southwest Twin Hills Park's underused

portion, couple it with proposed skate and dog parks on the north side, and link it with downtown's resources, and "we, I feel, have the potential to capitalize on the properties we currently have," Helt has said.