

# News Bulletin



Gator middle school players learning teamwork, **A10**

VA CUTTING DOWN ON CLAIMS BACKLOG, A7

Saturday, JULY 6, 2013

www.crestviewbulletin.com

38th Year, Number 54

50¢

**NEW LAUREL HILL SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:**

## Emotional health affects academics

Laurel Hill School's new leader eyes 'creating a well-rounded, successful child'



**LEE MARTELLO**  
Laurel Hill School principal

By **THOMAS BONI**  
682-6524 / @cnbEditor  
tboni@crestviewbulletin.com

**CRESTVIEW** — New Laurel Hill School principal Lee Martello said she anticipates the K-12 environment and its potential, off-campus impact.

"Truly everyone in the community invests themselves in the school because that is the center of their lives," she said.

"... I want the school to be the hub of their being so that the family can grow along with the kids."

**Complementing teachers**

The former Shoal River Middle School assistant principal — whom Okaloosa School District superintendent Mary Beth Jackson recruited last month

for the Laurel Hill position, with the school board's approval — is on campus and assessing needs.

Specific curriculum changes, if any, are unknown, but the Crestview resident will implement initiatives as

needed, she said.

"I'm not afraid to try new things," Martello said.

"At the end of the day, even if I'm frustrated and I have to look back and say 'OK, take a deep breath,' I want to make sure the decisions

we make are in the best interest of the child."

That also means working with Laurel Hill's 25 teachers and support staff to complement their plans, she said.

See **HEALTH A6**

# Bienvenue!

## 'Awesome' French hosts treat Crestview visitors 'like family'

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

**NOIRMOUTIER, France** — Visitors to Crestview's sister city can expect red-carpet hospitality from big-hearted host families.

Some visitors, however, receive a bit more.

Jocelyne and Gérard Pontoizeau have welcomed more than 50 guests from Northwest Florida since Crestview and the French island town Noirmoutier-en-Ile formed a relationship through Sister Cities International.

Gérard — known as "Pompom" to friends — and his father-in-law built the couple's six-bedroom, two-bathroom and three-water-closet stone house almost 30 years ago.

The Pontoizeaus are well-known among Northwest Florida State College show choir students, who perform every two years in Noirmoutier.

See **HOSTS A6**



**INSIDE**

See more coverage abroad, with German students' message to their Crestview friends, Page A4.

**BRIAN HUGHES** | News Bulletin

Gérard Pontoizeau, center, stands above his Noirmoutier fishing beach with Montavious Diamond, left, and Chris Embree, who are with the 22-person Crestview contingent visiting the island.



**MATTHEW BROWN** | News Bulletin

The Rev. Charles Branef, Calvary United Church's pastor, right, watches as Hub City Ford general manager Chris Daggs stores school supplies for needy children inside a van.

## Auto dealer, church present school supplies drive

By **MATTHEW BROWN**  
682-6524 | @cnbMatthew  
matthewb@crestviewbulletin.com

**CRESTVIEW** — This month, Hub City Ford staffers hope to store as many school supplies as they can in a van. The items would benefit Calvary United Church's effort for needy children.

"Stuff the Van" is a first for the church, which in prior years purchased school items with business donations, the Rev. Charles Branef said.

See **SCHOOL A6**

**WANT TO HELP?**

Visit Hub City Ford on South Ferdon Boulevard through July 31 to "stuff the van" for needy children. Available 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

## Holt Boy Scouts learn emergency preparedness

By **MATTHEW BROWN**  
682-6524 / @cnbMatthew  
matthewb@crestviewbulletin.com

**CRESTVIEW** — Crestview Community Emergency Response Team and Holt Volunteer Fire Department members are helping Holt Boy Scouts work toward earning the Emergency Preparedness merit badge.

In turn, Troop 532 members will help Holt during natural or manmade disasters.

Mark Brown, the Crestview CERT's team chief, on Monday advised six scouts

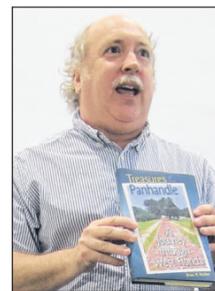
See **SCOUTS A6**



**MATTHEW BROWN** | News Bulletin

Troop 532 Boy Scouts Michael Barlow, Dillon Fredericks and Aaryn Cooper peer inside a Holt fire engine on display Monday in the First Baptist Church of Holt parking lot. The scouts, the Holt Volunteer Fire Department and the Crestview Community Emergency Response Team will collaborate for emergencies.

**INSIDE**



Local historian's book guides readers on region's heritage, **A4**

**Obituaries: Tim Wilkinson and Chad Hall, A2**

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

Readers may notice a delay in receiving this edition. A lightning strike impairing our press has required us to rely on other newspapers' equipment and accommodate their schedules. We regret any inconvenience from this delay and appreciate your patience during this time. Thank you for reading.



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



## Women's hall of fame nominations due July 12

Special to the News Bulletin

**CRESTVIEW** — The Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women is accepting nominations for the 2013 Women's Hall of Fame. Deadline is July 12.

Nominees must be volunteers who help with community activities in Okaloosa County, inspire others and act as role models, and positively affect the direction and success of community projects, programs or individuals here.

Candidates must be living and Floridian by birth or permanent residence; they must have made significant contributions to the improvement and enhancement of life for all women and Okaloosa County citizens. Only contributions made while living and working in Okaloosa County will be considered.

Candidates will be judged only on application contents.

Accomplishments may be in one or more fields of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community services, education, environment, government, health, humanities, law, philanthropy or science.

A Hall of Fame inductee celebration is 7 p.m. Aug. 26 at Northwest Florida State College's Costa Leadership Institute in Niceville.

### FIND IT ONLINE

Nomination forms are available at [www.crestviewbulletin.com/news/community](http://www.crestviewbulletin.com/news/community).

## OBITUARIES

### OBITUARIES

The News Bulletin publishes north Okaloosa County residents and former residents' obituaries for \$45 including a photo. Family members should write the obituaries and mortuaries should submit them to the newspaper for confirmation. Call 682-6524 or email [news@crestviewbulletin.com](mailto:news@crestviewbulletin.com) for more information.

#### Tim Wilkinson



TIM WILKINSON

Tim Wilkinson, 82, of Crestview, died Saturday, June 29, 2013. He was born July 31, 1930, in Milligan, and was a life-long resident of Okaloosa County.

He retired as a Vo Tech instructor with the Okaloosa County School Board after 28 years of service. He was Assembly of God by faith.

Tim was proud to be a U.S. Marine and served during the Korean Conflict. He was

a member of the American Legion, an avid sports fan and a collector of old cars.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Edna G. Wilkinson; four children, Michael T. and Lynda Wilkinson, Kevin Scott and Martha Wilkinson, Suzanne and Ron Humphrey, and Cynthia L. and Jimmy Willis; one sister, Jewel Bush; five

grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral services were at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 3 at Shady Grove Assembly of God with the Revs. James Paul and Shane Chessor officiating.

Burial, with military honors, followed in Live Oak Park Memorial Cemetery.

The family received friends 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Flowers are appreciated, or contributions may be made to Feed the Hungry, Shady Grove Assembly of God, 1185 Shady Grove Road, Baker, FL 32531.

Brackney Funeral Service, Crestview, is in charge of the arrangements.

You may offer condolences and share memories at [www.brackneyfuneralservice.com](http://www.brackneyfuneralservice.com).

#### Chad Hall



CHAD HALL

Chad "Country Boy" Hall, 19, of Holt, lost his battle with cystic fibrosis Sunday, June 30, 2013. He was born April 24, 1994 in Crestview and was a lifelong resident.

He attended Milligan Assembly of God and loved his mud truck, working on trucks, fishing and camping. Chad enjoyed life.

His great-great-grandparents, David and

Ethel Stiller; and an uncle, Delma Denmon, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his parents, Crystal and James Briggs and Robert Hall and Melissa Parker; grandparents, Maxine Lee, Donald Hartley and Camilla and Troyce Johnson; great-grandparents, W.B. and Lillian Denmon; one brother, Robert

Lee (Dooner) Hall Jr.; four sisters, Savannah Hall, Isis Dawson, Hannah Dawson and Courtney Carroll.

Survivors also include his aunts and uncles, Natasha Hall, Fritz Hall, Christina Creech and Karen Parker; and special cousins, Brian (BC) Hall, Brittany Hall, Joshua

Hall, Natalie Hall and Bryan Denmon.

A celebration of life was at 2 p.m. Friday, July 5, from the Brackney Funeral Service chapel, with the Rev. Wayne Johnson and Nate Cotton officiating. Burial followed in the Old Holt Cemetery. The family received friends one hour prior to the service. Brackney Funeral Service, Crestview, is in charge of the arrangements.

## COUNTY BRIEF

### 2 parks receive advisories for hazardous water

Special to the News Bulletin

**FORT WALTON BEACH** — Two Okaloosa County parks might have potentially hazardous bathing water, the Florida

Department of Health in Okaloosa County stated this week.

Advisories have been issued for Liza Jackson Park of Fort Walton Beach and East Pass of Destin based on the

enterococci standards recommended by the EPA. These areas present potential health risks to the bathing public.

The department tests weekly for enterococci, which

indicates fecal pollution and comes from stormwater runoff, pets, wildlife and human sewage.

Ratings are based on EPA standards.



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## BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

### Okaloosa jail officials eye growing inmate population

**CRESTVIEW** — Okaloosa County Jail officials are monitoring recent increases that have pushed inmate population above the facility's 594 capacity.

The most recent spike, bringing the inmate count to 640, occurred during the last days of May to celebrate the Billy Bowleg Pirate Festival, said Paul Lawson, the county's chief correctional officer.

Fluctuations are similar to what other counties across Florida are experiencing, officials said. However, any long-term increase could require the jail to open an unused 46-bed section.

County judges are working with jail officials to provide alternatives to prolonged jail time.

### New law enacts stiffer penalty for organized retail theft

**TALLAHASSEE** — Gov. Rick Scott has signed a bill that increases penalties for people engaged in organized retail theft activities.

Organized retail theft occurs when individuals form a group to coordinate sophisticated shoplifting activities at retail stores.

The new legislation guarantees a minimum sentencing period of at least 21 months for those convicted of retail theft totaling more than \$50,000.

### Man faces sentencing after November break-in

**CRESTVIEW** — A Hub City man faces sentencing on July 31 following conviction associated with a 2011 burglary.



**MICHAEL MCCALLUM**

Michael McCallum, convicted of burglary of a dwelling

and grand theft after a jury trial, qualifies as a habitual felony offender for a maximum 40-year prison

sentence, William Eddins, the First Judicial Circuit state attorney, announced.

Charges arose from a Nov. 27, 2011 incident on Old Bethel Road. Victims left their home for approximately an hour, came home and discovered a broken front window. A television, clothing and jewelry were taken. The defendant's prints were on the outside and inside of the broken window, investigators said.

### Man gets 21 months for luring child

**DEFUNIAK SPRINGS** — A Crestview man will spend 21 months in prison for traveling to Walton County to meet whom he thought



**SHAWN BROCK**

was a 14-year-old girl, according to the Walton County Sheriff's Office. Shawn Brock, 31, planned to have sex with Katie — actually a sheriff's investigator — while her parents were not home, according to the sheriff's office.

He was arrested Jan. 9 at a convenience store, where he planned to meet the girl, the sheriff's office reported.

Deputies reportedly found sexually related items in Brock's vehicle.

## OKALOOSA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

# Veterans participate in flag-raising ceremonies

Special to the News Bulletin

**CRESTVIEW** — Okaloosa Correctional Institution's veterans observed the Fourth of July with a ceremony that complements morning reveille and evening retreat rituals begun in spring.

Earlier this year, Corrections Officer Sgt. Craig Young, a U.S. Army Reserves member, recruited inmates who served their country into a group. As former service members, they can still participate in military ceremonies honoring their country.

In addition to daily flag raising, inmates conduct ceremonies on Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor Day, and honor each military branch on their establishment date. OCI staffers in the military also participate.

Dennis Wise, Clay White and Jayly Jackson, retired Air Force members, donated a flagpole and flag to the compound when Thomas Dugan, Airport Road Church of Christ prison minister and retired USAF captain, noticed there was no flag inside the facility.

OCI maintenance personnel installed the flag in the spring.



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS BULLETIN

Inmates and former military members begin a reveille, or morning, ceremony at Okaloosa Correctional Institution in Crestview.

# Sheriff's office releases vacation safety tips

FROM STAFF REPORTS

### DEFUNIAK SPRINGS

— If you plan to visit relatives, travel overseas or even enjoy a trip close to home, the Walton County Sheriff's Office offers these crime prevention tips:

- Call your local sheriff's office or police

department and have your address placed on the vacation watch list. Officers will perform security checks while you are away.

- Set indoor and outdoor lights on automatic timers.

- Do not share details of your travel plans on social media websites.

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house.

- Check smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

- Trim hedges and bushes around your home.

- Ask the post office

and the Crestview News Bulletin to hold deliveries until your return.

- Inform your home security provider of your travel plans and leave a number for emergencies.

- Ensure pets are properly cared for while you are away.



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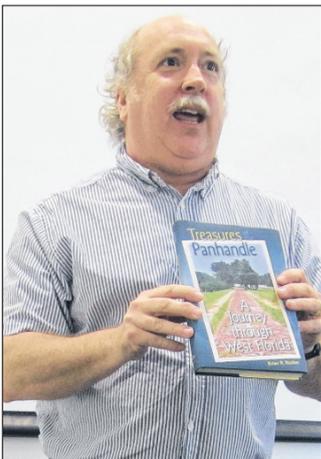


PHOTOS BY BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

**Above:** Visitors explore the site of Northwest Florida's first industrial park at Arcadia Mills Archaeological Site in Milton. **Top left:** Less than 45 minutes from Crestview is the historic Milton area, including the L&N Railroad depot and museum. **Bottom left:** Dr. Brian Rucker recommends visiting Baker Block Museum and Heritage Park, among other regional cultural sites.

# Panhandle treasures

## Local historian's new book is a guide to regional heritage



University of West Florida historian Dr. Brian Rucker displays a copy of his new book, "Treasures of the Panhandle: A Journey Through West Florida."

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

**CRESTVIEW** — School's out and the kids are screaming for something to do. Dr. Brian Rucker has a suggestion: Take a drive into our regional heritage.

The University of West Florida history professor's recently published "Treasures of the Panhandle: A Journey Through West Florida" is more than a lively history lesson.

"It's a guide for eco and heritage tourism," Rucker said. "It's a celebration of the place we call home."

Rucker said his book fills the void left by other Florida guides.

"Every time you read a book about Florida, it

always stops at Tallahassee," he said. "I got tired of our area being the bastard stepchild of Florida. We have a long history here."

### Local sites

Without leaving Okaloosa County, cultural tourists can choose from many destinations, beginning with the Carver-Hill Museum in Crestview and Baker Block Museum.

Heading south, Rucker recommends the U.S. Air Force Armament Museum, noting, "For people who like things that go 'boom,' this is the place."

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida in Valparaiso and the Indian Temple Mound Heritage Park and Cultural Center in Fort Walton Beach also

rate a visit, Rucker said. The Indian temple mound is the last of several, one of which was lost when bulldozed to put in a bowling alley in the 1950s — "because that's 'progress,'" he said.

### Head west, young man

Newspaperman Horace Greeley's advice to "go west" is also appropriate for seekers of local history.

Traveling U.S. 90 west toward Milton takes visitors into the heart of Northwest Florida's once booming timber and turpentine industry.

Along the way, motorists drive parallel to a restored section of the first paved highway in the

area. The Old Brick Road, or Highway 1, was a brick-paved section of the Old Spanish Trail.

"People came from Pensacola in their Model T's just to ride up and down a paved road at 35 miles per hour," Rucker said.

At the site of the region's first industrial park, Arcadia Mills Archaeological Site in Milton, visitors follow an elevated walkway and sense the large scale of the long lost sawmill, turpentine still and cotton gin complex.

Downtown Milton's historic center includes the L&N Railroad depot museum.

The same railroad served Crestview, which is marked on several pieces of equipment displayed.

### Looking east

Like Milton, DeFuniak Springs' historic downtown is ideal for Victorian architecture lovers, Rucker said. A stroll around Lake DeFuniak is a wander through history.

In addition to a promenade of picturesque railroad industrialists' homes, historic structures include the stately Florida Chautauqua Hall of Brotherhood and several elegant churches.

DeFuniak's 1882 L&N Railroad Depot is also now a regional history and culture museum.

With the 1972 horror film "Frogs," Hollywood made famous Eden Gardens State Park, the state-ly 1890s Greek-revival plantation home.

## CRESTVIEW News Bulletin

705 Ashley Drive, Crestview, FL 32536

To report news, for information, subscriptions and advertising, call 682-6524.

### NEWS INFORMATION

If you have a concern or comment about the Crestview News Bulletin's coverage, please call 682-6524.

### REGIONAL PUBLISHER

Roger Quinn  
rquinn@pcnh.com

### EDITOR

Thomas Boni  
tboni@crestviewbulletin.com

### OFFICE STAFF

Dawn Barnes... circulation assistant  
dawnb@crestviewbulletin.com

### ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Melissa Tedder..... ad consultant  
melissa@crestviewbulletin.com  
Sherrie Stanley..... media consultant  
sherries@crestviewbulletin.com

### EDITORIAL

Brian Hughes.....reporter  
Arts & entertainment editor  
brianh@crestviewbulletin.com  
Matthew Brown.....reporter  
matthewb@crestviewbulletin.com  
Randy Dickson..... sports editor  
randyjd@crestviewbulletin.com  
Renee Bell.....editorial assistant  
renee@crestviewbulletin.com

### MAIN OFFICE FAX NUMBER

850-682-2246

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## A POSTCARD FROM BERLIN

### German students forge friendships in Crestview

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

**BERLIN** — Two Crestview students are helping a German brother and sister improve their English language skills while experiencing the culture of each other's countries.

When Jonah Fischer, 15, and his father, Tillman, visited Crestview from Berlin, Germany in 2010, he befriended Ethan Sparagowski, now a Crestview High freshman.

After hearing stories about his two weeks of fishing, swimming and visiting classes at Davidson Middle School, Jonah's little sister, Marlene, wanted to experience some of the same southern friendship.

Last fall, the 9-year-old, known as "Lilli" to friends and family, started exchanging letters with Baker School fifth-grader Jordyn Barnes.

"Having American friends in Crestview has helped the children learn English better," their mother, elementary school teacher Sabine Fischer, said. "They learn things from their friends that we don't teach in the school."



BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

Jonah Fischer and his sister Lilli send greetings to their Crestview friends Ethan Sparagowski and Jordyn Barnes in front of Berlin's landmark Reichstag.

During a recent walk along Berlin's Spree River with their parents, Jonah and Lilli stopped near the iconic Reichstag building to send greetings to Ethan and Jordyn.

Lilli hopes to greet her Crestview friend in person

one day. "Perhaps we can visit during Lilli's Easter holidays," Tillman Fischer said. "For now, she looks forward to each of Jordyn's letters and is thinking of things to write to her about."

In her first letter to Lilli,

Jordyn enclosed a crocheted bracelet that Lilli proudly wears on her arm.

While her family is on its annual summer trip in their motor home to visit friends in Greece, Lilli said she would gather many topics for her next letters.



## GATHERINGS

### ANNOUNCEMENT

**MILITARY GROUP SEEKS FORMER MEMBERS:** The Second (Indianhead) Division Association seeks anyone who served in the Army's 2nd Infantry Division. The association's annual reunion is Sept. 17-21 in Columbus, Ga. Details: Bob Haynes, [2idahq@comcast.net](mailto:2idahq@comcast.net) or 224-225-1202.

### UPCOMING

**FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION:**  
• 7:30 a.m. July 11: Bring your canoe or kayak for a Turkey Creek paddle trip in Niceville. Details: 651-0902.  
• 9 a.m. July 20: Bring

your canoe or kayak for a Boiling Creek paddle trip in Santa Rosa County. Eglin recreation permit required. Details: 826-3605.

• 6 p.m. July 23: monthly meeting, Rocky Bayou Country Club, Niceville. Details: 546-1172.

See <http://choctaw.floridatrail.org> for more details on the club.

#### ADVENTURE CLUB

• 8 a.m. July 6: Bike ride in Fort Walton Beach's older section. Meet in the parking area under the Brooks Bridge. Restaurant supper. Details: Bruce, 301-9452.

• 9 a.m. July 9: Bike ride in Gulf Breeze. Meet at the Gulf Islands National

Seashore Visitors Center on U.S. Highway 98. Bring a picnic lunch. Details: Dianne Kanning, 932-0401.

• 4 p.m. July 11: Bike ride in Shalimar/Lake Lorraine. Meet at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 1 Meigs Drive. Restaurant supper. Details: Bruce, 301-9452.

9 a.m. July 13: Bike ride in Milton on the Blackwater Heritage Rails-to-Trails bike path. Meet at the trailhead behind the Truly Spokin' Bicycle Shop, U.S. Highway 87 North. Restaurant lunch. Details: Clarice, 581-4591.

### ONGOING

**TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY**

• 8 a.m. Tuesdays: First United Methodist Church, 599 Eighth Ave., Crestview. Details: Mary Cole, 683-1899.

• 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays: First United Methodist Church, Crestview. Details: Brooke Bratton, 225-8197.

• 8 a.m. Fridays: Valley Road Baptist Church, 1018 Valley Road, Crestview. Details: Mary Ann Vincek, 682-5927.

See [TOPS.org](http://TOPS.org) for more information.

**CRESTVIEW GASTRIC BYPASS SUPPORT GROUP:** first Mondays. Contact Sharon, 689-3242 or [snbutterfly@cox.net](mailto:snbutterfly@cox.net), for details.

**CRESTVIEW DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB:** first Mondays,

except for September. Call 683-0839 or 682-3639 for details.

**FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS:** 7 p.m. second and fourth Mondays, Mt. Ewell Lodge 131, U.S. Highway 198, Baker.

**THE OKALOOSA COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN:** fourth Mondays. Email [info@occs.org](mailto:info@occs.org) for details.

**COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS:** first Tuesdays, room four in the Religious Education Building, Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Niceville. Support group for parents and grandparents who have experienced a child's death. Call Diane

Kingsley, 398-8403, for details.

**SENIORS VS. CRIME HOURS CHANGE:** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, except holidays, 296 S. Ferdon Blvd., Suite 8, Crestview. Call 306-3176 to report a scam. Email [okaloosacountysvc@yahoo.com](mailto:okaloosacountysvc@yahoo.com) for details.

**CARVER-HILL MEMORIAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** 5:30 p.m. first Tuesdays, Allen Park, Crestview.

**CRESTVIEW TOASTMASTERS:** 6-7 p.m. second and fourth Tuesdays, Holiday Inn Express, 125 Cracker Barrel Road, Crestview. Visitors are welcome. Details: Kathy Morrow, 974-3662.



## HELPING HANDS

### SERVICES

**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP:** 12 p.m. July 9, Covenant Hospice, 370 W. Redstone Ave., Crestview. For family members or friends coping with a loved one who has Alzheimer's disease. Limited respite care is available by calling 866-478-7792 in advance.

**VA SUICIDE HOTLINE:** 800-273-TALK (8255).

**ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES:** 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Tri-County Community Council, 290 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Crestview. Call 306-1134 for details.

**WOMEN AND FAMILY INTERVENTION SERVICES AND EDUCATION:** a Crestview-based Community Drug and Alcohol Council program that helps pregnant women with substance abuse. Call 689-4024 for details.

**CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE:** Eligible low-income families can receive financial assistance through the Early Learning Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties. Call 833-9330 or 833-9333 for details.

**FREE MEDICARE COUNSELING:** By appointment, Crestview Public Library and Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in

Crestview. Call 306-2240 or 1-866-531-8011 for details.

### HELP NEEDED

**JINGLE BELL CRAFT FAIR VENDORS:** Sign up by Sept. 21 for the fair, which is 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 5, Mary Esther United Methodist Church, 703 Miracle Strip Parkway. Fees: \$75 in fellowship hall, \$55 other indoor spaces and \$45 outdoors. No refund for bad weather. Spaces about 8 by 10 feet. Tables \$8. Applications: [haleyscf@yahoo.com](mailto:haleyscf@yahoo.com) or [www.maryestherumc.org](http://www.maryestherumc.org). Details: 243-7595.

**SPONSORSHIPS WANTED FOR**

**CRESTVIEW CHAMBER WINE GALA:** Contact Crystal Boyles, 758-6492, or [crystal@emeraldcoastaviation.com](mailto:crystal@emeraldcoastaviation.com) to help. Event planned for 6-10 p.m. Nov. 9 at Emerald Coast Aviation, Bob Sikes Airport, 5545 John Givens Road, Crestview. Live music, dancing, wine tasting, food and a large silent auction. Business sponsorship packages are available.

**VETS CARING FOR VETS VOLUNTEERS:** Emerald Coast Hospice seeks help for hospice patients. Details: Ann O'Connor, 689-0300 or [Kathryn.O'Connor@gentiva.com](mailto:Kathryn.O'Connor@gentiva.com).

**AMERICAN LEGION FOOD**

**DRIVE:** James McCullough Post 395 members and Sharing and Caring, a food bank, plan to collect 250 pounds of nonperishable food per month through 2013. Food will be distributed to needy people in the Crestview area. Drop off items 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at 2260 S. Ferdon Blvd., Unit 35, or call Robert Williams, coordinator, 682-0287, to arrange pick-up.

**BICYCLE REPAIR PERSON AND PARTS NEEDED:** The Hope Network, a charity branch of Opportunity, Inc.'s Homeless Coalition, needs a volunteer with bike maintenance and repair experience. The group

repairs bikes for homeless people. Bicycle parts are also wanted. Details: John Parrott, 585-4714.

**CRESTVIEW SOUP KITCHEN** serves Mondays through Saturdays. Call the following numbers to volunteer at Central Baptist Church, 682-5525; Our Savior Lutheran Church, 682-3154; LifePoint Church, 682-3518; Community of Christ, 682-7474; First Presbyterian Church, 682-2835; or First United Methodist Church, 682-2018.

**BAKER SOUP KITCHEN:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, Shady Grove Assembly of God. Call 537-2744 for details.



## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### COUNTY

**OKALOOSA COUNTY COMMISSION:** Meets first and third Tuesdays, alternating between the Crestview courthouse and the Fort Walton Beach site. Morning meetings at 8:30 a.m.; evening meetings at 6 p.m.

**OKALOOSA COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** 3 p.m. first Wednesdays, alternating between the Crestview Public Works conference room, 1759 S. Ferdon Blvd., and the Fort Walton Beach Water & Sewer Building's third-floor conference room, 1804 Lewis Turner Blvd.

**OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION:** 3 p.m. third Thursdays, Niceville Community Center, 204

N. Partin Drive. Call 1-800-226-8914 ext. 231 to confirm.

### CITY/TOWN

**ALMARANTE VOLUNTEER FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MEETING:** 7 p.m. second Thursdays, Almarante Fire Station, 3710 Old California Road, Laurel Hill.

**BLACKMAN FIRE DISTRICT BOARD:** 7 p.m. first Mondays, 1850 U.S. Highway 2, Baker.

**CRESTVIEW CITY COUNCIL:** 6 p.m. second and fourth Mondays, Crestview City Hall.

**LAUREL HILL CITY COUNCIL:** 6 p.m. first Thursdays, City Hall.

**MILLIGAN WATER SYSTEM BOARD:** 6 p.m. second Tuesdays, 5340 U.S. Highway 4. Annual

meeting is the second Tuesday of July.

**BAKER FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION:** 7 p.m. first Thursdays, Baker Area Public Safety Building.

**DORCAS FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS:** 7 p.m. first Thursdays, 5232 Deer Springs Drive, Crestview, off Highway 90.

**HOLT FIRE DEPARTMENT:** 7 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays, fire station.

**HOLT FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION:** 6:30 p.m. third Thursdays, 490 W. U.S. 90.

**NORTH OKALOOSA FIRE DISTRICT:** 6 p.m. third Thursdays, fire station 82, 5549 John Givens Road, Crestview.

**LAUREL HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:** 7 p.m., second Fridays, in the fire department office in Laurel Hill City Hall.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### UPCOMING

**"CRUISESHIP OR NURSING HOME" SEMINAR:** 6:15 p.m. July 22, Chiropractic Associates, 705 W. John Sims Parkway, Niceville. With Dr. Dean Jacks. Learn to make future decisions about your health and lifestyle. Details: 678-8048.

**HISTORY ROCKS SUMMER CAMP:** 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 5-9, Heritage Museum, 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso. For ages 5-12. Cost: \$60, \$50 for museum members. Pre-register: 678-2615.

### ONGOING

**HERITAGE PARK AND INDIAN TEMPLE MOUND MUSEUM TOURS:** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday,

139 Miracle Strip Parkway S.E., Fort Walton Beach. Cost: \$5 plus tax for adults, \$4.50 plus tax for seniors 55-plus and active military, and \$3 plus tax for children 4-17. Details: Mike Thomlin, 833-9595.

**BAKER BLOCK MUSEUM:** 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and on third Saturdays, or by appointments, 1307B Georgia Ave. Free admission. The museum has exhibits, pioneer buildings from the 1800s and a research library with historical documents. Details: 537-5714.

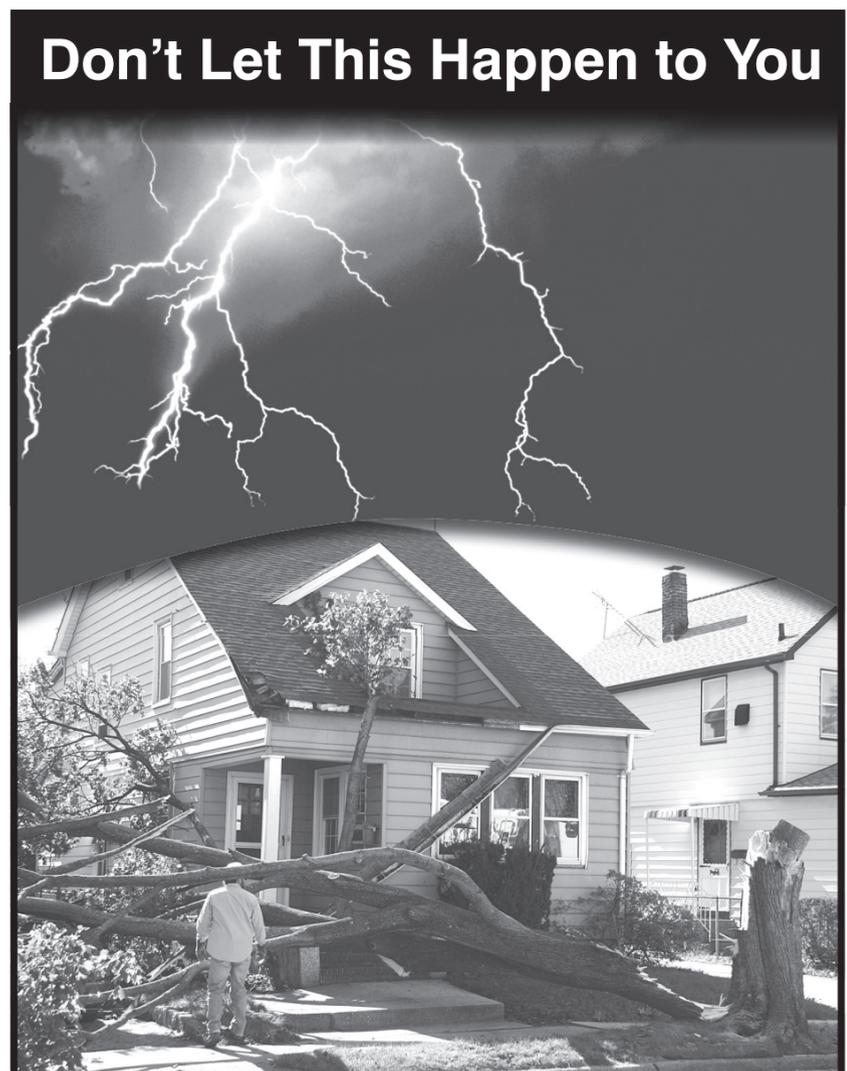
**CRESTVIEW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO:** Quarterly games 4:30-6 p.m.; regular games 6-9 p.m., 701 James Lee Blvd., Crestview.

**ZUMBA CLASSES:** 6:30-

7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 395 Aplin Road, Crestview. \$5 per person. Presented by Crestview Church of the Nazarene.

**CRESTVIEW SENIOR CENTER MUSIC:** 1-4 p.m. Fridays, Old Spanish Trail Park, Stillwell Blvd. Bring a musical instrument. Card and bingo days also are available. Details: Estelle, 682-8230.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR:** North Okaloosa community organizations may list upcoming events on the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce online events calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts. Free. Non-members welcome. Visit [www.crestviewchamber.com](http://www.crestviewchamber.com) and click on "Calendar of Events" under "News and Events."



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# HEALTH from page A1

Martello's experience in elementary, middle school and high school levels, along with her people skills, should make that easy, Jackson has said.

The administrator was a counselor for six years at Emma E. Booker Elementary School in Sarasota County; served a year each at Bob Sikes Elementary School and Crestview High School; and was assistant principal at Richbourg Middle and Shoal River. In that time, she helped develop programs that boosted student enthusiasm for literature and separated

boys and girls in gender-specific classes to aid language arts and math comprehension. She also helped establish Shoal River's lauded Mustang Learning Community.

## Eye on emotional health

Students' academic performance raised concerns, Jackson has said. In December, the Florida Department of Education gave Laurel Hill School a C using the state accountability system.

However, the letter grade receives too much

focus, Martello, formerly of the grade-A Shoal River Middle, said.

"My focus is that the kids have a great year of achieving and feeling success in whatever area it might be. That's my personal measure of success: if the kids are growing — even if they are growing incrementally."

Emotional health also plays a role, she said.

"Part of it is knowing where the target lies and then developing a prescriptive plan in terms of how can we target and strengthen the weakness," Martello said. "Also

... it is so important that we meet the social and the emotional needs of the kids. In order for them to focus on academics, we have to have met those needs ... I can work with my teachers to target that and then we can focus on the academic as well to create a well-rounded, successful child."

She plans to be in the classroom to monitor the process, learn from it, and set an example.

"I want kids to see that every adult on campus is a lifelong learner and I want them to want that for themselves," she said.



JOCELYNE AND GÉRARD PONTOIZEAU

# HOSTS from page A1

"Older students pass the word, 'Stay with Pompom,'" said Montavious Diamond, who is with the 22-person Crestview contingent returning from visiting the island.

Guests become part of a large, extended family. Chris Embree and Marie Anne Fella, members of the Crestview group, stayed with the Pontoizeaus.

"We had shrimp and crab for lunch today that Pompom and I caught this morning," Embree said. "We went out in his boat, pulled the traps and got the crabs."

"Jocelyne made us quiche with herbs from the garden and eggs from their

hens when I stayed here," Diamond said. "Everything is always fresh from the sea or the garden."

Jocelyn Pontoizeau prepares meals that include regional dishes and treats, like homemade pizza, that are popular with student palates not adjusted to French country cooking.

"I like staying with people instead of hotels," Embree said. "People who stay in hotels miss out on this," he said, waving his arm around the sunny courtyard. He and Fella sat drinking coffee from cups that were more like small bowls.

"I can sum it up in one word: awesome!" Fella said. "I feel like I'm family here."

# SCOUTS from page A1

about creating a troop mobilization plan. With the scouts' assistance, volunteer firefighters could concentrate on providing relief in the community, helping the elderly and clearing roadways during emergencies, Holt Volunteer Fire Department Chief Scott Chestnut said.

"They can help us out in a lot of different ways, handing out water, handing out tarps, ice," he said. "That frees up our guys to do what they are trained to do."

First, the scouts need to identify a meeting place, such as the troop's regular meeting location or at the church. Additionally, they need an alternative location, should the first one be unavailable. Other priorities include establishing an alternative communication method, should telephone lines and cell phone towers be unavailable.

Once the troop writes the plan, it must be presented to Brown and Chestnut.

"This is the first time we have endeavored to do the Emergency Preparedness merit badge," Scoutmaster Max Cooper said. "I have been affiliated with other scout troops in other cities; we have really never had a mobilization plan."

Bryce Taylor, 10, summed it up.

"Let's just say, a tornado happens out in Holt, you have got to know what to do then," he said. "That is kind of what the badge is all about."

Scouts browsed Holt fire engines and asked questions; later, they will tour the fire station to learn how they can assist the community during disasters.

The skills they're developing have long-term implications, Brown said.

"This badge will develop a lifelong learning process that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives," he said. "What they learn now at this early age will teach them skills that they will continue to build on."

Crestview CERT, which trains residents in emergency preparedness, provides a similar service to support Hub City emergency responders.

The group regularly assists members to become CPR-certified and trains amateur radio enthusiasts for licensed communication.

"In the first 72 to 96 hours after a catastrophe hits ... it's going to be neighbors helping neighbors at that time," Brown said.

# SCHOOL from page A1

Collections will be distributed, as amount allows, to the first 200 attendees at the 8th annual "Back 2 School Bash," scheduled for 6-9:30 p.m. Aug. 16 at Old Spanish Trail Park on Stillwell Boulevard. The event will feature games, prizes and refreshments.

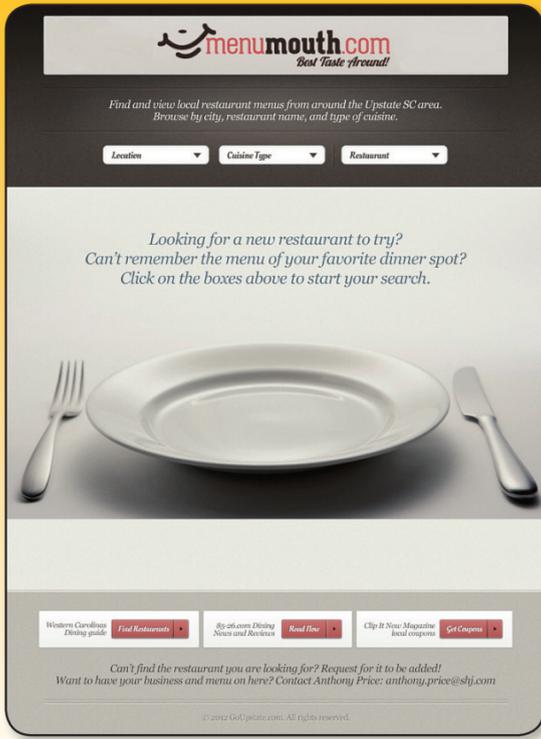
Donors can visit the South Ferdon Boulevard auto dealer to contribute. Additionally, the van will appear Aug. 9 at the Crestview Wal-Mart, allowing custom-

ers to purchase school supplies inside the store and donate them on their way out, Braniff said.

Chris Daggs, the dealer's general manager, said the event likely will benefit several Hub City students.

"Crestview is a big growing community, and we have a lot of kids here; everybody could use a little help," he said. "We will sell vehicles and work on vehicles for people, but we also want to help out and give back."

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# JUNIOR GOLF CLASSIC

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY JULY 17-18, 2013

FORT WALTON BEACH GOLF CLUB PINES

**OPEN TO BOYS & GIRLS AGES 8 - 18**

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AGES 8 - 11

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**36 HOLES, 18 EACH DAY EXCEPT 8-11 DIVISIONS WHICH PLAY 18 HOLES, 9 EACH DAY**

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ NOTE: Wednesday starting times will be published in Tuesday and Wednesday Daily News.  
CELL: \_\_\_\_\_ SHIRT SIZE (ADULT SIZES): \_\_\_\_\_ Players can call courses Tuesday afternoon for starting times. FWB Pines: 833-9529  
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Make checks payable to: "The Children's Advocacy Center" Mail to: 1810 Huntington Road, Niceville, FL 32578  
For more information Call Michele at (850) 585-8980 or Visit www.ecjrgolftour.com



CRESTVIEW NEWS BULLETIN  
HALIFAX MEDIA GROUP

# "LIKE" US

The Crestview News Bulletin is a twice-weekly newspaper covering north Okaloosa County in Northwest Florida.

Like

## VA processes more than 65,000 claims older than 2 years

Special to the News Bulletin

More than 65,000 claims nationwide have been eliminated from a disability compensation claims backlog, the Department of Veterans Affairs has announced.

Ninety-seven percent of

claims more than two years old have been processed after an April initiative to reduce the backlog. The initiative, centrally managed nationally, involved all VA regional offices working claims for veterans across the country.

The Jackson VA regional

office now joins VA efforts to complete the disability claims of veterans waiting more than one year for a decision, while completing the final batch of oldest claims in progress.

The VA aims to end the disability claims backlog before 2016 and process claims

within 125 days at 98 percent accuracy.

Today, the VA reportedly has the least claims in its inventory since August 2011 and has reduced the number in the VA backlog — claims pending more than 125 days — by 10 percent.

**FIND IT ONLINE**

Learn more about disability benefits on the Department of Defense/VA web portal eBenefits, [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov).

## FAITH

### CALENDAR

**THE QUICKS GOSPEL**  
**CONCERT:** 6 p.m. July 13, Central Baptist Church, 951 S. Ferdon Blvd., Crestview. \$10 donation requested at door; love offerings appreciated. Tennessee-based group formed in 1999 at Eglin Air Force Base. Details: Libby White, 496-7106.

**UGANDAN CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE:** 6:30 p.m. July 14, St. Mark United Methodist Church, 2250 PJ Adams Parkway, Crestview. African song and dance. Free tickets at church office, or call 682-5280. Child care provided for birth to 2 years old. [www.stmarkcrestview.com](http://www.stmarkcrestview.com).

**GOODHOPE BAPTIST CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** is 6-8:30 p.m. July 15-19, U.S.

189 North, Baker. Class for preschool through teens. Celebrating the fruits of the Spirit with SonHarvest County Fair theme. Details: 537-7600 or 305-7317.

**USHERS FELLOWSHIP & TRAINING:** 2-4 p.m. July 20, People's Missionary Baptist Church, 722 School Ave., Crestview. Ushers and pastors asked to attend. Training provided by Beulah Baptist Church, Fort Walton Beach. Details: Jean Bell, 682-1842 or Pearl Bess, 682-5733.

**MCGLAMERY & ANDERSON**  
**CONCERT:** 7 p.m. July 26, Central Baptist Church, 951 S. Ferdon Blvd., Crestview. \$10 donation requested at door; love offerings appreciated. Details: 496-7106.

### FROM THE PULPIT

## Decay of Christian values raises concerns

As we contemplate Thursday's celebration of our nation's independence, let's never forget God's grace.

God's grace has been evident in America's formation. Consider this:

- The first English colony in Jamestown, Va., included a building for church services.
- When Puritans landed in present-day Plymouth Rock, Mass., they knelt in worship, praised God and dedicated the colony to God.
- Roger Williams, a Baptist Minister, established Rhode Island.
- Lord Baltimore held church services while establishing Maryland as a colony.
- William Penn, a Quaker, established colonies in Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, Connecticut, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. In writing Pennsylvania's policies, he ensured that "all treasurers, judges and all elected officials professed faith in Christ."

We could use those policies now.

Today, government works overtime to remove reminders of the Christian faith. The Ten Commandments are vanishing from courthouses.



**REV. ALBERT COREY**  
From the Pulpit

**FOUNDED ON THE GOSPEL**  
 Our Founding Fathers consistently spoke of the need to use the Bible and Judeo-Christian values to define and preserve this nation. Twelve of the original 13 colonies incorporated the Ten Commandments into their civil and criminal codes.

"It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible," President George Washington said. "Of all dispositions and habits that lead to political prosperity, our religion and morality are indispensable supporters."

In 1782, the U.S. Congress voted up a resolution approving the Bible for use in public schools.

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not

on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ," stated Patrick Henry, Virginia's first governor and a Continental Congress member.

**WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO AMERICA**  
 Fast forward to the present — what is happening in America? In 1962, our government outlawed prayer in the public schools. In 1963, our government outlawed Bible reading in public schools. In 1973, our government legalized abortion.

It appears government has criminalized the Christian faith and has ignored the Lord God who blessed this land.

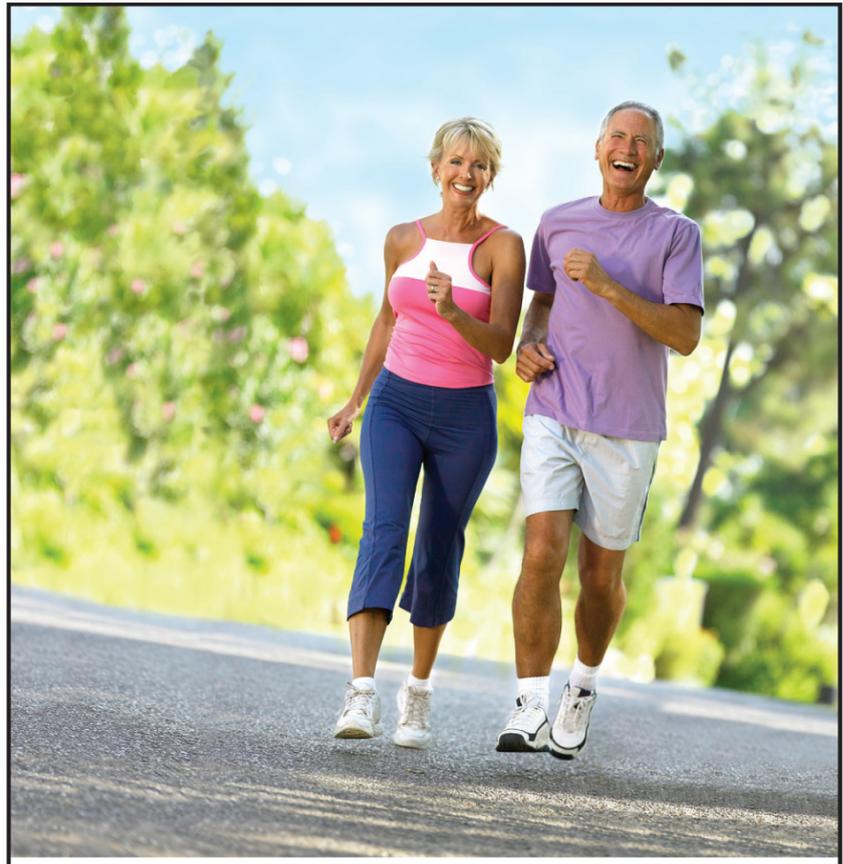
I was born in America, raised in Crestview as a child, have been saved 43 years as a Christian — 40 have been a minister — and I love America and consider myself a loyal citizen.

However, can God continue blessing a nation that has turned its back on Him?

*The Rev. Albert Corey is Oak Ridge Assembly of God's pastor.*

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## ANGLER EDUCATION

# What can you catch?

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

*Editor's Note: This is the second of a six-part series in which Crestview High School Outdoor Education instructor Ernie Martin shares fishing tips. Today, Martin shares what kinds of catches to expect in lakes, ponds and rivers.*

**CRESTVIEW** — Panfish, catfish and bass are among the many potential catches in north Okaloosa County's lakes, ponds and rivers, Crestview High School Outdoor Education instructor Ernie Martin said.



**ERNIE MARTIN**

Education instructor Ernie Martin said.

### PANFISH

"There are several sub-categories," he said of panfish, or game fish that could fit in a frying pan. "One of the major ones would be a crappie (from the sunfish family). Another panfish would be the bluegill or bream. There are two that we mainly go after here: the bluegill (which puts up a fight when hooked) and the shell cracker."

Then there's the warmouth, also known as a goggle-eye; "they fight well, and they can get up to 5 pounds," he said.

Martin, who has been catching panfish since he was a child, said all you need for the catch is a cane pole, a sinker and a cricket for bait.

### CATFISH

"The three main ones that are out in our area are the channel cat, the flathead and then what we call the bullhead," Martin said. "If you are an older guy, you might know that bullhead as a pollywog or a butter cat."

"The flathead catfish, he's a predator catfish, and he wants whatever he eats alive and kicking. The channel cat, he's a scrap eater. He wants all those different kind of things that he can find the smell on and track in on."

### BASS

Perhaps the most well known species of freshwater fish — no doubt because of the singing wall prop — is the bass.

"There's the Florida strain of the largemouth that will get in the teens and a few 20s in weight. You have a spotted bass that is cousin to him," Martin said.

"Then you have a hybrid bass — something we call a sunshine bass. It's a mixture of a white bass and a striper. And then you have the striped bass that is in the area in the lakes and rivers."

Large-mouth bass fishing is a multibillion-dollar industry, the north Okaloosa angler said.

"There have been billions and billions of dollars spent catching those fish, whether it be in a tournament or just pleasure fishing," he said.

Local anglers typically catch panfish, catfish and bass, but Martin also likes hooking a chain pickerel, a greenish fish with a chain-like pattern.

*Have questions about what types of fish you can catch in north Okaloosa County? Ernie Martin invites you to call him at 758-6473.*



PHOTOS BY RANDY DICKSON | News Bulletin

**At left**, Lane Boone protects the basketball for the Baker middle school basketball team. **At right**, Kameron Jones fires up a baseline jump shot for Baker. **Below**, Baker's Michael Adams takes the ball to the basket against Paxton High School in a game last month at Shoal River Middle School.

# Coach: Gator middle school players learning teamwork

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

**CRESTVIEW** — June meant nonstop basketball for Baker School's middle school boys team.

If the Gators weren't playing the Monday night league at Shoal River Middle School, they were on the road at Central or Laurel Hill. They even managed a few home games.

All that experience is useful. "We get the fundamentals that are important all the way through high school," Gator coach Andy Valmus said. "And the more they play, the better they get, because there is no experience like game experience."

"It is the first time for some of them being on a team, and one of the things we learn is how to handle adversity. There is always going to be adversity in every game and in life. How they adjust to that adversity is important."

The Gators improved from the start of June to the end of the month, Valmus said.

"You can tell they are getting used to the offense, playing zone defense and playing as a team," he said.

"I think it will help them not only in the middle school league we are about to join, but also when they get to high school."

Valmus said the team played in typical Baker fashion.

"Every Gator team I have ever been around has always worked hard and played hard and played with great intensity," he said. "That has been no surprise this summer. They have continued to do that and uphold that Gator tradition."

"They all have done a great job. They have carried the Gator name very well. I've been very proud of them."



# Volleyball teams face off in July 25 Bulldog Bash

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

**CRESTVIEW** — The Bulldog Bash Summer Classic Volleyball Tournament is July 25 at Crestview High School and Davidson Middle School.

The tournament is open to middle school, high school junior varsity and high school varsity teams.

"All the varsity teams will play the varsity teams," Bulldog volleyball coach Kathy Combest said. "The JV teams (from the larger schools) will play smaller schools (varsities) if there aren't

enough JV teams. The middle schools will play the smaller JV or the other middle schools."

Combest needs teams to fill out the tournament field. The entry fee is \$100 per team.

The \$5 admission covers the full day at both schools. Concession stands will offer food and T-shirts.

Combest said she took the tournament idea from other schools.

"I started going to one in Florala, Ala., and Jay," she said. "And I thought ... We are so centrally located, I don't know how many teams we could get. So I thought, 'Why not?'"

## WANT TO GO?

**What:** Bulldog Bash Summer Classic Volleyball Tournament

**When:** July 25

**Where:** Crestview High School and Davidson Middle School

**Cost:** \$5, spectators; \$100, team entry

**Notes:** Call Kathy Combest, 240-1347, for team entry

