

News Bulletin

YMCA fundraiser allows families to be cowboys, cowgirls for a day, A3



HARRIS: STATE'S FINANCIAL PRESSURE FORCED TAX INCREASE, A4

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 14, 2013

www.crestviewbulletin.com

38th Year, Number 74

50¢

Council OKs budget, millage increase

Final vote will be in 2 weeks

By BRIAN HUGHES
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CRESTVIEW — On two 3-2 votes, the city council has approved a .25 percent property tax increase and the same \$29,110,313.35 city budget originally presented

during a Sept. 5 budget workshop.

Council President Robyn Helt and Councilman Tom Gordon voted nay on both resolutions.

Councilman Shannon Hayes made the motions to adopt the tax increase and budget, which Councilman Joe Blocker seconded. Councilman Mickey Rytman also voted in favor of the resolutions.

During Tuesday's budget hearing, Crestview resident Thomas Simms criticized the council for not addressing operational issues that



'I'm disgusted.'

Robyn Helt
Crestview City Council
President

led to the increased millage rate and for failing to curb personnel expenses, which account for 80 percent of the city's budget.

"It's impossible to live with 80 percent of the budget going to personnel," Simms said. "If my mortgage was 80 percent of my income, I

couldn't survive."

The adopted budget excludes personnel cuts, but does require every city employee to take 32 hours of unpaid furlough.

"I'm very disappointed in this budget, and it's not about the tax increase," Simms said.

'The millage increase is minute.'

Joe Blocker
Crestview City Council



"Employees lost 32 hours in furlough; the citizens lost .25 percent in a millage increase, but have we gotten anything for it? No."

'Buy a lottery ticket'

Simms also expressed

concern that some council members have placed too much hope in the city receiving a recently applied for grant that would alleviate some personnel expenses.

"The city might as well buy a lottery ticket and hope it wins. That's what we're doing banking on the SAFER Grant," Simms said, referring to the FEMA-administered Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant. The grant, if awarded, could fund 12

See **BUDGET A5**

Curbing parking problems



BRIAN HUGHES | News Bulletin

From left, County Commissioner Wayne Harris meets with residents Don and Becky Hennerberg and Holly Meadows regarding parking concerns near Walker Elementary School.

County addresses residents' concerns about Walker students' safety

By BRIAN HUGHES
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CRESTVIEW — Curbing Stillwell Boulevard between Royal Street and Rainbow Lane also should curb residents' concerns about Walker Elementary School visitors parking on their lawns.

Currently, upon drop-off or pick-up, parents who drive their children to school often park in front of homes facing the school on Stillwell's north side.

A multi-phase plan to resolve

the problem will go into effect within a week, County Commissioner Wayne Harris said during a Thursday morning meeting with residents Don and Becky Hennerberg and Holly Meadows.

Meadows and the Hennerbergs said the practice is not only an inconvenience for them, but also is hazardous for children who sometimes dart between vehicles to cross the street.

After the residents brought their concerns to Harris, he met with county Public Works and

sheriff's office officials to devise a solution.

"I'm very excited and optimistic," Meadows said. "Kids will be kids. This should keep them safer."

Solutions

The first phase — erecting signage that prohibits parking, standing or idling in front of residents' homes — will probably be in place next week, Harris said.

See **PARKING A5**



'NEVER FORGET'

Catholics observe 'World Day of Prayer for Peace'

By MATTHEW BROWN
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CRESTVIEW — Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church parishioners and the Knights of Columbus Council 7968 commemorated the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and observed "World Day of Prayer for Peace" during their regular Mass on Wednesday morning.

Church members said a prayer that Pope Benedict XVI delivered during a 2008 prayer service at ground zero in New York City. Deacon Ken Mayfield asked attendees to not be complacent and remember 9-11 forever.

"We want them to remember (Sept. 11), so that the lives lost won't be in vain

See **PRAYER A5**

Community commemorates Patriot Day

By BRIAN HUGHES
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CRESTVIEW — Community leaders took time before Wednesday morning's Government Issues Committee meeting for a moment of silence to remember 9/11 victims.

The monthly Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce committee meeting coincidentally fell on Patriot Day this year.

Committee chairperson Ashley Rogers of the Chessler & Barr law firm requested the observance prior to

See **PATRIOT A5**

2 Crestview police officers fired in Floyd trial aftermath

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Two Crestview police officers have been fired following Police Chief Tony Taylor's review of sworn testimony in former Maj. Joseph Floyd's trial and subsequent investigations, Taylor said.

Sgt. Matthew Purvines and Officer Zachary

Faircloth were terminated following internal investigations that Taylor began Sept. 4, the Crestview Police Department announced on Thursday.

The men were placed on administrative leave with pay during the investigation, according to a CPD news release, which said that Taylor

determined "... both officers disclosed personal and critical breaches of ethics and moral character ... (such as) falsification of police reports."

Investigations concluded Tuesday and found the following violations of CPD, Crestview and Florida policies and statutes, according to Taylor:

- Withholding information from a superior officer and not being truthful at all times

- Knowingly using false information in a police report

- Being disorderly, whether on or off duty

Purvines had been with the CPD since 2004; he served in the patrol

division, was a County Drug Task Force investigator, a Street Crimes Unit investigator, a sergeant and a canine handler.

Faircloth also began serving the CPD in 2004; he was assigned to the patrol division, was a Street Crimes Unit investigator and was a canine handler. Floyd was convicted of

racketeering on Aug. 22.

Taylor said he would continue to review trial testimony to determine whether additional administrative actions are necessary.

"My assessment is not yet finished with the disposition of these immediate matters," he said. "In fact, it has only just begun."

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OBITUARIES

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The News Bulletin publishes north Okaloosa County residents and former residents' obituaries for \$45 including a photo. Family members should write the obituaries and funeral homes should submit them to the newspaper for confirmation. We may edit submissions for style. Call 682-6524 or email news@crestviewbulletin.com for more information.

Charles W. Miller

Charles W. Miller, 78, of Samson, Ala., died Monday, Sept. 9, 2013, at home with his family at his side. He was born June 5, 1935, in Pittsburg, Pa., and moved to the area 12 years ago.

Charles was a retired electronics technician after 32 years with the Federal Aviation Administration, a member of Lime Springs United Methodist Church and a United States Air Force veteran. He was an avid fisherman, accomplished musician and reader.

Survivors are his wife of 54 years, Carolyn Miller; three daughters, Connie (Mike) Fleming, Cindy (David) Fountain, and Celes Miller; one sister, Georgeina Anderson; seven grandchildren, Heath Fleming,

Kendrick (Ashley) Fleming, Cecilee Fleming, Chase (Kristen) Fountain, Shae Fountain, Ashtin (TJ) Clements and Cameron Cowan.

Also: one great-grandchild, Saylor Clements, and one soon to join the family, Ayden Fountain.

The family received friends one hour prior to the funeral services at 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 13, from the chapel of Brackney Funeral Service. The Revs. John Wesley Spivey and Phillip Barnes officiated. Burial followed in Old Bethel Cemetery.

Brackney Funeral Service, Crestview, provided arrangements. You may leave condolences at www.brackneyfuneralservice.com and http://obits.crestviewbulletin.com.

James H. Philpott

James H. Philpott, 90, of Crestview, died Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013, at home with his family by his side. He was born Dec. 17, 1922, in Leslie, Ky.

He moved to the Crestview area in 1946. He was a retired building contractor, a charter member and elder of Joy Fellowship, and an avid gardener.

Two sons, Marcus Howard Philpott and Anthony Monroe Philpott, and one grandson preceded James in death.

Survivors are his wife of 63 years, Jean Philpott; two daughters, Petra (Stephen) Lemoine and Laura (Gary) Bitikofor; one brother-in-law, Bud Nettles; eight grandchildren, Michelle Lemoine, Valjean (Alexandra) Lemoine, Arielle Lemoine, Joshua Bitikofor, Gabrielle (Mark) Hirst, Jared (Sheritta) Bitikofor, Christopher-Pierre Lemoine

and Armand Lemoine; and three great-grandchildren, Benjamin Lemoine, Emma Young and Liam Young.

Funeral services are at 10 a.m. today, Sept. 14, from Joy Fellowship, with the Rev. Dale Walters and the Rev. John Wesley Spivey officiating. Burial will follow in Live Oak Park Memorial Cemetery.

The family received friends from 6-8 p.m. Friday at Brackney Funeral Service.

Flowers are appreciated, or contributions may be made to the Joy Fellowship Building fund.

Brackney Funeral Service, Crestview, is in charge of the arrangements. You may leave condolences at www.brackneyfuneralservice.com and http://obits.crestviewbulletin.com.



BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Winter coat drive begins in Crestview

Mount Zion AME Church has kicked off a winter coat drive for Crestview children.

Organizers aim to collect 200 new or gently used coats by Dec. 20. So far, they have received about 20 coats, several hats and monetary donations to buy more coats.

Drop coats off at Mount Zion AME Church, 502 McDonald St., Crestview.

The Concerned Citizens Group of Crestview, individuals and other organizations are participating.

Contact Ervin Johnson, ejohn582@cox.net, or

WANT TO HELP?

See crestviewbulletin.com/news/community for a link to organizer Tomyka Muse's website raising funds for new coats.

Tomyka Muse, tomyka81@aol.com, if interested in helping.

Family Day encourages families to eat dinner together

Informed Families, Florida's national Red Ribbon Campaign sponsor since 1982, has a new public service campaign for this year's "Family Day: A Day

to Eat Dinner With Your Children," celebrated on Sept. 23.

FLFamilyDay.com offers tips, video and a game on how to overcome technology and other distractions so families can share a meal together; the challenge offers the chance to win a \$250 Publix gift card or one of six \$100 gift cards for residents registered by Sept. 24.

Students' grades, behavior and the chances of avoiding substance use or abuse improve with the frequency that children eat dinner with their families, according to 10 years of studies by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.



HEALTH BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

8 beaches under swimming advisories

Eight of the 14 locations tested through the Okaloosa County Health Department's Healthy Beaches program showed high levels of bacteria.

Fort Walton Beach's Liza Jackson Park and Garniers Park, Okaloosa Island's Marler Park, Wayside Park, the Gulf Islands National Seashore and the East Pass, the Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park in Niceville and the Clement

E. Taylor Park in Destin all failed the weekly test, according to the Health Department.

People who get into the water with such high levels of fecal pollution might experience illness, infections or rashes.

New website offers information, tips on healthier living

Partnership for a Healthy Community has launched a website and social media campaign to provide information, tools, tips and resources

to make it easier for Northwest Florida residents to learn about and implement healthy lifestyle changes.

The website, www.livewellnwfl.org, joins a companion blog, e-newsletter and Facebook page.

"The Live Well Northwest Florida website is intended to be an extensive community resource for measurable health improvement," said David Sjoberg, president of Partnership for a Healthy Community, the nonprofit organization driving the initiative.

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Old Warrior Ranch to host YMCA fundraiser on Sept. 29

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

CRESTVIEW — Tom Moody seeks the community's support in giving a facelift to the YMCA in downtown Crestview.

Membership fees and dues cover just enough to pay utility bills, he said.

"We need to generate some money," he said. "We need to paint the place and the outside (of the building) needs pressure washing."

In addition, the facility could use a storage area for sports equipment, which currently is placed in crowded offices.

To raise money, Moody organized the "Be a Cowboy or Cowgirl for a Day"

at Old Warrior Ranch.

Families up to four members can attend for \$20; all funds raised benefit the Crestview YMCA, which has more than 3,000 members.

Ticket sales are limited to 200.

Families are encouraged to wear their cowboy hats for horse and pony rides, a petting zoo, line dancing, archery and fishing; anglers should bring a fishing pole and bait.

Children can play in a bounce house and attendees can swim in the ranch's pool.

Hot dogs and refreshments will be available.

"It's going to be a family-oriented day," Moody said. "We are going to have all sorts of fun and western activities."



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS BULLETIN

Tom Moody.



SPECIAL TO THE NEWS BULLETIN

Zachary Mann rides a horse directed by his mother, Dawn Mann, at Old Warrior Ranch in Crestview. "Be a Cowboy or Cowgirl for a Day," a Crestview YMCA fundraiser, is Sunday, Sept. 29 at the ranch.

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: "Be a Cowboy or Cowgirl for a Day," a Crestview YMCA fundraiser

WHEN: 2-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29.

COST: \$20 for up to a family of four. Purchase tickets 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. — Thurs., 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fri. or 8 a.m. to noon Sat. at the Crestview YMCA, 298 N. Wilson St.

WHERE: Old Warrior Ranch, 3229 Audery Drive, Crestview; directions available with tickets.

CONTACT: 689-2999.

FAITH



FROM THE PULPIT

Even Moses made excuses to God

Editor's Note: This story about Moses, his excuses and God's replies continues in the Sept. 21 edition.

The story I'm about to share with you is from the Bible — with some humor tossed in. It's divided into three parts.

Moses was born when the Egyptians enslaved the Hebrew people and killed off their first-born males. To protect him, Moses' mother placed him in a waterproof basket and sent him up the river.

The basket was found by the Pharaoh's daughter, who took Moses and raised him as her own. Moses' own mother wound up being his nursemaid.

His real mother was there to raise him, nurture him, and teach him the Hebrew people's ways. As Moses grew, he was told to keep his heritage a secret.

As a young adult, Moses developed quite a temper. One day, he witnessed an Egyptian guard beating a Hebrew slave and killed the batterer. He didn't think anyone had seen him so he dragged the body out of view and buried it.

A couple of days later, Moses saw two Hebrews arguing with each other. He went over to them and told them to stop. And one of them turned to him and said, "Why, are you going to kill us just like you did the Egyptian?"

Moses panicked. He knew if the Hebrews had seen him kill the Egyptian guard, someone else might have, too. He ran into the wilderness. There, he met a beautiful young woman whom he married. Moses tended his father-in-law's sheep, his wife bore several children, the years passed, and they lived a comfortable life.

It seemed that all that had happened back in Egypt was forgotten. One day, one of the sheep went missing and Moses searched for it. As he searched, he saw what looked like flames coming from the center of a bush, but the bush remained intact. Moses got closer and then something weirder happened: The bush started talking.

But what really freaked out Moses was that the talking bush knew his name. "Moses!" the bush said. "Don't get too close. And by the way, take off your sandals because you are standing on holy ground."

He did as he was told. Then, the voice in the bush identified itself as being God. And God said, "I have heard the cry of my people down in Egypt and they are being treated poorly. I want you to be my voice in Egypt. Go there and tell Pharaoh to let my people go."

Well, Moses had all kinds of excuses. He said, "Now look. You know and I know that no one is going to listen to me because I don't have any authority. You heard how those Hebrews treated me when they saw I killed somebody. How can I convince them to come with me so I can be their leader?"

God said, "Don't worry about that. I will give you all the authority you will need."

Moses said, "Yeah, right. How are they going to believe that I was sent by you? What's your name?"

God said "I AM." Moses said, "Is that supposed to get people to follow me? By saying 'I AM sent me?'"

God said, "I am who I am, and on that alone I give you the authority you need to do what must be done."

How about you? When you sense that God wants you to do something, do you make excuses? You are not alone. The Rev. Mark Broadhead is Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Crestview's pastor.



REV. MARK BROADHEAD
From the Pulpit



FAITH CALENDAR

61ST ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING CELEBRATION: 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 15, Community of Christ Church, 398 W. First St., Crestview, directly behind Whitehurst-Powell Funeral Home.

The event includes a historical display of church hymnals, videos and a photo collage of church activities through

the years, special music, guest speakers and more. Potluck lunch will follow the service.

WESLEY BOYS PERFORMANCE: 9 a.m. Sept. 29, Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, 8115 Fourth St., Laurel Hill. Guest performance by The Wesley Boys gospel a capella quartet. Attendees can

Send your church's announcements to news@crestviewbulletin.com.

also choose favorite hymns to be sung during the service. Followed by light refreshments.



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BRIEF

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sept. 24 is National Voter Registration Day

Americans will celebrate National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 24 with a 50-state effort to register voters.

The goal is to create awareness of elections by encouraging Americans to register to vote and come to the polls for every election.

The Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections is a National Voter Registration Day partner. Staff members will register voters Sept 24 at

the following Wal-Mart stores:

- 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Crestview Wal-Mart;
- 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Destin Wal-Mart;
- 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fort Walton Beach Wal-Mart;
- 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Niceville Wal-Mart.

Voters may update their address, request a replacement Voter Information Card, update their name and signature or change their party affiliation.

See a link to the Elections Supervisor's website at www.crestviewbulletin.com/news/government or call 689-5600 or 651-7272 for more information.

COUNTY

Harris: Unfunded state mandates led to tax increase

By BRIAN HUGHES
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"What we do is cut 134 staff positions, cut purchases, we cut down spending. When they (the state) cut, they just dump it on the counties. It looks great for them."

Wayne Harris, Okaloosa County commissioner

CRESTVIEW — Financial pressure from the state forced the Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners to raise ad valorem taxes, Commissioner Wayne Harris says.

The 17 cents per \$1,000 increase helps address \$38.5 million in unfunded mandates the state has imposed on the county for the past three years, Harris said Thursday.

"We cut as much as we possibly could," he said. "If we didn't have to spend the \$38.5 million, we'd probably lower the taxes. Raising taxes wouldn't even have been under consideration."

County chief financial officer Gary Stanford cited the following state unfunded mandates as being particularly burdensome to Okaloosa County:

- Retirement contributions for county employees, which the Florida Legislature periodically changes

• Detention services for the Department of Juvenile Justice: "The cost of the operating and support services for those services is 'shared,' as they say, with counties," Stanford said. "We pay millions of dollars for those detention services."

• Federally mandated state Medicaid contributions, the cost of which Florida passes directly to counties

• The state-implemented Health-care Responsibility Act: "It basically requires local governments to pay for indigent health care cost for county residents, regardless of where the service is provided in the state," Stanford said.

The state has a process for bal-

ancing its own budget, Harris said.

"This is the process," he said, making a sweeping motion across the table with his hands. "They sweep it from Tallahassee to local government and let us take the heat."

While counties are forced to make unpopular cuts in services or unwanted tax increases to finance these and other state mandates, the state appears to have balanced its budget, Harris said.

"What we do is cut 134 staff positions, cut purchases, we cut down spending," Harris said. "When they (the state) cut, they just dump it on the counties. It looks great for them."

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Congratulations to...

We are in the business of providing quality healthcare. Regardless of title or job function, each employee plays an important part in the delivery of patient care. Our common goal is that each patient and family member who comes through our doors has a rewarding experience. This requires that each employee give his or her best every day. In recognition, each month North Okaloosa Medical Center recognizes one employee for their extraordinary contributions.



Employee of the Month - Teresa O'Bry, Receptionist, North Okaloosa Physicians Group- General Surgery

Teresa began her employment with North Okaloosa Medical Center Physicians Group in February 2011, coming to us with over 21 years of administrative experience. Teresa's prior work experience includes 8 years in the medical field.

Teresa is recognized for her work ethic and patient centered attitude as well as her commitment to her co-workers. Co-workers have described Teresa as, "A wonderful team player and co-worker. She is always very polite and respectful".

Teresa takes ownership of her job duties and provides quality service to patients. Teresa is a skilled communicator with both patients and co-workers.

These are just a few of Teresa's many attributes that make her an excellent choice for our July Employee of the Month Award.

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CRESTVIEW

Council split on rate increase for city water service

By MATTHEW BROWN
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CRESTVIEW — Because of Councilman Mickey Rytman's absence Monday, city leaders couldn't make changes to water and sewer rates.

Councilmen Thomas Gordon and Shannon Hayes voted in favor of a one-year 5 percent increase, while council president Robyn Helt and council member Joe Blocker voted

against the motion. Rytman was absent due to illness.

Gordon's motion, seconded by Hayes, would have included a \$1 monthly fee for stormwater assessments.

"We haven't had a (water) rate increase in the past 14 years," Gordon said. "We are past due."

Customers would have noticed a 59-cent increase in their water bills if the motion had passed, City Clerk Betsy Roy said.

Helt agreed a rate increase is

necessary, but said such an increase should exceed the proposed amount.

Helt based her decision on information presented by Tetra Tech, an engineering and consulting firm that provided water-mapping services to the city.

"It was advised four years ago to have a 2 percent increase per year," Helt said. "By my estimation, we're 8 percent behind."

The council will discuss the issue during a future workshop, Roy said.

LAUREL HILL

By MATTHEW BROWN
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City leaders plan to keep current property tax rate

City Council members said during a Tuesday workshop that the 3.5 millage rate would extend to the 2013-14 fiscal year.

The council will present a final draft summary of the budget during its final budget workshop, to be at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, at city hall.

Council OKs comment portion for meetings

LAUREL HILL — The City Council has unanimously approved a resolution that will allow limited public comments during the first 30 minutes of each meeting.

"It will be available to anyone in the public to speak with a limit of three minutes (per person)," Council member Larry Hendren said. "They will be asked to fill out a card with their address, name and the subject they would want to speak on."

FIND IT ONLINE

See www.crestviewbulletin.com/news/government for a copy of the resolution on new public meeting procedures.

The resolution, voted on during a special Tuesday meeting, needed to pass to comply with Florida Statute changes, city leaders said.

CRESTVIEW News Bulletin

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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.

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Chamber plans local organizations showcase for '14



Start times aren't changing at area high schools

FROM STAFF REPORTS
Okaloosa and Walton County superintendents said no plans exist to swap elementary and secondary school hours even after Education Secretary Arne Duncan recently supported such action. Most Okaloosa high schools and a few middle schools begin at 7 a.m. But study after study has shown that teenagers perform stronger academically and have better overall health when they begin school later, Dr. Lynn Keefe said, adding that later start times better meet teenagers' natural sleeping patterns. Okaloosa County Superintendent Mary Beth Jackson said she sees the value of a later start time for high school students, but many meetings and discussions have found no easy solution. The problem is the district sold a number of buses several years ago to cut costs. To complete all routes with a later start, the district would need to buy at least 10 more buses at about \$100,000 each.

BE INCLUDED!

The Crestview News Bulletin wants to help the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce include all local open-to-the-public organizations, clubs and societies in an upcoming Organizations Showcase. Send your group's name, main contact person, contact phone number and email address to Brian Hughes at the News Bulletin, brianh@crestviewbulletin.com, or Rae Schwartz at the chamber of commerce, bakerny@yahoo.com. Call the chamber of commerce, 682-7413, for more information.

— tentatively envisioned as a spring 2014 carnival at the Crestview Community Center — organizers want a complete list of all north county open-membership organizations.

A preliminary brainstorming session developed a list of almost 60 groups from the American Legion Riders to the Young Marines.

Organizers invite each local group to send its contact information to the chamber of commerce to develop a community-wide organizations database that will also be used to help new residents find their Crestview niche.

Mitchell, executive director Wayne Harris and community vice president Paul Lowery, gathered over hot wings at Uncle's Bill's Sept. 10 to discuss the idea.

Organizers include chamber Arts and Culture Committee chairwoman Rae Schwartz and News Bulletin staffers. To plan the event

BUDGET from page A1

firefighters' salaries. Hayes and Blocker said the council has inherited the problems that made this year's budgeting process particularly difficult. "We had to do what we did with the time that we had to work to," Blocker said. "The millage rate (increase) is minute. That is one thing that had to be." After the vote, Helt, who had strongly implored her fellow council members to address operational issues, said, "I'm disgusted. I might as well trade in my car and go back to

horse-and-buggy days." During discussion, she cautioned that increasing taxes without addressing inherent problems was "unsustainable." "If we're going to increase rates, we need to see some changes," Helt said. Gordon also felt not enough cuts had been made to departments' budgets, and called raising taxes "going after low-hanging fruit." The budget will come before the council for a final vote Sept. 24 and will take effect with the new fiscal year



Resident Thomas Simms on Tuesday criticizes the Crestview City Council for failing to address problems that, he contends, led to the city's current budget difficulties. **BRIAN HUGHES** | News Bulletin

PARKING from page A1

The second phase — constructing curbing between Royal and Rainbow — will be completed at the beginning of Thanksgiving week when the school closes for fall break. The curb will form a barrier preventing cars from parking on residents' lawns, and the signs will clearly explain the "no parking" rule, Harris said. "That way, there's no doubt," he said. "When they put that curb up, anybody who tries to go up there is going to lose the bottom of their cars." Future improvements include widening the turns to Royal and Rainbow, and adding more clearly marked pedestrian crossings. A sidewalk will eventually be laid on the north side of Stillwell between the two side streets, allowing students and school visitors to easily access the crosswalks without walking on residents' property.

PRAYER from page A1

and they would continually be remembered," Monsignor Michael Tugwell said. Harry Leboeuf, a Knights of Columbus member who helped organize the occasion, said a prayer for peace would be beneficial for America. "With all of the things going on in the world, praying for peace is probably a pretty good idea," he said. Longtime church member Rosa Garrett said peace always overcomes hate. "We can't help people through hate," she said. "We have to overcome hate with good."



Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church parishioners take Holy Communion during Mass on Wednesday. The church and the Knights of Columbus Council 7968 organized a "World Day of Prayer for Peace" service in remembrance of the 9-11 terrorist attacks. **MATTHEW BROWN** | News Bulletin

PATRIOT from page A1

introducing speaker Nathan Sparks, the Okaloosa County Economic Development Council's executive director. Sparks said he was attending an economic conference in Toulouse, France, when the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks occurred. Many participants in the conference were Americans. "It was one of those moments that made so many of our hearts stop," Sparks said.



Community leaders pause for a moment of silence to remember 9/11 victims. From left are Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce President Dennis Mitchell, Karen Hardell, Cliff Calderwood, Linda Parker and Mayor David Cadle. **BRIAN HUGHES** | News Bulletin

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Employee of the Quarter - Teresa Lloyd, Registrar, Business Office. Teresa has been a valuable member of the NOMC team since 1996. She has an A.A. degree in Business Administration from Pensacola Jr. College. Earlier this year, Teresa was selected as our May Employee of the Month when she was recognized for her efficiency, dedication, pleasant demeanor, caring attitude, and her commitment to our patients and co-workers.

Teresa is a dedicated employee who can always be counted on. She also has a willingness to always step in and assist wherever needed. Pleasant, punctual, thorough and dependable, Teresa is a valuable team member who consistently goes above and beyond in her duties. Observing Teresa at work on any given day, it can be clearly seen why Teresa deserves the prestigious award of North Okaloosa Medical Center's 2013 Quarter II, Employee of the Quarter.

As an Employee of the Quarter award recipient, Teresa is now eligible and will go forward for consideration along with three other Employees of the Quarter recipients for selection of the 2013 North Okaloosa Medical Center Employee of the Year Award. The Employee of the Year Award will be selected and awarded in December of this year.

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Legal # 161323

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

CASE NO. 2013 CA 000050 C
 Division No. Section.

ROSE ACCEPTANCE, INC. Plaintiff(s),

vs. TERRY TAYLOR et al. Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated 6-12-13, and entered in Case No. 2013 CA 000050 C of the Circuit Court of the 1st Judicial Circuit in and for OKALOOSA County, Florida, wherein ROSE ACCEPTANCE, INC. is the Plaintiff and TERRY TAYLOR are the Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash www.okaloosa.realforeclosure.com, the Clerk's website for on-line auctions, at 11:00 a.m. on the 20 day of September, 2013, the following described property as set forth in said Order of Final Judgment, to wit:

BEG NW COR NW 1/4 OF NW 1/4 E 210 FT. S 165 FT W 210 FT N 165 FT TO BEG. LYING AND BEING IN SECTION 20 TOWNSHIP 3 NORTH RANGE 23 WEST, OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

and commonly known as: VL, MARTIN LUTHER KING, CRESTVIEW, FL 32536

IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK OF COURT NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER 60 DAYS, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.

DATED at OKALOOSA County, Florida, this 14 day of June, 2013.

DON W. HOWARD, Clerk OKALOOSA County,

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Florida
 By: Edna Hoke
 Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Court Administration, ADA Liaison, Okaloosa County, 1940 Lewis Turner Blvd., Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547 Phone (850)609-4700 Fax (850)651-7725 ADA.Okaloosa@fcourts1.gov at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Michelle Garcia Gilbert, Esq./Florida Bar# 549452

Laura L. Walker, Esq./Florida Bar# 509434

Lisa N. Wysong, Esq./Florida Bar# 521671

Daniel F. Martinez, II, Esq./Florida Bar# 438405

Kalei McElroy Blair, Esq. / Florida Bar#44613
 Jennifer Lima Smith/Florida Bar # 984183
 GILBERT GARCIA Attorney for Plaintiff(s) 2005 Pan Am Circle, Suite 110 Tampa, FL 33607 (813)443-5087

09/07/2013
 09/14/2013

Legal # 161372

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

Case No.: 2013-DR-1505
 Division: 005

LESA STRAW, Petitioner

and BEN KING, CANDI DRAKE, Respondents.

AMENDED NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PETITION FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY BY EXTENDED FAMILY

TO: CANDI DRAKE CRESTVIEW, FL

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for PETITION FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY BY EXTENDED FAMILY has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on LESA STRAW, whose address is 198 WOODLAWN DRIVE, CRESTVIEW, FL 32536 on or before Oct. 8, 2013, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at Okaloosa County Courthouse Annex Extension, 1940 Lewis Turner Blvd., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to

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

Dated: August 27, 2013

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 By: Kim Bouhall Deputy Clerk

08/31/2013
 09/07/2013
 09/14/2013
 09/28/2013

Legal # 161424

9 September 2013
 The Proposed Budget for fiscal year 2013-2014 for the Blackman Fire District is as follows:

Training	\$400.00
Emergency Fund	500.00
Legal Ads	200.00
Attorney Fees	400.00
Vehicle Maintenance	6000.00
Facility Maintenance	10580.00
Audit Fee	7500.00
Forestry	21000.00
Miscellaneous Fees	2000.00
Insurance:	
Vehicle	
Workman's Compensation	
Building and Content	15000.00
General Expenses	2500.00
Capital Outlay	7000.00
P.O. Box Rental	100.00
Stamps	100.00
Annual Truck Payment	10762.00
Bank Services	100.00
Radio Maintenance	1500.00
Office Supplies	500.00
Total Expenses	\$86,142.00
Anticipated Income:	
Ad Valorem Tax	\$70200.00
Donations	\$1000.00
Cell Phone Reimbursement	3200.00
Forestry Grant Income	11,742.00
Total	\$86,142.00

09/14/2012
 09/18/2012

Legal # 161425

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

CASE NO. 13-CA-1740

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100

HOWARD NEIL EASTLACK and KAREN JEAN EASTLACK,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ANTHONY R. JONES; AURORA N. JONES; and CRESTVIEW HOSPITAL CORPORATION D/B/A NORTH OKALOOSA MEDICAL CENTER;

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment scheduling foreclosure sale entered on Sep. 5, 2013, in this case now pending in said Court, the style of which is indicated above.

I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Okaloosa County, Florida, via online sale accessed via the internet at www.okaloosa.realforeclosure.com on the 3rd day of October, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. Central (12:00 p.m. Eastern) on the following described real property as set forth in said Order or Final Judgment, to-wit:

Lot 1, Block A, Jernigan's Subdivision, according to plat thereof on file in Plat Book 2, Page 69, in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Okaloosa County, Florida.

NOTICE

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.

The newspaper is requested pursuant to the provisions of Administrative Directive OCAD 2010-7 to deliver the proof of publication directly to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Okaloosa County.

Dated this 11th day of Sept, 2013.

DON W. HOWARD As Clerk, Circuit Court Okaloosa County, Florida

By: Kim Bouhall Deputy Clerk

Jason R. Moulton, Esq. 660-A North Ferdon Boulevard Crestview, FL 32536 (850) 689-1474 Florida Bar No. 0150126 Attorney for Plaintiff

"If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Court Administration Okaloosa County 1940 Lewis Turner Boulevard, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32547, Phone (850) 609-4700 Fax (850) 651-7725 ADA.okaloosa@fcourts1.gov at least 7 days before your scheduled

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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."

09/14/2013
09/21/2013

Legal # 161426

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION:
CASE NO.:
46-2010-CA-001409C

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.,
Plaintiff,
vs.

DAWN H. HILLIARD; ROLLING PINES TOWNHOMES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, NC; IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
(Please publish in Crestview News Bulletin)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 23 day of Aug, 2013, and entered in Case No. 46-2010-CA-001409C, of the Circuit Court of the 1st Judicial Circuit in and for Okaloosa County, Florida, wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. is the Plaintiff and DAWN H. HILLIARD and ROLLING PINES TOWNHOMES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. The Clerk of this Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash electronically at 11:00 AM on the 27 day of Sept, 2013, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 73, IN BLOCK C, OF ROLLING PINES TOWNHOMES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 21, AT PAGE 65, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

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

Court Administration, ADA Liaison
Okaloosa County
1940 Lewis Turner Boulevard
Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32547
Phone (850) 609-4700
Fax (850) 651-7725
ADA.Okaloosa@ficourts.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.

Dated this 29 day of Aug, 2013.

DON W. HOWARD
Clerk Of The Circuit Court

By: Vicki Jackson
Deputy Clerk

Choice Legal Group, PA.
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09/21/2013

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Legal # 161356

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

TO: Carlos A. Cuebas
Case No: 201201298

An Administrative Complaint to revoke your license and eligibility for licensure has been filed against you. You have the right to request a hearing pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, by mailing a request for same to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Licensing, Post Office Box 3168, Tallahassee, Florida 32315-3168. If a request for hearing is not received by 21 days from the date of the last publication, the right to hearing in this matter will be waived and the Department will dispose of this cause in accordance with law.

08/24/2013
08/31/2013
09/07/2013
09/14/2013

Legal # 161427

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION:
CASE NO.:
462008CA004788SXXXXX

INDMAC BANK, F.S.B.,
Plaintiff,
vs.

ROYCE E COUCH; EGLIN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
(Please publish in Crestview News Bulletin)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 30 day of Aug, 2013, and entered in Case No. 462008CA004788SXXXXX, of the Circuit Court of the 1st Judicial Circuit in and for Okaloosa County, Florida, wherein ONEWEST BANK, F.S.B. is the Plaintiff and ROYCE E COUCH, EGLIN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION and UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. The Clerk of this Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash electronically at 11:00 AM on the 30 day of Sept, 2013, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 7, GRAND OAKS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGE 59, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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

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

Court Administration, ADA Liaison
Okaloosa County
1940 Lewis Turner Boulevard
Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32547
Phone (850) 609-4700
Fax (850) 651-7725
ADA.Okaloosa@ficourts.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.

Dated this 4 day of Sept, 2013.

DON W. HOWARD
Clerk Of The Circuit Court

By: Vicki Jackson
Deputy Clerk

Submitted by:
Choice Legal Group, PA.

09/14/2013
09/21/2013

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09/14/2013
09/21/2013

Legal # 161428

PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to Section 713.75, Florida Statutes, there will be a public auction 10/01/2013 at 9:00AM for the following vehicle:

1996 Saturn
1G8ZH5286TZ136479

The auction will be held at 956 W. James Lee Blvd, Crestview, FL 32536. Crestview Paint & Body has the right to turn down any and all bids.

09/14/2013

Legal # 161429

Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Landson Response Group located at 296 South Ferdon Boulevard, Suite 25, in the County of Okaloosa in the City of Crestview, Florida 32536 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

Dated at Crestview, Florida, this 11th day of September, 2013.

ProClaims Recovery, LLC

09/14/2013

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- 3280 - Machinery/Equipment
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- 3310 - Musical Instruments
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- 3350 - Tickets (Buy & Sell)

GARAGE/YARD SALES
3230

NEW TODAY
INSIDE SALE

Sept. 14 - Oct. 30, 7:30am-6:30pm. 3088 Oak St.: Hwy 85N, right on Auburn Rd., 1 block left Old Hickory, next left Oak St., 3rd (blue) house on left. CLOSED on Sunday. CLOSED Sept. 20. Nintendo Game Cube \$75, games \$3, PS2 games \$3, cat collection \$0.25, \$5, \$10, New Women's 3X \$20, Jessica London, Romans, Black leather coat \$75, Blair 1X, 2X, used \$5 ea., brown electric recliner w/cup holders \$125, portable pantry \$125, Wingback chair \$35, oversized chair \$50, rocking chair \$60, DVD cabinet/bookcase 2 @ \$75 ea., books, misc.

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Requires: Bachelor's degree with emphasis in Information Technology, Computer Science, Management with IT or project planning focus, Business with IT or project planning focus or related field. 3-4 years of relevant experience.

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Gator volleyball team sweeps Freeport

By RANDY DICKSON
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BAKER — A slow start for Baker School's volleyball team didn't spell disaster Thursday night as the Gators hosted District 3-1A rival Freeport.

Trailing 15-11 midway through the first set, the Gators turned up the intensity and took the win 3-0 by scores of 25-20, 25-13 and 25-14.

The Bulldogs (5-2, 1-1) capitalized on big hitting from Mary Kate Myrick and Amanda Sefo to jump to the quick start, but Baker made the necessary adjustments to offset Freeport's power.

"We came out kind of slow, but we stepped it up when we had to step it up and do the little things we need to do," Gator coach Tommiko Parks said. "Overall, it was a pretty good performance."

"We have to get the balls we know we can get and, when we get a ball,

we have to be able to transition and run good offense. That's what we did tonight — we were able to use those digs and use those balls we could get to and transition to our offense and make good things happen for our team."

Parks said the Gators might have been a little rattled by the power of Myrick, who finished the night with a match-high 11 kills. Four of Myrick's kills came as the Bulldogs built the early lead.

However, as 10-time defending district champions, the Gators (5-2, 4-0) are used to overcoming a little adversity as they outscored Freeport 14-5 down the stretch to take the first set.

Unforced Bulldog errors helped the Gator cause, but Baker players also had something to do with the rally.

A Hartley Moate ace gave the Gators the lead at 18-17. And it was an Alex Roy ace that finished off the set.

The Gators took a quick 4-0 lead in the second set and never looked

back. Ashley Black had three of her team-high six kills to spark Baker's outburst.

Freeport kept things close for a while in the third set as the teams traded points, but the Bulldogs could never wrestle the lead from the Gators.

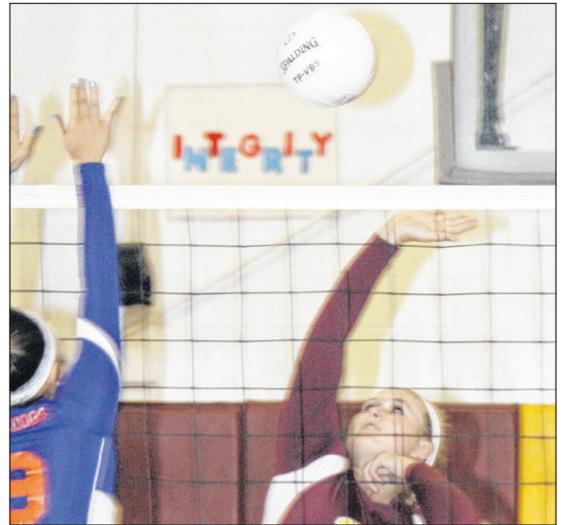
A Myrick kill tied the set at 9-9, but six unanswered Baker points pushed the Gator lead to 15-9 as the Bulldogs never got closer than five points the rest of the way.

Hana Wadsworth recorded five kills to join Black's six kills. Lena Daoud had nine assists. Roy had a team best eight digs.

Jordan Linzy and Brittany Brunson had five digs each, while Moate and Daoud had four digs each.

Myrick had 10 aces to go along with her 11 kills for Freeport. Laura Ham had 11 aces for the Bulldogs; Kennedy Bates had 11 digs.

Baker won the junior varsity match 2-0.



RANDY DICKSON | News Bulletin
Ashley Black tries to hit a ball past Freeport's Amanda Sefo.

LAUREL HILL VOLLEYBALL

Knights knock down Hoboes

By RANDY DICKSON
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NICEVILLE — Rocky Bayou Christian School's gym, dubbed "The Dungeon," didn't intimidate Laurel Hill School's volleyball team on Tuesday, when the Hoboes visited the Knights.

One night after a four-set match with Pleasant Home (Ala.), the Hoboes had enough left in their collective tanks to beat Rocky Bayou 3-0 by scores of 25-20, 25-18 and 25-21.

"We played last night and went four tough games with Pleasant Home and we were a little tired tonight," Hobo coach Kent Zessin said. "But as long as we were making our passes to our setters, and our setters were getting it up, we were able to do a pretty good job with our kills."

"We served the ball pretty well again tonight. Defensively, we did a real good job."

Zessin's simple formula for success worked time after time for the Hoboes (3-2) as smart play and timely kills proved to be the winning ticket.

The first set's early points saw the teams jockeying for position.

Maria Denbow gave the Knights an early boost as Rocky Bayou led 3-2.

An ace by Lauren Gordon in serve put the Hoboes up 5-4; they never trailed again the first set.

A pair of unforced Knight errors gave Laurel Hill its biggest lead of the first set at 17-11. Rocky Bayou never got closer than three points the rest of the set.

Denbow and Hannah Barber sparked a quick Knight start in set two as Rocky Bayou led 7-2. But the steady Hoboes didn't buckle when behind.



RANDY DICKSON | News Bulletin

Jhanea Griffin goes up for a kill for Laurel Hill School.

A Kaylee LHomme kill stopped the early Knight run.

Laurel Hill trailed 8-4 when Gordon stepped to the service line. By the time the Knights broke Gordon's serve, the Hoboes had tied the set.

The teams traded points until the 14-14 point, at which time Laurel Hill went on an 11-4 run to finish off the set. Bridget Zessin, Breanna Trunk and Gordon all played a big part in the finishing run of the set.

Laurel Hill never trailed in the third set as the Hoboes built a 15-5 lead before the Knights rallied back behind the play of Emmaly Smith and Lauren Wright.

But the hole was too deep for Rocky Bayou to dig out of as Laurel Hill held on for the win.

Gordon and Zessin each had five kills to lead the Hobo attack. Gordon also had five aces.

Zessin had three blocks. LHomme and Jhanea Griffin had two blocks each.

Morgan Meeks had eight assists; Trunk had four assists.

Kent Zessin admitted the team still has work to do, but he likes what he sees at this point of the season.

"We are in a process of learning," he said. "It's my first year back in four or five years and they are picking things up slowly but surely. I've got a couple of pretty good hitters in Lauren Gordon and Bridget Zessin."

"If I can get my two bigs — Jhanea Griffin and Kaylee LHomme — there with them, we will be four deep at the hitting position, which at 1A is pretty nice. I've got two pretty good setters and good defense to back that up. We are just going to continue to work every day and hope for the best come district time."

Eagles too strong for Bulldogs

By SETH STRINGER
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NICEVILLE — Following the Niceville volleyball team's sweep of district foe Navarre on Tuesday, Portia Rodgers was asked what she thought of Crestview.

"They're definitely going to be our biggest competition in the district," the senior said.

The comment — a nod to strides made by the Bulldogs, who entered Thursday's District 1-7A match against the Eagles at 7-1 — affirmed that Niceville isn't overlooking anyone in its big-picture goal of a state title.

That was true with rival Mosley in the season-opening sweep. And that was evident in Thursday night's sweep of Crestview, the second rival to go down swiftly in the Eagles' home gym.

Niceville senior Breana Rodriguez led the team with four aces. Ashley Hagood had a team-high eight kills to go along with 12 assists, Rodgers delivered a team-best 13 assists, and the Eagles (7-2) served up 10 aces en route to a 25-17, 25-18, 25-16 win over the Bulldogs.

Niceville head coach John Michael Plummer was so impressed that after a couple of lunging digs kept rallies alive and led to Niceville points in the third set, the 23-year-old made somewhat of a TKO motion like he had seen enough.

And Niceville was on top of its game yet again against a rival.

It all happened at Niceville, which Plummer says is one of the most electric volleyball atmospheres in the area.

Tessa Morken and Bailey Noon, who had seven kills, each delivered double-digit digs, Sami Mims had five kills and three blocks, and Jen Smith, Stephanie Kaufman and Rodriguez each served up four kills.

But it was Crestview, which was paced by Jasmine Middleton's nine kills and Molly Kitchen's 12 assists, that came out on fire, jumping ahead 4-0 on the strength of two Middleton kills and a block.

Niceville settled in and overcame Middleton's dominance in the early going. Mims delivered four kills and Portia Rodgers dished out eight assists and three aces to lead the Eagles to a comfortable 25-17 win in the opener.

Crestview answered with another 4-0 lead, but yet again, the Bulldogs couldn't sustain the momentum.

Hagood dished out five assists and Mims shined with three blocks, the last up the middle to cap a 25-18 win. That set the tone for the final set, when Hagood delivered five kills and Kaufman put the capper on the match with a kill up the middle for the 25-16 win.

Indians hand Crestview volleyball team first loss

By SETH STRINGER
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FORT WALTON BEACH — Entering Wednesday night's matchup with undefeated Crestview High School, Choctawhatchee knew an upset would only be possible with a near-perfect effort.

And that was only reinforced in the first set, when the Indians watched a 23-22 lead vanish in the blink of an eye as 7-0 Crestview won the opener 25-23.

But the Indians didn't

hang their heads on their home court. Instead, they made adjustments; with them, the momentum turned, and it turned quickly.

Freshman Evelina Teran put up a dominant defensive effort with a team-best five blocks to accompany five kills, Shannon McDonald and Emily Keichel each dished out a team-high 13 assists, and Heather Young led the Indians with 12 kills en route to a 23-25, 25-20, 25-21, 25-18 win.

"I thought we played really well," said Choctaw

first-year head coach Scott Allen, whose team improved to 3-3. "They came out and took the first (set) and we kind of made some adjustments. We told our girls, 'If we can cut down on the errors, then we should definitely be able to win this match.' They had a lot of heart, they played really hard, and they didn't get down on themselves ... (Wednesday), we were able to cut down on the errors after that first game, and it came out in our favor."

In the first set alone, Choctaw lost 13 points

because of unforced errors. But after watching the 6-foot Teran and 5-9 Anya Shelton limit Crestview's attack — which was bolstered by a match-high 13 kills from Brittany Pase and 10 kills from Jasmine Middleton — in the first set, the Indians cleaned it up and never trailed in the second set.

Teran and Shelton combined for five blocks and six kills, and the Indians cruised to a 25-20 second-set win.

"I was really frustrated we didn't utilize the blocks we got in game one from (Teran), along with the three or four we got from (Shelton), who played middle for only the second time tonight," Allen said. "I was hoping we would get that same action and eventually capitalize, and you noticed that the Crestview girls didn't want to challenge that blocking after the first game."

With Keichel and McDonald dishing out crisp sets, Young took over with six kills in the third set. Shannon McDonald and Britney Krueger added three kills each in a 25-12 win.

Young added five kills in the final set for the Indians, who never trailed en route to a 25-18 victory.

While no longer District 2-6A foes — Choctaw falling down to 5A and Crestview rising up to 7A — Allen said that both programs' change of scenery didn't diminish the rivalry.

"The coaches know each other, the players know each other, so we love playing against each other," he said. "It's a good, spirited game with a lot of intensity, and you can feel it in the gym."