Former group home becomes ‘one-stop shop’ for foster teens’ growth, development

By BRIAN HUGHES
692-4241 / bhughes@crestviewbulletin.com

Baker — Paul Garrett has pea, an eating disorder that causes an appetite for things with no nutritional value, things that can be dangerous. He has ingested match sticks, rocks, dryer lint and wallpaper. Magnets had to be surgically removed from his intestines. The five year’s parents, Laura and Philip, keep a watchful eye on their youngest son, but it’s challenging, they said, because Paul also has autism. “It’s very hard to figure out a child when you cannot verbally communicate,” Laura said. “It’s physically impossible to watch a child 24/7.”

HOPE IN VAL-P
The Emerald Coast Autism Center in Valparaiso will help build Paul’s autism and potentially cure him of pea. However, the costs are steep. Laura said it costs more than $2,185 each month for visits to the facility. Initially, it will cost the family around $26,000. Health insurance covers none of the expenses. But a $13,000 scholarship helps some, and the Family’s Frost Bank account has raised $3,500.

Paul Garrett

Right now, we just June and July covered,” Laura said. “Now we are working on August.” Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church members want to help. Members of the church, which the Garrett family formerly attended, are organizing “Pitchin’ in for Paul” fundraisers.

AMAZING TO US
Church member Lauren Boice, who became close with the Garrett family after recently moving to Baker, said she was compelled to help. “They are just a very godly family,” she said. “Paul is so smart and sweet, you can’t help but fall in love with him.”

A June 22 benefit luncheon and silent auction will benefit Pilgrim Rest’s保罗 Garrett Scholarship fund has already raised $3,900. Scholarship recipients.

WANT TO GO?
WHAT: Lunch benefiting Paul Garrett
WHERE: 12:30 p.m., following the 11 a.m. worship service, June 22
Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, 559 S. U.S. Highway 4, Baker
COST: Donations requested
WEBSITE: gofundme.com/Spl9y2

Paul Hsu — pictured accepting the key to the city from Mayor David Cable, has established a program to reward innovative area science and mathematics teachers. His autobiography, “Guardians of the Dream,” for a $20 per copy book donation to the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
Diane Thomas, chair of the Teen Center’s dinner, commented on the audience variety. “It was a whole village to raise one child.”

Community Bank, contributed $5,000. The bank, the community he calls home. R. Knox said she’s happy to stop shop,” staffers said. “We will be continuing to solicit support from within the community.” She said, “Because it does take a whole village to raise one child.”

Business leader funds $100,000 teaching award

Book sales cover first Shaw Scholarship for 2015

By BRIAN HUGHES
692-4241 / bhughes@crestviewbulletin.com

CRESTVIEW — Before he modestly accepted the key to the city from Mayor David Cable, business leader Paul Hsu had already found another way to give back to the community he calls home. Hsu, founder of the Crestview Technology Air Park and several regional defense and aerospace companies, has established a program to reward a proactive area science and mathematics teachers. His gift establishes a foundation within the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce to award $10,000 to one science and one math teacher a year for at least 10 years. “My dream was we could give something to the community we love,” he said. “We are just a very godly family,” she said. “Paul is so smart and sweet, you can’t help but fall in love with him.”

A June 22 benefit luncheon and silent auction will benefit Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church.

School of 2015

By BRIAN HUGHES
692-4241 / bhughes@crestviewbulletin.com

The center’s supply closet, which is always open, can help people in any way they may need. “We will be continuing to solicit support from within the community.” She said, “Because it does take a whole village to raise one child.”

Business leader funds $100,000 teaching award

Book sales cover first Shaw Scholarship for 2015
Country music headlines Northwest Florida Music Fest

Florida Music Festival

The musical groups, including some Crockett natives, will perform during the June 21-22 event at Old Spanish Trail Park.

"Not a hobby"

Eric Melvin wants to show how far he has come: He started out performing at Crestview restaurants, but now he’s playing bass guitar with the Nashville group, Favorite Son.

"I’m personally looking forward to showing people what I’m doing," Melvin said. "This is a top priority for all of us; it’s not a hobby."

The band’s members, who tour the Southeast, are working on their first full-length album.

"I’m really fired up about it," he said of the music festival. "This is something I have wanted to do for years.

The festival will include children’s activities such as bounce houses, inflatable slides and face painting. Saturday also will include a motorcycle show; enthusiasts are encouraged to bring out their custom motorcycles and potentially take home a trophy."

"It’s going to be a great community festival," he said. "It’s going to do nothing but benefit Crestview."

Bake Memories Day, a DCF spokesperson said, "The festival will include children’s activities such as bounce houses, inflatable slides and face painting. Saturday also will include a motorcycle show; enthusiasts are encouraged to bring out their custom motorcycles and potentially take home a trophy."

"It’s going to be a great community festival," he said. "It’s going to do nothing but benefit Crestview."
Three parks receive 'poor' advisories for hazardous bathing water, submitted to elections@ candidates may be
City Hall Annex, 4100 Indian Partin Drive, Niceville.
Niceville City Hall, 208 N. Forum: 6-8 p.m. June 18, Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Niceville City Hall, 208 N. Political forums series
follows:
candidates.
featuring Northwest Florida Political forums scheduled
Committee and the
Northwest Florida Daily News will present a
Committee and the
School Board Forum:
225, N. Okaloosa Drive, Destin. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
School Board Forum: 6-8 p.m. June 25, Destin 6-8 p.m June 25, Destin
at Lincoln Park in Valparaiso
presence indicates fecal enterococci standards.
on EPA-recommended
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Bryan Hughes 605-241-4444 bryan@crestviewbulletin.com

CRESTVIEW — A newly formed coalition of Hispanic and non-Hispanic professional and nonprofit workers aims to unite Hispanic businesses while helping local nonprofits tap into the rapidly growing Hispanic market. Hispanics and Friends of LaPKued organizer David Zessin, manager of UfL’s Great Chase-a, a Hispanic nonprofit organizations for the local economy.

“Hispanic communities are growing rapidly,” Truan said. “What we are hoping to do is educate and inform the non-Hispanic civic leadership, businesses and city agencies about this growth and prepare them for an explosion of growth that is going to occur here if immigration reform takes place. Hispanics and Friends of LaPKued have in the second monthly meeting bought on the porch at the Spots Cigar and Caffe. Their first gathering was held in the second monthly meeting of the porch at the Spots Cigar and Caffe. Their first gathering was held in the Park Wall Branch Chamber of Commerce. “We are hoping other Hispanic communities want to join us,” Truan said. “Please contact marketing consultant of the Hispanic community. Latinas exhibit more than 1 billion to the local economy. Truan said: “It is important because it helps bring people from different organizations together to generate a networking opportunity that is probably available in the local chambers themselves,” he said.

Small businesses major problem is that they do not have a lot of marketing help. Truan said that when he talks to Hispanic business owners, they say, “It’s hard because we have so many websites and social media in our community.” But the Hispanic community does not have that because it is not available in the local chambers themselves,” he said.

BRIEF

WANT TO GO? WHAT: Hispanics and Friends Linked WHERE: White Spot Cigars and Coffee, 5155 S. Fort Walton Blvd., Crestview CONTACT: 850-682-3505 or dfalacke@gmail.com

New group aims to educate, inform professionals about Hispanic community’s growth, opportunities

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The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office provided the following crime reports for publication:

**Okaloosa County**

**MAY 20**

• Andrew Kenneth Appling, 26, Crestview: marijuana possession.
• Lance William Krock, 29, Crestview: property damage more than $1,000.

**MAY 31**

• Truett Cline Dooley, Drake, 27, Crestview: personal information theft.

**JUNE 1**

• Sharon Harold Burns, 38, Holt: bail bond violation.
• Patrick James County, 48, Fort Walton Beach: out-of-county warrant.

**JUNE 2**

• Allen Edward Benjamin, 17, Crestview: drug equipment possession or use.

**JUNE 3**

• Cameron Ryan Oshea, 24, Destin: out-of-county warrant.
• Thomas Henry Pride, 33, Newville: out-of-county warrant.

*Fraud by the Numbers: Scams Against Seniors* Over six in ten Americans age 65 or older have been a victim of financial fraud. Seniors lose $2.9 billion annually through financial fraud. Unfortunately, targeting seniors is one of the most effective ways for scammers and identity thieves to make money. Scammers will go to great lengths to target seniors, particularly those who control wealth, are prime targets. A recent survey found that 70 percent of the nation’s seniors, who control wealth, are prime targets. Women are twice as likely as men to be targets. Most victims are 80-89, live alone and require assistance such as medical care, personal care or home maintenance.

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**BRIEFS**

**State, local officials: Scammers target senior with good credit**

Residents can report suspicious financial activity to Crestview Police Department investigator Len Wilkerson, 682-2055, or Okaloosa Sheriff’s Office crime prevention manager Ashley Bailey, 682-7470.

**Who to Call**

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**Online**

See a list of common scams at www.crestviewbulletin.com/news

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**2 men sought in Crestview shooting**

**Former Sasquatch Zoo owner charged with cruelty to animals**

Zoo owner Debbie Mattox, who owned the Sasquatch Zoo for the past seven years and is now in the process of selling it, was served with a summons May 16 by Broward County Animal Services, 9101 Wiles Road, Plantation. She faces multiple misdemeanor charges, including cruelty to animals, possessing wildlife without proper permitting and three caging requirement violations. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission brought the charges in late April. Summons were served by Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office. A probable cause affidavit states that Mattox was unlicensed to breed birds and was keeping birds without proper permits, documents show.
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

08-CA-002520 S

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School board approves program for at-risk 4th-, 5th-graders
Young Okaloosa County students struggling in a traditional school environment soon will have another education option. Beginning in August, about 40 fourth- and fifth-graders will attend LEAP—Learning Enrichment Alternative Program—Community School, the newest piece of Okaloosa Academy Charter School. The Okaloosa County School Board approved the new approach last week after learning the goal was to help at-risk students with “intensive academic and behavioral support” and then return them to the district for middle school. Students likely will rotate classes during the day and will have to sign a behavior contract like the older students. The Radier Group, which will operate the charter school, will choose a location different from the academy just off Lewis Turner Boulevard. The group, which has operated charter schools in Florida since 1996, runs Okaloosa Academy campuses in Fort Walton Beach and Crestview, Walton Academy in DeFuniak Springs and the Learning Academy in Milton.

Applications available for leadership development program
Northwest Florida State College’s Costa Leadership Institute is accepting applications for the 2014-2015 Leadership Okaloosa program.

The nine-month program, designed to enhance the participant’s leadership skills and provide community awareness, runs in partnership with the Crestview, Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Niceville-Vanvaloras chambers of commerce.

The class meets monthly from September to May, participants receive classroom training by a certified instructor and are given opportunities to interact with various key community leaders throughout the process. A highlight is a two-day trip to Tallahassee for the Legislative Day meeting. Two of area businesses such as the Northwest Florida Regional Airport, Destin Field and Eglin Air Force Base provide participants with an understanding of the community.

Applications are due July 26, and tuition is $900; a limited number of partial scholarships are available for nonprofit staff members. Applications are available at www.nwfsc.edu/LI, or calling 770-6888 or emailing Leadership@NWFSC.edu.

Crestview woman among students presenting symposium research
A Crestview woman is among Malone University students who presented original research during the sixth annual Student Research Symposium at the Canton, Ohio, campus. Melissa McPherson, who was a senior Spanish Education major presented “Colorful Prayers: Remembering the Literature of Hispanic Women in the United States” and “Hear my Voice: The poetry of Marjorie Agosín,” under faculty mentor Julia Villaespes’ guidance.

CAMPUS REPORT
From staff reports
Board school approves program for at-risk 4th-, 5th-graders
Young Okaloosa County students struggling in a traditional school environment soon will have another education option. Beginning in August, about 40 fourth- and fifth-graders will attend LEAP—Learning Enrichment Alternative Program—Community School, the newest piece of Okaloosa Academy Charter School. The Okaloosa County School Board approved the new approach last week after learning the goal was to help at-risk students with “intensive academic and behavioral support” and then return them to the district for middle school. Students likely will rotate classes during the day and will have to sign a behavior contract like the older students. The Radier Group, which will operate the charter school, will choose a location different from the academy just off Lewis Turner Boulevard. The group, which has operated charter schools in Florida since 1996, runs Okaloosa Academy campuses in Fort Walton Beach and Crestview, Walton Academy in DeFuniak Springs and the Learning Academy in Milton.
Roser believes dancing is a way to say a lot of things in front of a lot of people,” the 10-year-old said. Stage fright aside, Reann said she had to write the speech after being bullied and witnessing classmates experiencing the same ordeal. “I have been seeing kids who have been picked on, or who have been really sad because they don’t have that many friends, and I just get tired of it,” she said. “I wanted everyone to feel equal.” School Principal Joanne Kirkland invited Reann to speak on the topic during Wednesday’s Fifth Grade Honors and Awards Ceremony at the Crestview Community Center. Reann is one of 94 fifth-graders heading into middle school next year. “We don’t call it a graduation, but a celebration,” said school counselor Alicia Humphrey. Each student received a medal commemorating his or her time at the school. Almost every year “we recognize the students’ leadership and achievements, including outstanding attendance and academic performance,” Humphrey said. “It’s an emotional day, knowing that he is going from elementary school to middle school.” Roser quickly discovered that she is a girly thing, Roser said. “It’s fun and definitely ‘not a dance!’” read one of the signs.” The moment followed the kids call “Miss Jazz.” Teachers helped students with costuming and, in some cases, makeup as class after class moved through the moves and chose the music for each dance routine. Students were encouraged to create their own routine, or adaptation of a music and chore the moves chosen by the class, with about 15 moves per routine. One Dance Day, the gymnasium pulsed with high-energy music for almost three hours Tuesday morning as class after class strutted — and swaggered, perturbed, wobbled, wriggled, wriggled, wobbled, and Macarena’d — to the music. Students could change their music throughout the day. “The need for self-expression is crucial now, especially when you might be getting up in front of others, especially when you might be embarrassed to dance,” Roser said, were the dancing 2013. “Never stop dancing!” read one poster held up by third-grade teacher Christina Barrett’s students. “We’re ready!” was another sign. Ashley Molheby, a third-grader in Tricia Wise’s class, said after her class defeated Christina Barrett’s third-graders to win the Cougar Cup. The moment followed a year of preparation. “We were ready,” he said. Principal Donna Goode and Dean of Students Dejah Lashai Lewis judged first, second and third-place winners from each of two performances that fea- tured eight or nine classes. Judging categories includ- ed team participation, spir- it, synchronization, respect for other teams and the au- dience and overall effect. The audience chose the winning class by clapping and cheering for their favorite, but first, Wise and Barrett’s students showed sportsmanship by exchang- ing handshakes, back slaps and hugs. The real winners, Ros- er said, were the dancing Cougars as a whole. “It takes a lot of guts to get up in front of others, es- pecially when you might be a little scared about what others think,” she said.

Christina Barrett’s third-graders perform an encore of their dance routine on Northwood Arts and Science Academy’s Dance Day. At right, Kabari Kawar Kiddos perform a self-written dance routine.

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