



BAY COUNTY CURRENTS

The official newsletter of the Bay County Board of County Commissioners



IN THIS ISSUE

**NEW CERT
GRADUATES**

A DOWNSPOUT RESCUE

**BIRTHDAYS,
ANNIVERSARIES AND
NEW HIRES**

**EMPLOYEE REFERRAL
PROGRAM**

Make this the year you invest in your health

A new year is the perfect time to focus on feeling better and gain more energy and healthier habits that actually fit your life. Bay County's EVOLVE Wellness™ program is here to support you, offering free personalized health coaching for employees and their spouses.

EVOLVE Wellness™ run by Coach James "JT" Thompson provides flexible options including one-on-one coaching, virtual visits, self-guided programs, custom nutrition and mobility plans, and stress management support, all tailored to your goals and schedule.

"This program meets people where they are," said Coach JT. "You don't have to be 'ready' or perfect to get started, you just have to start."

You can schedule an in-person or virtual consultation at <https://evolvewithjt.clientsecure.me/>

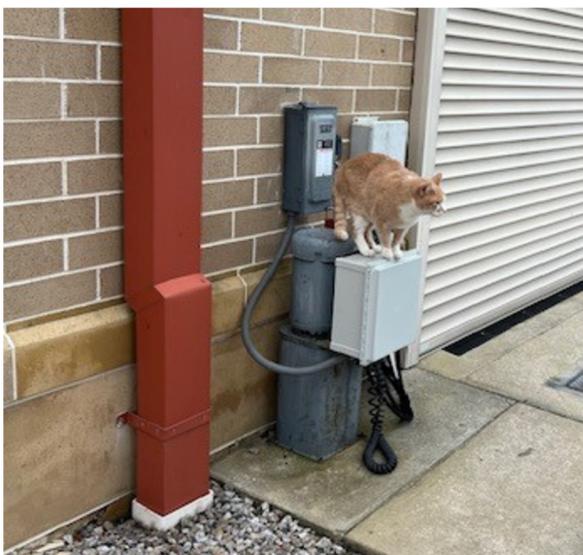
"When our employees are healthier, everyone benefits," said County Manager Bob Majka. "This program is an investment in our people and our organization."

If better health is on your list this year, EVOLVE Wellness™ is ready when you are.



Each year, Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative allocates to its members any revenues of the cooperative that are in excess of its operating costs and expenses. The net revenues remaining after expenses are allocated pursuant and subject to the bylaws to the member-owners, as capital credits. Mike Allen and Shelia Williams, on the behalf of Bay County Utility Services, were presented a check in the amount of \$29,997.38 by Rubert Brown (GCEC – Trustee District III, Group 1). Pictured is Mike Allen (Bay County Utility Services Director), Brown, and Shelia Williams (Bay County Utility Services Finance Manager).

Congratulations to the newest graduates of the Bay County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Cam Neuman, Marcia Cross, Donn Smoker, Christopher Brown, Aaron Gilmore, Ty Thompson, Rebecca Ott, Ryan Meyer, Thomas Herzog, John Holdnak, and Jacob Holmes. Each graduate completed the free training program consisting of four evening classes and a Saturday field training session. The training focused on essential skills to support first responders during emergencies. Participants acquired knowledge in areas such as staffing the Citizen Information Center, assisting in the Emergency Operations Center, aiding traffic control, conducting light search and rescue, and managing volunteer or donation centers.



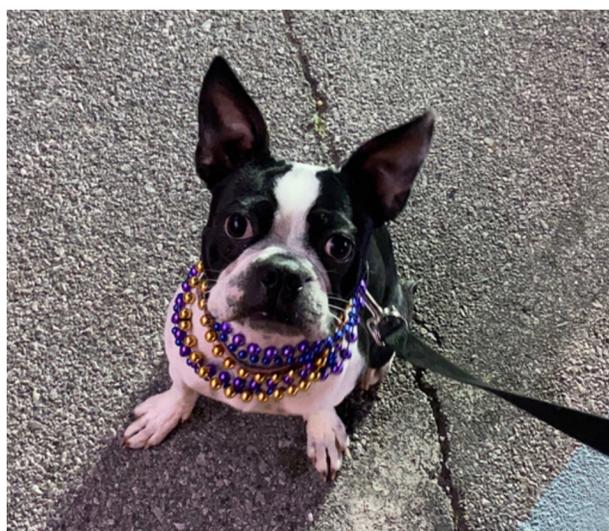
A cat perched on a utility box behind the Supervisor of Elections Office drew attention to frantic scratching sounds coming from a nearby downspout, making it clear an animal was trapped inside. Facilities was immediately contacted, and Steve Szulczynski responded to investigate what was, by his account, a first-of-its-kind situation. After some on-the-spot troubleshooting by Szulczynski and Parks and Recreation Manager Vince Martin, who was passing by at the time, the trapped animal was identified as a mockingbird. The bird was carefully freed and promptly flew away unharmed, probably to the disappointment of the very attentive cat.



Lionel Ross, a roads maintenance technician in the Roads and Bridges division, recently paid a visit to his grandchild's classroom at Rising Leaders Academy. During this visit, Ross, affectionately known as "Stumpy," highlighted the significance of safety. He encouraged students to remain vigilant, be mindful of road workers, and stay aware of potential hazards.

A giant THANK YOU to Mr. Ross for visiting us today! He told us all about his very important job at the Bay County Roads and Bridges Department. We learned that his team are the "helpers" who keep us safe when we see orange cones and roadwork. We realized there is a lot of hard work happening on the roads we drive on every day! Thank you, Mr. Ross, for being our Parent Hero and keeping our community safe!

Parks and Recreation Assistant Division Manager Timothy Prentice's dog named Ruby would like to wish everyone a joyful and festive Mardi Gras.





Happy Birthday to employees with a February birthday!

Craig Oates
 Jeremi Roberts
 Lori Spradlin
 Vincent Martin
 Mitchell Harris
 Rayford Jones
 David Tharp
 Deby Davison
 Emilee Struss
 Nathan West
 Jeffery Grindle
 Rick Sumner
 Tracy Griffin
 Catherine Weherley
 Monica Walton
 Caleb Hill
 Sherri Hardy
 Brian Leebrick
 Maranda Ponce
 Ann Mauder
 Michael Butler
 Michael Ragan
 Ray Spradlin
 Garrett Bowden

Russell Bright
 Jason Wood
 Fester Little
 Dawson Scott
 Wayne Bennett
 Stephen Churchwell
 Alfred Crowell
 Gary Thrift
 Donna Newell
 Cheyenne Roundtree
 Kiante Carroll
 David Hagans
 Luke Kirkland
 David Spitzer
 Dane Matchkus
 Daniel Griffin
 Frederick Crosby
 Neftaly Jordan
 Candace Pate
 Dino 'Bobby' Warren
 Jerry Walden
 James Escano
 Jared Sasnett
 Mark Stangl

Derrick Keeny
 Saul Puente
 James Dunkin
 Jen Warner
 Trisha Couch
 Michael Tynan
 Eric Cope
 Terry Haughn
 Barbara Nazaruk
 Heather Cleveland
 Bailey Scutchfield
 Christopher Robinson
 Emiko Koyama-Allen
 Derrick Kellar
 Eddie Parker
 Eric Cope
 Terry Haughn
 Barbara Nazaruk
 Heather Cleveland
 Bailey Scutchfield
 Christopher Robinson
 Emiko Koyama-Allen
 Derrick Kellar
 Eddie Parker
 Kevan Mitchell

Welcome to Bay County!

Jonathan Crow - Fire Rescue
 Ashton Woodrow - GIS Manager
 James White - Fire Rescue
 John Cromer - Roads and Bridges
 Justin Strickland - Utilities
 Robert Keith - Fire Rescue
 Malik Davis - Fire Rescue
 Johnnie Hinson - Utilities
 Heath Dixon - Roads and Bridges
 Diane Kipfer - Library
 Scott Slocum - Fire Rescue
 Bryan Cooper - Fire Rescue
 Lily Leihy - Fire Rescue
 Christopher Fowler - Fire Rescue
 Javarius Chambers - Roads and Bridges
 Logan Dahl - Parks and Recreation
 Andrew Tappan - Utilities

Happy Anniversary!

5 Years
 Larry Summerlin - Facilities Maintenance

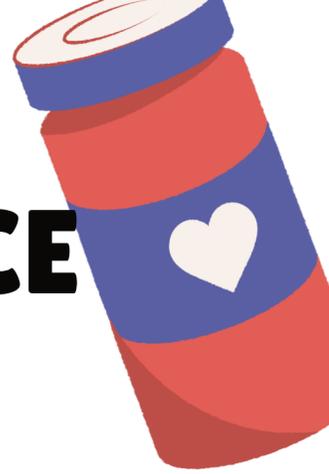
10 Years
 Ray Spradlin - Utilities

15 Years
 Terri Pierce - Human Resources

20 Years
 Kevin Shaw - Fire Rescue
 Stephen Thomason - Roads and Bridges

25 Years
 Wayne Comeau - Traffic Control

30 Years
 Steve Szulczynski - Facilities Maintenance



HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATES:

EFFECTIVE 1/1/26 BAY COUNTY BOCC'S MEDICAL CARRIER IS BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD

If you have not received an insurance card, please follow the steps on this flyer to sign up for My Health Toolkit.

From this website, you can request a card to be mailed to your home address as well as access a digital card, review claims, view plan details, and more.

My Health Toolkit Website (QR Code Below):

<https://myhealthtoolkit.com/web/nonsecure/alliances/Content/My+Health+Toolkit>

- Select “Choose your Blue Plan”
- Click on Florida Blue
- Under the Member Login, select “Create an Account.”
- This step will then ask for your Social Security Number, Date of Birth, and contact information. After creating an account, you can view your card and request a new copy to be mailed.

Questions? Call Human Resources at (850) 248-8201

(My Health Toolkit)



Don't let sickness slow you down.

Get care by phone or video 24/7.



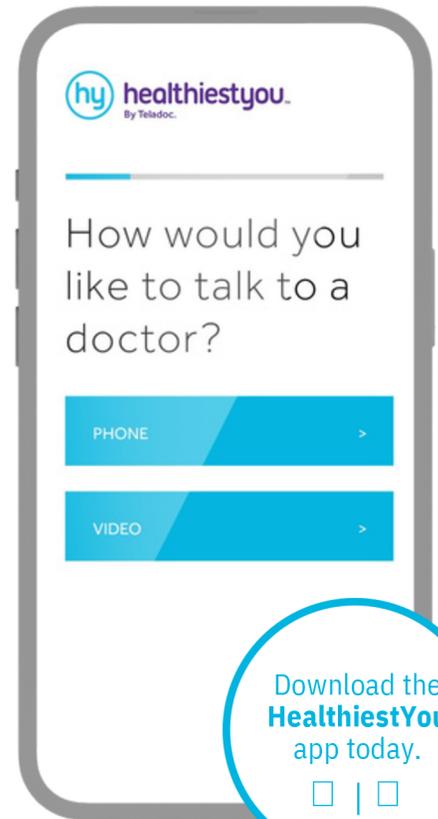
HealthiestYou is included in your health benefits.

Let HealthiestYou help you and your family feel better while traveling, at work, or at home—day or night. Wherever you are, you've got access to providers all year long by phone or video.



Get treated for:

- Flu
- Sore throats
- Pink eye
- Bronchitis
- Sinus infections
- Rashes
- Allergies
- And more



Download the app to talk to a doctor for free 24/7

Visit [HealthiestYou.com](https://www.healthiestyou.com)

Call 866-703-1259 | Download the app  | 

HealthiestYou is now part of Teladoc Health, Inc., the global leader in virtual care. Teladoc Health, Inc., on its own behalf and on behalf of its affiliates and/or wholly owned subsidiaries, including but not limited to Best Doctors, Inc. and HealthiestYou, Inc., and on behalf of its clinical partners, including but not limited to Teladoc Health Medical Group, P.A., (collectively referred to as "Teladoc Health," "we," "us," or "our"), owns and operates the websites located at www.teladoc.com, www.bestdoctors.com, www.askbestdoctor.com, members.bestdoctors.com, www.healthiestyou.com, and various mobile applications (collectively, the "site" or "sites"). Through these sites we operate various online services that enable eligible individuals ("members") to receive various types of healthcare information and telehealth services ("services"). The sites also have public portions that allow anyone to educate themselves on the services available from Teladoc Health.

Employee Referral Program



Get
\$250
per
referral!

Help us grow the amazing crew that is Bay County Board of County Commissioners!

Here's how it works:

The applicant must select "Employee Referral" and type in **your** name on the application for credit.

Once the referred applicant is hired, you will get \$250 on your next paycheck.

There is no limit to how many referral credits you can receive.

All jobs are posted on Bay County website:
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/baycounty>





THE FIGHT FOR MIKE



**JOIN US IN HELPING
SUPPORT MIKE ODOM
IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST
CANCER WITH A FULL
DAY OF LIVE MUSIC**



02.21.2026



LOCATION
SHARRON
SHEFFIELD
PARK

TIME
1:00 PM

ADDRESS
901 OHIO AVE.
LYNN HAVEN FL.
32444



**Mike Odom is the Lead
Maintenance Mechanic
for Wastewater Division.**

March
1st
2026

Application Deadline

Apply Today!

tinyurl.com/4hsesapp



FLORIDA 4-H

Summer Event Scholarships

UF | IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

FLORIDA 4-H FOUNDATION



The #Florida4H State Event Scholarship Application is Now Open!

This application is for intermediate (*age 11-13) and senior youth (*age 14-18) to apply for a variety of Florida 4-H state event registration scholarships. Through the generous support of Florida 4-H Alumni + Friends, there are multiple full and partial event registration scholarships available to attend 4-H's iLEAD, Legislature and University programs.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Mar. 1 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

For more application info, visit tinyurl.com/4hsesapp

Program events include:

- Facebook live iLEAD: Intermediate Leadership Conference free information session – February 24, 2026 at 7:00PM ET/6:00PM CT (age 11-13)
- Facebook live 4-H LEGISLATURE Informational Session March 30, 2026 at 7:00PM ET/6:00PM CT (age 14+)
- Facebook live 4-H University Informational Session April 16, 2026 at 7:00PM ET/6:00PM CT (age 14+)

My Florida Home

A Class for First-Time Homebuyers

Topics in this 6-hour course include:

- Debt and credit for homebuyers
- Homebuying process
- Financial responsibilities of home ownership
- Basic home care and maintenance

This course is open to all participants, from individuals just beginning to those further along in the process.



Scan here for
class listings and
online registration.

Pre-registration is required!

Bay County Extension 850-784-6105

Calhoun County Extension 850-674-8323

Holmes County Extension 850-547-1108

Jackson County Extension 850-482-9620

Washington County Extension 850-638-6180



<https://JacksonCountyFCS.Eventbrite.com>

**Contact us for virtual/online alternatives for any of the in-person classes.

UPCOMING CLASSES

Sign up today!

Saturday January 24, 2026	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Marianna, Panama City, or DeFuniak Springs
Wednesday March 4, 2026	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Marianna, Panama City, Blountstown, or DeFuniak Springs
Thursday April 9, 2026	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Marianna, Panama City, or Blountstown
Tuesday & Thursday June 2 & 4, 2026	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Chipley, Panama City, or DeFuniak Springs

When registering, please specify or choose the location you prefer:

Bay County Extension Office: 2728 E 14th Street, Panama City, FL 32401

Calhoun County Extension Office: 20816 Central Avenue E, Blountstown, FL 32424

Holmes County Extension Office:

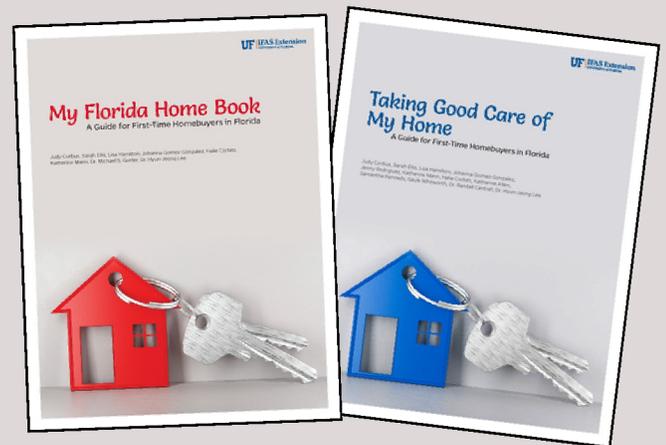
Jackson County Extension Office: 2741 Penn Avenue, Marianna, FL 32448

Walton County Extension Office: 732 N 9th Street, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433

Washington County Extension Office: 1424 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, FL 32428

SPECIAL NOTES

- All materials are provided in the class.
- If you are applying jointly with someone for SHIP funds, both applicants **MUST** attend the class.
- You must complete all sections of the Homebuyer Education Program to receive a certificate of completion.



Los talleres de vivienda para primeros compradores, estan disponibles en Español.

Para conocer las fechas y horarios, comuniquese con Jenny Aviles Rodriguez al: 407-254-9231 o jennyarodriguez@ufl.edu.



The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and listening devices, please contact Terri Keith, teri2003@ufl.edu or 850-482-9620 or Melanie Taylor, metaylor@ufl.edu or 850-248-8091, at least 2 weeks in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.



FLORIDA 4-H

Leap into Legislature

February & March 2026  Virtual

4-H youth ages 13-18 as of September 1, 2025

Register in 4-H Online: <https://LeapintoLEG.4honline.com>

Wednesday Nights at 7:00PM EST/ 6:00PM CT

Club Meeting Dates:

February 18, 2026

February 25, 2026

March 4, 2026

March 11, 2026

March 18, 2026

March 25, 2026

Join Florida 4-H for a virtual short-term club to explore civic engagement in your community and prepare 4-H members for Florida 4-H Legislature! Topics covered: citizenship, three branches of government, how a bill becomes a law, understanding self and others, civil discourse, 4-H LEG roles and preparation.



UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



An Equal Opportunity Institution



February 2026

Bay County Public Library



898 W. 11th Street, Panama City, FL 32401
850-522-2100 www.nwrls.com

For all library programs scan the QR code or click here!

Current Event Guide

Northwest Regional Library System
Winter 2025 - 2026
December, January, February

Adult Programming
 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM: **Book Club**
 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: **Book Club**
 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM: **Book Club**
 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: **Book Club**
 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM: **Book Club**
 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: **Book Club**

Goal of this Month
 Encouraging Night
 Bay County Public Library
 February 10, 2026
 6 - 8 PM



Fantastic astronomy program with AFSpace & Tyndall AFB that was fun for all ages!



Graduates from the library's Career Online High School program celebrated their degree in January! Thank you to Edward F. Hickey Jr., Trust for sponsoring these scholarships!



February 2026

Parker Public Library &
Panama City Beach Public Library



Parker Public Library

4710 Second Street, Parker, FL 32404
850-871-3092 www.nwrsls.com



Cheryl Spencer with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation gave a great presentation about bears!

Saturday Storytime (Ages 3 - 6)

February 7 at 11 a.m. CT
Valentine's Day theme

Lego Challenge (Ages 6 - 12)

February 7 at 12:30 p.m. CT

Crafternoon (Adults & Teens 16+)

February 28 at 11 a.m. CT
Zentangle for beginners

Panama City Beach Public Library

12500 Hutchison Blvd, PCB, FL 32407
850-233-5055 www.nwrsls.com



Mermaid Courtney visited our Sail Into School storytime!



February 2026

Port St. Joe Public Library &
Wewahitchka Public Library



Charles Whitehead Public Library

314 North Second Street, Wewahitchka, FL 32465
850-639-2149 www.nwrls.com



Visit Budding Bookworms storytime most
Tuesdays at 10 a.m. CT!



A little one practiced the letter h
at storytime!

Corinne Costin Gibson

Memorial Public Library

110 Library Drive, Port St. Joe, FL 32456
850-229-8879 www.nwrls.com

Music from the Elements of Nature with
Sammy Tedder

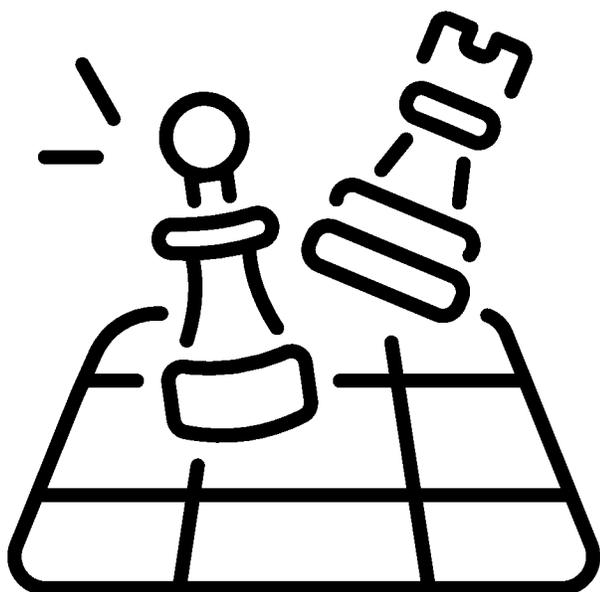
Tuesday, February 10 at 2 p.m. ET

Snowbirds for Snowbirds (and Locals!) with
Audubon Ambassador Nelson Mongiovi

Tuesday, February 17 at 2 p.m. ET

Porch Light On: Meet Author Gina Briggs

Tuesday, February 24 at 2 p.m. ET



Visit the PSJ Library for Chess Club on most
Mondays beginning 2:30 p.m. ET! All ages
and abilities welcome!



February 2026

Bristol Public Library & Hosford Public Library



Harrell Memorial Public Library

13016 NW CR 12, Bristol, FL 32321
850-643-2247 www.nwrls.com



Not only can you enjoy books in the children's area, Bristol Library has fun learning toys to play with as well!

For all library programs scan the QR code or [click here!](#)

Jimmy Weaver Memorial Public Library

22149 NE State Road 20, Hosford, FL 32334
850-379-3300 www.nwrls.com



Silver Social Club (Mature Adults)

Meets most Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. ET

Saturday Storytime (Ages 4 - 10)

February 7 & February 21 at 10 a.m. ET

Creative Crafters (Adults & Teens 16+)

February 17 at 1 p.m. ET
DIY suncatchers

Hold on Tight—
It's Gonna Be a Wild Ride!

10th Annual Shaddai Shriner's RODEO

TICKETS
\$20

Mar 6th & 7th
Fri & Sat

STARTING
7 PM

SCAN FOR
TICKETS



LET 'EM
BUCK
PRODUCTIONS

Info:
Jim Jenkins
850-258-8471

Central Panhandle Fairgrounds
2230 East 15th Street, Panama City, FL

Proceeds are to benefit Shaddai Shriners and are not tax deductible