



# BAY COUNTY CURRENTS

*The official newsletter of the Bay County Board of County Commissioners*



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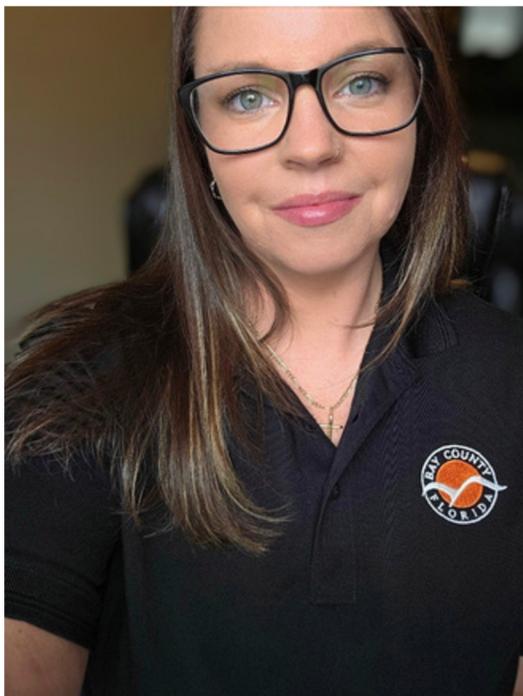
### **Quarterly Coffee Chats Continue**

The County Manager’s Office is pleased to announce the second Quarterly Coffee Chat meeting. These informal gatherings give employees the chance to meet directly with County Manager Bob Majka and Deputy County Manager Joel Schubert in a relaxed setting.

Each quarterly session will be held by division, without supervisors present, to encourage open conversation. Staff are invited to share ideas, raise concerns, ask questions, or simply listen.

The Coffee Chats are designed to promote transparency, strengthen connections between leadership and staff, and provide employees a voice in shaping the future of our workplace.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026** from **8:30 to 10:30 a.m.** in the **Commission Chambers at the Bay County Government Center**, located at 840 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Panama City.



### **Building Safety Promotion**

The Building Safety Division is pleased to announce the promotion of Kursten Beauchene to Permit Administrator. Kursten joined the division in March 2023 from the Bay County Sheriff's Office and quickly built strong expertise in building permit procedures. She was among the first in the department to earn ICC Certification as a Certified Permit Technician and was promoted to Permit Technician III in June 2025.

Since October 2025, Kursten has successfully balanced her Technician III duties while serving as Interim Permit Administrator. Her technical knowledge, exceptional organization, and consistently strong customer service have earned the respect of colleagues, the community, and the building industry, making her a natural fit for this role.

### **Animal Adoption Success**

We love an animal adoption story! Bay County Paramedic Faith Pitts adopted Chicken Wing from Bay County Animal Control. Chicken Wing is the sweetest cat with a little disabled arm and is adapting so well in his new home. He especially enjoys basking in the sunshine in his large sunroom.



## Happy Birthday to employees with a January birthday!

Dalton Crose  
Michael Williams  
Richard Jones  
Jay Petski  
Larry Summerlin  
Sabastian Merrick  
Carlos Blake  
Fletta Norcross  
Steve Szulczynski  
Timothy Justice  
Mark Morrissey  
Chris Beginski  
Pamela Robbins  
Paul Hagan  
Tommy Jordan  
Veronica Reynolds  
Clair Pease  
Lorraine Canfijn  
David Peterson  
Keith Bryant

Jeffery Goolsby  
Lucas Kisela  
Billy Writch  
Michael Odom  
Patrick Hill  
Kayla Yanez  
Darron Macon  
Joshua Crundwell  
Sonya Phares  
Scott Nabers  
Ashley Burlon  
Recy Raffield  
Kathlene Krum  
David Boyd  
Teah Mayo  
Jonathan Blas  
Deborah Lawrence  
Eugene Kopacz  
Hope Stewart  
Paul Kotula

Kristin Plachte  
Alex Agostino  
Yvette Carbajal  
Rhett Kirkland  
Arturo Bobadilla-Cohen  
Joshua Crane  
Preston Tucker  
Michael Baker  
Carlee Humbert  
Haley Howell  
Christina Raffield  
Mary Vitale  
Willie Owenby  
Shawn Walker  
Brandon Boyett  
Tristan Valdez  
Kevin Shaw  
Marshall Gordon  
Nicholas Lunde  
Joshua Mayfield

## Welcome to Bay County!

Aden Gomez - Parks and Recreation  
Devany Noblit - Code Enforcement  
Ashley Hair - Library  
Tammy Owens - Building Safety  
Tanner Taylor - Utilities  
Joshua Blackmer - Utilities  
James Wilmot - I.T.  
Jonathan Crow - Fire Rescue  
Ashton Woodrow - GIS  
James White - Fire Rescue  
John Cromer - Roads and Bridges  
Tommy Nettles III - Roads and Bridges  
Justin Strickland - Utilities  
Robert Keith - Fire Rescue  
Malik Davis - Fire Rescue

## Happy Anniversary!

### 5 Years

Wesley Turnipseed - Engineering  
Serina Junger - Animal Control  
Charles Washer - Utilities  
Janet Grinzinger - Library

### 10 Years

Marc Maclean - Engineering

### 15 Years

David King - Utilities

### 20 Years

Jerry Walden - Engineering

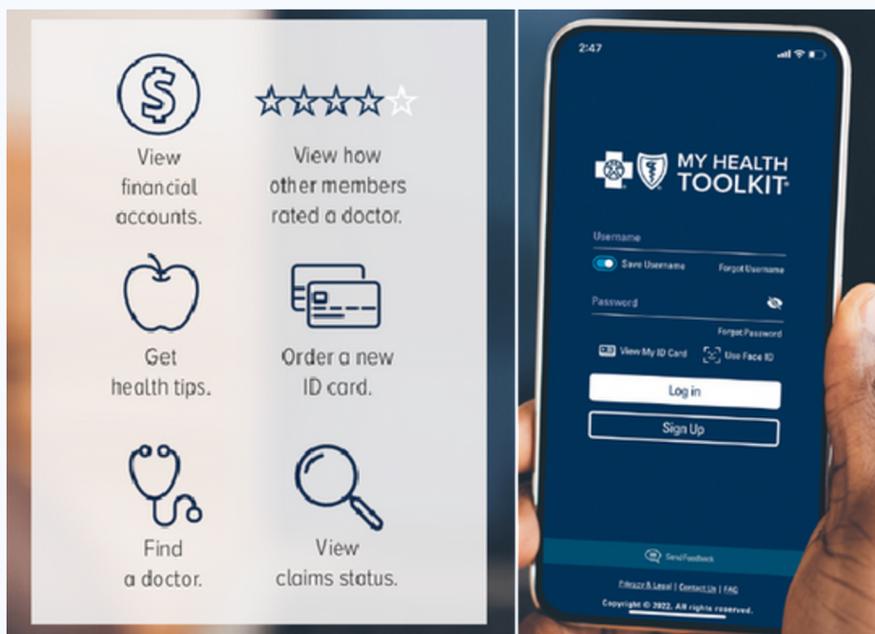
# REMINDER

## BAY COUNTY BOCC WILL BE CHANGING MEDICAL CARRIERS, EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 2026



- Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, the health insurance carrier is Blue Cross Blue Shield.
- Health insurance cards and plan information were mailed to your home in December.
- Please notify your physicians and pharmacy of the change in insurance.

### CONNECT ONLINE WITH MY HEALTH TOOLKIT:



Prefer to access My Health Toolkit from a computer? Go to [www.myhealthtoolkitfl.com](http://www.myhealthtoolkitfl.com).

- Select create an account within the member login section.
- Enter your member ID number from your card.
- Follow the instructions to create your profile.

Your account homepage will link you to helpful resources included with your health benefits plan. You have anywhere, anytime access to your benefits information, including claims, discounts, and preferred contact methods.

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

# 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>



# animal control

December 2025

## Christmas Party @ Pirate's Voyage



## Toy drive



## Donations from square dancing group





# January 2026

## Bay County Public Library



898 W. 11th Street, Panama City, FL 32401  
850-522-2100 [www.nwrls.com](http://www.nwrls.com)

**For all library programs scan the QR code!**



friends of the **BAY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

### *Jane Austen Friends Fundraiser*

Sunday, February 1  
from 2 – 4 p.m.  
Ticketed Event - \$75  
Bay County Public Library  
898 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Panama City

Purchase tickets to the Friends of the Bay County Public Libraries Jane Austen Fundraiser on Sunday, February 1st! Click [here](#) to learn more.



Visit our Collaborative Community Snowflake Art Installation through January and February. Library patrons and community members created **over 500** snowflakes!



Cherie, BCPL library patron, shared what she's grown using seeds given out by the library and UF/IFAS!



# January 2026

## Parker Public Library & Panama City Beach Public Library



### Parker Public Library

4710 Second Street, Parker, FL 32404  
850-871-3092 [www.nwrls.com](http://www.nwrls.com)



Storytime fun at Parker Library!



Lego Club participants creating winter builds.

### Panama City Beach Public Library

12500 Hutchison Blvd, PCB, FL 32407  
850-233-5055 [www.nwrls.com](http://www.nwrls.com)

#### Book Babies (Ages 0 - 2)

Most Tuesdays at 10 & 10:30 a.m. CT

#### Sail Into School (Ages 3 - 5)

Most Thursdays at 10 a.m. CT

#### Sea Needles (Adults)

Most Fridays from 10 - 12 p.m. CT

#### PCB Library Bingo (Adults)

Wednesday, January 21 at 10 a.m. CT

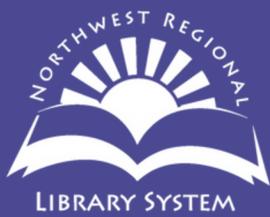
#### Heart Book Folding Program (Adults)

Friday, January 23 at 1 p.m. CT  
Call 850-233-5055 to register!

## Mahjong Meetup

Panama City Beach Public Library  
Tuesdays from 12 - 3 p.m. CT



# January 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](http://www.nwrls.com)



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



A cute Grinch craft was created at a holiday program!

# LIBRARIES = FUN!



Port St. Joe Library has 20 exciting programs planned for January 2026!

### Corinne Costin Gibson

### Memorial Public Library

110 Library Drive, Port St. Joe, FL 32456  
850-229-8879 [www.nwrls.com](http://www.nwrls.com)

#### Teen Book Club (Ages 12 - 17)

Saturday, January 10 at 12 p.m. ET

#### Art Workshop for Children (Ages 6+)

Tuesday, January 13 at 3:30 p.m. ET

#### The Sky Overhead with Skip Marlin (Adults)

Tuesday, January 20 at 2 p.m. ET

#### U-Boats in Our Backyard with Grayson Shepherd (Adults)

Tuesday, January 27 at 2 p.m. ET



# January 2026

Bristol Public Library &  
Hosford Public Library



## Jimmy Weaver Memorial Public Library

22149 NE State Road 20, Hosford, FL 32334  
850-379-3300 [www.nwrls.com](http://www.nwrls.com)



Even the Grinch got a library card in December!



The Silver Social Club meets most Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. ET for crafts, games, and activities!

**For all library  
programs scan  
the QR code!**



## Harrell Memorial Public Library

13016NWCR 12, Bristol, FL 32321  
850-643-2247 [www.nwrls.com](http://www.nwrls.com)

**Creative Crafters (Adults & Teens 16+)**  
Wednesday, January 14 at 1 p.m. ET

**Lego Club (Ages 6 - 12)**  
Thursday, January 15 at 3 p.m. ET

**Homeschool Hangout (K - 5th)**  
Wednesday, January 28 at 1 p.m. ET