



Bay County Currents

A publication for, about and by County employees

October 2008

Volume 3, Issue 10

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October Employee of the Month

Deanne has been with the Bay County Library since 1970. She is proud to be a third or fourth generation Bay County native and intends to get her Pioneer Certificate in time for the Centennial. Deanne Coffield is the poster child for dependability, attendance, punctuality, and use of time and materials.

Deanne comes in early and stays late. Working 60+ hours a week is not unusual. The months before, during, and after our transition from an independent 501-C3 organization to a County Department saw Deanne putting in 60-80 hours a week.

Deanne is usually the one who figures out the scheduling region-wide when the County wants us to come in for training and instruction. Her coordination of 60+ employees spread out over several counties is a blessing.

She has taught herself to use the computer software necessary to arrange all of the furniture and bookshelves in the new library. She measured everything in the old and new library in preparation for the move to the new building.

Initiative is Deanne's middle name. She keeps up with the timing for state aid applications and everything else that has a timetable. She is definitely the Director's right hand. She makes sure that needed paperwork is on its way to the correct destination.

Deanne constantly looks for ways to save money. She has found ways to save on copier leases. She has found companies which charge much less for copier paper and other office supplies. She looked for ways to make our furnishings money for the new building go as far as possible.

Deanne's dedication to her job, ability to learn quickly, organizational skills and "can do" attitude make her an excellent candidate for employee of the month.



[Mike Nelson](#)

District I

[George B. Gainer](#)

District II

[William T. Dozier](#)

District III

[Jerry L. Girvin](#)

District IV

[Mike Thomas](#)

District V

Commission Meetings

October 7

9:00 a.m.

Panama City Hall

October 21

9:00 a.m.

Panama City Hall

Mosquito Control receives top ratings

The Bay County Mosquito Control Division facility is inspected by three (3) different agencies on an annual basis to make sure we stay in compliance with statutory regulations. These agencies include the Bay County Health Department (BCHD), the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

The BCHD checks our tanks for leaks and makes sure that we inspect our tanks on a monthly basis.

The FDACS inspects our facility for proper chemical storage, proper equipment calibrations, as well as proper application methods. They verify that all employees are licensed to apply the chemicals.

The FDEP ensures that we meet, or exceed, all environmental regulations for the health and welfare of the environment and the citizens of Bay County.

We have received superior ratings on all three of these inspections for the past fifteen (15) years.

Mosquito Control is a Division of the Public Works Department. I accredit the superior rating achievement to the professional employees of the Mosquito Control Division, along with the help we receive from the staff and management of other Bay County Departments and Divisions. The most incredible thing about working for Bay County and the Public Works Department is teamwork. We are all in this together and together we accomplish many goals.

I personally would like to thank all my employees at Mosquito Control for their hard work and efforts in achieving such goals. As a Division Manager, I feel it is an honor to be a part of such a great team and organization. Again I say Thank You for making great things happen and to Bay County for being a great employer.

Fred T. Wakefield, Mosquito Control Division Manager

County Manager's Corner

It's "Flu Season" again. Once again, the Bay County Board of County Commissioners is offering flu shots to employees on October 9, 2008. This year, the Board is providing the shots for employees at half price (\$7.50). Family members (18 years or older) will be charged \$15.00.

In order to lessen the impact on your operations, the flu shots will be available from 9-4. Scheduling details were sent out earlier and will be resent this week.

Influenza (flu) is a highly contagious viral infection that is one of the most severe illnesses of the winter season. Influenza, along with its complications, is a serious respiratory illness. On average, 36,000 Americans die and about 226,000 people are hospitalized each year.

Remember, vaccination is the single best way to protect yourself, your family, and your co-workers from this potentially dangerous illness!

If you have any questions, please contact Risk Management at 784-4085.

Ed Smith

County Manager

Library Notes . . .

Please don't miss your chance to see a unique exhibit at your Bay County Library. Oh Freedom Over Me provides a sweeping panorama of a turbulent time: a time that tested America's purpose and its commitment to democracy.



Oh Freedom Over Me enables the viewers of all backgrounds to better understand and appreciate this uniquely American legacy, and where our country stands less than one month from this historical presidential election of 2008.

This multi-faceted exhibit provides a look into local politics as well. Along with

the amazing photographs from freedom summer are examples of area memorabilia ranging from ballot boxes to political cartoons.

Facilities Maintenance employee Steve Szulczynski (pictured at right) was proud to lend a collection of campaign buttons from the Nixon campaign.

The Bay County Library was selected by the Bay County Chamber of Commerce for the Apple of the Eye award for New Construction! The award is given to businesses that have made their community more visually attractive through new construction or renovation. Commissioner Mike Nelson accepted the award on October 3rd. More details in November's issue!



EOC Update

I would like to take this opportunity to update staff on the current status concerning the construction of the new Emergency Operations Center located on the campus of Gulf Coast Community College's North Bay Center. The planned completion should occur about October, 2009. Many of you may be aware of the long flood history our current facility on Mulberry Avenue has endured over the years. The last flood event occurred with the February 2008 flooding by a significant rainfall, which damaged many homes throughout Bay County.



This new facility is a joint partnership between the Bay County Board of County Commissioners and Gulf Coast Community College's Board of Trustees. This new facility is being designed to withstand catastrophic wind fields, from storms as great as a category 5 hurricane with winds up to 200 mph. The building elevation is 10 miles inland and away from the coast. It is being constructed at an elevation above any designated flood areas and outside any known floodways. Our current facility is situated about 500' from the coast at an elevation of only 10', constructed as an administrative office for a local soft drink company back in the 1950's, and is in a designated hurricane evacuation zone.

Bay County citizens will be proud to know that their Bay County Commissioners and the Gulf Coast Community College's Board of Trustees have identified funding outside of Bay County to fully construct this new Emergency Operation Center that will serve our citizens over the next 50 years. This project could not have happened without our federal partners with Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, and along with the Florida Legislature, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, and the Florida Department of Education.—Mark Bowen, Chief of Emergency Services

BAY COUNTY ROOTS

A monthly contest about Bay County History



Question:
This picture shows Harrison Avenue in 1914. Who was Harrison Avenue named for?

The answer to September's question: "How many ships were built from 1943-1945 at Wainwright Shipyards?" is: 108 ships were constructed from 1943 to the end of the war.

Congratulations to Kim Barbero of Roads and Bridges for her entry!

To enter this month's Bay County history contest send your answer to ccook@co.bay.fl.us or via interoffice mail to Human Resources, attn: Christy Cook. All correct entries will be entered into a special drawing. Entries must be received by October 22nd. The winner will receive a special prize and be recognized in the next issue of *Bay County Currents*.



ASK SANDY

Instead of an "Ask Sandy" column this month I want to extend a "BIG THANK YOU" to all of the employees who enrolled in the Sick Leave Pool during open enrollment this year.

At 176 hours contributed, this makes it the largest single open enrollment total since the Sick Leave Pool was implemented in 1994!

A special thanks goes out to Lt. Gene Brandow for his challenge to the other Fire Districts to join. As a result, the Fire Services Division had the most new enrollees this year.

Thank you guys, and by the way Gene, just let me know when & where the food will be!!!

Send Sandy your Human Resources related questions. Just remember Sandy has always said there is no such thing as a stupid question. If you need to know, just ask! Send questions by email to spettis@co.bay.fl.us or if you don't have email, via interoffice mail.

Focus on . . . Wellness

The Bay County Board of Commissioners' and Constitutional Officers' mission is to provide a Wellness Program for the purposes of promoting a safe and healthy workforce that will enhance the workplace environment for all employees.

Why are we so committed to employee wellness? It's simple, employees are our most valuable asset. Research shows that healthy employees are happier and more productive.

So why should you, as an employee, take advantage of the Wellness Program? Every one of us has some sort of health risk to varying degrees, whether it's unhealthy eating, lack of exercise or sleep, drinking, smoking, or even something genetic. Using a program can make positive change happen. Not only will you be more able to complete your job responsibilities, but you will have more energy to give to your family and friends away from work!

Employees can enroll in the Wellness Program at any time; however, earned points and wellness incentive awards will be evaluated based on commitment during the applicable period. You can enroll in either the Commitment to Wellness Points Level One or the Fitness Option Level Two. Now is the perfect time!

Contact the Risk Management Office at 784-4085 and sign up today.



WOW, what a month September was for fund raising activities!

Starting on Friday afternoon, September 12th, Scrapbooking enthusiasts "moved in" to the Library conference center to begin a weekend long marathon of clipping, cropping, cutting, and stamping. The 30 hour event raised \$1300 for our

project.

On Saturday, September 13th over 60 motorcycles and 1 classic truck roared off from Sandpipers Beach Resort on a benefit Habitat Poker Run. Riders and other participants rode a route from Panama City Beach to Panama City to Mexico Beach to Wewa and ending at Harders Park. This event raised \$700.



As the thunder rolled at the beach on September 27th, Firefighters held a benefit car wash at 5 county stations (see picture at left). Nobody washes a vehicle better than a firefighter and that showed in the



over \$700 they raised. They may not have had on bikinis like their weekend competition but they got the job done.

Congratulations and **Thank You** to the organizers and to those who volunteered their time to help make these events such a success.

Plans for the construction of the Mason Home are coming along. We will soon begin clearing property and getting ready to pour the slab. We have just received a commitment from Rachael's Lighting to provide all the fixtures for the home. If you know of a builder, contractor, plumber or any other trades

person who would like to donate time and/or material, please contact me. We will keep you updated as plans are finalized.

Join us at the County Yard on October 9th from 11-1 for a Hot Dog cook-out. \$2.50 gets you a dog, chips, and drink. \$1 for extra dogs. First come, first served!

—Debbie Cuthbert, Chairwoman

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA IFAS Extension Cooperative Extension

Brian Cameron, Ken Rudisill, Dr. Paula Davis, and Dr. Marjorie Moore attended the 2008 Extension Professional Associations of Florida Conference during the week of August 11-14, 2008 at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel in Lake Buena Vista, FL. The conference is a professional improvement meeting and administrative conference.

The county faculty presented an abstract on the 4-H 101 Cooking Camp, which was an interdisciplinary program effort. In addition, Dr. Davis was one of four agents presenting an abstract on integrating military families and youth into core programs.

Congratulations to Dr. Moore for receiving the Alpha Delta Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi Continued Excellence Award! This award gives recognition to one experienced Extension professional with twenty-plus years of experience who has exhibited continued leadership, initiative, and excellence in Extension program planning, delivery, evaluation in program or administration, on a state, regional and/or national level.

Also, Dr. Moore completed her tenure as past-president of the Alpha Delta Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi.

During the week of September 15-19, 2008, Dr. Davis presented two abstracts at the Galaxy Conference -- Using Multiple Discipline Agents to Provide Training for Volunteers and the 4-H 101 Cooking Camp. Galaxy is a national conference of Extension professionals, which is held every five years involving six associations.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. U.S. Department Of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M. University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

Bay GIS Co-Hosts NW Florida GIS User's Group



On Sept. 17th, Bay County GIS and Walton County IFAS co-hosted the fall meeting of the Northwest Florida GIS (Geographic Information Systems) User's Group.

The meeting was held in Destin, Florida and was attended by over fifty GIS professionals

from across NW Florida. Following a meet and greet continental breakfast, presentations were made on Sharing FDOT Data, GISP Certification, GIS in Natural Resources, and Using GIS Tools for Crime Analysis.

The User's Group offers a venue for GIS professionals in NW Florida to meet and exchange data, knowledge, and encourages cooperation within the GIS community.—Jennifer Morgan, GIS

Fire Services joins Jr. Museum for Safety Day

The Junior Museum held its Safety Day on September 20th. Advocates, including local police departments, fire departments, EMS, The Red Cross, Gulf Power, and the Boy Scouts were onsite providing up to date resources vital to home, health, weather, road, pet safety and more. Local community organizations, businesses and volunteers that serve area children and families taught families how to have safe and secure fun at home, and at play.

Over 1000 people from the community learned about car seat safety, prenatal care, precautions for the family at the beach and other safety topics.

Our own "Red E. Fox" was there and jumped in the jumping booth with the kids and even got a hole-in-one at the PCPD's putt-putt course. Fire Services employees Jo Mantz, Lesil Taylor (pictured at right), and David Russell (a.k.a. Red E. Fox) represented Bay County.—Jo Mantz



1st Homeless Veterans Stand Down in Bay County



Lori Pullen and FSU Rep Marcy Davis

The Veterans Service Office participated in the first Homeless Veterans Stand Down in Bay County on 25 Sep 2008 at the St. Andrews Civic Club at Truesdell Park. Grant money was received by the Gulf Coast Workforce Board to spearhead the event. The purpose of the event was to bring local agencies together to provide resource assistance to our homeless veterans. What an event it was! 40 homeless veterans received assistance from our generous community.

Local agencies came out in full force to help our veterans. VFW Post 8205 and Kiwanis Club provided breakfast and lunch, Tyndall Air Force Base provided manpower for the event set up and tear down, raised \$500, and donated 500 non-perishable food items, 100 sleeping bags, and 25 brand new bicycles. Bay Medical and Gulf Coast hospitals provided a Physician Assistant and nurses for on site medical care and the Health Dept. provided HIV and Hepatitis C screenings. Dr. Cindy Moore provided dental screenings and Haney Tech School provided haircuts.

The Family Service Agency donated toiletry kits and provided housing referrals, The Disability Resource Center and Voc Rehab provided canes, walkers, and wheelchairs, FSU provided education assistance.

The IRS came out to help our veterans receive stimulus money. Catholic Charities and Callaway First Assembly of God provided homeless veterans transportation to and from the event. The Workforce Center provided employment assistance, and yours truly served as the Veteran Service Office Representative to provide compensation, pension, benefits, and VA medical enrollment assistance for our veterans.

Special thanks to the Vet Center in Tallahassee for providing a counselor to assist with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder related issues.

On behalf of all of our veterans: A heartfelt thank-you!—Lori L. Pullen, Veteran Service Office Counselor



1.5 Mile Walk-Run Challenge Winners



On the afternoon of September 25, 2008, 23 employees converged upon the beautiful Bay Memorial Walking Park. Based upon age and gender, participants had to complete a mile and a half in an allotted time.

18 of the 23 participants met the challenge and were awarded \$50 for their efforts! That's 78%! Please see the table on the right for the list of winners.

We look forward to seeing all of you again in April. Keep training!

Vickie McClung and Tangela Craig We are always working to make our Wellness program better. Look for some exciting new programs this year! We will be sharing those details with you soon.

If you have questions or would like to join the Wellness Program, please call Risk Management at 784-4085.

Patricia T. Knox	Bay County Library
Lorraine E. Canfijn	Bay County Library
Michelle L. Sullivan	Builder's Services Division
Debbie Roberson	Clerk of Court
Valerie F. Lovett	County Manager's Office
Tangela M. Craig	Human Resources Department
Gary E. Thrift	Laboratory Services Division
Carol A. Monti	Laboratory Services Division
Jennifer M. Vigil	Participating Paving
Roy A. Golden	Planning & Zoning Division
Eric S. Seymour	Property Appraiser
Jamie L. Sasser	Public Info/Court Efficiency
Margaret A. Kirkland	Tax Collector
Mark Peel	Tax Collector
Evageline Sponseller	Tax Collector
Vickie L. McClung	Veterans Services Division
McCall B. Calhoun	Wastewater Systems Division
Raymond J. Seibold	Water Systems Division

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the United States. According to the American Cancer Society, it is estimated that About 178,480 women in the United States will be found to have invasive breast cancer in 2007. About 40,460 women will die from the disease this year. Right now, there are slightly over 2 million women living in the United States who have been treated for breast cancer.

Breast cancer is a malignant tumor that grows in one or both of the breasts.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women (after lung cancer). Breast cancer is much less common in males; by comparison, the disease is about 100 times more common among women. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2007 some 2,030 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among men in the United States.

Annual mammograms are recommended for women over the age of 40 to detect breast tumors or problems that could indicate breast cancer.

Statistics from the last health fair show that **18% of our female employees over the age of 40 have not had a mammogram administered in the last two years!**

If you have the county's Blue Options plan, mammograms can be obtained at no charge to you at Bay Radiology, Gulf Imaging, Panama City Open MRI, or Sun-coast Diagnostic Imaging.

For more information, please refer to your provider directory or call Human Resources at 784-4055 or Risk Management at 784-4085.

Sign up for a free annual mammogram reminder at the American Cancer Society's website: http://acsremindme.com/hma/modify_subscription.php?CID=288.



Each year, the week containing October 9 is designated as Fire Prevention Week in order to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire. The 1871 tragedy killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres.

This year's campaign focuses on preventing all the leading causes of home fires – cooking, heating and electrical equipment, and smoking materials. Additionally, fire safety educators will be teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in case a fire occurs.

More than 2,500 people were killed in the nearly 400,000 home fires that fire departments responded to in 2006.

Bay County Fire Services will be teaming up with Gulf Coast Community College for "Fire Prevention Fest". Come join the fun on Saturday, October 11th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., as local agencies for demonstrations, games, displays and much more!

Bring the kids to meet Sparky, Smokey, Pine Cone (Division of Forestry clown), and three of the EMS clowns! The festival is free and open to the public.

Stay tuned for more details from the Safety Office on the upcoming Fire Extinguisher training on October 28-29.

Upcoming Events and Classes

Maintenance of Traffic (Intermediate)	10/8-9
FLU SHOTS	10/09
Smith System Driver Improvement	10/14
CPR at AWT	10/15
CPR-Initial (morning) First Aid (afternoon)	10/23

REMINDER!

If you think you have an idea that would make your work area safer, please fill out a Safety Suggestion form found on NTbay under Risk Management Forms. If your suggestion is chosen you could win a prize at the next Safety Committee Meeting!

Happy Birthday October

- 1 Charles Weider, Joe Bannister, Donald Werbacher
- 2 Stephen Dykes, Tamela Pate, Wayne Comeau
- 3 Kenny Graves
- 4 Michael O'Neal
- 5 George Almeida
- 6 Lynn Elliott
- 7 Leslie Shaeffer, Raymond Seibold
- 8 Stephen Clemons, Ricky McKinney, Darrell Reid, Michael Farrell, Kelly McKinney, David Falk
- 10 Wendy Evernham, Eddie Warren, Wayne Gilmore
- 12 Willis Smith
- 13 David Morrison
- 14 Dennis Stanley, Randy Brown, Cory Welch, Don Murray
- 15 Peggy Tucker
- 16 James E. Vinson, Joseph Reeder, Todd Valdez
- 17 Chester Carter, Steven Cupples
- 18 Karen Grindle
- 20 Joel Jackson, Ronald Mathis, Brandon Kelley
- 21 Edith King, Jenny Martinez, Gabriel Moschella, Jr., Seth Imhof
- 22 Glenn Ogborn, Chad Harrell
- 23 Adrian Lewis
- 24 Paul Unger
- 26 Howard Morrissey
- 27 Gordon Johnston, Rick McAlmond, Michael Anderson
- 28 Cristi Karr
- 29 Pamela Moore
- 30 Peter Lamendola

Service Anniversaries

10 Years

James Brock Parks and Recreation

15 Years

Sam Bozeman Fleet Maintenance

20 Years

David McLure Roads and Bridges

35 Years

Jenny Donahue Risk Management

Welcome Aboard . . .

Natasha Bailey	Animal Control
Linda Morris	Budget Office
Cosheene Burton	Builder's Services
Terrell Yon	Engineering
Evelyn Guzman	Human Resources
Tangela Craig	Human Resources
David Falk	Laboratory Services
McCall Calhoun	Wastewater Systems

Mark Your Calendars

St. Andrews Waterfront Market	Saturdays thru October
For Info: http://www.historicstandrews.com/	
Panama City Beach Seafood, Wine and Music Festival	10/10-12
For Info: www.panamacitybeachfest.com	
Greyhound Meet and Greet	10/11 & 10/25
For Info: Books-A-Million 850 784-3040	
Camp Helen Ghost Walk and History Tour	10/11
Downtown Farmer's Market	10/11
For Info: 850 785-2554	
Bay Mustang's Club 20th Anniversary Auto Show	10/18
For Info: 850-774-1864	
Southeastern Barbecue Festival Cook-off	10/24-26
For Info: 850-784-9542	
Jazz by the Bay	10/29-31
For Info: 850-235-1659	

Congratulations!

Jennifer Morgan (GIS) attained her Master of Science degree in Geographic Information Science in August. Jennifer maintained top marks in all her classes in spite of her full-time work schedule! Way to go, Jennifer!

Bryan Heller (Water) obtained his Class "C" Operator's License in August. With this certification, Bryan was promoted from an Operator Trainee to an Operator. Good job, Bryan!

Cristi Karr (Solid Waste) shares that hubby **Ken Karr** retired from the Navy on August 29, 2008 after 22 + years. He was sent off with 2 commendation medals, one from the Navy and one from the Army. Ken is also a Volunteer Firefighter for Bay County. Thanks Ken, for your service to our country and to our community.



Proud grandma **Kim Barbero (Roads)** welcomes her granddaughter "Emma Kathryn Brannon". She arrived Thursday September 4, 2008 and was 19 3/4 inches long and 7 lbs 3 1/2 oz. Proud parents are Kim's son Joshua and his lovely wife Kelly. Emma was also welcomed home by her big sister Kaly (age 2).

If you would like to see your news in this space, contact Brooke Powell at bpowell@co.bay.fl.us or at 784-6161.

Classifieds

Reduced: 2007 V-Star 1100 Silverado Classic Motorcycle 8K miles. Baron Slasher pipes, other extras. Garage-kept. \$8000.000 Phone: 850-819-4901 or 850-773-1007

For Sale: only 3 dozen available: *Greyt Eats & Treat Cookbook* for a donation of \$14.00 each Collection of Favorite Recipes by Greyhound owners and members of the Greyhound Pets of America/Emerald Coast Group. Even has 86 recipes for the hound of your life. These make excellent birthday and Christmas gifts. Contact Chyrl Boyer @ 960.1687 to get your copy.

For Sale: \$3000 OBO. 17 foot aluminum boat, motor and trailer. Loaded with depth finder, battery, 2 gas tanks, galvanized trailer, 50 Horsepower Yamaha outboard with stainless propeller. \$2000 50 Horsepower outboard with stainless propeller. Great shape! Contact Donald George at 596-9126.

Do you have items to sell? Contact Christy Cook at ccook@co.bay.fl.us or Brooke Powell at bpowell@co.bay.fl.us.