

# Okaloosa County News Release

**Media Clips:** 4/3/2014

## **Meetings & Events: (850)**

- **April 9, 5:30 PM Be Ready Florida** The Florida Division of Emergency Management, in partnership with BRACE, Volunteer Florida and the Florida Association of Counties, presents **Be Ready Florida**, a series of workshops encouraging homeowners to prepare their homes for all types of disasters. **Okaloosa County EOC, 90 College Blvd. East, Niceville, FL.**
- **April is General Aviation Month:** The Okaloosa County General Aviation Airports in Crestview and Destin provide a combined total Annual Economic Impact of \$542M.
- **April is Fair Housing Month:** This year we celebrate the 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passing of the 1968 Fair Housing Act. The Fair Housing Act makes it illegal to discriminate in the sale or rental of housing based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, familial status or disability. Okaloosa County joins the rest of the Nation in promoting fair housing by making sure the public is informed of their rights. The more people are informed the less discrimination exists.
- **Earth Day Beach Cleanup on Saturday, April 12, 2014, from 8-10 a.m.,** Okaloosa County Environmental Council invites volunteers of all ages to participate. Volunteers are invited to sign in at **Beasley Park on Okaloosa Island, the Beach Park west of Island Princess on Okaloosa Island, and Henderson Beach State Park in Destin.** Join our **Cigarette Waste Recycling Brigade** in collecting extinguished cigarettes for RECYCLING into a variety of industrial products. Points are applied for the amount of **Cigarette Waste** mailed to the recycling company and redeemed for a cash donation to the School or Charity of choice.
- **April 13-19, National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week (911 Operators)**
- **April 15, 2014, 6:00 PM** Board of County Commission Meeting, Fort Walton Beach, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Commission Conference Room, 1804 Lewis Turner Boulevard.
- **DUE APRIL 15, 2014,** Okaloosa Co. Commission on the Status of Women (OCCSW) is accepting nominations for 2014 Women's Wall of Honor. Visit [www.occsww.org](http://www.occsww.org) or call 496-1142.

### **See a "Mock Rescue" on the "Okaloosa Today" Show**

Okaloosa County Beach Safety Division Chief Rich Huffnagle demonstrates how a rescue might occur at the beach during the Okaloosa County segment of the "Okaloosa Today" show on Cox. There is a surprise guest, as well, so tune in to see who is on the show. View the show on Cox Channel 6 on Sundays at 7 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m., as well as Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 p.m.

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### **Large Cheer Competition Comes to Okaloosa Island**

The Emerald Coast Convention Center is hosting its 10<sup>th</sup> Athletic Championships Grand Championship Cheer Competition on April 4 through 6. Competitions start at 8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday morning and end approximately 9 p.m. on both days. There will be an estimated 3000 people participating in the event including competitors and spectators. Most all of the high school age teams come to our area from out of town with their families and stay on Okaloosa Island, Fort Walton Beach and in the Destin area. Local businesses, including restaurants and attractions will notice an increase in customers and should prepare accordingly. For more information, please contact the Emerald Coast Convention Center at 850-609-3800.

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### **Enjoy County Parks in the Mild Climate of Springtime**

#### ***Have you tried geocaching in county parks?***

Residents and travelers can now take part in the recreational activity called geocaching in a number of Okaloosa County parks. The Okaloosa County Geocache Trail begins by visiting [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) and look for Okaloosa County BCC user name to download a passport, grab a GPS (global positioning system) or available on most phones, hit the trail and log your visits! Learn more on the Okaloosa County Parks web page, [http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/dept\\_pw\\_resources\\_parks\\_geo.html](http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/dept_pw_resources_parks_geo.html), and find hints on the Okaloosa County Public Works Parks Division Facebook page.