

Okaloosa County News Release

March 19, 2015

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NR15-26

Photo Captions Photo 3: Okaloosa County Beach Safety has been selected the 2014 Beach Patrol of the Year by the Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association and the United States Lifesaving Association. Several Okaloosa Beach Safety lifeguards were on-hand to accept award, **Front Row L-R:** Jacqueline Schlageter, Tracy Depriest, Ross Carter, Amber Turek, Melani Stinson, Carlee Michna, Nick Giordano, Ryan Adams, Justin Cook. **Back Row, L-R:** Greg Lloyd, Sterling Morgan, Levi Wilke, Daryl Paul

Beach Safety Patrol of the Year Photo: Okaloosa Beach Safety were recognized at the Board of County Commission meeting for their selection as Beach Patrol of the Year. **L-R: Beach Safety lifeguard** Ross Carter, EMS Division Chief Tracey Vause, Lifeguard Ryan Adams, Public Safety Director Dino Villani, Lifeguard Justin Cook & County Administrator John Hofstad.

Photo 1: Okaloosa County Beach Safety has been selected the 2014 Beach Patrol of the Year by the Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association and the United States Lifesaving Association. Pictured L-R accepting the award: Ross Carter, EMS Division Chief Tracey Vause, Justin Cook, Daryl Paul and Ryan Adams.

Okaloosa Beach Safety Selected Beach Patrol of the Year Lifeguards Patrolling Okaloosa County Beaches

Okaloosa County Beach Safety was presented the 2014 Beach Patrol of the Year award by the Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association and the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA)- Southeast Region. The award was presented at the 21st Annual Florida State Surf Lifesaving Awards Banquet recently held on Okaloosa Island. The process looks for a Beach Patrol that sets themselves apart through their programs and statistics, competing with larger organizations from Miami, Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale to name a few. **“Okaloosa stands among the top in the industry of lifesavers due to its commitment to excellence,” said Public Safety Director Dino Villani.** “I also want to recognize **EMS Chief Tracey Vause**, who set the wheels in motion for this high achievement during the early stages of developing Okaloosa County’s Beach Safety Program.”

“We are proud to announce this award in honor of Beach Safety and our lifeguards, many of which are currently guarding our beaches, as spring break begins,” said Chairman Nathan Boyles, Okaloosa County Commissioner. Okaloosa Beach Safety has begun active lifeguard operations and will continue daily from **9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.** through October 2015. Beach flag conditions will be announced daily at 9:00 a.m. and can be viewed at <http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/ps/beach-safety>.

Please be observant of the warning flags placed along public beaches. Green flags indicate a low hazard with calm swimming conditions, yellow flags- medium hazard, red flags- high hazard, and purple flags indicate marine pests are present. If a double red flag is flying, the **water is closed for swimming.** Be aware of the hazards, swim in front of a lifeguard, make wise choices and to be safe this summer. For more information, contact Beach Safety, 850-609-5405.

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