

Okaloosa County News Release

4/7/2008

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P08-296

Park Ranger Recognized for Cleaning Up County Parks

Park Ranger Janie Gilmore has been recognized by the Board of County Commissioners for exemplary service to the community and its county parks. Natural recreation areas located in the rural north part of Okaloosa County had become the victim of vandalism, disorderly conduct among its visitors, litter and the overall degradation of these scenic, recreational assets. Gilmore was the driving force in restoring order to the parks so that families and all residents can now enjoy these parks again, as nature intended.

Gilmore worked with the Environmental Enforcement Division of the Sheriff's Office to post signs displaying county ordinances, which prohibited the behaviors which had been rampant in the parks. She then educated visitors to the parks about these ordinances, issued verbal warnings and even endured personal ridicule in order to regain control of park safety and enjoyment. The Sheriff's Environmental Officers issued citations and even ejected patrons violating established ordinances.

If that weren't enough, Gilmore was also instrumental in construction and placement of 15 bluebird nesting boxes during breeding season. She purchased the materials, and enlisted the help of Cub Scout Den #7, Pack #799, to build and install the boxes. While supervising the installation, she taught these youth about the importance of stewardship, conservation and wildlife.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has also recognized the efforts of Park Ranger Gilmore. Thanks to her, families, residents and even bluebirds are once again enjoying the natural beauty of Okaloosa County parks. For more information and park listings, visit www.okaloosafli.com or contact Resources, 850-689-5084.

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