

# Okaloosa County News Release

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## **Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida Premieres Florida Heritage 2010 Website** *Photo Archive and Videos can be Accessed From Museum Website*

VALPARAISO, FL – Go back in history right from your desktop with the *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida*. Visit [www.heritage-museum.org](http://www.heritage-museum.org) for access to historical photos, postcards, stories and more. As part of the new Florida **Heritage 2010 website**, a teacher's curriculum guide can also be accessed. The Teacher Resource and Field Trip guide that meets Florida Sunshine State Standards was printed and provided for Okaloosa, Walton and Santa Rosa County Schools.

"We wanted visitors to be able to see the many historical documents and photos we treasure; however, they are difficult to display, not to mention concerns about their preservation. The grant we received from the Florida Humanities Council has allowed us to do just that. Photos and video clips were digitized and incorporated into our new website for the world to see," stated Museum Director Michelle Severino. "I am so excited that the area's rich history can be preserved forever, used in classrooms and enjoyed by all."

It will take some time for all items to be put online; however, much can be seen today. The *Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida* has collected and preserved material pertaining to the region since 1971. Today the museum maintains over 28,000 objects, artifacts, textiles, furniture, photographs, books, documents, maps and audio/visual materials and makes these collections accessible to the public through exhibits, tours, education programs, publications, research and now their interactive virtual galleries website! In the last year the museum hosted over 17,000 visitors of which 5,000 were Okaloosa and Walton County School students.

The museum is located at 115 Westview Avenue in Valparaiso. Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. General Admission is \$2., HMNF members and children under 4 are free. For additional information call (850) 678-2615 or visit [www.heritage-museum.org](http://www.heritage-museum.org).

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<b>Volunteer Workshop at Heritage Museum of NWF</b>
Date/Time: Saturday, March 21, 2009, 10:00 am
Location: Heritage Museum of NWF Valparaiso, FL
<i>Coffee &amp; donuts provided!</i>