

**Okaloosa County
News Release**

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**Vandalism Costly for Okaloosa County
*Rain-damaged Road Repairs Delayed***

“On top of coping with numerous storms, rain days and overall damage to our roads, it is disheartening to also lose equipment, more work days and money to senseless vandalism,” states Public Works Director John Hofstad. “It’s a real problem.” Over the weekend, three pieces of Okaloosa County equipment were damaged due to vandalism. It occurred inside a locked gate at the clay pit on Keyser Mill Road and two other locations. The damage was on a dozer and two loaders. The damage consisted of broken windows, tire punctures, sand in the fuel tanks and the list goes on. **The overall damage estimate is \$10,000. Reports have been filed with the Sheriff’s Department** and it could be costly for the person or persons participating in this type of activity if convicted. **It also costs the taxpayers.**

We are asking for your help. If anyone has witnessed vandalism or has any information regarding the damage to County equipment they are asked to call Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers at (850)863-tips (8477), 1-888-654-tips or submit a tip online at: <https://www.tipsubmit.com/WebTips.aspx?AgencyID=214>.

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