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IT'S NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

OKALOOSA COUNTY – National Public Health Week, sponsored by the American Public Health Association, is April 5-11, 2010, and seeks to educate the public, policy-makers and public health professionals about issues important to improving public health. This year's theme is "A Healthier America: One Community at a Time."

The staff at the Okaloosa County Health Department will be participating in a variety of activities to show their support of everyday contributions to our community's public health. "The staff has decided to wear a certain color for each day of the week – with jeans – to support a particular public health concern. For example, on Tuesday, the staff wore brown, to represent planting a tree or a garden. Wednesday, it'll be white, to represent 'whiting out' smoking," said Okaloosa County Health Department Director, Dr. Karen Chapman. A number of employees will also share personal public health achievement stories with staff members via the health department's daily e-newsletter.

The Okaloosa County Health Department will also participate in National Public Health Week's celebrations by displaying a booth at the Eglin Air Show this upcoming weekend. People can test their knowledge of Okaloosa's public health by taking a chance at the "Wheel of Health" game.

Recognizing National Public Health Week is an important reminder for individuals, families and communities to focus on stopping preventable diseases before they ever start. Such recognition may encourage communities to make healthier choices so people can spend less time treating diseases and save more lives by preventing them.

For more ideas and information on how you can participate in National Public Health Week 2010, visit www.HealthyOkaloosa.com or www.nphw.org.

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