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PRESS RELEASE

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Shalimar, FL – A room full of parents and students were on hand at the Okaloosa County School Board meeting Monday evening to support the Award of Distinction winners of the Kids Tag Art Program contest. There to present the winning certificates was Okaloosa County Tax Collector Ben Anderson, Superintendent Marcus Chambers and Under Sheriff Charlie Nix. Two winners from each participating elementary school in the District were recognized.

The Kids Tag Art program is a partnership with the Tax Collector's Office, the School District and the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. Since the program started in 2013, it has generated \$137,042.00 for participating schools. As an art project, this program gives students a chance to create their own specialty license plate to use as art or on the front of a vehicle. As a fundraiser, those student-created, custom plates can be purchased by parents and the proceeds from school sales stay in that school.

Combining in-school sales and local sponsorships, the Kids Tag Art program earned **\$17,256.19** this school year. Tax Collector Ben Anderson points out, "This is non-tax generated revenue and comes at a time when the art curriculum in schools could benefit the most." He continues, "Each school that participated will be receiving checks for **\$850.00** as the result of the generous support of our sponsor: The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office."

Visit OkaloosaTax.com and click on the Tag Art Gallery where you can view and purchase any of the winning tags. To be a sponsor, please contact Shari Flowers Bruns at 850-651-7669.

This year's winners are:

Bluewater:

Lillian Gorrell
Aubree Michaud

Bob Sikes:

Audriana Heaton
Addison Davis

Edge:

Anna Higgs
Saphyra Nieves

Elliott Point:

Kiley Cole
Nahum Wesley

Kenwood:

Mason Moeller
Savannah Wilson

Northwood:

Camryn Barnard
Elfer Charpentier

Plew:

Madison Hayes
Corbyn Damron

Shalimar:

Erin Miller
Liam Gertis

Silver Sands:

Aiden Younger
Iker Galvan

Southside Primary:

Elliana Douglas
Gracie Golloher

Walker:

Hanna Acello
Addison Davidson

Tax Collector's Choice – Jaxon Dark (Edge)

Sheriff's Choice – Sophie Zapf (Plew)

Superintendent's Choice – Jaxon Dark (Edge)