



## *NEWS RELEASE*

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Contact:  
Jessica Welch  
Office of Policy & Public Information  
(850) 926-0919

### Wakulla County Announces Re-Opening of The Welcome Center



Crawfordville, Florida – On Thursday, October 28, 2010 at 5:30p.m., Wakulla County will celebrate re-opening of the Wakulla County Welcome Center in Panacea, FL.

In January 2010, the Welcome Center was closed to the public due to an inspection performed by the Building Division declaring the building to be a public safety hazard. The Welcome Center was temporarily relocated to the Panacea Shopping Plaza.

The County purchased the historical building overlooking Dickerson Bay in January 2000 after receiving grant funds from the Department of Community Affairs, Florida Communities Trust. The Panacea Blue Crab Festival Committee partnered with the County to operate the facility, in which they have successfully maintained the building as a center for welcoming tourist and providing local information on area attractions and events. In addition, the Welcome Center serves as a museum for displaying artifacts, pictures and other memorabilia relating to local history, culture, fishing and boating.

A team approach between County staff, the project engineer and construction contractor has led to a successful completion of this project. “The Wakulla County Welcome Center provides a magnificent vista for visitors to our County. The extensive repairs and renovations have been completed and it can again welcome travelers”, commented Commissioner Howard Kessler.

The Panacea Blue Crab Festival is hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony in conjunction with the Wakulla County Tourist Development Council, the Board of County Commissioners, and the Wakulla Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, October 28, 2010 at 5:30p.m. at the Welcome Center, 1493 Coastal Highway. Please join Wakulla County on October 28, 2010 to celebrate the re-opening of the County’s Welcome Center.

For additional information related to this story, please contact Jessica Welch, Policy & Public Information Coordinator at (850) 926-0919, ext. 407.