

Camp cultivates young scientists

Sixth-grade girls investigate world of science, technology



Attendees of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Camp at Lewis School fashion solar-powered boats. The STEM Camp was held Aug. 8-10.

Debbie Davis, Okaloosa County Schools math specialist, and Shawnea Tallman, Okaloosa County Schools science curriculum specialist, wrote an ACCErator Grant, "Going Deeper." The grant, sponsored by the local Gulf Coast Chapter of the National Defense Industry Association, allowed for the women to hold a three-day Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Camp for girls entering the sixth grade.

The STEM Camp, taught by Suzette Martin, a fifth-grade teacher at Lewis, was held at Lewis School Aug. 8-

10. The camp was offered to girls as a way of bolstering their interest in the STEM fields.

The subject matter focused on renewable energy, specifically solar energy. The 18 camp attendees designed and built solar-powered boats to move and carry various objects.

The girls also collected water from local waterways and examined it for life under the microscope.

A deep sea cruise was scheduled to give the budding scientists the opportunity to

Please see CAMP, page B-2

CAMP

From page B-1

fish and drop an underwater camera down deep in the gulf to look at life forms and habitats, however, due to inclement weather, the group was unable to go out.

But they might get the chance if the camp is held in the future.

"The girls had a fabulous time and learned a lot," said Martin. "We would love to offer it again next year."

Eighteen sixth-grade girls tested their scientific aptitude at STEM Camp.



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