



# Altha native honored for terrorist attack response

by Teresa Eubanks, Journal Editor

Altha native Lamar Conner, 53, was taking a quick smoke break from his job as a customer service agent at Frankfurt airport in Germany last March when he heard shots and turned to see a man stumbling out of a U.S. Air Force bus with a gun in his hand.

The man was in a hurry but showed no emotion as he shoved the pistol in his backpack, pulled out a survival knife and walked rapidly in Conner's direction.

He was only about five feet away when he walked past Conner, who could not know that the 21-year-old Albanian, later identified as Arid Uka, had just killed two U.S. Airmen, wounded two more and tried to shoot another but was thwarted when his gun jammed.

"When he passed me, I saw he was going into the building. I fell in behind him and warned passersby," said Conner.

Conner followed the suspect for about 70 yards before Uka turned on him, brandishing his knife. Conner, a former U.S. Army Sergeant, grabbed a mop from a nearby cleaning cart to keep some distance between him and the knife. "He must have seen the police running our way because he took off again," Conner said.

Uka headed for the next upper level at the airport which leads to the international gates and Sky Train, which connects Terminals 1 & 2.

"He ran to the first stoop on the stairs about 50 feet away, stopped and pulled the pistol out and tried to dislodge the malfunctioning cartridge," the Altha native explained. "By this time the policeman caught up with me," he said. The police officer went up the stairs. Conner went up the escalator.

When the policeman caught up with Uka at the top

of the stairs, he spread his arms out, away from his body and his weapon. "Uka followed with knife in hand," said Conner. The policeman started slowly walking backward and maneuvered Uka into an out-of-the-way corner. A policewoman then stepped in and demanded Uka drop the knife. He complied after she repeated the order and was taken into custody.

Conner called authorities and told them what had just happened as more officers arrived at the scene and ambulance crews responded.

## FEDERAL CROSS OF MERIT

Conner and U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Trevor Brewer were honored for their heroic actions last week by Germany's government with the presentation of the country's highest civilian honor, the Federal Cross of Merit.

Brewer said he accepted his award on behalf of the two airmen who were killed - Senior Airman Nicholas J. Alden, 25, of South Carolina, and Airman 1st Class Zachary R. Cuddeback, 21, of Virginia.

"It was an important signal that in the first Islamic extremist act in Germany the suspect was stopped in the course of committing his crime by courageous people and arrested," said Germany's Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich.

Recognizing that both men chased Uka until the police could apprehend him, the Minister called their deeds "an example for all of us."

U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany Philip D. Murphy joked that this was the first time he ever heard of anything good "coming from a cigarette," referring to the fact that Conner was at the right place at the right time because he stepped out for a smoke.

Conner's son, Mark, 30, attended

See **CROSS OF MERIT**  
continued on page 29



Calhoun school bus rear-ended .....9

## NEW SCHOOL RANKINGS

Calhoun Co. #18,  
Liberty Co. #28  
in newly released  
school rankings

SEE PAGE 21



Blountstown man fulfills dream to live in Italy by opening Bed & Breakfast...13



## Homecoming Parade

Fourth grader Chloe Chapman waves at a friend as she rides in Friday's homecoming parade at Altha School. See pages 16 & 17 for more parade photos.

TERESA EUBANKS PHOTO



# ARREST REPORTS

compiled by Journal Editor Teresa Eubanks

## Woman charged after traffic stop in Bristol



KIRSTEN MULLIS

A 20-year-old woman pulled over for an equipment violation was charged with possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana after deputies noticed the odor of marijuana inside her car.

Kirsten Paige Mullis of Santa Rosa Beach was westbound on SR 20 Jan. 13 when Liberty County Sheriff's Deputy Bobby Revell noticed her left headlight was out.

She was stopped along SR 20, across from Hoecake Road around 10:15 p.m.

While running a check on her car tag, Revell spoke with Mullis and her passenger, Brittan Carris Collins, 20, of Tallahassee. When the women were asked to step out of the vehicle so that he could search it, the driver stated that she had some marijuana in the center console.

Three plastic baggies and a green pill bottle were found, containing a total of 10.5 grams of marijuana. Mullis claimed ownership of the marijuana and was taken into custody.

Revell was assisted at the scene by Deputy Adam Walker.

## Blountstown man arrested for using stolen credit card



JOE B. WILLIAMS

Nearly three months after a warrant was issued for his arrest, a Blountstown man is in custody on a charge of fraudulent use of a credit card.

Joe B. Williams, 27, was released on \$261 bond after he was booked into the Calhoun County Jail Jan. 18.

When questioned this past November, Williams admitted stealing the credit card from a vehicle in the emergency room parking lot at Calhoun-Liberty Hospital.

Loretta Lynn Lindsey reported the theft to the Blountstown Police Department on Oct. 28, 2011 and said her wallet had been taken from her vehicle. She said the wallet held two debit cards, her driver's license and \$25 in cash as well as her checkbook and medical cards for her children.

Williams admitted using Lindsey's card to pay a \$230.05 cell phone bill and put \$31.01 worth of gas in his vehicle.

## Two charged with making methamphetamine

Two people were arrested on methamphetamine charges when state probation officers conducted a residence check of a man living on Old Post Road in Liberty County last week.

The officers were accompanied by Sgt. Todd Wheatley of the Liberty County Sheriff's Office, Blountstown Police Lt. Timothy Partridge and Investigator Kevin Godwin of the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office when they arrived Jan. 18 at the home of Kenneth Walden.

Officers found Walden, 38, and Ronnie Brandon Pitts, 29, in a shed behind the home and as they walked up to speak with them, noticed several items commonly used to make methamphetamine in plain view, including tubing, Acetone, lighter fluid and tin foil which appeared to have meth residue on it.

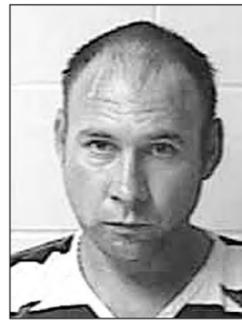
The officers left and returned with a search warrant at 9:39 p.m.

The suspicious items seen earlier were collected from the shed and the search continued in the house.

A bottle of muriatic acid and a pseudoephedrine pill was found on the kitchen counter. During a search of the kitchen trash can, investigators found a two-liter bottle and two 20-ounce bottles that held bi-layer liquids



RONNIE PITTS



KENNETH WALDEN

along with charred tin foil with suspected burnt meth residue.

Numerous items were recovered from the bedroom, including a brown bag that held a checkbook with Walden's name on the checks, needle nose pliers, a lithium battery and a clear plastic bag with white residue. A small plastic container lid with a white residue was found on the dresser. Four lithium cellphone batteries were on top of a desk

in the same bedroom.

A plastic jar that held suspected pseudoephedrine and an empty lighter fluid container were found in an outside trash can.

Fifteen 12-gauge rounds and 18 30/30 rounds were found in the laundry room.

Both men were taken into custody. A spoon that tested positive for methamphetamine residue was found on Pitts after he arrived at the jail. He was charged with introduction of contraband into a county detention facility along with manufacture of methamphetamine and possession of listed chemicals.

Charges filed against Walden included manufacture of methamphetamine, possession of listed chemicals and possession of ammunition by a convicted felon.

Bond was set at \$40,000 for both men.

## Pair arrested on meth charges in Hosford

Two Hosford residents were arrested for manufacturing methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of a school after investigators searching their Woodmen Street home found supplies and ingredients used to make the illegal drug.

When Sgt. Todd Wheatley and Sgt. Brian Bateman of the Liberty County Sheriff's Office, Blountstown Police Lt. Timothy Partridge and Investigator Kevin Godwin of the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office arrived at the property on Jan. 18, they discovered several items in a trash can that had been set out on the road for the next day's collection. Inside the bin they discovered a 20-ounce bottle with a bi-layer liquid inside, several tin foil strips, two plastic bottles that smelled strongly of lighter fluid, an empty lighter fluid bottle and paper towels with a strong chemical odor.

A bottle that was three-quarters full of muriatic acid, tin foil strips with burnt residue suspected to be meth, two sets of needle-



CHET GEIGER



HALI SMITH

nose players and a burnt battery were found in the back yard.

When confronted with their find, Chet Allen Geiger, 29, readily admitted, "I've cooked a couple of times." He declined to repeat his statement during a recorded interview.

Also arrested was 19-year-old Hali Danielle Smith, who told investigators that she was at the home when Geiger was

making methamphetamine. She said he would throw some of the items in the trash and burn the rest after he finished cooking methamphetamine.

The residence is within 1,000 feet of Hosford School.

## SHERIFF'S LOG

### CALHOUN COUNTY

- Jan. 16
  - Dorothy Lee Battles, VOP, CCSO.
- Jan. 17
  - Tracy Wall, non support, CCSO.
  - Robert Bland, VOSP, CCSO.
- Jan. 18
  - Joe Williams, fraudulent use of a credit card, CCSO.
  - Curtis D. Strickland, retail theft, CCSO.
- Jan. 19
  - Fredrick Barfield, VOP, CCSO.
- Jan. 20
  - James Parker, stalking, CCSO.
  - John Berry, domestic battery, child abuse, CCSO.
- Jan. 21
  - Stephen Mathews, aggravated battery, BPD.
- Jan. 22
  - Justin Harold Mills, resist arrest without violence, battery, touch/strike, child abuse (times 4), criminal mischief over \$1,000, CCSO.

•Dorothy Battles, holding for CCSO, CCSO.

Jan. 17  
•Margaret Adkison, VOP, LCSO.

Jan. 18  
•Chet Geiger, manufacture of meth within 1,000 ft of a school, LCSO.  
•Hali Smith, manufacture of meth within 1,000, ft of a school, VOSP, LCSO.

•Ronnie Pitts, manufacture of meth, possession of listed chemicals, introduction of contraband into a county detention facility, LCSO.

•Kenneth Walden, manufacture of meth, possession of listed chemicals, possession of ammunition by a convicted felon, VOSP, LCSO.

Jan. 22  
•Mark L. Arnold, DUI, FHP.

Listings include name followed by charge and identification of arresting agency. The names above represent those charged. We remind our readers that all are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

**Blountstown Police Dept.**  
Jan. 16 through Jan. 22, 2012

Citations issued:

Accidents.....02	Traffic Citations.....21
Special details (business escorts, traffic details).....121	
Business alarms.....02	Residential alarms.....00
Complaints.....	43

### LIBERTY COUNTY

Jan. 16

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Call Tim Revell at 544-5441 or the Liberty County Sheriff's Office at 643-5615.



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- Doris F. Smith
- Ruth Whittaker

*In Memory or Honor of*

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- Alice Virginia McCallister Powell
- Theo Elmo Ford
- Edwin Earl Goodman
- Elmer O'Bryan
- Robert E. Chason
- Bernadine Finuff
- James C. Whittle
- Bernadine Finuff
- Franklin Whittaker

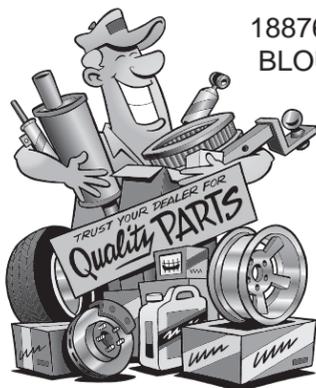


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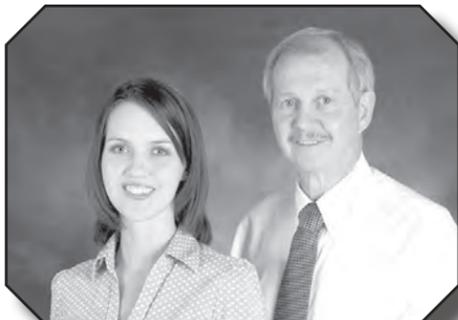
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**Florida's Dec. unemployment rate lowest since April 2009; Liberty Co. 2nd in state**

Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2011 was 9.9 percent, the lowest since April 2009 when the rate was 9.7 percent. This represented 913,000 jobless out of a labor force of 9,233,000. The state's unemployment rate was down 0.1 percentage point from November 2011 and was 2.1 percentage points lower than the December 2010 rate of 12.0 percent. The US unemployment rate was 835 percent in December. Florida's seasonally adjusted total nonagricultural employment in December 2011 was 7,291,500 and increase of 7,300 jobs from November 2011. The number of jobs in the state was up 113,900 over the year, an increase of 1.6 percent from December 2010.

The five counties that make up the Chipola Workforce Board region all showed a slight decrease in unemployment and remained steady. Liberty County had the second lowest unemployment rate in Florida at 6.3 percent, following Monroe at 6.2 percent.

---- UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ----

	Dec-11	Nov-11	Dec-10
<b>Liberty</b> .....	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>Calhoun</b> .....	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>9.4</b>
Holmes.....	7.6	7.9	8.9
Jackson.....	8.0	8.2	8.8
Washington.....	10.4	10.7	12.6
Chipola Region.....	8.3	8.5	9.5



**ARREST REPORTS**

compiled by Journal Editor Teresa Eubanks

**Fountain man charged with child abuse, criminal mischief and domestic battery**

A 27-year-old Fountain man is being held without bond in the Calhoun County Jail following an altercation at a NW County Line Road residence Sunday which prompted one of his girlfriend's children to try to stab him in an effort to protect her mother, according to a report from the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office.



JUSTIN MILLS

Calhoun County Deputy Bobby Sims was en route to the home when he found Justin Mills walking west on County Line Road. He was wearing only a pair of blue jean shorts and shoes, was covered in sand and had several noticeable scratches on his body. Sims took him into custody, handcuffed him and put him in the back seat of his patrol car.

Sims was joined at the scene by Deputy Gary McGee, who found the victim – a 34-year-old mother of four – at her home with visible injuries. Deputies observed several lumps on the top of her head.

She stated that she and Mills got into an argument while they were on their way home. When they arrived at the house, he busted the windows out of her vehicle and then began hitting her on the head.

The woman said the altercation continued inside the home in front of her four children. She said that when she picked up her seven-year-old daughter, Mills pushed the other children out of the way to get to her. She said he grabbed her by the hair, threw her to the floor and started hitting her on the head again.

Her daughter grabbed a kitchen knife and stabbed Mills, who was apparently not seriously injured. Mills then calmed down and got a cup of soup. He became angry once more with his girlfriend, threw the cup of hot soup at her and left the home on foot.

When Sims went outside to speak with Mills, he found him shouting at the victim. He then began hitting his head against the divider in the patrol car.

Sims opened the rear door to check on Mills, who then jumped out of the patrol car and tried to push past the deputy. After Sims deployed his taser, Mills was placed back in the car.

Mills was charged with four counts of child abuse, domestic battery, criminal mischief over \$1,000 and resisting arrest without violence.

**Blountstown man charged with stalking**

A 26-year-old Blountstown man is being held without bond after his arrest Jan. 20 for stalking.

James "Jake" Parker was taken into custody following an investigation by the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office with a report from Brandy Lee, 32, that she had received several disturbing calls on her cell phone from

a man who made sexual comments and told her, "I know you are at home."

The calls came from a restricted number but Lee told deputies she believed it was Parker, a former employee who had worked with her family-owned business.

She said she received five or six calls at work and five on her cell phone in December.

After checking records with Verizon, it was found that the calls came from a number known to be used by Parker.

When contacted by the sheriff's office, Parker admitted to making the calls and said he did so while under the influence of a synthetic marijuana sold as "Mojo." He said he was addicted to the substance and

had voluntarily begun counseling.



JAMES 'JAKE' PARKER

**Altercation sends one to hospital, one to jail**

An altercation between two men ended with one going to the hospital and the other to jail earlier this month.

Stephen Mathews, 36, of Blountstown was charged with aggravated battery for a fight between him and Joseph Baker, 53, that occurred Jan. 5. A police officer responding to a report about the incident arrived to find the



STEPHEN MATHEWS

two men fighting in the road.

The injured man, Joseph Baker, said he was walking along Lockwood Avenue when he was approached by Mathews. He said Mathews struck him and they began fighting, during which Mathews bit him on the nose and lip. Baker was transported to Calhoun-

Mathews told the office he was driving along Lockwood Avenue when Baker came up to his window and struck him. Mathews said he got out of his vehicle and they began fighting. He said that when Baker tried to "poke his eye out" he responded by biting his face, causing a laceration to his nose and upper lip.

Mathews was given a conditional release following his arrest Saturday.

## LIVING WITH DIABETES: Weekly classes set to encourage healthy habits

The UF/IFAS, Liberty County Extension Service is partnering with The Panhandle Area Health Network (PAHN) to provide a series of educational classes on diabetes during the month of February.

Classes will be held at Veterans Memorial Civic Center on the first three Thursdays of February at 7 p.m. EST and 6 p.m. CST. The sessions will provide information about diabetes and tips to help diabetics stay healthy.

The first session, "What is Diabetes," will be held Thursday, Feb. 2. The second session, "The ABCs of Diabetes," will be held Thursday, Feb. 9 and the last session, "Nutrition and Lifestyle Recommendations," will be held Thursday, Feb. 16.

To register, call Liberty County Extension Director Monica Brinkley at (850) 643-2229, or PAHN Diabetes Clinical Coordinator, Norrie Chumley at (850) 333-1434.

## FEEL THE BEAT! Latin dance/exercise classes begin Feb. 2

The UF/IFAS, Liberty County Extension will be sponsoring Latin Dance/Exercise classes beginning Thursday, Feb. 2.

The trained instructor, Amanda Isalgue, will be leading the classes every Tuesday and Thursday at Veterans Memorial Civic Center at 6:30.

Participants are asked to pay a \$6 class fee. Come try the class out for free on Feb. 2.

Please contact Amanda at (786) 348-1920 or amandai328@aol.com.

## Baseball, softball and T-ball registration set for Jan. 28 in Bristol

The Liberty County Recreation Department will hold a registration for the upcoming baseball/softball/T-ball season on Saturday Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Registration will take place in the front lobby of Veterans Memorial Civic Center. Registration is open for kids ages 3-13.

A copy of each participant's birth certificate is needed at registration. Cost is \$40 for T-ball and \$50 for baseball and softball.

For more info, please contact the recreation office at (850) 643-2175.

## Relay for Life meeting planned for Jan. 31

This year's American Cancer Society Relay for Life kickoff meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 6 p.m. (CT) at the Blountstown United Methodist Church fellowship hall.

Anyone who would like to be a part of this year's Relay is invited to attend.



# Community Calendar

## Wednesday, January 25

**TODAY'S MEETINGS**

- **Rotary Club**, noon, Calhoun-Liberty Hospital
- **AA**, 7 p.m., Calhoun County Old Ag Bldg. east door, in front of jail
- **Boy Scouts Troop 200**, 6:30 p.m., Mormon Church, Bristol

**January 22-28 Prescribed Fire Awareness Week**

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## Thursday, January 26

**TODAY'S MEETINGS**

- **AA**, 7 p.m., basement of Calhoun County Courthouse
- **Rock Bluff Community Fire Dept.**, 7 p.m., Voting house in Rock Bluff
- **VFW Post 12010**, 7:30 p.m., Veterans Civic Center
- **Liberty Community Center FQHC Board**, 6 p.m., Emergency Management Building on Spring St., Bristol

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## Friday, January 27

**National Volunteer Blood Donor Month**

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## Saturday, January 28

**SEED SWAP DAY**

**BIRTHDAYS**  
Betty Orama, Kyle Peddie, Alex Nowling and Chip Ward

**Adult Dance**, 8-12 p.m. at the Legion Hall in Blountstown

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## Sunday, January 29

*Attend the Church of your choice this Sunday*




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## Monday, January 30

**national mentoring month**

**TODAY'S MEETINGS**

- **Boy Scout Troop 206**, 7 p.m., Veterans Memorial Park Civic Center

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## Tuesday, January 31

**TODAY'S MEETINGS**

- **Altha Boy Scouts**, 7 p.m., Altha Volunteer Fire Department
- **AA**, 6 p.m., Altha Community Center

**Get Organized Month**

## Hoops for Hope basketball game Jan. 27 at BHS

Blountstown High School will be hosting Hoops For Hope basketball games on Friday, Jan. 27 to benefit cancer research.

Student Government Association members are selling \$2 raffle tickets for several prizes, including local gift certificates and two digital video cameras.

Tickets will be sold until winners are drawn and announced at the games. There will also be a 50/50 drawing held at the games.

The Junior Varsity game will be at 6 p.m., and the Varsity game will be at 7:30 p.m.

A ceremony on the battle of cancer will be held between the games.

The whole community is invited to join. Those affected by cancer in our community will be recognized.

## Spring break camps at Landmark Park

DOTHAN- Spring Break is just around the corner, so don't miss out on Landmark Park's annual Spring Break Day Camps! Registration will be Monday, Feb. 13 for members and will open to the public on Monday, Feb. 20. The camps will run March 26 - 28 and April 16 - 18.

Camps are offered for 4-5 year olds, 6-8 year olds and 9-11 year olds. These camps are one day each, scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$15 per camp for members and \$20 for nonmembers. Visit [www.landmarkpark.com](http://www.landmarkpark.com) to download the schedule. Registration is required, and space is limited.

For more information and to register for a camp, contact the park at (334) 794-3452.

## Big Bend Baseball League season set

The Big Bend Baseball League of Florida will begin its fourth season of play in mid-March, 2012.

The League will consist of no more than six teams in the Eastern Division and six teams in the Western Division - each Division separated by the Apalachicola River.

If interested in franchising a team in this League for the upcoming baseball season, please contact the following numbers for details: (229) 662-2066 or (850) 524-2151.

This is an adult baseball League and players must be age 18 or above to participate.

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## Apalachicola River Indian Community Conference March 17 in Blountstown

The Apalachicola River Indian Community Conference will be held Saturday, March 17 at 6 p.m. at the W.T. Neal Civic Center in Blountstown. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Since 1996, the Annual Apalachicola River Indian Community Conference has worked to document the identity, history and cultural traditions of the descendants of the historic Indian settlements of Scott Town, Scotts Ferry and Woods, and to advocate for the Indian families of the panhandle, whether of Creek, Lumbee, or Euchee (Dominicker) ancestry.

This year the conference will feature

several presentations. Marcus Briggs-Cloud of the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee, Creek Nation is producing a documentary with filmmaker Maria Gomez on the Indian communities in north Florida and South Alabama, and will be present with Mrs. Gomez to answer questions. Briggs-Cloud is a board member of 'Cultural Survival' (culturalsurvival.org), an international non-profit organization of the UN dedicated to the preservation of native cultures and languages, which was chartered by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural

Organization (UNESCO) to advocate for the tribal peoples globally.

Also on the agenda are the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Federal Acknowledgements decision on the Muscogee nation of Florida's (formerly Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians) petition for federal recognition slated for April of 2012, and an update on the Lumbee Tribe of Cheraw Indians Congressional Bill for federal recognition.

The release in June of 2011 of the "Indians of North Florida" (by Christopher Scott Sewell and S. Pony Hill) through Backintyme Publishers (available from Amazon.com, Barnes and Nobles, and others) will be discussed and a limited number of copies will be available to community members. It is a legal and social history of families identified as Indian in the panhandle during the segregation era, concentrating in the central panhandle counties.

This book has genealogical infor-

mation and documents concerning the Ammons, Ayers, Barnwell, Bass, Bennett, Bird, Blanchard, Boggs, Brown, Bullard, Bunch, Butts, Bryant, Chason, Chavis/Chavers, Conyers, Copeland, Davis, Doyle, Forehand, Goins, Hall, Harris, Hicks, Hill, Holly, Ireland, Jacobs, Johnson, Jones, Keever, Laramore, Long, Lovett, Mainer, Martin, Mayo, Moses, Oxendine, Perkins, Porter, Potter, Rollin, Rowe, Scott, Simmons, Smith, Stafford, Stephens, Stone, Sweat, Thomas, Whitfield, and Williams families, all of which relate to persons identified as "Indian" on primary historical documents (census, military, court, voter, and educational records) in Calhoun, Holmes, Liberty, and Jackson counties. There will be a meal served at 6 p.m. and special presentations to community members.

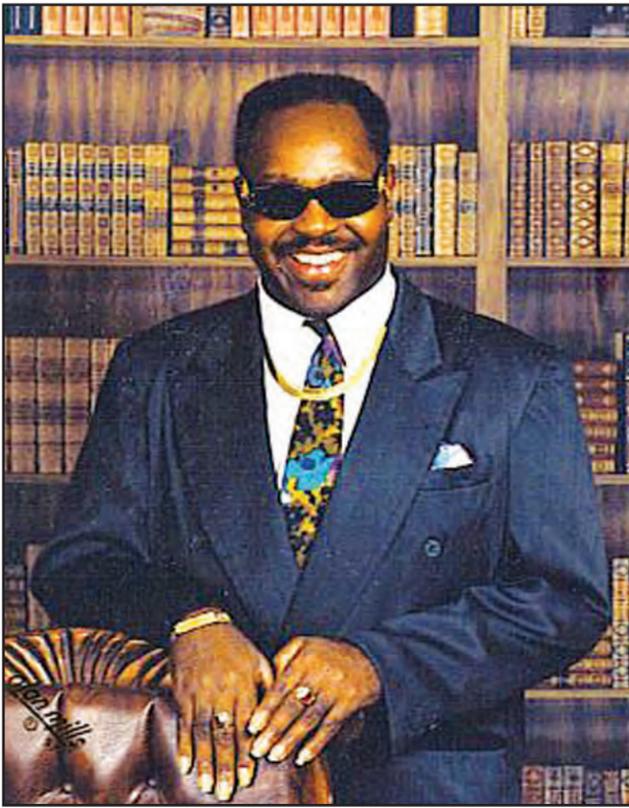
For more information or if you have questions, contact Chris Sewell (918) 402-3666 or go to northfloridaindians.org

## Dr. Wood to speak at Chipola Black History program Feb. 24

MARIANNA—The Chipola College Black Student Union and the Association of United Professionals will host a Black History Month Program, Friday, Feb. 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the Chipola Arts Center. Dinner will be served.

Dr. Rufus Wood of Panama City is the guest speaker. A prominent local civil rights leader and pastor, Wood was honored in 2010 by the Glenwood Community Center for his 25 years of dedication in bringing social justice to the community.

Wood has served as pastor of the Love Center Missionary Baptist Church, Moderator of the Progressive Missionary Baptist District Association of West Florida, and President of the Bay County branch of the NAACP. The public is invited to enjoy the free festivities and



dinner, while learning more about Black History.

For information about the event, contact Dr. Willie Spires at 718-2232.

## New Art Series starts Feb. 18 at Blountstown Public Library

Interested in free family-friendly entertainment? Join us at the Blountstown Public Library on Saturday, Feb. 18 for the next Arts Series Event. We are calling it *From Slow Movements to Jumpin' Track* which features the art of Tai Chi and an original musical story.

At 6:30 p.m. we will learn about the benefits of the ancient Chinese system of exercise called Tai Chi (not to be confused with strenuous martial arts). Joan Davis, artist, soap-maker and wellness expert, will demonstrate the slow

and consistent 'dance' that stimulates all the organs of the body. Her movements act as a walking meditation and the seamless transitions gently flow forth. She has traveled and lived all over the world practicing the techniques after first seeing them performed in Italy 23 years ago. Joan says, "I love reaping the calming and peaceful benefits."

The second half of our program will feature something new! Stephen Ayers is an accomplished musician and a published author. He has composed what he calls an "instrumental nar-

rative" which is an original piano score combined with a dramatic short story of his own. We will be all ears as we follow along track with a tale that takes place during the Depression and centers the characters around train travel. Stephen has named his work of art *Jumpin' Track*. Be prepared for something wonderful!

Our Cultural Arts Evening will be held in the Heritage Room of the library (from back parking lot entrance). Light refreshments will be on hand and no reservation is required.



**Softball Sign Ups**  
The Calhoun County Dixie Girls League will be holding sign ups at the W.T. Neal Civic Center.  
**Jan. 28 & Feb. 4**  
...from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.  
Girls 8-18 years old are eligible to play.  
SIGN UP COST IS \$60.  
Call Danny at 762-2092.



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## Late Night Laughs

A RECAP OF RECENT OBSERVATIONS  
BY LATE NIGHT TV HOSTS.

The San Francisco subway system was shut down when some idiot drove an SUV into a subway tunnel. Boy, that Italian cruise ship captain is having a bad week. — JAY LENO

Newt Gingrich is lining up impressive endorsements. Todd Palin, Gary Busey, and now, Chuck Norris. I'll tell you, his endorsements could beat up Mitt Romney's endorsements. — JIMMY KIMMEL

A hiker who was lost in a blizzard said he stayed alive by digging a snow tunnel and burning dollar bills for warmth. Today he was offered a job as President Obama's economic adviser. — JAY LENO

I find it fascinating that your average automobile has a better navigation system than an Italian cruise ship. — DAVID LETTERMAN

Scientists announced that they have detected a brand new subatomic particle. This particle is so tiny, it's actually smaller than the income tax rate paid by Mitt Romney. — JAY LENO

There's a new Facebook app that will post a final status update for you after you die. That's ridiculous. I don't need someone to change my status when I die. I need them to water my Farmville crops. — JIMMY FALLON

Anybody watch the debates? Newt was pretty good, I have to admit. He lashed out and said the attacks from the media make it harder to attract decent people to run for office, and he's right. That's why we have people like Newt Gingrich running for office. — JAY LENO

Someone has to tell Francesco Schettino that embracing a callous policy of "every man for himself" doesn't make you a sea captain. It makes you the Republican nominee. — BILL MAHER

Rick Perry pulled out of the presidential race - which is bad news for the guys on death row in Texas. He's coming home and he's not in a good mood. — JAY LENO

During a debate, Mitt Romney said he grew up in the real streets of America. Yes, the real streets, where people pull up next to you and ask if you have any Grey Poupon. — JIMMY KIMMEL

Rick Perry endorsed Newt Gingrich, saying Newt isn't perfect, but who is? To which Donald Trump said, "I am!" — JAY LENO

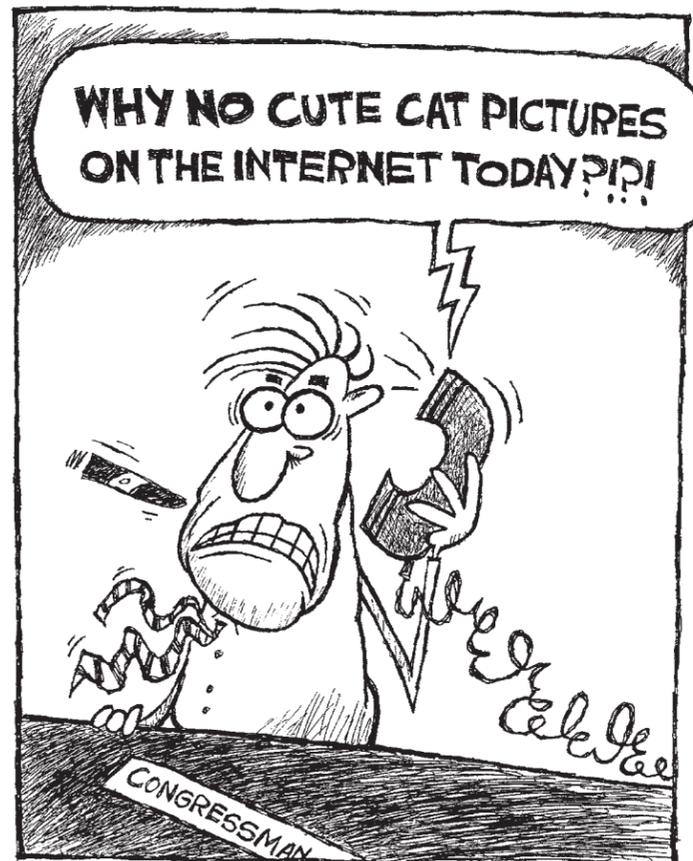
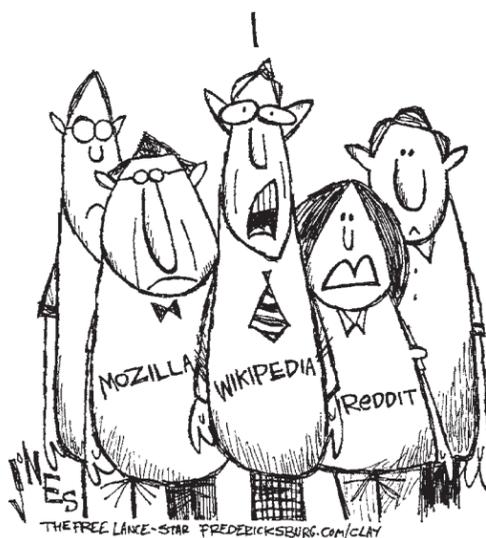
President Obama kissed a woman on the cheek after she told him he looks good. Which explains why last night, Michelle made him sleep on Air Mattress One. — JIMMY FALLON

At the debate the other night, Mitt Romney said he is not an avid hunter, but he is happy to go along if someone invites him to go hunting. To which Newt Gingrich said, "Hey, maybe you can tag along with Dick Cheney." — JAY LENO

President Obama visited Disney World to promote a new plan to boost tourism. Of course, it was awkward when he walked into the 'Hall of Presidents' and saw them making room for Mitt Romney. — JIMMY FALLON

An intelligence officer with the Canadian armed forces has been arrested for passing Canadian military secrets to a terrorist group. I don't know what's more shocking, the fact that he did that or that Canada has military secrets. — JAY LENO

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BLACKOUT WILL ENCOURAGE  
THE PUBLIC TO CALL  
THEIR REPRESENTATIVES  
AND PROTEST THE ONLINE  
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## Newt rises from the ashes

Newt Gingrich rose from the political ashes of South Carolina like the mythological Phoenix. Gingrich doesn't have the gold and scarlet plumage of the mythical Phoenix, but his pseudo-intellectual babble and fiery political rhetoric are tinged with the red hue of hatred for President Obama, the government, the "liberal" news media and anything or anyone who challenges his view that he is the "conservative that can save America" from all the liberal heathens. Newt's a piece of work.

I'd like to think that the political climate in South Carolina is an aberration of America's political common sense, but I doubt it.

Gingrich's marital philandering is well-known and well documented. Of course, his second wife and a scorned woman was going to get even for his alleged request for an "open marriage." Her story was printed in Esquire magazine a couple of years ago, but didn't get the notoriety then that it has with the second reiteration of the "open marriage" claims to ABC News. Of course, Gingrich's supporters pass it off as sour grapes.

Gingrich isn't the first guy to trash his marriages and wives, but the difference here is that this man really thinks that he should be President of the United States. Unfortunately, a fair number of people, particularly in the hinterland of South Carolina agree.

I had to admire Gingrich's ability to become the victim when the CNN reporter started the South Carolina presidential debate with a question about Gingrich and his open marriage issue.

In a nanosecond, Gingrich became the victim and the news media became the villain. The South Carolina crowd showed their contempt for the liberal news media with thunderous applause as Gingrich went through his feigned outrage of "how could you possibly ask me such a question, you dirt bag?"

Evangelicals, conservatives and most right-wingers are quick to tell the world why their "conservative values" are better than the values of liberals, but that wasn't borne out by the voters of South Carolina. Exit polls indicated that 44% of evangelicals and 41% of women voted for Gingrich. What that means is that the hatred for President Obama and the liberal media is more

### COX'S CORNER

*Jerry Cox is a retired military officer and writer with an extensive background in domestic and foreign policy issues. He lives in Okaloosa County.*

important to the right-wing than their "conservative values." The one theme from interviews with right-wingers is that they want someone who can "beat Obama."

It's OK by me if people on the right hate Obama and anything liberal. I wouldn't expect anything else, but spare us the pious rhetoric about values. As always,

when events get down to the short hair, the "real person, the real values" come to the fore. No more smokescreens of words, people are found out for who they really are.

The misinformation and outright lies that spew forth during these debates is awesome. Fact Check.com does a good job of debunking misinformation put forth by Republican presidential candidates. Fact Check also does the same for Democrats and President Obama who frequently stretches the truth to something unrecognizable. But, how many people read Fact Check? Not many. The facts are those pesky things that just get in the way of people believing what they want to be. Facts be damned.

My local newspaper has had many letters and Spout Offs trashing President Obama for not signing off on the pipeline from Canada to Houston, Texas deal.

Gingrich and the right-wing would lead you to believe that liberal tree-hugging environmentalist are the reason that Obama did not sign the pipeline plan. The truth is that the Republican governor of Oklahoma raised the environmental issue because he was concerned about the state's water aquifer. The governor did the right thing in raising the environmental issue.

President Obama did not sign the deal because the pipeline company does not know where the pipeline will be laid. The Republican congress forced the issue into a two-month drop dead date for signing the deal, but the location of the pipeline cannot be resolved in two months. Therefore, the president would not sign a plan for a "pipeline to nowhere." Presumably, the Republicans would have signed off on a plan that was not complete.

However, the Republicans have been successful in painting President Obama as the pipeline villain for political gain, but what else would one expect?

**WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND**

by Douglas Cohn and Eleanor Clift

**The euro threatens us all**

WASHINGTON – The U.S. economy seems finally headed toward recovery with one big fat caveat, which is what happens in Europe. The Germans and the French continue the struggle to find a viable plan to rein in spending that could muster support in European capitals. The Greek public took to the streets to protest austerity measures, bringing down the government and raising the prospect of Greece pulling out of the euro.

That in turn could trigger a cascade with Italy and Spain following Greece's lead and also bailing out of the common currency. The conventional wisdom in much of Europe, and here in the States as well, is that the collapse of the euro would be a disaster. Germany in particular has benefited from the robust export market the euro has facilitated, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel has been working hard to find a solution that maintains the euro.

Merkel is up against strong odds in the sense that the euro is an experiment predicated on the false assumption that a joint economic policy is possible without a joint fiscal policy. In other words, as long as each member country can set its own fiscal policy, voting in generous benefits and loading up on debt, with the expectation that the central European bank will bail them out should they run short, the euro is simply not workable.

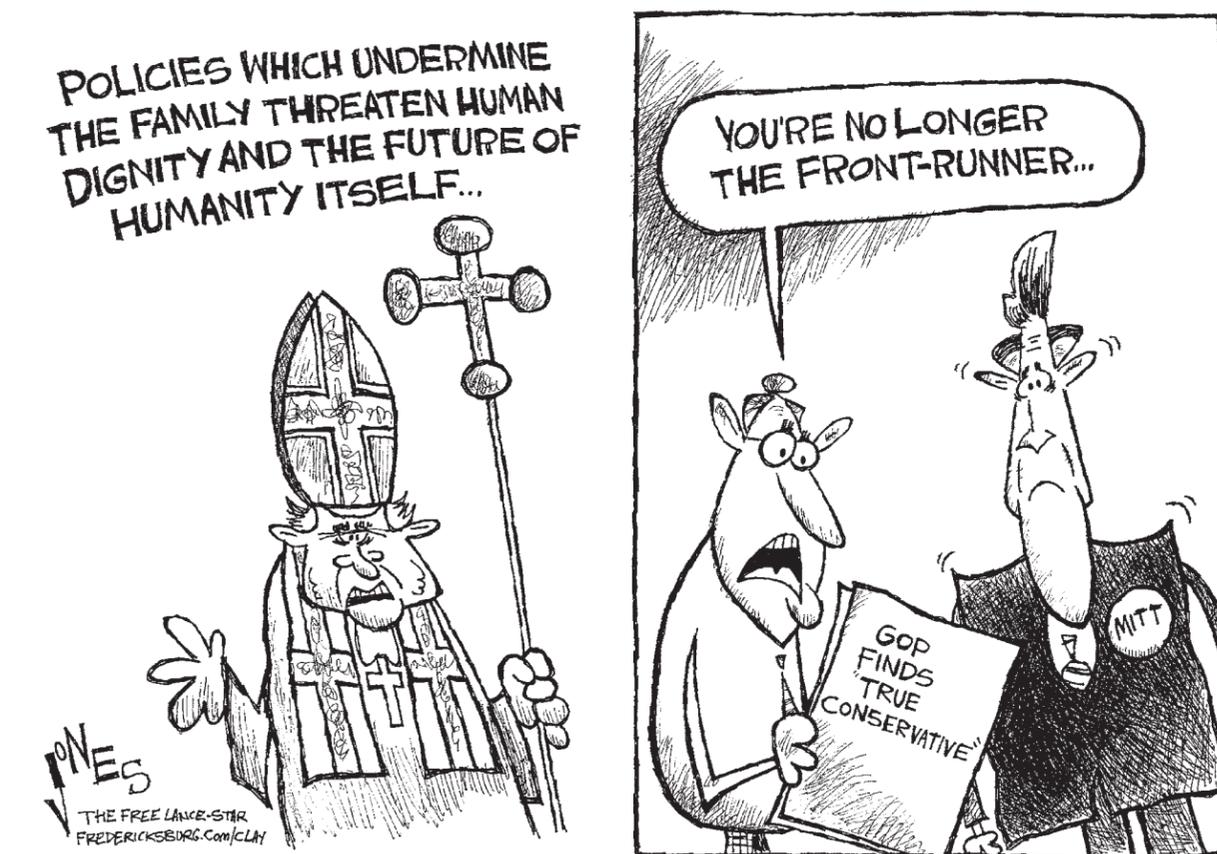
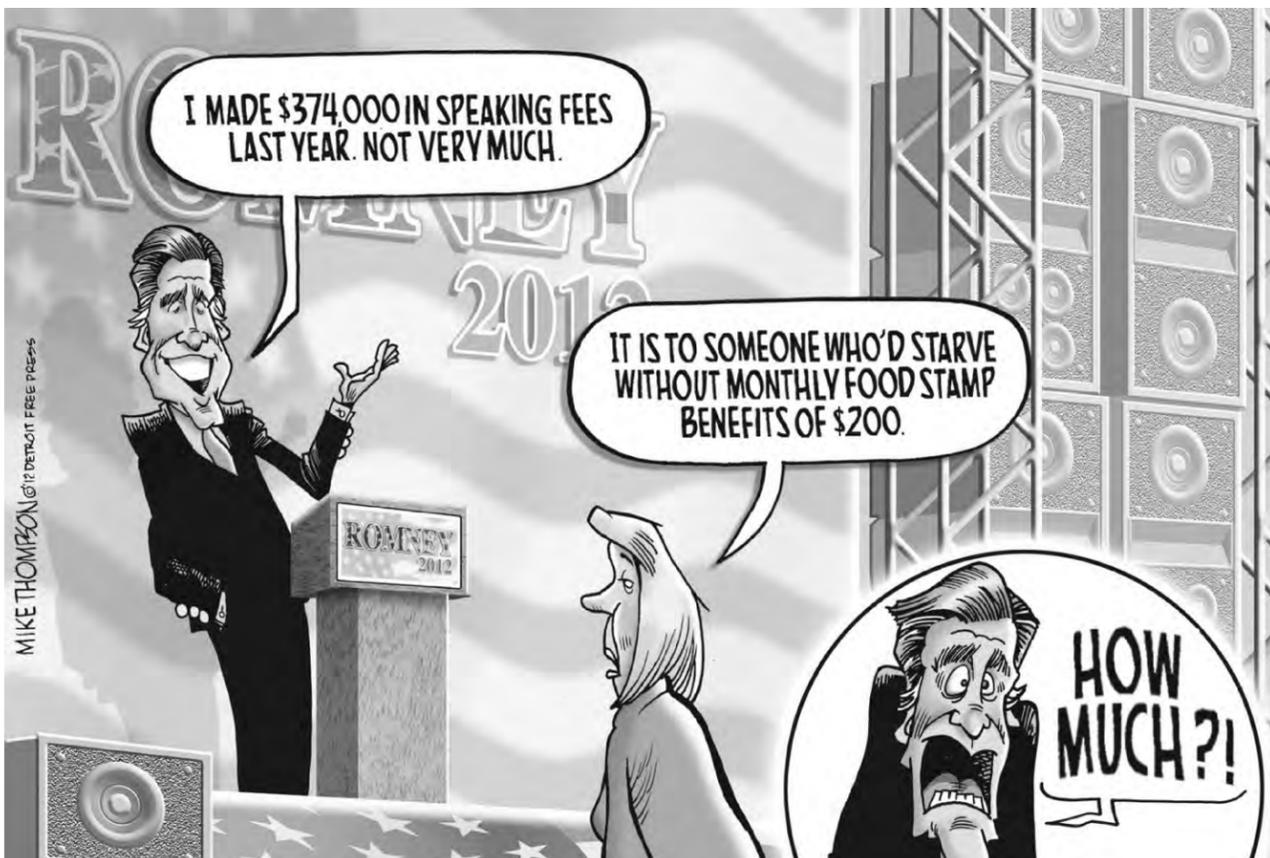
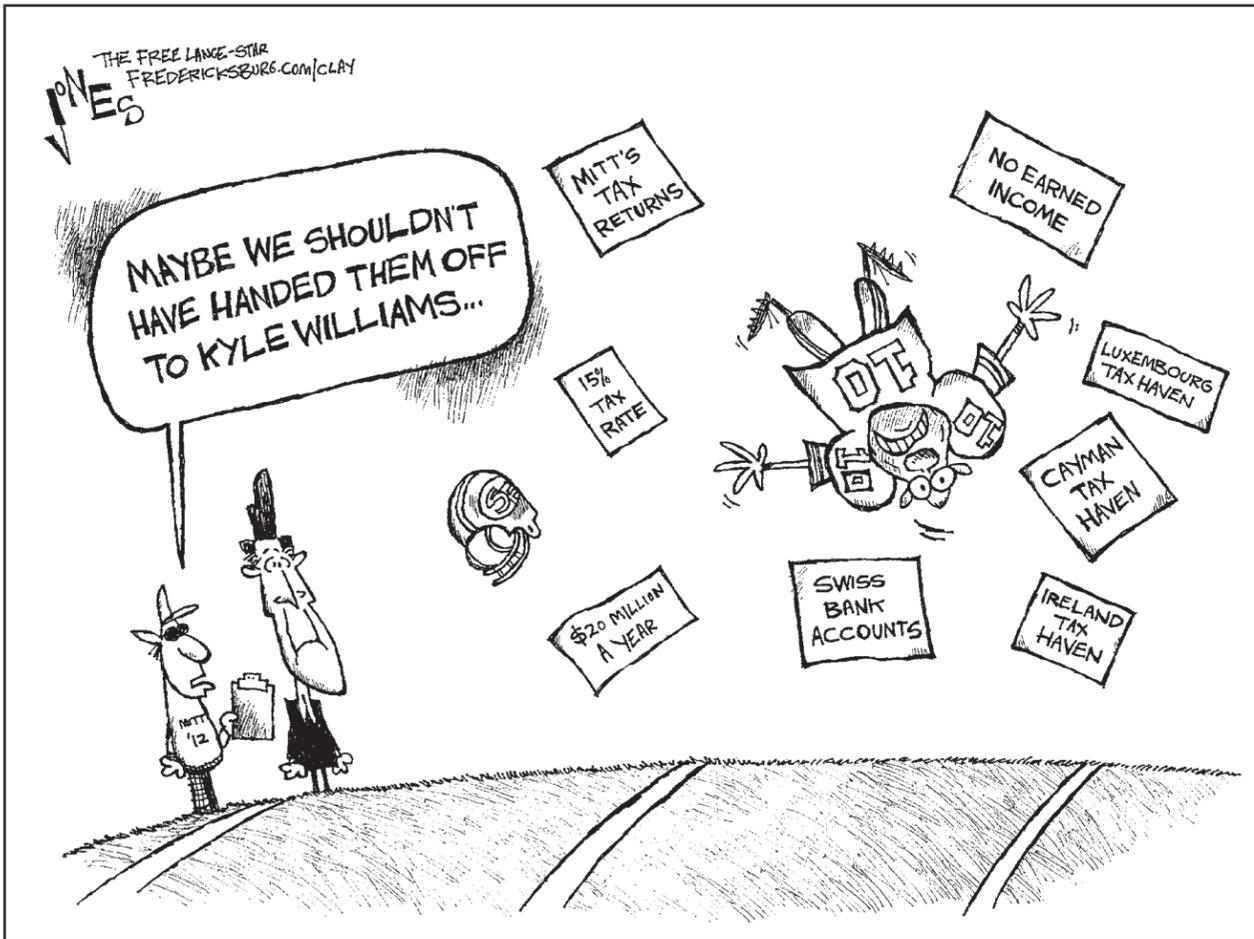
An analogy here in America would be if the various states could run up their expenses and expect the federal government to bail them out. In fairness, that has happened and continues to happen when the problem is reasonable, such as disaster relief. But more often the tone in Washington today to the states echoes a famous New York Daily News headline from 1975 when President Gerald Ford refused to give federal aid to New York City: "Ford to City: Drop Dead."

In the decades since, the city has thrived, and if Merkel can't persuade German taxpayers to pony up the necessary funds to put their fellow Europeans on a more stable fiscal path, it might not be such a bad thing to retire the euro. In fact, it might even be a good thing. Britain is looking prescient for having declined to join the euro and retain the pound as its currency. The euro is taking a pounding against the dollar, and if things get much worse, it might not have to be terminated – it might just fade away.

The concept was always flawed, and the impact on the U.S. should not be as dire as some of the forecasters suggest. The common market would continue, but each country would be responsible for its own currency, and those who remember the German mark and the French franc will likely cheer their return.

The stronger countries will do just fine without the millstone of worrying about their financially profligate cousins, and the weaker countries will have to get their acts together on their own. The rating agency, Standard and Poor's, started the ball rolling recently when it downgraded the credit of nine European countries, including France and Italy, sparking the same kind of fury across the pond as when the U.S. credit rating was downgraded following last summer's debt ceiling debacle.

The reason given in both instances was political gridlock, and the inability of government leaders to solve the crisis of mounting debt. For all the hand-wringing, nothing has changed, and the decline of the euro can be read like a seismograph charting the shocks to the Euro Zone. At some point, member countries might have a better chance of recovering without the burden of a common currency.



# BIRTHDAYS



**ODELL H. OWENS**

Odell H. Owens of Bristol will celebrate his birthday this month. On Jan. 27 he will be turning 87 and as you can see, he is still smiling and enjoying life.



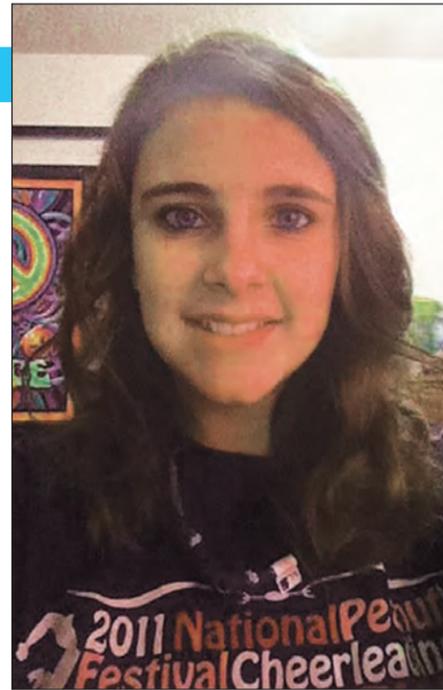
**SARA CATHERINE BROWN**

Sara Catherine Brown will be celebrating her eighth birthday on Jan. 27. She is the daughter of Doyle and Beth Brown of Hosford. Her grandparents are Bob and Ruth Pickron of Bristol and Sonny (Pharis) and the late Pauline Brown of Hosford. Sara Catherine enjoys school and playing video games as well as computer games. One of her favorite activities is riding her Barbie car with her sisters.



**JACOB CREAMER**

Jacob Creamer will be celebrating his 11th birthday on Jan. 26. He is the son of Stacey and Jon Creamer of Bristol. His grandparents are Carolyn and Jimmy Creamer of Eastpoint and Everett and the late Faye Matthews of Tallahassee. Jacob enjoys going hunting with his daddy. When he is not hunting he enjoys playing baseball and basketball. Jacob will celebrate his birthday by getting together with his friends.



**LINDSEY TAYLOR MURKERSON**

Lindsey Taylor Murkerson will be celebrating her 13th birthday today, Jan. 25. She is the daughter of Scott and Letricia Murkerson Prescott and the late John E. Murkerson of Tallahassee. Her grandparents are Harry T. and Marian Strickland of Sycamore, Howard Murkerson of Gainesville and Wilma Murkerson of Woodville. Her great-grandparents are the late Dewey E. and Myrtice Strickland of Bristol and the late Odie and Pauline Shepard of Sycamore. Lindsey enjoys cheer/dance competitions with her JAGS team and playing softball for Tolar Middle School, as well as talking and texting on the phone, shopping and spending time with her friends.



**BRANT JUDSON SEWELL**

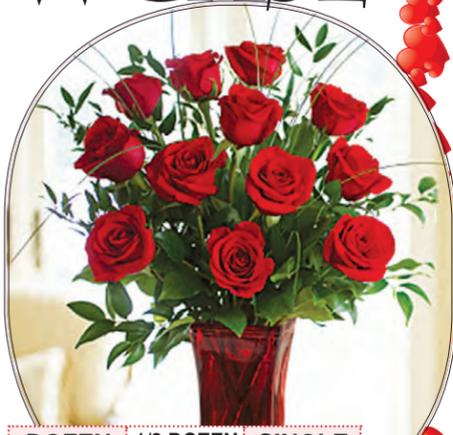
Brant Judson Sewell will celebrate his eighth birthday on Jan. 30. He is the son of Brian and Lisa Jo Sewell of Telogia. His grandparents are Gene and Vicky Coleman of Hosford and Silas and Susie Summerlin and Clifford Sewell, all of Telogia. His great-grandparents are Nora Lee Summerlin of Telogia and Betty Elkins of Hosford. Brant is a second grade student at Hosford School in Mrs. Shelly Stafford's class. He will celebrate his birthday with a trip to Busch Gardens in Tampa.

Merle Norman ♥♥♥ Blountstown

## FLORAL SHOWCASE

Come by Feb. 10 and see our **FULL-SERVICE FLORIST** Opening just in time for Valentine's Day.

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**ADVOCATE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE**

You are invited to attend the Liberty County Tobacco Free Partnership meeting.

**January 3 from 4-5 p.m. (ET) at the Veterans Memorial Civic Center in room 13**

The Partnership invites all members of the community who are concerned about tobacco prevention and control to attend the meeting. These meetings provide a great opportunity to network with others who share the same concerns about tobacco use, as well as participate in meaningful effective tobacco prevention projects.

For more information please call Susan Chafin at the Liberty County health Department at (850) 643-2415 ext. 245.



Liberty County Tobacco Free Partnership



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## BBB® Foundation seeks applicants for \$1,000 Ethics Scholarships

PENSACOLA—Your Better Business Bureau® Foundation of Northwest Florida is currently accepting applications for the 2011 Student Ethics Scholarship.

The Student Ethics Scholarship Award is given to college-bound students within the BBB Northwest Florida service area who demonstrate overall personal integrity and ethical behavior.

Nine high school junior and senior students will be granted \$1,000 Student Ethics Scholarship this year. Three students in each of your BBB's three districts will receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward the accredited college or university of their choice.

Local leaders from businesses and academia will serve as judges and award scholarships based on criteria including leadership, community service, academic achievement and an essay response on building character.

The Student Ethics Scholarship will be awarded in conjunction with the Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics and the Customer Service Excellence Award. The Torch Award was created to recognize businesses and charities that insist on exceptionally high standards of behavior in dealing with customers, vendors and employees. The Customer Service Excellence Award recognizes employees who go above and beyond in their customer service activities.

The application deadline is March 16. Scholarship recipients will be recognized and asked to read their essay at a luncheon in their district to be held in May. For entry forms and guidelines please visit [www.nwfl.bbb.org/TorchAward](http://www.nwfl.bbb.org/TorchAward) or call (850) 429-0002 or (800) 729-9226.



## Truck rear-ends Calhoun school bus Tues. afternoon on Hwy. 71

Traffic was halted for about an hour Tuesday afternoon when a pickup truck rear-ended a Calhoun County School Bus at S.R. 71 North and Bob Guilford Road near Northside Trailer Park in Blountstown. No injuries were reported in the 4:09 p.m. mishap. The truck was driven by a 17-year-old girl who failed to stop when the bus ahead started slowing down, according to Deputy Jared Nichols. The accident was investigated by FHP Trooper Larry Battle.

JOHNNY EUBANKS PHOTO



## Chipola hosts STEM forum for talented students

MARIANNA—A three-year project to raise the level of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education in Florida's rural high schools got underway Jan. 13 at Chipola College.

Students from Holmes, Washington, Jackson, Calhoun, and Liberty Counties participated in a day-long forum to create innovative projects and hear from noted speakers Dr. James Brooks, Director of Florida State University's National High Magnetic Field Laboratory and Chipola alumnus Brian Toole, a mechanical engineer working with Navy SEALs at the Naval Surface Warfare Center at the Naval Coastal Systems Laboratory in Panama City.

The event was organized by the FloridaLearns STEM Scholars Project, a collaborative effort of the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC) targeting gifted and talented students in grades 9-12. The initiative is part of a \$4.5 million dollar grant awarded to the consortia for the development of an enriched and rigorous STEM education campaign to reach students attending Florida's rural schools.

During the day's events, students worked in teams



FROM LEFT: Caroline Rogers, engineer Brian Toole, Maddie Craven and Trenton Nobles.

to develop a rolling vehicle powered only by a mouse trap. Such projects are designed to allow students to use their imaginations, grow leadership skills, work collaboratively, and gain a deeper understanding of the science and engineering skills associated with the project.

According to Brenda Crouch, FloridaLearns STEM Scholars Project Manager, "These events offer the students a chance to meet other gifted and

talented students in the region but more importantly, they help build excitement and optimism that a STEM-related education and career are both achievable and attainable."

Chipola College has embraced the STEM project and committed personnel, space, and is assisting with planning future events.

College president Dr. Gene Prough, says, "Chipola is proud to be a part of this program to encourage students to continue their education in the areas of science, engineering, technology and mathematics."

Patrick M. McDaniel, the Executive Director of PAEC, says, "The FloridaLearns STEM Scholars joint initiative address-

es the need for some of the state's most under-served students to have increased access to STEM-related courses and rigorous and challenging learning experiences. Our goal is to motivate these students to select STEM-related careers and help prepare them to be successful in Florida's innovation economy."

For additional information go to [www.stemscholars.org](http://www.stemscholars.org)

## Chipola College to host credit score seminar

MARIANNA—Chipola College will offer a free seminar, "Credit Basics and Improving your Credit Score," on Friday, Jan. 27.



The major determining factor on receiving any type of loan is a personal credit score and credit history. The class will cover credit basics, what makes up a credit score and how to improve the overall score. Anyone interested in opening a business can benefit from the information offered.

Johnny D. Branch, a Certified Business Analyst CPA MBA, will lead the seminar. Branch has been a restaurant owner for over 30 years.

The seminar will meet from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in Room M-108 of the Chipola Business and Technology building.

Students should contact Elissa Severson at 718-2441 to register, or sign up in person in Building M, Office 208A.



JROTC cadets Cadet Harley White, Cadet Michael Marotta and Cadet Brandon Schneider are shown above with JROTC instructors, Major (Ret.) Tom Groggett (front left) and MSG (Ret.) Curtis Milton (far right). Lions club members shown here include Lions Club President Ann Hosford Smith (center), Lion Major (Ret.) Bob Pickron (far left) and Lion LTCOL (Ret.) William Donald Smith (right).

## JROTC donates eyeglasses

Liberty County High School JROTC Instructors Major (Ret) Tom Groggett and MSG (Ret) Curtis Milton and their cadets presented the Bristol Lions Club with over 155 pairs of used eyeglasses on Jan. 17.

The JROTC assists the Lions Clubs International by annually collecting eyeglasses, which are then repaired by Lions for people in unfortunate circumstances.

A portion of these glasses will go to Third World countries where vision supplies are unavailable.

Bristol Lions Club President Ann Hosford Smith also gave the JROTC 200 Vision Learning classroom lesson plans. Lions Clubs provide local schools with age-appropriate lesson plans for learning about eye anatomy and physiology, eye safety, diabetes, and other health topics.

## Former DOT Secretary to give Lincoln presentation

MARIANNA—Ben Watts, former Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation, will deliver a presentation on



Abraham Lincoln, at Chipola College on Thursday, Jan. 26.

The public is invited to attend the event which is scheduled from 11:00 to 11:50 a.m., in Jackson Hall of the college Literature/Language building.

Watts' visit was arranged by Chipola Social Science professor Melissa Cauley for students in her American Federal Government class. She decided to open the meeting to other students and to the public due to the great interest in President Lincoln.

Watts is an engineer who graduated from Chipley High School in 1965 and from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He joined the Florida DOT in 1974 and served in various leadership roles including Secretary before leaving in 1997. He joined Carter & Burgess, Inc., a national architectural and engineering firm headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1997. He was named President and CEO of Carter & Burgess in 2003. He retired in 2008 and lives in DeFuniak Springs, with wife Gardis, the sister of Gail Hartzog, Chipola's Dean of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness. Watts is an avid golfer and student of Abraham Lincoln.

For information about the presentation, contact Melissa Cauley at (850) 526-2761, Ext. 3224.

## Chipola auto tech students pass ASE exams

Eleven students in Chipola College's Automotive Service Technology Program recently passed examinations from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). Pictured from left, are: (front) Jody Vowell of Blountstown, Terell Loper of Marianna, Dan Shivers of Altha, Dillon Chambliss of Basom; (back) Brandon Johnson of Marianna, Wayne Sawyer of Marianna, Josh Weakland of Marianna, Clinton Seymour of Marianna, Marc Haviland of Donaldsonville, D.J. Johns of Mari-



anna and Sam Robison of Malone. For information about Chipola's automotive

program, visit [www.chipola.edu](http://www.chipola.edu) or call (850) 718-2306.

## Calhoun seniors to take cruise to Mexico on April 26

Come join CalCo Travel, Calhoun County Senior Citizens, on a "perfect time of the year" cruise to Cozumel, Mexico.

We will be leaving out of New Orleans on April 26. This cruise includes a five day and four night cruise aboard the Carnival Elation, transportation to and from New Orleans, government fees and taxes, a \$50 onboard credit per room and a good time at no extra charge!

Cost: Interior: \$529/double pp., \$449/triple or quad, pp. Oceanview: \$569/double pp., \$489/triple or quad pp. Deposit of \$100 due upon sign up with the balance due by Feb. 1.

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## NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS

The Liberty County Board of County Commissioners will receive sealed bids from any qualified person, company or corporation interested in providing construction services for the following project:

### C.R. 2224, PHASE I

This project will include the widening and resurfacing of C.R. 2224. Shoulder re-grading, thermoplastic striping, reflective pavement markers, 264± LF of 18" A-2000 pipe, 31 mitered end sections, 450± LF of ditch pavement and culvert extensions are also included.

Plans and specifications can be obtained at Preble-Rish, Inc., 20684 Central Avenue East, Blountstown, Florida 32424, (850) 674-3300. (For questions, please call Kristin Brown at (850) 674-3300). The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes.

Completion date for this project will be 150 days from the date of the Notice to Proceed presented to the successful bidder.

Liquidated damages for failure to complete the project on the specified date

will be set at \$200 per day.

Please indicate on the envelope that this is a sealed bid, for the "C.R. 2224, PHASE I".

Bids will be received until 10 a.m. Eastern Time, on February 8, 2012, at the Liberty County Clerk's Office, Liberty County Courthouse, 10818 NW S.R. 20, Bristol, Florida 32321, and will be opened and read aloud on February 8, 2012 at 2 a.m. Eastern Time. Liberty County Board of Commissioners is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Handicapped Accessible/Fair Housing Jurisdiction.

Cost for Plans and Specifications will be \$50 per set and is non-refundable. Checks should be made payable to PREBLE-RISH, INC.

The Liberty County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all bids. All Bids shall remain firm for a period of sixty days after the opening. All bidders shall comply with all applicable State and local laws concerning licensing registration and regulation of contractors doing business to the State of Florida.

# Training more educators for special-needs children in high-risk families

TALLAHASSEE—For the increasing number of “high-risk” families in Florida facing the complex challenges of infants and toddlers with disabilities and developmental delays, additional help is on the way.

Two Florida State University professors have received a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to train more educators in specialized early intervention and support.

“We are grateful that the U.S. Department of Education has once again

recognized Florida State University’s extraordinary expertise and impact in educational policy and research,” President Eric J. Barron said.

The grant to Mary Frances Hanline, a professor of early childhood special education in the College of Education, and Juliann Woods, a professor in the School of Communication Science and Disorders, will support their Personnel Preparation in Early Intervention and Education Project. The five-year project aims to improve the quality and increase the number of personnel who

are fully credentialed to serve children with disabilities from birth to age 5.

The new grant will enable Hanline and Woods to provide online courses to practicing early-intervention professionals throughout the state.

And for Florida State students preparing for careers in special education and early childhood education, the grant will mean enhanced opportunities for training in early intervention.

“Dr. Woods and I will be expanding the content of existing academic

coursework and of field-based experiences, which will take place in programs providing services to ‘high-need’ families who need specialized intervention and support,” said Hanline, the Personnel Preparation in Early Intervention and Education Project principal investigator.

Among the project’s goals: Work with a total of 71 students over the next five years to produce 22 speech pathologists, 27 early-childhood special educators and 22 interdisciplinary pre-service professionals.

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## OLD FARMER'S



*What can you tell me about the significance of the weather in one's dreams?*

—F. L., International Falls, MN

The weather in dreams often sets a mood, much as it does in books. It represents emotional undercurrent. Whatever the tone -- cloudy, hazy, sunny, bright -- that is the condition you're in. If the sun is trying to pour through, there is hope! If clouds obstruct your view, you have some troubles to work through. The trick is to decide when the weather is important to the meaning and when it's just, well, weather.

According to common dream interpretation guidelines, however, to dream of the Sun or sunrise is to have new adventures awaiting you. Goodwill is yours, energy is coming your way, and fulfillment is in store. Blue skies? Clear weather may be in store for you, with periods of peacefulness and freedom from cares. If the sky is obstructed, sadness or trouble may be coming your way.

To dream of rain may be a cleansing dream, or it may suggest isolation. Rain symbolizes fertility, new thought, and industry, but an overcast day or cloudy outlook may obstruct changes. Welcome the rainbow in your dreams, for it is a promise of good luck and happiness. An open umbrella in your dreams means that you are protecting yourself from emotional upheavals (water), but if the umbrella is closed and you are getting wet, then you may be open

JAN. 23, MONDAY -- Chinese New Year. New Moon. China's giant pandas were added to the endangered species list, 1984. Princess Caroline of Monaco born, 1957.

JAN. 24, TUESDAY -- Mars stationary. British prime minister Winston Churchill died, 1965. Voyager 2 spacecraft sent back photographs from Uranus, 1986.

JAN. 25, WEDNESDAY -- Conversion of Paul. Conjunction of Neptune and the Moon. Boston, Massachusetts, covered with 22.1 inches of snow, 1948.

JAN. 26, THURSDAY -- St. Timothy. St. Titus. Moon on equator. Conjunction of Venus and the Moon. Ohio River 80 feet above flood level, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1937.

JAN. 27, FRIDAY -- Conjunction of Uranus and the Moon. Representatives from over 60 nations signed Outer Space Treaty, 1967. Raccoons mate now.

JAN. 28, SATURDAY -- St. Thomas Aquinas. Poet W. B. Yeats died, 1939. U.S. Coast Guard established by Congress, 1915. Fear nothing but your own conscience.

to those feelings. What is your unconscious trying to “shower” you with? A dream of thunder says, “Pay attention!” Lightning may symbolize enlightenment or inspiration, especially if the dream is not a fearful one.

Snow in your dreamy landscapes may express chilly or frozen emotions. In general, water indicates emotions and frozen water may suggest an impasse -- if the snow seems significant in the dream. Icy footing, falling through the ice, or slippery going are all cautionary indications, suggesting that you're “skating on thin ice” in your daily endeavors. Take care. Earthquakes are literally “shake-ups” in your dreams. Life is changing, for the better or the worse. Financial upheavals, illness, recovery after a serious accident, or other major life changes may be suggested. Whirlwind? Whirlpool? Are you being sucked under and overpowered or lifted up to a new level of understanding and awareness?

Life is in chaos, either way, but changes may be coming that you will welcome.

*I picked up an electric slow-cook pot at a yard sale. Can I prepare regular meals in it?*

—H. M., Round Rock, TX

Yes and no. That is, many traditional recipes can be easily converted into electric slow cooker recipes, but others are not suitable. Soups, stews, chilis, casseroles, bean dishes, some meat dishes, and desserts such as berry compotes or bread puddings are ideal for slow cooking. Use the slow cooker to simmer tougher or less fatty cuts of meat, or for casseroles and stews. Check your library for a slow cooker cookbook, just to learn the basics of the appliance, and then branch out from there. You'll quickly get the hang of what you can do and what you can't.

Slow cookers can be handy in busy households

where the end of the day gets hectic with after-school commitments or multiple dinner times. While food preparation will probably take about the same length of time overall, slow-cooked meals can be prepared the night before. In some households, this may mean the difference between a real meal and a frozen dinner. One of its best features, however, is the fact that the slow cooker offers the welcome smell of a home-cooked meal when you walk in the door.

*If you were going to choose one breed of chicken for small-scale (under 20 birds) production, which would you choose?*

—R. P., McPherson, KS

It depends on whether you are looking at egg production or meat value. There are almost as many opinions as there are poultry farmers. However, it is generally agreed that White Leghorns are the top breed for egg production. A close second is the Rhode Island Red. White Leghorns tend to be nervous; noise or strangers in the chicken yard may affect their egg production. Rhode Island Reds are more docile. If you live in an area with noise and audible honking horns, Rhode Island Reds may be a better choice than White Leghorns.

The Plymouth Rock is a dual-purpose breed that can be used for both eggs and meat.

A favorite among backyard poultry keepers, it is friendly and easily handled.

January 23-29
THIS WEEK WITH
2012

**JANUARY 23**  
New Moon



**JANUARY 23**  
Chinese New Year

### The Old Farmer's Almanac



**Dying Words**

January 25 marks the death of Al Capone in 1947. We don't know the last words of this king of the Prohibition speakeasies, but we'll tell you some others of note in January. Actor Humphrey Bogart is reputed to have said, “I should never have switched from Scotch to martinis.” British prime minister Winston Churchill said, “I'm bored with it all,” while Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova is credited with having said, “Get my swan costume ready.” Theodore Roosevelt was said to have uttered “please put out the light” as his final words.

**JANUARY 25, 26**  
Best days to plant aboveground crops

**JANUARY 28, 29**  
Best days to prune to encourage growth

**Potato Bread**

**P**roof the yeast in the warm water. Stir in the remaining ingredients, except the flour. Stir in the flour 1 cup at a time, until a pliable dough is formed. Knead the dough for 5 to 10 minutes. Cover loosely and let rise until doubled. Form into two loaves and place in two greased 9x5-inch loaf pans. Let rise until doubled. Bake the loaves at 350°F for 30 to 40 minutes. **MAKES 2 LOAVES.**

**WIT AND WISDOM FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC**

- When oak trees bend with snow in January, good crops may be expected.
- A bridal gift of wooden spoons brings good luck.
- On January 27, 1988, the National Geographic Society was incorporated.

FOR RECIPES, GARDENING TIPS, AND WEATHER FORECASTS, VISIT: [Almanac.com](http://Almanac.com)

# Biased media coverage apparent in the Presidential Race

To the editor:

I have watched with great interest the presidential debates and developments in this election cycle. I am looking for a leader who understands the urgency of the hour, has traditional American Judeo-Christian values, has the guts to step outside the "politically correct box", and the leadership ability to change the Washington mindset. But all these qualities are to no avail unless the candidate can first get through the media minefield. Furthermore, a candidate can possess all the right stuff but unless he can be elected, America is still on course with the Titanic.

I have watched people with good ideas and values withdraw from the race. As one after another emerged to take a lead in the polls, they became targets of the left wing media. Bachman, Perry, Cain all had great ideas and values but the minute they seemed to arise from the pack,

the media began their assault.

Biased media coverage does not have to be blatantly critical to be effective. There is a proverb that says "the little foxes spoil the vine". Critics in the media are experts at bringing up hot button issues that occurred twenty years ago that have no relevance to the issues of today but cast doubt in the minds of the voter. A little doubt spreads like wildfire in our 24 hour news cycle. But that same media scrutiny is not applied to the left leaning candidates or officials. It is not a level playing field.

We form opinions based on the information we receive. A political scientist from UCLA, Tim Groseclose conducted a study of the last presidential election. He scientifically measured the affect of the national media in the last presidential

**SPEAK UP!**  
**WITH A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**  
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 P.O. Box 536, Bristol 32321

election and found that media bias affected voting 8% in favor of Barack Obama. Without the media bias in the last election, Obama would not be our president. For more information on the Groseclose research and a fascinating video interview go to [www.timgroseclose.com/videos/uncommon-knowledge/](http://www.timgroseclose.com/videos/uncommon-knowledge/).

Media bias is a huge factor in the political process. I am sick of the news media innuendoes, elitist attitudes, and "gotcha questions". No candidate has a chance in today's political climate unless he or she is capable of negotiating the media minefield.

Last week candidate Newt

Gingrich demonstrated his ability as a candidate who can forcefully respond to the biased media. In an opening presidential debate question, Gingrich was confronted by CNN debate moderator about an ABC interview with his ex-wife. Gingrich boldly brought attention to the absurdity of such a question at such a time and the audience responded with a standing ovation.

There comes a time when we must take a stand. As an outspoken values person in this community I am standing with Newt Gingrich. Of the candidates left standing, I believe Gingrich is best qualified to meet the criteria I outlined identified in my first paragraph. Several weeks ago I changed from a registered Democrat to Republican in order to vote in this Republican primary. It is critical that we make our voices

heard in this election cycle.

I have respect for Rick Santorum and Romney but I have chosen to support Gingrich because I believe he has demonstrated the best ability to take command of a hostile environment first in the media, then in Washington. Bold leadership with deep underlying values is essential and his bold responses in this and other situations have caused me to believe Newt is best equipped to survive the media shark tank.

Because I am a pastor, you may think it inappropriate for me to openly express my choice of a candidate. I am also a citizen and I make no apologies. It is time for leaders to lead. We cannot afford to sit passively and comfortably in the lounge chairs of the Titanic. The urgency of the hour demands that we speak loudly and boldly to the issues at hand. The America we love is in the balance.

*Pastor Roger King,  
Blountstown*

## Chipola basketball players and Jumpin' John Smith to take part in Hoops for Hope on Jan. 27 in Blountstown

To the editor:

This past Labor Day I was at Blue Springs State Park in Marianna watching some friends and family members participate in a half marathon competition. After the meet on my way home I spotted a gentleman with a watermelon display on the side of the road. I stopped to inquire about the melons, and was told they were 3 for \$10. I struck up a conversation with this nice gentleman, and he noticed I had on a Chipola College shirt. He told me about his relationship with Chipola College, and that his friends at Chipola called him Jumpin' John. I asked if he was the Jumpin' John Smith I had seen in a video on You

Tube, and he said yes. I told him I had seen the video clip, and he was quite an accomplished dunker and I enjoyed his clip very much. I asked him if he would ever consider performing in Calhoun County at one of our schools. He said to let him know, and maybe it would work out. I gave him \$10 and purchased 3 melons that I told him were for my grandkids. As I started to leave he walked over to my car, and gave me an extra melon for those kids.

I was talking to Principal Ronnie Hand, and Assistant Principal Debbie Williams about Jumpin' John. I told them he would be a good crowd draw for a basketball game. I showed

Mr. Hand the video site, and he was impressed with Jumpin' John's performance. He was going to give the site to Coach Davis. Later when I found out about the game on January 27th in honor of breast cancer awareness, I suggested that would be a

great time for the Jumpin' John exhibition. My wife died in 1997, a victim of breast cancer, and the tribute to her memory, as well as so many others that have died from the same disease is a extra special memory for me that I feel deserves special recognition.

My friend Robert Trammell is a long time supporter of Chipola College, and as passionate as any booster on earth on their behalf. He put me in touch with Coach Jake Headrick, the basketball coach at Chipola who gave me Jumpin' John's phone number. I called Coach Headrick, and told him that Robert gave me his number. I told him I was superintendent of schools in Calhoun County at what the occasion was. I told him I was a graduate of the college, and my brother-in-law Dr. Gene Prough, was his president. Coach Headrick inquired about the time, and place of this event. He said that he would talk to Jumpin' John, and try to bring some of the Chipola basketball team to our game to conduct a basketball slam dunk contest. How could I refuse such gracious generos-

ity, and a friendly gesture to make our game more special? I thanked him, and told him it was more that I had ever expected. I immediately got up with Debbie Williams, and Coach Tony Davis to be sure they were okay with this arrangement. They were fine with the plans. There will be an exhibition of some young cheerleaders, and the basketball team from Chipola, and especially Jumpin' John.

They all wanted to be a part of this worthy cause. In case anyone wants a sneak preview, go to You Tube, Chipola Manager Jumpin' John Smith Dunk Contest. You will be entertained, and I hope excited to come to the game and support the breast cancer theme.

I also want to thank the local media for their support. They are most accommodating to help us get our messages out to the public on school related endeavors.

*Respectfully,  
Tommy McClellan, Superintendent  
Calhoun County Schools*

### **Our area needs bus service to help those who no longer drive**

To the editor:

Recent assistance from an Altha Police Officer and a neighbor was appreciated. They drove me to the supermarket, auto parts store, post office and my home.

My having been unable to drive suggests a need for bus service.

A bus route south on SR 73, east on SR 20, north on SR 71 and west on US 90 from and back to the shopping center parking lot close to the Social Security office followed by a reversal of the route from and back to the Social Security office would give the best service with just one bus.

One fare regardless of distance and high enough to produce a profit should be used. A \$2 one way fare charge would be very reasonable for me if my car does not start and I am hungry.

Can I get an "amen" for my ideas to start a bus service?

*Leonard Maio, Altha*

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Help an abused, neglected or otherwise at-risk child by becoming a Volunteer Guardian ad Litem.

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LEFT: Rusty Wyrick and his brother, Dan Wyrick of Blountstown, share a laugh as they talk about the time they spent together in Rome.



RIGHT: Rusty leads a tour though the Tuscan village he now calls home.

# Blountstown native fulfills a dream and opens bed & breakfast in Italy

by Teresa Eubanks, *Journal Editor*

A couple of years ago, Rusty Wyrick said goodbye to his 25 year career as a computer programmer and consultant to fulfill a longtime dream of moving to Italy where he now owns and operates a bed and breakfast in the medieval village of Ghivizzano in Northern Tuscany.

His discovery of the country that would one day become his adopted home came about due to a missed deadline.



Rusty Wyrick

Following his 1981 graduation from Blountstown High School, Rusty continued his education at FSU where he applied for the college's study abroad program in 1984. He wanted to go to London but missed the sign-up deadline. After learning a spot was still available in an upcoming four month study trip to Florence, Italy, he took it and found himself absorbed in the art, architecture, history and culture of the country.

When the study program ended, he couldn't bear to leave. "I loved it so much I extended it to eight months," he said.

A Pell Grant covered his costs for the first four months. A passionate letter about his love for the country and desire to stay on resulted in a loan from a relative that made it possible to continue his stay. He said he officially became a "starving student" who learned to stretch his lire in the days before the euro became the standard currency. "Fortunately, 1984 and 1985 was when the dollar was at its strongest," he said. "I don't know how students make it now because the exchange rate is so awful."

After returning to the U.S., he continued his travels and every third year, returned to Italy until he could move there and make it his home. "The Italian people are just wonderful," he said. "They are generous,



The front door of Casa La Pace in Italy.

affectionate and very open with their emotions."

Now, instead of driving to work each day he walks down a cobblestone street to visit small shops to buy cheese, pastries and fresh baked bread to serve the guests at his three-story establishment called Casa La Pace, which means "House of Peace."

## FINDING HIS WAY AROUND

Today, he is fluent in Italian but when he first arrived for his study tour, Rusty knew only two words in

the language: pizza and spaghetti. He said he did no preparation for his first visit to Italy. "I didn't even know where Florence was on the map," he said of the place he now calls the most beautiful city in the world.

"When I came back, I'd had a year's worth of art history and art appreciation. I was convinced I was going to change my major," he said but when he realized that would entail another year of school he continued in computer science.

"I wanted to finish my degree so I could get out in the world, get over to Italy and get a job."

After his first eight month visit in 1984-85, he returned for six months in 1987 while employed with Ross Perot's consulting company, EDS, and worked in an air conditioning factory 45 minutes outside of Rome. "That's how I knew I really wanted to live in Italy," he said. "I wasn't just being a student and playing, avoiding my responsibilities. I was really working there."

Every Saturday he would catch the bus and go explore the neighborhoods in Rome. "After six months, I knew all of Rome but I was able to learn it in little pieces."

During that stay, he was able to give his brother, Dan Wyrick, a tour when he came to visit him from his military base in Germany. "I stayed there three days and had a great time," Dan said, commenting that he enjoyed having, "A red-headed cracker that could speak fluent Italian as my tour guide."

When they went to the Vatican, Dan noticed a long line of tourists who had a lengthy wait until a tour guide could take the next group through. "It was so nice not to have to wait on a tour guide because Rusty was my tour guide. He knew all the spots to go to, all the places to eat."

## DISCOVERING CASA LA PACE

"Over the years, I became a consultant and started moving around the country as a computer programmer and saving all my money I wasn't blowing on travel," Rusty said, having visited England, Greece, Mexico and Japan.

See **CASA LA PACE** continued on page 32



# Northwest Florida Beef conference & trade show Feb. 22

MARIANNA - The 27th annual Northwest Florida Beef Conference and Trade Show will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at the Jackson County Agriculture Conference Center, located at 2741 Pennsylvania Avenue in Marianna.

The event begins with registration and the Trade Show opens at 7:30 a.m. (CT). The program begins at 8:15 a.m. and ends with lunch. Following lunch there will be an optional Cool Season Variety Tour held at the North Florida Research and Education Center, Agronomy Unit north of Marianna. There is a \$5 per person registration fee for the event.

The focus of the Beef Conference this year will be: "Making the Most of New Opportunities." Two thousand and twelve promises to be a very interesting year in the cattle business. Cattle pro-

ducers should get the highest prices they have ever received when they market their cattle this year. Because of increased costs, however, they will also have the greatest risk with more invested than ever before. For these reasons Dr. Walt Prevatt, Auburn University Livestock Economist, was chosen to be the keynote speaker. He will provide a cattle market outlook for 2012 and beyond, and also share ideas for managing cow costs. Kevan Tucker, Clarke County Alabama Extension Coordinator, will share ideas on how to capitalize on these higher market prices. Nicholas DiLorenzo, University of Florida Beef Nutrition Specialist, will discuss nutrition management, and Doug Mayo, Jackson County Extension Director, will share ideas on how to increase herd performance, to help ranchers improve

the efficiency of their operations.

The Beef Conference also features a Trade Show of businesses that offer goods and services to cattle producers in the region. Time will be provided to visit with the company representatives to learn about new products and suggestions they have for beef cattle operations. New this year, Farm Credit is offering you the opportunity to replace your tired, well-worn cap with a brand new Farm Credit cap during the Beef Conference. Bring your old cap to the meeting and Farm Credit will exchange it for a new Farm Credit cap- just in time for planting season!

For more information on the Beef Conference, contact Doug Mayo, at (850) 482-9620, or on the Internet: [www.jackson.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.jackson.ifas.ufl.edu).

## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

ST MARY'S M.B. CHURCH— St. Mary's Sanctuary Choir will be celebrating their 10th anniversary on Jan. 28 & 29.

The event will begin on Saturday, Jan. 28 at 6 p.m. with a musical and reading by poet Idean Evans. The event continues on Sunday, Jan. 29 with Pastor Johnson and his congregation from Defuniak.

Plan to attend St. Mary's M.B. Church and help make this event a success.

Call 674-3597 for more information.

## SPECIAL CONCERTS

RED OAK MENNONITE CHURCH— The Red Oak Mennonite Church will be hosting a very special concert with the Wissmann family on Sunday, Jan. 29 beginning at 7 p.m.

The Wissmann family includes the parents and

their 11 children, whose talents are showcased as they play musical instruments and sing. The family is involved in prison ministry and other forms of outreach.

The presentation is free and the public is invited to attend. You will surely be blessed.

The church is located at 19247 NW CR 275, Altha.



RED OAK MENNONITE CHURCH— The Red Oak Mennonite Church will be hosting another family concert on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. This event will feature the John Glick family.

This is a family of 11 who enjoy Southern Gospel and country style music. You will enjoy this evening of beautiful music and encouraging singing.

The presentation is free and the public is invited to attend. You will surely be blessed.

The church is located

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

at 19247 NW CR 275, Altha.

BLOUNTSTOWN FIRST ASSEMBLY – The Vessels of Clay will be in service at Blountstown First Assembly on Sunday, Jan. 29.

They will be at the church for both the a.m. service at 11 and the p.m. service at 5.

Pastor Shelton Kindig and members would like to invite you to come join them in service. The church is located on Hwy. 20.



## SPECIAL SERVICE

ST PAUL AME WOMEN MISSIONARY SOCIETY— Everyone is welcome to St.

Paul AME Women Missionary Society service next Sunday, Jan. 29 at 11 a.m.

The guest speaker will be Reverend Willie Manning from Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Tallahassee.

Please come take part in this worship experience.

St. Paul AME is where Calvin Griffin Sr. is pastor and Jesus Christ is Lord.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH – The St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on Gaskin St. in Blountstown, invites you to a presentation on the Book of Revelation on Wed. Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m. CT in the church hall.

Guest speaker Tom Gust, is presenting Part

II of a series of programs on this subject.

Light refreshments will be served.

## 5TH SUNDAY MEETING

ST. LUKE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST – The St. Luke Church of God in Christ will be hosting their 5th Sunday meeting Jan. 29 at 4 p.m. (CT).

The host church will be Back to Basic Church of God in Christ. Pastor Shirley Patterson will be the speaker for the evening.

Dinner will be served after the meeting.

For more information call Pastor Delano Reed at (850) 643-6400 or (850) 674-4189.

## REVIVAL

ST. LUKE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST – The St. Luke Church of God in Christ will be in revival beginning Feb. 1 through Feb. 3. Service time is 6:30 p.m. (CT).

Guest speaker for the

revival will be Superintendent David Wood from Panama City.

For more information call Pastor Delano Reed at (850) 643-6400 or (850) 674-4189.

## 6TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON

GOSPEL EXPRESS MINISTRY OF NORTH FLORIDA – The Gospel Express Ministry of North Florida will be holding their 6th Annual Ladies Luncheon and High Tea on Saturday, March 10. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (ET) at the Golden Eagle Country Club, 3700 Golden Eagle Drive in Tallahassee.

Guest speaker will be Mr. Joyce Sauder. Tickets for the event are \$25. For tickets or more information, call Twila Henry 674-1664 or Candice Nissley 562-9049.

All proceeds benefit Gospel Express Ministry of North Florida.

Thank you for your support.

## Messages of Thanks

On behalf of the Ferguson family, we are grateful and would like to thank the Liberty County Sheriff's Office and fire department for their quick response in saving our home that caught fire this past week.

We appreciate your hard work and dedication to the people of Liberty County.

Sincerely, Cecil & Chacosglo Ferguson

The family of Rudolph Rackley would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the many family and friends who have reached out to us since the passing of the man we called husband, daddy and granddaddy.

The many prayers, phone calls, cards, flowers and monetary contributions are a testament to how many lives Rudolph Rackley touched and we are honored by your compassion.

We would like to especially thank Sonny O'Bryan, Earl Bowden and Reverend John King for the beautiful service; the kind words and the memories you shared will be forever cherished by us all.

Also, we would like to thank two very special physicians for the care they provided during Mr. Rackley's life. Dr. Gerald Skipper, thank you for the many years of care, you had a way of making him do the things most of us could not and he thoroughly enjoyed your visits. Dr. Misbah Farooqi, while you only cared for him during his last few months, you treated him and our entire family as he had been your patient forever. Your compassion and endless desire to heal him is sincerely appreciated.

Thanks again to everyone for the overwhelming love and support. It has provided much needed comfort during our time of loss.

The Rudolph Rackley Family

*A little out of the way, a lot less to pay!*

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Education Coordinator Kelly Langston of the Beau Turner Youth Conservation Center instructs a student from Jefferson High School on the archery range. The More Kids in the Woods event was attended by students from Fort Braden Middle School, Jefferson High School and River Springs High School.



Maria Joyner a student at Fort Braden Middle School accesses her accuracy at the BB gun range with a NWTF range instructor. Nearly 500 students from area schools attended the More Kids in the Woods event held January 9-13.

## ‘More Kids in the Woods’ brings youngsters to the great outdoors

Story and photos by Susan Blake,  
U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Earlier this month, nearly 500 kids from three area schools braved the great outdoors during a week-long U.S. Forest Service event known as “More Kids in the Woods” hosted at the Beau Turner Youth Conservation Center (BTYCC) in Lamont, Fla.

The U.S. Forest Service partnered with the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) to co-sponsor the More Kids in the Woods event attended by students from Fort Braden Middle School, Jefferson High School and River Springs High School.

“This was really natural for us because it dovetails into our outreach mission,” said Brian M. Zielinski of the NWTF. “It’s a great opportunity to expand our hunting heritage theme and a great way to reach youth in the Tallahassee area.”

The five-day outdoor event consisted of archery and BB gun ranges, a wild turkey education station, a forestry station, and a wildlife interpretive information station with 100 students attending each day. In addition, the Florida Forest Service demonstrated a prescribed burn at the end of each day.

“I have learned so much about the woods,” said Maria Joyner a student at Fort Braden Middle School. “I thought I knew a lot before, but I learned about wildfire and longleaf pine. It’s amazing!”

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) oversees the outdoor learning center at BTYCC which hosts many outdoor initiatives each year. Other State and Federal agencies participating in this event included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Forest Service.

“There’s been an emphasis by the Forest Service to develop this grant called ‘More Kids in the Woods,’ as a way to encourage children to learn more about the natural world and to experience outdoor activities along with exposing them to a variety of career paths in natural resources,” said Natural Resources Manager Carl Petrick of the National Forests in Florida.

More Kids in the Woods evolved as a result of a decline in outdoor activities among children. Today kids are more technology savvy and nature plays less of a role in their lives. With this in mind, partnerships were developed between the U.S. Forest Service, American Recreation Coalition and the National Forest Foundation to proactively support and promote a common belief that children need to be connected to nature.

“This week was great! It was a wonderful example of the impact multiple agencies working together can have in providing youth the opportunity to learn and experience nature in a fun, safe and interactive environment,” said Education Coordinator Kelly Langston of the Beau Turner Youth Conservation Center.



The Florida Forest Service demonstrates a prescribed burn as students from Jefferson High School observe from a distance. After the fire was extinguished the students were given a guided tour of the area and were able to ask questions of firefighters and Forest Service personnel.

## Prescribed Fire Awareness Week in Florida Jan. 22-26

The Florida Forest Service continues to educate the public on the benefits of prescribed fire as this week is recognized statewide as “Prescribed Fire Awareness Week.”

In short, prescribed fire is a safe way to apply a natural process, ensure ecosystem health, and reduce wildfire risk. Prescribed fire (which is also sometimes called ‘controlled burning’) is used to reduce excessive vegetation buildup which could serve as ‘fuel’ in the event of a hazardous wildfire. This provides increased protection to people, their homes, and forests. Prescribed fire also provides better forage for wildlife and livestock, returns nutrients to the soil, and helps to control certain plant diseases.

Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam said “Florida is the most progressive state in its use of prescribed fire to manage land,” as he declared the fourth week in January as “Prescribed Fire Awareness Week” last year. (Prescribed Fire Awareness Week had previously been the first week in March each year.)

Putnam also said “Florida has the most

extensive prescribed burning programs in the country.”

There are currently more than 1,500 certified prescribed burn managers in Florida helping to prescribe burn more than 2.7 million acres of agricultural and natural lands annually.

Statewide, the Florida Forest Service protects more than 26 million acres of Florida’s natural resources, homes and business from wildfire. On average, it protects the state from 5,026 wildfires per year, resulting in 203,000 acres burned, 3,054 homes threatened and 38 homes lost.

To report a suspicious fire, call 547-7083.

For more information about the Florida Forest Service, including wildfire information, or recreational opportunities, visit the

Florida Forest Service website at [www.fl-dof.com](http://www.fl-dof.com)

The Chipola Forestry Center of the Florida Forest Service consists of 7 counties including Bay, Walton, Gulf, Holmes, Cal-

houn, Washington, and Jackson counties.

(Special Note: Effective July 1st, 2011, the Florida Division of Forestry returned to its ‘original’ name—the Florida Forest Service!)

## Flint Walker attends 4-H Archery Clinic and scheduled to compete in upcoming matches



Liberty County 4-H’er Flint Walker along with 35 other youth around the state ages 8-18 participated in the 2012 State Archery Clinic at the Easton Newberry Sports Complex in Newberry on Saturday, Jan. 7.

Flint was taught many techniques on how to improve his stance, finger grips and follow through method as he prepares to compete in the 4-H State Match in March.

Flint competed in the JOAD (Junior Olympic Archery Development) Tournament, on Jan. 21 at the Newberry Clinic and will participate in the 4-H Pre-Match on Feb. 18. On March 10 he will compete in the 4-H State Archery Tournament.

If your child is interested in archery competition, please contact Liberty County 4-H office at 643-2229.

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LEFT: Wildcat Cheerleaders  
RIGHT: JD Wise, 6th grade.

RIGHT: 1st graders Eian Hurst and Brianna Nelson

LEFT: 1st grader Nichole Hartman  
RIGHT: JD Hunter 7th grader



Varsity Basketball Coach Warren Roberts is chauffeured by Robert Wiltse

# Altha High School Homecoming 2012

## Back Where I Came From

The Altha Wildcats had plenty to celebrate during several special Homecoming events last week. The community gathered for Friday's Homecoming Parade through town, followed that evening a pair of homecoming battles on the basketball court. The JV scored 38-35 against Bethlehem, followed by a Varsity win of 58-54.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL WILLIAMS AND TERESA EUBANKS



King Caleb Chew and Queen Brianna Attaway are shown during Altha School's homecoming parade.

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## ALTHA WILDCATS

### Altha's Max Scott & Trayce King win 1<sup>st</sup> place at County-Wide Tropicana Speech Competition

Max Scott and Trayce King did an excellent job representing Altha School at the County Wide Tropicana Speech competition held Jan. 17 at the Heritage Room of the Calhoun County Public Library.

Trayce King, 4th grader, won 1st place in the 4th & 5th grade division and Max Scott won 1st place in the 6th grade division!

We are very proud of them.



### December Kids of Character

by McKenzie Tanner

Principal Ladona Kelley proudly announces Altha School's Kids of Character for the month of December demonstrating the character trait of Generosity. On front row from left: Becky Mayfield, Destiny Cowling, K'Leigh Kitchen and Braeden Smith. Second row: Lane Edenfield, Kellie Hernandez, Brooke Rackley and Kadin Whitfield. Third row: Rhett Bodiford, Kelsie Edenfield, Braeden Raper and Paityn Parker. Not pictured is Jaden Mactavish.



### Cheerleaders compete in Chipola Extravaganza

by Kristen Majeske

Altha School's JV and Varsity cheerleaders competed in the Chipola Cheerleading Extravaganza on Jan. 14.

They showed their school spirit and made Altha proud! Junior Varsity placed 1st in the Middle School Non-tumbling Division.

Varsity placed as 2nd

runner up in the Large Varsity Non-tumbling Division. The JV sponsor is Emily Brooks and the Varsity sponsor is Meagan Henson.

ABOVE: The Varsity cheerleaders during the competition. RIGHT: The Middle School cheerleaders pose after their first place win.

### Dottie Wiltse winner of \$100 Walmart gift card

by Autumn Cook

The Altha High School seniors would like to thank everyone for all of their support from buying the different raffle tickets that were for sale.

We are proud to announce that the winner of the \$100 Walmart gift card was Dottie Wiltse.

The first winner of the Altha School homemade quilt was Hazel Walden and

the winner of the second drawing for the quilt was Debbie Griswold.

Be sure to keep your eyes out for anymore senior fund raisers in the near future.

#### Altha's Calendar of Events

- ★Thursday, Jan. 26 – Girls weightlifting meet at Arnold 3 p.m.
- ★Friday, Jan. 27 – JV/Varsity Basketball vs. Sneads 6/7:30 p.m.
- ★Monday, Jan. 30 – JV/Varsity Basketball at Tallavana 5/6:30 p.m.; Girls Weightlifting State Qualifier at Arnold 11:00 a.m.
- ★Tuesday, Jan. 31 – JV/V Basketball at R. F. Munroe 5/6:30 p.m.
- ★Wednesday, Feb. 1 – Middle School Softball vs. Tolar 3 pm
- ★Friday, Feb. 3 – Varsity Baseball vs. Liberty County 6/7:30

### Cat's Cuisine plans new menu for Feb. 2

Cat's Cuisine will be serving again on Feb. 2. Please have reservations in by Jan 31.

Seatings are the same as always. The menu for Feb. 2 is Grilled Chicken with plum barbecue sauce, Creamy Twice Baked Potatoes, Garden Salad with Ranch Dressing, Angle Biscuits, Pear and Apple Individual Dessert Tarts.



### Altha's FFA Middle School place 7th at Horse Judging

The Altha FFA Middle School Horse Judging Team competed in the State FFA Horse Judging Career Development Event on Saturday, Jan. 21.

The event was held at the Jackson County Agricultural Center in Marianna. Twenty teams from throughout Florida gathered to compete for the top spot.

The girls did excellent and finished in 7th place. Congratulations to Ms. Stoutamire and the Middle School Horse Judging Team!

Pictured above from left is April Lynn, Aubree Bay, Jesse Mills and Caylynn Reeder.

## SCHOOL LUNCH MENU



Jan 25-31, 2012

### CALHOUN

#### Wednesday

BREAKFAST: Ham and cheese biscuit and potato tots.

LUNCH: Chicken nuggets, rice with gravy, buttered carrots, mixed fruit.

#### Thursday

BREAKFAST: Cheese toast, grits and ham cubes.

LUNCH: Chicken Fajita tacos with cheese, lettuce, tomato, whole kernel corn, fresh fruit.

#### Friday

BREAKFAST: French toast sticks with syrup and sausage patty.

LUNCH: Cheese pizza, garden salad, fruit.

#### Monday

BREAKFAST: Sausage gravy and biscuit.

LUNCH: Chicken BBQ sandwich, baked potato rounds, mixed fruit.

#### Tuesday

BREAKFAST: Pancakes with syrup and sausage patty.

LUNCH: Baked Ziti, garden salad, garlic bread stick, fresh fruit.

*\*Each breakfast includes a choice of assorted cereal with whole wheat buttered toast and assorted fruit or fruit juice.*

### LIBERTY

#### Wednesday

BREAKFAST: Cheese grits and sausage patty.

LUNCH: Roasted turkey on whole wheat roll or whole wheat chicken burrito, mashed potatoes & gravy, carrots and banana.

(2nd & 3rd grade pizza)

#### Thursday

BREAKFAST: Whole wheat pancakes and ham.

LUNCH: Crispy chicken on whole wheat bun or turkey club salad, french fries, garden peas and fresh cantaloupe.

#### Friday

BREAKFAST: Grits and scrambled eggs.

LUNCH: Chicken pot pie or fish sandwich on whole wheat bun, green beans and applesauce. (4th grade pizza)

#### Monday

BREAKFAST: Biscuit and scrambled eggs.

LUNCH: Turkey nachos or grilled ham & cheese on whole wheat, romaine lettuce & tomato, corn and baked cinnamon apples. (Kg & 1st grade pizza).

#### Tuesday

BREAKFAST: Cheese omelet and cinnamon toast.

LUNCH: Baked chicken with cornbread or turkey & cheese on whole wheat roll, fresh collard greens and mixed fruit with strawberries.

*\*Each breakfast includes a choice of assorted cereal with whole wheat buttered toast and assorted fruit or fruit juice.*

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## BLOUNTSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

### BHS to host student/parent FAFSA workshop Jan. 26

by Mrs. Rebecca Stanley, BHS Guidance Counselor

Blountstown High School will host a student/parent FAFSA workshop on Jan. 26 from 5-7 p.m.

This workshop is being held to assist seniors and/or their parents/guardians, with their applications for federal student financial aid.

A representative from the Florida Department of Education will be on campus to conduct the workshop.

Please remember that students who are applying for a Bright Futures Scholarship are now required

to complete a FAFSA.

We hope to have all seniors and their parents or guardians in attendance.

#### 2011-2012 documents needed to complete the FAFSA include:

- \*Social Security Numbers
- \*Driver's License Number (if any)
- \*2011 W-2 Forms and other records of money earned
- \*2011 Federal Income Tax Return for the current tax year
- \*Parents' 2011 Federal Income

Tax Return (if you are a dependent student)

\*2011 untaxed income records

\*Current bank statements

\*Current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond and other investment records

\*Alien registration or permanent resident card (if you are not a U. S. citizen)

#### SCHOOL NEWS

continued on page 19

#### BHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ✓Wednesday, January 25, FBLA Online Testing at Cottondale High School; FCA Huddle – 7:20 A.M. in Mrs. Elizabeth Bennett's Classroom
- ✓Thursday, January 26, FAFSA Workshop – 5-7 p.m.; Star Lab at Sam Atkins Park – 8 p.m.
- ✓Friday, January 27, Boys Basketball vs. Liberty County – Home at 6 p.m.; Senior Night and Halftime show by Jumping John in support of Breast Cancer Awareness
- ✓Saturday, January 28, Cheer Competition at Bay High – 9 a.m.
- ✓Monday, January 30, Football Banquet - BHS Lunchroom at 6 p.m.

# Tolar's fifth grade fixes care packages for soldiers overseas

Students in the fifth grade at W.R Tolar School have been learning that what we say and do can inspire, teach, and change the lives of those around us.

One of the service projects that they participated in was collecting items to create care packs for our soldiers overseas.

Five boxes were filled and sent to a local soldier SSG James J. "Joey" Bilbo and the Echo Company 111 Aviation Battalion in Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The Fifth Grade would like to thank Principal Link Barber and W.R. Tolar School for donating the money to ship the boxes overseas.

Pictured are the fifth grade students at W.R. Tolar School. Also pictured in front row, center, is Reagan Bilbo, who is the daughter of Joey and Lacy Bilbo.

The fifth grade teachers are Jessica Hobby, Laurie Brandon and Terrell Sykes.



## BES Honor Assembly Jan. 13

The Honor Assembly for the 2nd nine week grading period was held on Friday, January 13 at Blountstown Elementary School.

All students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th, grades that made all A's or all A's and B's were recognized with an honor roll ribbon.

The 4th Grade Chorus performed two songs.

## BHS STEM students travel to Chipola College January 13

by Mrs. Amanda McGhee

On Friday, January 13th BHS students participating in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program, traveled to Chipola College to participate in team challenges led by university staff and STEM professionals. The students described the event as interesting, informative and most of all a lot of fun. Teams worked on engaging projects such as the design and construction of Mouse Mobiles. They enjoyed a pizza lunch before returning to the BHS campus.

The BHS students currently participating in STEM are as follows: Khirsten White, Jayla Brigham, Austin Britt, Thomas Futch, Hunter Jordan, Dimitri Simmons, Calen

Masai, Donovan Ebersole, Walker Strawn, Ryan Flowers, Carly Richards, Zach Bryant, Audrey Lynn Ryals and Corey Darnell.

The STEM initiative provides opportunities for these students to participate in real-world problem solving and research. The participants receive academic and career guidance from Mrs. Rebecca Stanley, BHS Guidance Counselor as well as other external counselors.

If you want to learn more about the initiative, please feel free to see me, Mrs. Amanda McGhee, at BHS or visit [www.floridalearns-stemscholars.org](http://www.floridalearns-stemscholars.org).

Pictured here is Calen Masai proudly displaying his Mouse Mobile designed and constructed by his challenge team at Chipola College STEM event.



## FSU awarded \$38 million to help spur public education improvements

TALLAHASSEE — Flexing its considerable research muscle, the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR) at Florida State University has won a \$38.6 million contract to help six Southeastern states and their schools put the test results, coursework information, graduation statistics and other education-related data they collect to more effective use in helping students find academic success.

The five-year award, funded through the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, makes FCRR the lead for the region in connecting education stakeholders to student data in more meaningful and positive ways.

"Winning this sizeable contract clearly showcases the talent we have at Florida State and reinforces our position as a focal point for education research in the nation," said Florida State President Eric J. Barron. "Through the award,

the Florida Center for Reading Research will help others understand the power of the information available to them and how it can be used to improve their schools, ultimately putting our region on a path to greater student achievement in the years ahead."

The contract will support FCRR and its research partners with operating the Regional Educational Laboratory for the Southeast Region (REL-SE), serving Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina. Regional laboratories conduct applied research and evaluation, provide technical assistance, develop digital educational materials and other products, and disseminate information in an effort to help others use knowledge from research and practice to improve education.

"Strip away all the acronyms and complex language and you find that this effort is about answering one basic question: How do we use the myriad of information we collect to make measureable improvements to our

education systems?" said Barbara Foorman, director and principal investigator for the REL-SE and director of FCRR. "With this contract, we have gained the resources we need to tackle that question and help our local education stakeholders find new success in improving student learning."

Foorman, who is also Florida State's Francis Eppes Professor of Education, added that FCRR partnered with RMC Research, SEDL and the Instructional Research Group (IRG) to create the winning proposal.

The heart of the project will focus on four main priority areas, identified through extensive outreach to a broad array of education stakeholders throughout the Southeast:

- Improving low-performing schools.
- Scaling up the implementation of more rigorous standards, particularly in mathematics.
- Determining charter school effectiveness and improving their performance.
- Improving adolescent literacy.

For more information about the contract and to view FCRR's proposal, visit the Regional Educational Laboratories grant website.

*The Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR) is the nation's premier research organization devoted to literacy. The center's faculty boasts the broadest and deepest collection of reading experts in the world. Established in 2002 by the Florida Legislature, FCRR is jointly administered at Florida State University by the FSU Learning Systems Institute and the College of Arts and Sciences.*



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# 'I DO ... OR DO I?' Psychology researcher finds that second-guessing one's decisions leads to unhappiness

BY JOYCE EHRLINGER  
Florida State University  
Dept. of Psychology

You're in search of a new coffee maker, and the simple quest becomes, well, an ordeal. After doing copious amounts of research and reading dozens of consumer reviews, you finally make a purchase, only to wonder: "Was this the right choice? Could I do better? What is the return policy?"

Reality check: Is this you?

If so, new research from Florida State University may shed some light on your inability to make a decision that you'll be happy with.

Joyce Ehrlinger, an assistant professor of psychology, has long been fascinated with individuals identified among psychologists as "maximizers." Maximizers tend to obsess over decisions — big or small — and then fret about their choices later. "Satisficers," on the other hand, tend to make a decision and then live with it.

Happily.

Of course, there are shades of gray. In fact, there's a whole continuum of ways people avoid commitment without really avoiding it.

Ehrlinger's latest research on decision making was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Personality and Individual Differences*. The paper, "Failing to Commit: Maximizers Avoid Commitment in a Way That Contributes to Reduced Satisfaction," was co-authored with her graduate student, doctoral candidate Erin Sparks, and colleague Richard Eibach, a psychology assistant professor at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. It examines whether "maximizers show less commitment to their choices than satisficers in a way that leaves them less satisfied with their choices."

The paper, based on two studies of Florida State undergraduate volunteers, finds that the maximizers' focus on finding the best option ultimately undermines their commitment to their final choices. As a re-



*"Current research is trying to understand whether they can change. High-level maximizers certainly cause themselves a lot of grief."*

Joyce Ehrlinger  
Florida State University  
Department of Psychology

sult, the authors argue, "maximizers miss out on the psychological benefits of commitment," leaving them less satisfied than their more contented counterparts, the satisficers.

Past research into the differences between maximizers and satisficers looked at how the two groups made choices differently and, more importantly, how the process itself varied. Ehrlinger's research, however, looked at something else entirely: What happened after a choice was made?

"Because maximizers want to be certain they

have made the right choice," the authors contend, "they are less likely to fully commit to a decision." And most likely, they are less happy in their everyday lives.

Whether being a maximizer is a central and stable part of the personality or simply a frame of mind remains unclear, but Ehrlinger hopes to isolate the cause of the behavior in future research.

"Current research is trying to understand whether they can change," she said. "High-level maximizers certainly cause themselves a lot of grief."

Over the years, Ehrlinger's scholarly research has led her to study self-perception and accuracy and error in self-judgment. Her latest research into the ways maximizers avoid commitment is important for several reasons.

First, the differences between maximizers and satisficers may play a bigger role than previously thought in consumer decision making and purchasing. For example: "Maximizers get nervous when they see an 'All Sales Are Final' sign because it forces them to commit," Ehrlinger said.

Also, a maximizer's lack of contentment creates a lot of stress, so the trait could potentially have an enormous effect on health, Ehrlinger explained. It's not just coffee-maker purchases they stress over — and second-guess themselves about — it's also the big life decisions such as choosing a mate, buying a house or applying for a job.

Even after considerable deliberation before choosing a mate or a house, a high-level maximizer may still feel unhappy, even depressed, with his or her final decision.

"Identifying the 'right' choice can be a never-ending task (for a maximizer)," Ehrlinger and her co-authors write. "Feelings about which option is best can always change in the face of new information. Maximizers might be unable to fully embrace a choice because they cannot be absolutely certain they chose the best possible option."

## Florida State University named a best-value school

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State University was again named one of the best values in the nation by Kiplinger's Personal Finance in the publication's annual ranking of public colleges, moving up two spots to 18.

The ranking highlights four-year schools that combine outstanding education with economic value. Kiplinger's cited Florida State's high four-year graduation rate, low average student debt at graduation, financial aid, low tuition and overall great value.

"We are pleased with this latest recognition. Florida State University continues to be an excellent value," said President Eric J. Barron. "By all accounts, we are one of the most efficient and effective universities in the United States. The Kiplinger's ranking reflects our commitment to provide the best education to our students that we possibly can while remaining accessible and affordable."

Kiplinger's reported that it revamped the rankings this year to give more

weight to academic value, such as the percentage of students who return for sophomore year and the four-year graduation rate.

While the criteria have shifted, the overall focus on value remains the same. Many schools have appeared on the list multiple times, including Florida State, a testament to the consistent value these colleges provide, according to Kiplinger's.

"As states cut funding for higher education and tuition continues to climb,

the word 'value' is more significant than ever," said Jane Bennett Clark, senior editor at Kiplinger's Personal Finance. "This year's top 100 public schools deliver strong academics at reasonable prices. We applaud these institutions for tightening their belts without compromising quality."

The annual public school rankings appear in Kiplinger's February 2012 issue, now on newsstands, and online at [www.kiplinger.com/links/college](http://www.kiplinger.com/links/college).

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## Calhoun County School District ranked #18; Liberty County #28 out of 67 counties

# Florida school districts ranked by student achievement

District Rank	District Name	Grade 2011
1	<a href="#">St. Johns</a>	A
2	<a href="#">Santa Rosa</a>	A
3	<a href="#">Martin</a>	A
4	<a href="#">Sarasota</a>	A
5	<a href="#">Gilchrist</a>	A
6	<a href="#">Okaloosa</a>	A
7	<a href="#">Seminole</a>	A
8	<a href="#">Brevard</a>	A
8	<a href="#">Monroe</a>	A
10	<a href="#">Sumter</a>	A
11	<a href="#">Wakulla</a>	A
12	<a href="#">Dixie</a>	A
13	<a href="#">Clay</a>	A
14	<a href="#">Citrus</a>	A
14	<a href="#">Nassau</a>	A
16	<a href="#">Palm Beach</a>	A
17	<a href="#">Walton</a>	A
18	<a href="#">Calhoun</a>	A
19	<a href="#">Union</a>	A
20	<a href="#">Glades</a>	A
21	<a href="#">Charlotte</a>	A
22	<a href="#">Lee</a>	A
23	<a href="#">Gulf</a>	A
24	<a href="#">Leon</a>	A
25	<a href="#">Alachua</a>	A
26	<a href="#">Bay</a>	A
27	<a href="#">Broward</a>	A
28	<a href="#">Liberty</a>	A
29	<a href="#">Flagler</a>	A
30	<a href="#">Indian River</a>	A
31	<a href="#">Jackson</a>	B
31	<a href="#">Lafayette</a>	B
33	<a href="#">Collier</a>	B

TALLAHASSEE – Parents and taxpayers now have a new way to view the performance of school districts in Florida. The Florida Department of Education has released a numerical ranking of the state’s 67 school districts, one of the first such in the country.

The district-by-district ranking is the first phase of an initiative that will soon include a list of all of the schools in the state ranked by number within the three main school groupings: elementary, middle and high school. The goal is to make it easier for parents to assess school district performance.

“I applaud Commissioner Robinson on these rankings. We all wish to ensure students have the opportunity to get a good education that will prepare them for a good job,” said Governor Rick Scott. “Ranking school districts by performance allows taxpayers to see their investment in education at work.”

The numerical ranking is based on each school’s total points derived from FCAT scores. The total is the sum of scores for reading, math, science and writing; learning gains in reading and math; and scores for learning gains in reading and

## Ranking allows parents and taxpayers to compare performance district-by-district

math among the lowest 25 percent of students in each school. The school district ranking is determined by the school grade points they earned based on the assessment scores of all students in the district that were enrolled for the full year.

“Florida is considered a national leader when it comes to measuring the success of our schools,” said Florida Education

Commissioner Gerard Robinson. “The Florida Department of Education developed the first-ever school grading program in 1999, and since then we have provided our model to other states that wish to replicate our exceptional accountability system.”

Commissioner Robinson added that using education performance data is essential for measuring student progress and school effectiveness to ensure that Florida’s educational system continues to move in the right direction.

“Ranking districts and schools based on data-driven results demonstrates Florida’s focus on ensuring students receive a high quality education and provides another helpful tool for parents, educators and taxpayers,” he said.

*The district rankings can be found at [www.fldoe.org/SchoolDistrictRanking/](http://www.fldoe.org/SchoolDistrictRanking/). You may view Commissioner Robinson’s comments regarding the rankings at [www.youtube.com/educationfl](http://www.youtube.com/educationfl).*

34	<a href="#">Orange</a>	B
34	<a href="#">Pasco</a>	B
34	<a href="#">Volusia</a>	B
37	<a href="#">Dade</a>	B
38	<a href="#">Hernando</a>	B
38	<a href="#">Hillsborough</a>	B
38	<a href="#">Osceola</a>	B
41	<a href="#">Levy</a>	B
42	<a href="#">Holmes</a>	B
42	<a href="#">St. Lucie</a>	B
44	<a href="#">Escambia</a>	B
44	<a href="#">Lake</a>	B
44	<a href="#">Marion</a>	B
47	<a href="#">Manatee</a>	B
48	<a href="#">Columbia</a>	B
49	<a href="#">Pinellas</a>	B
50	<a href="#">Duval</a>	B
51	<a href="#">Baker</a>	B
52	<a href="#">Highlands</a>	B
53	<a href="#">Washington</a>	B
54	<a href="#">Okeechobee</a>	C
55	<a href="#">Suwannee</a>	C
56	<a href="#">Putnam</a>	C
57	<a href="#">Taylor</a>	C
58	<a href="#">Bradford</a>	C
59	<a href="#">Polk</a>	C
60	<a href="#">Franklin</a>	C
60	<a href="#">Hardee</a>	C
62	<a href="#">Gadsden</a>	C
63	<a href="#">Hendry</a>	C
64	<a href="#">DeSoto</a>	C
65	<a href="#">Hamilton</a>	C
66	<a href="#">Jefferson</a>	C
67	<a href="#">Madison</a>	D

### IS YOUR CHILD STRUGGLING IN SCHOOL?

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Our staff will schedule monthly assessments for progress monitoring, add lessons in problem areas if needed, and provide any help the parents need while using the program.

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## Family Reading Night

A Family Reading and Writing Night was held on Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 5 p.m. in the cafeteria of Blountstown Elementary School. Parents and students enjoyed the exciting writing activities that the teachers had planned. Shown above is Kelly Wyrick, working on sounding out words with her daughter, Karen.



# GARDENING



## Care to compost?

While I might be considered the gardener in the family, my husband is the king of compost. So he was a happy guy when Santa delivered a compost tumbler this year. With so many affordable and trouble-free composters available, almost anyone can convert yard debris into precious compost.

While composting occurs naturally, human intervention can accelerate it. The quality of the compost and the production speed depend upon several factors that human composters can manipulate. To improve the composting process, we can monitor the air, the moisture and the ratio of "brown" material to "green material."

### Aeration

Composting is an aerobic or oxygen-requiring process. The microorganisms and other biological decomposers responsible for composting consume oxygen along with the organic materials and produce primarily compost, carbon dioxide, water vapor, and heat.

The oxygen consumed during the process must continually be replaced by air movement through the materials. Because the penetration of air may be inadequate or inconsistent, some decomposition inevitably occurs under anaerobic conditions (without oxygen). Anaerobic conditions are undesirable in a compost pile because the decomposition products are often odorous.

In addition, as composting proceeds and the materials decompose, they shrink in size and begin to settle. Settling reduces the pile's air spaces and restricts aeration. Regular mixing of the pile, referred to as turning, reverses the effects of settling.

Although turning recharges the pile with fresh air, its main effect is to fluff up the material. This increases the pile's porosity and improves natural air circulation. Turning also blends the composting materials and breaks apart clumps of materials. Because of these benefits,

by Theresa Friday,  
*Horticulture Extension Agent,  
Santa Rosa County*



turning speeds the composting process.

### Moisture

Microorganisms need moisture. Water serves as a medium for chemical reactions and provides a means for movement of nutrients to the microorganisms. On the other hand, too much water makes the materials soggy and heavy, hindering aeration.

The "squeeze" test is an easy way to gauge the moisture level of composting materials. The material should feel damp to the touch, but not dripping wet. Water should drip from the material only when you squeeze it tightly in your hand. If you can't squeeze water out, the pile is too dry.

### Carbon-to-nitrogen ratio (browns and greens)

Microbial decomposers obtain many nutrients from the composting materials but carbon (C) and nitrogen (N) are the nutrients that most affect the process. Microorganisms primarily use carbon compounds as an energy source and ingest nitrogen for protein.

Because they require a balance of both nutrients, the proportion of carbon to nitrogen is important when combining organic materials to make compost. The ideal ratio (C:N) of these two elements is about 30 parts carbon to 1 part nitrogen by weight.

In a backyard or home composting situation, it is impractical for you to be precise. An easier approach is to develop recipes by thinking of carbon sources as "browns" and nitrogen sources as "greens" and then combining brown and green materials in rough proportions.

Examples of "browns" include dry leaves and shredded newspaper. "Greens" include grass clipping and kitchen scraps.

For additional information about all of the county extension services and other articles of interest go to [www.santarosa.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.santarosa.ifas.ufl.edu).

## Average Crop Revenue Election program enrollment to run Jan. 23 through June 1

BLOUNTSTOWN - USDA Florida Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Executive Director Charles H. Golden reminds producers enrollment for Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the traditional Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) begins January 23 and runs through June 1.

"Farmers in Calhoun/Liberty who are interested in enrolling in these programs need to add this important deadline to their list of 'must do' jobs," Golden said. "Producers should contact the local county office to set up appointments."

Annual contracts are required to be signed to

receive program benefits. All signatures of producers receiving a share in DCP and ACRE payments are required by June 1, 2012.

For more information about DCP and ACRE programs or other FSA programs, contact your county FSA office and visit the state FSA website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

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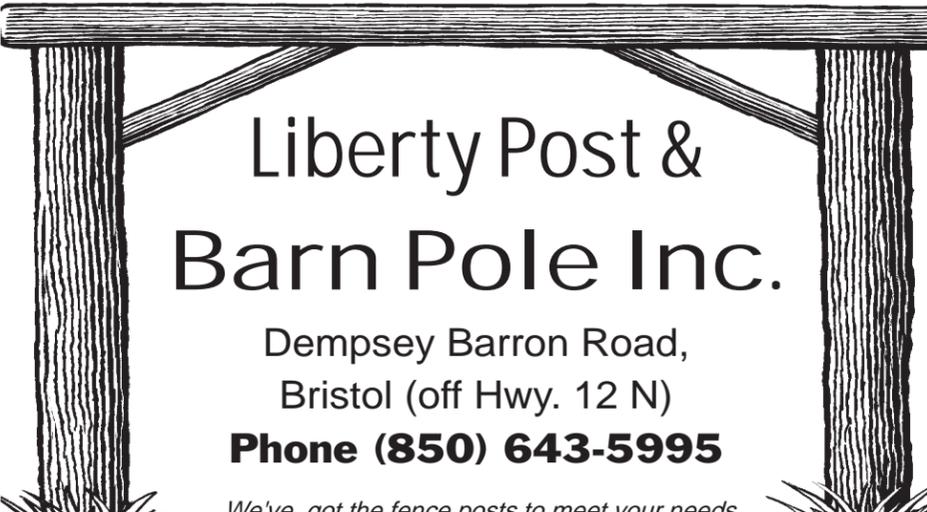
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# OBITUARIES

## JOHNNY EDWARD THOMAS, JR.

ALBANY, GA - Johnny Edward Thomas, Jr., 59, of Albany, GA passed away Saturday, January 21, 2012 at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. A native of Blountstown, he had resided in Albany, GA. since 1978 moving from the Panama City area. He was owner and operator of Thomas Transportation. He was a member of the IHRA and Nettle Ridge Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Michelle Thomas of Albany, GA; two sons, James Edward Thomas and his wife, Karen and Joseph Edward Thomas and his wife, Melissa all of Leesburg, GA.; two daughters, Brandy Roland and her husband, David of Albany, GA. and Donna Joiner of Thomasville, GA; his father, Johnny Edward Thomas, Sr. of Albany, GA; his mother, Dorothy Jean Dudley of Blountstown; two sisters, Gailen Lock of Blountstown and Debbie Hatcher and her husband, Lamar of Marianna; and eight grandchildren.

Memorial services were held Tuesday, January 24 at Mathews Funeral Home with Rev. Ken Chancellor officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Neighbors in Need, St. Clare's Center, 2005 Martin Luther King Drive, P.O. Box 4123, Albany, GA 31706.

Mathews Funeral Home in Albany, GA was in charge of the arrangements.

## VERDELLA MARTIN CARTER

BLOUNTSTOWN - Verdella Martin Carter, 67, of Blountstown, passed away on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at home.

Survivors include her four brothers, Edward Martin and Troy Martin, both of Plainfield, NJ, Dallas J. Martin of Brooklyn, NY and Gregory Martin of Blountstown; five sisters, Willa Martin and Betty Hudson, both of Blountstown, Mary C. Martin of Orange, NJ, Joyce Draper of Panama City and Darlene Martin of North Carolina.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Chris Anna Martin.

Services will be held on Saturday, January 28 at 1 p.m. CST at the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Blountstown. Interment will follow in the St. John Cemetery. Viewing will be Friday, Jan. 27 from 2-7 p.m. EST at Bradwell Mortuary in Quincy.

Bradwell Mortuary in Quincy is in charge of the arrangements.



## EDGAR GERALD GRIFFIN

MARIANNA - Edgar Gerald Griffin, 77, of Marianna, passed away Wednesday, January 19, 2012 at his home. He was born on February 5, 1934 in Clarksville and had lived in Jackson County since 1974. He was a retired truck driver and was a member of Antioch Baptist Church. He served in the United States Navy.

Survivors include, one son, Jessie Griffin of Marianna; two brothers, Burl Griffin of Sneads and Cecil J. Griffin of Rudy, AR.

Services were held Sunday, January 22 at from the graveside at Shady Grove Cemetery near Grand Ridge with Reverend John Miles officiating. Interment followed.

Peavy Funeral Home in Blountstown was in charge of the arrangements.

## CHARLIE SAM BALL

BRISTOL - Charlie Sam Ball, 69, of Bristol passed away January, 17, 2012 in Panama City after complications due to illness. He was born in Elbert, WV to Charlie Clarence Ball and Agnes Elsie Lang.

His life of adventure began early when he joined the Navy at age 17. He met Betty Faye Scott at a USO dance in Memphis, and they were married on April 22, 1961. They had six children together. He was blessed with "itchy feet" and moved his family multiple times to Florida, Illinois, Mississippi and Virginia. He and Betty divorced after 35 years of marriage.

In his later years, he set out to sail the world and got as far as Apalachicola, where he enjoyed a life full of other adventures. On one trip to China, he met and married Childer, who took care of him in his final days and was a devoted and kind companion to him. He leaves behind a legacy of adventure and learning. He learned to play the banjo and the organ and enjoyed all sorts of music. He was a philosopher and enjoyed conversations on a large variety of topics. He was a spiritual man and enjoyed his activity in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He provided many opportunities for his children to learn independence and resilience, and these are traits that they cherish. He loved to sail and was an accomplished pilot. His love of aviation brought him many fun experiences and true friends. He was also a businessman and owned his own trucking company for several years. He had a desire to serve others who were less fortunate than he was. He led a very full and somewhat unconventional life.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, brother Jessie and sister Audrey Faye.

Survivors include his wife, Qiuzhi Gao; six children, John Ball and his wife, Linda of Springville UT, Sheri Johnson and her husband, Mike of Orem, UT, Tammy Horger and her husband, Jim and Spencer Ball all of South Jordan, UT, Sarah Walker and her husband, Bernard of St. George, UT, and Samuel Ball of Brookport, IL.; nine brothers and sisters, Suzie, Clark, Connie, Gracie, Russell, John, Rosie, Kathy and David; eight grandchildren; and some granddogs. He will be greatly missed by his close friends Steven Ford and Max Campbell. His family would like to thank them for their devotion to him during his final days.

Memorial services were held on Tuesday, Jan. 24 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Bevis Funeral Home in Bristol was in charge of the arrangements.

## Big Bend Hospice patients and families benefit from annual Holiday Gift Drive

The Big Bend Hospice Patient and Family Holiday Gift Drive was born over 15 years ago as a way to give patients and families happy memories of a final holiday. For terminally ill patients and their families; the holiday season can seem overwhelming. The importance of maintaining holiday traditions and making lasting memories, especially at the end of life, is very important. For some patients purchasing gifts for family is impossible as the cost of being chronically ill has financially drained their resources. For some families the loss of the main bread winner has meant that everyday is a struggle to make ends meet. The annual Holiday Gift Drive has connected individuals, neighborhood groups, book clubs, or an entire office/organization to a family in need of some holiday cheer. Some of the gift requests are meager; warm socks, basic toiletries, or candy. For other patients, the needs are more compelling.

Big Bend Hospice Chaplain Lenny Marshall had a patient whose only request was to have a decorated tree in her home for her last Christmas. Community donors purchased the specific tree decorations that the patient requested as well as an artificial tree and all the trimmings. Marshall, keenly aware of the patient's physical challenges brought a hospice volunteer to the patient's home along with a donated tree, ornaments, garlands, lights, and even a CD of holiday music to play while trimming the tree for the patient. "This lovely lady was so happy, and filled with joy, her smile lit up the room like there was a great light within her," said Chaplain Marshall. "What pleasure that gift gave her and what beauty it brought to her home."

Another patient dreamed of improving his home before his death so that his wife might live more comfortably and securely after he was gone. The home was in need of heat as well as other necessary repairs. Community donors donated two portable heating systems for the patient and his wife. A contractor who lives in our community learned of the patient's need for repairs and donated his own time, skills, labor and materials to improve the patient's home. These donations provided the patient with a sense of peace regarding his wife's future which was truly a gift to the patient.

The wonderful donors who participate in the Gift Drive are very special individuals. They are kind, caring individuals with giving hearts who have a desire to reach out and touch the lives of hospice patients and their families. We are so grateful for our donors and the wonderful communities in which we live!

## Covenant Hospice seeks artists for Garden Gala event scheduled June 9

MARIANNA - Covenant Hospice will host the 7th Annual Garden Gala from 6-9- p.m. Saturday, June 9 at the Donald E. Price Activity Center, located at 4792 Highway 90 in Marianna. The Garden Gala Committee is currently seeking artists to paint wooden swings, Adirondack chairs and benches to be auctioned at the event. Artist applications are available at Covenant Hospice or you can email Angela Jackson at mailto:angela.jackson@covenanthospice.org or call 482-8520 or 209-8008.

"The Garden Gala is our signature fundraising event of the year. Proceeds from the gala will help further the mission of Covenant Hospice in Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington County," said Jennifer Griffin, Development Manager for Covenant Hospice. Covenant Hospice is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive compassionate service to patients and their loved ones during times of life limiting illnesses, based on need, regardless of ability to pay.

The Garden Gala is critical to furthering Covenant's mission in the Marianna service area. "Proceeds from the Garden Gala help off set the \$2.3 million of indigent care; along with contributing to the programs not reimbursed by Medicare, such as Bereavement & Social Services, Chaplain Services, Children Support Services and Volunteer Programs," said Griffin.

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# Back Where I Came From

## Altha High School Homecoming 2012



Seventh Graders Seth Alday and Kinsey Register attempt to hit the cans during the Homecoming Spirit Games.



The Varsity cheerleaders get fans fired up during a pep rally. FROM LEFT: Brianna Attaway, Kristen Majeske, Brianna Walker, Wayne Boozer and Chelsea Murphy.



Saturday's chili cook-off winners include 1st place: Thalla Chevillot; 2nd: Randy O'Bryan; 3rd: Suzette Price; and Crowd Favorite: Tonya Rowe.



by Justin Moore

Eighth graders show off their winning spirit sheet which features the homecoming theme, "Back Where I Come From." The design includes film reel

with pictures of eighth graders throughout their elementary and middle school years and pictures of their parents who are Altha School alumni during their days at AHS.

The Altha Wildcats began a week of celebration with the coronation of their King and Queen on Monday, Jan. 16. The celebration continued with a Blacklight Pep Rally Wednesday evening followed by the parade and game against Bethlehem on Friday. Saturday, Wildcats got together for a chili cookoff followed by the Alumni Game.



Cole Miller dresses like Mr. Lima for Faculty/Staff Look-alike Day.



ABOVE: The seniors showed their homecoming spirit by wearing their tie-dyed shirts for Color War Day!



ABOVE: The Alumni Game participants. LEFT: Two alumni from years past, Glen Kimbrel from the Class of 1972 and Danny Ryals, Class of 1969.

SARA WALDORFF PHOTOS

# Altha Wildcats win homecoming game 58-54

The Altha School Varsity basketball team took a close 58-54 win in a packed house for Friday night's homecoming game against Bethlehem. "It was a hard fought game from the beginning but the guys played tough," said Coach Warren Roberts. Will Rogers hit a long 3 point shot to give the Wildcats a halftime lead of 38-35, which they held throughout the game. Will Rogers led the night with 25 baskets, PJ Iler had 13, Jacob Warner scored 10, Kent Rogers had 6, Anthony Young and Zac Morris both scored 2. After this victory over Bethlehem, the varsity stands at 9-9 for the season. They will be playing the last district game Friday night against Sneads beginning at 6 p.m. with the Jr. Varsity team and 7:30 p.m. with the Varsity. The JV held their own on the court as they won Friday's game 38-35, putting their season standing at 11-7. DANIEL WILLIAMS PHOTOS



ABOVE: Altha 8th grader Jay Yon battles a Bethlehem opponent for the ball. The Jr. Varsity pulled out the win with a final score of 38-18. BELOW: Wildcat sophomore Kent Rogers struggles for the loose ball.



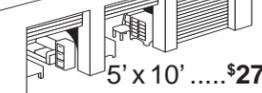
ABOVE LEFT: JV Wildcat Corey Martin leaps to shoot. ABOVE: Jacob Warner makes his move as he drives the ball up to the basket. LEFT: Justin Waldorff and Nick Young defend against a Bethlehem player during the JV game. BELOW: Altha's Jae Fielder goes up for the shot during the JV game. RIGHT: Wildcat Justin Waldorff goes for a layup.



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**Kerosene drum**, 400 gallon. Call 674-8570 evenings. 1-25, 2-1

**Baby items**, infant bathtub for boy or girl, \$7, Winnie the Pooh and Tiger vibrating seat, \$25, Even Flo car seat and Grayco with two bases, \$15 each, Grayco 6-speed musical timed swing that lays completely back or up, \$30. Call 674-1381. 1-25, 2-1

**Mattresses**, twin and full size, make offer. Call 674-1381. 1-25, 2-1

**Piano**, antique, \$50. Call 643-2859. 1-25, 2-1

**Make offer:** Baker's rack, bed and a table. Call 674-3264. 1-25, 2-1

**Baby bouncer**, like new, \$30, baby swing, like new, \$60, size 11 jeans, like new, \$10 pair. Call 643-2859. 1-25, 2-1

**Wedding Sale: Decorations and attire.** Wedding dress, fully beaded, straight cut, with long train, very beautiful, \$450; Maid of Honor dress, long, fushia with orange trim, \$50; Mother of the Bride dress, long, elegant, pink and shimmery gold, \$60; Cocktail dress, size one, green, black and silver with sequins, paid \$120, asking \$50; Miss Me Jeans, size 30 - 32, brand new, \$50; Table runners, 25 orange, 25 fushia, 10 gold, \$1 each; two door wreaths, \$40 for both; two archway flower swags, large, gerber daisy print, \$80; vase gems, topiary decorated balls, and 40 ft. tulle bolts. Must see all to appreciate. Call 643-2412 or 447-1194. 1-25, 2-1

**Baby boy sports bedroom**, 4 piece bedding set, mobile, diaper hanger, hamper, ceiling fan, lamp, light switch cover, curtain rod and valance, football rug and wall hangings, \$100. Call 643-8996. 1-25, 2-1

**Women's clothes**, size 18 - 20, pants, jackets and skirts, in excellent condition and reasonably priced. Call 447-0800. 1-25, 2-1

**Go Kart**, \$200 OBO; ab exercise machine, \$75 OBO; Prime Fit stationary bike with moveable handles, \$40; two aluminum trailer windows, \$10 each. Call 762-8511, 557-7338 or 209-0527. 1-25, 2-1

**Sunquest tanning bed**, 24 bulbs with extra bulbs, great condition, \$800 OBO. Call 639-4176 or 643-1502. 1-18, 1-25

**Mattress sets**, full size, used, \$50. Call 643-2330. 1-18, 1-25

**Pair boys shoes**, size 4, \$10; pair boys shoes, size 6, \$4; two pair khaki pants, size 6, \$2.50 each;

nice men's shoes, size 10 1/2, black, \$4; boys jeans, size 10, \$6.50 each; infant boy clothes, three pieces for \$2. Call 674-3264. 1-18, 1-25

**Fancy doll** with lots of ruffles, \$12; glass jelly jars, \$1.50 for all. Call 674-3264. 1-18, 1-25

**Good selection of items:** Men's, ladies and children's clothes. Many items for the home. New items arriving daily. Everyone is invited to shop at the Calhoun-Liberty Ministry Center store. Located on Hwy. 20 E. in Blountstown, 674-1818. UFN

## ELECTRONICS

**19 inch Magnavox TV**, \$20; 13 inch Orion TV, \$10; Xbox game console, \$25; two Sony surround sound systems, \$25 - \$30. Call 379-3008. 1-25, 2-1

**32 inch GE TV**, \$100 OBO. Call 447-4195. 1-18, 1-25

**19" TV** in excellent condition, \$50. Call 674-4475. 1-18, 1-25

## APPLIANCES

**Gas dryer**, very good working condition, \$75. Call 643-1514. 1-25, 2-1

**Microwave**, under cabinet, like new, \$150. Call 643-2859. 1-25, 2-1

**Hotpoint stove**, two years old, great shape, \$185. Call 447-4476. 1-18, 1-25

**Gas range**, uses natural gas. Everyone is invited to shop at the Calhoun-Liberty Ministry Center store. Located on Hwy. 20 E. in Blountstown, 674-1818. UFN

## FURNITURE

**Cedar chest**, \$40, black vinyl couch, like new, \$250, black TV stand, \$25, entertainment center, \$165, new queen size mattress and box springs, \$300. Call 643-2859. 1-25, 2-1

**Two Bookcases**, one includes TV stand, both matching solid wood. Call 447-0800 for more information. 1-25, 2-1

**Glass top table** with four chairs, \$50; 1950s style table with two leaf extensions, \$100; full size bed frame with head and footboard, \$35; heavy duty computer desk, \$75. Call 762-8511, 557-7338 or 209-0527. 1-25, 2-1

**Headboard** for double bed, \$60; single headboard, \$8. Antique table with 4 chairs, \$450. Call 674-3264. 1-18, 1-25

**Living room suit**, couch and chair. King mattress and box spring sets. Everyone is invited to shop at the Calhoun-Liberty Ministry Center store. Located on Hwy. 20 E. in Blountstown, 674-1818. UFN

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**2003 Chevy Blazer Sport**, 2 wheel drive, in excellent condition with 48,000 original miles. Asking \$6,500 OBO. Any reasonable trade considered. Call (850) 447-0586. 1-25, 2-1

**1997 Freightliner FLD120**, \$7,000 OBO. Call 447-4182 please leave message. 1-25, 2-1

**1994 Dodge Ram 2500**, V10, automatic, 4x4, needs a small part for linkage, \$1,800 firm. Call 643-4973. 1-25, 2-1

**1994 Geo Tracker**, 4WD, 2 door, hardtop, needs a water pump; 1994 Suzuki Sidekick, 4WD, 4 door, hardtop, would make a good parts vehicle, \$1,000 for both. Call 670-3359. 1-25, 2-1

**1987 Bronco II** mud truck, 305 V8, automatic, 36 inch Irok tires, lots of after-market parts. Call 447-1022. 1-18, 1-25

**1990 Chevy 1500** pickup, long wheel base, 302 V8, automatic, AC, \$2,995. Call 482-3775. 1-18, 1-25

**1989 Ford Ranger**, 4 cyl, 5 speed transmission, original 81,000 miles, AC, in excellent condition, \$1,950. Call 814-7813. 1-18, 1-25

**1992 GMC boxed truck**, white, 32-08 Caterpillar Diesel, AC/heat, strong work truck, excellent condition, \$8,500. Call 814-7813. 1-18, 1-25

**LAKE MYSTIC**, 4/2 house on a GREAT 120 ft. lot, beautiful view of the lake, RV shop and more. Priced to sell fast!! **TIME OFFERED, better hurry on this one!!**

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Mobile Home, 2 BD, 1 BA. Across from Hosford School.  
**\$350 MONTH**  
Call (850) 379-8287 or (850) 509-4227

Find a bargain in the Journal CLASSIFIEDS!

**FOR RENT BRISTOL**

- 2 BD/1bath
- Mobile home lots
- 3 BD/2 BA Mobile Homes

**BLOUNTSTOWN**  
•1 room efficiency, utilities included •Commercial, Old Mexican Restaurant •Day care location available •2 BD, 1 1/2 BA Townhouses  
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**LAND SALE 10 ACRE + TRACTS**

- Paved Highway Frontage With Planted Pine Trees From \$4,995 per acre
- With \$600 Down Regular Contract
- With \$2,500 Down No Interest First Year
- With \$5,000 Down No Interest First 2 Years

Owner Financing No Qualifying

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R.E. Broker  
Request info at triland@gte.net or Call (813) 253-3258

# SUDOKU

3				4				
6			1			7		4
		9			8			
	2		3		5			
		7			6			
								8
	3					2		
	4		2				5	
				1	3		8	6

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

9	8	7	8	1	7	5	6	2
7	9	8	6	9	2	1	4	8
6	1	2	4	5	8	9	8	7
8	2	6	1	7	4	8	9	5
8	7	9	9	2	6	7	8	1
1	7	9	5	8	8	4	2	6
2	9	1	8	8	5	6	7	4
4	8	7	2	6	1	8	5	9
5	6	8	7	4	6	1	2	8

ANSWER:

## ★STARSCOPE★

### Week of Jan. 29 ~ Feb. 4

#### ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, though you always have energy to burn, this week isn't about pushing personal boundaries. It's about working collectively with others for a common goal.

#### TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Life is only as boring as you make it, Taurus. This week when you feel the doldrums setting in, get up and try a new activity that is sure to bring some excitement.

#### GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, whether you're working for your own agenda or the greater good, stay informed when you deal with others to see if they're receptive to your ideas.

#### CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you won't be timid this week, but work associates will not be hearing much from you, either. You're being selfish with your energy because it's dwindling.

#### LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, jump start your social life and host a party or go out for some fun. This week should be fun for everyone who hangs out with you.

#### VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, if you're in a relationship with someone special, you will be fighting for equality but also for greater levels of commitment. Your partner may be receptive.

#### LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, it's one thing to have good manners, but it's another thing to capitulate to what someone asks each and every time. You have a voice, so speak up and make your opinions known.

#### SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

A work project may be stretching out a little further than you'd hoped, Scorpio. It's leading to restlessness, but teamwork can turn the routine into something engaging.

#### SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

You're ready to take a fashion risk, Sagittarius. Inspired by the runway and passersby, go window shopping and find a look that appeals to you. The results may be surprising.

#### CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, be assertive when expressing an important opinion this week. Your message will be loud and clear, and it will make a significant impact.

#### AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, although you are great in a group setting, you're equally as impressive all on your own. Step out solo and experience a change of pace this week.

#### PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Feelings of uncertainty transform into something much more tangible, Pisces. Now you know what has been bugging you.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 29  
Adam Lambert, Singer (30)

FEBRUARY 1  
Lauren Conrad, Actress (26)

JANUARY 30  
Christian Bale, Actor (38)

FEBRUARY 2  
Christie Brinkley, Actress/Model (58)

JANUARY 31  
Minnie Driver, Actress (41)

FEBRUARY 3  
Isla Fisher, Actress (36)

FEBRUARY 4  
Natalie Imbruglia, Singer (37)

# THE CALHOUN-LIBERTY JOURNAL CLASSIFIEDS

To place your ad, call 643-3333 by noon Eastern Time on Saturday. Non-business ads run FREE for 2 weeks.

**1995 Ford F150**, red, automatic, AC, tool box, one owner, well maintained, in excellent condition, \$2,000. Call 814-7813. 1-18, 1-25

**2002 Chevy Avalanche**, red, looks good, runs great, 220k miles, \$6,900 OBO. Call Kevin at 447-2899. 1-18, 1-25

### AUTO ACCESSORIES

**Camper shell front window** and tail gate, full size. Used but in very good shape, \$125. Call 674-1429. 1-18, 1-25

**Carburetor** for a Volkswagen with intake, \$50. Call 379-5843. 1-18, 1-25

**5th Wheel hitch** with all brackets and mounting hardware. New price \$1,100, asking \$550. Call 363-3901. 1-18, 1-25

### TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

**2006 Massey Ferguson**, 431 farm tractor with 140 hours, \$8,000. Call 379-5843. 1-25, 2-1

**2005 Johnson motor**, short shaft with controls, \$1,200. Call 693-0872. 1-25, 2-1

**Parking lot blower**, Little Wonders commercial grade, \$450. Call 643-6589. 1-25, 2-1

**Cultivator**, two row; ice machine, needs small repair. Call 526-1753 for more information. 1-25, 2-1

**Craftsman planer**, 5 hp, 240 volt, 3 head blade, six years old, used very little, \$700. Call 670-1274. 1-25, 2-1

**Trailer Hitch** for a Dodge pickup, \$100. Call 762-8511, 557-7338 or 209-0527. 1-25, 2-1

### PETS/SUPPLIES

**Yellow cur dog**, female, 1 year old, free to a good home. Call 379-3859. 1-25, 2-1

**Pit puppies**, 10 weeks old, have had second set of shots, parents on premises, \$50 each. Call 209-0528 or 209-0506. 1-25, 2-1

**Dog house**, \$50. Call 643-2859. 1-25, 2-1

**Horse trailer**, two horse, bumper pull, with tack room, in good shape, \$1,400 OBO. Call 447-3322. 1-25, 2-1

**Estate Sale** - Tennessee Walker Stallion, brown and white, great and beautiful breeding horse, \$100. Call 509-8193 or 509-6874. 1-25, 2-1

**Free puppies**, Russell Terrier mix, six weeks old. Call 762-2113 or 557-5278. 1-18, 1-25

**Free puppies**, five male and three female, 1/2 Great Pyrenees and Lab mix, born Dec. 8. Call 762-4059 after 5 p.m. (CT). 1-18, 1-25

### LOST & FOUND

**FOUND:** Football helmet and pads on road beside pond on Hwy. 67. Call 379-8287 or 509-4227. 1-25, 2-1

**FOUND:** Shotgun in the National Forest, call 674-1474 to identify. 1-25, 2-1

**FOUND:** Male Walker hound, no collar, found on Hwy. 67A. Call 273-1444. 1-25, 2-1

**LOST:** Reward offered for return. Chocolate Lab, male last seen in South Telogia area before Christmas, had orange collar. Call 643-7149. 1-18 - 2-1

**LOST: Collie/Lab mix**, female, white and tan coat, nine months old, last seen on Hoecake Road in Bristol. Call 728-9282 or 545-6119. 1-18, 1-25

### WANTED

**Tall hotwater heater**, used, in good condition. Call 643-1428. 1-25, 2-1

**Full size bed set**, mattress, box springs, frame all in exchange for two twin beds with one set of box springs and frame. Call 643-1428. 1-25, 2-1

**Wagon Wheel**, rebuilt, 30" x 4", iron rimmed. Call 643-7757. 1-25, 2-1

**Small pickup**, reasonably priced. Call 447-3171. 1-18, 1-25

**Small dog** that is house trained. Call 674-3033 or 272-8677. 1-18, 1-25

**Good used furniture** and appliances needed at Calhoun Liberty Ministry Center on Hwy. 20 east of Blountstown. Call 674-1818. UFN

### HUNTING & FISHING

**Barnett Jackal crossbow**, used three times, comes with three Barnett arrows and three Montec broadheads, \$250. Call 573-5571. 1-25, 2-1

**Jon Boat**, 12 foot. Call 526-1753 for more information. 1-25, 2-1

**1980 19 ft. Bayliner boat** with a 1985 outboard motor, seats eight, comes with a set of ski's, one owner, used very little, in great shape, \$1,500. Call 509-8193 or 509-6874. 1-25, 2-1

**1984 14 ft. Collins Craft boat** with a 1997 25 hp Suzuki motor, stick steering, trolling motor, heavy duty drive on trailer, \$2,295. Call 482-3775. 1-18, 1-25

### HOMES/LAND

**3/4 acres plus**, located in Wewa on Hwy. 71 and Foremost Drive, corner lot, located near a nice community, \$38,000. Call 814-7813. 1-18, 1-25

**Doublewide mobile home**, 24x52, must move, \$8,000. Call 643-8237 or 674-2000. 1-18, 1-25

### CAMPERS

**2006 Gulf Stream Cavalier**, great condition, sleeps eight. Has working stove, refrigerator, shower, toilet air conditioner, & microwave. Excellent hunting camp, or weekend getaway. \$4,000. Call 447-1693 pictures upon request. 1-18, 1-25

### YARD SALES

#### BRISTOL

**Yard sale, Saturday, Jan. 28**, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Hwy. 12 S, turn in front of Rex Lumber Company onto CR 379. Look for signs, cancel if it rains, no early birds please. Phone 643-5011.

Get ready for spring.  
Empty out those  
closets & call us!

PHONE 643-3333

Email thejournal@fairpoint.net

Buy, sell & trade with an ad in  
The Calhoun-Liberty Journal.



# First-ever statewide mentor of the year awarded during Take Stock in Children's conference in Tallahassee

MIAMI – Education game-changers from around the state were recently honored with special awards during Take Stock in Children's State Leadership Conference in Tallahassee attended by hundreds of business and community leaders. John Henry of Naples received the first-ever Statewide Mentor of the Year Award along with Richard Berkowitz of Miami who received the Champion of Education Award and India White of Gainesville who was honored with Alumni of the Year.

With January being National Mentoring Month, Henry received the honor of the first-ever Take Stock in Children Statewide Mentor of the Year award.

He currently mentors three students at Immokalee High School, Elijah Arreaga, Kerby Henry and Elijah Basile, offering each of them support, guidance and encouragement. He meets with the scholars once per week, helping to build a solid foundation of values, establish goals, and improve academic and life skills while developing their self-esteem and confidence.

Henry goes above and beyond to ensure they are on track and provide them with the tools necessary to be successful in life.

"Take Stock in Children is a role model organization

*Award coincides with National Mentoring Month*

filled with passionate leaders who work endlessly to transform the lives of our youth, and we are thrilled to recognize their efforts with these awards," said Emilio Alonso-Mendoza, President/CEO of Take Stock in Children. "This State Leadership Conference served as the perfect platform to honor each of them, with other top education leaders and key partners from around the state in attendance."

The Champion of Education award was given to Berkowitz, an outstanding member of the community who has worked tirelessly to raise awareness on behalf of the children of Florida while also advocating to address needs that have not yet been met. For years he has consistently devoted his time and talents to ensure that every child has an opportunity to achieve their dreams through education.

White was selected as Take Stock in Children's Alumni of the Year for her motivating leadership and efforts of paying it forward. Her path has led her from living in a homeless shelter to eventually becoming a teacher, mother and enthusiastic spokesperson and mentor for Take Stock in Children. White currently plays



Representative Marlene O'Toole presents John Henry with Take Stock in Children's Statewide Mentor of the Year Award.

a vital role in the continuing success of the organization and all those who follow in her footsteps.

To learn more about Take Stock in Children, or becoming a valued mentor or supporter, please call (888) 322-4673 or visit [www.takestockinchildren.org](http://www.takestockinchildren.org).



## Chipola's 'Our Town' honored by FCSAA

The Florida College Student Activities Association (FCSAA) recently honored performers and technicians in Chipola College's Fall production of "Our Town." Pictured from left: John David Brown, Haylie McLane, Leah Page and Chipola Theater director Charles Sirmon. Brown and Page were named outstanding performers. McLane was named an outstanding technician.

## Cast announced for Chipola's 'Godspell'

MARIANNA— Chipola College Theater director Charles Sirmon recently cast local actors in the college production of "Godspell," which opens Feb. 29.

The "Godspell" cast includes: Trey McKay as Jesus, Dylan Bass as John the Baptist (Judas), Ryan Pilcher as Jeffery, Jae House as Lamar, Dante Brown as Herb, Kylee Shores as Robin, Kayla Todd as JoAnne, Sierra Hill as Peggy, Leah Page as Sonia and Ashleigh Stowe as Gilmer.

The ensemble includes: Atrayu Adkins, Darren Blake Collins, Brett Floyd, Cade Guthrie, Jamal Engram, Griffin Smith, Taylor Bowers, Christin Wiggins, Amanda Locke, Alexis Perry, Gracie Wallace and Alex Parrish. "Godspell," is the beloved classic from Stephen Schwartz, the Grammy and Academy Award-winning composer of Wicked and Pippin.

Audiences will enjoy all the good gifts from one of the most enduring

shows of all time as it comes to Chipola in a brand new, intimately staged, one-of-a-kind production.

The Tony-nominated score is filled with popular hits "Day By Day," "Learn Your Lessons Well" and "Turn Back, O Man." This timeless tale of friendship, loyalty and love has touched the hearts of countless theatergoers all over the world with the greatest story ever told.

Theatre fans are invited to join The Applauding Chipola Theatre (ACT) VIP fund, which guarantees the best seats for all shows.

The ACT Fund offers five levels of membership including Sponsor, Patron, Benefactor, Angel and Corporate Angel with VIP seating available at all levels.

A portion of ACT memberships are tax-deductible.

For information, contact Charles Sirmon at (850) 718-2227 or email: [sirmonc@chipola.edu](mailto:sirmonc@chipola.edu).

## Chipola announces Dean's List

MARIANNA—Dr. Sarah Clemmons, vice president of Instructional and Student Services at Chipola College, commends the 311 students who made the Dean's List for academic achievement during the Fall Semester 2011.

To be placed on the Dean's List, a student must take 12 or more semester hours of courses and make an average of 3.25 (B+) to 4.0 (A) in all courses.

Local students and their hometowns include:

### Students with perfect averages of 4.0 - straight A's :

**Altha**—Britney Collings, Brett Floyd, Jessica Godwin, Kristen Peacock, Stephanie Shelton, Elizabeth Uhrick.

**Blountstown**—Junicia Baker, Robert Deason, David Leonard, Travis Pittman.

**Bristol**—Kelsey McDaniel.

**Clarksville**—Monica Jones.

**Cottondale**—Kaitlyn Baxley, Anthony Kadenzy, Tracy Scott.



**Grand Ridge**—Zachary Folks, Emily Gilley, Chad Meyers, Caroline Peacock, Rachel Pelt, Ryan Pilcher, Ariel White, Jessica Harrell.

**Greenwood**—Benjamin Griffin.

**Kinard**—Amy McLeod.

**Sneads**—Cassandra Coley, Jordan Coley.

### Students who earned grade point averages ranging from 3.25(B+) to 3.99 (A) :

**Altha**—Taylor Brantley-Curl, Emily Brooks, Tory Lipford, Kathryn Nichols, Justin Terry, Aleena Tew, Maria Trejo Gonzalez, Rebekah Wiltse.

**Blountstown**—Virginia Baker, Megan Brown, Wayne Faircloth, Jahnice Jones, William Leonard, Shannie

Lockhart, Cameron Smith, Karis Smith, Jeffrey Stewart, Trevor Williams.

**Bristol**—Hali Barfield, Christy Brock, Karey Gautier, Cade Guthrie, Sharee Hudson, Jacqueline Jackson, Daniel Kern.

**Clarksville**—Morgan Davis, Stewart Herndon, Jason Holland, Patrick Jones, John Tharpe, Cole Thompson.

**Cottondale**—Dennis Allen, Teresa Crosby, Brittny Dilmore, Joshua Gainer, Sakima Godwin, Jessica Haid, Hannah Lamb, Tabatha Melzer.

**Grand Ridge**—Michelle Blackburn, Katherine Campbell, Katherine Ferrell, Christopher Holloway, Jolie Johnson, Hope Mooneyham, Justin Parrish, Sara Riley, Erin Williams.

**Sneads**—Brittany Arnold, Ian Griffin, Brandon Hightower, Gretchen Kinsinger, Joel McKeown, Travis Moore, Ashley Pavuk, Tyler Pickens, Kayla Sheffield, Melinda Smith, Nathan Walden, Daniel Williams.

## BMS 2ND NINE-WEEK HONOR ROLL

### All A's

**6th Grade** – Paxton Blair, Tylor Brock, Sofia Coley, Bailey Johnson, Annika Milliagan, Jara Phillips, Alison Roberts, Weston Schrock, Sarah Lynn White, Mary Beth Williams, Drew Willis and Michael Wyrick.

**7th Grade** – Seth Brown, Hannah Bryant, Tiffany Dees, Mackenzie Eubanks, Tyler Hill, Caroline Howell, Shad Johnson, Sarah Ratis, Courtney Shuler, Emily Shuler, Logan Weiler, Lana Wood and Kristi Yoder.

**8th Grade**—Alexis DeVuyst, Derek Eberly, Lee Ellis, Lauren Godwin, Chessa Goodman, Anna Hassig, Will McClellan, Colton Purvis, Kenneth Rollins, Jennifer Snowden and Colby Tanner.

### A/B Honor Roll

**6th Grade** – Abby Bailey, Emily Barragan, Taniyah

Brown, Justin Bryant, Alexander Buggs, Grayson Burns, Victoria Ebersole, Kevon Godwin, Keith Grantham, Keyon Hammond, Johnnie Henry, Manuel Holliday, Emily Hood, Jamal Howard, Jherico Jones, Tucker Jordan, Kyle Kelley, Tyler Layfield, Tehya Manning, Rachel Margrill, Alicia Marquez, Victoria Maund, Gabe McClellan, Reyna Morales, Autumn Oxendine, Nicholas Pennywell, Angel Peterson, Brett Phinney, Ambriah Pierce, Will Price, Jaxon Ridley, Victoria Rollins, Weston Sites, Brittnay Smith, Brianna Summerlin, Haleigh Tumminello, Caleb Van Lierop, Brianna Walker, Morgan Weiler, Destiny Williams, Logan Willis and Madison Yoder.

**7th Grade** – Gabby Amaro, Brittnee Cumbie, Braicee Dietz, Mi'kel Engram, Tiffany

Escobar, Mabeth Fuentes, Citlali Gutierrez, Benjamin Harrell, Bryson Horne, Autumn Lee, Trey Lynn, Mason Lytle, Abigail Martinez, Bianca Martinez, Julian Martinez, Keirstin Mosher, Rachel Nandho, Nykeria Patterson, Kalei Peacock, Madison Peacock, Otis Pennywell, J.T. Richards, Daniel Ryals, Megan Sims, Hayes Strawn, Darla Weeks, D'Montee Williams and Mark Wilson.

**8th Grade** – Chris Brown, Madison Brown, Josh Causey, Megann Dillinger, Ethan Glass, Devin Hackel, Emily Hall, Ayers Hassig, Mirazha Hogue, Brittany Kelley, Dharma Lee, John Martin, Manuel Martinez, Blake Pitts, Shanna Price, Taylor Pyles, Sacha Raper, Dawson Reeder, Mary Reynolds, Bryan Roberts, Brandon Smith, Taylor Stalnaker, Destiny Wise and Tristen Wood.



Lamar Conner, second from left, and U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Trevor Brewer, second from right, are shown during last week's presentation of the Federal Cross of Merit in Germany.

## FEDERAL CROSS OF MERIT

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

the Jan. 16 ceremony in Frankfurt honoring his father. "He was angry at me for putting myself in danger but now he is just as proud," said Conner.

"At the time I did not know that he had just murdered two airmen, injured two others and attempted murder on a third," he said. "Were it to happen again, I probably would have 'clotheslined' (a wrestling move in which one runs toward an opponent with an arm extended from the side of the body, hitting the opponent in the neck or chest and knocking them over) him and kicked him until he could not get up on his own," he said.

Brewer, a 23-year-old Airman from Gray, TN, was on the bus when Uka boarded. Uka shot and killed an airman standing near the bus and killed the driver as he stepped up into the vehicle. Two others were wounded as he continued shooting. Uka pointed the gun at Brewer's head, said "God is Great" in Arabic and pulled the trigger but the gun jammed. Uka ran off the bus and through the airport. Brewer followed and Conner joined the pursuit.

"He did not stand out in the crowd," Conner said of the shooter. "He looked as if he could have been a young person just starting out in their professional career." Uka worked at the airport post office and was said to be a devout Muslim whose family had lived in Germany for 40 years.

Uka told authorities his attack was spurred on by a *You Tube* video he watched of American soldiers raping a Muslim woman. That video was later identified as a scene from a 2007 American anti-war movie called "Redacted."

Uka was charged with two counts of murder and three counts of attempted murder. He confessed to the shootings and is awaiting sentencing.

### HELPING THE VICTIMS

After Uka was in custody, Conner returned to the ticket counter where he works. When he learned what had just transpired, the airport manager took him to his office to give him a chance to wind down.



"I told him every detail that I could remember in the shortest time possible," Conner said. "He was very supportive and asked if I would like to go home." Conner told him he needed to get to his counter and do his closeout for the day.

Moments after he went to the ticket counter, his manager approached and told him the police wanted to see him.

Conner spent the next several hours in a small room at the Federal Police Office with the surviving airmen from the bus, where he acted as a middleman between them and German investigators as they were interviewed.

"All of these young people could have been my children," said Conner. "I thought what it would be like for them in a strange country. You don't speak the language and some madman has just killed or injured several of your comrades." He requested chaplain assistance from the American Consulate to comfort the young airmen.

He and Sgt. Brewer exchanged contact information and they hope to stay in touch.

### A PROUD SISTER

Conner, who grew up at Shelton's Corner and still has a home there, said he will display the medal in his apartment next to the flag that covered his father's coffin.

A 1976 graduate of Altha High School, Conner joined the Army at the age of 19 and has spent his

adult life in Germany. Conner, his wife, Daniela, their son and their daughter, Janina, 25, live in Germany. Each year, they make month-long trips to visit friends and family in Altha, usually in October.

His sister, Debra Perdue, thinks last week's recognition ceremony was especially timely since it happened during the school's homecoming week.

But she didn't even learn of her brother's part in Uka's capture until two or three months after it happened. She said Lamar was humble about what he did but she recognized that what happened was "really big," she said.

"I'm proud of him. It's a wonderful thing that he did...but he could have just as easily been killed," she said. She admitted she always worries about him being so far away and chides him about his cigarette habit, which he has tried to overcome several times unsuccessfully.

She said she's often warned him, "Those cigarettes will kill you."

But judging by the events of last March, this could be the one time a smoker's urge for a cigarette break may have actually helped save a few lives.

-----  
 Anyone who would like to send Lamar Conner a note, share some memories from his early days in Altha or just congratulate him for his response during last year's attack may reach him at [lamar58conner@yahoo.com](mailto:lamar58conner@yahoo.com).



# PUBLIC AND LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
FOR LIBERTY COUNTY,  
FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION

FILE NO: 2012-02 CP

IN RE: ESTATE OF  
PAUL C. GIVENS  
Deceased.

**NOTICE OF  
ADMINISTRATION AND  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING  
CLAIMS OR DEMANDS  
AGAINST THE ABOVE  
ESTATE AND ALL OTHER  
PERSONS INTERESTED  
IN THE ESTATE:

**YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that the administration of the Estate of Paul C. Given, File Number 2012-02 CP is pending in the Circuit Court for Liberty County, Florida, Probate Division, Post Office Box 399, Bristol, Florida 32321, the address of which is Liberty County Courthouse. The Personal Representative of the Estate is Sandra L. Spisak. The name and address of the Personal Representative's attorney is set forth below.

All persons having claims or demands against the Estate are required, **WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE**, to file with the Clerk of the above Court a written statement of any claim or demand they may have. Each claim must be in writing and must indicate the

basis for the claim, the name and address of the creditor or his agent or attorney and the amount the claim is contingent or unliquidated, the nature of the uncertainty shall be stated. If the claim is secured, the security shall be described. The claimant shall deliver sufficient copies of the claim to the Clerk to enable the Clerk to mail one copy to the Personal Representative. All persons interested in the Estate to whom a copy of this Notice of Administration has been mailed are required, **WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE**, to file any objection they may have, the validity of the Will, or the qualifications of the Personal Representative, or the venue or jurisdiction of the Court.

DATED THIS 30th day of  
December, 2011.

Sandra L. Spisak

J. DAVID HOUSE, P.A.  
16865 SE RIVER STREET  
BLOUNTSTOWN, FL 32424  
(850) 674-5481  
FLORIDA BAR #282359  
COUNSEL FOR PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE

**NOTICE OF  
VOTE IN QUESTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

**APRIL L. SCOTT**  
Last known address of:  
14248 NW 1st Ave  
Bristol, FL 32321

You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Bristol, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system.

Published one time in the *Calhoun-Liberty Journal* 1-25-12

Marcia A. Wood  
Liberty County Supervisor  
of Elections  
P.O. Box 597,  
Bristol, FL 32321  
Dated Jan. 25, 2012

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
FOR LIBERTY COUNTY,  
FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION

FILE NO: 2012-03CP

IN RE: ESTATE OF  
JOHN RUSSELL HILTON,  
Deceased.

**NOTICE OF  
ADMINISTRATION AND  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING  
CLAIMS OR DEMANDS  
AGAINST THE ABOVE ES-  
TATE AND ALL OTHER PER-  
SONS INTERESTED IN THE  
ESTATE:

**YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that the administration of the Estate of John Russell Hilton, File Number 2012-03 CP is pending in the Circuit Court for Liberty County, Florida, Probate Division, Post Office Box 399, Bristol, Florida 32321, the address of which is the Liberty County Courthouse.

The Personal Representa-  
tive of the Estate is Melinda  
Calvert Edwards. The name  
and address of the Personal  
Representative's attorney is set  
forth below.

All persons having claims or  
demands against the Estate  
are required, **WITHIN THREE  
MONTHS FROM THE DATE  
OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION  
OF THIS NOTICE**, to file with  
the Clerk of the above Court a  
written statement of any claim  
or demand they may have. Each  
claim must be in writing and  
must indicate the basis for the  
claim, the name and address of

the creditor or his agent or at-  
torney and the amount the claim  
is contingent or unliquidated,  
the nature of the uncertainty  
shall be stated. If the claim is  
secured, the security shall be  
described. The claimant shall  
deliver sufficient copies of the  
claim to the Clerk to enable the  
Clerk to mail one copy to the  
Personal Representative. All  
persons interested in the Estate  
to whom a copy of this Notice of  
Administration has been mailed  
are required, **WITHIN THREE  
MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF  
THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF  
THIS NOTICE**, to file any objec-  
tion they may have, the validity

of the Will, or the qualifications  
of the Personal Representative,  
or the venue or jurisdiction of  
the Court.

DATED THIS 24th day of Janu-  
ary, 2012.

Melinda Calvert Edwards  
10340 NW First Street  
Bristol, FL 32321

J. DAVID HOUSE, P.A.  
16865 SE RIVER STREET  
BLOUNTSTOWN, FL 32424  
(850) 674-5481  
FLORIDA BAR # 282359  
COUNSEL FOR PERSONAL  
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If you have any questions, please call Jim Shuler, Liberty County Road and

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\*A Class B CDL license is required.

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**15 positions** - Temporary/seasonal work planting, cultivating and harvesting nursery stock. From 2/15/2012 to 12/15/2012 at Rutgers Nursery, Inc., Ringoes, NJ. Saturday work required. Must be able to lift/carry 60 lbs. Insurable driver's license required for workers who drive company vehicles. \$10.34/hr or current applicable AEW. Workers are guaranteed ¾ of work hours of total period. Work tools, supplies, equipment supplied by employer without charge to worker. Housing with kitchen facilities provided at no cost to only those workers who are not reasonably able to return same day to their place of residence at time of recruitment. Transportation and subsistence expenses to work site will be paid to nonresident workers not later than upon completion of 50% of the job contract. Interviews required. Apply for this job at nearest State Workforce Agency in state in which this ad appears, or One Stop Career Center 16908 Northeast Pear Street, Suite 2, Blountstown, FL 32424. Provide copy of this ad. Job Order #NJ0809532.

**10 positions** - Temporary/Seasonal work planting, cultivating, harvesting and preparing plants for sale. From 2/15/2012 to 12/15/2012 at D. R. Snell Nursery, Inc., Union Bridge, MD. Three months previous experience required. Saturday work required. Must be able to lift/carry 60 lbs. \$10.34/hr or current applicable AEW. Workers are guaranteed ¾ of work hours of total period. Work tools, supplies, equipment supplied by employer without charge to worker. Housing with kitchen facilities provided at no cost to only those workers who are not reasonably able to return same day to their place of residence at time of recruitment. Transportation and subsistence expenses to work site will be paid to nonresident workers not later than upon completion of 50% of the job contract. Interviews required. Apply for this job at nearest State Workforce Agency in the state in which this ad appears, or One Stop Career Center 16908 Northeast Pear Street, Suite 2, Blountstown, FL 32424. Provide copy of this ad. MD Job Order #219943.

# Better Business Bureau names last year's Top 10 Scams

PENSACOLA – Your Better Business Bureau investigates thousands of scams every year. Our new Scam Source (www.bbb.org/scam) is a comprehensive resource on scam investigations by your BBB.

Here are nine common scams we've seen in 2011 and our Scam of the Year.

**Job Scam**

Many job scams are designed to steal your identity. One requires candidates to fill out a "credit report" or bank information for "direct deposit" when offered a job. There is no job; the online forms are just a way to steal personal data.

**Sweepstakes and Lottery Scam**

Congratulations! You've won millions! To claim it, you only have to send the company hundreds or thousands. A popular example this year was an email claiming to be from Mark Zuckerberg announcing the recipient won \$1 million from Facebook.

**Social Media/Online Dating Scam**

Some links prompt you to "upgrade your Flash player" to view videos. Instead, the file you download contains a worm that sends out similar links and searches for your personal data.

**Home Improvement Scam**

Traveling contractors move around to keep a step ahead of the law and angry consumers. The worst move in after a natural disaster, taking advantage of desperate homeowners. Start with www.bbb.org/search to find trustworthy contractors.

**Check Cashing Scam**

One check cashing scam begins with someone wanting to "buy" something you're selling. Scammers send you a check for more than the purchase price, and ask you to wire them the difference. Their check bounces a few days later, leaving you out the money you wired.

**Phishing Scam**

Phishing scams steal personal information through an email that installs a virus on your computer, a phone call or letter. A prevalent email in 2011 claims an electronic transaction did not go through. Clicking the link downloads malware or steals your information.

**Identity Theft Scam**

You get a call in your hotel room in the middle of the night. The "front desk" claims a problem with the computer requires your credit card number again. The call is actually from someone outside the hotel

stealing your information.

**Financial Scam**

Websites claim to offer mortgage relief but ask for an upfront fee. Some "help" by doing things you could easily do yourself free, and most leave you in even more debt than before.

**Sales Scam**

Penny auctions are popular because they seem to offer items below retail. But you pay for each bid even if you don't win. Although not all penny auctions are scams, some are being investigated as online gambling. BBB

suggests treating them as you would a casino.

**Scam of the Year**

Hundreds of thousands of people have received emails that look like an official notice from BBB. When opened, a virus designed to steal sensitive information

when launched on a computer. BBB is working with federal law enforcement and has already shut down dozens of hijacked websites. The FBI, NACHA, IRS, and other well-known agencies have been victimized in similar phishing scams.



## Quick Shine #2 opens in Blountstown

Britt Kent has opened his second Quick Shine location next to C&S Pawn Shop and across from Badcock on SR 20 W. in Blountstown. Quick Shine #2 opened Nov. 3, 2011 and operates from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (CT). The first Quick Shine in Bristol opened approximately six years ago. Both locations offer a wide variety of services beyond the standard car wash, including full auto detailing, seat covers,

headlight restoration, gift certificates and more. A full detail with wax and shampoo starts at \$89.95. A total package includes outside wash, tire shine, vacuum, window cleaning, door jam and inside wipe down and interior dressing starting at \$29.95 and up for cars, \$39.95 and up for trucks. Pictured from left is Rocky Kincaid, owner Britt Kent, Leslie Ray and Britt's dad, Roger Kent. JOHNNY EUBANKS PHOTO

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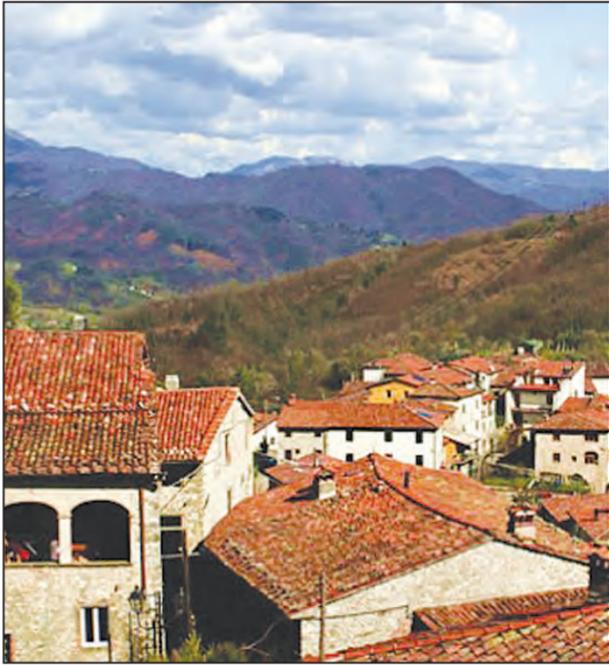
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# CASA LA PACE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13



A view of the landscape Rusty Wyrick now calls home.

When he reached his mid-40s, he knew the time was right to make a change.

Since 1992, he had been living in Miami with his partner, Pepper - who is of Cuban, Spanish and Chinese ancestry - and whose last name, Pimienta, also translates to "Pepper." Known by all as "Pepper Pepper," his past experience as an artist, event planner, gallery owner, therapist and public relations representative give him unique skills to draw on as he manages their little hotel.

Rusty said he finally reached a crossroads. "I knew I could not continue to travel and have a new car," he said, although he had been saving his money for years. In 2007, he began looking online for property in Italy. They made two trips to Italy and visited numerous sites for sale, including a set of apartments, an old school house and a converted monastery.

Then an ad on Craig's List caught his eye. He went and had a look at the home he would soon buy.

Built in the 1740s, Rusty likes to point out that Casa La Pace, "Is one of the newer houses in the area." Although some remodeling was needed, the building was available at less than market price and had the added bonus of being in a village with a train station, Rusty explained.

The building was renovated and an extra bedroom was added, bringing the total to five, and bathrooms were installed for each room. In June 2011, they opened for business, taking in more than 60 guests in the first six months. Things have gone "exceedingly well," he said. "I was really surprised for our first season. There were very few days when we didn't have guests."

Travelers who check into Casa La Pace get more than a place to stay. They get advice and encouragement on exploring the area. Both Rusty and Pepper lead tours, conduct art and photography workshops and help guests make the most of their time in Tuscany.

"Our valley is off the beaten path. We like to say it's more like authentic Italy," he said. "When you go to the big cities you just run into more tourists. But when you come where we are, you're going to see the way people really live."

Even this far away from his hometown, he finds something that links the two communities. "Italy's small villages still have the 'mom and pop' feel that Blountstown had in the 1970s," he said.

He plans to see how things go for five years but it's hard to imagine he could leave what he has created and nurtured into a successful

business. "I love meeting new people and love to show them around," he said of his new career. "Everyone is different and I love hearing their stories."

The pair recently returned to the U.S. to attend the International Inn Keepers Convention in Little Rock, AR this week and stopped in to visit family members in Blountstown.

"I left behind a high-paying computer consulting job to do this," Rusty said. "I dreamed about it for so long. Sometimes I have to remind myself it's not a dream."

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*In the short time Casa La Pace has been listed online at Trip Advisor their ranking has shot up to #13 in Tuscany thanks to glowing recommendations by their guests. The rates are from approximately \$90 to \$120 a night for a two-person room. Learn more about the bed and breakfast at [www.casalapace.com](http://www.casalapace.com).*

*Rusty's not the only family member making a big move. His mother, Deanne Wyrick, is relocating from Arizona to Blountstown to be near her three grandchildren - Anthony, 15; Michael, 12 and nine-year-old Karen as well as their parents, Dan and Kelly Wyrick.*

*Even this far away from his hometown, Rusty Wyrick finds something that links the two communities. "Italy's small villages still have the 'mom and pop' feel that Blountstown had in the 1970s," he said.*

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