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The Jasper News

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140TH YEAR, NUMBER 50

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2011

2 SECTIONS 22 PAGES

50¢

Hamilton crash ends in death

Man dies from injuries in motorcycle crash

By Jeffrey Boatright
jeffry.boatright@gafnews.com

A Branford man died at Shands Gainesville Friday afternoon, Nov. 18, from injuries he sustained after crashing his 2007 Harley Davidson Motorcycle into a 2000

SEE HAMILTON, PAGE 2A

Lending a helping hand

Homeless and migrant students don't have to look far for needs

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

Inside the halls of the Hamilton County School Board Administration Building in Jasper is an office where the needs of homeless and migrant students are met with concern and compassion.

Florine Roberts, administrative secretary, Phillis Johnson, homeless liaison, and Phyllis Porter, coordinator of federal programs for the school district do their best to make sure the needs of underprivileged students are addressed

SEE LENDING, PAGE 8A

EXCITING THINGS IN STORE FOR AG PROGRAM AT HCHS



Amber Manley, from left, Kristen Morris and Kaley Fenneman admire the baby ducks at the Hamilton County High School Ag farm. See more photos online. Search HCHS Ag farm.

"Architecture and agriculture go hand-in-hand. Everything you see out there we built."

11th grade Ag student and FFA member, Winston Crosby said of the Ag farm at HCHS



Skills, sense of community taught

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

Hamilton County High School has an all-new agricultural program this year with some exciting additions to the curriculum.

Agriculture teacher Doug Clayton, who is a 1985 graduate of HCHS, is enthused about getting everything in order and looking good with the assistance of his students.

One big project for this year is landscaping "the back forty", so to speak. There is a large field behind the school building which has been designated for use by the agriculture students and is used for a variety of projects.

"We're going to end up landscaping all this," Clayton said, pointing across the field. "It'll be plants that we need for identification. It will be very diverse plants. It

won't be a hedge of all the same thing."

Clayton and his students have also begun work on an outdoor kitchen, and when the entire project is completed, Clayton said it will be nice and presentable. One greenhouse on the property, he stated, was moved to the site from Panther and it sustained some damage during the process, which will have to be repaired, however there

is another greenhouse that is in use. Clayton said they are still in the early stages of getting everything cleaned up and organized.

Just across from the greenhouse is a fenced in area where a few baby calves call home.

"The kids love that," Clayton said.

Farther out in the field is a

SEE EXCITING, PAGE 2A

NOPE VIGIL DRAWS A CROWD

Awareness raised on overdose prevention

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

The Hamilton County Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Coalition (HCADP) was the proud sponsor of the 3rd Annual Narcotics Overdose Prevention Endeavor (NOPE) Vigil at Jasper City Park recently.

The vigil, which began at 6:30 p.m., was a huge success with about 100 people in attendance. The Hamilton County High School ROTC posted Colors for the pledge of allegiance and performed a rendition of the National Anthem by Jessie Bristol.

Ms. Abby Taylor, emcee for the vigil, gave opening remarks that included statistics on the number of prescription drug overdose deaths in the United States. In the state of Florida alone, she said, about seven deaths per day are attributed to prescription drug overdose.

Taylor provided information about

treatment for the sickness of addiction and the importance of helping victims receive treatment rather than shame, before a life is lost.

"She strongly emphasized that we want to save all the lives of our youth in Hamilton County from the youngest to the oldest," said Grace McDonald, executive director of HCADP.

Music was provided by the Church of Jesus Christ, the Living Word Deliverance Church



3rd Annual NOPE Candlelight Vigil drew about 100 people. Courtesy photo

SEE NOPE, PAGE 2A

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Hamilton crash ends in death Man dies from injuries in motorcycle crash

Continued From Page 1A

model GMC pickup, Nov. 17 in Hamilton County, a family member has confirmed.

Charles Ronald Miller, 62, died Friday as a result of the accident, according to his older sister, Sue Williams.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Miller was traveling south on US 129 approaching 76th Trail in Hamilton County around 3:30 p.m., following the GMC pickup driven by Douglas McArthur Parr Jr., 40, when the accident occurred. Reports show that Parr slowed to turn onto 76th Trail when he realized a vehicle traveling southbound was overtaking the northbound lanes. Parr was forced to stop but Miller failed to stop and crashed his motorcycle into the back of Parr's pickup.

As a result of the impact, Miller was ejected and thrown over Parr's pickup. He died at Shands Gainesville from his injuries.

Parr nor a passenger in the truck, Jonathan L. Parr, 15, were injured.

In the hours following Miller's death, overwhelming comments flooded his Facebook page consoling family, friends and remembering him.

"Ron my dear husband and best friend....I will miss you. Making plans for our future. This is truly killing me..



Charles Ronald Miller

Angels are there for you.... love you," his wife, Linda Miller wrote.

There was also a memorial video of Miller posted along with messages from those who cared from friend Crystal Lyons.

"In loving memory of my friend Ron Miller," Lyons wrote, accompanying the video.

Friend Victoria Driver sent a message of condolences to family and friends.

"Our hearts go out to all of Ron's family and friends in their time of sorrow," Driver wrote. "As I am deeply shocked at the sudden loss of such a great man and while my heart is hurting, the fact that I have been one of the fortunate ones lucky enough to call him my friend brings me great comfort. His passing has left a huge void in all our lives!"

Cindy Roberts said she was glad to have known Miller.

"I will keep praying for your children and family. I know how bad something like that hurts. Ride on, buddy," Roberts wrote.

Exciting things in store for Ag program at HCHS

Continued From Page 1A

pen with pigs and in another fenced in area there are an assortment of ducks and different breeds of chickens. One chicken with an orange breast is the result of a genetics experiment by mating two different breeds together, Clayton explained.

"When they're a day old, you know whether they're a male or a female because of their color," he said.

The chicken with the orange spot on the breast is a female, Clayton said, and the male comes out black with a white spot on its head.

"It simplifies the process because you can give the males a high-protein feed and prepare them for slaughter," he said.

Inside the greenhouse there are already many things growing, including red peppers that Clayton is proud to see all plump and red in the flower bed.

The beginnings of a full-service orchard are beginning to take shape, as well, with blackberry, fig, pear and citrus trees. A lone corn plant stands out in the middle of the orchard. Clayton said he doesn't know where the seed came from, but the plant looks so healthy that he doesn't want to uproot it. He said it hasn't been fertilized, either.

"Since corn is the symbol of the (Future Farmers of America), I figured we'd leave it up here for its duration," Clayton said. "You hate to do away with something that's doing so well."

Clayton heads up the FFA program at the school. He attended the

University of Florida, which is a big supporter of FFA. The UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) is a federal-state-county partnership with facilities located throughout Florida.

"They do a great job for us," Clayton said.

FFA, Clayton explained, is a national agricultural-based youth organization.

"It's managed from the top down and we have competitive events in many different things, not just traditional agriculture," Clayton said. "They have public speaking and parliamentary procedure contests and a lot of leadership building activities."

Even in urban areas, Clayton said, FFA is gaining a bigger presence because some kids never get to see a farm. FFA is trying to change that.

"Ag courses are science-certified," Clayton said, as he pointed to another genetics experiment inside the classroom using field peas.

By doing these genetics experiments the students are introduced to the way plant breeders select different products, especially ones that are desirable in the marketplace. Clayton said a lot of the new curriculum is designed to give the students a head-start on college studies.

Eleventh grader, Winston Crosby, is one of Clayton's students and he is also the vice president of the Hamilton County chapter of FFA.

"We help get the students involved in the community," Crosby said of the objectives of FFA. "We teach them about agriculture. We're really big in the farm

community. We help kids who don't 'fit in' in other places," he added, speaking about kids who grew up on farms.

Crosby said FFA gives scholarships, as well.

"The chapter level right here is just one part," he said. "You have state level, you have national level, and it goes a lot further than what we can give them, but if they're willing to put in the effort and actually work in the FFA, they can go somewhere, they can go to college for agriculture, they can be national president."

Crosby said they tend to average about 80 to 100 students per year who participate in FFA at HCHS.

"It's one of the biggest programs in the school. It's not hard to join. You only have to pay Mr. Clayton \$20 and you're a member," he said.

With that \$20 you will get a shirt and you can enter any contest FFA offers, Crosby explained, and they offer a multitude of them each year in many different categories. The officers, he said, take care of the other expenses by holding fundraisers and community service projects.

"Mr. Clayton has a lot of plans to make our chapter more self-reliant so that we don't have to do as many fundraisers," Crosby said. "The fundraisers we do will be more excess instead of necessities. He's already started selling pepper sauce that we grow in our own garden."

There are also big plans in the works for the sugar cane growing in the field.

Crosby said FFA helps its members in other

ways with a program called Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE). SAE is an agricultural education program with three components; classroom instruction, FFA and supervised agricultural experience.

Students learn by doing, with help from their agriculture teachers, and they develop an SAE project based on one or more categories of entrepreneurship, placement, research and experimentation, as well as exploring careers in agriculture.

"If you grew up on a big cattle farm you might want to do something with beef production and you work on that throughout your high school years," Crosby said. "That's something else that FFA offers scholarships in. Every year at the state convention those people who have won are recognized and some even go on to win national scholarships."

Crosby has plans to attend college to study architecture at Auburn in Alabama or Valdosta State University. When asked why, he said, "Architecture and agriculture go hand-in-hand. Everything you see out there we built. The greenhouse has been built for a long time now, several Ag teachers before Mr. Clayton. The shelter with the red roof, I actually remember helping work on that back in about 8th grade."

If you think you might be interested in learning more about agriculture or the FFA, Mr. Clayton or Winston Crosby would be more than happy to give you all the particulars. Give them a call at 386-792-6540.



The motorcycle that Charles Ronald Miller was riding Nov. 17 after being involved in a wreck in Hamilton County. Miller died Nov. 18 from his injuries.

NOPE vigil draws a crowd

Continued From Page 1A

and the Belleville Bethel AME Youth Choir, and Pastor Danny Henderson of Harvest Fellowship Church was the keynote speaker.

"He spoke of freedom Christ gives to us when our lives are in the midst of a storm," McDonald said. "He also

praised the many who work to help victims of addiction to gain back their life—counselors, rehab centers, social workers and health professionals."

Henderson used the example of the disciples in the storm on the sea of Galilee when Jesus walked across the water and entered the boat, at

which time the storm ceased and they were able to see the shore.

The program ended with the Community Mass Choir singing, while candles were lit and the memorial wall was displayed on the screen. After the service, many people in the crowd viewed the wall of photos of victims that

were posted on the fence. Light refreshments were served as the evening ceremony came to a close.

"I believe many people were touched and made aware of the seriousness of the problem and the responsibility we have to help save lives," McDonald said.

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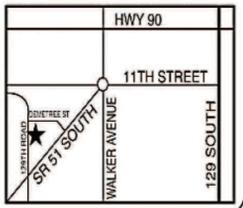
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**A look back at
Hamilton County
High School
football**



Life in WHITE SPRINGS

By Walter McKenzie

lifeinwhitesprings@gmail.com

Happy Thanksgiving! With some repetition from past columns, because many blessings can be constant, and with something new too, because new blessings come each year, I offer a column on Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving in the White Springs area af-

fords us a time to reflect on our many things to be thankful for. Many of them are unique to our area, yet we often take them for granted, but on this day we should pause and reflect on how special our blessings are. I mean really, how many other towns have a carillon tower to be thankful for!!? We truly have some special gifts here in White Springs. Be sure to take a moment to stop and count your special White Springs blessings this Thanksgiving week. I am particularly thankful for...Our rich history and our historic district, each and every home that is lovingly cared for, the "showcase buildings" particularly the Telford Hotel, the Sophie Jane Adams house, the Adams Brothers country store and the Camp House with its adjoining tiny school house. What treasures!The beautification of our town. The newly paved streets and sidewalks are much appreciated. The ongoing restoration work going on at the Adams Country store happened just in the nick of time and deserves many thanks.....The Spring and the remnants of the old spring house. This place is the Genesis of White Springs and Florida tourism. We are finally facing up to some of our water supply problems and I am thankful for that. My hope is that someday the spring will regularly flow again...The Suwannee River. One look at most other rivers shows how much of them can be over developed and polluted. One look at the Suwannee shows what they lost, what we still have to be thankful for, even when it is as low and slow as it is now...Our newly dedicated Veterans Memorial Park...Our men and women in uniform, our police, firefighters and Emergency Medical Services personnel.... The Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center, one of the State Park systems crown jewels..... The spectacular

Festival of Lights that brings in 20,000 visitors.... The music. Between the Florida Folk Festival, the First Saturday Coffee Houses, the White Springs Folk club and the many other area festivals, workshops and concerts, we are blessed with an abundance of music. "We are a spectacular manifestation of life. We have language...we have affection. We have genes for usefulness and usefulness is about as close to a 'common goal' of nature as I can guess at. And finally and perhaps best of all, we have music." The children of White Springs- Give them the opportunity to learn and grow and they will make you proud! Our Summer Program for the kids proved that and our After School Program is giving our kids and parents much more to be thankful for.....White Springs volunteers. These children's programs, the adult education program, the new tennis court, the community meetings, the festivals are all made possible by volunteers, people who care enough to get involved in a positive way.....Our many area churches. God's grace is most often made evident through people that are spiritually nourished and our White Springs churches assure us and comfort us and give us spiritual food for thought. I am particularly grateful for the harmony in White Springs, for the fact that while much of the nation and world is in turmoil, we, for the most part, have found a way to work together and accomplish things that are not commonly accomplished by such a small town. So here's a Thanksgiving toast to the people of White Springs. When you step up and take a positive stand, the job will get done, and no one could ask for a better bunch of friends and neighbors. So, go forth with an attitude of gratitude for all the good peo-

ple and good things that are part of your life in White Springs. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Ruth and Richard Tennis were happy to report that their grandson John Hannum, along with a friend of Johns from Italy, arrived from Long Beach, Calif. to spend time with his grandparents and his sister, Tifani Hannum Hood & family. He will be riding his bicycle with a bicycle club from Miami to Key West to raise funds for charities. John will spend Thanksgiving with family in High Springs before leaving for home.

A crew of "engineers", John Lacefield, Pablo Gonzalez, and Tom Moore, were seen working very hard last Sunday morning erecting a permanent shade structure over the bleachers at "The Children's" tennis courts. This is another fine example of volunteers caring for and working for our town and our kids. Thanks guys! We all appreciate you.

So, once again I have said enough. I would love to hear from you and I hope to see you out and about, enjoying life in White Springs.

Walter McKenzie
lifeinwhitesprings@gmail.com
386-269-0056

Shop Jasper Christmas Campaign begins Saturday

By Joyce Marie Taylor

Jasper merchants are asking local residents to "Shop Jasper First," beginning Saturday, Nov. 26 during their Shop Jasper Christmas Campaign.

"Our local merchants are offering special savings and other special events throughout the holiday season," said Cindy Eatmon from the Jasper Revitalization Committee.

Additionally, on Friday, Dec. 9 there will be an open house event downtown and on Saturday, Dec. 10 you'll want to stop in at Jasper Marketplace at 107 Central Avenue S.W. for a tea party. Call 386-755-6163 for more information.

Other participating merchants in the campaign are Brown's Flowers, Bass's Furniture, D&S Signs, Jasper Foodway, Jasper Hardware, Victoria & Co., Sugar Dumplings and Sunsatons.

"Our local businesses, companies and services are the major supporters of our local charities," said Eatmon. "They really care. They hire local people."

A 1 percent sales tax on anything you purchase stays in Jasper, which directly helps the city of Jasper, Eatmon said.

Information about how to save small communities like Jasper can be found on the Internet, as well as in a variety of books that explain the many reasons how shopping in your own community whenever and wherever possible can make a huge economic impact.

The Revitalization Committee wants to raise awareness of the benefits of using their independent shops, merchant services and charities. Through awareness they hope to shift consumers into coming back to Jasper to shop.

Eatmon said that by shopping local you will be instrumental in keeping merchants in your community in business. These shop owners typically buy their inventory from other local merchants and farms in your county, so it is a win-win situation all around. Jasper can become more self-sufficient and less reliant on imports, thus, bringing control back where it belongs...in your community.

"Some small town people have little choice but to shop somewhere else," Eatmon said. "They've already lost their small town businesses. Jasper still has a chance. Help us protect Jasper businesses and boost our economy."

Girl Scouts 3rd Annual Fill the Community with Kindness and Food

Girl Scout Troop 1162 of Jasper will be having their 3rd annual Fill the Community with Kindness and Food on Monday, Nov. 21st, 2011; beginning at 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

We are asking our community once again to help us provide free chili and soup to those in the community at no charge. We need help collecting bowls, cups, plates, napkins, spoons, and canned goods; vegetables, beans, tomatoes, and chili mix. You will find a box in Jasper Foodway where you are able to donate any type of goods. This event is free and everyone in our community is invited. If you have any questions or would like to help in any way you can contact Leslie Carter at 386-303-1046 or by email lesliecarter@windstream.net.

AGENDA BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

Room 112 - Courthouse 207 Northeast First Street
Jasper, Florida

MEETING DATE: December 6, 2011

THE AGENDA ITEMS LISTED BY NUMBER WILL BE TAKEN IN ORDER FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING REGARDLESS OF TIME. HOWEVER, THE TIME CERTAIN ITEMS LISTED WITH SPECIFIC TIMES WILL COMMENCE AT THE SPECIFIED TIME.

LISTED ITEMS

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - UNAGENDAED APPEARANCES (*)
CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL
REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND REQUESTS
SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING
RECREATION CENTER LIGHT REPAIR
DISCUSSION OF HOSPITAL PROPERTY
RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED LOCATION OF SUWANNEE COUNTY LANDFILL
WHITE SPRINGS LIBRARY PROJECT
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED PENALTIES FOR METAL THIEVES
APPROVE BILLS
CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
ADJOURN

TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

9:00 A.M. - CALL TO ORDER - INVOCATION - PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
9:05 A.M. - 2010 CDBG GRANT PROGRAM UPDATES AND REQUESTS
9:10 A.M. - LAND USE AND SHIP PROGRAM UPDATES AND REQUESTS
9:15 A.M. - COUNTY ROAD PROJECTS - STATUS REPORT AND REQUESTS

9:20 A.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - ROAD CLOSING - PART OR PORTION OF NW 30TH AVENUE, IN

SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 11 EAST

9:25 A.M. - PUBLIC HEARING (Continuation) - SP 11-01 SPECIAL PERMIT FOR TEMPORARY USE

GLENN RICHARDS

DUE TO PUBLICATION DEADLINE, THIS AGENDA MAY NOT CONTAIN ALL MATTERS BEFORE THE BOARD. A COMPLETE COPY OF THE AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED AFTER 1:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011 FROM THE OFFICE OF CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT, COURTHOUSE, JASPER, FLORIDA.

Persons appearing before the Board are requested, if possible, to submit in writing the subject matter of their appearance before the Board not later than Tuesday prior to the Board Meeting the following Tuesday.

(*) NOTICE: Persons appearing before the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, not having given notice in time to be included and shown on the Agenda, and desiring to make a presentation, will be limited to five (5) minutes, in the interest of meeting time. The Board of County Commissioners will hear and listen to persons appearing whose subject has not been shown on the agenda; however, action by the Board on any such matter can only be taken upon determination of an emergency situation. Any identifiable group of three (3) persons or more shall be limited to a total of ten (10) minutes per topic.

In accordance with Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, notice is given that if any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board, agency or commission, with respect to proceedings and that, for such purpose, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

NOTIFICATION: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT, ROOM 106, 207 NORTHEAST FIRST STREET, JASPER, FLORIDA, TELEPHONE (386) 792-1288, NOT LATER THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE PROCEEDINGS. IF HEARING IMPAIRED, TDD (386) 792-0857.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011 AT 6:00 P.M.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
CONSENT AGENDA

December 6, 2011

1) MINUTES - APPROVE:

A) November 15, 2011 - Regular Session

2) DEPARTMENT HEADS - INFORMATION ITEMS:

3) DEPARTMENT HEADS - ACTION ITEMS:

CITY OF JASPER ELECTION NOTICE

The City of Jasper will hold an Election for City Council seats representing Districts 2, 3 & 4 on Tuesday, March 6, 2012.

Candidates interested must pick up their packets in person in order to receive filing instructions and information from Jennifer Pomeroy, City Clerk at City Hall.

Packets will be available on Thursday, December 8, 2011.

Qualifying period will end at Noon on Thursday, January 5, 2012.

OPINION

Should the rich be condemned?

Thomas Edison invented the incandescent bulb, the phonograph, the DC motor and other items in everyday use and became wealthy by doing so. Thomas Watson founded IBM and became rich through his company's contribution to the computation revolution. Lloyd Conover, while in the employ of Pfizer, created the antibiotic tetracycline. Though Edison, Watson, Conover and Pfizer became wealthy, whatever wealth they received pales in comparison with the extraordinary benefits received by ordinary people. Billions of people benefited from safe and efficient lighting. Billions more were the ultimate beneficiaries of the computer, and untold billions benefited from healthier lives gained from access to tetracycline.

President Barack Obama, in stoking up class warfare, said, "I do

think at a certain point you've made enough money." This is lunacy. Andrew Carnegie's steel empire produced the raw materials that built the physical infrastructure of the United States. Bill Gates co-founded Microsoft and produced software products that aided the computer revolution. But Carnegie had amassed quite a fortune long before he built Carnegie Steel Co., and Gates had quite a fortune by 1990. Had they the mind of our president, we would have lost much of their contributions, because they had already "made enough money."

Class warfare thrives on ignorance about the sources of income. Listening

to some of the talk about income differences, one would think that there's a pile of money meant to be shared equally among Americans. Rich people got to the pile first and greedily took an unfair share. Justice requires that they "give back." Or, some people talk about unequal income distribution as if there



A MINORITY VIEW
 © 2011 Creators Syndicate
BY WALTER WILLIAMS

were a dealer of dollars. The reason some people have millions or billions of dollars while others have very few is the dollar dealer is a racist, sexist, a multinationalist or just plain

basketball and so can LeBron James, but would the Miami Heat pay me anything close to the \$43 million they pay him? If not, why not? I think it has to do with the discriminating tastes of basketball fans who pay \$100 or more to watch the game. If the Miami Heat hired me, they would have to pay fans to watch.

Stubborn ignorance sees capitalism as benefiting only the rich, but the evidence refutes that. The rich have always been able to afford entertainment; it was the development and marketing of radio and television that made entertainment accessible to the common man. The rich have never had the drudgery of washing and ironing clothing, beating out carpets or waxing floors. The mass production of washing machines, wash-and-wear clothing, vacuum cleaners and no-wax floors spared the common man this drudgery. At one time, only the rich could afford automobiles, telephones and computers. Now all but a small percentage of Americans enjoy these goods.

The prospects are dim for a society that makes mascots out of the unproductive and condemns the productive.

Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University. To find out more about Walter E. Williams and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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 E-mail address: jaspernews1@windstream.net

Myra ReganPublisher
 Jeff WatersEditor
 Joyce Marie TaylorReporter
 Louise SheddanAdministrative Assistant

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Letter to the editor and Article Policy

Letters to the editor and news articles can be mailed, FAXed or dropped off at the news office located in the Bank of America Building, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. till 12 noon.

Letters to the Editor should be typed, double-spaced if possible, brief and to the point, approximately 150 to 200 words or less. Not all letters are published. **To be considered for publication Letters to the Editor must be signed, include the writer's address and phone number, and in the Jasper News' office on Friday before noon.**

News Releases, 400 or less words, should be typed, double-spaced if possible, brief and to the point. Not all articles are published.

Letters and articles may be edited to fit available space. Well written letters/articles require less editing.

To mail your letter/article, send it to: The Jasper News, 105 NE 2nd Ave., Jasper, FL 32052 or FAX it to: 386-792-3009.

Accreditation team invites public comments about FWC

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is seeking reaccreditation from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA), and members of the public are invited to offer comments.

A team of CFA assessors will arrive Dec. 13 to examine all aspects of the FWC's policies and procedures, management, operations and support services, Col. Jim Brown, director of the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement announced. The FWC has to comply with approximately 213 standards to receive reaccreditation status.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency members and the general public are invited to offer comments to the assessment team. Comments must address the agency's ability to comply with CFA standards and be submitted in writing to the CFA at P.O. Box 1489,

Tallahassee, FL 32302, or info@flaccreditation.org.

A copy of the standards is available by contacting Katie Purcell, public information coordinator for the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement, at 850-617-9521.

"The CFA assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from other accredited Florida law enforcement agencies," said Capt. Dean Kelly, the FWC's accreditation manager.

The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals and visit offices and other places where compliance can be observed.

If the CFA determines the FWC has complied with the appropriate standards, the reaccreditation will be active for three years. This voluntary process is a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

Hamilton County, Florida (the "County") hereby provides notice, pursuant to section 197.3632(3)(a), Florida Statutes, of its intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem assessments to be levied within the unincorporated area of the County, for the cost of providing solid waste services and other municipal services and purposes, such as, but not limited to, fire protection services, road maintenance services, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS), under Section 125.271, Florida Statutes, as provided and allowed under the second sentence of Section 9(b), Article VII of the Constitution of Florida, and Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, commencing for the Fiscal Year beginning on October 1, 2011. The County will consider the adoption of a resolution electing to use the uniform method of collecting such assessments authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, at a public hearing to be held at **7:00 P.M.** on Tuesday, December 27, 2011, in the Board Room (Room 112) Hamilton County Court House, 207 N.E. First Street, Jasper, Florida 32052. Such resolution will state the need for the levy and will contain a legal description of the boundaries of the real property subject to the levy. Copies of the proposed form of resolution, which contains the legal description of the boundaries of the real property subject to the levy, being the unincorporated area of the County, are on file at the Office of the Clerk of Circuit Court, Room 106, Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 N.E. First Street, Jasper, Florida 32052. All interested persons are invited to attend.

In the event any person decides to appeal any decision by the County with respect to any matter relating to the consideration of the resolution at the above-referenced public hearing, a record of the proceeding may be needed, and in such an event, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the public hearing is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact Hamilton County at (386) 792-1288, 7 days prior to the date of the hearing. This notice of intent to use the uniform method for collecting such assessment shall be published in The Jasper News, a newspaper of general circulation within the County, for four (4) consecutive weeks preceding the above-referenced public hearing.

DATED this **15th** day of November, 2011.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

709100dw

NOTICE

TAX IMPACT OF VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD

Hamilton County Tax Year **2011**

Members of the Board

Honorable	Lewis Vaughn	Board of County Commissioners, District No.	3
Honorable	Buster Oxendine	Board of County Commissioners, District No.	5
Honorable	Damon Deas	School Board, District No.	1
Citizen Member	Greg Taylor	Business owner within the school district	
Citizen Member	William H. Hunter	Homestead property owner	

The Value Adjustment Board (VAB) meets each year to hear petitions and make decisions relating to property tax assessments, exemptions, classifications, and tax deferrals.

Summary of Year's Actions

Type of Property	Number of Parcels					Reduction in County Taxable Value Due to Board Actions	Shift in Taxes Due to Board Actions
	Exemptions		Assessments*		Both		
	Granted	Requested	Reduced	Requested			
Residential	0	0	0	0	0	\$ 0	\$ 0.00
Commercial	0	0	0	0	1	\$ 0	\$ 0.00
Industrial and miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	\$ 0	\$ 0.00
Agricultural or classified use	0	0	0	0	0	\$ 0	\$ 0.00
High-water recharge	0	0	0	0	0	\$ 0	\$ 0.00
Historic commercial or nonprofit	0	0	0	0	0	\$ 0	\$ 0.00
Business machinery and equipment	0	0	0	0	5	\$ 0	\$ 0.00
Vacant lots and acreage	0	0	0	0	0	\$ 0	\$ 0.00
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	6	\$ 0	\$ 0.00

All values should be county taxable values. School and other taxing authority values may differ.
 *Include transfer of assessment difference (portability) requests.

If you have a question about these actions, contact the Chair or the Clerk of the Value Adjustment Board.

Chair's name	Lewis Vaughn	Phone	386-792-1288	ext.
Clerk's name	Greg Godwin	Phone	386-792-1288	ext.

709280lv

Obituary



Charlie Hicks Jr.
Aug. 7, 1936 -
Nov. 20, 2011

Mr. Charlie Hicks Jr., better known as "Sport", a resident of White Springs, passed away Nov. 20, 2011 at his home.

Mr. Charlie Hicks Jr., "Sport", is survived by his wife, Mrs. Martha Ann Hicks and grandchildren; four sisters: Agnes Washington, Jan-nie Rentz, Evelyn Strozier and Juanita Kelly; one aunt Mrs. Ester Lee Reese and many other close relatives and friends.

Funeral services for Mr. Charlie Hicks Jr. will be Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011 at 11 a.m. at the New Jerusalem Baptist Church in White Springs, Florida. Viewing and visitation for family and friends will be Friday, Nov. 25, 2011 at the New Jerusalem Baptist Church in White Springs, Florida from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Burial will be in the Swift Creek Cemetery in White Springs, Florida.

D.M. Udell Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements. D.M. Udell Funeral Home serving Suwannee, Hamilton, Columbia and other surrounding counties with the best professional services. Call D.M. Udell and Sons at 386-362-4189 or cell at 386-209-0223.

Owen Hinton Jr.
Oct. 28, 1929 -
Nov. 14, 2011

Owen Hinton Jr., 82, of Jasper, Fla. passed away Monday, Nov. 14, 2011, at Haven Hospice in Lake City, Fla. Mr. Hinton was born on Oct. 28, 1929 in Jacksonville, Fla. to the late Dr. Owen, Sr. and Cora Peaster Hinton. He graduated from Boy's Catholic High School in North Augusta, S.C. He served 4-1/2 years in the U.S. Navy. He was awarded

a scholarship to study at the National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Mr. Hinton earned his bachelor of science degree in math and science and his master in administration from Valdosta State College. He began his career in education teaching in Clyattville, Ga. He later taught at North Hamilton Elementary School for many years and then served as principal there for 11 years. In 1984, Mr. Hinton was elected Hamilton County Superintendent of Schools and served in that capacity for eight years until his retirement in 1992. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Lorrie Hinton Joeris. Survivors include Sybil Strickland Hinton, his wife of 56 years; two sons, Owen Hinton, III and James C. Hinton (Ann) of Jasper; four grandchildren, Leeann Hinton Combass (Chris), James C. Hinton Jr. (Brandie), Westen Joeris, and Elizabeth Joeris of Jasper; two brothers James H. Hinton (Elsie) of North Augusta, S.C., and David Hinton (Christine) of Carrabelle, Florida; five great grandsons, Jackson Combass, Conner Hinton, Reed Hinton, Gavin Combass and Karson Hinton. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, Nov. 17 at North Hamilton Elementary auditorium with Pastor Jimmy Deas and Rev. Steve Shaw officiating. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery with military honors.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hamilton County Public School Foundation, 4280 NW CR 152, Jasper, FL 32052 or Haven Hospice, 6037 West US Hwy 90, Lake City, FL 32055

Harry T. Reid Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Thank You

A special thank you to Laddie, and also Bill Trinder, who assisted me with all arrangements for Earl's funeral at St. Theresa and all the firemen who acted as pall bearers and stood by at the viewing. We are small in number but unique in our love of God and country. God bless each and every one of you.

Margaret A. McDonald

Heart Matters

Happy Thanksgiving



By Angie Land

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope this Thursday finds your table surrounded by people you love and piled high with wonderful dishes that you enjoy...but most of all, I hope that you take the time to be thankful. In Webster's dictionary, the word "thankful" is defined as "conscious of benefit received" and "expressive of thanks." Those two definitions taken literally could be the ingredients for our most blessed Thanksgiving Day ever.

"Being conscious of benefits received" too often gets left out of our busy lives. Daily we rush here and there, doing this and that, and while we are quick to complain when things don't go our way...rarely do we stop and realize the benefit of so much that is going right! This even penetrates our closest relationships...how often we take the love and concern of others for granted, but how quick

we are to point out their faults! As I think about this phenomenon, it occurs to me that our busy lifestyles might just be the catalyst for so much of our ungratefulness. In Psalm 46:10, the Bible instructs us to "Be still and know that I am God." Too often watching television seems to be the only activity we can get still for, instead of intentionally stopping to recognize the benefits we have received.

The second part of the definition is to be "expressive of thanks"...that means when you are thankful, don't keep it to yourself! In 1863, in spite of the Civil War raging in America, President Abraham Lincoln became conscious of the benefits afforded our country even during this dark time and invited the American people to join him in an expression of thanks. The following is an excerpt of his proclamation:

"The year that is drawing towards its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is

habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict...No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens..."

What a powerful message and solemn reminder! Our country, as

well as our personal lives, continues to suffer its share of struggles, but we have also been greatly blessed. How should we express our gratitude? As you sit around the table on Thanksgiving Day, why not share what God has done for you this year...His blessings for which you are thankful. In the process, be sure to share with those present why you are thankful for them. In Psalm 96, the psalmist sings out his praises to God, overwhelmed by all that God has done. Verse 7 says to "Ascribe (meaning to give credit) to the Lord "O families of nations..." The best testimonies come out of hearts full of appreciation for what God has done, and we all could use a healthy dose...because our hearts matter!

Give Thanks!
Angie

Heart Matters is a weekly column written by Angie Land, Director of the Family Life Ministries of the Lafayette Baptist Association, where she teaches bible studies, leads marriage and family conferences and offers biblical counseling to individuals, couples and families. Contact Angie with questions or comments at [HYPERLINK "mailto:angieland3@windstream.net"](mailto:angieland3@windstream.net) angieland3@windstream.net

It's Christmas in the Village with Village Church Annual Cantata



The Village Church at Advent Christian Village in Dowling Park, Florida will present its annual Christmas Cantata on Saturday evening, Dec. 10 at

6:30 p.m., Sunday morning, Dec. 11 at 10 a.m. and Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. Tickets for this year's program, "Searching For A King...Finding

A Savior" can be obtained at no cost for the Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon performances by calling the church office at (386) 658-5344. Tickets are

not required for the Sunday morning performance.

For over 30 years, this musical has drawn people from North Florida and South Georgia. This is an inter-generational event with a cast and production crew of over 75 children, teens, adults and senior adults combining in drama and singing to capture the Christmas story in a fresh and new way each year. A three-octave hand-bell choir is also featured along with trumpets, guitar, percussion, piano and organ.

If you want to begin your Christmas season with an inspirational music and worship experience, please join us. All are welcomed.

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Jasper, FL
386-792-2305
685649swV
CALL LOUISE at 386-792-2487 to place your ad here

Church & Family Go Together

<p>ADVENT CHRISTIAN FIRST ADVENT CHRISTIAN N.W. 15th Avenue Jasper Rev. Wayne Sullivan Sunday Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00 p.m. 644208-F</p>	<p>BAPTIST (Southern) FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH "Where Friends become Family" 207 N.E. 2nd Street, Jasper 792-2658 Pastor: Roger Hutto Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Supper.....6:00 p.m. Children, Youth & Adult Programs.....6:30 p.m. 643869-F</p>	<p>METHODIST FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 405 Central Ave., Jasper, FL Pastor - Dale Ames Phone - 386-792-1122 Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study.....4:45 p.m. Choir Practice.....6:00 p.m. Family Night Dinner 3rd Wednesday Clothes Closet 4th Saturday 1-5pm 644232-F</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 204 N.W. 3rd Avenue, Jasper, 792-2258 Pastor: Alexandria Hedrick SUNDAY Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Worship Service.....11:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY Prayer in Fellowship Hall.....9:00 a.m. Choir Practice.....7:00 p.m. 644251-F</p>
<p>BAPTIST (Southern) NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH SR 6 West, 6592 NW 48th St., Jennings, FL 32053 938-5611 Pastor: Jeff Cordero Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship, Youth Happening, RA's, GA's.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Supper.....6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting, Discipleship class for adults, Youth activities, Children's Choirs.....6:30 p.m. Van pick-up upon request 644209-F</p>	<p>CATHOLIC CHURCH ST. THERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH Three miles north of Jasper U.S. 41 P.O. Box 890, Jasper, FL 32052 Rectory U.S. 90 E., Live Oak, FL (386) 364-1108 Saturday MASS 4:00 p.m. 644211-F</p>	<p>NON-DENOMINATIONAL BURNHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH 4520 NW CR 146, Jennings, FL 32053 938-1265 Pastor: Johnny Brown Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Evening Service.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Kids' Program.....6:15 p.m. 644236-F</p>	<p>CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH OF CHRIST N.W. 3rd St., Jasper Bldg.: 792-2277 Sunday Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m. Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....6:00 p.m. 644212-F</p>

To list your church in our church directory, please call Louise at 1-800-525-4182
644257-F

Building On FAITH

Norris Notes

By Lillian Norris

The Thanksgiving week rushed in on me, have to get my news to you in early, usually have until Tuesday morning, but need to get it in on Monday for this week. Hope all of you are ready for the holiday weekend, we all really have so much for which to be thankful, the past couple of years have been a big transition for me, and I am thankful for all who helped me adjust to the many changes in my life, my family and friends who have seen me through the changes, and to God who has directed and led my path.

Many of you have been through it with me and that has made it possible for me to be content

Word from Lesleigh Butts at 1st United Methodist Church,

Jasper that the free spaghetti meal served on Saturday, was a success, had a good crowd and the Scouts did a great job. Also, the Clothes Closet will be open this coming Saturday, 1 - 5 p.m., clothes for all, at no charge, although they take donations that go to missions it is not mandatory to donate. We will keep you posted, although it is noted elsewhere in the Jasper News.

The Clothes Closet will be open the 3rd Saturday in December, which is Dec.17, usual hours 1-5 p.m.

I Will not be able to give a report on the Relay For Life meeting at the Civic Center on Monday evening but will have it next week.

It is already in full swing and we will be bringing you news every week. Are You Ready to Relay? It will be April before we know it.

With all the holidays and other things going

on between now and then, we will still remember those who have dealt with cancer in any way.

Thanks also to the Jasper News for the opportunity to carry on with trying to bring some news to you, this means so much to me, the paper has a special place in my heart, I missed it so much when I was unable to be in contact with you during those few months and when some of you told me you were glad I was back, you made me very happy.

NOW, have a great and Happy Thanksgiving, each of us can find many things for which to be thankful.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have lost loved ones, who have serious illness or unhappiness.

Lillian Norris 386-792-2151
NORRIS NOTES
norrilstw@windstream.net

FWC shares black bear conservation success, solicits feedback on new bear management plan

After dwindling to as few as 300 bears in the 1970s, the Florida black bear population has rebounded to an estimated 3,000 bears today. Bears and their cubs roam forests and swamps from Eglin Air Force Base in the Panhandle to Ocala National Forest in the state's midsection and Big Cypress National Preserve in Southwest Florida.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), which worked with its partners to increase the state's black bear population, today released a new draft management plan for the bear and is asking for public input. Both a summary of the public feedback and the draft plan will go before the Commission at its February 2012 meeting.

"The Florida black bear is truly a conservation success story. Bear populations have clearly benefited from broad public support and diligent conservation efforts across Florida, particularly in those communities where black bears have become more common," said FWC Executive Director Nick Wiley. "We welcome the public's thoughts on how to best continue our bear conservation efforts in the future, as both our human and bear populations expand."

The goal of the draft management plan is to "maintain sustainable black bear populations in suitable habitats throughout Florida for the benefit of the species and people." It includes measurable objectives regarding bear populations, habitat, citizen education and outreach, and human-bear conflicts.

The Florida black bear currently does not meet the criteria of being at high risk of extinction, based on the FWC's Biological Status Review on the species completed in early 2011. When a bear management plan is approved, the bear will no longer be on the state's list of threatened species. A similar process was followed for the bald eagle, which is no longer listed as a state threatened species but is carefully managed through specific conservation measures established under an FWC management plan.

The FWC is seeking public input on the draft

bear management plan. The open process will include four public workshops: Bristol (Nov. 22), Naples (Nov. 29), Deland (Dec. 6), and Gainesville (Dec. 13). Go to MyFWC.com/Bear to access workshop details, read the plan and comment online.

The draft bear management plan includes:

§ Establishment of seven bear management units (BMUs) to provide localized bear management and public involvement appropriate to the area, from about 1,000 bears in the Central BMU, which includes Ocala National Forest, to about 20 bears in the Big Bend BMU, which includes Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge.

§ A section on the history of bear hunting in Florida. A bear hunt is not proposed in the plan. Currently, Florida black bears may not be hunted, harmed or killed, and similar prohibitions would continue under a rule proposed in the plan.

§ Creation of "Bear Smart Communities" in areas of high bear activity. Human-bear conflicts are on the rise in Florida. In 2010, the FWC received more than 4,000 calls from citizens about bears. In the past 10 years, more than half of those calls were related to bears rummaging through garbage. A "Bear Smart Community" would involve residents, local governments, businesses and schools in changing people's behaviors to reduce human-bear conflicts.

"People's involvement in conserving bears is critical," Wiley said. "For example, employees at the U.S. Air Force's Hurlburt Field have an active bear education program for base residents and recently acquired hundreds of bear-proof garbage cans. Those efforts dramatically reduced the number of bears wandering into their neighborhoods."

Black bears are generally shy and nonaggressive toward humans. But bears can smell food from more than a mile away and so are tempted

to leave forests and swamps to dine on garbage and pet food that is left outdoors and unsecured.

The diet of Florida black bears is mostly vegetarian, with 15 percent insects, and 5 percent animal matter. The bear's menu includes saw palmetto, acorns, ferns, blackberries, bees, alligator eggs, armadillo and opossum. Male bears typically weigh between 250 and 400 pounds; females are smaller, weighing 125 to 250 pounds. At birth, a bear cub is about the size of a can of soda and weighs less than a pound.

Conservation of Florida wildlife habitats on both public and privately owned lands helped ensure the rebounding bear population had room to grow. However, expected future loss of large forests is the major long-term challenge to maintaining black bears in a growing state of nearly 19 million people. The adult male black bear rambles over a 60,000-acre range; the female's range is 15,000 acres. The more immediate danger to a black bear is crossing the road. Being hit by a car or truck is the major cause of known bear deaths in the state, with 158 bears killed or euthanized after being injured on highways in 2010.

The Florida black bear is among the 62 wildlife species that soon will join the list of Florida species, like the bald eagle, already under an FWC management plan. Florida's new threatened species conservation model requires that management plans be created for all species that have been state-listed and then updated at specified intervals. Those management plans give citizens an active role in Florida's efforts to conserve its diverse wildlife for future generations.

Suggestions on revising the bear plan will be accepted online through Jan. 10, 2012, at MyFWC.com/Bear, where more information also is available on the Florida black bear.

Healthy Living

By Beth Harris, CSCS
bethharrisfitness@gmail.com

Happy Thanksgiving

Nineteen years ago in my infinite 10-year-old wisdom, I decided to create a Happy Thanksgiving welcome packet for each of my family. Armed with borrowed Thanksgiving coloring sheets and crosswords I crept into Judge Bemby's vault that held the copying machine. When Mrs. Sandra and my mother down the hall in Judge Peach's office weren't looking the printing began. Very proud of myself I lovingly distributed my packet with the last page including a poem to seal the deal. The poem read:

Turkey dressing and pea stew, so much food I don't know what to do.

Children run, scream, and play, but who started this wonderfully day.

Pilgrims, Indians, Redskins, White, that's the day they didn't fight.

They ate in peace, not to kill, everyone of their own free will.

Today we celebrate this wonderful time people sing and bells chime

Yes, it was time to celebrate when nice people sat and ate

So on Thanksgiving when you start to play

Sit and remember the Pilgrims, Indi-

ans and this wonderful day.

A few years ago Judge Peach found this very packet and returned it to my mom, thinking it would be something I'd like to keep. I have very fond memories of the Judge and his family over the 22 years my mom worked for him. Like the time a fallen tree tore a hole in the side of our house and he appeared bearing pizza and bug spray. Or every Halloween the Judge's house had to be the first house we visited, a practice continued with my son to this day.

Throughout life we have many families. Our given families, and the families we assemble and create throughout our journeys. These people understand us and relate to us in some way, and though we may not be tied to them by blood we must take care of our families wherever we find them.

This Thanksgiving let your circle grow. Love someone who you don't understand; someone of a different race, religion, or creed than your own. As the Wampanoag Indians sat with the Pilgrims that day, they had to know somewhere in their heart of hearts their world was about to change in a major way, which must've been super scary. Yet there they sat.

Herein lies our Thanksgiving lesson. We too are facing a time of radical change in our country, and in our world. Let's sit together, let go of our fears of what lies ahead, uplift each other and give thanks. Remember as the Indians surely did, "what lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters comparing to what lies inside us." ~anonymous

Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way.

~Native American Saying



Jasper First Methodist Church Clothes Closet pushed up

Christmas Eve falls on the regularly scheduled fourth Saturday for the Jasper First Methodist Church Clothes Closet. Therefore, the Clothes Closet has been pushed up and will be open on Dec. 17 from 1 - 5 p.m. There are clothes for the entire family and there is never a charge. We hope you all have a safe and blessed holiday.

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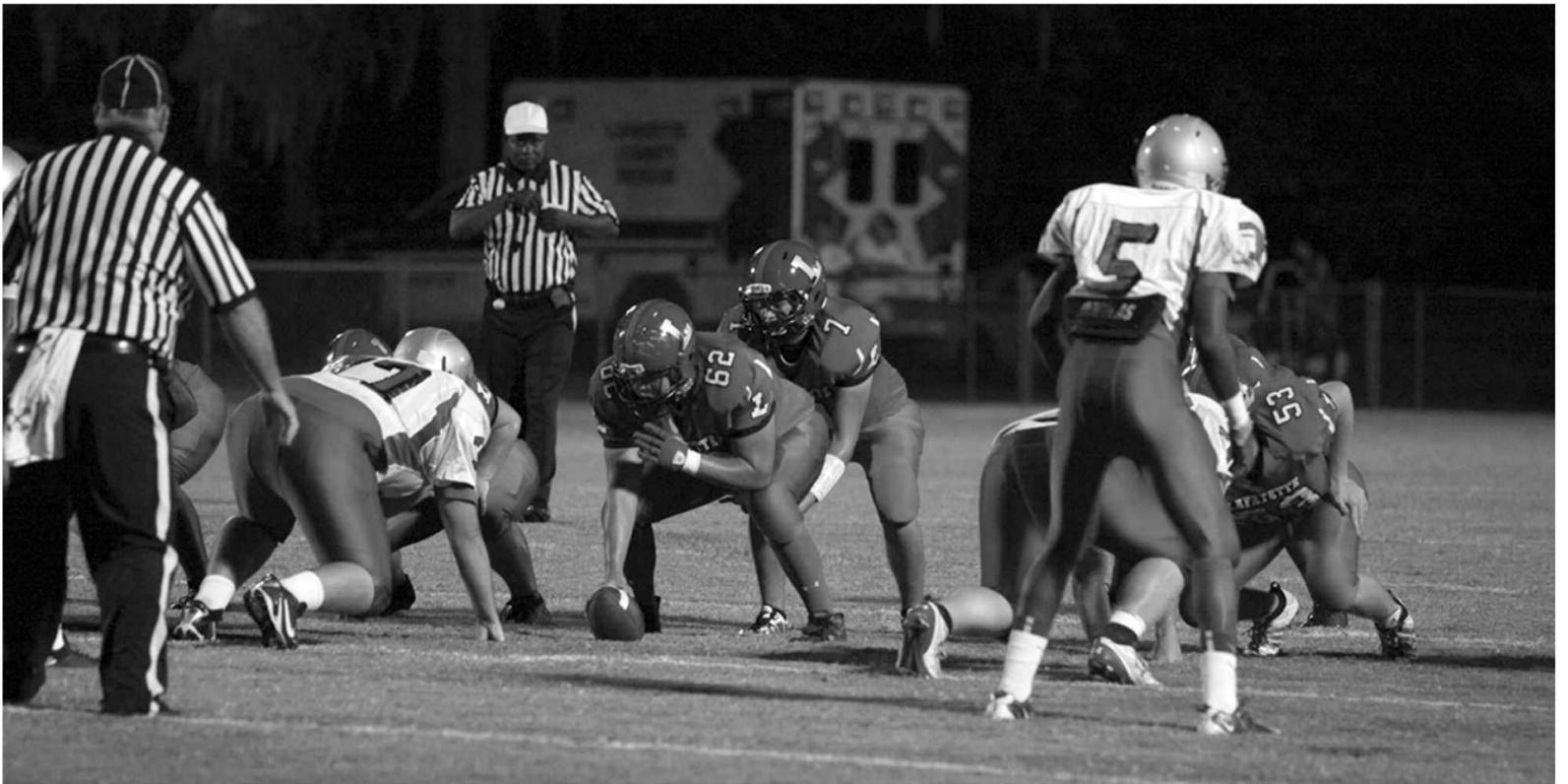


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Sports

A look back at Hamilton County High School football



The Trojans at the line of scrimmage against the Lafayette Hornets.

2011 Schedule

Record: 2-8-0

Sept. 2	vs. Fort White	6-21
Sept. 9	vs. Suwannee	26-51
Sept. 16	@ Bradford	0-21
Sept. 30	@ Dixie County	20-23
Oct. 7	@ Lafayette*	6-13
Oct. 14	vs. Crescent City	50-26
Oct. 21	vs. Branford*	52-34
Oct. 28	vs. The Villages	32-44
Nov. 4	vs. Jefferson	20-42
Nov. 10	@ Yulee	0-56

*denotes district games



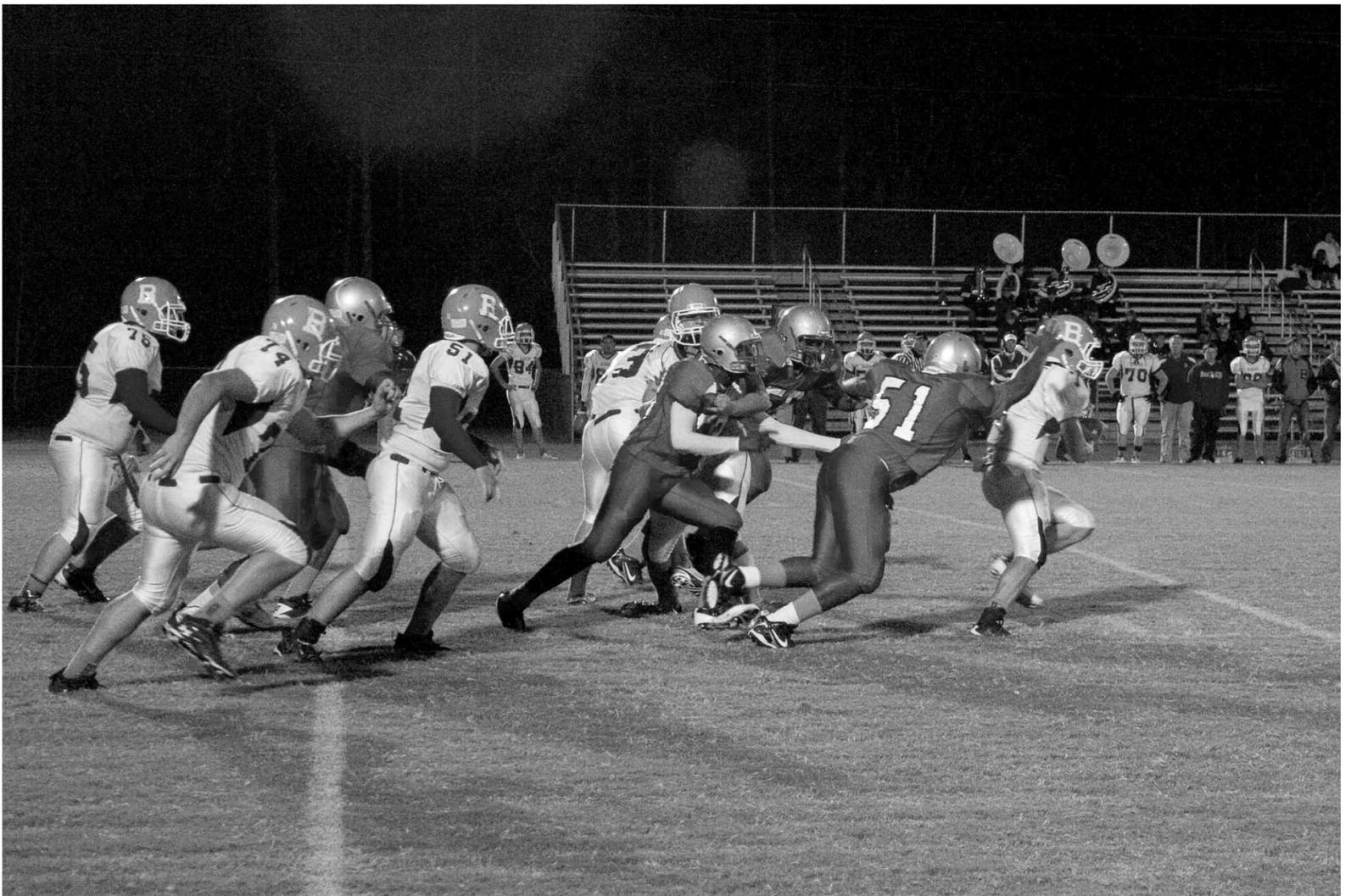
A Trojan runs the ball around some Trojans. - Photos: Jack Howdeshell



A Trojan advances the ball.



A Trojan in action against Branford.



A Trojan takes down a Buccaneer. - Photos: Richard Wright

Arrest Records

Editor's note: The Jasper News prints the entire arrest record each week. If your name appears here and you are later found not guilty or the charges are dropped, we will be happy to make note of this in the newspaper when judicial proof is presented to us by you or the authorities.

The following abbreviations are used below:

DAC - Department of Agriculture Commission
DOA - Department of Agriculture
DOT - Department of Transportation
FDLE - Florida Department of Law Enforcement
FHP - Florida Highway Patrol
FWC - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
HCDF - Hamilton County Drug Task Force
HCSO - Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
ICE - Immigration and Custom Enforcement
JAPD - Jasper Police Department
JNPD - Jennings Police Department
OALE - Office of Agri-

cultural Law Enforcement
P&P - Probation and Parole
SCSO - Suwannee County Sheriff's Office
WSPD - White Springs Police Department

Samuel Edward Christian, 67, PO Box 312, Jennings, FL, trespass. JNPD G. Glover
John Homer Johnson, 42, 750 Alligator Ranch Rd., New Smyrna, FL, hold for Flagler coso fta warrant #. DOA A Stalvey

Daniel Omarjuvae Cooks, 25, 16744 Branch St., White Springs, FL, Assault on LEO, breach of peace, poss drug para., resist w/o violence. WSPD B. Raulerson

Angel Renee Kelley, 28, 5441 Airplane Lane, Valdosta, GA, burglary, criminal mischief. HCSO Lt. Baker

Eric Steven Hainsel, 45, 4204 SE 101st Pl., Jasper, FL, disturbing peace. DTF C. Brownfield

Larry J. Faulkner, 53, 1057 Glen Chase Dr., Lawrenceville, GA, failure to stop for inspection. FDA/OALE J. Edenfield

Kate Agnes Krzemidska, 19, 1336 Camellia Circle, Weston, FL,

DWL/R, hold for Brevard COSO, FTA (dwls/r). HCSO J. Cheshire

Alonso Warren Daniels, 21, 1370 Berry St., Jennings, FL, RWOV. JNPD Glover

Guadalupe Cavazos, 41, 4112 Hamilton Ave., Jennings, FL, No valid DL. JNPD D. Harvey

Johnie Ray Beasley, 49, 1800 Eastwind Rd, Apt. 172, Valdosta, GA, serve weekend. HCSO walk-in.

Shawn Daundra Demps, 25, 5611 153rd Rd., Live Oak, FL, hold for SCSO warrant VOP criminal mischief. HCSO T. Griffin

Ralph Lamar Humphrey, 43, PO Box 617, Jasper, FL, Suwannee county warrant, vop dwls. DTF T. McDaniel

Rakeem Olajuan Marshall, 18, 16967 Mill St., White Springs, FL,

James Danil Wynne, 35, 480 N Blair St., MacClenny, FL, FTA warrant o/c dwls/knowingly. HCSO R. Akins

Jed Martin Pittman, 33, 765 Plum St., Jennings, FL, possession of cocaine, poss of controlled substance

Mike Hammond Johnson, Jr., 21, 2662 NW 6th, Jennings, FL, FTA resisting w/o violence. HCSO T. Griffin



After Thanksgiving feasting comes the loafing

By Rev. James L. Snyder

Why is it on Thanksgiving we give ourselves permission to gorge ourselves to the point of semi-consciousness? The difference between consciousness and semi-consciousness is that with semi-consciousness you feel like you have been run over by a semi-truck.

Of course, a great thing about Thanksgiving is the fabulous dinner spread, surrounded by family and friends. It is truly a time to give thanks to God for the manifold blessings he has showered on us throughout the year. Although there have been a few drought times during the past year, God's showers of blessing always came at the right time.

Thanksgiving Day is for the diet-challenged person. Nothing is more challenging to me than my diet. And of this in particular I am most grateful for Thanksgiving. It is the one day of the year I can toss caution to the wind (which is the only exercise I get on Thanksgiving) and forget my diet carefully supervised by the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

It is not that I take advantage of the situation ... okay, so I do take advantage of the situation. However, that is the glorious aspect of holidays like Thanksgiving. The person, me in particular, can get away with things that the rest of the year would be impossible. And I'm not just thinking of that second piece of pumpkin pie.

The second great thing about Thanksgiving is the day after. The business community refers to this day as Black Friday. They mean, of course, it is a day when they turn their ledger from red to black.

Whoever invented the shopping frenzy associated with the day after Thanksgiving should be congratulated and offered the Nobel Peace Prize. Black Friday in our home is when my

wife and our daughters leave the house early in the morning to spend the entire day shopping and I get the opportunity to black out for the entire day. If I may say so, it is a glorious day of loafing.

The feast like we usually have on Thanksgiving Day requires at least one full day of concentrating and allowing the meal to digest, no matter how long it takes. The older I get the longer it takes my digestive system to complete its work. My philosophy is, don't rush the process.

I'm all for cooperation. I believe this world would get along much better if everybody would just cooperate. I set the example by cooperating with my digestive system for the entire day.

I have found the best way to assist my digestive system is to spend the day loafing. And I have managed to bring loafing to a finely developed art. It has taken years for me to get to this point of expertise. Throughout the years, I have developed the fitness associated with total loafing that should be recorded somewhere.

My expertise in this area is most remarkable for the simple fact that I only get to practice this one day out of the year. I can assure you that one day is intensely devoted to the strenuous activity of loafing.

If you promise not to let this get back to you know who, I do get in an odd day every now and again to practice for this day. Nobody can reach the pinnacle of success I have on this matter without some kind of practice throughout the year. I am completely devoted to my art, as any other artist would be.

In case someone gets the wrong idea about all of this, let me assure you that loafing has certain health benefits. Of course, if I am caught practicing my loafing when my wife has instructed me to do some things around the

house, it has an adverse effect on my health. The key here is to practice loafing when your wife is out of the house shopping the entire day, which is why Black Friday was invented.

It is a proven fact that most of the people in our country today are overworked and totally stressed out by their lives. In spite of all the technology available to us, we are a nation that has forgotten how to rest.

Years ago in our country, when we were more Christian than we are today, we set aside Sunday as the day of rest.

That has completely gone by the wayside as we became a culture of 24/7 activity. The only solution all our experts have come up with is to pop a pill and keep on going.

A friend of mine has a marvelous saying, "Either come apart and rest a while, or you will simply come apart." I like that.

Jesus said something similar. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30 KJV.)

We have learned how to feast and our buffet table is loaded with goodies. Perhaps it would be a good time to take some time to rest and let our soul settle and digest the rich blessings of God.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road. He and his wife, Martha, live in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240, or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church Web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

Rev. Snyder is host of the weekly radio program, Sunday Joy, heard at 9:30 a.m., on WOCA 1370 AM.

Lending a helping hand

Continued From Page 1A

and met in a timely fashion.

"We serve the homeless population of children from all of the schools," Roberts stated. "Any of the schools that have children that we (our program) consider homeless, we service those children as far as school supplies, book bags, clothing from the clothes closet (on campus). We get donations sometimes from Feed the Children, and we have snack packs that we give them, as well."

Hygiene packets are given out once a year and the book bags are given out twice a year, Roberts said.

"As far as their education, if there is a need for books, materials, whatever, we make purchases and get them to the homes and we even tutor if there is a need," said Roberts.

Title X (ten), Part C is a Federal Homeless Education Program that Hamilton County Schools uses to serve the homeless/migrant children in the county. It is a way to bridge the gap between home and school because every child has a right to an education.

According to the Florida Department of Education's website, the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states that children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence are considered homeless. If, due to a loss of housing, a child must live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground, on the street, in abandoned buildings, or doubled-up with relatives or friends, then he/she is eligible to receive services provided under the McKinney-Vento Act.

The program is designed to address the problems homeless children face in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

Johnson said there are 293 students from Hamilton County in the

program right now.

"Migrant services are handled through another district, which is Alachua County," Roberts said. "They're doing our migrant program, but if we have migrant homeless, we do that."

Roberts said they reach out as far as they can to these homeless and migrant students, however it is difficult to meet all their needs.

"It brings you back to the office in tears and you say, 'what can we do? Is there anything we can do?' And then my supervisor, she'll figure out something," said Roberts.

The issue with migrants is that, as their moniker implies, they move around a lot, Roberts explained. Their families go where the agricultural work is, depending on the season.

The federal dollars the school board receives for these children is based on many different factors and timelines, but oftentimes things don't work out as expected.

"Once they get into the program they are certified for three consecutive years, however, if they were to move and come back, then their services start over," Roberts said.

Superintendent Martha Butler said, "What happens to us many times, depending on the weather, we lose our migrants. If they leave before the October FTE (full-time equivalent), we don't get to count them even though we've had them since August. Then they come back after the February FTE, so we lose them all the way around. We'll probably have them five months out of the year, but we don't get any funding for them, so we hope they stay."

Butler said if they stay the school board can work with them and get them a quality education."

Butler also stated that whenever she is out shopping at Walmart, CVS, Target, Old Navy or the dollar stores and

sees a table full of shirts that comply with the new dress code colors, she buys several of them in order to have them on hand to give to any new migrant or homeless students.

"If they come to school and they don't know it (the dress code), we give them five days, but we try to have a shirt there so they can put it on, so they don't feel different," said Butler.

North Hamilton, she said, is a high-need area, as far as the homeless/migrant population. One time, she said, there were about ten pre-k children all living in one room at a hotel with one person babysitting and it was distressing when she learned of it. Because of the high need in North Hamilton County she was able to push a program through so that now at North Hamilton Elementary, they are able to offer free breakfasts for all 460 of their students.

For more information on the homeless/migrant programs for students in Hamilton County, please contact the school board administration office at 386-792-1228.

Fishing associations honor 6 FWC employees for conservation work

Two fishing associations honored six employees of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Wednesday for their efforts to conserve marine life. One is the new head of the FWC's Division of Marine Fisheries Management, and the other five are with the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement.

The Florida Guides Association presented the FWC's Jessica McCawley with its Phil Chapman award at the FWC's commission meeting in Key Largo. The award is given annually to someone who demonstrates a commitment to the conservation of Florida's natural resources.

Before becoming division director in late September, McCawley was administrator of its Analysis and Rulemaking Subsection, analyzing stock assessments and reports, gathering public opinions and creating management options for marine fisheries rule promulgation. She joined the FWC in

2003. McCawley received her B.S. in Marine Biology from Spring Hill College and her M.S. in Marine Science from the University of South Alabama. Her experience includes work with red snapper and artificial reef communities, predator-prey relationships in fish populations, and human dimensions of fisheries management.

The Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association honored five FWC officers who have made significant contributions to apprehend, investigate or deter lobster-trap robbing in the Florida Keys. Bill Kelly, the association's executive director, presented the award to the officers at Wednesday's Commission meeting.

Officers Aaron Smith and Jason Rafter worked several plainclothes details in Marathon. They worked day and night, targeting areas where illegal activity was suspected.

"They made several cases in

which they apprehended individuals with undersized lobster, out of season lobster, speared lobster and wrung lobster tails," Kelly said.

Lt. David Dipre and officers Josh Peters and Bryan Fugate also were recognized. They have also worked plainclothes details to apprehend individuals suspected of trap robbing. They have worked six cases involving trap robbing, possession of undersize lobster and possession of wrung lobster tails. All cases were directly related to the illegal commercial harvest of Florida spiny lobster, and each case led to the apprehension and arrest of the individuals involved.

"All five men consistently do what is necessary to target enforcement when and where it is necessary to prevent the illegal harvest of marine fisheries in the Keys," said Maj. Alfredo Escanio, commander for the FWC's South Region.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Partners with Florida State University and University of Florida to Host Fresh From Florida Sunshine Showdown

Rivalry Between Florida State Seminoles and Florida Gators Branded to Promote Florida Agriculture

Tallahassee, FL – Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam announced today the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has teamed up with two of the state’s top brands – the Florida Gators and Florida State Seminoles – to harness the home team passion associated with the athletics rivalry and direct it towards supporting Florida products. The partnership leverages every game, match and competition between the two teams in 18 sports to promote Fresh From Florida.

The tradition-rich Florida Gators vs. Florida State Seminoles football game will serve as the signature event of this partnership to communicate the importance of all that’s Fresh From Florida to an audience that is uniquely Florida: Gator and Seminole Fans. This year’s matchup of the Florida Gators and Florida State Seminoles football teams will be titled the “Fresh From Florida Sunshine Showdown,” scheduled for November 26 in Gainesville. The Fresh from Florida Sunshine Showdown will highlight the importance of supporting Florida farmers and fisherman and communicate the impact of buying home grown and harvested products from Florida.

“The Fresh From Florida Sunshine Showdown brings two of Florida’s great teams head to head,” said Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam. “As each side cheers for their home team, we’re hopeful they’ll support Florida’s ultimate home team, Florida’s farmers and fishermen.”

Florida’s seafood industry has taken a blow from public misperceptions about the safety of Florida seafood following the Gulf oil spill. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services tests Florida Gulf seafood for the presence of contaminants and results show the seafood is safe. The new Fresh From Florida Sunshine Showdown is an effort to encourage fans to support the local economy and buy Florida seafood and agricultural products.

Throughout the season, head football coaches Jimbo Fisher and Will Muschamp appear in ads reminding fans to look for Fresh from Florida products in grocery stores and ask for them in restaurants. These ads, currently airing statewide on television and radio, encourage viewers and listeners to support Florida’s economy by buying Florida grown and harvested products.

To view advertisements featuring Fisher and Muschamp, visit: <http://www.myfloridagulfSAFE.com/multimedia/>

“Not that the rivalry between FSU and Florida needs anything else to raise the excitement level, but we are happy to be able to tie it in to something as important as the seafood industry and agriculture in the state of Florida,” said Randy Spetman, director of athletics at Florida State University. “We all live here or have strong ties here and it is important that we pull together to help support the farmers and merchants within our state.”

“We’re proud to do whatever we can to help our economy here in Florida and remind fans of the importance of supporting these great industries,” said University of Florida Director of Athletics Jeremy Foley. “We’re excited to participate and tie this great rivalry to a message that is important to all of us.”

Throughout the year, head men’s basketball coaches Billy Donovan and Leonard Hamilton will echo the call to Floridians to support Fresh From Florida. Teams’ popular web sites www.gatorzone.com and www.seminoles.com offer seasonal recipes and information on availability of fruits, vegetables and seafood for each time of year. Messaging will remind fans while it’s their team’s plan to win on the field, fans can help all Floridians win by buying Fresh from Florida.

Agriculture is a \$100 billion industry in Florida. In this difficult economic

environment, it is important for Floridians to support their neighbors and communities by buying locally-grown and harvested products, especially Florida seafood.

For more information about the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, visit www.FreshFromFlorida.com or follow Commissioner Putnam on Facebook, Twitter, or Google+.

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TOP 25 EVENTS



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