

**INSIDE**

Find something special for that someone on your list



# Hamilton beats Lafayette, falls to Suwannee

SPORTS, PAGE 7A



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# The Jasper News

Today's Weather

High 78° F  
Low 53° F  
Precip: 0%



Mainly sunny. High 78F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 0%. For up to the minute weather go to www.nflaonline.com.

141st YEAR, NUMBER 1

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011

2 SECTIONS 24 PAGES

50¢

## Two arrested in meth bust

One pound of crystal meth, en route to Jennings, seized

Staff  
Jasper News &  
The Valdosta Daily Times

About \$170,000 worth of crystal meth was nabbed Sunday morning following a joint narcotic investigation between the Hamilton and Echols county sheriff's offices.

About one pound of crystal methamphetamine (ICE) was en route from Gainesville, Ga. to Statenville, Ga./Jennings, Fla. area. Hamilton County Sheriff Harrell Reid and Echols County Sheriff Randy Courson, along with narcotics officers from Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, intercepted a black Dodge pickup truck at the city park on Barry Street in Jennings around 9:07 a.m.

The driver was observed in a drug transaction



Hamilton County Sheriff Harrell Reid, left, and Echols County Sheriff Randy Courson, hold up a bag of crystal methamphetamine that was seized Sunday. - Courtesy photo

SEE TWO, PAGE 8A

## Careless driving leads to fiery crash in Hamilton County

By Joyce Marie Taylor  
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

Two people sustained minor injuries in a fiery vehicle crash in Hamilton County Tuesday afternoon on I-75 northbound, one half mile north of SR 6, that left over \$130,000 in damages to the vehicles, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

At 1 p.m. on Dec. 13, Danny Wayne Raymond, 59, Bell, was traveling north on I-75 in a 2009 Kenworth tractor trailer in the outside lane approaching the rear of a 1997 highway paint-stripping truck driven by Paris Anto Kimble, 45, Lake City, reports show.

SEE CARELESS, PAGE 8A

# Breakfast with Santa a hit

By Joyce Marie Taylor  
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

White Springs Police Department sponsored their annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 10 at Nelly Bly's Restaurant inside Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park.

Chief of Police Kenneth Brookins and Mayor Helen Miller, along with Dennis Price and the Special Events Committee were on hand to welcome more than 50 White Springs youngsters and their parents and grandparents to a breakfast of pancakes and sausage, and a visit with Santa and his elves.

Volunteers arrived early to fire up five pancake griddles in anticipation of a large crowd. The doors opened at 10 a.m. and everyone filed inside to partake of the delicious meal.

"This was a local effort for local kids," Miller



Both young and old children received gifts from Santa. See more photos next week. - Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

SEE BREAKFAST, PAGE 8A

## Bringing people together by design

Carver neighborhood part of U.F. 'New Florida Community' project

By Joyce Marie Taylor

A landscape architecture assistant professor and 14 of his students from the University of Florida held an open house in White Springs recently to showcase designs and answer questions regarding the proposed revitalization of the Carver neighborhood.

"Working with the community is very important to us," Kevin Thompson said. "The

SEE CARVER, PAGE 8A

## South Hamilton Elementary School principal expounds on curriculum



Maceo Howell  
- Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

*Editor's note: In order to give you a better sense of how our schools are structured, the Jasper News will feature a questionnaire about a different school each week for five weeks. The schools are Hamilton County High School, Central*

Hamilton Elementary, North Hamilton Elementary, South Hamilton Elementary and Greenwood. Reporter Joyce Marie Taylor sent a list of questions to the principal of each public school in Hamilton County and we are publishing the responses. The first school, Central Hamilton Elementary, was published on Nov. 3. You can read the interview by going to our website and searching "CHE principal expounds on curriculum." The following is the interview with South Hamilton Elementary School Principal Maceo Howell Jr. This is the first school year as principal at SHE for Howell.

JN: What is your school's philosophy?  
MH: The South Hamilton Elementary School family's

purpose is to enrich our students' lives through academics and life experiences so that each of them may achieve their greatest potential ensuring opportunity for future success. We strive to accomplish this goal by providing a positive environment for students to achieve the high expectations set for them through implementing researched based curriculum, analyzing student data, and promoting a shared educational responsibility with our students and parents.

JN: What is the school's approach to discipline?

MH: Discipline begins in the home, which carries over into the classroom. Every effort is made to ensure both behavior and academic expectations are clearly stated in an understandable format to our students,

parents, and teachers. Administration considers the whole child and situation when addressing undesirable behaviors. Being that we serve students from age 3 years to 11+ years, we feel it is important to guide students in making good decisions and thinking out consequences of their actions, both good and bad.

JN: How do teachers and staff encourage student progress toward meeting state standards?

MH: Teachers at South Hamilton Elementary are continuously progress-monitoring student achievement through a variety of methods. The STAR reading and math assessments provide students a computer based assessment that tracks stu-

SEE SHE, PAGE 11A

## Primary jobs in area come from healthcare field, says one expert

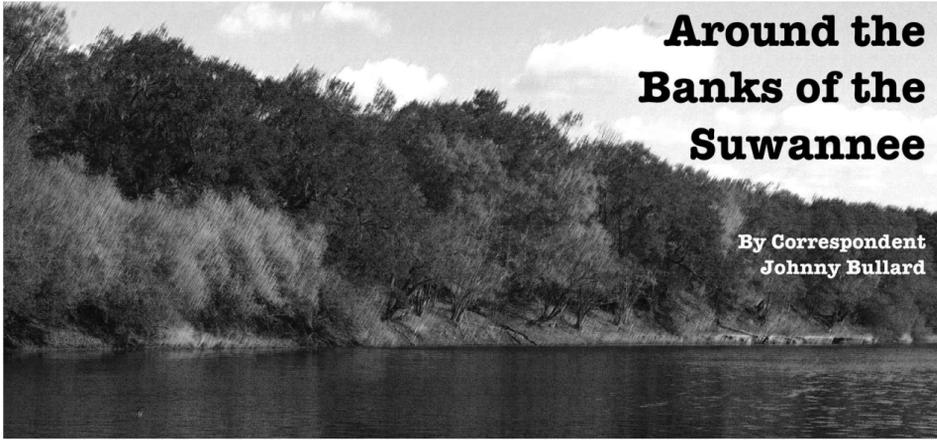
By Joyce Marie Taylor  
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

Phillip Wilkerson from North Florida Rural Healthcare Workforce Development Network has been making the rounds at commission meetings in Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and

SEE PRIMARY, PAGE 11A



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## Around the Banks of the Suwannee

By Correspondent  
Johnny Bullard

The Christmas season is upon us, and, for many, it is a time of "hustle and bustle". Many people are very busy this time of year with an array of social obligations.

During this festive Yuletide, I am thinking about the wonderful area in which we live. Some of my most precious memories are wrapped up in the bounties of nature with which our beloved Suwannee River Valley is blessed. I have spent a lot of time in the woods along the upper Suwannee, especially this time of year, breaking pine boughs, magnolia branches and clipping holly to "deck the halls" at the farm and at home. I still love "decking the halls" with native greenery and, often, I pull my now reluctant teen-aged niece away from her iPhone, and iPad long enough to ride with me along the banks of the old dark stream in search of holiday greenery. We have a good time listening to music, and she indulges me by pretending to listen to my stories of the "olden days" about Papa Wade and Uncle Warren.

The pine, magnolia, and holly still abound in the woods in and around White Springs, and for that, I am truly thankful. This year, I am not going to ask Santa Claus for more vibrant holiday greens. I may ask him for a little more time with my niece. But what I am going to ask him for is the rebirth of some of our area's most precious natural resources - our area springs.

I am going to ask Santa to speak with some of our area politicians and discuss with them the importance of our area rivers, streams and springs. Maybe over a cup of coffee he can convince them of their importance to us and to future generations. I sure hope so. I hope they feel that a gem like Suwannee Springs is worth restoring and preserving for posterity. I really hope Santa can convince them.

I would love to take my niece on our holiday jaunt in search of holiday greens to see the historic White Springs in our hometown of White Springs, Florida,

rushing into the Suwannee River the way it did during the years of my childhood. I would love to say to her: "Look Laura Leigh, the old spring is not missing a beat. It is rushing into the breast of the old Suwannee at a rate of 22,500 gallons a minute." But, sadly, I can't say that to her.

I can take her to the state of Florida's replica of the spring house and I can point to the boil and tell her that I learned to love swimming there with my childhood friends. I can tell her how my first cousin, Leann and I spent countless hours there during the days of our childhood, but I cannot show her the spring. It is gone, no longer "running", no longer there. Just a hole with some brown river water where once there was a vibrant spring.

I can't tell her the reason the spring ceased flowing. There are many suppositions. I am not a hydrologist, I don't know. I don't think a lot of them know either. I can just tell her what used to be. I can advise her, along with all the young people of her generation, to take a more active role in being good stewards of their area's precious natural treasures such as Suwannee Springs, White Springs and our beloved Suwannee River. I can also advise her to make certain that elected officials answer to those who elected them and are good stewards of all that is precious to our area. I will ask her to stay informed about what her local water management district board is doing to preserve and protect all that is good and right about so many of our area's natural treasures, and I can ask her to join me in writing a letter to Santa Claus. Maybe we'll both

sign our names at the bottom of the letter. Our letter to Santa may go something like this:

Dear Santa:

We are so thankful to live in a beautiful part of the state of Florida. We love our beloved Suwannee River Valley, and we know you love flying over our historic Suwannee River with all of your reindeer. Our river is a little low right now Santa, but we're sure it will still provide you with a good path, as you fly through our beloved north Florida home.

You may notice some of our natural springs along the way Santa. Some of them are not flowing quite the way they once did and that makes us a little sad. We are hoping you will work hard to bring us a special Christmas gift this year, Santa. We would like for you to leave a little reminder to all the good boys and girls throughout our area to be good stewards of our natural jewels such as Suwannee Springs, White Springs and our beloved Suwannee River. We hope, Santa, that you will leave a note for some of our area citizens. We hope that in the note you will express how much you've always loved the rivers, lakes, creeks, branches and springs of our area. We hope you will ask our area citizens to be better and more informed about what is happening to water in our area. We hope you will ask them to help preserve our area's natural and beautiful "jewels" for future generations.

Thanks again, Santa. We love you, and we love our Suwannee River Valley. God Bless you, Santa. We know many others in our area feel the same way. We've both been pretty good this year and hope you will bring this gift to us. We know we are asking a lot of you. We are counting on you Santa.

With love to you

To all of my readers, I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas, and I hope many of you will write your own letters to Santa Claus.

From the Eight Mile Still, on the Woodpecker Route, north of White Springs, I wish each of you joy, peace, and, above all, lots of love and laughter. So blessed to be in the number one more time.

## Suwannee Forestry Center November was a quiet fire month

November was a quiet month in the Suwannee Forestry Center area with nine fires burning 49 acres. By county, the totals were as follows: Baker - 0 fires/0 acres; Bradford - 2 fires/1 acre; Columbia - 1 fire/1 acre; Hamilton - 1 fire/15 acres; Suwannee - 4 fires/31 acres; Union - 1 fire/1 acre. The primary cause of wildfire in November was Escaped Debris Burn, responsible for 33 percent of our fires.

Because Florida had no significant tropical

storm activity this year, our area never recovered from the severe drought conditions which dominated 2011. We still have moderate drought conditions in the northern portion of the district and Hamilton County remains in severe drought. Unfortunately, no relief is in sight. Predictions for December indicate we will have normal-to-above normal potential for wildfire in our area, based on weather trends and expected fuel dryness conditions.

The National Weather Service expects continuing drought and drier fuel conditions to support significant fires after the new year.

Escaped Debris Burn is consistently the main cause of wildfire in our district. Most are the result of simple carelessness. Someone burning yard debris doesn't pay attention to the weather, or steps away "just for a second", and the next thing you see are big yellow bulldozers rumbling in the woods, or worse, a home on fire.

Here are two simple points to remember: 1) If there's high wind and low humidity, don't burn; 2) If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave unattended. Florida's outdoor burning laws can be found on the internet at: [http://www.fl-dof.com/wildfire/laws\\_trash\\_burning.html](http://www.fl-dof.com/wildfire/laws_trash_burning.html). The rangers of Suwannee Forestry Center normally fight 17 wildfires in an average December. In December 2010 we fought 85 wildfires. Please do your part to prevent a repeat of last year.

If you have any questions concerning daily burning conditions, please call Center Dispatch at 386 758-5700. Our Duty Officers will be happy to advise you.



Join the First Baptist Church of Jasper as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas on Sunday evening, December 18 at 6:00 p.m.

This is a one-of-a-kind dramatic Christmas musical, paralleling the powerful message of the prophets of the Bible with the relevant times of today. A dynamic contemporary story parallels the biblical story delivering a message as powerful as the prophets and as relevant as today's headlines. Join one of the Magi (Mordecai) as he follows the Star of Bethlehem with a soldier (Benjamin) stationed in the Middle East over 2,000 years later. Both are looking at the same stars, bringing the two time periods together as they search for the truth, and they both find it at the foot of the manger.

You will be inspired with not only the drama but the music presented by the adult choir and children's choir. The music is a combination of not only new songs but many beloved Christmas carols. There will also be a special presentation by our church dance team, "In His Company". Dixie Boston will be performing a piece from the Nutcracker Ballet.

Please join us as we celebrate Christ's birth with this exciting presentation. Again, the program is Sunday Evening, December 18th at 6:00 pm. Seating begins at 5:45 pm, so come early and don't miss a single minute of the service. After the presentation, everyone is invited to join us in the fellowship hall for food, fun and carols.

First Baptist Church of Jasper is located at 207 2nd Street NE, Jasper, Florida 32052 (behind the Hamilton County Courthouse). If you have any questions, please call the church at 386-792-2658. You can also email Worship Pastor Wayne Harrell at wharrell1218@gmail.com for more information. See you there!

712554dsv

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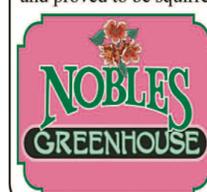
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# Life in WHITE SPRINGS

By Walter McKenzie

lifeinwhitesprings@gmail.com

**G**ossip. Now there is a social medium that gets a lot of reaction. Wikipedia defines gossip as "idle talk or rumor told by someone that was not there or did not see it happen, especially about the personal or private affairs of others. It is one of the oldest and most common means of sharing news and views." Some people love it and some hate it but at one time or another we all participate. I have decided that, at least for this week, this column should be no exception. There has been a lack of "hard news" about life in White Springs so I am going to give you all the latest gossip and you can pass it on to your neighbors.

One piece of gossip that circulates around this time each year is that there is no Santa Claus. Perhaps that gossip is the reason that only forty of the seventy five kids that were invited showed up for the "Breakfast with Santa" in the park last Saturday. Well I'm here to tell you that there is a Santa Claus and Santa was there and brought gifts for all the kids that were invited, including the ones that did not show up to collect them. Santa's "elves" arrived early and cooked up pancakes and sausage, of which there was plenty left over. The rumor of Santa's demise is the kind of rumor that makes me sad and mad. I was there to witness the fact that Santa is alive and well and loves White Springs' children. That fact was reflected in all the people that showed up to make the breakfast, read the Christmas stories

and pass out the toys, which included five brand new bicycles for five very deserving kids! Only one collected, the other four were not there! Now don't get me wrong, it was still a wonderful day for all who were there, but it is a shame that the folks who didn't show up heard this rumor and didn't think Santa Claus existed. I mean what other reason could they have for not being there? Well listen to me, I was there. This rumor is FALSE! There is a Santa Claus and he loves White Springs!

Negative gossip abounds about the Town of White Springs too. "Nothing good ever happens in White Springs." "Nobody cares." What have you heard about your town lately? Well, here is what I know and it ain't just gossip, its true! The plans for the old Carver School area were on display last week and they were exciting! Construction has begun on the pavilions behind the White Springs Fire Station. The White Springs Food Bank is open. Funding for a new boat ramp is being pursued. The site for a new library is being prepared. The HOPE after school program is up and running. The Veterans Memorial park has been dedicated. The Adams Country Store is renovated. A new restaurant is close to opening. The Festival of

Lights is setting new attendance records. Sidewalks and streets are being renovated. Monthly health clinics are being held. A grocery store is on the horizon. The list goes on and on. Daily, positive projects are being considered and acted upon. The gossip should be good!

So spread the gossip, the good kind! Life in White Springs is not perfect, but it is good and there are people who are working hard every day to make it better. I hope that you are one of them and I hope to see you out and about, enjoying and improving life in White Springs.

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

## Christmas Love Tree well underway

Deadline to donate items for kids is Dec. 14

By Joyce Marie Taylor  
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

Jasper - The Christmas Love Tree project is in its 7th year and carrying forth a 'from the heart' tradition that allows needy children to experience the joy of the holiday spirit. Last year the Christmas Love Tree project was able to help 40 families for a total of 138 children. Deadline this year for donations is Dec. 14.

Locations of the Christmas Love Trees are: Foodway, Sunations and First Baptist Church in Jasper; The Telford Inn and Fat Belly's in White Springs; All area churches in Jennings.

Ann Hall from Jasper has been directing this community project for the last seven years and she's not ready to stop yet.

"It's something I want to continue," said Hall. "I get so many blessings."

If you're unfamiliar with how the Christmas Love Tree works, it is a simple process. Area businesses and churches will have a Christmas tree made of plywood

placed on the premises. Attached to the tree you will find individual tags. All you have to do is grab one of the tags off the tree, go out and purchase the item stated on the tag, and then bring your gift back to the place where you got the tag before Dec. 14.

Meanwhile, Hall will be contacting needy families in the county and asking parents to register and submit wish lists, so that their children can wake up Christmas morning and see presents under the tree, and know they were not forgotten by Santa and his elves.

In speaking with parents and grandparents of these needy children over the years, Hall said, "They cry and you cry with them."

Each needy child will receive a total of six tag items. Three of those items will be a shirt, a pair of pants and a Bible or Bible story book. The other three will be items off their individual wish lists.

The gifts will be given to the parents right before Christmas inside the Hamilton County Courthouse Annex (date still to be determined).

Hall requests that parents not bring their children with them to pick up the donated gifts, in order that their kids can experience the joy of a bountiful surprise when they awake on Christmas morning.

Hall would like to express her appreciation to all those who have helped her in this humanitarian effort; Justin Young from First Baptist Church in White Springs, Mary Kay Dunaway and Kerri Lee Tucker from Calvary Baptist Church in Jasper; Beth Burnam from Jennings; Tracy and Woody Woodard from White Springs for use of their storage building for the donated items.

Hall wants to give a very special thank you to PCS White Springs.

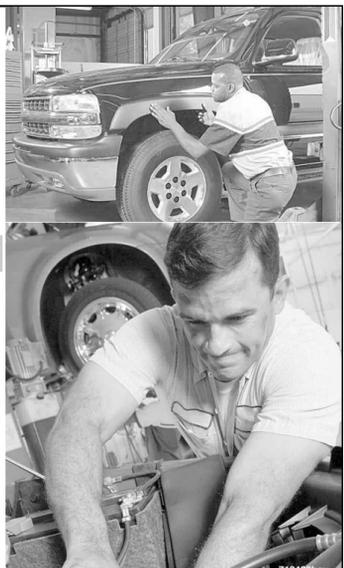
"They have been really, really good to me this year," said Hall.

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### Hamilton VTAE School Adult Basic Education (ABE) and General Education Development (GED) Prep Courses

Enrollment for the 2nd semester Adult Education courses is the week of January 3-5, 2012. All prospective students will need to register and take the entry level TABE test that week. For more information please contact Rex Mitchell or Evelyn Davis at 792-7829.

#### Class/Registration Information

Location	ABE/ GED Class	Class Begin/ End Dates	Class Time/ Days	Registration Dates	Registration Times
JREL Complex Building 1, Room 8	Morning	1/3/2012 - 6/5/2012	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 noon Class meets Monday thru Friday	January 3, 4, & 5*, 2012 *January 5, 2012	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 noon 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. TABE Testing
JREL Complex Building 1, Room 8	Evening	1/3/2012 - 6/5/2012	5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Class meets on Tuesday & Thursday	January 3 & 5, 2012	5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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## OPINION

# Economic fairness

The most prevalent theme in President Barack Obama's Dec. 6 Osawatimie, Kan., speech was the need for greater "fairness." In fact, though the president never defined the term fair(ness), he used it 15 times. Explaining his new hero, Teddy Roosevelt, Obama said: "But Roosevelt also knew that the free market has never been a free license to take whatever you can from whomever you can. He understood the free market only works when there are rules of the road that ensure competition is fair and open and honest." What's fair competition is somewhat subjective, but let me suggest a few examples of what's clearly unfair.

Say a person wants to become a taxi owner. He has a driver's license, a car and accident liability insurance. Is it fair that in New York City, he has to first purchase a taxi license (medallion) that as of October sold for \$1 million? Taxi licenses in Chicago go for \$56,000. In

Boston, they are \$285,000, and in Philadelphia, they run \$75,000. Is that fair competition?

In some cities, to own a taxi one must obtain a certificate of "public convenience and necessity." At a Public Utility Commission hearing, incumbent taxi owners show up with their attorneys to protest that another taxi company is not needed, and the application is denied. I'd like to have Obama -- or anyone else -- tell us whether that's fair competition.

The Davis-Bacon Act of 1931 is a law with racist origins and broad congressional support. During the 1931 legislative debate over the Davis-Bacon Act, which mandates super-minimum (mostly union) wages on federally financed or assisted construction projects, racist intents were obvious. Rep. John Cochran, D-Mo., supported the bill, saying he had "received numerous complaints ... about Southern contractors employing low-paid colored mechanics getting work and bringing the employees from the South." Rep. Clayton Allgood, D-Ala., com-



### A MINORITY VIEW

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BY WALTER WILLIAMS

plained: "Reference has been made to a contractor from Alabama who went to New York with bootleg labor. ... That contractor has cheap colored labor that he transports, and he puts them in cabins, and

it is labor of that sort that is in competition with white labor throughout the country." Rep. William Upshaw, D-Ga., spoke of the "superabundance or large aggregation of Negro labor." American Federation of Labor President William Green said, "Colored labor is being sought to demoralize wage rates." The Davis-Bacon Act remains law. Modern rhetoric in support of it has changed, but its effects haven't. It continues to discriminate against nonunion construction labor. Most black construction workers are in the nonunion sector. Tragically, both President Obama and almost all black congressmen, doing the bidding of their labor union allies, vote against any measure that would modify or eliminate Davis-Bacon restrictions. Would Obama see the Davis-Bacon Act as fair competition?

Probably the most unfair thing that happens to most blacks is the grossly rotten schools they attend. Often, fraudulent high-school diplomas are conferred that certify they can read, write and compute at the 12th-grade level

when in fact they can't perform at the seventh- or eighth-grade level. President Obama's administration strongly opposes educational vouchers, even one as small as the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, with his Office of Management and Budget saying: "Private school vouchers are not an effective way to improve student achievement. The administration strongly opposes expanding (the program) and opening it to new students." The president is against school choice for low-income parents while his own children attend Sidwell Friends, one of the most prestigious private schools in D.C. Many members of Congress keep their own children out of D.C. public schools; 44 percent of senators and 36 percent of representatives do, and that includes 35 percent of Congressional Black Caucus members, who tend to vote against school choice. Their actions are dictated by what's good for the National Education Association, not low-income black children. Do you think that's fair? By the way, teachers at public schools are twice as likely as other parents to send their own children to private schools. That ought to tell us something.

*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](http://www.creators.com).*

## The Jasper News

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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.

## SRWMD addresses water resource issues in a cost-effective way

BY: Donald J. Quincey,  
Jr., Chairman  
SRWMD Governing  
Board

Over the past several years, the Suwannee River Water Management District has adapted to difficult and changing economic times by refocusing our human and financial resources solely on our core mission – water supply, water quality, flood protection and natural resource protection. That effort has

served the District and its citizens well.

As a diligent steward of taxpayer dollars, the District has tightened its belt, readjusted priorities, eliminated non-critical staff positions, sought outsourcing where it made sense, downsized or cut programs that didn't meet our core mission principals, acquired funding through grants and partnerships, and generally found ways to do more with less.

For example, this past year the District completed its water supply assessment study and designated four water resource caution areas in an effort to ensure adequate

groundwater resources to meet future demands for the next 20 years.

The District embarked on a joint regional water supply plan with neighboring St. Johns River Water Management District to develop and implement a minimum flows and levels prevention and recovery strategy when withdrawals in one district contribute to water resource impacts in the other district.

This landmark agreement is vital to successfully addressing future protection of our rivers, lakes, springs and natural systems.

We also strengthened our partnership with the

State of Georgia, where roughly 55 percent of the Suwannee River Basin is located.

The District has accomplished much but there is still so much left to do. Fiscal challenges will not dampen the District's determination to "get the water right."

Losing our springs and other precious water resources is not an option, and with the continued support of the Legislature and the Department of Environmental Protection, the District will continue to find innovative, cost-effective ways to meet the needs of its citizens while protecting our environment.

### 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

709100dvw

## NOTICE ROAD CLOSURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 336.09 and 336.10, Florida Statutes, that a Resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Florida, on December 6, 2011, vacating, abandoning, discontinuing, closing, renouncing and disclaiming all rights of the County and public in and to all of that part of the certain county (public) graded road, described as all that part NW 30th Avenue, in Section 3, Township 2 North, Range 11 East, Hamilton County, Florida.

This Notice is published as required by the provisions of Section 336.10, Florida Statutes.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
Hamilton County Courthouse, Room 106  
207 Northeast First Street  
Jasper, Florida 32052  
386-792-1288 • 386-792-3524 FAX

713880dsv

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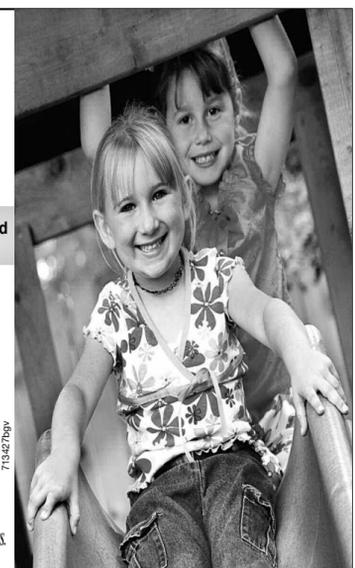
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713827bpy

# Obituaries

**John Allen Scaff** VA 22038-1132  
Jan. 28, 1938 -  
Dec. 11, 2011

**J**ohn Allen Scaff, age 73, of Jasper, Fla. passed away Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011 following an extended illness. John Allen was born Jan. 28, 1938 to the late Leon Earl and Rebecca Grace Tyre Scaff. He was a retired welder, heavy equipment operator and supervisor at P.C.S. (Occidental) in White Springs. Following his retirement he enjoyed farming and spending time with his family. John Allen was preceded in death by his parents and a grandson, Joshua Scaff. He will be missed by his family and friends.

Survivors include one son, Mark Scaff (De-Nese), Jasper, Fla.; one daughter, Susan Lenhart (Curtis), Quaker City, Ohio.; three sisters, Joanne Young, Kitty Beck and Ellen Deas, all of Jennings, Fla.; 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 16, 2011 at New Hope Baptist Church with Pastor Jeff Cordero officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, Dec. 15 between the hours of 5-7 p.m. at Harry T. Reid Funeral Home in Jasper.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association  
P.O. Box 1132 Fairfax,

**Michael Lucas**  
Dec. 6, 2011

**M**r. Michael Lucas, age 89, of Jennings, Fla. passed away Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011 at his home following an illness of some time. Mr. Lucas was born in Byesville, Ohio and was a retired machinist. Lucas was a World War II veteran of the United States Navy.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Lucas, Jennings, Fla.; seven sons, Phillip Lucas, Cambridge, Ohio., Michael Lucas, Senecaville, Ohio, David Lucas, Baltimore, MD., Paul Lucas, Fulton, Mont., Joseph Lucas, Cambridge, Ohio., John Lucas, Cambridge, Ohio., and Steven Lucas, of Fulton, Mont.; three daughters, Theresa Hunter and Susan Brill, both of Jennings, Fla., Lillian Clendenning, Senecaville, Ohio.; two sisters, Dorothy Karas and Helen Lucas, Byesville, Ohio.; 26 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Services were held Monday, Dec. 12, 2011 at St. Therese Catholic Church in Jasper, Fla.

Per his wishes Mr. Lucas will be cremated.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 4237 Salisbury RD, Jacksonville, FL. 32216.

Harry T. Reid Funeral Home, Jasper, FL. was in charge of arrangements.

## Heart Matters

# God makes room for you

By Angie Land

Have you noticed how every single holiday commercial promises that this is "most wonderful time of the year?" Now, don't get me wrong, I love the holidays, but rarely does the real world always live up to those promises. What about those years we must face Christmas without a loved one because of death, conflicting schedules, unresolved conflict or even divorce, or maybe just too many miles. Any of these can leave us feeling discouraged and wondering how in the world to cope. I think Mary and Joseph knew a little bit about that....

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to

him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her first-born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

Luke 2:4-7

About that first labor pain, Mary had to be thinking, "This is not how it was supposed to be!" Those pretty Nativity scenes we set up each year are wonderful decorations, but the real deal was dirty and smelly! Surely Mary didn't have this in mind...instead of a soft, clean bed, she gave birth on the floor of a stable. Instead of her mother and other women tending to her, she was alone with Joseph, who was no doubt as overwhelmed as she was! Instead of a cradle to lay her son, she placed him in a feed trough...

But do you remember

those shepherds who came to see the baby Jesus? Consider the fact that if Mary and Joseph had been anywhere else, they would have missed it. Shepherds were not exactly high on the social ladder, but God chose them to be the first witnesses of the birth of his Son! Who better to understand the amazing truth that God had just provided the perfect "Lamb" that would one day be the sacrifice to take away the sins of the world?

Could it be that when we feel like there is no room for us someplace, it is because God has made room for us somewhere else? Try this perspective when dealing with holiday plans for your family: if someone can't be there, for whatever reason, look around and see who that makes room for...and if something causes you to miss family celebrations, look around to see where God is making room for



Angie Land

you. Celebration is ultimately up to us, and the attitude we choose to take. Our plans may not work out exactly like we hoped...but it could be that God has something extra special in mind this year...

*Because Your Heart Matters...*  
Angie

*Heart Matters is a weekly column written by Angie Land, Director of the Family Life Ministries of the Lafayette Baptist Association. Contact Angie with questions or comments at angieland3@windstream.net*

# Christmas fruitcake always gets a bad rap

Rev. James L. Snyder

Many reasons exist why a person should love and embrace the Christmas season. I hear of those who attack the Christmas season and I take no notice to them at all. The thing that keeps buffoons energized his attention paid to them. If they were really serious about their so-called beliefs, they would leave the country during the Christmas season and go somewhere where it is not celebrated.

My recommendation is the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

Ignoring the holiday buffoons, I snuggle down and enjoy the Christmas festivities. So much about the season to savor and enjoy.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has our home all decorated for the Christmas season. In the evening, we sit down in the living room among all of the decorations, sip our hot cocoa and have a healthy slice of Christmas fruitcake.

When it comes to decorating things, I don't even have a thumb. During this time, I envy those who are all thumbs. My decorating expertise is simply to enjoy the work done. And that I do.

I love everything about the Christmas season, except maybe shopping in the mall. I think there should be some kind of a law restricting shopping in the mall. It is not that I hate going to the mall... well, I guess if I am truthful, I really do hate going to the mall. If they had a nice good used book-

store, I might see my way to the mall more often and deliberately.

Apart from the mall, the Christmas season is a terrific time to be alive.

I love the Christmas trees. Go ahead and call it a "Holiday Tree" if you do not mind letting other people know how stupid you really sound. Solomon, in the Old Testament, had some of these people in mind when he wrote, "Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding." (Proverbs 17:28 KJV). If it is a "Holiday Tree," which holiday does it represent?

I love all the decorations associated with this time of year. Throughout the year, everything seems to be rather drab, but when Christmas comes along things begin to brighten up.

I love all the stories associated with Christmas. Yes, I know some of them are just stories made up; but every once in a while it is good to listen to a story. The fact that somebody has accused Santa's reindeer's of bullying poor little Rudolph only indicate that some people do not know the difference between fact and fiction.

Do not let this get out, but, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer does not even exist. He is just a made-up character in a Christmas story. I know that will come as a shock to many people, but the truth is the truth no matter whom it hurts.

I love the music of Christmas. Particularly, because 90 percent of

the Christmas music is religious. Go figure? Nothing is more inspiring than listening to a choir sing Handel's Messiah. Of course, there is a danger that the wrong people will get a hold of this great piece of music and want to change the title. I am looking for someone to protest this and insist we call it, "Handel's Person."

The music of Christmas is uplifting and inspiring despite all the naysayers that seem to come out of the ground during this time of the year. I wish they would stay underground and celebrate whatever they celebrate with Punxsutawney Phil.

Dare I mention the food of Christmas? I'm going to anyway. The best thing about the food at Christmas time is that nobody, and when I am talking about nobody, I am referring of course to my wife, says, "You shouldn't be eating that." The beauty of Christmas food is that you can eat it whenever and as much as you like.

When I come back for my second slice of fruitcake and somebody looks at me I always say, "I'm starting my diet next month." And I get away with it.

Speaking of fruitcake, it is the best part of the Christmas food frenzy. My biggest concern in this area is that the fruitcake has gotten a very bad rap by people who do not understand this delicacy. It is a very wonderful way for a person to get their daily portion of fruit. How nice of it to be mixed

SEE CHRISTMAS PAGE 10A

## Thank you

Special people make good times happen. Just a few words to say thank you for all your hard work, your time and participation and your donations; whether monetary or physical. We could not have done it without you. God bless each of you, Audrey Howell, president, Christian Mission in Action Ministry.

**Christian Mission in Action Ministry**  
**Annual Christmas Dinner**  
Dec. 17, 2011 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.  
Suwannee Coliseum Exhibition #2  
1302 11th St. SW in Live Oak  
There will be gifts for the children and senior citizens  
Come join us for this joyous event  
Everyone is welcome

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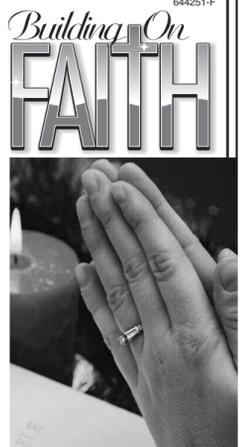
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# Church & Family Go Together

ADVENT CHRISTIAN	BAPTIST (Southern)	METHODIST	PRESBYTERIAN
<b>FIRST ADVENT CHRISTIAN</b> N.W. 15th Avenue Jasper Rev. Wayne Sullivan Sunday Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Bible Study.....7:00 p.m. 644208-F	<b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b> "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	<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 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	<b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 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
<b>BAPTIST (Southern)</b> <b>NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> SR 6 West, 6592 NW 48th St., Jennings, FL 32053 938-5011 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	<b>CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> <b>ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 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	<b>NON-DENOMINATIONAL</b> <b>BURNHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 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	<b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> <b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 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 Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m. Youth Ignited/Youth Ministry.....7:00 p.m. 692421-F

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





# SMART IS THE NEW SEXY.

It's hard to keep up with everything going on in the world today, including the part that's right around you. That's why people look to the newspaper, print or digital, to give them the community news and insights they can't find anywhere else. And besides, that gallery opening could be the icebreaker you've been looking for.

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# Sports

## Boys Basketball

# Hamilton beats Lafayette, falls to Suwannee



A Trojan (white shirt) advances the ball. - Photo: Richard Wright

Staff

The Hamilton County Trojans defeated the Lafayette Hornets Dec. 6 in Mayo by a score of 41-36.

On Saturday, Dec. 10 the boys played the Bulldogs of Suwannee in Jasper and lost 72-51.

Hamilton scored 13 points in the first period, eight in the second. Lafayette put more on the board in the third with 10 and Hamilton nine, followed by the fourth period with Lafayette putting up 12 and Hamilton 11.

In the game against Suwannee, Hamilton only put five on the board in the first period, Suwannee 24. In the second period, Hamilton dominated with 17 versus Suwannee's 10. In the third, Hamilton managed 12 against Suwannee's 18 and in the fourth Hamilton put up 17 against Suwannee's 18.

The Trojans played Branford in Branford Tuesday night in their last game of the year. They come back in 2012 against Lafayette on Jan. 5.

### Vs. Lafayette stats

(Points, rebounds, assists, steals)

Jeremiah Lee	(11, 1, 0, 2)
Joseph Cooks	(9, 4, 1, 2)
Kenric Williams	(7, 7, 2, 5)
Charvunta Merine	(6, 3, 2, 1)
Shaquille Williams	(6, 15, 1, 3)
Anthony Claridy	(0, 1, 1, 0)
Tyler Chapman	(2, 15, 0, 0)

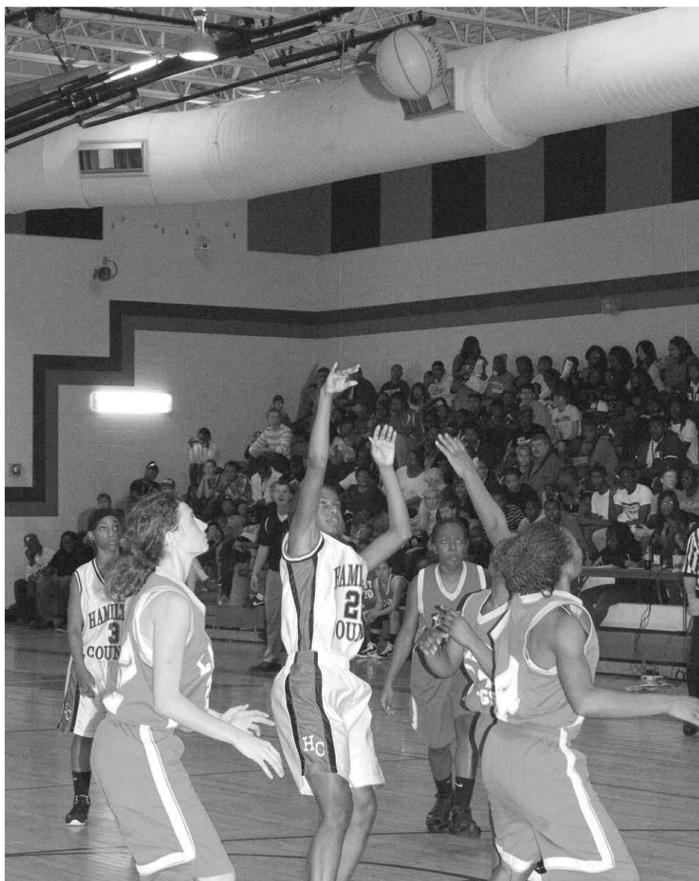
### Vs. Suwannee stats

(Points, rebounds, assists, steals)

Anterfernee Smith	(3, 8, 4, 2)
Jeremiah Lee	(12, 4, 0, 1)
Kevin McClain	(8, 1, 3, 6)
Joseph Cooks	(4, 6, 2, 0)
Kenric Williams	(4, 1, 2, 1)
Charvunta Merine	(5, 0, 0, 0)
Shaquille Williams	(10, 7, 2, 2)
Anthony Claridy	(0, 3, 0, 0)
Tyler Chapman	(5, 5, 0, 0)

## Girls Basketball

# Lady Trojans down Suwannee



The Hamilton County varsity Lady Trojans defeated Suwannee High School Dec. 10 in Live Oak by a score of 39-34. - Photo: Richard Wright

# Boys basketball spends the day with Greenwood students



The Hamilton County High School basketball team with coach Patrick Murphy. Courtesy photo

The Hamilton County High School boys basketball team started the season with a 2-2 overall record. However, their district record is 2-0 with road wins over both Melody Christian Academy and Lafayette.

The Trojans lost at rivals Columbia and Madison. The wins over Melody and Lafayette were both solid team wins.

On Friday, Dec. 9, the team had a great day and there was no game involved. Coach Patrick Murphy took the team on a field trip to Burnham

Christian Church in order to help out at the church's annual Christmas party for Greenwood School students.

The players had a very fun day as they sang carols while enjoying a hay ride with the Greenwood students; helping serve lunch and clean up afterwards; and helping students as they opened up their Christmas presents.

Coach Murphy was extremely proud of the players. They worked hard and interacted very well with the Greenwood students. Everyone involved had a good time.

## 2011-12 Winter sports scoreboard

### Varsity Boys Soccer

Nov. 7 @ Maclay School	0-8
Nov. 14 @ John Paul II Catholic	0-6
Nov. 17 vs Ft. White	0-1
Nov. 29 vs John Paul II Catholic	0-7
Dec. 2 vs West Gadsden	0-4
Dec. 6 vs Taylor County	0-8
Dec. 9 vs Suwannee High	0-4
Dec. 12 @ Lafayette High	
Dec. 13 @ Suwannee High	
Dec. 16 @ Santa Fe High	
Dec. 22 vs Oak Hall	
Jan. 3 vs Oak Hall	
Jan. 5 vs Maclay School	
Jan. 6 @ Columbia County	
Jan. 10 vs Lafayette High	
Jan. 17 vs Saint Francis Catholic	

### Varsity Girls Soccer

Nov. 14 @ John Paul Catholic	3-2
Nov. 18 vs P.K. Yonge	0-3
Nov. 28 vs Columbia County	0-8
Nov. 29 vs John Paul Catholic	1-3
Dec. 2 vs West Gadsden	3-1
Dec. 5 @ Lafayette High	3-0
Dec. 6 vs Taylor County	1-9
Dec. 8 vs Suwannee High	0-8
Dec. 15 vs Lafayette High	
Jan. 3 @ Suwannee High	
Jan. 5 vs Maclay School	
Jan. 6 @ Columbia County	
Jan. 13 @ P.K. Yonge	

### Varsity Boys Basketball

Nov. 29 @ Columbia	41-67
Dec. 2 @ Melody Christian	58-43
Dec. 3 @ Madison County	59-67
Dec. 6 @ Lafayette High	41-36
Dec. 10 vs Suwannee High	51-72
Dec. 13 @ Branford High	
Jan. 5 vs Lafayette High	
Jan. 6 @ Suwannee High	
Jan. 14 vs Saint Francis Catholic	
Jan. 17 vs Branford High	
Jan. 20 vs Melody Christian	
Jan. 21 vs Madison County	
Jan. 23 vs Echols County	
Jan. 27 vs Ft. White	
Jan. 28 vs Columbia County	

### Varsity Girls Basketball

Nov. 29 @ Columbia	49-54
Dec. 3 @ Madison County	61-43
Dec. 6 @ Lafayette High	57-53
Dec. 9 vs Jefferson County	
Dec. 10 vs Suwannee High	39-34
Dec. 13 @ Branford High	
Dec. 16 vs Saint Francis Catholic	
Jan. 5 vs Lafayette High	
Jan. 6 @ Suwannee High	
Jan. 14 vs Saint Francis Catholic	
Jan. 17 vs Branford High	
Jan. 20 vs Melody Christian	
Jan. 21 vs Madison County	
Jan. 23 vs Echols County	
Jan. 27 vs Ft. White	
Jan. 28 vs Columbia High	

## Two arrested in meth bust

Continued From Page 1A



Jesus Arteaga

with the occupant of a second vehicle parked close by. Authorities took both individuals into custody without incident. An Echols County K-9 unit was dispatched to the scene and gave a positive alert for narcotics on the truck. A subsequent search of one of the vehicles revealed approximately one pound of crystal methamphetamine (ICE) with an approximate street value of \$170,000, according to

Reid.

"This was the largest meth seize we've ever had in this county," said Reid. "I would like to thank Echols County Sheriffs Office for their participation in this investigation."

Sheriff Courson stated, "This was a significant blow to the methamphetamine coming into our local areas, and none of this would be possible had it not been for our agencies working so closely together."

"A lot of man hours go into these type of investigations. I'm thankful for having the support and resources from surrounding sheriffs like Sheriff Reid."

The two suspects were transported to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for processing. They face felony charges of trafficking in methamphetamine and possession of narcotic equipment.

The driver of the Dodge pickup, Jesus Arteaga, 24, of Gainesville, Ga., was arrested and booked into the Hamilton County Jail. He faces charges of trafficking in methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The name of the person in the second vehicle is not being released at this time, pending further investigation.

## Careless driving leads to fiery crash in Hamilton County

Continued From Page 1A

The paint truck was traveling at about seven miles per hour, halfway in the outside emergency lane and halfway in the outside travel lane actively painting the roadway. An arrow board was activated on the rear of the truck, directing traffic to move over to the inside lane, FHP said.

The FHP report stated Raymond felt the right side of his truck dip down as if he blew a tire and he lost control of the vehicle causing him to strike the

rear of the paint truck. A witness to the crash stated that Raymond passed by him in the outside travel lane approaching the paint truck and that he did not brake or take any evasive action to avoid striking the rear of the paint truck.

When the front of Raymond's vehicle struck the left side rear of the paint truck, the impact caused the paint truck to travel 190 feet off the east shoulder of the road, coming to a final rest in the ditch facing east. Raymond's vehicle continued north

718 feet and became fully engulfed in flames as it came to a rest. Raymond was unable to exit the vehicle on his own and was pulled to safety by a passerby.

Kimble and Raymond were transported to Lake City Medical Center with minor injuries. Both drivers were wearing seat belts, FHP reported.

Damages to the Kenworth were estimated at \$100,000 with \$35,000 in damages estimated to the paint truck.

Raymond was cited for careless driving, FHP reported.

## Breakfast with Santa a hit

Continued From Page 1A

stated about the event.

After the children finished eating breakfast it was story time with Tom Moore, local tennis pro, who read "Twas

the Night Before Christmas" to the roomful of eager kids.

When Santa made a grand appearance afterward, the kids were wide-eyed and anxious as he took his place in front of the fireplace with a big Ho-Ho-Ho!

The first order of business was presenting the bicycles and helmets that were donated by Suwannee Bicycle Association (SBA) to five lucky children from White Springs. Miller said the children receiving the bikes were chosen based on need.

"You always have to wear your helmet when you're bicycling," said Sharon Shea, president of SBA, who was helping the elves with the bikes. "Safety first," she added.

Four of the children were not present, but Chief Brookins said their

bikes will be personally delivered to them. When the fifth name was called out, young miss Demaya Richburg bounded from her seat and came forward, all smiles, to receive a shiny new pink bicycle.

Then it was all grins as presents were given one by one to each child as their names were called out by Santa's elves. Two more little elves, 11-year-old Savannah Odom and young Brandt Dieffenbach had the honor of handing out the presents.

Miller expressed her thanks to the park for allowing them the use of their facilities for this annual event for the children of White Springs, as well as SBA, Dollar General, Nettles Sausage Company, and all the volunteers who made the event possible.

## Carver neighborhood part of U.F. 'New Florida Community' project



A portion of the 15 design displays by U.F. students for a project at the Carver neighborhood.

- Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

Continued From Page 1A

students were very impressed with White Springs during their first visit, particularly with the quality of the natural environment." Thompson said they were also impressed with the many nature trails in White Springs and the proximity of the community to the Suwannee River.

The students worked on this semester-long design project for the revitalization of the Carver neighborhood, aptly called a 'New Florida Community'. Included at the open house was the first edit of White Springs oral histories that played on a television from a DVD, featuring citizens of the town who have firsthand knowledge of the town's history.

Five groups of U.F. students came up with five different perspectives (15 total project presentations) on the Carver neighborhood development. In their planning they took into account the character of the neighborhood, the environment, schools, retail shops and housing to come up with their final designs. They also included an Elderhostel and a Chautauqua.

Elderhostels are non-profit organizations

that offer senior citizens travel and educational opportunities and Chautauquas provide entertainment and culture for the entire community with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers and preachers. Although it's designed for the local community, the Chautauqua is also expected to draw snowbirds, according to Thompson.

The topography of the location for this project takes into account a flooding issue, but students designed a watershed that would redirect the floodwater back into the groundwater.

"At the end of the day, all of the stormwater that hits the site is effectively treated onsite," Thompson said. "There's no additional stormwater that leaves the site."

U.F. student Stephanie Bou-Ghannam worked on a 100 scale rendering of one portion of the project: the Broken Arrow Neighborhood and Recreational Park. Creating a structure for the neighborhood and all the roads was one part of the challenge she enjoyed.

"That's what everything kind of builds off of," Bou-Ghannam said. "The most impor-

tant thing was to make sure that everything was connected, so that there was a good flow for the neighborhood. None of my streets really dead-end anywhere. They all come around and interconnect," she added, as she pointed to her rendering.

Bou-Ghannam included a lot of open space in her rendering, as well as places for people to gather, so that the community wouldn't feel like a private gated community where folks hide inside all the time.

"It's like an extended backyard," Bou-Ghannam said.

Community residents arrived at the H.O.P.E. Center off and on all day beginning at 8 a.m. and the excitement could be felt as folks went from one design to the next and spoke with the students.

Getting funding for the project will be the next hurdle to overcome, but those closest to the project are confident everything will pull together.

The U.F. students who participated in this project are: Bou-Ghannam, Johan Bueno, Viviana Castro, Bryn Coubrough, Craig Handley, Mark Koenig, Adam McCollier, Joshua Roedell, Laura Snider, Christopher Stidham, Theresa Wymer, Belinda Nettles, Jarod Prentice and Aaron Wiener.

"Our partnership with U.F. is mutually beneficial," said White Springs Mayor Helen Miller. "U.F. faculty and students gain access to a real-life laboratory and White Springs gains the benefit of creative, professional design work that we cannot afford, but need to further our planning process."

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# VOTE 2012

## Presidential Preference Primary

### JANUARY 31, 2012

Voter Registration Books Close Jan. 3, 2012

Preparation for the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) is already underway.

Absentee Ballots to overseas military and civilians will be mailed on December 17, 2011, with all others being mailed December 27, 2011.

You may request an absentee ballot to be mailed to your home by calling our office at 386-792-1426 or go to our website at [hamiltonvotes.com](http://hamiltonvotes.com).

As a reminder of Florida Law: FL is a Closed Primary State. Which means voters may only vote for candidates in the party that they are registered. Since there is only one Democratic candidate, no minor party candidates and no amendments, the PPP Election is open to registered Republicans ONLY.

For more info go to [hamiltonvotes.com](http://hamiltonvotes.com)

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# Healthy Living

## Mind, Body Connection

By Beth Harris, CSCS  
bethharrisfitness@gmail.com



Regardless of your religious or spiritual beliefs, all of us, at one time or another, have felt the special connection to a higher power, God, Creator, Supreme Being, and definitely heard the coined phrase mind, body, spirit. But what exactly does this mean? And how does this relationship impact our health?

Wise men always know to avoid an argument never talk about religion or politics. Fortunately for each of us health benefits seem to cross religious and spiritual borders. Science has revealed a universal truth-believing in a higher Supreme Being, regardless of the parameters of your beliefs, will help you live longer, healthier lives.

Research published in the Journal of Liver Transplantation found those actively "seeking God" had a better survival rate than those who did not hold religious beliefs, regardless of which faith they held. Some patients were up to three times more likely to survive by having a strong Godly connection, even if they didn't attend church.

An equally mysterious component and next piece of the puzzle, our minds. Take the placebo effect for example. Placebos have consistently alleviated pain, depression, anxiety, Parkinson's, inflammatory disorders,

and cancer; crossing into virtually all areas of medicine. Thought not only to be effective because the individuals belief in the drug, but also through a subconscious connection made between recovery and treatment. Our minds are inordinately powerful, with or without our conscious awareness of this fact.

Finally, how do mind and spirit affect the physical body? Science supports the supposition that the body serves the operations of the mind, whether they be deliberately chosen or automatically expressed. Disease and health, like circumstances, are rooted in thought. Sickly thoughts will express themselves through a sickly body.

Talking of mundane or negative things, reading articles or magazines or watching tv involving pain and struggle without a higher purpose, not listening to the flow of your body(not resting when you are tired or not being active when you have energy), thinking of fear, failure, or past hurts or grievances; are all ways to bring your energy down.

Try an exercise right now (really...right now): close your eyes, sit quietly, take a deep breathe, exhale, then repeat these words: HAPPINESS,

JOY, FAITH, LOVE, HOPE, STRENGTH, PEACE, ABUNDANCE.

There is something to be said for Adam Sandler's song in Anger Management: "I feel pretty, O' so pretty, I feel pretty and charming and witty..." It really does make you feel better!

We do not have to be at the mercy of hidden drives and unknown programs of our unconscious, we have the ability to look within and find answers. It is better not to leave our pursuit of health and evolution to chance. Examine your beliefs and behaviors with a fine tooth comb. We have the ability to consciously attune to these connec-

tions if we choose to do so. At minimum, acknowledge the implications for your health-remember evolution begins with awareness; the secret lies within the interplay of your mind, body, and spirit.

"The only journey is the one within."  
~Rainer Maria Rilke

~Beth Harris, CSCS, HFS  
www.balanceourbody.net

### 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.

#### Hamilton County School Board meeting notice

The Hamilton County School Board will have their regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12 in the School District Administrative Complex in Jasper.

## Suwannee Valley Youth Livestock Show and Sale Dates

Brian Estevez  
4-H/ Youth Development

The Suwannee County Fair is April 6-14, 2012, but 4-H and FFA students need to be aware NOW of important dates so you can be prepared for the fair. The Suwannee Valley Youth Livestock Show and Sale (SVYLSS) will be April 11-14 on the last weekend of the fair. Below you will find important dates so you can be prepared for the SVYLSS.

#### Entry Dates

•Steer Weigh-in is Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011 between 8am-noon. Steer entry forms will be filled out on-site. This year's show will include feeder steers. Feeder steers must weigh between 550-849 pounds at official weigh-in. See rules for details.

•Mandatory hog tagging is Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012. Tagging will be done that morning from 8am-noon at the Suwannee County Fairgrounds. All hogs

must be tagged on this date. Hog entry forms are also due on this date and can be filled out on-site.

•Exhibitors are responsible for complying with all dates.

#### Fair Dates

•Record Books for Hogs and Steers are due on Monday, April 2 by 5 p.m.

•Hog Weigh-in is Wednesday, April 11 between 8 a.m.-noon. \*\*\*Note-Weight requirements have changed; hogs must weigh between 230-290 pounds at official weigh-in. See rules for details.\*\*\*

•Hog Showmanship is Wednesday, April 11 at 6 p.m.

•Steer Weigh-in is Thursday, April 12 between 8 a.m.-12 noon.

•Hog Show is Thursday, April 12 at 6 p.m.

•Steer Show is Friday, April 13 at 6 p.m.

•Sale is Saturday, April 14 at 1:30 p.m.

Please respect these dates to ensure that the show

and sale will run smoothly during the Suwannee County Fair. SVYLSS board members thank you in advance for a great show and sale next April. For more information and /or a copy of the rules about the Suwannee Valley Youth Livestock Show and Sale please contact one of the Suwannee Valley Extension Offices: Hamilton-386-792-1276, Lafayette-386-294-1279, or Suwannee-386-362-2771.

Extension programs are open to all people regardless of race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in any activity should contact the Suwannee County Cooperative Extension Service at 1302 Eleventh Street, SW, Live Oak, Florida 32060 or telephone (386) 362 - 2771 at least five working days prior to the event. Hearing impaired can access the foregoing telephone by contacting the Florida Relay Service at 1 - 800 - 955 - 8770 or 800 - 955 - 8772 (TDD).

## AGENDA

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
Room 112 – Courthouse 207 Northeast First Street  
Jasper, Florida

MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 20, 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

- 1) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – UNAGENDAED APPEARANCES (\*)
- 2) CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL
- 3) SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER BUILDING
- 4) RECREATION CENTER LIGHT REPAIR
- 5) DISCUSSION OF HOSPITAL PROPERTY
- 6) APPROVE BILLS
- 7) CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 8) ADJOURN

### TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

6:00 P.M. – CALL TO ORDER – INVOCATION – PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG  
6:05 P.M. – 2010 CDBG PROGRAM  
6:10 P.M. – COUNTY ROAD PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT  
6:15 P.M. – REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND REQUESTS  
6:20 P.M. – SCHEDULE DATE TO HOLD SPECIAL ELECTION – LAURA DEES, HAMILTON CO SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS AND GLENN RICHARDS

THIS AGENDA MAY NOT CONTAIN ALL MATTERS BEFORE THE BOARD. A COMPLETE COPY OF THE AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED BEFORE 1:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011 FROM THE OFFICE OF THE 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, JANUARY 3, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CONSENT AGENDA**

DECEMBER 20, 2011

- 1) MINUTES – APPROVE:
  - A) December 6, 2011 – Regular Session
- 2) DEPARTMENT HEADS – INFORMATION ITEMS:
- 3) DEPARTMENT HEADS – ACTION ITEMS:
- 4) APPROVE 2012 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES WORKING FOUR (4) TEN (10) HOUR DAYS.
- 5) CLERK'S 2012 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE – FILE

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# Empowering Tabernacle House of Prayer



A display of tasty desserts that were served.



Denise Lee, supervisor of the ARC



Everybody Clap Your Hands Youth Choir performing to "Chasing After You" and "A Praise on the Inside."



Everybody Clap Your Hands dancers performing to "Everybody Clap Your Hands"



Pastor Phillip M. Jackson with the youth department after their performance. Job well done Youth!

# Social Security Questions and Answers

By Mary Kate Vang  
Social Security District Manager,  
Lake City, FL

**Question:**

Can I get an estimate of my retirement benefit at several different possible ages?

**Answer:**

Yes. We suggest you use our Retirement Estimator at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator) to test different retirement scenarios. This online tool will give you retirement benefit estimates based on current law and real time access to your earnings record. The Retirement Estimator also lets you create additional "what if" retirement scenarios. It's even available in Spanish at [www.segurosocial.gov/calculador](http://www.segurosocial.gov/calculador). You can test even more alternatives at [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/calculators.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/calculators.htm).

**Question:**

If both my spouse and I are entitled to Social Security benefits, is there any reduction in our payments because we are married?

**Answer:**

No. We calculate lifetime earnings independently to determine each spouse's Social Security benefit amount. When each member of a married couple meets all other eligibility requirements to receive Social Security retirement

benefits, each spouse receives a monthly benefit amount based on his or her own earnings. Couples are not penalized simply because they are married. If one member of the couple earned low wages or failed to earn enough Social Security credits (40) to be insured for retirement benefits, he or she may be eligible to receive benefits as a spouse. Learn more about Social Security at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**Question:**

Is there a time limit on Social Security disability benefits?

**Answer:**

Your disability benefits will continue as long as your medical condition has not improved and you cannot work. We will review your case at regular intervals to make sure you are still disabled. Learn more by reading our publication, Disability Benefits, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html).

**Question:**

When a person who has worked and paid Social Security taxes dies, are benefits payable on that person's record?

**Answer:**

Social Security survivors benefits can be paid to:

A widow or widower — unreduced benefits at full retirement

age, or reduced benefits as early as age 60;

A disabled widow or widower — as early as age 50;

A widow or widower at any age if he or she takes care of the deceased's child who is under age 16 or disabled, and receiving Social Security benefits;

Unmarried children under 18, or up to age 19 if they are attending high school full time. Under certain circumstances, benefits can be paid to stepchildren, grandchildren or adopted children;

Children at any age who were disabled before age 22 and remain disabled; and

Dependent parents age 62 or older.

Even if you are divorced, you still may qualify for survivors benefits. For more information, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

## Norris Notes



By Lillian Norris

Norris Notes will not be running this week. Mrs. Lillian Norris will be back as soon as possible with her column. Thank you.

# South Hamilton Elementary School principal expounds on curriculum

Continued From Page 1A

students' growth. This assessment is discussed with the individual student(s) and parents. Accelerated Reader is used to encourage and track individual student reading. Classroom goals, as well as individual student goals are set with the students who maintain their own data notebooks. It is not uncommon to hear students discussing a trip to the teacher's treasure box, AR store, the AR point board or their STAR assessments around campus.

**JN:** What library resources are available to students?

**MH:** We maintain a collection of approximately 9,000 books in our media center. In addition to this, each classroom houses a classroom library where students can access books throughout their day.

**JN:** How is the school adjusting to new technology?

**MH:** Teachers are eager for new technology. Our staff participates in training opportunities to become more proficient and are willing to assist each other when the need arises. We have a computer lab and there are a few computers in classrooms.

**JN:** How are students adjusting to the new uniform policy?

**MH:** Students have adjusted well. They have participated and we haven't had many students in compliance.

**JN:** What Arts programs are available and how do they fit into the curriculum?

**MH:** N/A

**JN:** What extra-curricular activities are offered?

**MH:** We take turns hosting basketball games with North Hamilton Elementary. South Hamilton also has a tinkling (bells) Competition team that performs at the Florida Folk Festival and will perform for guests at the Walt Disney World Resort for the second year.

**JN:** How does the school support students with disabilities, academic, social and emotional?

**MH:** Through the development and implementation of the Individual Education Plan(IEP) Progress reports towards the goals set by the IEP are shared with students and parents eight times per year. We like to utilize the inclusion concept as much as possible and provide in class support to our student with disabilities.

**JN:** What strategies are used for teaching students not fluent in English?

**MH:** The only students in our school are Pre-K students. They are learning along with the other students to speak and recognize/identify words correctly, as well as working on social skills. They also get a lot of one-on-one instruction.

**JN:** List professional development opportunities for teachers.

**MH:** CHAMPS, Accelerated Reader Training, Study Island Training, Reading and Math and writing Workshops

**JN:** What are some of the school's greatest accomplishments?

**MH:** Our school moved from a "D" to an "A" school grade. Our students performed at Disney last year and are asked to come back again this year. We only missed AYP by 3 percent.

**JN:** What are some of the school's biggest challenges?

**MH:** Keeping students on task and motivation.

**JN:** How does the school keep parents informed on activities, etc.?

**MH:** Classroom newsletters, Marquee, School Newsletter, School Calendar, School Website, School Facebook, Ed Connect

**JN:** Does the school have an active PTA?

**MH:** Yes

**JN:** What is the school's goal for the 2011-12 school year?

**MH:** Our paper goal is to make an "A" and obtain 100 percent AYP status. Our whole child goal is to support students in becoming independent, well-rounded, loving, caring members of our community and prepared for high school.

# Christmas fruitcake always gets a bad rap

Continued From Page 5A

in with cake. After all, if the word "fruit," is associated with it, it must be good, right? Everybody knows fruit is good for a person.

I take my portion of vegetables in carrot cake and my portion of fruit in fruitcake. This is the cuisine of the gods.

There is a very practical side to this fruitcake business. As I am pick-

ing up my fifth slice of fruitcake, I begin thinking about the New Year and how I need to add more fruit to my diet. As I slowly chew on the fruitcake, every aspect of my being is energized with glorious delight and goodwill toward men. After a few slices of fruitcake, I am in such a good mood that even the "Holiday Tree" people do not bother me so much. Nothing comes

between my fruitcake and me.

Christmas is the season to rejoice in God's love for the world so much that he sent his only son, Jesus Christ.

*The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship,*

*PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail [jamesnyder2@att.net](mailto:jamesnyder2@att.net). The church web site is [www.whatafellowship.com](http://www.whatafellowship.com).*



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NORTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPRING 2012

# Primary jobs in area come from healthcare field, says one expert

Continued From Page 1A

Taylor counties.

This network is a HRSA-funded project that is under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources. HRSA stands for Health Resources and Services Administration.

"It is designed to service a six-county rural area," said Wilkerson.

The goal of the network, Wilkerson explained, specifically pertains to workforce development and the overall goal is increased healthcare access. Wilkerson has been gathering information from all six counties as to the needs of healthcare workforce development in hopes of sharing job opportunities and training in the healthcare field with everyone in the network.

"We have a grant pro-

gram at North Florida Community College," he said. "We also have one at Suwannee-Hamilton Technical Center."

The primary jobs that will be coming into the six-county area, Wilkerson said, overwhelmingly seem to be in the field of healthcare, according to the economic development directors he has spoken with.

"One of our biggest goals is obviously going to be recruiting that workforce," said Wilkerson.

One way to do that, he said, is to tap into local middle and high schools and adult education centers to design career paths for students.

If you would like more information about this program, contact Phillip Wilkerson at 850-973-1665 or e-mail [wilkersonp@nfcc.edu](mailto:wilkersonp@nfcc.edu).

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

Pedro Diaz Gomez, 2839 Mary St., Jennings, FL, DUI, NVDL, tag attached not assigned, altered decal, possession of alcohol under 21: HCSO-Murphy  
 Jacob Maelichi Keith Conner, 325 NW Katie Glenn, White Springs, FL, VOP burglary: WSPD-Raulerson  
 Enru A. Dominguez, 1174 Suwannee St., Jennings, FL, loitering and prowling, resisting without violence: JNPD-M.Cribbs, T. Moody  
 Michael Steven Milburn Jr., 5010 Vann Rd., Valdosta, Ga., in to serve 1st weekend of 3: HCSO-walkin  
 Lamar Jerome Brown, 505 SW 5th St., Jasper, FL, into serve 7th weekend: HCSO-B. Curry  
 Jesus Arteaga, 2143 Green Crest Dr., Gainesville, Ga., traf-

ficking meth, possession of drug paraphernalia: DTF-Curry, Black, Harden  
 Jed Martin Pittman, 765 Plum St., Jennings, FL, DUI (3rd): FHP-A.Hughes  
 Crystal Monique Edwards, 358 SW 10th Ave., Jasper, FL, VOP O/C drug offender probation, sale of cocaine: P&P-Black, Curry  
 Thomas Jerome Johnson, 1051 SW 5th St., Jasper, FL, COP: P&P-Curry, Black, Harden  
 Ronald Lee Wilson Jr., 406 NW 4th Ave., Jasper, FL, burglary (dwelling), grand theft, uttering a forged instrument (money order): JAPD-Price  
 Jeremy Loren Lieupo, 8145 SW 68th Dr., Jasper, FL, hold for SCSO: FWC-Creech  
 Timothy David Morgan, 10271 SW 42nd St., Jasper, FL, domestic battery: HCSO-B. Burnam  
 Timothy Ball, 3545 New Hope Road, New Haven, Ky., poss of meth, poss of narcotic equipment, poss of marijuana (-20 grams): DTF-C. Brownfield  
 Jessica Leigh Powell, 9826 SE 177 Ct., White Springs, FL, hold for Columbia County: P&P-Curry, Black, Polk  
 Justin Jason Lane, 13507 76th Terrace, Live Oak, FL, DWLS (habitual), VOP DUI  
 Gilchrist County: WSPD  
 Christopher Robin Lott, 908 6th Ave. SW, Jasper, FL, VOP on DUI: HCSO-walk in

# Social Security helps the homeless

By Mary Kate Vang  
 Social Security District Manager,  
 Lake City, FL

More than half-a-million Americans experience homelessness on any given night. Nearly 20 percent of them are "chronically homeless," meaning they are on the streets regularly. Social Security has several programs that pay benefits to qualified individuals, including those who are homeless. These programs include retirement, disability, and survivors benefits, as well as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which is a needs-based program for people who are blind, disabled, or age 65 or older. If you know someone who is homeless, and you want to learn more about how Social Security might help, a good place to get information is at [www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness).

That page includes a link to the Spotlight on Homelessness — a website designed to help the homeless apply for SSI. It's available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-homeless.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-homeless.htm).

The homelessness page also includes links to information on health care for the homeless, institutionalization, advocacy groups, reports on homeless outreach, and even links to other websites like the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and HUD.

You'll find other information helpful to the homeless on [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). For example, there is a link to our Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool, or BEST. Based on answers to various questions, this tool helps determine the benefits someone might be eligible for and gives information about how to qualify and apply. Go directly to [www.socialsecurity.gov/best](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/best).

Tell anyone you know who is homeless or threatened with homelessness to use the Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool and to check out the different types of benefits and assistance they may be eligible to receive. Spread the word about the help available to the homeless.

Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness) to learn more.

# Count birds instead of staying inside this winter



"cap" on its head. It must love to be heard because it sings loudly from high, outer limbs of trees. Chipping sparrows like feeders too, if you have one.

Counting and viewing birds is as easy as walking out your back door and looking in your trees, bushes or at your feeder. Make it a family event and take mom or dad outside with you.

Things to have handy: binoculars, bird guides and checklists to keep track of the kind of birds you see and how many you count. If you plan to be outside for a long period of time, take a blanket to sit on and a cup of hot chocolate!

You can also join the FWC's Wings Over Florida program or become a Junior Birder by visiting [FloridaBirdingTrail.com](http://FloridaBirdingTrail.com) and selecting "Birding Resources" in the left-hand menu; then click on "Wings Over Florida." That is where you can learn about the Junior Birder Program and download a copy of the Bird Detective checklist.

Another opportunity to count birds in your backyard happens Feb. 17-20, 2012. The yearly Great Backyard Bird Count is the largest bird count in North America. This event helps scientists learn things, like how winter weather influences bird populations, how this year's migration compares with last year's, and what kinds of birds are in cities and rural areas. For information about this upcoming event, visit <http://birdsource.org/gbbc>.

So don't become part of the gloomy winter season, Get Outdoors Florida! and go count birds!

■ [Jessica.Basham@MyFWC.com](mailto:Jessica.Basham@MyFWC.com)  
 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

One, two, three, four: cardinals, finches and chickadees. How many birds can you count in your backyard this winter?

While you may not hear their boisterous whistles and tweets like you do in spring, birds are still in your backyard. Your yard may look gloomy and dull this time of year, but there are bright spots, or feathers, to see! In fact, many species of birds are just arriving from as far away as Canada. It is migration season, when many of our feathered friends travel to the warm state of Florida to escape the frozen, snowy north.

What might you see bustling and fitting around your yard? Well, you might set your sights on a yellow-bellied sapsucker, a migratory woodpecker that gets its name because of the holes it bores into trees to "suck" the sap out of the bark.

Or you might see an American goldfinch or chipping sparrow. Although their colors are duller in the winter, goldfinches are still easy to spot through bare branches and brown leaves because of their yellow feathers, black wings with white markings and cone-shaped bill. The chipping sparrow is a robust little bird with a rust-colored

## Jasper Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 3RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR HAMILTON COUNTY

CASE #: 2010-CA-000343

REGIONS BANK d/b/a REGIONS MORTGAGE

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOEY KJ NORRIS; JACQUELINE ELKINS DEAN;

Defendant(s).

### NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 2, 2011, entered in Civil Case No. 2010-CA-000343 of the Circuit Court of the 3rd Judicial Circuit in and for Hamilton County, Florida, wherein Regions Bank d/b/a Regions Mortgage, Plaintiff and Joey KJ Norris are defendant(s), I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash IN THE SOUTH FRONT LOBBY IN HAMILTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 207 NORTHEAST 1ST STREET, JASPER, HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, AT 11:00 A.M. on January 4, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 7, BLOCK A, LYNN LAKE ESTATES, UNIT 1, A SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 9, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING LOCATED IN THE SW 1/4 OF NW 1/4 OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator; 173 Northeast Hernando Street, Room 408, Lake City, Florida 32056; (386) 719-7576 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

(COURT SEAL) GREG GODWIN  
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
 Hamilton County, Florida

/s/ Cynthia Johnson  
 DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT  
 12/15, 22

## Jasper Legals

PUBLIC AUCTION

Location: Dennis Garage  
 8109 CR 146 NW  
 Jennings, FL 32053

Date: 12-30-11  
 Time: 8:00 A.M.

1992 Mercury  
 VIN# 2MECM75W4NX708654  
 12/15

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 11-248-DR

### IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF

WILLIE COACHMAN,  
 Husband,

and  
 BELA DENISE JENKINS,  
 Wife.

### AMENDED NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION

TO: Bela Denise Jenkins

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Dissolution of Marriage, including claims for dissolution of marriage, payment of debts, division of real and personal property, and for payments of support, has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on RALPH R. DEAS, Petitioner's attorney, whose address is 108 Central Ave. NW, Jasper, FL 32052, within 30 days of the initial publication and file the original with the clerk of this court at Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 NE First Street, Jasper, Florida 32052, either before service on Petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

DATED this 2nd day of December, 2011.

(COURT SEAL) GREG GODWIN  
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: /s/ Cynthia Johnson  
 Deputy Clerk  
 12/8, 15, 22, 29

# Jasper Kiwanis Club's Turkey Shoot is this Saturday, Dec. 17

Public invited, bring your shotgun

This Saturday, December 17, the Jasper Kiwanis Club will sponsor the second Turkey Shoot of the season. Proceeds from the event will benefit the youth programs in Hamilton County. The event, which will start at 9:00 a.m., will be held at Jasper Kiwanian, Larry Cail's farm located just south of Jasper city limits on US Hwy 41. The public is invited.

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