

The Jasper News

Today's Weather

High 70° F
Low 41° F
Precip: 0%



A mainly sunny sky. High around 70F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 0%. For up to the minute weather go to www.nflaonline.com.

141ST YEAR, NUMBER 6

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2012

2 SECTIONS 22 PAGES

50¢



Remembering MLK

More than 100 celebrate King



Hattie Mae Jenkins tells a story to the children at the MLK celebration.



The Graham family stands beside the granite memorial at the park that was dedicated in honor of their family member, John Henry Graham. - Photos: Joyce Marie Taylor

"I'm hoping that on this day we don't just recognize one man for one thing, but that we start recognizing a lot of people for what they do." - Duan Graham

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

The legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was celebrated in grand style by more than 100 people on the grounds of South Hamilton Elementary School in the town of White Springs on Monday, Jan. 16.

This celebration was followed by a dedication cere-

mony at the gazebo park across the street from SHE to honor the late John Henry Graham who died Oct. 18, 2000. He was the first African-American mayor of White Springs.

White Springs Mayor Dr. Helen Miller officiated over the ceremonies and others from the community offered

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 2A

Butler reverses strategy for CHE intervention



Martha Butler
Supt. of Schools

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

In a major reversal of strategy, Hamilton County Schools Superintendent Martha Butler announced at a town hall meeting Tuesday night that she

will recommend to the school board that students from South Hamilton Elementary be moved to Central Hamilton Elementary, should CHE not exit intervene status at the end of this school year.

CHE is in intervene status by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) for receiving a failing grade of F two years in a row. The school must receive a C grade this year to exit intervene status.

The school board meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 24 will be held at the old high school auditorium at 6 p.m. If the board rejects the rec-

SEE BUTLER, PAGE 2A

Man faces multiple charges following high speed chase

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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A Madison man faces numerous charges after a high speed chase in Hamilton County Friday morning, Jan. 13., according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

Reports show that at 9:36 a.m. on Jan. 13, Stadius Lorenza Brown, 24, Madison, was speeding westbound on SR 6, five miles east of southbound CR 143 in a white GMC Yukon. Brown was observed by FHP Trooper Alfred Hughes doing 86 mph in a posted 60 mph zone. Brown accelerated to 95 mph when trooper Hughes attempted to stop his ve-

hicle. Brown continued over a narrow bridge at the Withlacoochee River, still doing 95 mph as he crossed over into Madison County. He slowed down to about 52 mph as he approached a westbound semi tractor trailer in front of him. When he attempted to make a right turn onto NE Cassia Drive, just beyond Blue Springs State Park, his vehicle slid sideways and dug into the soft dirt, then crashed into a stop sign and road sign with the left rear of the vehicle, FHP reported.

More law enforcement
SEE MAN, PAGE 2A

County's Farm Service Agency may be closed

Services would be moved to Live Oak office

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Hamilton County Farm Service Agency office may be shuttered and services consolidated with the office in Live Oak if the USDA follows through on proposed plans to reduce the number of offices nationwide.

The USDA announced on Jan. 9 that 259 domestic offices, facilities and labs across the country, as well as seven foreign offices, will be closing in order to streamline

and modernize the department, which they say is central to meeting the evolving needs of a 21st century agricultural economy. Among those scheduled to be closed are the offices in Hamilton and Lafayette counties.

Assuming these proposed closings take place, which is estimated to be sometime this summer, personnel from both offices in Hamilton and Lafayette counties will be moved to the Suwannee County USDA office on US 129 South in Live Oak.

Don Burnam is the county executive director for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Hamilton County. There is a tentative town hall meeting to

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 2A

Hamilton canine unit captures burglary suspects

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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A juvenile suspected of vandalizing a Hamilton County residence was arrested after being tracked down by Hamilton County Correctional Institution's canine unit on Sunday, Jan. 15, according to a press release from the Florida Department of Corrections.

The juvenile and his accomplice were tracked over a half mile by Hamilton County Sheriff's officers with the assistance of the Hamilton CI canine team using a dog named "Copper". The juvenile was located by Deputy Chris Hughes of HCSO and was taken into custody along with his accomplice, authorities stated.

The canine team officers involved in the hunt

SEE HAMILTON, PAGE 2A

Presidential preference primary

Early voting begins Saturday

By Joyce Marie Taylor

Early voting for the presidential preference primary election begins this Saturday, Jan. 21 and runs through Jan. 28 for all registered republicans.

If you miss out on the early voting you have one final chance to place your vote at the polls on Jan. 31.

The primary election will be held Aug. 14,

with early voting slated for Aug. 4 through Aug. 11. The general election on Nov. 6 will decide who will be president of the United States. Barack Obama (D) currently holds the position.

For more information you can visit www.hamiltonvotes.com or the Division of Elections website at www.election.dos.state.fl.us.



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Remembering MLK Butler reverses strategy for CHE intervention

Continued From Page 1A

prayers and songs. After Reverend Fred Scipio from Sweet Home Baptist Church gave the invocation, the crowd joined in for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Awards were given out to three youngsters for winning a MLK coloring contest and essay. Second graders Kris Brown and Ben Thomas received \$15 gift certificates for the coloring contest. The winner of the essay contest was Hunter Chambers who received a \$25 gift certificate for writing about Dr. King and what he did for our country.

Storyteller Hattie Mae Jankins (a.k.a. Letitia Brown Bristol) entertained the audience with fascinating tales of the people of White Springs. Jankins also recognized many prominent black citizens in the audience, including current SHE Principal Maceo Howell and the first black principal of SHE, Brenda Graham.

Earnestine Johnson accompanied the Sun Rise Community Choir on piano as they sang several uplifting songs. Other individual performers were Janyra Marshall, daughter of Town Council member Richard Marshall and Wash Newsome, who wowed the crowd with his version of "Lord, I Thank You". School Board member Johnny Bullard sang a Stephen Foster classic, "Beautiful Dreamer".

Afterward, the crowd walked across the street to the new gazebo park. The gazebo was built a few years ago by Kenny Hutcherson and Earl

Carter. More recently, the land was cleared, the sign was erected and the granite memorial was placed in the ground. The park is now known as John Henry Graham Memorial Park.

According to Town Manager Robert Townsend, the park was made possible with grant monies.

"The Florida League of Cities had a trial grant program and we applied for it and got the funding to build the pavilion and clean up the park," said Townsend.

Graham, aside from being the first African-American mayor of White Springs, was also an educator, public servant and veteran. He was born Feb. 9, 1945, the son of two educators, and graduated from Florida A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in math. He was also a member of the ROTC and later served as a commissioned officer in the United States Army as a 2nd Lieutenant. He served two tours of duty in Germany and Vietnam, and was promoted to captain before completing his service.

He fathered one daughter and three sons. Daughter Chaon is an elementary teacher in Atlanta and Duan is a middle/high school math teacher in Wildwood, Fla. Graham's other sons are John and Shaun. John is a physical therapist in Fort Myers and Shaun is an accountant for Coca Cola Bottling Company.

Other family members were present for the ceremonies and the unveiling of the gazebo

park sign and granite memorial plaque. Son Duan accepted the Beautiful Dreamer Award on behalf of the Graham family.

"I'm hoping that on this day we don't just recognize one man for one thing, but that we start recognizing a lot of people for what they do," Duan said. "It doesn't take this stage or this platform or a specific day, but everyday, if somebody does something worthy of a thank you."

Duan said he is proud of his father, who is part of a long legacy of individuals from the White Springs area.

After the ceremonies were completed, Chef "Teddy Bear" Marshall and Townsend fed everyone a bowl of spicy, mouthwatering chili that they had been simmering in the pot for days.

Townsend wanted to be sure and thank Monica Carter for overseeing many of the preparations for the ceremony.

In her closing comments Miller quoted from Dr. King's speech.

"We need to work together, to pray together, to struggle together and if need be to go to jail together. To climb up for freedom together knowing that we will be free one day," Miller read.

White Springs has made great strides, but more can be done, Miller told the audience.

"We can make the extra effort. We can rise up to Dr. King's vision, his courage and his belief in the goodness of all men and women and we can do this together," Miller said.

Continued From Page 1A

ommendation they must come up with another acceptable plan and give it to Butler to submit to the FDOE by Feb. 1.

"I promised to be transparent with you and I promised to share all of the news of the district in a public forum," said Butler.

All school board members and principals were present at the town hall meeting, along with Andre Dodson, teacher certification specialist, and Karen Mitchell, coordinator of student services and accountability, Rex Mitchell, assistant superintendent, Dr. Fay Moss, transformation specialist, and Bonnie Penner, director of business services.

Butler cited many reasons why she is recommending the change, including but not limited to financial restraints, the age and condition of SHE, bathroom facilities, safety issues and transportation costs.

Butler said at least 20 loads of fill dirt would need to be trucked in to the grounds of SHE in order to accommodate portables, as well as concrete that would need to be poured, but which can't be poured over fresh fill dirt immediately. The kitchen in the cafeteria, Butler said, only has a two-burner stove which is inadequate for feeding over 500 children.

The board had previously approved moving CHE students to SHE if CHE did not successfully exit intervene status at their Oct. 24 meeting. The school board had to submit a plan to the FDOE as to what they would do if Central did not successfully exit intervene status. Since that school board meeting issues arose that showed it was not a practical choice to move Central students to South. Bonnie Penner gave the audience detailed information comparing the two options

and according to her figures it makes financial sense to move SHE students to CHE, which is a newer and larger building, as well.

"There is absolutely no way that we can move students to South Hamilton campus in a timely manner," Butler said in closing. "We may have five weeks, maybe six pushing it. We can't do it. It's physically impossible."

CHE Principal Lee Zamora spoke up at the end of the meeting saying she was confident Central would improve their school grade this year.

"I want to tell you that the safety and welfare of our children is my number one concern," Butler told the audience. "But looking you in the eye and spending your tax dollars is exactly what I promised you I would do when I was elected, and that was to be a good steward of your dollars and this is just a step in that direction."

Important public meeting for Hamilton County farmers and ranchers

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that Tim Manning, State Executive Director for Florida FSA and members of his management team have scheduled a public meeting in Hamilton County February 2, 2012 at 10:00am at the Hamilton County Courthouse Annex Auditorium located at 1153 US HWY 41 NW Jasper, FL 32052.

FSA's public meeting will be the only one held to take public comment on USDA's proposed office consolidation plan in which the Hamilton County FSA

office is being considered for consolidation. Producers can also provide written comment by emailing mark.cotrell@fl.usda.gov or sending written comment to USDA Farm Service Agency, P.O. Box 141030 Gainesville, FL 32614-1030 no later than February 13, 2012.

All public comments will be taken into full consideration prior to development or implementation of a final consolidation plan.

For more information, contact Florida Farm Service Agency at 352-379-4500.

Hamilton canine unit captures burglary suspects

Continued From Page 1A

were Sgt. William Billingsley, Officer Steve Folsom and Sgt. S. Bennett.

"The professionalism that our canine units show day in and day out and their willingness to go into harm's way to protect the public is a testament to their dedication as public servants and law enforcement officers," said Hamilton CI Warden John Palmer.

Boys lose a close one to St. Francis

PAGE 7A

Man faces multiple charges following high speed chase

Continued From Page 1A

ment units arrived at the scene, including FHP, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and sheriff's officers from Hamilton and Madison counties. EMS arrived to help as well.

Brown was placed under arrest and transport-

ed to Madison County Memorial Hospital with minor injuries. He was later booked into the Madison County Jail on charges of speeding, no seatbelt, driving on a suspended license, violation of probation, possession of marijuana, felony fleeing and eluding a law enforcement officer.

County's Farm Service Agency may be closed

Continued From Page 1A

discuss the issue, which is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 2 at the old high school in Jasper from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

"The USDA, like families and businesses across the country, cannot continue to operate like we did 50 years ago," US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack stated in a press release.

Vilsack, according to his 'Blueprint for

Stronger Service', says there is a need to innovate, modernize and be better stewards of taxpayers' dollars. Upcoming changes are based on a department-wide review of operations that was conducted as part of a campaign by President Barack Obama to cut waste and make government work better and more efficiently.

One part of Vilsack's blueprint is to consoli-

date 200 offices across the country while ensuring vital services are not cut.

Offices targeted for closure, according to Vilsack, are ones that are non-staffed and ones that have small staffs of one or two people, as well as others that are within 20 miles of other USDA offices.

The complete press release can be found on the USDA's website at www.usda.gov.

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Life in WHITE SPRINGS

By Walter McKenzie

lifeinwhitesprings@gmail.com

Talk about some good food! Last Monday the Stephen Foster Citizen Support Organization had its membership meeting and Board Member Karen Williams coordinated the meal with Live Oak resident "Ms. Wilma" who prepared her famous chicken and dumpling and baked ham dinner. Many members bought side dishes and all enjoyed the good food and conversation. Volunteering for the CSO is so much fun! The "Buck in a Bucket" fund raiser for Big Shoals was held again the meeting and many folks went home with wonderful treasure, all while helping a very good cause. If you

come to the next CSO meeting, clean out those closets and bring those great treasures you are willing to part with for our bucket fund. You never know what will show up and there have been many great hidden treasures being offered. Park Manager Ben Faure reported that this year's Festival of Lights broke all the attendance records and donation records too. He thanked staff and volunteers for the amazing work they did to make this event such a huge success. In fact this event can now be considered the largest attended special event in all 160 Florida State Parks!

This year is the 60th anniversary of the Florida Folk Festival, which celebrates the rich heritage & cultural traditions throughout the state of Florida through song, storytelling, dance, crafts and more.

The CSO has been working hard with the park staff to begin a comprehensive sponsorship program to help support increased initiatives and performances for this year's festival and future festivals. One of the primary fundraisers they are conducting is a 60 for 60 sponsorship program from individuals. For a generous donation of \$60.00 your sponsorship will help support the Florida Folk Festival, and in return, you will be one of the first to receive the new 60th Anniversary Folk Festival T-shirt which was showcased at last Monday's meeting. If you are unable to donate at the \$60.00 level, a \$30.00 donation will be used to support the event, and will include a free Folk Festival Performer Music CD. If you are able to support the Festival at the \$90.00 level, you will receive both of these special one of a kind limited edition items. The CSO is reaching out to all of our readers for input and assistance to help them secure major corporate sponsors for the event. If you have any corporate contacts or information which can be used to help them raise significant sponsorship funding, please contact Park Marketing Coordinator, Andrea Thomas at 386-397-2733.

Last Monday the Martin Luther King Day celebration and the dedication of the John Graham Park was a combined celebration complete with wonderful music and delicious food. The musical and culinary talents of our town never cease to amaze me. I go to many events in White Springs that nurture my spirit and my waistline in this way!

The world is coming to White Springs again this Saturday. John Wort Hannam, the 2010 Canadian Folk Music Award Winner for Contemporary Album of the Year will be performing with Scott Duncan, fiddler extraordinaire, at the Telford Hotel this Saturday January 21, 7:30PM. John Wort Hannam sings blue collar roots music, plays a mean guitar, and Scott Duncan harmonizes and provides extraordinary fiddle accompaniment. John and Scott recently performed together at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC and have been touring extensively in Canada and the United States. So, entertainment worthy of the Kennedy Center is coming to White Springs! Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 386-269-0056.

So, once again there is a lot going on in White Springs and I hope to see you out and about enjoying all that our town has to offer.

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

Healthy Living

You are what you eat

~Jaye Elizabeth Harris, CSCS, HFS
www.balanceourbody.net



You are what you eat. Literally. Take for example the fat on a nice juicy steak. That's exactly what it looks like on you too. Whatever food you eat your body begins to break down to its basic components. When you're eating that steak, think about what Bessie May's last meal might've been, or the night before her last meal, because you are eating it too. In addition was Bessie injected with steroids? Hormones? Antibiotics? Did she know she was being slaughtered? If so she more than likely released high amounts of adrenaline into her system, muscles, organs-which means you're eating that too.

I say this all the time, the first step to change is awareness. Be aware of all the substances you put in your body, including food. So you say, Okay, I'm aware I'm eating a hamburger. Be a little more specific. Where did the meat come from? Were the animals fed nourishing food? Were they slaughtered humanely (as to not cause adrenaline release in their bloodstream before their demise). Where was the lettuce and tomato grown? Were pesticides and chemicals used on the vegetables? What was in the soil or water?

Being so thorough may seem a little overboard, but shouldn't we be proactive when it comes to our health? Ask your physician or medical professional can a lifetime of digesting chemically altered or genetically modified foods lead to cancer? The truth is they don't know. Cancer is the abnormal dividing of cells without control that then are able to invade other tissues spreading through the blood and lymph system. Considered not to be one disease, but many

diseases-cancer is still only differentiated by where the cell abnormality begins.

The million dollar question-what causes the abnormality? The reason we have no definite answer to this question falls within the infinite complexity of the human body, and extreme variability for each individual. Dormant genetic predisposition or abnormalities can be awakened from slumber within our DNA. But many times, our bodies normal functioning is diminished and deteriorated through constant exposure to harmful substances. Be careful what you put in your body.

Remember, even if you are middle aged, most of your body is thought to be 10-years-old or less! In a constant state of flux, our body discards old cells and new ones are generated to take their place; each individual type of tissue having its own turnover time. Cells lining the stomach last only a few days; red blood cells last around 120 days. Other cells, including most of our gut, have a turnover around 15 years. New studies reveal even our heart muscle fibers, previously thought not to regenerate, as a whole are producing new cells, how exciting! Next time you eat remember you're not just trying to keep same old you refreshed and alive, you are making new you all the time.

The unexamined life
is not worth living.
~Socrates

SRWMD will receive \$1.8M to assist FEMA with obtaining better flood hazard data

On Jan. 10, the Suwannee River Water Management District's Governing Board authorized the District to enter into an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist with flood mapping efforts. FEMA will provide a \$1.8 million grant for the District to administer FEMA's Risk MAP (Mapping, Assessment, and Planning) Program for the Upper Suwannee River and the Santa Fe River basins.

Since 1999, the District has served as a technical partner with FEMA to update flood hazard data and flood maps. The first phase of the project included assisting FEMA with the development of Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for all counties within the District as part of FEMA's Map Modernization Program. The process involved remapping certain floodplain boundaries, converting old, paper maps into digital format, and producing geographical information system (GIS) data to support the new maps.

The District is nearing the completion of this phase of the project, with maps for Bradford and Levy counties entering the final stages of completion. Northwest Florida Water Management District is developing the DFIRMs for Jefferson County.

In the Risk MAP phase of the project, the District will assist FEMA with obtaining

additional and more precise information about flood risks to better assess flood hazards. For instance, whereas the first phase of the project identified floodplain boundaries, the second phase will specify the depth of flooding in those flood hazard areas.

The District will use part of the FEMA grant to obtain data through

the use of light detection and ranging (LiDAR), a data-collection method that provides more detailed topographic information.

"Having more precise data will allow us to better identify, assess, and mitigate flood risks," said James Link, District's FEMA program manager. "This will assist our communities by helping to prevent loss of life and property."

These programs are part of FEMA's plan to provide updated flood hazard data to identify flood risks for flood insurance and development purposes. To learn more about these programs visit http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/mm_main.shtm and http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/rm_main.shtm.

The District disseminates floodplain mapping information to the public through its website at www.srwmd.state.fl.us/index.aspx?nid=33.

The District manages water and related natural resources in north-central Florida by providing water quality and quantity monitoring, research, regulation, land acquisition and management, and flood protection.

Countywide brotherhood meeting

Jan. 26, 2012 at 7 p.m.
New Hope Baptist Church.
All invited. Bring a covered dish.
The church is located at 6952 NW 48th St. in Jennings.

VOTE 2012

Presidential Preference Primary

JANUARY 31, 2012

EARLY VOTING starts Saturday, January 21st and ends Saturday, January 28th. Early Voting hours are 8:30 am to 5:00 pm in the Supervisor of Elections Office, located in the Courthouse Annex. (Note: we will be open on Sunday, January 22nd from 1 pm to 6 pm.)

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.

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

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OPINION

Presidential nonsense

Last week, President Barack Obama, at a Capital Hilton fundraising event, told the crowd, "We can't go back to this brand of you're-on-your-own economics." Throughout my professional career as an economist, I've never come across the theory of "you're-on-your-own economics." I'm guessing what the president means by -- and finds offensive in -- "you're-on-your-own economics" is that it's a system in which people are held responsible for their actions, that they take risks and must live with the results, that people can't force others to pay for their mistakes, and that they can't live at the expense of other people.

President Obama's vision was shared by our Pilgrim Fathers of the Plymouth Colony in modern-day Massachusetts. They established a communist system. They all farmed

together, and whatever they produced was put in a common storehouse. A certain amount of food was rationed to each person regardless of his contribution to the work.

Many Pilgrims complained that they were too weak from hunger to do their share of the work. As deeply religious as the Pilgrims were, they took to stealing from one another. Gov. William Bradford, writing his history of the colony in "Of Plymouth Plantation," said, "So as it well appeared that famine must still ensue, the next year also if not some way prevented."

In 1623, after much debate, a new system was set up, in which every family was assigned a parcel of land, and whatever they produced belonged to the family. Gov. Bradford then observed, "The women now went willingly into the field, and took their little ones with them to set corn; which before would allege weakness and inability; whom to have compelled would have been thought great tyranny and oppression." After Gov. Brad-



**A
MINORITY
VIEW**
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BY WALTER WILLIAMS

ford's establishment of what Obama calls "you're-on-your-own economics," harvests were so bountiful that Bradford is credited with establishing what we now call Thanksgiving.

There are several seemingly immutable, hard-wired characteristics about humans that socialists, liberals and progressives find difficult to deal with and would like to change. People tend to work harder and produce more when they own what they produce. Property is better cared for when it is privately owned. People love to exchange, what Adam Smith called a "propensity to truck (and) barter." To suppress these characteristics requires brute force.

President Obama also told the Washington Hilton crowd that "we are not a country that was built on the idea of survival of the fittest." Obama is not by himself, but "survival of the fittest" is one of the greatest misunderstandings of Charles Darwin's pathbreaking work "On the Origin of Species." When Obama and most other people use the expression "survival of the fittest," they suggest that a bunch of people or animals are competing with one another and the strongest, smartest or cleverest survives. That's not what Darwin and evolutionary biologists have in mind.

Instead, what they have in mind is that those who survive have characteristics that make them better-equipped to survive and hence reproduce themselves in a particular environment. They are not laying waste to their competitors.

Let's try a few survival of the fittest questions. Which companies do you think should survive and expand, those that can meet the changing wants of their customers in a least-cost fashion or those that cannot do so? If the means of communication become cheaper through fax machines, the Internet and telephones, should subsidies be expended to help the U.S. Postal Service survive? Years ago, typing was done on a mechanical typewriter; milk was delivered to doorsteps via horse and wagon; slide rules were used to make calculations. Should any of these products and practices have survived, or was it OK for natural selection to consign them to the dustbin of history?

Try cornering the president or his supporters, and ask them whether they believe government should ensure that the unfit survive and rather than "you're-on-your-own economics" there should be "you're-on-somebody-else economics."

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

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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.

Pastor Laddie DeRocco to speak at Jasper First Baptist Church and Calvary Baptist

Pastor Laddie DeRocco of Donalsonville, Ga. will be speaking at the First Baptist Church of Jasper and Calvary Baptist Church of Jasper during the annual January Bible Study. This bible study will be held Jan. 22 - 25 at 6:30 p.m. Jasper First Baptist will host it on Sunday, Jan.

22 and Monday, Jan. 23. Calvary Baptist Church will host the meetings on Tuesday, Jan. 24 and Wednesday, Jan. 25. The bible study will begin at 6:30 p.m. each evening, breaking for sandwiches & snacks in the fellowship hall and resuming the study until 8:30.

Laddie DeRocco II is currently the pastor of Salem Seminole Baptist Church in Donalsonville, Ga. He is the son of Laddie and Robin DeRocco of Jasper. As a youth at First Baptist of Jasper, Jesus radically transformed Laddie's life and direction. He became a leader among the youth group and soon sensed a call to the ministry. Upon graduation

from Hamilton County High School, he studied and graduated from Baptist College of Florida. Laddie is married to his high school sweetheart, April Rogers. April is the daughter of Roy and Sybil Rogers of Jasper.

Laddie and April have two children, Sebastian and Miles. The DeRoccos have been serving the church in Donalson for four years.

The four-evening bible study presents an intimate study of the book of Ruth. Through this study of the bible, it will explain the sovereignty of God, prayer, provision, relationships and more. Pastor DeRocco will present an in-depth

study of the most beautiful short story in all of scripture praying that it will leave many with a deep hunger for His Word, discovering amazing theological, doctrinal and practical truths for today.

First Baptist of Jasper is located at 207 2nd Avenue NE, Jasper Florida 32052

(behind the courthouse) Calvary Baptist Church is located at 11320 CR 6E, Jasper, Florida 32052. If you have any questions, you may call Pastor Roger Hutto of First Baptist Church of Jasper at 386-792-2658 or Pastor Ray Shaw of Calvary Baptist Church at 386-792-3267.



**Friday,
January 20th
8:00 pm**

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State park to host pottery workshop

- Participant registration now underway -

WHITE SPRINGS - The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park will conclude its three day pottery workshop for beginners on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012.

Taught by Diane Hornby, participants will learn wedging, how to hand build a pinch pot, an assembled box, a critter and an object of choice, as well as how to hand paint and embellish your vessel.

The cost is \$85 and includes basic instruction in each technique, open independent studio time on arranged dates with potter available for questions, four pounds of clay and the firing of four vessels. Extra clay, firing and glazes available for minimal cost; the class will be held in Craft Square at the pottery cabin.

Later hours can be arranged. For more information on the workshop or to register, please call the park Gift Shop at (386) 397-1920 or visit www.stephenfosterCSO.org. To learn more about the park, visit www.FloridaStateParks.org/stephenfoster.

This event will take place:

Jan. 5, 12 and 19, 2012
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center
State Park Craft Square
11016 Lillian Saunders Drive
White Springs, Florida

CHURCH NEWS

Heart Matters



Angie Land

Sticking to those resolutions

By Angie Land

Now that we are few weeks into 2012, I wonder how our New Year's

Resolutions are coming? Is anyone still as motivated as they were on Jan. 1?

My list this year looked different than ever before, because it was mostly blank. Not because I don't realize there are lots of area I could work on, but I decided not to begin the year with my own plan, but rather to wait and see what direction God would lead. Last year brought so many changes into my life (some really great

changes as well as some really difficult ones) that I have struggled to find a new "normal." By nature, I am a planner, and I think waiting may be the most difficult resolution I have ever attempted. Countless times in the past few weeks I have started to make a plan of my choosing, only to be reminded of my goal to stop and wait on the Lord!

After one such reminder, I was directed to the following verses in my daily Bible reading. "...train yourself to be godly. For physical

training is of some value but godliness has value for all things holding promise for the present life and the life to come." (1 Timothy 4:7b-8)

After reading this passage it occurs to me how obvious it is that godliness does not instantly accompany salvation. Salvation is a gift, but godliness is a continuous pursuit. What this means for us is our desire for godly characteristics, (such as patience and self-control in my case) are something we have to be intentional about developing...they

won't just happen. The Greek word for "train" is "gumnazo" from which we derive the word "gymnasium," a place of training. The passage then compares the value of physical training to the benefits of godliness now and in "the life to come"

All of us struggle with a sin nature that fights hard against our efforts to grow in godliness, but we have to fight back! The battle may come in the form of physical effort, like eating healthier or getting off the couch and taking a walk, or a

relational one, like being willing to have a healthy confrontation in order to help resolve family problems. To begin with, both may be uncomfortable, but they will get easier the more we push forward!

So, back to our resolutions, let's recommit to those healthy changes we began to pursue a few weeks ago, and keep our "training" going! Remember, godliness has value for now and the future. It will be worth the effort!

Because Every Heart Matters,
Angie

Freedom is Here



John Whittington

Big God vs. little god part 2

By Pastor John Whittington
Lighthouse Christian Center
Last week we started looking at the difference

between Big God (the Real Deal) and little god (our often less-than adequate concept of God). Let's continue with a few comparisons between the two.

When you do what you shouldn't or don't do what you should, little god has no expectations and is just fine with exceptions:

"I shouldn't steal, but I really need the money!"
"I should forgive, but this person's attitude doesn't deserve it!"
"I should help others,

but I have my own problems to worry about."

By contrast, Big God has impossible expectations. But He also gives you the power to do the impossible! And He's kind and forgiving in those times you don't. Where little god gives religion and lists, Big God gives a relationship and life!

Another aspect of little god are his limitations.

You can't be "cool" and Christian.

You can't be smart and saved.

You can't be holy and happy.

But Big God "has given us everything we

need for life and godliness..." (2Peter 1:3). You don't have to choose. You can have both!

Little god can't sustain you for your journey. The same people who worshiped the golden calf in the wilderness kept wanting to go back to Egypt, back to slavery. The little god in your life allows you to do whatever you want, not because he's permissive, but because he's powerless. Big God, on the other hand, "led his people through the wilderness" (Psalm 136:16).

Sometimes little god may seem big, but he is-

n't. The statue of Zeus at Olympia was large. The base of the statue was about 20 ft. wide and 3 ft. high. The height of the statue itself was 40 ft, equivalent to a modern 4-story building. No matter how big he was, he still couldn't hear, see, or know the people who came to worship him. As a matter of fact, he was really an it.

Big God is bigger than the heavens yet hears his people pray and comes to their rescue. Big God loves you with an everlasting love. He knows even the number of hairs on your head! He sent his Son, poured out his

Spirit and offers eternal life.

When you truly encounter Big God, you may be speechless, or shout His praises! You may fall on your face, or run tell others about Him! He is the God who shakes you to your very core. He's the God who heals the sick and raises the dead. He's the God who created the universe and holds it in His hand!

He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he. (Deuteronomy 32:4)



Tim Seaton

By Tim Seaton

At some point in Jesus' popularity people were bringing their children to him: Mk.19:13-15; Mk.10:13-16; Lk.18:15-17. Combining these accounts we see that people were bringing both infants and small children to Jesus. They wanted Jesus to take their children in his arms, lay his hands on them and pray over them in order to bestow a blessing upon them. The disciples of Jesus were hindering them, but Jesus was indignant

about this! He said, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God (or of Heaven). Truly, I say to you whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." Then he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

The first thing to consider is the reason why families were bringing their children to Christ. Second, what is the nature of Christ's blessing offered? It doesn't seem as if the children were sick and in need of healing. This blessing seems to be out of a concern for the children's general state of being. If this blessing was the venerable custom blessing of Gen.48:14-16, then it is likely a blessing of future prosperity. The families preferred Jesus'

blessing over their own fathers' and Jesus was more than happy to give it. Yet the fact that Jesus gave his blessing with reasons regarding the Kingdom of Heaven causes us to dig deeper than the blessings of Ephraim or Manasseh. Remember what spiritual corruption became of Ephraim and Manasseh in their worldly prosperity? This blessing cannot be so shallow. So then, Jesus was concerned for their souls' bright future. Now, is Jesus simply granting these children an inheritance in the kingdom of Heaven? We'll get to that in a minute.

The third thing to consider is why the disciples were rebuking such a blessing. They did this before Jesus spoke on the subject, so we see

that it was based on their own perceptions of what was going on. Like so many other times (Mt.15:23; Lk.9:54; Lk.18:39 - to name a very few), the Lord's disciples were presumptuous and wrong even though Jesus was with them teaching them day after day (Jn.14:9). What a lesson of caution for us! There are two options in my mind for what they were doing here: 1) they did not foresee the spiritual application Jesus would make to a worldly blessing, if indeed such was the case. 2) They didn't see the point in little children wasting Jesus' time and attention regarding spiritual matters; after all, they're only infants! Now, which of the two would make Jesus absolutely

indignant? I think the obvious choice is number two.

Fourth, what did Jesus mean when he spoke about the kingdom of God and these children? I think Jesus wasn't just blessing children here. He was teaching his disciples out of indignation. He was indignant, I think, because of their misconception that infants gain nothing and they offer nothing in spiritual matters, and also because his disciples were arrogant enough to suppose that only someone as mature as them was worthy of Jesus' time and attention, and was worthy of the Kingdom of God. He was humbling them quite substantially in that moment when he put everything on hold, rebuked his own disci-

ples in public and preferred infants over them, saying, "If you don't grow up and act like a child, you can't get into Heaven!"

The question we put on hold may now be answered: Was Jesus granting these children an inheritance in the kingdom of Heaven? I don't believe these children were getting a free pass into Heaven for the rest of their lives, and that's not the point. The point is that the residents in Heaven will and must be like children - humble, simple, obedient, willing to learn, and totally dependent on the one who had born them. And the earlier one learns to remember his Creator in the days of his youth, the better. How do you stack up to Jesus' expectation?

Grow up, act like a child!

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Church & Family Go Together

<p>ADVENT CHRISTIAN FIRST ADVENT CHRISTIAN N.W. 15th Avenue Jasper Rev. Wayne Sullivan Sunday Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00 p.m. 717860-F</p>	<p>BAPTIST (Southern) FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH "Where Friends become Family" 207 N.E. 2nd Street, Jasper 792-2658 Pastor: Roger Hutto Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Supper.....6:00 p.m. Children, Youth & Adult Programs.....6:30 p.m. 717850-F</p>	<p>METHODIST FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 405 Central Ave., Jasper, FL Pastor - Dale Ames Phone - 386-792-1122 Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study.....4:45 p.m. Choir Practice.....6:00 p.m. Family Night Dinner 3rd Wednesday Clothes Closet 4th Saturday 1-5pm 717823-F</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 204 N.W. 3rd Avenue, Jasper, 792-2258 Pastor: Alexandria Hedrick SUNDAY Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Worship Service.....11:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY Prayer in Fellowship Hall.....9:00 a.m. Choir Practice.....7:00 p.m. 717818-F</p>
<p>BAPTIST (Southern) NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH SR 6 West, 6592 NW 48th St., Jennings, FL 32053 938-5611 Pastor: Jeff Cordero Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship, Youth Happening, FA's, GA's.....6:30 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 717856-F</p>	<p>CATHOLIC CHURCH ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH Three miles north of Jasper U.S. 41 P.O. Box 890, Jasper, FL 32052 Rectory U.S. 90 E., Live Oak, FL (386) 364-1108 Saturday MASS 4:00 p.m. 717846-F</p>	<p>NON-DENOMINATIONAL BURNHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH 4520 NW CR 146, Jennings, FL 32053 938-1265 Pastor: Johnny Brown Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Evening Service.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Kids' Program.....6:15 p.m. 717819-F</p>	<p>CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH OF CHRIST N.W. 3rd St., Jasper Bldg.: 792-2277 Sunday Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m. Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....6:00 p.m. 717824-F</p>

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

Conservation easement will protect water resources on the Aucilla River and Walker Spring



Property overlooking the Aucilla River in Jefferson County where the District has purchased a conservation easement.

LIVE OAK, FL, January 13, 2012 – The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) has purchased a conservation easement on more than 167 acres of land on the Aucilla River in Jefferson County. The easement, purchased from Chris and Kristine Layman, will require the land to remain in its natural state and condition

in order to protect water resources.

The conservation easement will provide 71.73 acres of springs protection, 90.5 acres of surfacewater protection, 167 acres of floodplain protection, and 3,085 feet or 0.58 miles of river frontage protection.

"We commend the Laymans for partnering with the District to protect

our natural resources," said Melanie Roberts, the District's director of mission support. "Not only will this easement provide a buffer for the Aucilla River, it will protect a freshwater spring and floodplain and wetland forests."

The purchase was completed using Florida Forever funding in the amount

of \$251,000 or \$1,500 per acre.

A conservation easement is a perpetual agreement that leaves the basic ownership and management of property with the land owner but permanently restricts the use and alteration of the land. The District currently protects more than 124,000 acres of water resource lands using this tool.

3 Florida panthers die in early 2012, after 24 deaths, 32 births documented in 2011

Florida panthers are off to a rough start in 2012, with three deaths documented by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Last year, 24 Florida panther deaths were recorded, but FWC biologists also observed 11 radio-collared females giving birth to 32 panther kittens. Overall, the known number of newborn panthers in 2011 appears to have offset the known number of panther deaths.

Today, an estimated 100 to 160 adults of this federally endangered species live in Florida. Panthers almost disappeared from the wild in this state when their numbers fell to fewer than 30 in the 1970s. Since then, their population has been increasing.

Collisions with vehicles continues to be the greatest source of human-

caused mortality to this long-tailed cat that can weigh up to 160 pounds and grow to 6 feet or longer.

Already, in just the first week of 2012, there were two documented deaths of panthers hit by vehicles on highways in Collier County, where the greatest concentration of panthers in the state is found. The third fatality was caused by a fight with another panther. Among the 24 documented panther deaths in 2011, nine deaths, or more than a third, were due to collisions with vehicles.

"Florida panther deaths are most often the result of one of two things: collisions with vehicles or aggression from other panthers," said Kipp Frohlich, head of the Imperiled Species Management Section at the FWC. "We can't control panthers fighting when they are defending

their territory; that is a part of nature. But we can do something about human-caused panther mortalities."

"People who slow down and drive carefully in rural areas, especially where panther crossings are identified, can make a difference in conservation of this endangered species. It is especially important to slow down and keep a careful lookout at dawn or dusk, when panthers are most likely to be on the move," Frohlich said.

The FWC continues to work with many partners to conserve and increase habitat available to panthers

on both public and private lands. This is a critical step to ensuring the survival of panthers, the official state animal of Florida.

People are encouraged to report sightings of an injured or dead panther by calling the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) or #FWC or *FWC on a cell phone. Another option is texting Tip@MyFWC.com (standard usage fees may apply).

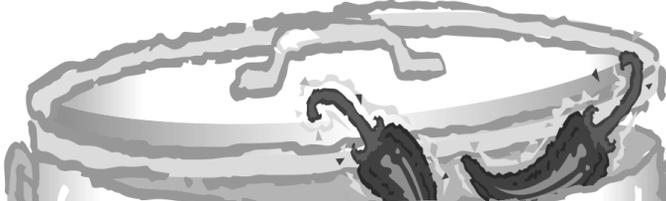
For more information on Florida panthers, go to www.floridapanther-net.org.

Hamilton County Supervisor of Elections, Laura Dees

Accepting FSASE Scholarship Applications

Hamilton County, FL-Supervisor of Elections Laura Dees, is now accepting applications for the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE) Scholarship. Applications and guidelines can be accessed online at www.hamiltonvotes.com, by selecting the FSASE Scholarship Application link on our homepage or by contacting the office at 386-792-1426. Applicants must be a registered voter, completed junior

college/ undergraduate work and be enrolled or accepted as a full-time student in a Florida University. Applications are due in the Hamilton County Supervisor's office by March 19, 2012. Supervisor Dees will personally interview applicants; she will then select one finalist from Hamilton County. That application will be sent to the FSASE Scholarship Committee to be considered. Application guidelines are set by the FSASE Committee not the local Supervisor of Elections office.



**Hamilton County
Chamber of Commerce
6th Annual Chili Cook-Off
January 28, 2012**

The Chili Cook-Off will take place at the Jasper Civic Center on January 28, 2012. Set-up at 10:00 AM, judging will begin at 11:00 AM, and awards will be at 1:00 PM.

The deadline to enter is January 25, 2012
Entrance fee for contestants: \$10.00 per individual, \$30.00 per businesses

Awards will be given to you or your business!!!
Entrance fee for spectators: \$5.00 per spectator

"Taste-test" all the chili, you want. Great opportunity to mingle!!

For more information, please call
386-792-1300 or visit:
www.hamiltoncountycoc.com

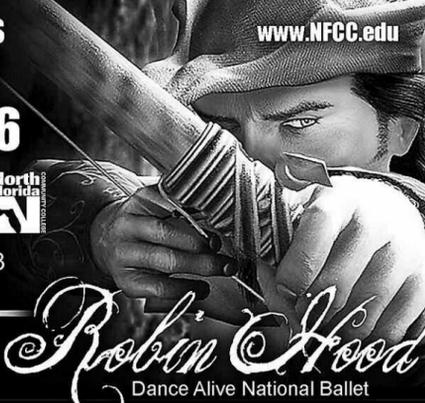


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Sign in 30 minutes early. All meetings begin at 7:30 PM

Mon. Jan. 23 LAKE CITY - Fairfield Inn 628 SW Corporate Dr.
(at the Howell County Courthouse)

Tues. Jan. 24 LIVE OAK - Garden Club 1200 11th St. SW

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Sports

Boys lose a close one to St. Francis

Staff

The Hamilton County varsity boys basketball lost to St. Francis Catholic Saturday, Jan. 14 by a close one. The final score was 70-69.

"We lost a tough one against a very good opponent," said coach Patrick Murphy. "They beat us on a layup with four seconds remaining after Jacquez McCray knocked down two free throws to give us the lead with nine seconds left. It was a hard loss to

swallow but we played really well especially in light of the fact that they beat us 76-51 earlier in the season."

The Trojans had two huge district wins over Jefferson the same week.

The boys are now 7-8 overall and 6-0 in district with two regular season district games left. Tuesday, the boys played at home against Branford and Friday they will play at home against Melody.

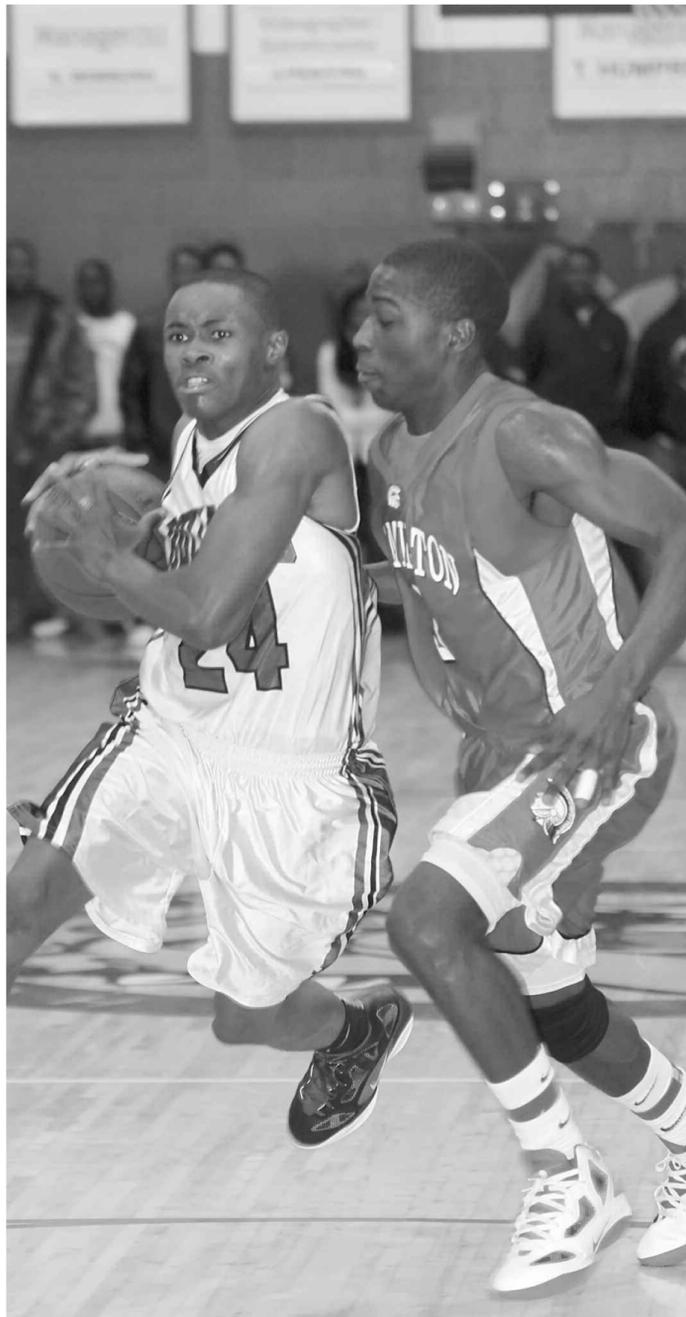
See a future edition for results.

Stats vs. St. Francis (Pts., Asst., Blk, Rbd)

Anterfernee Smith	10, 4, 1, 10
Jeremiah Lee	7, 2, 0, 1
Kevin McClain	10, 5, 3, 4
Joseph Cooks	4, 0, 0, 1
Kenric Williams	4, 3, 0, 1
Charvunta Merine	0, 1, 1, 1
Shaquille Williams	15, 1, 1, 7
Anthony Claridy	1, 1, 1, 3
Tyler Chapman	6, 1, 0, 4
Jacquez McCray	12, 2, 0, 1



A Hamilton County player battles against a Suwannee Bulldog.



A Suwannee Bulldog barrels past a Hamilton County Trojan.

- Photos: Paul Buchanan (SuwanneeSports.com)

Dust off your old cleats

Alumni football is coming to Live Oak. Gridiron Alumni is planning several full contact alumni football games.

Gridiron Alumni travels the nation pitting old football rivals against each other one more time. Players are needed to sign up and

the first 40 players on each team get to play. The team that gets 30 people registered first gets home field advantage.

Last year, hundreds of players and thousands of fans swarmed stadiums to watch their home town heroes strap it on one more time. This

year, Gridiron Alumni would like to bring alumni football to the whole state of Florida.

Teams from Suwannee, Hamilton County, Branford, Lafayette, and other area teams are forming now.

Games are scheduled for March and April, but spots and game dates

fill up fast. If you or someone you know is interested in putting on the pads one more time, please go to <http://www.gridironalumni.com> to register.

If you have any questions, please call Chris at (530) 410-6396 or go to the website.

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. 13 @ Suwannee High	1-4
Jan. 3 vs Oak Hall	0-8
Jan. 6 @ Columbia County	0-7
Jan. 10 vs Lafayette High	0-8
Jan. 17 vs Saint Francis Catholic	
Jan. 19 @Fort White	

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	5-3
Dec. 16 @ Maclay School	1-6
Jan. 3 @ Suwannee High	0-4
Jan. 5 vs Maclay School	0-4
Jan. 6 @ Columbia County	1-4
Jan. 13 @ P.K. Yonge	0-8

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	67-30
Dec. 16 vs Santa Fe	51-76
Dec. 17 @ Fort White	37-71
Jan. 5 vs Lafayette High	83-54
Jan. 6 @ Suwannee High	44-66
Jan. 14 vs Saint Francis Catholic	69-70
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. 10 vs Suwannee High	39-34
Dec. 13 @ Branford High	61-41
Dec. 16 vs Saint Francis Catholic	57-35
Dec. 17 @ Fort White	51-35
Jan. 5 vs Lafayette High	38-48
Jan. 6 @ Suwannee High	63-41
Jan. 14 vs Saint Francis Catholic	63-34...
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	

In life, an "account at the bank" can be a relative thing

By Rev. James L Snyder

God does not make grandmothers like He once did. At least not like MY grandmother. Grandmother never trusted such things as banks with her money. Someone once told my grandmother, "If you would put your money in the bank, they would pay you interest."

With a confused look on her face she responded, "I have enough interest in my money, nobody else needs to bother about it." That was that!

After my grandfather died, my wife and I had the opportunity to take grandma out for supper. It was a delightful restaurant and we thought it would be a real treat for her. More than once, I had to keep her from getting up and serving coffee to the rest of the people in the restaurant. After all, she did that at the church suppers. Why not here. "I've got two good legs," she protested.

Then came time to pay the check and the waiter brought the check and laid it in front of me. I immediately took a

credit card out of my wallet and laid it on the check.

I could tell grandma had never seen a credit card before.

"Put that away," she said. "I believe that man wants you to pay for our supper. Don't you have any money?"

"I'm paying for our supper with my credit card," I explained.

"Oh, dear," she moaned. "You know I don't believe in cards. Cards are of the devil, and I have never had a deck of cards in my house. I'm a little surprised that you, a minister, would be fooling around with such things of the devil."

She insisted we tip the waiter in "good ole American cash." I am not sure if grandma ever really understood the credit card. She bought nothing on credit and did not accept credit. Everything had to be done in cash. She often quoted the scripture verse that says, "Owe no man any thing . . ." (Romans 13:8 KJV), which she took quite literally.

As grandma got older, she began to rethink the business of opening a bank account. Without telling anyone, she decided to go to the bank and open an account. She had saved up \$50 for this purpose. Grandma nervously entered the

bank and walked up to the man sitting at the desk marked "New Accounts."

"Good morning, Ma'am. I'm Gary Goodman. How can I help you today?"

The man seemed pleasant enough, and grandma thought entrusting him with the delicate job at hand was probably safe.

"I wanna open an account," she mumbled.

"Fine. I'll get you all set up. It won't take but a few minutes." With that, he took out some papers and laid them on his desk in front of grandma.

"Now," he said, "let's begin. What is your name?"

She told him. "O.K. What is your address?"

"What?"

"What is your address?"

"Why do you need to know that?"

"I'm just filling out the form, Ma'am."

The young man a little confused with her hesitancy said, "We can come back to that. What is your date of birth?"

Grandma's face turned a little red. "What do you want to know that for," she gasped?

"I'm just filling out the forms. Can you give me your telephone number?"

That did it for grandma. She got up from her seat and looked him right in the face and said, "Young man, I don't know who you think you are, but I am not interested in your advances. I'm old enough to be your mother. You ought to be ashamed."

Just then the manager of the bank walked by.

"Mary, what are you doing here?"

The manager quickly assessed the situation and told the young man he would take care of this customer and tried to console my grandmother.

"I don't know what's gotten into young folk these days," she whispered.

Barely concealing his manager his smile he said, "I'll take care of you, Mary," he assured her. He knew all the information about her and quickly filled in the paper work and walked grandma to the teller for her first deposit.

Grandma handed the teller a crumpled \$50 bill. The teller took it and gave her a deposit receipt.

"Where's my money?" grandma demanded.

"It's safe in the bank, Ma'am."

"How do you know my money from everyone else's?"

"The money is all de-

posited in the bank, and if you need any, all you do is write a check."

She showed grandma how to write out a check. By now grandma was confused and more than a little exasperated. Quickly grandma wrote out a check for \$50 and handed it back to the teller.

"You're withdrawing all your money?"

"Yes."

The teller counted out \$50 and handed it to her. Grandma looked at the teller and said, "No. I want MY money." The teller retrieved the crumpled \$50 bill and handed it to grandma.

As she walked out, the teller heard her mumble, "What a crazy way to run business. No wonder banks fail."

There is only one sure account I can bank on. Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." (Matthew 6:19-20 KJV).

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. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

Jasper Legals

PUBLIC AUCTION

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

Date: 02-03-12
Time: 8:00 A.M.

2003 Dodge
Vin# 1D7HU18D43S357555

Date: 02-13-12
Time: 8:00 A.M.

1994 Toyota
Vin# JT3VN39W7R0152990
01/19

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS and WORKSHOPS OF THE NORTH FLORIDA BROADBAND AUTHORITY

The North Florida Broadband Authority ("NFA") announces the 2012 meeting schedule of the NFA Board of Directors that all interested persons are invited to attend. The NFA is a legal entity and public body created pursuant to the provisions of Section 163.01, Florida Statutes, and an Interlocal Agreement among Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor, Union and Wakulla Counties and municipalities of Cedar Key, Cross City, Lake City, Live Oak, Monticello, Perry, White Springs and Worthington Springs, Florida. The NFA will hold the following public meetings: January 18, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. and thereafter regular meetings will be held at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month of 2012. (February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 6, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12) at the Lake City 2nd floor Council Chambers, City Hall, 205 NE Marion Ave, Lake City, FL. An informational workshop for last mile providers will be held from 9a.m. to noon on February 1, 2012 at the same location. The NFA Policy and Operations Committee meetings will meet at 10 a.m. on January 23, and the 10 a.m. the last Wednesday of each month of 2012. (February 28, March 28, April 25, May 30, June 27, July 25, August 29, September 26, October 12, November 28, December 26) and 1p.m. on February 1, 2012 at the NFA Project Management Offices, 164 NW Madison St., St. 103, Lake City, Florida. An informational workshop will be held at 9:00 a.m. on February 22, 2012 at The Club House Hall, 161 SW Quail Heights Terrace, Lake City, FL. The NFA Board of Directors meeting will be held to conduct general business of the NFA. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the NFA with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding or have any questions please contact Faith Doyle, Clerk to the NFA Board at (386) 438-5042 at least two (2) business days prior to the date of the meeting. 01/12

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

CASE NO. 2011CA000473

FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION OF VALDOSTA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

LEWIS J. COLWELL, individually and as sole heir of RHONDA E. COLWELL, Unknown Spouse of LEWIS J. COLWELL and UNKNOWN TENANTS,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: Lewis J. Colwell, individually
Lewis J. Colwell, as sole heir of Rhonda E. Colwell, 3925 N. Oak Street Extension #1108
Valdosta, Georgia 31602

Unknown Spouse of Lewis J. Colwell
Unknown Tenants
Lot 22 Lake Creek Park Subdivision
Jennings, Florida 32053

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Hamilton County, Florida:

Lot 22 of Lake Creek Park at Oak Woodlands Subdivision, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, page 2, public records of Hamilton County, Florida. Parcel Identification Number: R 4908-151

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Richard L. Coleman, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Richard L. Coleman, Coleman Talley LLP, Post Office Box 5437, Valdosta, Georgia 31603, on or before February 17, 2012, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

Dated on December 21, 2011.

(Court Seal) GREG GODWIN
As Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Third Judicial Circuit, in and for Hamilton County, Florida

By: Cynthia Johnson
As Deputy Clerk

1/12, 19

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR HAMILTON COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION

CASE NO. 24-2010-CA-000353

CITIFINANCIAL EQUITY SERVICES, INC.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PATRICIA GRANTHAM; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF PATRICIA GRANTHAM; RONALD HART; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF RONALD HART; IF LIVING, INCLUDING ANY UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SAID DEFENDANTS), IF REMARRIED, AND IF DECEASED, THE RESPECTIVE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANT(S); CITIFINANCIAL EQUITY SERVICES, INC.; WHETHER DISSOLVED OR PRESENTLY EXISTING, TOGETHER WITH ANY GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, OR TRUSTEES OF SAID DEFENDANT(S) AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, WHETHER UNDER, OR AGAINST DEFENDANT(S); UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2;

Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above-styled cause, in the Circuit Court of Hamilton County, Florida, I will sell the property situate in Hamilton County, Florida, described as:

THAT CERTAIN LAND SITUATE IN JASPER, HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, VIZ: BEGINNING IN THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF HATELY STREET AND EAST JOHNSON STREET (MEASURING FROM THE STREET SIDE OF THE CONCRETE CURB) AND FROM THENCE RUN NORTH ALONG THE EAST EDGE OF EAST JOHNSON STREET 333 FEET AND 7 INCHES; THENCE RUN SOUTH 82 DEGREES EAST 338.6 FEET FOR A STARTING POINT; FROM THENCE RUN NORTH 10 DEGREES AND 30 MINUTES EAST 171 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 78 DEGREES EAST 53.5 FEET TO THE RIGHT OF WAY OF THE GEORGIA SOUTHERN AND FLORIDA RAILROAD; THENCE IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE WEST EDGE OF SAID RIGHT OF WAY 194 FEET TO THE EXTENSION OF THE LINE HEREIN ABOVE DESCRIBED AS RUNNING SOUTH 82 DEGREES EAST; THENCE NORTH 82 DEGREES WEST 153.8 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

To include as:

1988 SPRI VIN GAFLH34A084705H 44805269

1988 SPRI VIN GAFLH34A084705H 44805282

A/K/A

313 NE 1st Street
Jasper, FL 32052

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at the South Front Door of the Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 NE First Street, Jasper, FL 32052 at 11:00 a.m., on February 6, 2012.

DATED THIS 12th DAY OF January, 2012.

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.

Witness, my hand and seal of this court on the 12th day of January, 2012.

(Court Seal) GREG GODWIN
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
By: /s/ Cynthia Johnson
Deputy Clerk

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you are a person with a disability who requires accommodations in order to participate in a court proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, the provision of certain assistance. Individuals with a disability who require special accommodations in order to participate in a court proceeding should contact the ADA Coordinator, 173 NE Hernando Avenue, Room 408, Lake City, FL 32055, (386) 719-7428, within two (2) business days of receipt of notice to appear. Individuals who are hearing impaired should call (800) 955-8771. Individuals who are voice impaired should call (800) 955-8770.

01/19, 26

Legends of the crow

By Jessica Basham

It's not a typical winter morning in Florida. Most of the state is 70 degrees and it's January! Everything outside is brown, bare and dull. The only noise is the rustling of leaves and the coo of mourning doves. Then, loud and clear in the distance I hear the caw of a crow.

As the morning continues, other crows join and the lone call becomes chatter. Are they telling each other about a nearby predator or laughing about something funny? These all-jet-black birds (from beak to feet) are crafty, intelligent, social creatures that live in family

groups.

Crows, ravens and other black-plumaged birds are often seen as dark, scary or mysterious. However, there are many positive legends about these clever birds that people don't know. In many Native American legends crows are messengers to the gods and carry prayers. Ravens, a species similar to the American crow but much larger in body and beak, are important legends of the English Crown. They are as famous as the Tower of London. Legends say if the ravens ever leave the Tower, it and the monarchy will fall.

Despite the legends, good or bad, American

crows are extremely social birds and congregate in flocks, sometimes by the hundreds. They say there is power in numbers, and this is true for these birds. Often when a predator such as an owl or hawk appears, crows will attack and harass the offending animal until it leaves the area.

Once at a local lake I witnessed these actions firsthand. The day was sunny and quiet when suddenly the loud, distinctive caw of crows interrupted the silence. It was borderline annoying, but then I saw the reason for their ranting. A beautiful Cooper's hawk glided through the air and into a nearby tree. The noise was almost deafening as the crows took on the hawk.

This often misrepresented bird is a good problem-solver and has been known to make tools from twigs and other objects to forage for edible treats such as worms, grain, seeds,

nuts and berries. Crows are omnivores and also enjoy small mammals, eggs, clams and mussels from oceans or lakes.

While crows are found in Florida year-round, the best places to see them is an open space that offers a few trees to perch in and a reliable source of food. This is almost anywhere: fields, parks, lakes, backyards and near bodies of water.

Learn more about American crows and other birds by downloading the free iPhone application "Nature Viewing Along the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail" (other platforms coming soon) or by visiting floridabirdingtrail.com. Click on "Birding Resources" in the left-hand menu to take part in the "Wings Over Florida" program and learn about the FWC's Junior Birder Program. You can also download a copy of the Bird Detective checklist.

EVENT CANCELLED!

TOYS FOR BIG BOYS

Thomasville, GA

Due to circumstances beyond our control this event has been cancelled for February 25th. Look for our rescheduled event date soon!

719642avv

EARNHARDT & SONS UPHOLSTERY

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NO TRICKS

2 Chairs \$400.00 or Sofa & Chair \$429.00

Price includes fabric & labor. More than 300 fabrics to select from!

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