

The Jasper News

Today's Weather

High
79° F



Precip: 20%

Cloudy skies early will become partly cloudy later in the day. High 79F. Winds SW at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 20%. For up to the minute weather go to www.nflaonline.com.

141ST YEAR, NUMBER 11

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012

3 SECTIONS 24 PAGES

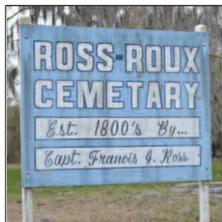
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insidetoday



Ride America stops in White Springs **2A**

Celebrating
BLACK HISTORY MONTH



The Ross-Roux Cemetery **9A**

Out with the old and in with the new!

New TV and entertainment section inside today

This week's new and improved North Florida Focus section will include 4 full-color pages of syndicated comics, a crossword puzzle and . . . drum roll please . . . TV listings. All to better serve our readers.

An exciting addition is we'll include sports listings and entertainment news. The new section is what we in the biz call a broadsheet section. Those pages are 10 inches wide and 21.5 inches tall, now included each Thursday in the North Florida Focus section of the *Jasper News*.

Our new TV grids, movie & sports lists, entertainment features, comics and games combined with great graphic design all come together to ensure our readers receive the quality entertainment section they deserve.

Best of all it's FREE and included in your hometown newspaper, the *Jasper News* each and every week.

Extra, extra, read all about it, we're glad to serve and we're proud to shout it!



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Water working group goes with FLOW

Leadership elected

By Misty A. Ward
misty.ward@gafnews.com

The water working group comprised of representatives from 29 counties and four towns met in Lake City on Feb. 13 to continue discussing the organization of the group.

It was decided at the

meeting the members would be directors. They elected Commissioner Ronald Williams, Columbia County, as chairman of the board and Dr. Helen Miller, mayor of White Springs, as co-chair.

The directors also offi-

SEE WATER, PAGE 2A

Shall We Dance?



Courtesy photo

The Hamilton County 4-H hosted the Father/Daughter Valentine's Dance on Feb. 11. Fathers, uncles, grandfathers and even the occasional mother showed up to spend quality time together while dancing and socializing with each other and other members of the community. See page 6A for story and more photos.

A look back at history with the Marion Cemetery

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com



The graves of John and Mary Ann Jones. - Photos: Joyce Marie Taylor



John W. Jones temporary marker



Some of the headstones at the cemetery.

Off CR 158 in Hamilton County is a piece of history dating back to the early 1800s when plantations and slave labor were the norm. The Marion Cemetery lies in the midst of a forested area of oaks and pines in a large tract of land that is part of the old Marion Plantation.

Within the hallowed grounds of the cemetery are at least 68 unmarked graves of black slaves. Sixty of them were slaves from the Marion Plantation and eight were from the Mitchell Plantation. Also sharing the cemetery in a separate section are the graves of the white folk who owned the slaves.

The white area of the cemetery has cement markers all lined up in a row that includes, among others, Ann McLeod, who was born Feb. 26, 1816 and died in 1860. Right beside her is the grave of a 6-month old girl named Margaret McLeod who died in 1868.

Shelton Mitchell who lives nearby has recently

SEE A LOOK, PAGE 2A

The Ashley Gang steals the show at the Telford

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

It was a packed house at the historic Telford Hotel and Restaurant in White Springs on Saturday evening, Feb. 18, as popular folk/Americana group, The Ashley Gang, entertained the audience as the featured act for the White Springs Folk Club. Band members Al Scortino, Paul Garfinkle, Bob Bronar, Michelle Moncrief-Lowe and Norm McDonald had the crowd mesmerized with their insightful lyrics, harmonious voices and superior musical abilities, as well as with their friendly and humorous storytelling.

The Ashley Gang, which formed about 14 years ago, writes, sings and plays all of their own original music and they are a regular part of the lineup at Florida's



The Ashley Gang (L-R) Bob Bronar, Michelle Moncrief-Lowe, Paul Garfinkle, Al Scortino and Norm McDonald. - Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

many folk music festivals. They got their name from a notorious early 20th century band of hoodlums who used to rob banks, run bootleg

rum to the Bahamas, and pillage and loot along the Florida east

SEE THE ASHLEY, PAGE 2A

Florida House passes Sales Tax Holiday

Tallahassee, Fla. - The Florida House passed CS/HB 737 Tax on Sales, Use, and Other Transactions by State Rep. Elizabeth Porter, R-Lake City recently. The bill establishes a three day non-recurring

SEE FLORIDA, PAGE 10A



Ride America for Safe Routes stops in White Springs



Ride America: (L-R): Jane Ward, Jeanie Ward-Waller, Chelsea Ward-Waller, Stephanie Palmer and Bob Newman. - Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

By Joyce Marie Taylor

Jeanie and Chelsea Ward-Waller, their mother Jane Ward, and friend Stephanie Palmer are riding across America to benefit bicycle safety advocacy efforts of the League of American Bicyclists and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership. Their mission during their cross-country ride is to raise \$50,000 and encourage kids to bike to school along safe routes, as well as to encourage communities to be more bike-friendly.

The group stopped in Hamilton County recently as part of their route.

The group started out in January at their home base in Washington, D.C. After they loaded up their new SAG Wagon (support vehicle) named Manatee, it was off on a road trip to Florida. The vehicle is rigged as a traveling bike shop that can carry 6-plus bikes, camping gear, personal items, sleeping space for one, and a mobile kitchen.

Their cross-country endurance ride began in Key West on Feb. 5. They plan to cover a total of 5,500 miles in 13 states, 20 major cities and several small towns during their journey, riding as many hours a day as they can. They hope to make it to San Francisco by late April and will be stopping in at different bike clubs and schools throughout their journey to promote biking and bike safety.

"We've had some kind bike shops along the way who have donated," said Jane Ward. "Mack Cycles out of Miami was wonderfully generous. They gave us these Armadillo tires."

Jeanie Ward-Waller interjected, "Tires, we needed tires."

"We were getting flats," Jane Ward said.

Mary Jane Mark is the owner of Mack Cycles and Fitness in Miami and

she told the group that the Armadillo tires she gave them are a specialized puncture-proof tire that would get them to their final destination.

When the group reached Gainesville they picked up an additional rider from the Gainesville Cycling Club. President of the club Bob Newman got so excited about their adventure he asked to tag along with them to Jacksonville where his son lives.

Organizer and head mechanic, Jeanie Ward-Waller, 29, is a civil engineer. She holds a master's degree in engineering for sustainable development. In 2011 she taught environmental education at the Mountain Institute in West Virginia and also taught rock climbing in the D.C. area. She is also a two-time Ironman triathlete with a passion for making roads safe for all cyclists.

Stephanie Palmer, 26, is the head chef for the group hailing from northern Illinois. She holds a Bachelor of Science in resource management from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, as well as a master's in environmental education from Northern Illinois University. She is pursuing her passion of working with children and has lived and worked as a field guide instructor at the Mountain Institute in West Virginia.

Chelsea Ward-Waller, 22, is the head rock identifier/assistant coordinator, mechanic and chef for the group. She has been based in Middlebury, Vt. for the last four years and is currently finishing her undergraduate degree in geology at Middlebury College.

Physician Dr. Jane Ward, 60, is the team doctor. She is a master's of public health graduate student in the physical activity and public health track at George

Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services in Washington, D.C. She has completed over 10 triathlons, including a Half-Ironman in the past four years and is a veteran of over eight marathons and the 24 hour/50 mile Caledonian Challenge in Scotland.

Spokesperson for the group, Jeanie Ward-Waller, explained the mission of Ride America for Safe Routes to Mayor Dr. Helen Miller and vice-mayor Walter McKenzie during a stopover at Suwannee Bicycle Association in White Springs on Wed. Feb. 15. The group also shared their some of their experiences while traveling through Florida.

"Florida's given us a lot of unusual weather," said Jeanie Ward-Waller. "We expected it to be warm and sunny. We left Key West in pouring rain, then it was 35 degrees when we started south of Tampa, and then here we are in rain again. The weird weather must be following us. I hope it doesn't stay with us."

The group is prepared for inclement weather, though, as they brought along plenty of warm clothing and rain gear.

Miller and McKenzie treated the group to a tour of the Suwannee Bicycle Association's headquarters and then served refreshments that included, coffee, orange juice, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, chocolate bars, bagels and fresh fruit to give the cyclists the needed fuel for the next leg of their journey; a 75-mile trip over to Jacksonville.

If you'd like to follow along in their cross-country ride, you can visit www.rideforsaferoutes.com where you will find an amazing, detailed journal of their trip, complete with scenic photographs.

Water working group goes with FLOW

Continued From Page 1A

cially voted to stick with the name Florida Leaders Organized for Water, or FLOW.

Although the group is in preliminary stages for the interlocal agreement in creating FLOW, their first action item was to adopt a resolution requesting a review of the impacts on the Floridan Aquifer based on the water withdraw permits that were granted in 2011. Representatives from Hamilton, Lafayette and Suwannee counties were present at the meeting as well as the Town of Branford and the Town of White Springs.

The resolution urges legislators to fund the study. It cites that excessive water permits granted in 2011 may have severely reduced water levels in groundwater, lakes, rivers, streams and springs in the Suwannee Valley area. Also, the loss of water will be a detriment to industries such as recreation, farming, mining and regional economic development and "ultimately the ability for parts of North Florida to continue as viable communities" as reasons for the impact study.

Within the resolution they are asking for a "re-design of the decision

making process used to base permits for withdrawals from the Floridan Aquifer that includes all stakeholders affected by the proposed withdrawals; and modification of excessive water management district permits granted in 2011, from 'approved' to 'probationary' status until an unbiased scientific study of the Floridan Aquifer has been completed."

FLOW will be meeting the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m., at varying locations. The next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m., on March 12 at the Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex.

A look back at history with the Marion Cemetery

Continued From Page 1A

cleared the land and has endeavored to bring back the dignity of those who are buried there.

"This place was like a jungle out here," said local Hamilton County resident John Floyd, who served as tour guide.

Mitchell, Floyd said, has spent countless hours and lots of money clearing the road that takes you to the cemetery, as well as clearing the land around the cemetery plots. He has also set in place temporary markers and memorial signs.

Margaret Coker, who now lives in Marietta, Ga., recently visited her hometown of Jasper and tagged along with Floyd as they wandered through the cemetery recalling the ancestry of those buried there. Coker is the descendent of

Angus McLeod, W.H.H. McLeod and her grandfather Angus McLeod.

The second Angus is Coker's great-great grandfather, who was the overseer of the plantation where the cemetery lies.

Coker's mother was born at the Marion Plantation and Coker herself lived there for a short time when she was in the second grade.

"My grandfather lost the plantation because of 'boll weevils and chasin' women after my grandmother died," Coker laughingly said.

Coker said there used to be an old metal fence surrounding the cemetery the last time she was there to visit, but it is now gone.

One of the graves that has been identified with a temporary marker belongs to John Wesley Jones, who was born a slave in 1859 and died a

free man in 1934. His body lies alongside his wife, Mary Ann Jones, who has a cement marker designating her burial plot.

The other slaves buried there had a simple wood slat with a number to designate their burial site, according to Floyd. Coker said many of the slaves died from an outbreak of scarlet fever.

In 1913, Coker said her grandmother was taking care of the family at the Marion Plantation and caught the disease herself in 1913 and died. She also said her mother told her that a black lady came and took care of her mother and her siblings and she assumes that woman is also buried at the Marion Cemetery.

Shelton Mitchell is doing his as he continues to spruce up the Marion Cemetery.

The Ashley Gang steals the show at the Telford

Continued From Page 1A

coast from about 1910 to 1924.

"They made some serious enemies with the law enforcement folks," said Scortino, during a chat backstage before their first set.

"They were caught and killed in Sebastian at the Sebastian River Bridge where Al lives," said Bronar.

Scortino had written a song about the notorious bunch of robbers, aptly titled "The Ashley Gang" and when the band formed it seemed a logical choice for the name of the group.

Scortino said, "We already had a theme song."

"The Beatles was already taken," Garfinkle interjected with a chuckle.

Al Scortino, the leader of the band, is from Sebastian, Fla. The pitch-perfect tone and clarity of Scortino's voice sounds a bit like John Denver mixed with a little Jimmy Buffett. He is the lead vocalist and plays acoustic and slide guitar, as well as an occasional fiddle, although, he says he's still learning that instrument.

It's been said by many in the industry that Scortino is one of Florida's best and most respected singer-songwriters according to his friends. What makes him unique is the simplistic style in which he writes about ordinary folks and places, and when he adds his melodic voice to the lyrics, it is pure folk mag-

ic. He has two solo recordings, "Mr. Singer" in 1995, and "The Promised Land" in 1998.

Bob Bronar plays lead guitar and mandolin, and also collaborates with the songwriting. His expertise on the mandolin adds a bit of an Irish lilt to the songs of the Ashley Gang.

Paul Garfinkle, on acoustic guitar and vocals, is from Jacksonville and he has been a member of The Ashley Gang for about 13 years. His wife, Kay, normally plays with the band, but she was in Ohio at a family event and couldn't make the White Springs gig.

Garfinkle's music is contemporary folk and Americana with a hint of bluegrass, he says. He released his first solo CD in 1996, "Good Enough For Me", which was named a top-5 indie release that year. His second solo CD, "Songs From Sand Lake", has 12 new original songs. Garfinkle is a certified Florida Master Naturalist and his passion for conservation and environmentalism shows through in his songs.

Michele Moncrief-Lowe is from Flagler Beach and she plays the bass guitar, as well as adds a feminine touch to the harmonizing. Her husband Steve is the sound director for the band.

Norm McDonald, dubbed 'the most dangerous man in folk music' by his musical friends, is from south Suwannee County near the Charles Springs/Lu-

raville area. He plays an assortment of percussion instruments and kitchen utensils, as well as accompanies the band on accordion and as a back-up singer.

All the band members have real jobs, but they reserve time on the weekends to play together at different venues around the state. Some recent performances were in Orlando, Vero Beach, Sebastian, Jacksonville, Jupiter, and on Feb. 18, they rolled into White Springs.

"You can't afford to do this without having another job," said Garfinkle.

"Our houses are a mess and the laundry's never done," Scortino said, laughing along with the rest of the group, as they prepared to take the stage.

The Ashley Gang has three CD's; "Doing time" (2000), "East Bound Train" (2005) and "A Girl in Oklahoma" (2009). Scortino was the engineer and producer for "A Girl in Oklahoma", and he wrote all the songs on the album.

There were many familiar faces in the audience this night, including White Springs author Sudy Cauthen and former Suwannee River Regional Library Director Danny Hales. The two were having a friendly chat before The Ashley Gang took the stage.

Cauthen said of the White Springs Folk Club, "It's one of the things you can count on that happens."

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Life in WHITE SPRINGS

By Walter McKenzie

lifeinwhitesprings@gmail.com

The Telford Hotel was invaded last Saturday night by "The Ashley Gang", a five piece musical group who played all original music to a crowd of appreciative listeners who were in attendance for this month's performance of the White Springs Folk Club concert series. A first time visitor from Lake City was very impressed by the quality of the performance, saying that it was "much better than he expected". I guess that, because we are such a small town, people sometimes have low expectations but most of them are pleasantly surprised at the quality experiences they have when they visit here. For many of us who moved here from bigger cities, living in White Springs is that way too "Much better than expected"! Surrounded by history and natural beauty, we experience a quality of life that many folks miss in the big cities. And we have the potential to grow, not just a little bit bigger, but much better. Looking to the future, I feel real good about life in White Springs and I hope you do too.

There are so many amazing learning opportunities here in White Springs. Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park will host two new Pottery classes taught by Diane Hornby. The first will be Basic Hand Building and will be held on March 15th, 22nd and 29th. The class will be held in the pottery cabin at 11 A. M - 12:30 P.M. The cost is \$85.00. In this workshop you will learn wedging, how to hand build a pinch

pot, an assembled box, a critter and an object of your choice. You will also learn how to hand paint and embellish your vessel. Included with the workshop are basic instructions in each technique, 4 pounds of clay, firing of 4 vessels and glazes for dipping or hand painting for all 4 vessels. Extra clay, firing and glazes available for minimal cost; the class will be held in Craft Square at the pottery cabin. The class is limited to 4 students. The second class will be for Beginning Basic wheel throwing, held on the same dates at 2 - 4:30 P.M. The cost is \$85.00. In this workshop you will learn wedging, centering, opening and pulling up as well as finishing and trimming. You will also learn how to embellish the vessel and about hand painting and /or dipping glazes. Included in the workshop are basic instructions in each technique, 5 pounds of clay, firing of 4 vessels and glazes for dipping or hand painting for 4 vessels. Wear old clothes. Bring an old hand towel and a small plastic bowl. Extra clay, firing and glazes available for minimal cost; the class will be held in Craft Square at the pottery cabin. This class is limited to 2 students.

There are also some digital photography workshops being of-

fered, too many to mention in this brief space. For more information on any of these workshops or to register, please call the park Gift Shop at (386) 397-1920.

The White Springs United Methodist Church has asked me to share with you that there will be a World Day of Prayer Service held on Thursday, March 1 at 6:00 P.M. Everyone is invited and the service will be singing and prayer.

That's about it for this week. I would love to hear from you about more news of happenings in your neck of the woods and I hope to see you out and about enjoying life in White Springs.

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

Healthy Living

~Beth Harris, CSCS, CHFS
www.jayeeilizabethharris.com

The hidden determinants of human behavior



Unfortunately there's no simply answer to why some people easily adopt healthy behaviors, while many do not. Life is complicated. Each of us is faced with variable competing priorities that are in a constant state of flux. Not to mention exercise behavior is complicated, and perceived as taking more time and effort than other healthy behaviors.

Despite the complexities of the topic, researchers have been able to identify potential determinants influencing exercise behavior. Strong predictors of current activity level are age (decreasing with age), sex (men more consistent than women), education and income levels (lower levels relates to lower activity), activity history (less active in the past, less active in the future), attitude and beliefs, access to facilities, social support, and time (most common excuse for not exercising and dropping out).

To understand our behaviors it's important to understand patterns of behavioral change we all share. If we carefully pay attention to our own actions, attitudes, and beliefs; we can better understand why we act in ways we do. For example, take the five stages of behavior change: pre-contemplation, contemplation, preparation, action, and maintenance. Pre-contemplators are sedentary and do not see activity as relevant to their lives, and even see no value in physical activity. Contemplators are still inactive, but are beginning to consider the importance of activity. Individuals in preparation stage are beginning to participate inconsistently in healthy behaviors. Action stage individuals engage in regular activity and have done so for less than six months, and maintenance individuals have participated consistently for over six months. Which

category do you fall into?

I introduce this topic in an effort to attenuate discontent with the process itself. Many people begin exercise here and there thinking over night they will see changes they want-Now! Now! Now! It just doesn't work that way. For example, you're frustrated because you've tried making changes but can't seem to stick with it-try patting yourself on the back instead. You've successfully entered the preparation stage-that's two steps further than you were! Sometimes all you need is a little shift in perspective to understand how far you've come, you're reading this article aren't you? It was obviously titled 'Healthy Living', so you're curious about health-that's stage 2-contemplation-go you!!

Initiating healthy life change is a quantifiable process, and you're following tangible quantifiable behavior patterns; whether you realize this or not. Whether you are successful or not will be determined by your ability to self examine, plan, set realistic, attainable goals; monitor motivation, self-efficacy, and seek help when needed.

I challenge everyone to make a list of pros and cons as why to or not to be physically active. Once you have your list, scrutinize the cons, heck-email me your list. Often cons listed by people not exercising are a result of misinformation and lack of experience. What do you have to lose but an unhealthy lifestyle?

There is beauty in the battle, poetry in the perseverance... if it came easy, what'd be the worth? So, fight, unwavering and pull your dreams to Earth. -Erin Stern

Dr. Napoleon Eutsey Day



Ann Lessman, the mayor of Jasper, signed a proclamation recently naming Feb. 21, 2012 Dr. Napoleon Eutsey Day.

City of Jasper, Florida
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: The City of Jasper recognizes citizens who contribute to the health, safety and welfare of the community and is supportive of the achievements by its citizens, and
WHEREAS: Dr.

Napoleon Eutsey was educated in Heidelberg, Germany at the University of Heidelberg, receiving his degree as a medical doctor, and

WHEREAS: Dr Eutsey chose to locate to the City of Jasper, and serve as the first African American to practice medicine in the community. The City of Jasper was privileged to have Dr. Eutsey practice from 1890-1911.

WHEREAS: The City of Jasper wishes to recognize Dr. Eutsey and his contributions during Black History Month, and it is

THEREFORE: Declared by the City Council that February 28, 2012 be proclaimed as DR. NAPOLEON EUTSEY DAY.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of February, 2012, by the City Council of the City of Jasper, Florida

WHEREAS: Dr.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CONCERNING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS OF THE TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Ordinance 98-1, as amended, comments, objections and recommendations concerning the following described special exception as provided for in the Town of White Springs Land Development Regulations will be heard by the Board of Adjustments of the Town of White Springs, Florida, at a public hearing on Tuesday March 6, 2012, 6:30p.m., or as soon thereafter as this matter can be heard, in the Town Council Meeting Room, Town Hall, located at 10363 Bridge Street, White Springs, Florida.

SE 12-01, a petition by the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County to request a special exception as provided for in Section 4.5.5 Special Exceptions (16) of the Land Development Regulations to permit the location of a Public Library in an Agricultural zoning district in accordance with an application dated January 11, 2012, submitted as part of a Site and Development Plan dated January 4, 2012, to be located on property described, as follows:

A parcel of land lying In Section 12, Township 2 South, Range 15 East, Part of Parcel #2 NKA Parcel A Described in ORB 686-10, Town of White Springs, Hamilton County, Florida.

Containing 1.5 acre, more or less.

This public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of this public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice regarding this matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the proposed special exception.

Copies of the petition for the proposed special exception are available for public inspection at the office of the Town Manager, Town Hall, located at 10363 Bridge Street, White Springs, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

726437bww

ELECTION NOTICE

The Town of White Springs will hold a Council Election April 24, 2012 for three (3) council vacancies. Qualifying ends Noon March 20, 2012. **Candidates** must pick up their packets in person in order to receive filing instructions and information from Town Clerk, Shirley Heath.

Packets will be available beginning Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Candidates who **DO NOT** complete all of the qualifying process and paperwork by Noon, March 20, 2012 **WILL NOT** be on the ballot.

Candidates for office shall have been duly registered voters in Hamilton County and must physically reside in the Town of White Springs for twelve (12) months immediately preceding qualifying. Any person who has been currently deprived of his civil rights through conviction for committing a crime involving a felony or moral turpitude shall not be qualified to hold office.

Books close for this election March 27, 2012

726437bww

OPINION

Math matters

If one manages to graduate from high school without the rudiments of algebra, geometry and trigonometry, there are certain relatively high-paying careers probably off-limits for life -- such as careers in architecture, chemistry, computer programming, engineering, medicine and certain technical fields. For example, one might meet all of the physical requirements to be a fighter pilot, but he's grounded if he doesn't have enough math to understand physics, aerodynamics and navigation. Mathematical ability helps provide the disciplined structure that helps people to think, speak and write more clearly. In general, mathematics is an excellent foundation and prerequisite for study in all areas of science and engineering. So where do U.S. youngsters stand in math?

Drs. Eric Hanushek and Paul Peterson, senior fellows at the Hoover Institution, looked at the performance of our youngsters compared with their counterparts in other nations, in their Newsweek article, "Why Can't American Students Compete?" (Aug. 28, 2011), reprinted under the title "Math Matters" in the Hoover Digest (2012). In the latest international tests administered by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Develop-

ment, only 32 percent of U.S. students ranked proficient in math -- coming in between Portugal and Italy but far behind South Korea, Finland, Canada and the Netherlands. U.S. students couldn't hold a finger to the 75 percent of Shanghai students who tested proficient.

What about our brightest? It turns out that only 7 percent of U.S. students perform at the advanced level in math. Forty-five percent of the students in Shanghai are advanced in math, compared with 20 percent in South Korea and Switzerland and 15 percent of students in Japan, Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Canada.

Hanushek and Peterson find one bright spot among our young people. That's Asian-American students, 52 percent of whom perform at the proficient level or higher. Among white students, only 42 percent perform math at a proficient level. The math performance of black and Hispanic students is a disaster, with only 11 and 15 percent, respectively, performing math at the proficient level or higher.



A MINORITY VIEW
 © 2011 Creators Syndicate
BY WALTER WILLIAMS

The National Center for Education Statistics revealed some of the results of American innumeracy. Among advanced degrees in engineering awarded at U.S. universities dur-

ing the 2007-08 academic year, 28 percent went to whites; 2 percent went to blacks; 2 percent went to Hispanics; and 61 percent went to foreigners. Of the advanced degrees in mathematics, 40 percent went to whites; 2 percent went to blacks; 5 percent went to Hispanics; and 50 percent went to foreigners. For advanced degrees in education, 65 percent went to whites; 17 percent went to blacks; 5 percent went to Hispanics; and 8 percent went to foreigners. The pattern is apparent. The more rigorous a subject area the higher the percentage of foreigners -- and the lower the percentage of Americans -- earning advanced degrees. In subject areas such as education, which have little or no rigor, Americans are likelier -- and foreigners are less likely -- to earn advanced degrees.

In a New York Times article -- "Do We Need Foreign Technology Workers?" (April 8, 2009) -- Dr. Vivek Wad-

hwa of the Pratt School of Engineering at Duke University said "that 47 percent of all U.S. science and engineering workers with doctorates are immigrants as were 67 percent of the additions to the U.S. science and engineering work force between 1995 to 2006. And roughly 60 percent of engineering Ph.D. students and 40 percent of master's students are foreign nationals."

American mathematic proficiency levels leave a lot to be desired if we're to maintain competitiveness. For blacks and Hispanics, it's a tragedy with little prospect for change, but the solution is not rocket science. During my tenure as a member of Temple University's faculty in the 1970s, I tutored black students in math. When they complained that math was too difficult, I told them that if they spent as much time practicing math as they did practicing jump shots, they'd be just as good at math as they were at basketball. The same message of hard work and discipline applies to all students, but someone must demand it.

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.

Coats for Kids



courtesy photo

The new Hamilton County High School Key Club was just chartered in November of 2011, and already they are showing their dedication to service for the community and others in need in the world.

At the Jan 9, School board meeting members of the Key Club presented over 30 coats and jackets to be given to Hamilton County residents that would go without.

The Key Club also donated \$250 to a project of Kiwanis's project Eliminate; by selling candy grams before Christmas break. Project Eliminate will provide tetanus vaccine to expecting mothers in counties that lack in proper care for mother and child during childbirth.

HCHS Key Club bake sale

The Hamilton County High School Key Club will be holding a bake sale at the Jasper Foodway on Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. until noon. Please come by and support them in this effort to raise funds for Key Club shirts.

Do you have questions about Medicare

Do you have questions about your options for Medicare, Medicare/Medicaid, disability, supplemental insurance, Part D Prescription Drug Plans, or Medicare billings?

If you do, come see SHINE, a volunteer program with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, for one-on-one counseling. SHINE provides free, unbiased and confidential

assistance. If you cannot come to a site call the Elder Helpline at 1-800-262-2243 to be referred to a SHINE Volunteer near you. SHINE will be at:

Thursday, March 1
 10 a.m.-Noon
 Jasper Public Library
 Thursday, March 8
 1:30-3:30 p.m.
 Live Oak City Hall
 Friday, March 16
 10 a.m.-Noon
 Branford Public Library

Suwannee Hardware & Feed

16660 Spring St. (Hwy 41)
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 White Springs, FL 32096



Don and Celeste Wilson
 Phone: (386) 397-2551

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Hamilton County High School Honor Roll 2nd 9 Weeks

Paige Fenneman was added to the A/B Honor Roll list.

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Hamilton County DINE-OUT Guide



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

Obituaries

Donald Stewart Anderson
June 15, 1928 - Feb. 11, 2012

Donald Stewart Anderson passed away on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012 at Palm Baptist Hospital after a lengthy illness. Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012 at West View Cemetery.

Mr. Anderson was born in Dalton, Georgia on June 15, 1928 to the late Ruby Stewart Anderson Silks and Edwin S. Anderson. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Mary Helen Ennis Anderson.

Survivors include his daughters, Julie Gant (Gary) of Jasper, Fla., and Jan Coleman (Bobby) of Palm Bay, Fla., four grandchildren, Jason Gant (Scharme), Donald Coleman (Karen), Janell Fiskus and Marie Phillips (Chris) and seven great grandchildren. Hailey and Kaia Gant, Samuel and Gabriela Coleman, Asher Fiskus, Taylor and Jax Phillips.

The family received friends Saturday, Feb. 18 from 10 a.m. until 11a.m. at Moores Funeral Home.

Visit www.mooresfuneralhome.com to express tributes.

Moores Funeral Home & Crematory has charge of arrangements.

Essie Mae Holden
May 10, 1918 - Feb. 17, 2012



Essie Mae Holden, age 93, of Jasper, Fla., traveled peacefully to join her Heavenly Father on Friday, Feb. 17, 2012. Essie was born in Jasper, Fla., on Friday, May 10, 1918 to Mary Lee and Bloxham Holden.

She was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. She was greatly loved by all who met her because she loved greatly. She will be missed daily.

Survivors include 10 children, 32 grandchildren, 68 great grandchildren, two great great grandchildren, two brothers, a loving niece,

a host of nephews, cousins, other loving relatives and sorrowing friends.

The wake will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2012 at Jesus the Living Word of Deliverance Church, 1122 N.W. Hwy 41 Jasper, FL. 32052.

Committal Service will follow in the Evergreen Cemetery, Jasper, Fla.

Final arrangements entrusted to: Eric A. Brown & Son Funeral Home 1221 S.W. 3rdSt. Jasper, Fl. 32052.

Mother Delois Mitchell Johnson
Feb. 15, 2012

Mother Delois Mitchell Johnson, 76, of Jasper, Florida, answered the heavenly master call Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012 at Shands at the University Of Florida Hospital in Gainesville. The Home going celebration for Mother Johnson will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, 2012 at Jesus the Living Word Deliverance Church. Kathy Hawkins is the pastor and Pastor Kevin Johnson will officiate. Following the Home going celebration for Mother Johnson, her earthen vessel along with family members and friends will be escorted to Friendship Cemetery for Burial in Jasper, Florida. A time to visit with Mother Johnson and her family will be Friday, Feb. 24, 2012 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Jesus the Living Word of Deliverance Church. Professional Mortuary Services are entrusted to Eric A. Brown & Son Funeral Home, Inc.

Professional Mortuary Services are entrusted to Eric A. Brown & Son Funeral Home, Inc.

Professional Mortuary Services are entrusted to Eric A. Brown & Son Funeral Home, Inc.

Samuel James Cohen
Feb. 15, 2012

Mr. Samuel James Cohen, 67, of Jasper, Florida, passed from this walk of life on Feb. 15, 2012. Home going service for Mr. Cohen will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012 at New Bethel A.M.E. Church in Jasper, Florida. Rev. Michael Ward is the pastor and will officiate. The family will receive other relatives Friday, Feb. 24, 2012 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Chapel of Eric A. Brown Funeral Home. Professional Mortuary Services entrusted to Eric A. Brown & Son Funeral Home, Inc.

Heart Matters

The book of Nehemiah An in depth look Series 1

By Angie Land

How do you eat an elephant? Say it with me: "One bite at a time!" This old cliché is more than just a quick reply...it contains the wisdom and necessity of a plan when tackling an overwhelming task. When we look at the overall picture, no wonder we want to run away! But no matter how huge a problem or project seems, it can be accomplished with a process of beginning at one point and continuing step by step until completion. So, I wonder what daunting task lies before you: finding a job, caring for elderly parents, overcoming an addiction, raising children, saving your marriage, or maybe just finding purpose in your life. The possibilities are endless, but the first question is always the same: "Where do I start?"

For the next several weeks, I hope to get the answer to this question and the inevitable ones that follow through an in depth look at the book of Nehemiah. This scripture is so valuable because it gives an eyewitness account of an over-

whelming task with much opposition, and not only records his actions in reaching the goal, but also some of his private thoughts and prayers throughout the process. Nehemiah begins his story by telling of the troubling news he received from several men returning from Judah to Persia, where he served as cupbearer to the king. The report was bleak concerning the condition of the Jewish remnant and Jerusalem: "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates have been burned with fire"(Nehemiah 1:3).

(A little background: Jerusalem had been destroyed some 140 years earlier by the Babylonians, with the Jews being taken as slaves into exile. After Persia conquered Babylon, King Cyrus established a policy of returning exiles to their homeland. His successor, King Darius supported the reconstruction of the temple in Jerusalem, but little else had been accomplished.)

After "hearing" this

news, Nehemiah sat down and wept, then he mourned, fasted and prayed. In the original Hebrew language the word "heard" is transliterated "sama." According to the Old Testament Lexical Aids, it means "to hear, give undivided attention, to understand what one has heard, to obey, give heed to...essentially denotes perceiving a message or sensing a sound." I want to suggest to you the answer to our first question. This is where we start, by really "hearing" the problem or need that warrants the project. To not just hear with one ear as it goes in and out the other, but with our "undivided attention," to understand what is needed and then to "give heed to" and perceive what role we will play in accomplishing the task. Is our role as a leader, a helper, an encourager, or do we have a valid role at all?

If we don't properly "hear", we can react emotionally and make an even bigger mess out of a difficult issue. With good intentions, we can even move in a direction farther away from the real goal. Through "hearing," Nehemiah determined that his goal was to bring glory to God by restoring the reality of God's presence



among his people in Jerusalem. Practically, his role would be to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem and implement civil authority. You and I are going to take this journey with him, but meanwhile, I encourage you to set aside time this week to "hear." Pray about the role you are to play in the task you are facing, and get a clear picture of the goal. Take this important first step...because your heart matters!

Blessings, Angie

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

Hamilton County students to celebrate the Great American Spit Out

Members of the Hamilton County Students Working Against Tobacco program to advocate to restrict the sale of candy flavored tobacco products

The local Students Working Against Tobacco program and the Hamilton County Tobacco-Free Partnership will join forces to take a stand against tobacco companies in the industry's attempt to entice teens and young adults with taste-friendly tobacco products.

In honor of the Great American Spit Out, the student-led organization will host a flavored tobacco photo reception at the Women's Club in Jasper on Thursday, Feb. 23 between 5 and 6:30 p.m. At this photo reception, SWAT members will extend their knowledge on the problem of candy flavored tobacco and advocate for a ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products.

This event will build

upon the successes seen in the Town of White Springs and the City of Jennings through resolutions supporting a ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products. The Great American Spit Out is a national tobacco observance during "Through with Chew Week" held to address the dangerous health risks associated with spit tobacco and to encourage users to quit. There are two Students Working Against Tobacco chapters in Hamilton County. One chapter is at Hamilton County High School and the other is located at Achiever's Christian Academy; SWAT Advisors are Leon Daniels and Stacie Barrett, respectively.

For help making the decision to be "Through With Chew" or to quit smoking, you can contact the Florida Quitline to receive free telephone counseling at 1-877-UCAN NOW (1.877.822.6669) or the Suwannee River Area AHEC for free, local cessation classes at 1.866.341.2730. Both organizations offer free nicotine replacement therapies (gum, patches, lozenges) while supplies last. To find out more information or youth wishing to join the Hamilton County Students Working Against Tobacco, please contact Janelle Coyle by email at janelle@roseconsultation.com or toll-free at 888.227.6452 Ext. 706.

Suwannee-Hamilton Technical Center is now offering Adult Basic Education and GED Prep Classes at Wellborn Community Center on Monday evenings and at African Baptist Church on Thursday evenings.

Classes begin along with registration on Monday, February 27th at 6:00 pm at the Wellborn Community Center and African American Baptist Church on Thursday, February 23rd at 6:00 pm.

Classroom space is limited; please call Suwannee-Hamilton Technical Center for information about these classes. 386-647-4200

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Church & Family Go Together

ADVENT CHRISTIAN	BAPTIST (Southern)	METHODIST	PRESBYTERIAN
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	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	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	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
BAPTIST (Southern) NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH 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 717856-F	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	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	Building On FAITH
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH 1/2 mile East on Hwy. 6, Jasper, FL 32052 792-2275 Pastor: Steve Shaw Sunday Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Children's Church.....11:30 a.m. Church Training.....6:00 p.m. Evening Worship.....7:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m. Youth Ignited/Youth Ministry.....7:00 p.m. 717852-F	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	To list your church on our church directory, please call Louise at 1-800-525-4182 717823-F	

Hamilton County 4-H Valentine's Day Father/Daughter Dance

By Heather M. Futch
4-H/ FCS Agent Hamilton County

The Hamilton County 4-H hosted the Father/Daughter Valentine's Dance on Feb. 11. This year's turnout was impressive with attendance of more than double than we've ever had attend. We had 139 guests making contributions to the Hamilton County Relay for Life and Hamilton County 4-H Program through their attendance and the purchase of pictures taken at the dance and roses for the daughters. Fathers, uncles, grandfathers and even the occasional mother showed up to spend quality time together while

dancing and socializing with each other and other members of the community. There were tons of picture perfect moments including daughters teaching fathers line dances and vice versa, the youngest of daughters and their first daddy/daughter dance ever, and those always special teenage dances with dad. Hamilton County 4-H wishes to thank Sandy Burnett, Beth Burnham, Brown's Florist, Candy Bouquets by Maggie, D&S Signs, Jasper Hardware, the Jasper Women's Club, Sun-sations, and all of those volunteers without which the dance could not have been possible.



There were 139 guests at the dance.



The Hamilton County 4-H hosted the Father/Daughter Valentines Dance.



All smiles at the dance.



A twirl with dad.



Getting a little help from dad.



Arriving at the dance in style.

Earn, and keep, your money

By Mary Kate Vang
Social Security District
Manager, Lake City, Fla.

You probably already know that there was an increase in Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) monthly payments at the beginning of the year. If you receive monthly Social Security or SSI payments, you received a 3.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment beginning with your payment for the month of January 2012.

For people who receive Social Security retirement benefits, there's more good news. In addition to receiving a little more each month, you may now earn more income without offsetting your benefits because the "earnings test" num-

bers also have gone up. If you have reached your full retirement age (age 66 for anyone born between 1943 and 1954), the earnings test does not apply and you may earn as much money as you can without any effect on your benefits. However, if you are younger than full retirement age, collecting benefits and still working, we do offset some of your benefit amount after you reach a certain earnings limit. For people under full retirement age in 2012, the annual exempt amount is \$14,640, and if you do reach that limit, we withhold \$1 for every \$2 above that limit from your monthly benefit amount. For people who retired early, continue

working and will obtain full retirement age in 2012, the annual exempt amount is \$38,880 and we will withhold \$1 for every \$3 you earn over the limit from your monthly benefits.

You can learn more about the earnings test and how benefits may be reduced by visiting our website, www.socialsecurity.gov, and searching on the topic "earnings test."

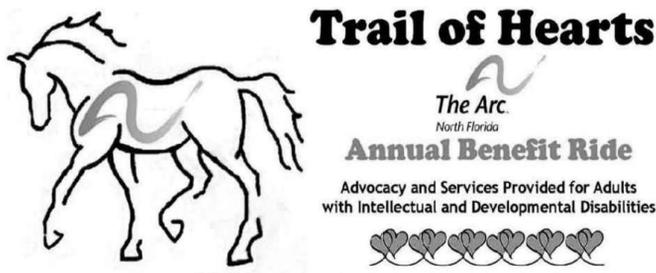
Find out what your full retirement age is at our Retirement Age page, www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm

You also may want to read our publication, How Work Affects Your Benefits. It's available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10069.html.

Hamilton County Supervisor of Elections 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.



Trail of Hearts

The Arc
North Florida

Annual Benefit Ride

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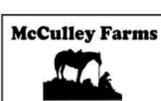
February 25, 2012

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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Donuts with Dad

Recently, the Jasper Kiwanis Club and Central Hamilton Elementary invited CHE dads to join their children for donuts, fruit, sausage biscuits and reading. Special thanks to Mr. Claridy,

Ms. Zomora, and the staff of CHE for all their efforts to make this a success. There were approximately 90 dads, and over 100 students who enjoyed the time together.



Many dads joined in.



Awaiting the donuts.



Filling plates with donuts and fruit.



Enjoying the breakfast.



Enjoying a nice time with dad. Courtesy photos



Reading and breakfast with dad.



A spread of delicious foods, including donuts.



What's next?



Happy to be having donuts with dad.

Norris Notes

By Lillian Norris

It seems that winter has finally arrived here, hoping that it will be leaving soon and going quietly. It has not been a bad winter, all we need do is look at television and be grateful for living here where we can travel as needed, and the sun is shining, it is a beautiful day. It is quiet again here today, as the schools are closed for the day, as they were yesterday for Presidents' Day. It is very quiet in our area when schools are closed.

I have missed being able to buy a daily newspaper. When I was driving I could get out to get one, and Sunny's would see that I got a paper, I really miss that, sometimes when I get to the grocery store I can catch one. I remember when we got a FTU

every morning, and Valdosta DT morning and evening. I had to get verification that there was an evening edition of VDT at one time, even the Valdosta office said they did not ever have one, but we did get proof.

I decided to read through the JASPER NEWS and really enjoyed everything I read, even read the minutes of the County Com. meeting, and other articles, quite informative, think I'll be doing that in the future. When I was at SVNC we would sometimes have to track down to find the papers, the FTU and Gainesville Sun would be passed around, and Mr. Bates would bring me a Valdosta paper, when he brought one for his brother, that was very thoughtful and appreciated by me.

Are you ready to RELAY, when we started talking about this 'last year' it seemed so far away, now it is almost

here, we will be giving more information each week, hope that you will all come out to support the efforts to make this a profitable and exciting weekend.

We are looking forward to a blessed weekend at Jasper Presbyterian Church, people from everywhere, former pastors, persons who have an interest in the Church, it will be a great weekend for celebrating the past 100 years, and remembering and recognizing those who have made it possible for us to worship here.

Looking forward to hearing from you, and if I don't hear from you, I am going to start calling YOU.

It will soon be Easter and some Churches will be observing the Season of Lent.

Blessings to All.

Lillian Norris -
386-792-2151
norrislw@windstream.net

Suwannee River Regional Library system now offers digital audiobooks and eBooks

The Suwannee River Regional Library system has expanded its services with digital audiobooks and eBooks available to download from the library's website. Library card holders can check out and download digital media anytime, anywhere by visiting the library's online catalog at www.neflin.org/srll.

Users may browse the library's website, check out with a valid library card, and download to PC, Mac®, and many other ereaders and mobile devices. Users will need to install free software. For audiobooks: OverDrive® Media Con-

sole™. To read eBooks, users will need Adobe® Digital Editions. Titles can be enjoyed immediately or transferred to a variety of devices, including iPod®, Sony® Reader™, and many others. Some audio titles can also be burned to CD to listen on-the-go. Titles will automatically expire at the end of the lending period. There are no late fees!

This new service, powered by OverDrive, is free for patrons with their library card. To get started downloading audiobooks and eBooks, visit the library's online catalog @ www.neflin.org/srll.

Suwannee County Fair dates have changed

Suwannee Valley Youth Livestock Show and Sale dates remain the same

Brian Estevez
4-H/ Youth Development

Due to unforeseen events, the Suwannee County Fair has been moved up to March 30-April 7, 2012. However, the Suwannee Valley Youth Livestock Show and Sale (SVYLSS) will stay on its original date of April 11-14. Unfortunately, that means the steer and hog events will be separate from the Fair this year. Below you will find important

dates so you can be prepared for the SVYLSS. 4-H and FFA exhibitors are responsible for complying with all dates.

SVYLSS Dates
Record Books for Hogs and Steers are due on Monday April 2 by 5pm.
Hog Weigh-in is Wednesday April 11 between 8am-noon.
Note-Weight requirements have changed; hogs must weigh between 230-290 lbs at official weigh-in. See rules for details.

Hog Showmanship is Wednesday, April 11 at 6pm.

Steer Weigh-in is Thursday, April 12 between 8am-12 noon.

Hog Show is Thursday, April 12 at 6pm.
Steer Show is Friday, April 13 at 6pm.

Sale is Saturday, April 14 at 1:30pm.

Please be advised that the Suwannee Valley Youth Livestock Show and Sale will NOT be during the Suwannee County Fair. SVYLSS board members thank

you in advance for a great show and sale on April 11-14. 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 ac-

cordance 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 Ser-

vice at 1 - 800 - 955 - 8770 or 800 - 955 - 8772 (TDD).

Jasper Legals

PUBLIC AUCTION

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

Date: 03-20-12
Time: 8:00 A.M.

2000 Nissan
Vin# 1N6DD21S5Y3C80891

2004 KIA
Vin# KNADC125346305046
02/23

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The North Florida Broadband Authority ("NFBA") announces a Network Operator Request for Information to which all interested parties are invited to respond. The NFBA 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, 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 NFBA is issuing this Network Operator Request for Information (RFI) to prospective network operators for NFBA's broadband middle microwave network, and to any other parties interested in promoting the success of NFBA's mission. Through this RFI, NFBA will gather information from interested parties to support the development of a Request for Proposals for a Network Operator. The official Network Operator RFI document can be requested by emailing Faith Doyle at fdoyle@nfba.net. Please submit your responses to Faith Doyle at NFBA by February 22, 2012 as described in RFI Section 6, Response Guidance. Thank you for your consideration of this Request.
2/23/12

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Alias Writ of Execution issued in the County Court of Orange County, Florida, on the 25th day of October, 2007, in the cause wherein First Union National Bank of Florida, (order granting motion to substitute Party Plaintiff from First Union National Bank of Florida to Cypress Recovery Corporation) is the Plaintiff, and RICHARD PRINCE AND CARRIE PRINCE, are the Defendants, being Case No. CG91-8097, in the said Court, I, J. Harrell Reid, as Sheriff of Hamilton County, Florida, have this day levied upon all the right, title and interest of the defendant, CARRIE PRINCE, in and to the following described property, to-wit:

LOT ONE (1) AND LOT TWO (2) IN CORBETTS SUBDIVISION IN NE 1/4 OF SE 1/4 OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST AKA, 3736 108TH AVENUE NORTHWEST. (PARCEL NO. 2461-000)

and on the 6th day of March, 2012, at the north front door of the Hamilton County Courthouse, in the City of Jasper, Hamilton County, at the hour 11:00 A.M., or as soon thereafter as possible, I will offer for sale all the said defendant's, CARRIE PRINCE, right, title and interest in aforesaid property at public outcry and will sell the same, subject to all taxes, prior liens, judgments or encumbrances whatsoever, if any, to the highest and best bidder or bidders for CASH, the proceeds to be applied as far as may be to the payment of costs and the satisfaction of the Final Judgments of the above described Execution.

SEE MY, PAGE 10A

My leap year quandary: Anybody have a day to spare?

By Rev. James L. Snyder

During the last political election cycle, we were promised change but I have not seen any of it, especially in my pants pocket.

Then something wonderful happened. I was taking some mail to the post office and as I got out of my truck, I noticed a penny on the ground. At my age, if I have to bend down I make sure there are at least two or three things to do while I am down there. A single penny just will not do it for me. After all, what can you do with a penny?

As I looked at that penny, I saw another penny, then another, then several. By the time I was done, there was a pile of 20 pennies there. Now that is something to bend down for.

I know what they say, "a penny for your thoughts." Here was 20 pennies and I did not have to think too much about bending down and collecting all 20 and put into my pants pocket. Nothing is quite as melo-

dious as change jingling in my pants pocket. I walked into the post office with my pocket jingling with some spare change.

Some may complain that 20 pennies does not really amount to very much. I remember what wise old Benjamin Franklin said, "A penny saved is a penny earned." I am not sure what he would say about a penny rescued or even 20 pennies rescued, but I think he would have had something very witty to say about it.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would say to me something to the effect that 20 pennies cannot buy a good lunch. Who needs a good lunch when you got 20 pennies jingling in your pants pocket? The better part of wisdom on my part would be to allow these 20 spare pennies be my little secret.

A few days after finding this penny cache, my wife made a comment that changed my week.

"What are you going to do with the extra day this year?"

I had no idea what she was talking about. Normally, I have no extra days to spare. Even if I happen to catch up on my chores on one day, there are always the next day's chores staring me in the face.

I was not a Beatle's fan but I did understand their one song that talked about "eight days a week." I have often thought I might be able to get caught up if there was an extra day in the week. Then, on scrutiny of the facts at hand, my good wife would find something for me to do on that eighth day.

Getting back to her "extra day" question. I had no idea what she was talking about and so I responded with a very sophisticated, "huh?"

"What are you going to do with the extra day we have this year?"

I searched the cobwebs of my memory and could not find anything resembling her comment. She saw the quizzical look on my face, more quizzical than normal, and realized I had no idea what she was talking about.

"Don't you know we have an extra day this year?"

I did not know that so I pled with her to explain what she was talking about. I was thinking she was going to give me a day off so I could do nothing, then on second thought I do not believe she would do something like that. Not her!

"This is leap year and the month of February has 29 days instead of the normal 28."

I thought for a moment and understood what she was talking about. I had forgotten this was leap year, which gives us an extra day. Instead of 365 days this year, we will enjoy 366 days. I am not quite sure who arranged this phenomenon but the extra day is tacked on to the end of February.

I have often thought it would be great to be born on February 29. That way you only celebrate your birthday every four years. Instead of being 60 years old, I would be 15.

Then a very terrible thought rumbled through my mind. I remembered what it was like to be 15.

Social Security Questions and Answers

By Mary Kate Vang
Social Security District
Manager, Lake City, Fla.

Question:
How long do I need to work to become eligible for retirement benefits?

Answer:
Everyone born in 1929 or later needs 40 Social Security credits to be eligible for retirement benefits. You can earn up to four credits per year, so you will need at least 10 years to become eligible for retirement benefits. During your working years, earnings covered by Social Security are posted to your Social Security record. You earn credits based on those earnings. If you become disabled or die before age 62, the number of credits needed depends on your age at the time you die or become disabled. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question:
I have children at home and I plan to retire next fall. Will my children be eligible for monthly Social Security payments after I retire?

Answer:
A child (biological, legally adopted, or dependent stepchild or grandchild) may potentially be eligible. Monthly Social Security payments may be made to your children if they are:

Unmarried and under age 18,
Age 19 if still in high school, or
Age 18 or over, who became severely disabled before age 22 and continue to be disabled.

For more information, read Benefits For Children at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10085.html

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. Social Security will periodically review your case to determine whether you continue to be eligible. If you are still receiving disability benefits when you reach your full retirement age, your disability benefits will automatically be converted to retirement benefits. Learn more about disability benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Question:
I found out that my son submitted incorrect information about my resources when he completed my Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs. How can I get my application changed now to show the correct amount?

Answer:
You can call 1-800-772-1213 and let us know. Or you can visit your local Social Security office (find it by using our office locator at www.socialsecurity.gov/locator). Information on your application will be matched with data from other Federal agencies. If there is a discrepancy that requires verification, we will contact you.



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IN ACCORDANCE with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in the proceeding should contact the Sheriff, telephone #386-792-1001 not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceedings. If hearing impaired, (TDD) 386-792-1001.

J. HARRELL REID, Sheriff
Hamilton County, Florida

By: /s/ J. Harrell Reid

02/02, 09, 16, 23

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

CASE NO. 2011-CA-000458

LENVIL H. DICKS, TRUSTEE OF
LENVIL H. DICKS LIVING TRUST,
Plaintiff,

vs.

SANDRALENE COMBS, and
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that the following described property:

Lot 7 - Deas Ranchettes

A parcel of land in Section 22, Township 1 North, Range 14 East, Hamilton County, Florida, being more particularly described as follows:

BEGIN at the SE corner of the NW 1/4 of said Section 22 and run South 88 degrees 15'19" West along the South line of said NW 1/4 of Section 22 a distance of 393.89 feet; thence North 37 degrees 04'28" East a distance of 635.15 feet to a point on the West line of the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 22; thence continue North 37 degrees 04'28" East a distance of 540.78 feet to a point on the Southerly right-of-way line of SE 50th Drive (Maurice Bennett Road); thence South 53 degrees 57'32" East along said Southerly right-of-way line of SE 50th Drive (Maurice Bennett Road) a distance of 433.75 feet; thence South 37 degrees 04'28" West a distance of 836.51 feet to a point on the South line of the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 22; thence South 88 degrees 43'07" West along said South line of the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 22 a distance of 161.67 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Containing 10.01 acres, more or less.

shall be sold by the Clerk of this Court, at public sale pursuant to the Final Judgment in the above styled action dated February 8, 2012, at the Hamilton County Courthouse in Jasper, Hamilton County, Florida, at 11:00 A.M., on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, to the best and highest bidder for cash. Any person claiming an interest in any surplus from the sale, other than the property owner as of the date of the notice of its pendens, must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

WITNESS my hand and official seal in the State and County aforesaid this 8th day of February, 2012.

(Court Seal) GREG GODWIN
Clerk of Court

By: /s/ Yvonne Bryant
As Deputy Clerk

02/23, 03/01



The Ross-Roux Cemetery

By Richard Marshall

The Ross Plantation encompassed nearly 1,000 acres, including the now historic White Springs. Major highway I-75 runs through the mossy swamps and planted pines revealing the Ross-Roux Cemetery, the last remnant of the past. It was established in the 1800s by Captain Francis J. Ross who served in the Indian Wars.

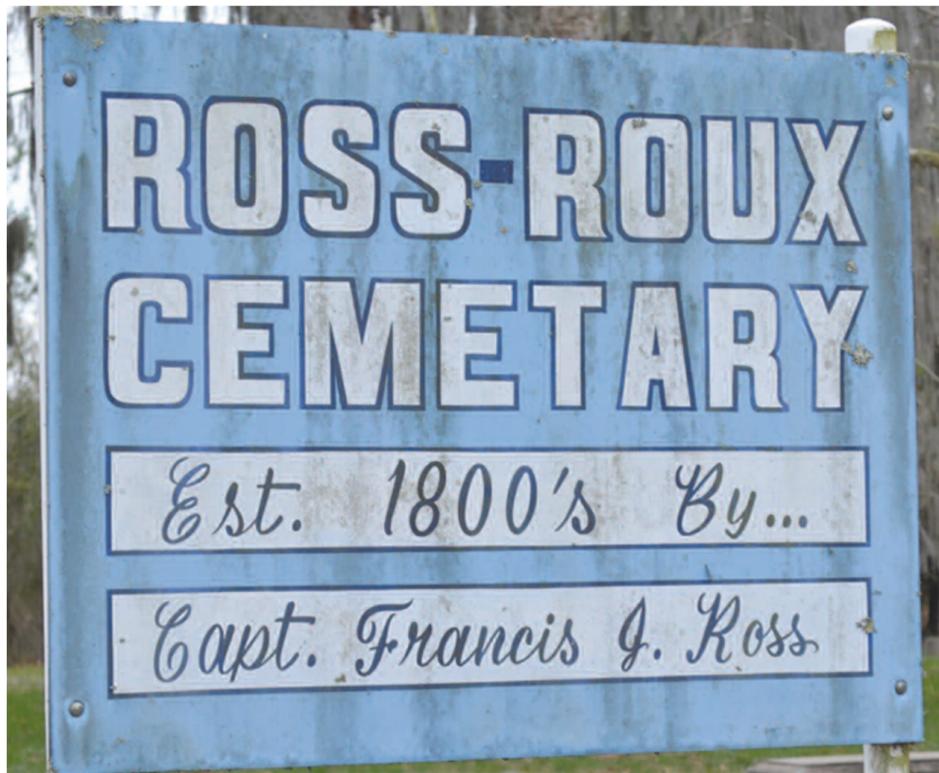
Hidden by billboard signs and fences, the ceme-

tery is the resting place of a forbidden union between a plantation owner and his slave, whom he made his wife. Although the Roux came from Spanish descent, being darker-skinned complicated things and they were reclassified and enslaved. The same thing happened to the generations of Caribbean blacks and Native Americans who were here prior to the first ship that reached Jamestown.

After the reconstruction of the South after the Civil War, the carpetbaggers came down from the North

and acquired most of the land.

The Ross-Roux's were able to go to court and get some of the land back through a Military Land Grant. A few of the descendants of their union are still living on the original lands given to Captain Ross in the 1800s.



The Ross-Roux Cemetery in White Springs.

Mike D. Huston, DVM

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A piece of black history lives on in White Springs. - Courtesy photos

The history of Black History Month

Many Americans and Canadians know each February is Black History Month, a month dedicated to observing the history of the African diaspora in several countries outside Africa. The month is meant to educate people about the culture of those, including African Americans, who left Africa and celebrate their various achievements in all walks of life.

The origins of Black History Month can be traced to Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland. Woodson and Moor-

land founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, or ASNLH. This organization dedicated itself to researching and promoting the achievements of black Americans and others of African descent.

In 1926, the ASNLH sponsored a national Negro History Week and chose the second week of February for the celebration for a very specific reason. The week coincided with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States who presided over the end of slavery, and Frederick Douglass,

the famed former slave who rose to prominence as a social reformer, writer, orator, and statesman.

Negro History Week proved inspiring to communities across the country, who organized local celebrations and established historical clubs to study the history of black Americans while educating others as well. Negro History Week proved so popular that, by the late 1960s, it had evolved into Black History Week. Many credit the Civil Rights Movement for the change, which initially took place on college campus-

es.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford called upon the public to honor the history and accomplishments of black Americans when he officially recognized February as Black History Month.

Since Ford's official recognition more than 35 years ago, each of his successors has designated February as Black History Month. In less than 100 years, Woodson and Moorland went from honoring the history of black Americans to joining the growing list of honorees who are celebrated every February.

School board members meet with Rep. Bembry



On Jan. 26, during legislative days, School Board Members Jeanie Daniels and Sammy McCoy met with State Representative Leonard Bembry to discuss budget issues. Rep. Bembry was glad to report that at least we wouldn't be cut anymore but with the billion dollars coming back in - to edu-

cation as promised by Gov. Scott, hopefully K-12 will be receiving a large portion. "We can only hope and pray" says Mrs. Daniels. It was an eventful day in the legislature. It's a sad day when you have to lobby for education. Thank You.

Florida House passes Sales Tax Holiday

Continued From Page 1A

Sales Tax Holiday for the weekend of Aug. 3-5, exempting from the state sales tax certain clothing priced at \$75 or less (employee uniforms, school clothes) and school supplies with a sales price of \$15 or less.

"In the present Florida economy, our families need every opportunity to save and to stretch their dollars

while providing for their children's school readiness. The residents of Florida have historically anticipated the State Sales Tax Holiday and have participated in it in great numbers. I am proud to be able to sponsor this year's legislation once again, in order to give back to the taxpayers of the State of Florida," stated Representative Porter.

According to the Florida Retail Federa-

tion, the Washington Economics Group study from 2010 shows that the Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday is a true win-win for Floridians, stating this legislation saves money for Florida's hardworking families and additionally increases revenue for the state.

It is anticipated that CS/HB 737 will be included in this session's Legislative Budget Conference.

Farm Bureau members celebrate Food Check-Out Week, Feb. 19-25

Submitted

County Farm Bureau members throughout Florida are set to hold a rich array of activities in celebration of the 2012 Food Check-Out Week. These activities will help to remind all Floridians that our farmers and ranchers produce an abundance of safe, nutritious foods and create the foundation of the quality of life we all enjoy.

Volunteers mark the occasion by making donations of food, money and supplies to various nonprofit, helping organizations such as homeless shelters and food banks. Their donations reflect their community-minded spirit and a willingness to share our agricultural bounty with citizens in need.

A special emphasis of Food Check-Out Week involves helping consumers purchase healthy diets on household budgets. U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines (available at www.choosemyplate.gov) create the basic information for all consumers. At a time when the cost of food and other items is increasing because of spikes in fuel prices, many consumers must rely upon careful choices to provide their families with wholesome meals.

A health-boosting diet includes varieties of fruits, vegetables, low-fat or fat-free dairy products, lean meats, beans, eggs and nuts in quantities for daily calorie needs. According to the USDA, all forms of fruits and vegetables provide a good diet - fresh, frozen, dried and canned. The agency recommends that half of your plate should consist of fruits and vegetables; half of all grains should be whole grains. USDA researchers also suggest

the use of fat-free or low-fat milk.

The USDA has reported that the prices of unprepared fresh fruits and vegetables such as carrots, bananas, tomatoes, broccoli, Red Delicious apples and Iceberg lettuce have remained stable compared to dessert and snack foods. U.S. consumers enjoy a domestic food supply that is among the safest, most abundant and affordable in the world.

USDA figures show that farmers and ranchers receive 19 cents out of every dollar spent on food. Off-farm costs - processing, packaging, wholesaling and retailing - account for 81 cents. In 1980 the farm producer received 31 cents of every dollar spent on food.

Our agricultural producers take pride in providing consumers with the highest quality, most nutritious food possible. Food safety is a fundamental goal of Florida agricultural producers. Farmers and ranchers recognize that superior animal welfare practices result in high quality, safe and wholesome meat, poultry, milk and eggs. They are constantly seeking ways to reduce costs and improve the comfort and well-being of animals. Their crop and animal food production methods are guided by Best Management Practices - state-of-the-art

techniques designed and tested by experts at research universities.

This year Florida Farm Bureau has partnered with the Florida Dietetic Association to call upon knowledgeable professionals for comprehensive dietary advice. We are delighted to have the association join with us and look forward to building upon this partnership in future years.

"We are proud of all our members who take part in Food Check-Out Week each year," said Florida Farm Bureau President John Hoblick. "Their work devoted to this event is both a community service and a reflection of our vibrant national tradition of citizen volunteerism."

"Initiatives such as Food Check-Out Week are part of Farm Bureau's effort to educate non-farmers about the value of contemporary agriculture for all of us," Hoblick added. "I urge all Floridians to join us in our celebration."

Florida Farm Bureau is the Sunshine State's largest general agricultural organization with more than 140,000 member-families representing Farm Bureaus in 60 counties. Membership provides a multitude of benefits and you don't have to be a farmer to be a member of Florida Farm Bureau.

My leap year quandary: Anybody have a day to spare?

Continued From Page 8A

118:24 KJV).

Someone said, today is the first day of the rest of my life. And so it is. Enjoy the day you have, is my philosophy of life.

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.