

# The Jasper News



**LUCK OF THE IRISH**  
Get 4 weeks of the Jasper News **FREE**  
DETAILS 9A

141ST YEAR, NUMBER 14

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012

3 SECTIONS 36 PAGES

50¢

## 11-hour standoff

Man said his son held him hostage with a 20-gauge pointed at his face

**By Joyce Marie Taylor**  
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

Deputies from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office arrested a Hamilton County man after an 11-hour armed stand-

off on Sunday, March 11, according to Sheriff J. Harrell Reid.

At approximately 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 10, HCSO deputies were dispatched to the CVS at 5663 S.E. 135 Place

in reference to an unknown complaint. Upon arrival deputies learned that a Mr. Croft (the victim) stated his son, William Leslie Croft Jr.,

**SEE 11-HOUR, PAGE 2A**



Deputies from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office arrested William Leslie Croft Jr., 59, of 5663 13th Blvd., Jasper, after an 11-hour armed standoff on Sunday, March 11, according to Sheriff J. Harrell Reid.

William Croft Jr.

## 12th Annual Wild Azalea Festival in White Springs Wild azaleas in bloom

Festival features arts, crafts, wild azaleas, native plants and music



Wild Azalea (*Rhododendron Canescens*). Photo: Walter Hodge, University of South Florida Slide Collection.

**W**HITE SPRINGS - The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Nature and Heritage Tourism Center, Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park and the Special Events Committee for the Town of White Springs will host the Twelfth Annual White Springs Wild Azalea Festival this Saturday, March 17.

Festival highlights include musical

performances, arts and crafts, the Little Miss Azalea Contest, the Suwannee River Duck Race, Children's Area and other outdoor recreational opportunities. Visitors can spend the day enjoying this street crafts fair where expert artisans will display and sell their handmade specialties. "Wild Azaleas" are a highlight of this event and will be available for purchase along with other

**SEE 12TH ANNUAL, PAGE 2A**

### Go/Do:

March 17, 2012  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
The state of Florida's Nature & Heritage Tourism Center  
White Springs, Florida  
(Located on US 41, three miles from I-75 and nine miles from I-10)  
Call 386-397-4331 or visit [www.floridastateparks.org/stephenfoster](http://www.floridastateparks.org/stephenfoster)

## Charter school proposal

*District administration offers perspective on charter school proposal*

**By Joyce Marie Taylor**  
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

Superintendent of Schools Martha Butler, Assistant Superintendent Rex Mitchell and Director of Business Services Bonnie Penner offered their perspective on the charter school proposal for White Springs in a roundtable discussion on Thursday, March 8.

On Feb. 24, parents of students at A-rated South Hamilton Elementary School (SHE) in White Springs presented a letter to SHE Principal Maceo Howell requesting a secret ballot vote by parents and teachers to de-

**SEE CHARTER, PAGE 6A**

## Payne seeks office of Third Judicial Circuit Public Defender

*Submitted*

Lake City attorney M. Blair Payne announced his candidacy for the office of Third Judicial Circuit



Payne

Public Defender. Payne is a native of Hamilton County and 1973 graduate of Hamilton County High School. He obtained his associate degree from what was then known as North Florida Junior College in Madison, and obtained his bachelor's degree from Valdosta State. After

**SEE PAYNE, PAGE 2A**



It was a packed house Wednesday night, March 7 at Alachua City Hall for the joint meeting between two water districts and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. - Photo: Misty A. Ward

## Concerns raised at packed joint water meeting

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

More than 140 people from within the Suwannee River and St. Johns River water management districts on Wednesday night, March 7, at the Alachua City Hall, for the joint meeting between SRWMD, SJRWMD and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

"The number of people in the room shows me that there's a lot of interest in our

water resources and it's very important to this process that we hear all of our water users, our environmental interests, our government interests," Ann Shortelle of DEP said in her opening comments.

Acting SRWMD Executive Director Charlie Houder, SJRWMD Executive Director Hans Tanzler III and Shortelle from DEP, represented their respective agencies.

**SEE CONCERNS, PAGE 2A**

## High speed chase ends in arrest



*Staff*

A California man wanted in that state for violation of parole was nabbed by Hamilton County authorities in a stolen

car after the man was chased on I-75 by Lowndes County, Ga. deputies reaching speeds at times in

**SEE HIGH, PAGE 2A**



**FREE**  
Publix  
**COOKIE**  
For Kids 12 & Under  
No Purchase Necessary  
Must Present Coupon  
Limit 1 Per Person  
7/26/08

# FLOW in early stages of organization

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

In its early stages of development, FLOW, or Florida Leaders Organized for Water, are doing just that, getting organized.

At the March 12 meeting, the board of directors heard from several different environmental groups, as well as concerned citizens, offering their support to FLOW. Representatives from the Suwannee River and St. Johns River water management districts and Department of Environmental Protection also addressed FLOW and the audience.

John Dinges, SRWMD, and Al Canepa, SJRWMD, updated the direc-

tors on the progress of the Partnership. The two talked about the updates on the regional groundwater flow model; minimum flows and levels; review and evaluation of existing science, data, needs and analysis; regional water supply plan; and stakeholder involvement.

Dinges announced that the minimum flow levels for the lower Santa Fe River and its priority springs, Ichetucknee River and the head springs of the Ichetucknee should be done by this summer. He said they have begun work on the upper Suwannee River, Suwannee Springs and White Sulfur Springs.

Mary Helen Wheeler, representing the Santa Fe Lake Dwellers, expressed

her concern over the Partnership between the two water districts and worried aloud that the "merging efforts of the two districts are not some indication of where we're headed statewide."

"As wonderful as that sounds, I couldn't help but think in the back of my head, this may be an instance where the big fish might eat the little fish. I think we have to be diligent and watching to make sure that we keep those bodies separate because they are two different regions with different needs," Wheeler said.

The directors spoke at length about FLOW's application to participate on the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership Stakeholder Commit-

tee. The Partnership was formed between the two water districts and DEP. Initially there was talk about picking two people, one from each district, to apply for one of each of the elected officials seat on the committee. There was also lengthy discussion about FLOW applying as an environmental group as well. In the end, it was a consensus that anyone on FLOW that was interested in applying for a seat on the Stakeholder Committee may do so on his or her own as an elected official, and that FLOW would write a letter to the Partnership to ask for an additional seat on the committee designated for FLOW.

The next meeting will be on April 9. The location has yet to be announced.

## 11-HOUR STANDOFF

Continued From Page 1A

59, of 5663 13th Blvd., Jasper, had held him hostage all day at their home with a 20-gauge shotgun pointed to his face. The 90-year-old victim also stated his son possibly had flammable accelerants in the home, reports show.

An HCSO deputy made contact with Croft Jr. via telephone at the residence and spoke with him for about an hour, but the suspect would not voluntarily leave the residence and made threats to shoot anyone who entered the home. Deputies later learned that the suspect had been seeing a counselor in Baker County for undisclosed reasons, officials said.

HCSO deputies contacted the counselor and she was able to speak with the suspect for several hours on the phone, however, she could not convince him to peacefully leave the residence, reports show.

Reid stated that because of the suspect's threats and previous actions, he requested the assistance of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office (CCSO). Mark Hunter of CCSO, after receiving the mutual aid request from Reid, immediately dispatched his SWAT team and Hostage Negotiations Unit to the scene. Hostage negotiators spent several hours speaking to the suspect in an attempt to peacefully end the situation.

Reports state that around 7 a.m. Sunday morning, March 11, negotiators finally convinced Croft Jr. to exit the home unarmed and surrender to deputies. He was taken into custody without further incident.

"No injuries were reported to anyone during this long event," said Reid.

Croft was charged with aggravated assault with a firearm, armed kidnapping and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and booked into the Hamilton County Jail.

Reid, on behalf of HCSO extended his gratitude to CCSO and Sheriff Hunter.

"The expertise that CCSO brought to the scene was a major factor in this incident being resolved peacefully," said Reid.

Reid also thanked the Jasper Police Department, Genoa Volunteer Fire Department and Hamilton County EMS for their professionalism and assistance during the standoff.

"The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office deputies exercised patience and excellent judgment by not rushing into a potentially life threatening situation during this tense and prolonged event," Reid said. "The expertise of all those on scene not only prevented a citizen or law enforcement officer from being injured, but the suspect was able to be taken into custody without injury."

## High speed chase ends in arrest

Continued From Page 1A

excess of 100 miles per hour.

Justin Patrick Carey, 23, of Encinitas, Calif., was driving in excess of 90 mph on I-75 near the 11 mile marker in Georgia, heading south into Florida when Lowndes County, Ga. deputies tried to stop him.

"The vehicle registration was checked and it was learned that the car had been reported as stolen to the Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office in Virginia," a

Lowndes County Sheriff's report states.

Deputies pursued Carey across the Florida state line at speeds in excess of 100 mph.

"Once in Florida, the driver exited the interstate into the parking lot of the Florida Welcome Center and then attempted to re-enter the interstate but lost control, wrecking the vehicle," the report stated.

Carey was arrested by Hamilton County Sheriff's Office deputies and booked into the Hamilton County Jail.

## 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](http://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.

## 12th Annual Wild Azalea Festival in White Springs

Continued From Page 1A

native Florida plants. Visitors can listen to the sounds of music as they stroll through historic downtown White Springs.

This year's event will feature Kitty Tolson Carroll who will provide an entertaining and educational birds of prey demonstration featuring the ancient art of falcon-

ry using free-flying falcons, owls and hawks at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park. A special exhibit of Florida's legendary Highwayman artist R.L. Lewis will be on display at the Nature and Heritage Tourism Center. Meet Mr. Lewis and learn how the Highwaymen depict Florida's natural beauty through their contemporary art

tradition.

The Wild Azalea Festival kicks off Friday afternoon, March 16 with a guided hike along the Suwannee River to view the beautiful and aromatic wild azaleas growing along the river banks. For additional information about the wild azalea hike or to register call 386-397-4461.

The Nature and Her-

itage Tourism Center is located on CR 136 and US 41 in downtown White Springs. This event is free. Admission to the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park is \$5 per vehicle, up to eight passengers. For more information please call 386-397-4331 or visit [www.floridastateparks.org/stephenfoster](http://www.floridastateparks.org/stephenfoster).

## Concerns raised at packed joint water meeting

Continued From Page 1A

Shortelle moderated the meeting. Houder and Tanzler each made a brief presentation regarding shared resources, shared concerns, the Floridan Aquifer, the Florida-Georgia Coordination accepted in 2008, shared science and sharing solutions through the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership.

The goal of the meeting was to set parameters and explain what the three agencies anticipated from a Stakeholder Committee. One representative from six industries and from each water management district will be selected from public water supply, commercial/power generation, industrial/mining, agriculture, environmental interest groups and local government, for a total of a 12 member committee.

During public comment Wellborn resident Tim Williams, and representative of the political action committee Suwannee Progress, questioned the panel and asked why there was no one on the list representing tourism.

"Tourism is dramatically important to all of

North Florida, especially as it relates to our natural resources. I encourage you to include tourism," Williams said.

Many members of the audience agreed and commented that the number of people on the panel did not seem to be enough.

Shortelle responded to them that this was just the beginning, "we have to start somewhere." She also mentioned that after the committee was formed that it could expand to accommodate or represent more stakeholders within the water districts. She warned though that the number of members on the panel needed to be a manageable number of members in order to accomplish the goals.

She went on to explain the criteria of the representing members from each stakeholder group. Shortell said that the people on the committee must be representative of more than just one agency and have the ability to speak for more than just one point of view. She used water supply as an example, if the person just represented one utility company, he or she may not be best suited, but if they represented a group of utilities that

met regularly to share ideas they would be representative of a group with more than one interest.

The interested applicant must fill out an application and submit it to his or her water management district. The deadline for applying is April 6. The committee members will be appointed by the two districts and the DEP in May. The applications may be found online at [NorthFloridaWater.com](http://NorthFloridaWater.com).

During public comment, Lafayette County Commissioner Jack Byrd addressed the audience and the panel regarding agriculture and the different conservation methods being used, such as misters and drip irrigation.

"Our biggest problem is this water that's coming out of the ground and never a drop of it is going back into the aquifer," said Byrd. "That's the water we got to stop. If it's a bottling plant or the water that's going to JEA. Our agriculture, yes sir, we got to have that because we can't wait until we run out and then depend on these other countries to feed our country."

Jim Lloyd from Hatch Bend expressed his concern about the water lev-

els in the area. He said that 40 percent of the region that uses the Floridan Aquifer is north of the two water districts and that the two districts only represent about 25 percent of the region.

"My conclusion is we are pulling water out of the bath tub a lot faster than we are putting it in. We're continuing to find more ways to pull it out," Lloyd said. "We can't solve it in just these two water districts. We're not going to shut down the agriculture and most of the usages, each one in themselves are very justifiable. We are going to have to find ways to get more water and we don't need to do, in my mind, a huge amount of minimum flow studies and spring levels and all that. We need to go after finding ways to get it and how to do it some sort of reasonably economic way."

Houder said he was pleased with the meeting.

"We got the range of comments that I would kind of expect," he said. "I'm very pleased with what we got. We've got some work to do, but in terms of what we were hoping to accomplish tonight, I think we did that."

## Payne seeks office of Third Judicial Circuit Public Defender

Continued From Page 1A

working one year at Occidental Chemical Company (now known as PCS) in White Springs, he enrolled at Stetson University College of Law where he graduated first in his class.

After obtaining his law degree, Payne immediately began practicing in the Third Circuit with the law firm of Darby, Peele, Bowdoin & Payne, where he remained for 27 years. Al-

though his practice focused on civil and criminal litigation, he also served as city attorney for the city of Jasper and assistant city attorney for the city of Lake City.

In 2010, Payne joined the Third Circuit Public Defender's Office as the circuit court division chief for the Lake City office. In this position, he supervises felony division attorneys, represents individuals charged with serious offenses and handles capi-

tal murder cases throughout the seven-county circuit.

Payne has served on the Third Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission and currently serves as chair of the Third Circuit Grievance Committee. He is a member of the Florida Public Defenders Association Death Penalty Steering Committee, which formulates training programs for lawyers in both the private and public sectors.

He is also a frequent guest lecturer at the University of Florida College of Law and is a leader in the James C. Adkins Inn of Court.

"If elected, my goal is to provide legal representation as required by the Constitution as economically and efficiently as possible," said Payne. "I believe my management experience from over 25 years in the private sector will be invaluable in meeting this goal."



**HALL'S**  
**FITNESS CENTER**

"NO EXCUSES"

1186 LAKE BLVD.  
LAKE PARK, GA 31636  
OFFICE: 229-559-3373

Personal training, tanning,  
complete weight room,  
aerobics classes,  
programs for children  
and seniors



# Life in WHITE SPRINGS

By Walter McKenzie

lifeinwhitesprings@gmail.com

There is a lot going on this weekend and if you stay at home and watch TV you are going to deprive yourself of some wonderful fresh air and sunshine and a host of activities that are going on here in the always vibrant town of White Springs. I will try, in my own earnest but sometimes feeble way, to give you a hint of the treasures you might experience if you come to White Springs this Saturday, March 17th. First of all I'll mention the Wild Azalea Festival, which has already received a good bit of coverage about the arts and crafts, the spectacular food, the great music, the amazing birds of prey exhibit, and of course the adorable Little

Miss Azalea contest. There are plenty of details elsewhere in this and other newspapers and I won't repeat them, but I will give you some news that you may not know about and I'll share with you what I really like about the festival. I enjoy all of the events at the festival but overall what I really like the best is the energy level, the vibes if you will, that is so pervasive throughout the day. The feeling of community is strong and the sense that White Springs is a special place is stronger than ever. Even though there will be a lot of visitors, you won't meet any strangers that day. Everyone feels like they are part of the community. What some folks don't know is that the Adams country store, full of amazing antique treasures, will be open to visitors. Step into the store and you will take a step back in time that is a very pleasant adventure. Many thanks to the owner Raymond

Cheshire for his loving restoration of this beautiful historic building that we almost lost to the ravages of time and neglect. At the festival site the streets and sidewalks have even been repaved! So come and bring the family to our Wild Azalea Festival, it's fun, it's fabulous and it's free!

Down the road at the Suwannee Hardware store the monthly swap meet will be going on. It's always a great place to look for treasures and bargains but it is bigger and better than ever on the Wild Azalea Festival weekend. This week's swap meet is a fundraiser for the Whit Springs Fire Department too, and I can't think of a finer cause to support.

Then go a little more down the road to Ogburn field to the Kids Zone where there will be a lot of activities for the young folks, sponsored in part by the White Springs Police Department. I'm told that there will be a booth where you will get a chance to "Dunk a Cop". Now, although I believe that we should always show respect to our fine law officers, this is an opportunity I would not want to pass up!

Back at the Wild Azalea Festival sight, toward the end of the day the duck race will take place and you will have a chance to win some awesome prizes if your duck wins the race. Duck race tickets will be for sale throughout the day.

The Festival will be over around 5PM but the day's adventure won't be over yet. If you are hankering for a little night life you can go over to the Telford Hotel for dinner and then stay to enjoy the White Springs Folk Club final concert of the season, featuring the extraordinary Scott and Michelle Dalziel. Winner of many awards at various festivals throughout the country, Scott and Michelle were a favorite of the Folk Club audience when they were here two years ago so they were invited back. The performance starts at 7:30PM but it is best to show up early to assure yourself a seat or even better to call for reservations at 386-269-0056. There is a suggested artist donation of \$12.50 and all you have to do to be a member of the White Springs Folk Club is show up and have a good time!

So there you have it. There is no excuse to sit home and say there is nothing to do because there is always something to do in White Springs but this Saturday may indeed be one of the best ever! I hope to see you there, enjoying the sights and sounds of life in White Springs.

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

## Healthy Living

### A true story

Over the years working with individuals to reach their health and fitness goals I can't tell you how many people I've seen give up on themselves because everything didn't fall perfectly into place. So, it is very motivating to see an individual who made up their mind to never quit.

Scarlett Wheeler came to me in June of 2011. Her initial goals were to lose weight, feel stronger, improve her low back pain (of which she constantly suffered), and to increase her energy. "Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. I am very tired and work and feel awful," Scarlett shared with me during our consultation.

By August of 2011 life was beginning to get in the way of her exercise (Scarlett also has a young son and a full time job). After several unfortunate incidents of her getting sick, her son, and her husband; the stresses of life began to accumulate and Scarlett expressed she needed a break.

On Jan. 16 of this year

Scarlett was ready to return, feeling more motivated and rejuvenated than before! From January to March Scarlett hit the ground running. She began applying all components we had worked to modify before-and this time with much more success and confidence. She began doing cardio on her lunch break at the prison, something I commend her for. Even more inspiring Scarlett motivated her husband Brett to begin making healthier choices leading to significant weight loss. She rarely has back issues, and has learned the importance of dynamic and functional movement during her everyday life: how to pick up her growing son with proper form to decrease torque on her lumbar spine for example.

In this 6 week period Scarlett lost 14 pounds, 8.35 inches, and 8.35 percent body fat. She is now training on her own and feels comfortable with developing and implementing a successful program. Scarlett's story

is one of my favorites. She exemplifies "life happens"; many times we expect changes to occur quickly, in a linear-uninterrupted-fashion. Her story shows us sometimes we have to take a break, take care of work, ourselves, our family; but that doesn't mean we have to quit. It absolutely doesn't mean everything we did originally was for nothing. When Scarlett came back she was MORE able to implement change than before. Armed with a strong understanding of how to successfully implement healthy lifestyle choices, she is confident in proceeding on her own terms, AND-has motivated her husband to do the same.

I hope Scarlett's story motivates you not only to understand the process of adopting a healthy lifestyle is just that-a process. Whether you get there next month or next year doesn't really matter. What does matter is you learn what works for you. You learn to love yourself more by caring

~Beth Harris, CSCS, CHFS  
bethharrisfitness@gmail.com



for your body, exercising, and making healthy food choices. You learn you have the power to influence others through your own journey. Want to inspire? Be inspiring! Thanks again Mrs. Scarlett Wheeler, you are an inspiration!

"Effort only releases its reward when a person refuses to quit."

~Napolean Hill

~Beth Harris, CSCS, CHFS

\*For more inspirational stories visit  
www.balanceurbody.net /testimonials\*

## Election Reminder

The town of White Springs will be holding an election on April 24 for three council seat vacancies. Qualifying ends at noon on March 20 and books close for the election on March 27.

Candidates, who must be registered voters in Hamilton County and physically reside in White Springs, can pick up their packets from town clerk Shirley Heath.

## Downed power line causes fire, Page 7A

### CALL JUNK JOE

Cash for junk vehicles  
We pay cash \$300 & up for big & small vehicles

No Title Necessary  
Licensed ~ We also buy any kind of scrap metal ~ Free Pickup

Open 7 days a week  
**386-867-1396**

730249

## Springtime & Beautiful Roses go Hand in Hand!

You just have to come to Nobles to see all the beautiful roses! You'll see amazing hybrid teas, floribundas and antique roses all budded and blooming!

If you prefer hardy shrub roses our selection of Knock Outs, Drifts and Julia Childs are great!!

**SALE - 3 gal. White Out Shrub Rose**  
**Only \$12.99 (Reg. \$19.99)** WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

### Discover the Joy of Herbs!

From cooking and aroma therapy to insect control herbs have lots of uses! Plant them in a pot or in your flower bed they're easy to grow!



2948 129th Road • Live Oak  
(386) 362-2333

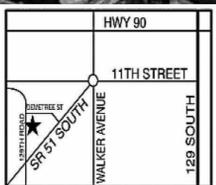
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Starting March 11th Open  
Sunday 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

"For over 30 Years"

WWW.NOBLESGREENHOUSE.COM



## AGENDA

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

MEETING DATE: MARCH 6, 2012

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

### LISTED ITEMS

- 1) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - UNAGENDAED APPEARANCES (\*)
- 2) CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL
- 3) REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND REQUESTS
- 4) SPECIAL ELECTION - SLOT MACHINES
- 5) WHITE SPRINGS LIBRARY PROJECTS
- 6) APPROVE BILLS
- 7) CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 8) ADJOURN

### TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

- 9:00 A.M. - CALL TO ORDER - INVOCATION - PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
- 9:05 A.M. - 2010 CDBG PROGRAM UPDATES AND REQUESTS
- 9:10 A.M. - LAND USE AND SHIP PROGRAM UPDATES AND REQUESTS
- 9:15 A.M. - COUNTY ROAD PROJECTS - STATUS REPORT AND RREQUESTS
- 9:20 A.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - SW 69<sup>TH</sup> BOULEVARD - ORIDANCE SETTING MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT
- 9:25 A.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - SW 55<sup>TH</sup> DRIVE - ORIDANCE SETTING MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT
- 10:00 A.M. - LANDFILL ISSUES - FRANK DARABI

DUE TO PUBLICATION DEADLINE, THIS WILL NOT CONTAIN ALL MATTERS BEFORE THE BOARD. A COMPLETE COPY OF THE AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED AFTER 1:00 P.M. FROM THE OFFICE OF CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT, COURTHOUSE, JASPER, FLORIDA, ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2012.

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

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

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

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

NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2012 AT 6:00 P.M.

728054yv

## OPINION

## Compliant Americans

Last month, at a Raeford, N.C., elementary school, a teacher confiscated the lunch of a 5-year-old girl because it didn't meet U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines and therefore was deemed nonnutritious. She replaced it with school cafeteria chicken nuggets. The girl's home-prepared lunch was nutritious; it consisted of a turkey and cheese sandwich, potato chips, a banana and apple juice. But whether her lunch was nutritious or not is not the issue. The issue is governmental usurpation of parental authority.

In a number of states, pregnant teenage girls may be given abortions without the notification or the permission of parents. The issue is neither abortion nor whether a pregnant teenager should have an abortion. The issue is this: What gives the government the authority to usurp parental authority?

Part of the problem is that people who act as instruments of government do not pay a personal price for usurping parental authority. The reason is Americans, unlike Americans

of yesteryear, have become timid and, as such, come to accept all manner of intrusive governmental acts. Can you imagine what a rugged American, such as one portrayed by John Wayne, would have done to a government tyrant who confiscated his daughter's lunch or facilitated her abortion without his permission?

I believe that the anti-tobacco movement partially accounts for today's compliant American. Tobacco zealots started out with "reasonable" demands, such as the surgeon general's warning on cigarette packs. Then they demanded nonsmoking sections on airplanes. Emboldened by that success, they demanded no smoking at all on airplanes and then airports and then restaurants and then workplaces -- all in the name of health. Seeing the compliant nature of smokers, they've moved to ban smoking on beaches, in parks and on sidewalks

in some cities. Now they're calling for higher health insurance premiums for smokers. Had the tobacco zealots demanded their full agenda when they started out, they would

**A  
MINORITY  
VIEW**



© 2011 Creators Syndicate  
**BY WALTER WILLIAMS**

not have achieved anything. Using the anti-tobacco crusade as their template and finding Americans so compliant, zealots and would-be tyrants are extending their agenda. Why not control what we eat? San Francisco, Chicago and several other cities have outlawed or are seeking to outlaw serving foie gras in restaurants. Here's my challenge to these people: Don't be a coward and use the state to accomplish your agenda. If you see Williams eating foie gras, just come up and take it off his plate.

Other food tyrants want to stop us from eating Dove and Haagen-Dazs ice cream, Mrs. Fields cookies and McDonald's Chicken McNuggets. San Francisco has already banned McDonald's from selling Happy Meals with toys in them as sales pitches to children. Seeing San Francisco's compliance may have been the source of inspiration for the North Carolina schoolteacher who took the 5-year-old girl's lunch.

Americans have become compliant in nation-crippling ways. Over the past several years, gasoline prices have been shooting through the roof, but not to worry. President Barack

Obama's current secretary of energy, Steven Chu, said in December 2008, "Somehow we have to figure out how to boost the price of gasoline to the levels in Europe." That translates to \$8 or \$9 a gallon. During a recent hearing on the Department of Energy's budget, Rep. Alan Nunnelee, R-Miss., asked Secretary Chu whether it is the DOE's "overall goal" to lower gasoline prices. "No," Chu responded. "The overall goal is to decrease our dependency on oil, to build and strengthen our economy."

Because Americans are so compliant and willing to suffer silently at the gasoline pump, the Obama administration is willing to press on as handmaidens of environmental extremists who want to halt the exploration of our country's vast oil supplies, which are estimated to be triple those of Saudi Arabia. The Obama administration would rather pour more taxpayer dollars into risky alternative crony energy suppliers and electric cars. The OPEC nations have to be laughing at us, and I wouldn't be surprised if it were revealed that they are making under-the-table payments to environmental wackos.

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

## The Jasper News

Published weekly every Thursday. USPS #755-980  
Office located at 105 NE 2nd Avenue,  
Bank of America, Jasper, FL 32052  
Phone (386) 792-2487 FAX (386) 792-3009  
E-mail address: [jaspernews1@windstream.net](mailto:jaspernews1@windstream.net)

Myra Regan ..... Publisher  
Jeff Waters ..... Editor  
Joyce Marie Taylor ..... Reporter  
Brenda Demarais ..... Sales Representative

Periodicals postage paid at Jasper, FL.  
Annual subscription rate is \$17 in county,  
\$25 out of county and out of state.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
The Jasper News, 105 NE 2nd Ave., Jasper, FL 32052

### 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.

## Miss Azalea contest

By Joyce Marie Taylor

The town of White Springs is gearing up for the 2012 Little Miss Azalea Contest.

Contestants are encouraged to stop by town hall to fill out an application. Each contestant must be between the ages of 3 and 10 years old and must live in Hamilton, Suwannee or Columbia counties.

The crowning will take place on March 17 at 2 p.m. adjacent to the Nature and Heritage Tourism Center on the day of the 2012 Wild Azalea Festival.

First prize winner will receive a \$500 Savings Bond. Second prize winner will take home a \$200 Savings Bond and Third prize winner will receive a \$50 Savings Bond.

Each participant in the contest will receive a trophy.

For more information or to pick up an application, please call White Springs Town Hall at 386-397-2310.

## United Way of Suwannee Valley

LAKE CITY, FL – Thousands of prescriptions go unfilled simply because they are too expensive to fill. But free FamilyWize prescription discount cards, provided by United Way of Suwannee Valley, address this problem. For the year of 2011, this partnership saved residents \$77,572 by cutting the cost of medicines by an average of 35 percent.

"The cost of a prescription really shouldn't be a factor, but more and more we're finding the high price of medicine means people have to make a choice. They can either fill a prescription or put food on the table and keep a roof over their head," said Jenn Sawyer, 2-1-1 and information and referral specialist at United Way of Suwannee Valley. FamilyWize free prescription cards save an average of \$20 per prescription. Those savings often times mean the difference between taking a medicine or skipping it."

United Way of Suwannee Valley is part of a nationwide grassroots effort in conjunction with FamilyWize Community Service Partnership. The free cards are accepted at 95 percent of pharmacies nationwide, including all major chains. Using a card to save on prescriptions doesn't require enrollment or personal information, so they're ready to use the minute you receive one, according to Dan Barnes, co-chair of FamilyWize.

"This helps people who have no insurance the most, but it can also help people with insurance if it doesn't cover their medicine," said Barnes. "It's easy, like using a coupon. Just take it to your local pharmacist, and they'll know exactly what to do to automatically apply all the savings available to you."

SEE UNITED, PAGE 10A



**The Arc North Florida**

# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lawn Mower Race

**March 24, 2012**

Rider & Team Registration – 9:30 AM  
Lawn Mower Race Starts – 10:00 AM

**Event Location:**  
John's Lawn Equipment  
Hwy 129 North, Live Oak



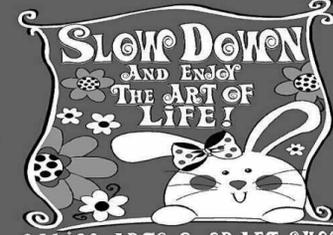
**Sponsorship:**  
Support This Event by becoming an Individual Racer, Racing Team or Pit Stop Crew  
Visit us at [www.arcnfl.com](http://www.arcnfl.com) for details and online registration  
Or call the office at (386) 362-7143

**PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT**  
Individuals in The Arc North Florida programs receive the necessary training to function as independently as possible and each client is provided opportunities to participate fully in the community.

As a qualified 501(C)(3) charity, The Arc North Florida provides advocacy, employment training and living service skills for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities including mental retardation, cerebral palsy, spina bifida and autism.

The Arc North Florida is a sponsored partner of United Way of Suwannee Valley as an approved provider agency since 2005.





**Calico Arts & Craft Show**  
Spring 2012

## Galico Spring Arts & Craft Show

**Saturday, March 17**  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**Sunday, March 18**  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Over 300 booths of handmade arts and crafts Exhibitors from throughout the Southeast  
Inside & Outside Exhibitors -  
Food Court Clogging  
Performances both days.

Spence Field ~ Moultrie, GA  
(Sunbelt Expo Site)  
4 Miles SE of Hwy 319 on HWY 133

**\$5 per person**  
Children 12 and under are  
free with an adult  
**NO PETS ALLOWED**  
Free Parking

For More Information  
(229) 985-1968  
[info@calicocrafts.com](mailto:info@calicocrafts.com)  
[www.calicocrafts.com](http://www.calicocrafts.com)

# Obituaries

**Rupert Whitehead Sr.**  
April 29, 1936 -  
March 6, 2012

Rupert Whitehead Sr., age 75, of Jennings, Fla. passed away Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at his home following a lengthy illness. Mr. Whitehead was born on April 29, 1936 to the late Carlos and Lillie Kornegay Whitehead. He served his county in the United States Air Force. Mr. Whitehead retired from Timco Aviation (Aero Corp) in Lake City, Fla. He was a long-time resident of Jennings and was a member of Jennings Missionary Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Peggie Sauls Whitehead, Jennings; two sons, Rupert "Rudy" Whitehead, Jr. (Kay), Lake Park, Ga. and Tracey Allen Whitehead (Misty), Jennings, Fla.; three grandchildren, Katie, Tripp and Gabriel; two step grandchildren, Hunter and Bayleigh; three great grandchildren, Brianna, Gavin and Brody; a special niece and nephew, Megan and Rickey Eudy.

Memorial services were held Saturday, March 10, 2012 at Jennings Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Spencer Smith-Corbett officiating.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Jennings Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box

1676, Jennings, FL. 32053.

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

**Ollie E. Young (Smith-Sandlin) Allison**  
March 7, 2012

Ollie E. Young (Smith-Sandlin) Allison, age 92, of Jasper, Fla., passed away Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at Lake City Medical Center following a brief illness. Ms. Allison was born in Fargo, Georgia to the late Peter Aaron Young and Mary Estelle Kirkland Young. She moved to Jasper 11 years ago from Marianna, Fla. where she was a homemaker and private duty caregiver.

Survivors include five children, Betty Smith Knolla, Jasper, Fla., Martha Smith Morgan, Jasper, Fla., Beverly Smith, Lake City, Fla. Rebecca Sandlin Pelletier, Los Angeles, Calif., and William Preston Sandlin, III, Washington, D.C.; 18 grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Haven Hospice, 6037 West U.S. Hwy 90, Lake City, FL. 32055.

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



## Creech/Layton wedding

Zoey, Ronnie and Ethan Layton would like to invite you to the upcoming wedding of their mother Theresa Layton to Jay Creech. Theresa is a 1999 Suwannee High graduate and is currently employed as a certified pharmacy technician at Winn-Dixie pharmacy. Jay is a 1989 Suwannee High graduate and is currently employed at PCS in White Springs.

The wedding will be held on March 31, 2012 at 6 p.m. at Rosemary Baptist Church with reception to follow at the Live Oak Armory.

No local invitations will be sent. All friends and family are invited to attend.

## Heart Matters Nehemiah #4

By Angie Land

What disturbs you? Long lines? Careless drivers? Last minute change of plans? Oddly enough, what we are disturbed by can tell us (and others) a lot more about our character than the things we overlook. Webster's dictionary defines the word 1) to stir; move 2) to cause deviation; interfere with; disrupt 3) To agitate; trouble; perplex 4) To put out; inconvenience. We know all too well what this feels like! I want us to dig into these definitions a bit this week and see what we can learn regarding this natural tendency to be disturbed...

Meanwhile, as Nehemiah leaves Susa for Jerusalem, he runs smack into the first hint of opposition. Never really takes long does it? Things had been going according to plan nicely: the king had surely shown Nehemiah favor in granting not only his request to go to Jerusalem, but also to provide a military escort to ensure safe passage, as well as timber from the King's forest to make beams for the gates.

However, as Nehemiah came to the region north of Judea, called Samaria, he encountered Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official. History tells us that Sanballat was the governor of Samaria, and Tobiah was probably the ruler over Ammon, which was east of Judea. The scriptures give a bit more insight:

"When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites." (Nehemiah 2:10, NIV)

Doesn't this beg the question, "Why?" According to the report Nehemiah received in Chapter One concerning the condition of the Jews living in Jerusalem, why would anyone be disturbed that they were being helped? The Old Testament Lexical Aides offers more perspective on the definition of disturbed: "To do evil, harm, be wicked; Denotes activity contrary to God's will and an attitude that rejects God's authority. This characterizes those who lack

understanding and deliberately plan to hurt others, even habitually and compulsively." Does this description apply to Sanballat and Tobiah? Right off the top we can confirm their attitude is one that rejects God's authority. God had given Nehemiah the task of rebuilding the wall to offer protection to the exiles living in Jerusalem, and they didn't like it. Their personal agenda, an issue of power, seemed to include keeping Jerusalem weak, so that Samaria and Ammon could keep the upper hand.

The real question is...does this description apply to you and me? Does God's authority disturb us when it interferes with our personal goals? Does any activity we participate in run contrary to God's will? Are we bothered when we see God's blessings come to another? Do we ever deliberately plan to sabotage the plans and success of others? The cold, hard truth is "yes." We all have... or at least thought some of these thoughts. Earlier, I referred to these tendencies as "natural," and



they are just that. Only the supernatural working of the Spirit of God can align our desires with God's and give us the mind of Christ. This will result in our relinquishing the struggle for power, so we can wish the best for others and cheer over their successes, instead of being disturbed...

Because Every Heart Matters, 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](mailto:angieland3@windstream.net)

## Hyssongs to perform at Bethel Creek in Mayo

The Hyssongs will be presenting a concert of gospel music at Bethel Creek Baptist Church located at 8945 N. CR 53 in Mayo, Fla., on Sunday, March 25 at 6 p.m.

The Hyssongs travel full-time throughout the United States and Canada using the powerful medium of music. Dell, Susan and Richard Hyssong encourage and delight audiences wherever they appear with their family vocal harmony, lively energetic style, humor and brass instruments (trumpet and trombone). This award winning trio consistently has top 40 songs on the radio charts. They perform more than 250 times each year in churches, auditoriums, gospel cruises (as well as television and radio). During the last two years, they have sung more than 12 times at Dollywood, have been featured in Singing News and appeared on the cover of Christian Voice Magazine.

## Hamilton County adult education classes

### Your road to success

Currently, 19 percent of Floridians and 27 percent of Hamilton County residents do not have a high school diploma or GED. High School dropouts were more than twice as likely to be living in poverty as high school graduates. Seventy-four percent of dropouts spend one or more years in poverty between the ages of 25-75. (U.S. Census)

If you are interested in obtain-

ing your High School Diploma please take the step to maximize your future and contact the Hamilton County VTAE School.

The Hamilton County Adult Education classes can help you complete your goal. Hamilton County Adult Education classes offer a flexible schedule with both day and night classes available. Not only do we offer options to fit your busy schedule, but you will be provided the ser-

vices of our Career Pathway Coach, Leslie Carter. Your personal career coach will help you meet your educational goals, look for financial aid, search for a job, write a resume and cover letter, and prepare for your future no matter the path you plan to follow. For more information please contact Rex Mitchell or Evelyn Davis at 386-792-7829 or via email [rex.mitchell@hamiltonfl.com](mailto:rex.mitchell@hamiltonfl.com).

## Around the banks of the Suwannee

Page 9a

## Jasper CLASSIFIEDS



**Lost Female Chihuahua**  
in the Roma Road area in Jasper, FL. Answers to Honey. Honey colored with some white. Call 386-792-3434

**Advertise your YARD SALE, VEHICLES OR UNWANTED ITEMS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS. Call 386-792-2487 to place your ad today.**

# Church & Family Go Together

ADVENT CHRISTIAN	BAPTIST (Southern)	METHODIST	PRESBYTERIAN
<b>FIRST ADVENT CHRISTIAN</b> NW 15th Avenue, Jasper Rev. Wayne Sullivan Sunday School 10:00am Morning Worship 11:00am Evening Worship 7:00pm Wednesday	<b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b> "We help friends become a family" 207NE 2nd St, Jasper 32053 Pastor Roger Hub 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.	<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 405C Central Ave, Jasper, FL Pastor David Ames Phone 386-792-1122 Sunday School 10:00am Morning Worship 11:00am Evening Worship 7:00pm Wednesday	<b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 204NW 3rd Avenue, Jasper 32058 Pastor Alexander Hedrick SUNDAY Sunday School 10:00am Morning Worship 11:00am Evening Worship 7:00pm Wednesday Prayer Fellowship 6:00am Choir Practice 7:00pm
<b>BAPTIST (Southern)</b> <b>NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> SRW 6652NW 48th St Jennings, FL 32053 939-6611 Pastor Joe Cordao 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	<b>CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> <b>ST. THERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Thee # 6304 Jasper, FL 32052 PO Box 890, Jasper, FL 32052 Rectory: 888-664-1108 Saturday Mass 4:00pm	<b>NON-DENOMINATIONAL</b> <b>BURNHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 4520NW CR 146, Jennings, FL 32053 938-1265 Pastor Johnny Brown Sunday School 10:00am Morning Worship 11:00am Evening Worship 7:00pm Wednesday K&P 6:00pm	<b>Building On FAITH</b> 717818F
<b>CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 12th & Easton Hwy, Jasper, FL 32052 792-2275 Pastor Steve Shaw Sunday School 10:00am Morning Worship 11:00am Church Training 7:00pm Evening Worship 7:00pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6:00pm Youth Meeting 7:00pm	<b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> <b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> NW 3rd St, Jasper Bldg 92-2277 Sunday School 10:00am Morning Worship 11:00am Evening Worship 7:00pm Wednesday Evening 7:00pm	717824F 717824F	717818F 727361W

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

# Charter school proposal

Continued From Page 1A

termine whether or not they are in support of converting SHE into a public charter school. The action was prompted by the school board's decision on Jan. 24 to close SHE if Central Hamilton Elementary (CHE) does not exit intervene status at the end of this school year, and to bus SHE students to CHE, thereby combining the two elementary schools. This decision was a reversal of an earlier board decision in October 2011 to do the opposite by transferring CHE students to SHE.

CHE is in their second year of intervene by the Florida Department of Education (DOE) for receiving a failing school grade of F two years in a row and must receive a C grade on FCAT this year in order to exit intervene. The intervention plan had to be submitted to the DOE by Feb. 1.

Since receiving the letter, school district officials have been grappling with finding answers to many questions regarding the charter school proposal, the timelines/deadlines, and all the ramifications involved, including teacher pay and benefits.

"As you well know, the budget has been a tremendous issue for us, but the charter school issue is separate from that decision right now, even though it would play a big part down the line," said Butler. "My main concern, right up front, is that if 50 percent of the teaching staff at South Hamilton and 50 percent of the parents choose to go charter school, I want them to have all the information they need to make a wise decision, because it could affect the academic success of our children and it can affect the careers of our

people. If they choose to do it, then, of course, they'll be a part of our school district, as far as being a public charter school and we'll support them."

Butler believes that SHE parents are acting on emotions because they don't want to see their school closed and she said she understands and isn't offended by their actions.

"It's an emotional thing to even think about losing a school that you care about and that you attended and your grandfather attended," Butler said. "Change is difficult. This is one of the most difficult decisions that I've had to make, and I probably could have taken an easier way out, but it's not the right thing, so I'm going to do what's right."

Butler said she, along with Mitchell, Penner, and Director of Administrative Services Philip Pinello, traveled to Polk County to speak with two charter school experts there. Polk County has 160 schools and about 30 of them are charter schools, Butler said.

"Nine of them are conversion charters," Penner interjected.

"We asked a lot of questions because this is a new thing for all of us," said Butler.

Meanwhile, Adam Miller, a charter school specialist from the DOE was asked to come speak to SHE teachers and answer their questions. That meeting was held on March 5 at SHE. Butler said she wasn't able to be there, but Mitchell was there, along with Howell.

Butler said she wasn't sure who requested Miller to come to that meeting, and that she had already planned to have him come speak to everyone on March 15. Even after the meeting,

Butler stated there were still unanswered questions by teachers and parents because Miller was unable to answer many of them. Butler is scheduling a meeting (date to be determined) with two Polk County charter school experts, district staff, and SHE parents and staff, in order to continue the discussion and get absolute, concrete answers before the secret ballot process is carried out.

"I want to be as transparent as possible and I want them to make accurate decisions," said Butler.

Butler said the school board attorney had some reservations about some of Miller's answers, as well.

"Mr. Miller, not intentionally, perhaps made a couple of incorrect statements and I just want to get some clarification," said Butler.

Mitchell said the teachers asked Miller many specific questions, but some he couldn't answer, such as teacher pay. Those questions, he said, won't be able to be answered until whoever is writing the charter school application makes those facts known. Voter eligibility was another question asked.

"If you read the law, it says that only classroom level teachers get to vote," said Mitchell.

Media specialists, guidance counselors, paraprofessionals, custodians and the principal are not eligible to vote, he said.

Mitchell also stated there are a lot of school choice options in the county already, such as home and virtual schooling, as well as the proposed charter school, and that all of those options have their own specific rules and regulations.

"So many times our

parents don't understand those," Mitchell said. "I do home school, so a parent will come in and say, 'I want to home school my child,' so we go through all the paperwork and then the next question is, 'When will you send me a teacher out to my house?' That's not how home school works," he added.

Once the parent understands, Mitchell said, they often change their mind.

"That's our whole point about the charter," he said. "We're not against the charter. We want them to understand, though, should you go charter and should you go employee, or should the charter close, do you know what your options are?"

Certified teachers, Mitchell said, can take leave to go to a charter school, but should they decide to come back to the district, they are not guaranteed a specific school or grade level, and there may not be an open position to be filled. Others like administrative personnel, custodians, lunchroom staff and paraprofessionals cannot simply come back because there are no ties back to the district for them.

"If there's an opening they can apply for it just like anyone else," Penner said.

Before the ballot process begins, Penner said teachers and parents need to have something in writing from the governing board of the charter school that details pay, benefits and teaching criteria because it could be much different than what it is now.

Penner said that HCSD would file the charter school's FTE. As funding is received from the state, the district would disburse the money to the charter school based on the number of students, minus five percent for doing the filing for them. The charter school would then take those funds and provide services like books, food service and transportation by CDL certified bus drivers, as well as pay staff.

Mitchell explained that currently the district can split costs between all

the schools in the district, whereas, the charter school would be on their own.

"Like Mrs. Butler said, the emotional side right now is all about 'save our school, vote for a charter, and then we'll figure out what's going to happen,'" Mitchell said. "Because we know just enough, we're afraid that the process really needs to be the other way. You really need to find out what it is that you're asking for and be sure, because it's not our place to say you can't do it. The law is very clear. If you want to do it, then my job is to say, here's how you do it."

Mitchell said that is all they are trying to do, but that it will always be perceived that the district will be fighting it.

"It's not a fight," he said. "It's about doing it properly, because in the end, the way the law is, the school district is responsible for the oversight of that school."

Penner would be responsible for reviewing the charter school's finances and if they fall short, the board has the responsibility of closing it, Mitchell said. The charter school can also be closed if they're not meeting academic goals. His concern is that the students might fall behind academically.

"Then, those students roll right back to us," said Mitchell.

Also, the board would not be involved in parent issues at the charter school, he said. Parents would have to approach the charter board, which could be out-of-state.

"We don't know who the board may be," said Penner.

Butler stated she didn't know who the applicant is for the proposed charter school, whether it is the town of White Springs or another charter group that is coming in.

"All we have received is a petition signed by concerned citizens of South Hamilton Elementary," she said. "So, I don't even know who to ask these questions."

Penner said a municipality cannot be the applicant for a conversion charter. It has to be made by a parent, teacher,

principal, district school board or school advisory council.

"Once the ballot is completed, then somebody will file an application," said Mitchell. "That's when we truly would find out who is being the applicant. We can't stop the election until they tell us, so we just have to assume."

If the ballot process goes forward and they choose to become a charter, the district would have one year from August of this year to process the application and devise a contract between the district and the charter board.

"It will be a full year process before the school could go charter," said Butler.

With regard to combining South and Central, Butler said no matter if Central students were transferred to South or vice versa, it would be the same makeup of students.

"It's the same students, just a different location," she said. "There's quality instruction going on district-wide and Central is no different than North or South. It actually has more support there because of the school improvement grant."

If Central does exit intervene then there would be no need to close South and combine the schools.

When asked if she thought Central was going to attain a C grade this year and exit intervene, Butler said, "I'm certainly hoping it will."

The message that the school district wants to get out, Mitchell said, is that they are not opposed to the charter school at all. They just want teachers and parents to ask questions and get answers before voting. Butler said she doesn't want the teachers to miss out on all the opportunities the district can offer them.

"We understand that there are a lot of emotions that are driving decisions, but we want to make sure we do our job and that if it goes charter school, it will be one of our schools and we'll support it just like we do, as much as we can, with the regulations and stipulations that govern charter schools," said Butler.

## Norris Notes

By Lillian Norris

**GREAT NEWS:** Mr. and Mrs. Richard Heath Allen, Jr. (Ashleigh) are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Rhett Heath Allen, born Friday, January 6, 2012, at South Georgia Medical Center, Valdosta, GA.

Rhett weighed in at 5 lbs, 4 z, and ws 18 inches long.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Heath Allen, Sr. (Gina) of Butler, GA; Mr and Mrs. L. J. Chambers of Douglas, GA. and Douglas Lleigh McGauley of Jasper, FL.

Great Grandparents are Sylvia Chambers and the late Gene Chambers of Douglas, GA.; Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Lewis (Margaret) and Gloria McGauley and the late Leon McGauley of Jasper, FL.

Great Great Grandmother is Virginia Davis MacFarlane of Jasper.

Rhett attended church on Sunday with his mother and great-grandparents, Margaret and Gerry Lewis, and the minister announced that he is 6th generation of the family who has attended and been a part of First Presbyterian Church, Jasper.

It was a wonderful day.

I am still having trouble getting in sync with the new time, but do manage to get plenty of sleep. A new neighbor said she was awakened by the school buses on Monday, and I recalled that when I was at SVNC I would hear the buses leave the bus garage across the street, so guess I was accustomed to this noise, but the garbage trucks do come early on their days and that does make a lot of noise, oh, well, life is full of changes, keeps life interesting.

Those attending Woman's Club last week were treated to a trip to Africa, by film, presented by Ricki Kennedy. It was a surprise, Really beautiful, the animals, scenery, and very interesting the way Ricki presented and explained the trip.

The Father/Daughter Dance was held at the Clubhouse, the proceeds going to support Relay for Life. The Club is planning Chicken Pileau lunch/yard sale in the near future and we will keep you posted on time and date. If you participated in the last one, you know it was delicious and fun,

Speaking of RELAY FOR LIFE, we will keep reminding you, the first Saturday in April, starting at noon, until

Sunday morning worship service at 7 a.m. We still need help, especially entertainment, There is a lot of talent in our area and we hope you will decide to help keep activity going by sharing your talents with the community. Barbara Butler (David) is heading the Relay in Hamilton County this year and asks for any contribution, in any form, to help Hamilton County make a good showing for this event.

We attended the Teacher, Employee and Staff awards program on Monday and it was a great afternoon of honoring teachers, staff and employees of our school system, who give of their time and talents to help our students. It is always inspiring to have the Color Guard from Hamilton County HS to present the flags, and the Band performed for our pleasure, they did a great job under the direction of their new band leader who has only been working with them a short time. The refreshment table was prepared and served by the Culinary Arts Department of the High School.

I need more news, let me hear from you.

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

## Sheriff Reid donates car



(L to R) Sheriff Harold Reid hands over the car keys to the donated Crown Victoria to Hamilton CI Warden John Palmer. Hamilton County Sheriff's Office donates vehicles for use at Hamilton Correctional Institution.

On Friday March 9, 2012, Hamilton Correctional Institution Warden John Palmer accepted the keys to a 2000 Ford Crown Victoria from Hamilton County Sheriff Harold Reid. The vehicle was donated to the institution to assist the institution with their mission of public safety and to improve upon the institution's existing fleet.

"It's in good shape and we're very grateful for the donation," said War-

den Palmer. The vehicle will be utilized to assist general transportation, perimeter security and outside escort duties.

The institution is fortunate to enjoy a relationship with Sheriff Reid and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office that includes a mutual aid agreement where Hamilton Correctional Institution provides K-9 assistance to local law enforcement with K-9 tracking of fleeing suspects when

called upon. From July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, Hamilton Correctional Institution responded to 52 calls for assistance in the local community with 27 captures.

Hamilton Correctional Institution is proud to be an active member of the local law enforcement community and Sheriff Reid's donation will certainly assist us with our ability to fulfill our public safety mission.

# Downed power line causes fire

## Woods between two homes set ablaze



Forestry officials plow a perimeter line around the fire. - Photos: Richard Marshall

By Joyce Marie Taylor  
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

A downed power line caused a small fire in a wooded area between two homes around 6:20 p.m. Saturday night, according to Lt. Andrew Greene.

Upon arrival, the White Springs Volunteer Fire Department observed three small fires that had spread about 50 yards apart with the power line still alive.

"All three fires were inaccessible due to the downed power line," said Greene in his report.

The Florida Forest Service was summoned and they plowed a line around the fire to keep it from spreading. Once Progress Energy arrived on scene and disconnected the power, the fire was extinguished. Forestry estimated less than one acre had burned, reports show.

The downed power line was near the corner of First and Second streets, close to the homes of Councilman Richard Marshall and Councilwoman Tonja Brown, according to Marshall, who was able to snap some pictures at the scene. Marshall stated that neither he nor Brown were at home when the fire first started.

Two residents who live on First Street, Nathaniel Tomlinson and Brandy Memmett, gave firsthand accounts of what happened.

"I heard what sounded like explosions, then I looked out and saw flashes of light," Tomlinson was quoted as saying. "It looked like lightning flashing in the woods. As I approached the end of my driveway, I heard several more explosions and then one last explosion. That's when I saw the power line come down. I dialed 911."

"I, too, saw the sparks, as I looked off our porch,"

said Memmett. "The explosions really startled me. I didn't know what had happened."

Marshall said Assistant Fire Chief John Greene and Lt. Andrew Greene set up a perimeter to protect the homes near the substation and source of the blaze, although they were not able to suppress the

fire due to a live wire.

"Ryan Rehberg with the forestry division arrived on scene about 6:15 with a dozer," Marshall said. "He went to work immediately with his apparatus cutting a path around the fire to prevent it from spreading to the nearby homes. Progress Energy workers arrived about 6:30 and began to assess the situation. They entered the substation and killed the power, putting White Springs in a blackout state for a couple of hours," he added.

Marshall also stated that an officer patrolled the streets, as local merchants closed up their stores and restaurants early.

"Lt. Greene said this was the fifth power line down this week, resulting in three other fires," said Marshall. "Thanks to their quick response and the previous rains a greater level of damage was prevented."

According to Greene, the cause of the downed power line and subsequent fires was due to high winds in the area.

On Monday, March 12, Marshall said the division of Forestry dispatched two rangers, Caleb Roberts and Mark Swain, to ensure the integrity of their fire line was holding. They did so by wetting down any trouble spots inside the containment.

"This will prevent any hot spots from starting up again," Roberts was quoted as saying.

Marshall said they completed the mop up of the burned acreage and did not see any hot spots that may potentially start up again if the wind picked up.

"They informed me that the area had been contained inside the fire line put down by Ranger Ryan Rehberg on Saturday night," said Marshall.



The woods are ablaze, sparked by a downed power line

## Hamilton County

### County commission roundup from March 6

By Joyce Marie Taylor  
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

Susan Ramsey from the Hamilton County Economic Development Council advised the Board of County Commissioners that they had two grant requests in February; one from the Early Learning Coalition and another from an agricultural processing firm wishing to relocate into Hamilton County.

"A decision will be made on those grants in the near future," said Ramsey.

Ramsey also said she is working with county coordinator Danny Johnson on a new sign for the Industrial Park.

#### Speed limits

The board adopted two ordinances regulating maximum speed limits to 35 mph on two different sections of dirt road, one on S.W. 69 Blvd. and the other on S.W. 55 Drive on the south side of HCHS.

#### CR 6 project

Engineer Greg Bailey stated he received three bids for the CR 6 road project. The board awarded the job to Anderson-Columbia who came in with the lowest bid of \$2,468,037.83. Other bidders were Scruggs at \$2,640,622.29 and APAC Southeast at \$2,712,708.60. Once work commences Anderson-Columbia has 180 days to complete the project.

#### PCS dragline

Mike Williams from PCS Phosphate White Springs re-

quested approval from the board for the No. 5 dragline to cross CR132 during the week of March 19, then cross over S.E. 137 Blvd. near the Genoa fire station on April 11 and then S.E. 87 Terrace on April 12.

An anticipated re-cross date will be in July and then 137 Blvd. will be re-surfaced in its current entirety by PCS. Bypass roads and appropriate signage during this project will be handled by PCS. The board approved the dragline crossings.

#### Community service

Johnson explained a proposed weekend community service work hours program in the county, which is being planned for twice a month, every other Saturday. After speaking with the probation/parole office he learned that the workers would need a local supervisor and that the sheriff's office has agreed to supply one, as long as he was assured there would be no liability on the part of the sheriff's office.

The workers doing the community service work hours, Johnson said, are covered by the state and are considered to be employees of the state. He said he believed this would release the county and the sheriff from any liability.

County Attorney John McCormick wanted to clarify that the community service workers are not prisoners or sexual predators, but that they were people out on probation.

Funds from the county, Johnson added, will be need-

ed to supply gloves, high profile vests, plastic bags, gas for the transportation vehicle and miscellaneous tools, so that the workers can properly clean up debris and trash from the county roadways.

McCormick agreed to check with the state insurance carrier to verify the workers' coverage. The board agreed to move forward with the project, as the county's roads are in need of clean up.

#### Closed landfill update

Frank Darabi of Darabi and Associates gave an update on the closed landfill. He stated he had submitted a request to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to change the gas monitoring at the landfill from quarterly to semi-annually, as well as request a 10-year permit that he hopes will be the final one needed. A couple of wells at the landfill have basically gone dry because of the lowered water levels in the region, so there is less danger that contaminants are getting into the groundwater, Darabi explained. Therefore, comparing the water quality at the landfill to the water quality in the backup wells has not been possible the last few times they attempted to check. Darabi said future costs for maintenance and monitoring of the landfill will be reduced because the county won't have to escrow it, and he expects to have the new permit soon.

#### Soccer complex update

Electrical work at the soccer

complex was awarded to Certified Plumbing and Electric in Live Oak at a bid price of \$9,566.99. Other bidders were City Electric Supply Co. with a bid of \$10,178.25 and Interstate Supply, Inc. with a bid of \$13,852.33.

Commissioner Josh Smith questioned the wide variance in pricing on the three different bids for the 60 amp, 3-pole, 120v contactor that was on the materials list, which ranged from \$28 (from Certified) to \$80 and \$165 from the other two bidders. Lloyd Gayheart from Certified was in attendance and he assured Smith that the contactor pricing was correct and that there was a one-year warranty on all the parts he would be supplying.

#### Resignation

It was announced that Doug Whitaker resigned from the Enterprise Zone Board.

#### Library updates

Bids for the White Springs Library project have been advertised and a mandatory pre-bid meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 8. Bids will be brought back to the board at the second meeting in April. Engineer Greg Bailey said he is in the process of getting a rendering of the building drawn up which can be posted in the courthouse and in the old library in White Springs.

Discussion of septic versus sewer continued and it was decided to go ahead with sewer. Bailey stated that Mr. Taylor from the Department of

Health said it was mandatory and that White Springs town manager Robert Townsend insisted on city sewer rather than septic tank, and Bailey also recommended it. The board approved.

The board approved a new 'library blue' metal sign for the Jennings Public Library versus a foam sign that will fade over a period of time much faster than a metal one.

#### Animal control

To address the overpopulation of stray dogs in the county, Johnson advised the board that the city of Jasper has agreed to do animal control for Jennings, White Springs and the county for a fee of \$25 per animal on a trial 6-month basis. A long discussion ensued regarding all the legal aspects and the procedures and protocol that would be involved. The board asked McCormick to research and draw up an animal ordinance before proceeding further. McCormick said there is currently a dangerous dog ordinance already on the books, but it doesn't address the stray dogs.

Oxendine stated there are a lot of unanswered questions regarding the issue of picking up dogs and potentially euthanizing them if they are unclaimed within seven days. He suggested a joint workshop with the city of Jasper to work out all the details in order to avoid lawsuits, as well as advertise, publicize and notice the public on the ordinance before taking any action.

## Jasper Legals

## LEGAL NOTICE

The Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. Board of Directors will hold a meeting of the Board of Directors on **Monday, March 26, 2012, 7:00 p.m.** at the Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. Senior Center in Live Oak, Florida. 03/15

## PUBLIC AUCTION

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

Date: 03-27-12  
Time: 8:00 A.M.

1998 Chevy  
VIN# 1G1ND52M5W6167475  
03/15

## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

FILE NO. 12-6-CP

IN RE: ESTATE OF

FRED BASS, JR.  
a/k/a FRED JUNIOR BASS

Deceased.

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Fred Bass, Jr. a.k.a. Fred Junior Bass, deceased, whose date of death was April 22, 2011, and whose social security number is 262-72-5363, is pending in the Circuit Court for HAMILTON County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 207 NE 1st Street, Room 106, Jasper, Florida 32052. The name and address of the personal representative's attorney is set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is March 8, 2012.

Attorney for Personal Representative:  
Kevin MacWilliam  
Florida Bar No. 0991790  
MacWilliam, McCain & Hill  
1826 14th Avenue, Suite 201  
Vero Beach, Florida 32960  
Telephone: (772) 564-6112  
03/08, 15

## SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application for permit was received on March 6, 2012:

Gibson Park Improvements, Hamilton County Board of Commissioners, 207 NE 1st St., Room 106, Jasper, FL 32052, has submitted an application for an Environmental Resource Permit Number 92-0102M, for a total project area of 2.6 acres, with .437 acres of work in, on, or over wetlands or other surface waters. The project is located in Township 1 North, Range 12 East, Section 35, in Hamilton County.

Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the Suwannee River Water Management District, Attn: Resource Management, 9225 C.R. 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060. Such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 21 days from the date of publication.

No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing, pursuant to Title 28, Florida Administrative Code, regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report. 03/15

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The District Board of Trustees of North Florida Community College will hold its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the NFCC Board Room, NFCC, 325 NW Turner Davis Dr., Madison, FL. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by writing: NFCC, Office of the President, 325 NW Turner Davis Dr., Madison, FL 32340. For disability-related accommodations, contact the NFCC Office of College Advancement, 850-973-1653. NFCC is an equal access/equal opportunity employer. 03/15

## Jasper Legals

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

CASE NO. 2011-CA-358

GLORIA J. MCGAULEY, individually and as the surviving spouse of LEON C. MCGAULEY,

Plaintiff,

vs.

THOMAS NOVOTASKY, a/k/a THOMAS FRANCES NOVOTASKY, a/k/a THOMAS F. NOVOTASKY, deceased, and DEANNA RENE NOVOTASKY, and all unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors and all other parties claiming by, through, under or against that Defendant; and other unknown parties in possession, including the unknown spouse of any person in possession of the property,

Defendants.

## NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 23, 2012 in the above referenced case in which Gloria J. McGauley, individually and as the surviving spouse of Leon C. McGauley is Plaintiff, and Thomas Novotasky, a/k/a Thomas Frances Novotasky, a/k/a Thomas F. Novotasky, deceased, and Deanna Rene Novotasky, unknown tenants; and other unknown parties in possession, including the unknown spouse of any person in possession of the property, and if a named Defendant is deceased, the surviving spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and all other parties claiming by, through, under or against that Defendant, and all claimants, persons or parties, natural or corporate, or whose exact legal status is unknown, claiming under any of the named or described Defendants, are Defendants, I, GREG GODWIN, Clerk of the Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the front door of the Hamilton County Courthouse or such other location in the Hamilton County Courthouse in Jasper, Florida, as I as the Clerk of the Court may designate at the time of sale, at 11:00 o'clock, a. m. on the 22nd day of March, 2012, the following described property set forth in the Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

A piece or parcel of land in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 22, Township 1 North, Range 12 East, Hamilton County, Florida, more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Southeast corner of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section 22 run South 89 degrees 32'08" West along the 40 line a distance of 1737.42 feet; thence North 01 degrees 02'52" West a distance of 453.20 feet to Point of Beginning; thence North 86 degrees 40'08" East a distance of 180.00 feet; thence North 01 degrees 02'52" West a distance of 420.00 feet; thence South 86 degrees 40'08" West a distance of 180.00 feet; thence South 01 degrees 02'52" East, a distance of 420.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Together with an easement described as follows: Commence at the SE corner of the NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 22, Township 1 North, Range 12 East run S 89 degrees 32'08" West along the 40 line a distance of 1,737.42 feet to the Point of Beginning; Thence North 01 degrees 02'52" West along the East side 40 foot easement a distance of 453.20 feet; Thence South 86 degrees 40'08" West a distance of 40 feet to the West side of the said 40 foot easement; Thence South 01 degrees 02'52" East along said West side of easement a distance of 453.20 feet; Thence North 89 degrees 32'08" East a distance of 40 feet to Point of Beginning.

Together with a 2003 Double Wide Mobile Home, VIN: JACFL23434A and JACFL23434B.

Together with the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto and appertaining unto the said Mortgage, its successors and assigns forever.

Any and all bidders, parties or other interested persons shall contact the information desk of the Clerk of the Court prior to the scheduled foreclosure sale who will advise of the exact location in the Hamilton County Courthouse for the foreclosure sale.

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.

[NOTE: If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administrator, Post Office Box 1569, Lake City, Florida 32056-1569, Telephone: (386) 758-2163, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this Notice or pleading. If you are hearing or voice impaired, please call: 1-800-955-8771.]

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of said Court, this 23rd day of February, 2012 at Jasper, Hamilton County, Florida.

(Court Seal) HONORABLE GREG GODWIN  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By /s/ Cynthia Johnson  
As Deputy Clerk

Rose M. Decker, Jr., Esquire  
THE DECKER LAW FIRM, P.A.  
320 White Avenue  
Post Office Box 1288  
Live Oak, Florida 32064  
Telephone: (386) 364-4440  
Telecopier: (386) 364-4508  
Email: rmdecker@thedeckerlawfirm.com  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
03/08, 15

## Jasper Legals

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that JOHN J. KETETAS the holder of the following certificate(s) has filed said certificate(s) for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number(s) and year(s) of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE NO.: 682  
Issued May 30, 2008

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:  
Parcel No. 4837-025  
Section 15 Township 2N Range 11E  
Lot 16 Horse Country 1 at Oak  
Woodlands ORB 420-79 ORB 532-480

NAME(S) IN WHICH ASSESSED:  
Demetrio & Nora Banaag

All of said property being in the County of Hamilton, State of Florida.

Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the South Front Door of the Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 12, 2012.

Pursuant to Chapter 197.52(2), Florida Statutes, the highest bidder is required to post a non-refundable cash deposit of \$200 with the Clerk of Court at the time of the sale, to be applied to the sale price at the time of full payment. The Clerk may require bidders to show their willingness and ability to post the cost deposit.

/s/Kristy Morgan  
Greg Godwin  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
Hamilton County, Florida  
03/08, 15, 22, 29

## Young workers, spring into action

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

If you're a young worker, retirement probably seems like a lifetime away. In fact, you may wonder if your contributions to Social Security, deducted from your paycheck, actually cover you for anything right now. The answer is yes, they do. And the time to learn about Social Security and what it can do for you is now.

By working in a job covered by Social Security, you are earning disability and survivor insurance protection. For example, a worker under age 24 paying Social Security taxes for as little as one and a half years may be insured for disability and survivors benefits.

If you're like most

workers, you probably don't have private long-term disability insurance. But you do have disability protection through Social Security, which provides coverage to you and your family if you become disabled. About one in four of today's 20-year-olds will become disabled before reaching age 67 — so it could happen to you. The average disability benefit paid in 2012 to a worker with a spouse and two children is \$1,892 a month.

Social Security also provides valuable survivors benefits. It is a sad truth that about one in eight young Americans can expect to die before reaching age 67. Social Security's survivors insurance pays an average monthly benefit in 2012 of \$2,543 for a spouse and two children

of a young worker with average wages who dies.

Social Security provides you and your family with protection now. But it's good to think ahead to retirement, too.

Young workers, spring into action and learn more about your own retirement! A good way to start is by checking out the Retirement Estimator at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator). Using this online tool, you can get an instant, personalized estimate of your own future benefits. That will be a big help in deciding how much you need to save for a comfortable retirement.

For more information on how Social Security protects younger and older workers alike, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

## Arrest Records

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

The following abbreviations are used below:

DAC - Department of Agriculture Commission  
DOA - Department of Agriculture  
DOT - Department of Transportation  
FDLE - Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
FHP - Florida Highway Patrol  
FWC - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
HCDF - Hamilton County Drug Task Force  
HCSO - Hamilton County Sheriff's Office  
ICE - Immigration and Custom Enforcement  
JAPD - Jasper Police Department  
JNPD - Jennings Police Department  
OALE - Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement  
P&P - Probation and Parole  
SCSO - Suwannee County Sheriff's Office  
WSPD - White Springs Police Department

March 7, Claressa Rashaye Jackson, 20, 16601 Jewett St., White Springs, Fla., no valid d.l.: HCSO-T. Murphy  
March 8, Derrick B. Parks, 28, 222 Miller Drive, Richmond, Ky., in to serve 30 days from court: HCSO-Lovett  
March 8, Jeffrey J. Gandy Jr., 23, 11078 NW

39th Way, Jasper, Fla., bond revoked on DWLS habitual, reckless driving: HCSO

March 8, William Edward Frizzelle, 44, 704 Hatley St., Jasper, Fla., VOP 10-229CT o/c DUI: HCSO-T. Murphy

March 8, Sonya Rae Huckabone, 39, 6083 Bird Hall Road, Hahira, Ga., DWLSR (knowingly) resist obstruct officer w/violence: HCSO-B. Burnan

March 8, Thomas Randy Musgrove, 30, 6181 New Road, Hahira, Ga., resist officer, obstruct by distinguished person: HCSO-B. Burnan

March 9, James M. Moody, 61, 15000 CR 6

West, Jasper, Fla., VOP-10-18CF, poss. of less than 20 grams marijuana, poss. of drug paraphernalia: DTF-P&P

March 9, Ronnie Sherwood Moody, 63, 15000 SR 6 West, Jasper, Fla., poss. of methamphetamine, poss. of drug paraphernalia: DTF-McDaniel/Brownfield

March 9, Jediaiah Sampson Rickey, 26, 6105 SW CR 751, Jasper, Fla., in to serve 5th weekend: HCSO-Walkin

March 9, James Robert Gurganus Jr., 43, 8082 SW 79th Drive, Jasper, Fla., battery domestic violence: HCSO-T. Griffin  
March 10, Darrell James Shumway, 23,

11657 SE US Hwy 41, White Springs, Fla., hold for Polk County (VOP-grand theft): WSPD-B. Kelly

March 10, Bhertr Rodriguez Oliveria, 30, 2091 Powers Ferry Road, Apt. F, Marietta, Ga., license expired more than four months: DOT-Parsons

March 11, William L. Croft, 59, 5663 SE 135th Blvd, Jasper, Fla., aggravated assault, kidnap, false imprisonment, possession of weapon: HCSO-Burke

March 11, Willie Charles Zanders, 33, 1270 Bee St., Jennings, Fla., battery domestic violence: HCSO-S. Burke

**Sportsman's Banquet AND Outdoorsman's Extravaganza!**  
**March 17, 2012**  
Event Begins at 4pm  
WIN! Many Door prizes! FREE!  
Men and Boys Event  
WIN!,  
Trophy Whitetail Hunt  
Guided gator Hunt  
Guided quail hunt  
fishing charters,  
many more prizes  
World Class Whitetails  
Fishing simulator  
Hunting Simulator  
The Event is free,  
Located at:  
North Hamilton Elementary School  
in Jennings, Florida  
Awesome BBQ Dinner!  
For More Information Call: /386/842-5494 or /386/590-6267

## Community Calendar

## Share Saturday

Share Saturday, an annual event hosted by New Hope Baptist Church for the community, will be held on Saturday, March 24, at the church. The ministry give-away will open at 8 a.m. and last until noon.

Some of the items already donated include a TV, microwave, household goods and clothes. There will be no charge for anything; everything will be free. The point is to share with others.

New Hope is located at 6592 NW 48th Street in Jennings, just off of State Road 6 West. The public is invited to attend.

## Alzheimer's Support Group 2012 schedule

Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Good Samaritan Center

Private Dining Room at 3:00 PM.  
Advent Christian Village  
Good Samaritan Center (nursing home)  
10676 Marvin Jones Blvd  
Dowling Park, FL 32064

The Branford Camera Club meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month, with an occasional exception, for the purpose of sharing, learning, and enjoying all things photographic. Please join us.

For more information, please contact:  
Carolyn Hogue, Program Chair, 386-935-2044  
Dick Madden, Technical Consultant, 386-935-0296  
Skip Weigel, Technical Consultant, 386-935-1382



## Around the Banks of the Suwannee

By Correspondent Johnny Bullard

Last week, I received a photograph from a friend. It was posted on Facebook. It was a photo of three or four Formosa azalea blooms picked by her granddaughter and brought into her as a gift. These gifts are priceless, and I have been the fortunate beneficiary of several of them through the years. When I was a teacher, and then later as a principal, my younger students would come in from recess, imagine that, recess - a word from the past, or from an outing - and, once in a while, they would bring me two or three buttercups, and other little wild flowers that grew in profusion around South Hamilton Element-

ary in White Springs. I always placed them in a place of honor in my classroom or office for all to see.

Living in the Suwannee River Valley, you can't separate the splendor of the spring season without mention of the beautiful and bountiful bowers of beauty brought forth by this glorious season. Those who don't like the color of old Formosa azaleas need to give it a rest. I love them, along with wisteria, dogwood, red bud, twining honeysuckle and wild azaleas - a member of the rhododendron family.

Wild azaleas were sometimes called honeysuckles by native north

Floridians, but there is a difference. Honeysuckle is a vine, whereas wild azaleas grow as fairly hearty

shrub-like plants, sometimes six to seven feet in height. I have seen them literally cover the high banks of certain places along the Suwannee River. They range in color from light pink to nearly white.

This coming Saturday, March 17, my hometown of White Springs, celebrates the glory of wild azaleas with the celebration of its 12th Annual Wild Azalea Festival.

Lots of big doings starting at 9 a.m. Regional foods, musical entertainment, duck race, the

crowning of Little Miss Azalea, the Highwaymen Artists displaying some great visual art, and much more.

If you have the time, put on your green shirt, or beads, or shoes, and join us on the banks of the Suwannee on St. Patrick's Day. It's a great way to celebrate spring time and to reminisce about your own memories of spring time.

Our beloved homeland, here along the banks of the Suwannee is truly a land of lore and enchantment. Journalists and writers, including "yours truly" have extolled its natural beauties. And song writers and lyricists have written about it.

Experience it for yourself, during this season of rebirth.

From the Eight Mile Still, on the Woodpecker Route, north of White Springs, happy spring to each of you.

## WSPD protects, defends and much more



WSPD officers Berry Raulerson, left, Jay Golub, Lt. Tracy Rodriquez and Chief Ken Ken Brookins. - Courtesy photo

### Submitted

White Springs Azalea Festival set for Saturday, March 17 has a new added feature; a day-long children's fun-filled activity zone.

White Springs Police Chief Ken Brookins announced, "We decided our festival needed activities for kids."

The Kids Zone, located on US 41 right across from Dollar General (Ogburn

Field), will include pony rides, a petting zoo, inflatables, obstacle course, bounce house, 18-foot slide, games and prizes, and a dunking booth featuring Chief Brookins and Town Manager Robert Townsend.

The Zone opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 4 p.m. A \$12 "pay for play" bracelet provides access to all activities in the Zone for the entire day. For families with more than one child, the total

entrance fee is \$20. Tickets for individual rides and games will also be available.

Attendants will be on hand to direct parking across the street from the Zone.

Food and drinks will be located adjacent to the kids zone, and a Mobile Music Trailer will deliver family friendly top 100s, courtesy of Power Country 102.

Founding member of the White Springs H.O.P.E. (Helping Our People Excel) Program, Chief Brookins, and his officers decided to help raise funds for this year's H.O.P.E. Summer Youth Enrichment Program. All proceeds from the Zone will benefit the summer program geared for the community's K-12 students.

For more information, please contact Chief Brookins at 386-397-2222, or town hall at 386-397-2310.

18TH ANNUAL  
**FLORIDA GATEWAY PRO**  
**RODEO**

PRESENTED BY:  
**RAM** RODEO TOUR  
**Sunbelt**  
**RAM**  
1500 2500 3500  
**BUD LIGHT**

**MARCH 16-18**  
**2012**

**SUNDAY**  
A SALUTE TO OUR  
ARMED FORCES  
WITH  
MERCY MOUNTAIN BOYS

**KID'S ZONE**  
GAMES AND RIDES  
EACH DAY  
**SATURDAY**  
1ST 2 HOURS - RIDES FREE  
WITH PAID ADMISSION  
**SATURDAY NIGHT**  
RIDE THE GRANDS  
WITH PINK  
TO WEAR PINK

**FRIDAY GATES OPEN 6:00pm**  
**SATURDAY GATES OPEN 4:00pm**  
**SUNDAY GATES OPEN 12:00pm**

**TICKET OUTLETS**  
SAITTY'S WESTERN WEAR  
WILSON'S ACE HARDWARE  
S & S FOOD STORES  
THE MONEY MAN  
THE FAIR OFFICE

**COLUMBIA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**  
LAKE CITY, FL

FOR MORE INFORMATION: **386-752-8822**  
**WWW.COLUMBIACOUNTYFAIR.ORG**

**WPRB**

# Luck Irish

Of the

\$17

Get 4 weeks FREE  
The Jasper  
News  
56 issues for only

New and renewing  
subscribers will be entered  
into a drawing for a pot of  
"golden" coins (a \$25 value).

That's only 30¢ a week!

Call  
800-525-4182  
or 386-362-1734

Regular  
subscription  
is \$17, you get  
4 weeks free  
Offer expires March 23, 2012

The Jasper News

**EARNHARDT & SONS**  
**UPHOLSTERY**

**March Special**

**NO TRICKS**

2 Chairs  
\$400<sup>00</sup>  
or  
Sofa & Chair  
\$429<sup>00</sup>

Price includes fabric & labor.  
More than 300 fabrics to select from!  
Price also includes spring & frame repairs,  
new padding added to entire piece.  
New cushion foam is extra if needed.  
NQ Seconds • NQ Close-Outs ALL First Quality Material.

"I personally guarantee all work to suit you"

*By Earnhardt*

**EARNHARDT & SONS**  
**UPHOLSTERY**  
**MADISON, FLORIDA**  
1-850-973-6006 OR 1-850-973-4667

NO GIMMICKS

730199

Be a Diva by Design...

# Diva Day

A Head To Toe Shopping Expo!

**May 5, 2012**

**9:30 am to 3:00 pm**

Thomasville Center for the Arts  
Thomasville, GA

Want to be a vendor?

Contact *Chris* at 229-226-2400 or [chris.white@gafnews.com](mailto:chris.white@gafnews.com)

Sponsored by Thomasville Times-Enterprise

Anyone  
can be a  
Diva!

730025

# Lawn watering: 2 days a week is OK, one day a week is better, says SRWMD

Live Oak — Sunday, March 11 marks the beginning of Daylight Saving Time (DST) and with it comes a change in the number of days lawn and landscape watering is allowed throughout the Suwannee River Water Management District (Dis-

trict). The District's mandatory, year-round landscape irrigation rule permits watering two days per week during DST (spring and summer months) and residents may choose which days to water. Irrigation should not oc-

cur between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. However, given the region's ongoing drought and water supply issues, homeowners and businesses are urged to water no more than one day per week or better yet, not at all.

A rainfall deficit of 12.7 inches, declining

river and lake levels, and record low groundwater levels have prompted the District to call for increased conservation on the part of all residents.

"We're asking the public to water as little as possible," said Jon Dinges, District director

of Water Supply and Resource Management. "We also strongly encourage the use of Florida Friendly Landscaping™ principles and skipping irrigation days when it rains near the time you plan to irrigate."

The limits on land-issued permit. The rule permits irrigation just one day per week during Standard Time (fall and winter months).

The rule applies to residents within the District's boundaries, which means all of Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union counties, and portions of Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Jefferson, Levy and Putnam counties. Residents within the City of Alachua and the

scape irrigation are part of an ongoing effort to help address water needs within the District. The rules apply to residential landscaping, public or commercial recreation areas, and public and commercial businesses that aren't regulated by a District-unincorporated areas of Alachua County also fall under a county ordinance which designates specific days residents are allowed to irrigate. Please call Alachua County at 352.264.6800 for more information.

For more information about the District's landscape irrigation rule visit [www.mysuwanneeriver.com](http://www.mysuwanneeriver.com). For information on Florida Friendly Landscaping™ visit [www.floridayards.org](http://www.floridayards.org).

## United Way of Suwannee Valley

Continued From Page 4A

An estimated 16 percent of Americans didn't fill at least one prescription in 2010, and another 13 percent reported taking expired drugs, skipping a dose (12 percent) or splitting pills without approval from their doctor or pharmacist (eight percent). The alarming statistics are from the 2010 Health Tracking Household Survey, which was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In most cases, cost was the reason cited.

FamilyWize was the first organization to offer prescription discount cards for free to everyone, locally and nationwide, struggling with the high cost of medicine. Since its founding in 2005, the organization has worked with almost 1,000 local United Ways across the country to help more than 3.4 million people save over

\$300 million on their prescriptions.

To get your FamilyWize discount card, call (386) 752-5604 or visit [www.FamilyWize.org](http://www.FamilyWize.org) or [www.unitedway-suwanneevalley.org](http://www.unitedway-suwanneevalley.org) to print a card you can use immediately. Sawyer has also coordinated with many local businesses, including pharmacies, to make the prescription discount cards readily available to the community.

A list of participating pharmacies and discounts on specific drugs is available on the FamilyWize website, [www.familywize.org](http://www.familywize.org).

United Way of Suwannee Valley is a community impact and fundraising organization which, utilizing volunteers on all levels, advances the common good by identifying unmet community needs and seeking to alleviate those needs through United Way of Suwan-

nee Valley initiatives and the funding of 22 affiliated health and human service agencies.

### ABOUT THE FAMILY-WIZE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

In the spring of 2005, Dan and Susan Barnes heard of families in the Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, area who were having difficulty buying the medicine they needed because of the high cost of prescription drugs. They responded by distributing a free prescription discount drug card through family and health centers in the schools in Bethlehem. The family centers then involved the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley who asked 25 of its partner agencies to help distribute the cards to individuals and families in need throughout the area. Almost immediately Dan and Susan re-

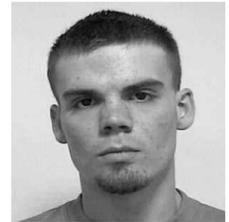
ceived requests from other United Ways to provide this free assistance in other communities. As a result they established the FamilyWize Community Service Partnership in the fall of 2005, inviting a group of local and national companies to join together to provide this free assistance through United Ways to people in need across the country. Currently 1,000 participating United Ways and America's Promise Alliance Partners in all 50 states coordinate the local distribution of the free FamilyWize prescription drug discount cards. In February of 2012, the total savings from the use of FamilyWize prescription drug discount cards passed \$300 million, and a new goal was established to reach \$1 billion in savings by the end of 2015. For more information, visit [www.FamilyWize.org](http://www.FamilyWize.org).

## White Springs man jailed for stolen goods

By Jeffrey Boatright

A White Springs man has been arrested after authorities discovered that he had stolen tools from a shop in eastern Suwannee County, according to a Suwannee County Sheriff's Office report.

Records show that on Feb. 2, Clint Matthew Paulk, 21, 16601 Jewett



Clint Paulk

St., White Springs, entered a shop in the Wellborn area by cutting the lock. Once inside Paulk took tools valuing in excess of \$500, authorities say.

According to reports, the stolen tools were in Paulk's vehicle at the time of his arrest. Authorities say that Paulk wrote a statement admitting to the burglary and theft.

Paulk was charged with burglary of a structure and grand theft III.

# MAKE YOUR MARK ON LAKE PARK

**HALL'S FITNESS CENTER**

**"NO EXCUSES"**

1186 LAKES BLVD.  
LAKE PARK, GA, 31636  
OFFICE: 229-559-3378

Personal training, tanning, complete weight room, aerobic classes, programs for children and seniors

*We Care For Your CAR!*

**U-HAUL**

Complete Auto Repair Services

- Air Conditioning Service
- Oil Change
- Tires in Stock

**EAGLE AUTO REPAIR LLC**

Owners  
Karen Beck & Ronnie Colbert  
Fax: 229-559-1259

*Your Family And Ours Working Together*

**Lake Hardware**

**LAKE HARDWARE AND FEED**

317 Lakes Boulevard  
Lake Park, GA 31636  
229-559-3481

Valspar Paint Center  
RV, Mobile Home & Marine Hardware  
Fishing Tackle  
[lakehardwareandfeed@gmail.com](mailto:lakehardwareandfeed@gmail.com)

**Lake Park Barber & Style**

226 Lakes Blvd. Lake Park, Ga

Bob Eckols  
(229)559-0688

**Reg. Cuts \$10.00**

Monday - Friday • 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
Sunday • 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**G's 1/2 Price Tobacco**

**ROLL YOUR OWN**

**YOUR CHOICE • YOUR BLEND**

\$22<sup>95</sup> Light/Bold Tobacco  
\$24<sup>95</sup> Menthol

1016 Lakes Blvd.  
Lake Park, GA 31636  
229-559-0391 or 855-559-0391

**THE LOT**

*The Prime Spot to Buy or Sell Used Vehicles*

W.E. "BUDDY" NAIL  
CORNER OF  
BASCOM NORRIS &  
BRANFORD HWY.  
LAKE CITY, FL  
**386-752-2404**  
**386-752-5696**  
**386-623-6416**  
Open:  
Monday-Friday 9-5  
Saturday 9-1

**1986 FORD 700 SPREADER TRUCK**  
8.2 L DETROIT, 5 SPEED,  
SPREADER BODY  
COMPLETELY REBUILT  
**\$10,000**

**1995 NISSAN PATHFINDER XE**  
V6, 2 WHEEL DRIVE, AUTO,  
CRUISE, A/C, TILT WHEEL  
**\$3,250**

**1997 FORD XLT AEROSTAR SPORT**  
3.0 L V6, AUTO, FRONT  
& REAR A/C, CRUISE,  
RUNNING BOARDS,  
REAR WIPER/DEFROSTER  
**\$3,250**

**2000 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE**  
AUTO, V6, GOLD A/C, SUNROOF,  
LEATHER,  
NICE VEHICLE  
**\$4,650**

**2001 CHEVY TAHOE LT**  
5.3 L V8, AUTO, LEATHER,  
FRONT & REAR A/C, LOADED  
**\$8,000**

**1991 CHEVY S-10 BLAZER**  
AUTO, V-6 4.5L, A/C  
**\$3,600**

**1998 FORD ESCORT**  
AUTO, 4-CYLINDER, CRUISE, A/C  
**\$2,600**

**1996 FORD RANGER PICKUP**  
5 SPEED, 2.3L, A/C  
**\$3,000**

**1990 FORD RANGER XLT**  
V-6  
**\$2,200**

**1993 NISSAN KING CAB PICKUP**  
5 SPEED, 4-CYCLE  
**\$2,250**

**1997 CHEVY S-10 BLAZER**  
V-6, A/C  
**\$4,000**

**2000 DODGE DAKOTA**  
V-6, AUTO  
**\$3,000**