

The Jasper News

Today's Weather

High 75° F
Low 45° F
Precip: 0%



Sunshine. High around 75F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 0%. For up to the minute weather go to www.nflaonline.com.

141ST YEAR, NUMBER 18

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012

3 SECTIONS 36 PAGES

50¢

Jennings election qualifying begins Monday

The city of Jennings is holding an election to fill three city council seats, which will be for full four year terms and one city council seat for a full two year term.

Qualifying begins at noon, April 16 and ends at noon, April 20. Oaths may be secured at Jennings City Hall.

The election will be held on Tuesday, June 5 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Jennings Council Chambers. Books for registration close on May 7.

SHE charter school voting begins Tuesday

Parents, teachers, others pack meeting to learn charter conversion process

22nd Annual Miss NHE pageant



Miss NHE 2012 – Ariana Gomez, 1st Runner-up – Alyssa Culbreth, 2nd Runner-up – Audrey Selph. See page 9A for more. - Courtesy photo



Shining Star Academy of the Arts Principal Anthony Buzzella offers an option to the SHE Charter School Governing Board. - Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

South Hamilton Elementary was filled Wednesday, April 4, with teachers, parents and the charter school governing board, along with Hamilton County Superintendent Martha Butler, Assistant Superintendent Rex Mitchell, and school board members Johnny Bullard and Damon Deas to learn more about the charter school conversion process from Polk County experts.

The ballot process to determine if the majority of teachers, (only 12 are qualified to vote) and parents approve converting SHE into a charter school is set to begin Tuesday, April 17 and end on Tuesday, April 24.

"I wanted my entire staff to come in, if at all possible, to share in this," SHE Principal Maceo Howell said. "No matter what happens, we really need to know what charter schools are all about."

On hand from Polk County School District, Of-

SEE SHE, PAGE 2A

Library project moves forward

Groundbreaking set for May 1

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

Top of the Mountain Industries in Live Oak was awarded the bid to construct the new library in White Springs at the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, April 3. The official groundbreaking ceremony is set for May 1.

Top of the Mountain came in as low bidder on the project with \$294,800. There were

four bidders on the project. The other three were Plumb Level Construction of Jasper who bid \$329,000, Shine & Co. in High Springs with a bid of \$339,000, and Little & Williams, Inc. in Lake City who bid \$339,200.

Engineer Greg Bailey stated that after reviewing Top of the Mountain's bid, everything was in accordance with the bid specifications. He then recommended to

SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 2A



Suwannee River Regional Library Director Betty Lawrence holds a rendering of the new library. -Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

Kids from the Head Start program watch "Winnie the Pooh". - Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor



Kids enjoy big screen movie in Jennings

By Joyce Marie Taylor

More than a dozen youngsters in the Head Start program filled the Jennings Public Library on Wednesday morning March 14 to watch the new movie "Winnie the Pooh" on the big screen. With the lights dimmed in a corner of the library, all those young, innocent

eyes were transfixed on the adventures of the famous, fictional anthropomorphic (human characteristics) bear.

Head Start is a national school readiness program that provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to children from low-income families.

Librarian Sandi Allen said this was a special day, as it was the last day of work for Youth Ser-



SEE KIDS, PAGE 2A

Learning tables Countywide effort teaches about drug, alcohol abuse

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

The Hamilton County Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention Coalition held a special town hall meeting recently.

"The Hamilton County High School culinary arts class catered the meal, which was a great success and the Sheriff's Explorers assisted the coalition volunteers with serving the meal," said Grace McDonald, coalition director.

Using a World Café program style, participants had the opportunity to visit five different tables during the meeting.

"This allows participants to move from table to table to learn," said McDonald.

There were 12 different break-out tables with different presenters. They were:

- Prescription drug abuse, Officer Jeramie Cheshire
- Drug task force, Cecil Brownfield
- Alcohol/drug treatment, Betty Strayer
- Juvenile drug/crime issues, Judge Sonny Scaff
- Binge drinking, Deputy Emily Lumpkin

SEE COUNTYWIDE, PAGE 6A

LET'S RELAY Jasper Relay for Life begins Saturday

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

Everyone is invited to the city of Jasper's Relay for Life event beginning at noon on Saturday, April 14 at the old high school football field located at Central Hamilton Elementary. This year there are 18 teams participating in the event.

There will be activities going on all day Saturday and the finale will be a sunrise service at 5:30 a.m. Sunday morning. Suwannee Valley Electric has agreed to bring in a generator so participants

SEE JASPER, PAGE 2A

Robert Earl Brown seeks District 3 commission seat

Submitted

As a concerned citizen and life-long resident of Hamilton County, I am excited to take on the challenge to serve the citizens of District 3 as county commissioner.



Our county needs a reliable, aggressive and positive-thinking person to move forward in these tough economic times. In the near future, the county will need to address issues that will affect all of us in some form. As a self-employed business person, I will explore all options and make good decisions that are honest, substantial and beneficial to county government.

My wife Shelia and I have been married for over 27 years and have two daughters, one adopted daughter and four grandchildren. I live and own a

SEE ROBERT, PAGE 6A



SHE charter school voting begins Tuesday

Continued From Page 1A

office of Charter Schools were Sr. Director of Magnet and Charter Schools Carolyn Bridges and School Choice Specialist Carla McMullen, who shared their expertise about charter schools in two separate meetings; one for the teachers at 3 p.m. and the other for parents at 6 p.m.

Bridges has about 15 years of charter school experience and did most of the talking. Polk County, she said, has 23 charter schools and at least seven more are projected to open next year. She stated the laws governing charter schools are constantly changing. When asked at the parent meeting about the reasons for the growth of charter schools in Polk County, Bridges acknowledged that cost savings were a major reason. She also said Polk County was saving millions of dollars every year with charter schools.

Before voting yes or no on a charter school, Bridges said, teachers and parents should feel confident they know the specifics of the charter document, especially pay and benefits, and whether or not available finances can fund the school.

"You need to protect yourselves in this process," she said to the teachers. "If you're going to be a charter school teacher, the numbers are going to be really, really important to you."

The teachers' biggest concern was that they had not seen the charter documents yet, in order to know what they were being offered. Another concern, if they voted no on the charter, was not knowing if they would still have a job if SHE closes and students and staff are moved to Cen-

tral Hamilton Elementary, because it's already been stated that some positions will be eliminated if the two schools merge.

Butler told the teachers she didn't think any of them had to worry about job security if they voted no on the charter, although she couldn't assure they would be teaching the same grade and curriculum as they are now.

Teacher David Law said many parents will not be sending their children to CHE if SHE closes.

After much teacher discussion and vented feelings of frustration about their future, Mitchell interjected the district feels the same way because there are so many unanswered questions.

Bridges said she was impressed at how impassioned the teachers were about their school, their students and their community, and she encouraged them to continue asking questions.

"Your passion is admirable," said Bridges.

If the charter is approved, Bridges recommended that teachers go on leave if they want to teach at the charter school, rather than resign from the district, in order to protect their sick pay and other benefits.

"You can always resign later on," she said.

The ins and outs of charter schools

Because charter schools are independent they must be able to handle the business and operational end of the school, Bridges went on.

"You really want to be sure that come March you're actually getting paid and that the lights are on in your building," Bridges said.

A charter school has to be fiscally able to exist and function in order to

be approved, and they must submit a five-year budget with their application, Bridges said. If the conversion charter is approved, the district is obligated to give them the building and its contents at the time of conversion. They also have to reasonably maintain the building, but that is done through a maintenance contract with the district that the charter school would have to pay for. Charter schools are also responsible for handling transportation of students, whether they do it on their own or work out a contract with the district office. They also have to provide food service for students and health benefits for employees.

Students can opt out of attending the charter school and their transportation to another school in the district will be the responsibility of the district, Bridges said.

If a district has no charter policy in place, it defaults to the state policy, which says the application has to be submitted on or before August 1 in order for the charter school to open for the following school year. In SHE's case, Bridges said, if they submit by this August then they could open as a charter school in the fall of 2013.

Once the application is submitted, the district has 60 days to review it and either approve or deny the application. If it is denied, the charter school governing board can appeal the decision with the DOE.

"The state board's ruling is final," Bridges said.

Some concerned over non-transparency

During the parents meeting, someone stated they had not seen the proposed charter school document yet. SHE Charter School Governing Board member

Shawna Adams-Farries said that the application was ready for review and that any teacher or parent who wished to review it could contact their consultant, Shining Star Academy of the Arts Principal Anthony Buzzella.

"It will also be at the public library as well," Adams-Farries said.

Another option for SHE students

Once the second meeting ended, members of the SHE Charter School Governing Board conferred with Buzzella. Since many parents have openly stated they will not send their children to CHE if SHE is closed, Buzzella presented an option to the governing board, stating that his charter school in Columbia County has 150 open slots and if need be he could accept all SHE students next school year if they are forced to wait the full year in order to complete the conversion process. Should that happen, all those district student dollars would leave Hamilton County and follow the students into Columbia County.

In a previous interview with White Springs Mayor Helen Miller, she stated, "We do acknowledge that we didn't submit this before August 1 (last year), but the people in this community felt that since South Hamilton got an A that it would be a positive thing. The community, the town, and the parents and teachers felt like their school was being rewarded for the good work it had made and that it would continue."

Miller continued, "If the charter application meets all the criteria, the school board has the authority to approve it on its merits, rather than lengthening the approval process. They could approve it in several months, as opposed

to a year."

Bridges agreed with this assessment when asked a direct question during the parent meeting.

The background

Miller said that closing SHE was not one of the three options that were given to the school district on Aug. 19, 2011 from the DOE in order to get Central out of inter-vene status for getting an F grade two years in a row. The three options were: 1) Reassign students and monitor progress. 2) Close and reopen as a charter school. 3) Contract with a private entity to run the school.

The Aug. 19, 2011 letter from former Chancellor of Public Schools, Dr. Michael Grego, specifically states, "the district must choose from these three remaining options and submit plans to the Department."

Miller said that the re-assigning of students referred specifically to Central, not South. "Furthermore, the school board's vote to close South violated Section 163.31777 of the Florida Statute termed 'Public schools interlocal agreement.'" said Miller.

She referred to Item (2) of Sec. 163.31777 which calls for at a minimum, a) a process by which each local government and the district school board agree and base their plans on consistent projections of the amount, type, and distribution of population growth and student enrollment; b) a process to coordinate and share information relating to existing and planned public school facilities, including school renovations and closures, and local government plans for development and redevelopment, and c) participation by affected local governments with the district school board

in the process of evaluating potential school closures, significant renovations to existing schools, and new school site selection before land acquisition.

The state statute requires that the school district enter into an interlocal agreement with the county commission and each of the local governments. In Hamilton County, this resulted in the Interlocal Agreement for Public School Facility Planning by and between Board of County Commissioners, City Council of Jasper, Town Council of Jennings, Town Council of White Springs, and the School Board of Hamilton County, Florida.

Miller stated both the state statute and the Hamilton County interlocal agreement were violated when the school board voted 3-2 to close SHE.

"It is a fact that the town of White Springs did not participate in any way with the HCSB in the process, which led to the school board vote to close SHE," said Miller.

On Oct. 24, 2011, HCSB held a special public session and voted 5-0 to close CHE and transfer all students to SHE if CHE fails to successfully exit intervene status. Three months later, on Jan. 17, 2012, HCSB held a town hall meeting in Jasper where Butler announced she would recommend to the board that SHE be closed and students be bussed to CHE, if CHE doesn't exit intervene status at the end of this school year. One week later, on Jan. 24, 2012, Butler recommended, and the school board voted 3-2, to close SHE and relocate SHE students to CHE at the beginning of the 2012-13 school year, if CHE doesn't exit intervene status.

Jasper Relay for Life begins Saturday

Continued From Page 1A

can have electricity for their needs at the event.

The goal this year is \$25,000, which will be donated to the American Cancer Society. Event organizer Barbara Jo Butler said they have raised \$16,000 so far and this event is the last big push to meet their goal.

Opening ceremonies begin at noon Saturday and the Survivor's Lap will take place at 12:30 p.m. All survivors and their caretakers are invited to a free luncheon at 1 p.m. If you have not registered yet, please arrive early to do so.

There will be plenty of food available at the event, including hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken on a stick, popcorn and a sweets shop, plus

much more.

Butler said, "You can eat lunch and come back and eat supper."

Several entertainers will be performing, including Danceworks and John Day. There will also be a beauty pageant at 6 p.m.

From 2 to 4 p.m. there will be a yard sale and from 4:30 to 7 p.m. a carnival for the kids and children's games will round out the day's events. Drawings for prizes will be ongoing throughout the day and you must be present to win.

Donations are appreciated and checks should be made out to the American Cancer Society.

"We've had awesome sponsors this year," said Butler. "I'm excited."

Library project moves forward

Continued From Page 1A

the board that they accept the bid for the project.

The board voted unanimously to waive the county permit fee and ask the town of White Springs to waive their fee, and also to award the project to Top of the Mountain.

A representative from Top said he expects to have the project completed within 140-160 days, barring any inclement weather.

Bailey showed the board two different renderings of the library. The first had sand-colored siding with black shutters and a light grey metal roof. The second rendering had dark tan-colored siding, black shutters and a red metal roof.

Suwannee River Regional Library Director Betty Lawrence and White Springs Town Council member Dennis Price were in the audi-

ence. After some discussion by the board and after asking Lawrence and Price for their opinions, everyone was in agreement that the first color options were the best.

Price thanked the board for all they have done to get the project moving forward.

"It's been a long road," said Price.

The library project for the town of White Springs received a generous donation from PCS Phosphate in the amount of \$300,000 on Sept. 20, 2011. The old library at 12797 Roberts St., adjacent to Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, has outgrown itself over the years and the building is in need of a major makeover, according to librarian Tracy Woodard.

There is an old barn that is sitting on the proposed library site just down the street, but not necessarily in the way of the new building, that

the county gave to the town of White Springs. Commissioner Randy Ogburn said he had asked the town to remove it close to a year ago if they wanted to preserve it. The contractor said he was concerned about safety should local folks be at the site dismantling the barn while construction was going on.

"We're trying to orga-

nize a work party to help dismantle it and save the wood so we can use it for other projects, just to recycle it," said Price. "I would say if it's not down, if we don't act on it, then whatever happens, happens. It's just the way it has to be."

The official groundbreaking ceremony will be held at the site on US 41 in White Springs at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1.

Kids enjoy big screen movie in Jennings

Continued From Page 1A

vices Program Coordinator Melanie Salyer who is in charge of the Head Start Program. A small farewell party was planned for her after the movie concluded.

Allen said the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners has already begun advertising for her replacement, and hopefully, the new person will be on-board soon.

Salyer had ordered "Winnie the Pooh" from Netflix and then displayed the movie on a large movie screen in the library.

The next group of kids who would be arriving at 3 p.m. would be entertained with "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

Allen said a new "Flintstones" movie was scheduled to be shown, but it didn't arrive in time.

Salyer had help from Yolanda Gallegos, Melanie Trawick and Barbara McClain for the day and everyone seemed to really be enjoying themselves as they watched the adventures of "Winnie the Pooh".

The Jennings Public Library is located at 1322 Plum Street in Jennings and Allen said on a typical day about 40 to 50 people come in. The library is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information on the library and all the services they offer please call 386-938-1143.



Thank You

We would like to say Thank you for the love and kindness you have shared with us during her illness and recent death.

Our family deeply appreciates all those who sent flowers, food, cards, phone calls, thoughts & prayers.

Your expressions of sympathy have brought us all great comfort in this time of grief.

Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers in the days to come.

The family of Martha Anne Hall

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Around the Banks of the Suwannee

By Correspondent Johnny Bullard

Long before Florida became a state, those who were faithful followers of the Lord and the teachings of John and Charles Wesley, established Swift Creek United Methodist Church near the banks of Swift Creek, a tributary of the Suwannee River, not far from White Springs, Florida.

The historic sanctuary is still standing and, thanks to many in our community, it is in good repair, and the cemetery located in front of the church is well tended. Standing under the canopy of ancient moss festooned live oaks, one can close one's eyes and almost picture the faithful coming to worship in the early 1820s. Established around 1821-22, Swift Creek is said by many historians to be the second oldest Protestant church in the state of Florida.

When Swift Creek was established, worship was an all day event. Many have, no doubt, heard the expression, "All day preaching and dinner on the grounds." Well, that was about what Sunday was when Swift Creek was established. It took a major and concerted effort to get everyone together in a wagon pulled by horses or mules, get a dinner prepared, and travel to church. One citizen of White Springs reported that members of his family attended Swift Creek not long after it was opened. They lived just a short distance out on the Woodpecker Route, and he said it took them a good number of hours just to travel to the church. They would rise very early in the morning to get there.

In those days church was the center of all religious and community life. The faithful attended church for the worship experience and, also, to exchange news, stories, and for the joy of fellowship. There were no telephones, no newspapers in this part of the state and, I am sure that even mail service was undependable at best.

Several years ago, a renowned historian wrote a book about the early circuit riding preachers of the territory and, later, the state of Florida. The average life span of the circuit riding preachers was the late 40s to early 50s. They endured many hardships in a rugged land, as they rode out to "carry" the word of God to those in far flung rural areas. Some died from exposure. Some were attacked by marauding groups of

Indians who, justifiably, were upset about the white settlers and soldiers under the leadership of men like Colonel Dan Newnan, who was one of the main officers in the Indian Wars of Florida, pushing them from their ancestral homes. Some died from being thrown by their horses and suffering broken bones that brought on infections or worse. It was not an easy life.

The tombstones in the cemetery at Swift Creek read like a history of the early settlement of White Springs, the southern portion of Hamilton County, and the state of Florida. Members of the Sheffield family are buried at Swift Creek. The Sheffields were the first white owners of all that is now the town of White Springs, and they built the first hotel on the banks of the healing waters of the White Sulphur Springs. Other "old" names include Broward, Smith, Hillhouse, Taylor, Wesson, McCall, Mullis and I could go on and on.

My brother, Jerry Lawrence Bullard, our close and longtime family friend, Kerry Waldron, my sister in law, Amanda Bullard and myself recently recorded a live CD at Swift Creek Church under the able direction of Tory Harris, Jasper. Singing the old hymns within the four walls of the historic sanctuary was, for me, memorable and emotional, as I saw in my mind's eye a whole host of faces, now gone on to be with the Lord. And I drank in just the "sheer history" of this hallowed spot in our beloved Suwannee River Valley.

I am proud of those who were faithful in their efforts to establish Swift Creek Church and Cemetery nearly 200 years ago. One of the hymns we recorded for our new CD, "Songs from Swift Creek", is "Sweet Hour of Prayer". I love the old hymn, and it brought to mind the many prayers that have been "prayed" within the four walls of Swift Creek Church and I know that many of those prayers were answered, because nearly two centuries since its establishment still enjoy the beauty and majesty of this hallowed place, and we are still having worship at Swift Creek.

From the Eight Mile Still on the Woodpecker Route, north of White Springs. Wishing you all a day filled with joy, peace, and, above all, lots of love and laughter.

Norris Notes

By Lillian Norris

The long-awaited weekend is finally near, starting Saturday, April 14th at the old high school football field, across from Central Elem. School, Jasper, FL. If you are coming from out of town, into Jasper from Georgia take a left at the first traffic light and you will see the activity. From South turn left at the first traffic light, through the light in the middle of town, and take a right at the next traffic light, and it will not be hard to find, there will be a lot of activity. It is hoped that you have already learned about all of the activities and if this is your first time at a RELAY FOR LIFE, you are in for an evening to remember. It will be a night of celebration for the lives of those who have experienced Cancer in any way, joy for those who survived, momory of those who lost the battle, and recognition of the caregivers and loved ones, having cancer in a family affects each one, and the friends of the patient. As I have said so many times, it would be hard to find someone who has not been affected by cancer in

some way. We want to try to do all we can to stop this dreaded disease. We will have much to offer in the way of recognition and celebration, there will be booths of food, games; entertainment and activities throughout the afternoon and evening, as well as a Survivors Walk for all who are able, walking, wheel chairs or however able.

Come and visit the booths, enjoy the evening. During the evening survivors will be honored at a dinner in the school cafeteria, accompanied by caregivers of those living, and past care givers. Each survivor will receive a gift. There will be candles to be used, there will be a booth where you may get a candle to be used for the candle lighting at dark, where all lights will be extinguished and the names of those for whom a candle has been placed around the field.

Much work has been done to make this event a special one to honor our loved ones, many teams have worked especially hard to make this an event to to honor loved ones, as anyone who has been involved, it is for you, and in memory of those who are no longer with us. You probably already know who has been working, and I

would not want to leave anyone out, you will also see workers on the afternoon and evening, come early Saturday, it will start at noon, and continue through the night, closing with a worship service on Saturday AM at 7:00. Come when you can and stay as long as you can. You will not be sorry, and it is hoped that these will be many people for this very special event.

Please note that Sisterhood will be meeting at First Baptist Church, White Springs, according to Peggy Tindall. Speaker will be Leslie Dunham, daughter of Donnie and Cheryl Skipper, and granddaughter of Ruby Shaw, and Mrs. Tindall assures me that it will be a good evening. Please come on Thursday, April 17th, bring a dessert or salad and join the group for a great evening.

The Good Friday service at First Presbyterian Church, Jasper was a special evening, with many Hamilton County Churches participating, a blessing to all who attended.

I need you to be sending more news, hope to hear from you soon.

Hope you had a Happy Easter - He is Risen!

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

REMINDER

The Town of White Springs will be holding an election on Tuesday, April 24 for three council seat vacancies. Be sure to get out and vote.

CONTAINER GARDENING IS FUN AND EASY!

Bring life and colorful blooms to your porch, deck or patio with container gardens! Choose from our extensive collection of pots or bring your own and we'll help you put together the perfect combination of plants. We'll even pot the plants you choose into your container if you like!

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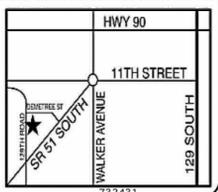
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OFFICIAL BALLOT GENERAL ELECTION WHITE SPRINGS, FLORIDA APRIL 24, 2012

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS
TO VOTE, YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL (●) COMPLETELY, USING ONLY THE PENCIL PROVIDED.

CHARTER AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE

The Town of White Springs, Florida has the responsibility for providing fire protection services, whether by and through a White Springs Volunteer Fire Department or by and through an appropriate contractual relationship with a third party fire protection agency. The Town Council shall have the sole discretion in determining the manner for providing fire protection services for the safety and well-being of the citizens of White Springs, Florida. Nothing herein shall prevent the White Springs Volunteer Fire Department shall be supervised by a Fire Chief having substantial fire fighting and supervisory experience. The Fire Chief shall insure that there are adequate quantities of fire hydrants and that they are in proper working order. The Fire Chief shall provide for emergency services and insure that all equipment is serviceable at all times.

○ YES ○ NO

CHARTER AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO

The Town Council shall determine the terms and manner of sale and distribution or other disposition of any proposed bond issuances. All general obligation bond proposals shall be in keeping with state law and shall be submitted to referendum vote. Total general obligation bond indebtedness shall be submitted to voters prior to the issuance of bonds.

○ YES ○ NO

AGENDA

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Room 112 - Courthouse 207 Northeast First Street
Jasper, Florida**

MEETING DATE: APRIL 17, 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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - UNAGENDAED APPEARANCES (*)
CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL
FLORIDA LEADERS ORGANIZED FOR WATER (FLOW)
WHITE SPRINGS LIBRARY PROJECT
APPROVE BILLS
CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
ADJOURN

TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

6:00 P.M. - CALL TO ORDER - INVOCATION - PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
6:05 P.M. - 2010 CDBG PROGRAM
6:10 P.M. - COUNTY ROAD PROJECTS - STATUS REPORT
6:15 P.M. - LAND USE AND SHIP PROGRAM UPDATES AND REQUESTS

THIS AGENDA MAY NOT CONTAIN ALL MATTERS BEFORE THE BOARD. A COMPLETE COPY OF THE AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED AFTER 1:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2012 FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT, COURTHOUSE, JASPER, FLORIDA.

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

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

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

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

NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M.

OPINION

Media dishonesty and race hustlers

When NBC's "Today" show played the audio of George Zimmerman's call to a Sanford, Fla., police dispatcher about Trayvon Martin, the editors made him appear to be a racist who says: "This guy looks like he's up to no good. He looks black." What Zimmerman actually said was: "This guy looks like he's up to no good or he's on drugs or something. It's raining, and he's just walking around, looking about." The 911 officer responded by asking, "OK, and this guy -- is he black, white or Hispanic?" Zimmerman replied, "He looks black." NBC says it's investigating the doctoring of the audio, but there's nothing to investigate; its objective was to inflame passions.

In his Associated Press article titled "Old photos may be deceptive in Fla. shooting case," Matt Sedensky pointed out that the photos carried by the

major media were several years old and showed Zimmerman looking fat and mean and Martin looking like a sweet young kid.

Jesse Jackson told the Los Angeles Times that "blacks are under attack" and that "targeting, arresting, convicting blacks and ultimately killing us is big business," adding that Martin is "a martyr." President Barack Obama chimed in by saying, "If I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon."

Let's look at some non-news cases. On March 14 in Tulsa, Okla., a white couple suffered a home invasion by Tyrone Woodfork, a 20-year-old black man. Ninety-year-old Bob Strait suffered a broken jaw and broken ribs in the attack. His 85-year-old wife, Nancy, was sexually assaulted and battered to death, ending their 65-year marriage.

On March 4, two black Kansas City, Mo., youths doused a 13-year-old boy in gasoline and set him on fire, telling him, "You get what you deserve, white boy." Last summer, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel ordered an



A MINORITY VIEW
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BY WALTER WILLIAMS

emergency shut-down of the beaches in Chicago because mobs of blacks were terrorizing white families.

Several years ago, in Knoxville, Tenn., a young white couple was kidnapped by four blacks. The girl was forced to witness her boyfriend's rape, torture and subsequent murder before she was raped, tortured and murdered. Before disposing of her body, the three men and one woman poured bleach or some other cleaning agent down her throat in an effort to destroy DNA evidence. A jury found the four guilty, and they were sentenced, but because of the judge's drug use, a retrial is being considered.

None of those black-on-white atrocities made anywhere near the news that the Trayvon Martin case made, and it's deliberate. Editors for the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times and the Chicago Tribune admitted to deliberately censoring information about black crime for political reasons, in an effort to "guard against subjecting an entire group of people to suspicion."

One doesn't have to be a liberal, conservative, Democrat or Republican to see the danger posed by America's race hustlers, who are stacking up piles of combustible racial kindling

and ready for a racial arsonist to set it ablaze. Recruiters for white hate groups must love President Obama's demagoguery in saying that a son of his would look like Trayvon but not saying that Melissa Coon's 13-year-old son, who was set on fire, could have looked like a son of his. After all, the president is just as much white as he is black.

Even if the president and his liberal allies in the media and assorted civil rights hustlers don't care much about blacks murdering whites, what about blacks murdering blacks? During a mid-March weekend in Chicago, 49 people were shot, 10 fatally, including a 6-year-old black girl, making for more than 100 murders this year. Philadelphia isn't far behind, with murder clipping along at one a day since the beginning of 2012. Have we heard Obama make a statement about this carnage or that most homicide victims are black and that their murderers are black? No, and we won't, because black-on-black crime, like black-on-white crime, does not fit the liberal narrative of the continuing problem of white racism.

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

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Letter to the editor and Article Policy

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

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

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

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

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

Who is giving out half a million free books all across America?

WHO: From Kodiak, Alaska, to Key West, Florida, in 5,000 towns and cities across America, volunteers will give away half a million free books on one day: April 23, 2012.

WHAT: World Book Night U.S. is an ambitious campaign to give away half a million free, specially printed books across America. Volunteer book lovers will help promote reading by going into their communities and handing out free copies of a book they enjoy to new or light readers.

The Suwannee River Regional Library is proud to be a community partner for the first World Book Night in the U.S., following the impressive launch of this campaign by our bookstore, library, author, and publisher colleagues in the UK and Ireland last year.

WHERE: Library staff will be out in the communities of Live Oak, White Springs, Jennings, Greenville and Lee giving away these free books. Check out the

book displays in the library to see some of the titles.

For more information, please go to www.world-booknight.org

Hamilton County adult education classes

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 obtaining 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 services 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.

WALKING TOGETHER FOR STRONGER, HEALTHIER BABIES



March for Babies Chairs, Drs. Charles and Robin Hall Shands NICU Baby, Konlin Rhoden

The walk starts at marchforbabies.org
Sign up today! 386.755.0507

Saturday, April 14, 2012

Registration	8:00 AM	Olustee Park
Awards Party	8:30 AM	169 N. Marion Ave
March for Babies Kickoff	9:00 AM	Lake City, Florida

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NOTICE TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

COUNTY ROAD 6 WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN COUNTY ROAD 135 (WOODPECKER ROUTE) AND NE 36TH DRIVE FROM MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2012 UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 7, 2012. THE HAMILTON COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT WILL BE REPLACING TWO (2) BRIDGES WITH NEW PIPE CULVERTS. DURING THIS TIME TRAFFIC WILL BE DETOURED ONTO LOCAL UNPAVED (DIRT) ROADS. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT THE HAMILTON COUNTY COORDINATOR'S OFFICE AT (386) 792-6639.

Obituary

Marie Lee
Jan. 5, 1956 -
April 6, 2012

Marie Lee, age 56, of Jennings, Fla., passed away Friday, April 6, 2012, at North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville, Fla. Marie was born in Valdosta, Georgia on Jan. 5, 1956 to the late Charlie "C.H." and Hazel Pollock Lee. She was a lifelong resident of Jennings. She worked for many years as a seamstress at both Jasper Textile and Levi Strauss. More recently she worked at Jennings Mini Mart. She was a member at Jennings Missionary Baptist Church.

Marie was preceded in death by her parents C.H. and Hazel Lee, a sister, Lillie Belle Strickland and a sister-in-law, Debbie Lee.

Survivors include three brothers, Wendell Lee (Darlene), Lake Park, Ga., Raymond Lee (Bobbie), Valdosta, Ga., and Mike Lee, Jasper, Fla.; two sisters, Linda Joyce Harrell, Jennings, Fla. and Jo Bass (Darryl), Statenville, Ga.; a brother-in-law, William Strickland, a special aunt, Kitty Burnham, her two special boys, T.J. and Evan Hutchinson; many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, several aunts and her best friend, Lisa Hutchinson.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at Jennings Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Spencer Smith-Corbett officiating. Interment followed at New Hope Church Cemetery near Jennings.

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

Heart Matters He is risen!

By Angie Land

"He is not here; he has risen!" (John 24:6) Happy Easter!! We are temporarily interrupting the Nehemiah series this week to celebrate that empty tomb that starkly illustrates the price for our sin...Jesus' death. Easter is the perfect time to stop and consider how this empty tomb actually represents the opportunity for such fullness!

As a culture, America is empty to the point of excess. We can't eat enough, diet enough, drink enough, do enough drugs, spend enough, work enough, sleep enough, take enough medicine, etc. Ironically, all of our excess is rooted in emptiness, marked by an insatiable need to be filled. Enough is never enough. Furthermore, we have learned to stay busy from morning till night to keep from dealing with our emptiness, but it is apparent that it

deals with us!

Proverbs 27:7 says, "He who is full loathes honey, but to the hungry, even what is bitter tastes sweet." Think on the truth of that verse... if we are empty and looking in all the wrong places to be filled, like a starving man, even garbage will start looking good! But when we allow God to fill us with His love and forgiveness on a daily basis, no matter what tempting treat dangles in front of us, we are much more able to resist, like turning down a candy bar after a big steak dinner...not so difficult.

In John 10:10, the Bible records the purpose of Christ: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." In this verse, Jesus is expressing the necessity of being filled by the overwhelming love and forgiveness that His death makes possible, because a life focused on pleasing self continues to

leave us empty, dry and searching. This emptiness is so destructive to the relationships in our life, because we will constantly try to use other people to make us feel valuable. Emotionally, we are like beggars holding out our cup for others to make daily deposits that will help to fill us. The problem is that even those who love us most, will at some point disappoint us and let us down. If our value and worth is tied to their opinion and their actions toward us, we will be in trouble...and constantly in need.

In contrast, the "fullness" that Christ brings into our life cannot be taken away from us, no matter what circumstances we are in or problems that arise. If we bring our cup before Him, it will be filled to overflowing! We have worth in Christ that is not measured by what we own, who we know, what we look like, or



what we accomplish. We can rest, knowing that because the tomb is empty, our hearts can be full. Because of that first Easter morning, all we have to do is ask, because every one of our hearts matter...

Blessings, Angie

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

Baptism service



Pentecostal Deliverance Center of Jennings, Florida will be holding a special baptism service, and fellowship on April 13, 2012 at 7 p.m. Meal to be served following the service! Special speaker will be Bro. Robert Bradow of CrossHeir Outfitters. This baptism is for the men who got saved at the CrossHeir Outfitters

Event on March 17, 2012 in Jennings, Florida, and to others who wished to be baptized. Please come and fellowship with us. The Church is located across from the school downtown Jennings. For More information you may call Pastor Edgar Wood at 386-590-6267 or Johnnie Philman, director of The Men's Ministry, at 386-842-5494.

Dr. Paul Pitts to perform at First United Methodist Church



Dr. Paul Pitts

Dr. Paul Pitts, world renowned tenor, brings his special one man dramatic musical about the life and death of Jesus Christ to First United Methodist Church of Jasper for one performance at 11 a.m., Sunday, April 15. Dr. Paul Pitts is known as the "Pavarotti of Christian Music", and has sung over 5000 performances all over the world.

Pitts will present "The Scribe," an unforgettable dramatic musical performance, depicting the life of Christ as told from a scribe's point of view, and himself becoming a believer through the testimony of Simon Peter. Pitts will be in full costume as he takes us back to the final days of Jesus of Nazareth, through inspirational music and drama. Musical selections include "The Stranger of Galilee," "The Lord's Prayer," "The Holy City," "I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary," and others.

Everyone is welcome. A free will offering will be accepted.

White Springs High School Reunion

The White Springs High School Homecoming is scheduled for Saturday, April 14. Homecoming activities are planned for all who attended (not necessarily graduated) White Springs High School, along with any former teachers, principals and superintendents.

The school cafeteria will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a barbecue lunch served at 12 p.m. Cost is \$12.50 per person.

Mail registration to: Irene Morgan, 9644 SE 154th Ave., White Springs, FL 32096.

Any questions, call: 386-397-2453.

New GED Test January 2014

The GED Testing Service is releasing a new version on January 1, 2014, and the test will be a computer-based test. Old passing GED scores WILL NOT transfer to the new test. Not completing the current GED by December 31, 2013, will mean an individual will lose all scores and will be required to retake each section of the test.

For more information please contact Rex Mitchell or Evelyn Davis at 386-792-7829 or via email rex.mitchell@hamiltonfl.com.

A visit from a US Navy service woman

We are proud to have Brittney Walker home visiting us for the past three weeks. Brittney is serving in the US Navy stationed at Yokosuka, Japan. For the past two and a half years she's been aboard the U.S.S. George Washington. Brittney is the daughter of Sherree and the granddaughter of Thelma Mathis.

Thank you

The family of the late Mother Delois Mitchell Johnson wish to express our sincere appreciation for the many prayers, flowers, cards, telephone calls and gracious deeds shown to us during the transition of our loved one. Again, God has manifested himself to us and through so many people. Your generosity will always remain in our hearts. We serve and know a mighty God who supplies our every need and who doeth all things well. Please continue to keep us in your prayers and we shall in turn pray God's continued countenance upon you.

Thank you
The family

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Church & Family Go Together

ADVENT CHRISTIAN	BAPTIST (Southern)	METHODIST	PRESBYTERIAN
FIRST ADVENT CHRISTIAN N.W. 15th Avenue Jasper Rev. Wayne Sullivan Sunday Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00 p.m. 717860-F	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH "Where Friends become Family" 207 N.E. 2nd Street, Jasper 792-2658 Pastor: Roger Hutto Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Supper.....6:00 p.m. Children, Youth & Adult Programs 6:30 p.m. 717850-F	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 405 Central Ave., Jasper, FL Pastor - Dale Ames Phone - 386-792-1122 Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wednesday Family Night Dinner 3rd Wednesday Clothes Closet 4th Saturday 1-5pm 717823-F	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 204 N.W. 3rd Avenue, Jasper, 792-2258 Pastor: Alexandra Hedrick SUNDAY Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Worship Service.....11:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY Choir Practice.....7:00 p.m. 732122
BAPTIST (Southern) NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH SR 6 West, 6592 NW 48th St., Jennings, FL 32053 938-5611 Pastor: Jeff Cordero Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m. Youth Happening, Mission Friends, R&A & GA.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting, Teen Kids, Youth.....6:00 p.m. Van pick-up upon request 732119	CATHOLIC CHURCH ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH Three miles north of Jasper U.S. 41 P.O. Box 890, Jasper, FL 32052 Rectory U.S. 90 E., Live Oak, FL (386) 364-1108 Saturday MASS 4:00 p.m. 717846-F	NON-DENOMINATIONAL BURNHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH 4520 NW CR 146, Jennings, FL 32053 938-1265 Pastor: Johnny Brown Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Evening Service.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Youth Program.....5:30 p.m. 732115	
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH 1/2 mile East on Hwy. 6, Jasper, FL 32052 792-2275 Pastor: Steve Shaw Sunday Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Children's Church.....11:00 a.m. Church Training.....6:00 p.m. Evening Worship.....7:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m. Youth Ignited/Youth Ministry 7:00 p.m. 717852-F	CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH OF CHRIST N.W. 3rd St., Jasper Bldg.: 792-2277 Sunday Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m. Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....6:00 p.m. 717824-F	<p>To list your church on our church directory, please call Virginia at 386-362-1734</p>	

4th graders learn about White Springs history

By Joyce Marie Taylor

David Law's fourth grade students at South Hamilton Elementary School got a special treat on Thursday, March 22 when school board member Johnny Bullard gave them a guided walking tour of a portion of the historical district of White Springs.

Bullard's ancestry in the town of White Springs goes back for generations and he often referenced his relatives in orations about each site of interest. The kids were all eyes and ears as Bullard explained the history behind many of the homes and buildings in town, beginning with their school, which was built in 1937. He pointed out two different shades of bricks at the front of the building.

When he asked the children if they saw a difference in the bricks, one child eagerly piped up, "One's more weathered than the other."

That's when Bullard explained that the east side of the building was added on after the original school was built.

Then it was off to the west on foot along the sidewalk next to U.S. Highway 41, the main drag through town. A steady stream of semi tractor-trailers and other traffic whizzed by along the road, oftentimes

making it difficult to hear Bullard as he related each historic site's background. Folks were honking and waving as they drove by the group, causing even more (cordial) interruptions. Bullard wasn't deterred, though, and neither were the kids, who asked question after question and seemed genuinely interested in everything their tour guide was telling them.

Many of the homes, Bullard said were built during the turn of the century in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and the current owners are keeping them in immaculate shape. Bullard seemed to know each and every one of them, too. He also knew the history of the Seminole Indians who had settled in the area prior to the presence of white man.

"The legend goes," Bullard began. "Osceola, who was the famous Seminole chief, was sitting on the opposite bank on the Suwannee/Columbia County side from the spring. He was playing with his son down there on his chest and a white settler shot the boy off of his father's chest with a gun. Osceola declared vengeance upon the white race and that began Florida's first Seminole war."

About 1905, Bullard

said, White Springs was the 11th largest city in the state of Florida with Jacksonville being the largest.

"In 1911 there was a major fire in White Springs," said Bullard. "It destroyed all the part of town that was over in that direction," he said, pointing to the northwest. "This part of town wasn't destroyed in that fire, but most of the town was."

After a few more stops it was time for a break, so the group aimed for the Nature and Heritage Tourism Center, where the children were able to browse all the displays as they waited their turn to use the restrooms. Soon afterward, everyone headed over to White Sulphur Springs to see the spring house, which was probably the most exciting part of the journey. White Sulphur Springs is situated near the entrance to Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park.

Even though the spring doesn't run now, Bullard said, "When I was coming up, the spring put out at least 22,500 gallons of water into the river a minute. It was like a first magnitude spring."

He went on to explain that people originally came to the area because the springs.

"They claimed that

the spring had curative powers for people who had rheumatism, people who suffered from arthritis, people who suffered from depression, and people who suffered from kidney problems."

The water, he said, contains high doses of lithium, which is used to treat people suffering from depression, "if it doesn't shoot your kidneys before it does that," he added.

Everyone was intrigued watching the river water rush into the spring and then disappear underground. In its heyday when the spring was running, the water used to bubble out of the spring and then flow out into the river. Hopefully, this means the Suwannee River is doing its part to help refill the Floridan Aquifer below our feet.

Of course, no tour of historic White Springs would be complete without a visit to the Adams Country Store and the Telford Hotel and Restaurant, and Bullard made certain they were on the agenda. By the time the tour was finished and everyone returned to the school, the kids, Bullard and this reporter were ready for a well-deserved lunch and some much-needed hydration.



The different shaded bricks at SHE. -Photos: Joyce Marie Taylor



SHE students ham it up for the camera.



Teacher David Law explains the displays at the tourism center.



The entrance to White Sulphur Springs.

Songs from the Silver Screen

Mary Poppins, State Fair, The Sound of Music, The Wizard of Oz and The Phantom of the Opera

CABARET

Friday, April 13
Dessert Social | Performance
Student Center - 5 p.m. | Van H. Priest Auditorium
RSVP by April 12 | 7 p.m. (tickets: in advance / at the door)



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TICKETS & INFO: 850.973.1653 | artistseries@ncc.edu

OFFICIAL BALLOT GENERAL ELECTION

WHITE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

APRIL 24, 2012

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

TO VOTE, YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL (●) COMPLETELY, USING ONLY THE PENCIL PROVIDED.

CHARTER AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE

The Town of White Springs, Florida has the responsibility for providing fire protection services, whether by and through a White Springs Volunteer Fire Department or by and through an appropriate contractual relationship with a third party fire protection agency. The Town Council shall have the sole discretion in determining the manner for providing fire protection services for the safety and well-being of the citizens of White Springs, Florida. Nothing herein shall prevent the White Springs Volunteer Fire Department shall be supervised by a Fire Chief having substantial fire fighting and supervisory experience. The Fire Chief shall insure that there are adequate quantities of fire hydrants and that they are in proper working order. The Fire Chief shall provide for emergency services and insure that all equipment is serviceable at all times.

YES NO

CHARTER AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO

The Town Council shall determine the terms and manner of sale and distribution or other disposition of any proposed bond issuances. All general obligation bond proposals shall be in keeping with state law and shall be submitted to referendum vote. Total general obligation bond indebtedness shall be submitted to voters prior to the issuance of bonds.

YES NO

735760dsv

Robert Earl Brown seeks District 3 commission seat

Continued From Page 1A

business (Robert's Unisex Salon) in District 3. I have worked as a barber for over 20 years and own and run the family farm in Hamilton Coun-

ty raising beef cattle. As a taxpayer, I will work hard to make sure your tax dollars will be reflective in your community.

I will greatly appreciate your vote and support.

Countywide effort teaches about drug, alcohol abuse

Continued From Page 1A

Social media, Chuck Burnett

Tobacco issues, Steven Schnietman

Chronic disease issues, Nancy Sult

Adult alcohol abuse, Rhonda Sanderson

Compliance checks, Betty Adazzio

Local law enforcement, Chief Ken Brookins

White Springs concerns/issues, Helen Miller

Participants spent about 10 minutes at each table, where an expert moderator shared information on the subject at the table. Then there was time for discussion and questions afterward.

At the end of the program a drawing was held for a variety of door prizes. The grand door prize for two tickets to Wild Adventures was won by Cindy Cheshire.

"The success of the meeting was due to all of the excellent cooperation by everyone," McDonald said. "Stephen Foster Memorial Park provided the facility and the town of White Springs assisted in getting tickets for attendance distributed throughout the community."

Hamilton County Sheriff's Explorers, McDonald said, provided a tremendous amount of assistance to coalition members in the cleanup

after the meeting.

"Volunteer speakers and dedicated coalition members worked cooperatively together to host this event," McDonald continued. "We are very happy with the outcome, as many have told us they learned much from the experts on the various substance abuse related subjects covered during the meeting. We believe that many have become more aware of the seriousness of problems related to substance abuse and what they as a citizen can do to help combat this enemy to our community."

McDonald said many folks who attended expressed that they felt more empowered to join the fight for making our communities safer and healthier. Citizens can make a real difference in reducing substance abuse and crime by calling Crime Stoppers (the countywide effort for anonymous citizen assistance in fighting crime, sponsored by the Hamilton County Sheriff's office) and being a part of the White Springs Neighborhood Watch.

"We hope this will cause more people to choose to be proactive in saving our community from drowning in social ills caused by substance abuse," said McDonald.

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.

March 31, Alecco MaCario Pedro, 28, 1357 Berry St., Jennings, Fla., no valid DL FTA warrant on o/c no valid DL: JNPD-Raggins

April 2, David Thomas Kirk, 51, 13526 CR 245 E., Oxford, Fla, DWLS habitual: DOA-Edenfield

April 3, Anthony Henderson, 36, 16814 Mill Street, White Springs, Fla., VOP false imprisonment: P&P-Bristol

April 3, Derek Mandel Cole, 38, 2718 NW 6th Drive, Jennings, Fla., burglary, poss. burglary tools: HCSO-Williams

April 3, Salvador Ruiz Hernandez, 20, Jennings, Fla., no valid DL, attached tag not assigned, poss. of counterfeited license plate: HCSO-DTF Brownsfield

April 4, Kristin Kelly Noble, 27, 3690 61st North, St. Pete, Fla., P/U VOP, driving while license suspended or revoked: HCSO-Akins

April 4, David Allen Letner, 26, 626 Sunset View Drive, Davenport, Fla., flee/eluding LEO with light siren: HCSO-Akins

April 5, Kyle Matthew Tanner, 19, 7191 SW 79th Drive, Jasper, Fla., larceny (300 less than 5,000) burglary unoccupied structure unarmed: HCSO-Curry (Walkin)

April 6, Donna Jean Thomas, 50, 2148 SW Mosley Hall Road, Madison, Fla., warrant grand theft III: HCSO-Walkin

April 6, Jedidiah Sampson Rickey, 26, 6105 SW CR 751, Jasper, Fla., in to serve 9th weekend: Walk in

Healthy Living Sustainability

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



I'm sure most of you remember my papa, Clinton Mitchell. I feel very blessed growing up a farm child. Every year our plates were filled with fresh veggies from the garden. My childhood memories are colored with the sights and smells of the earth. Each summer reminds me of Papa and getting ready for our first tomato harvest, canning in the cook house.

I talk a lot about diet, nutrition, exercise, and ways to improve and sustain physical health but what about sustainability within our community? It is clear healthy living not only means caring for ourselves, but nurturing our community as well.

I bring up the subject of papa, because when I think about sustainability, I think about him. Papa knew how to live off the land. From the catching of wild hogs and quail, to the canning, freezing and pick-

ling of treasures of the garden: I knew one thing-if the world ended-we were all set. To me papa epitomized sustainability because papa also knew how to give back to the land. He understood to be sustainable you must honor the give/take law above all things. The old farmers knew this; the Billy Hill's, Clinton Mitchell's, or the David Goolsbys'.

Some are concerned with the future of Hamilton County. I imagine a different future. A self-sufficient cluster of three small, thriving towns with sustainability built into them. Pie in the sky idealism? Maybe. But it all begins with every individual contributing in some small way.

Sustainability always begins with shopping local. I was re-acquainted with this ideal upon my return to Jasper. The dynamics of a rural community are quite a con-

trast from those in the city. In a rural community shopping local is not only needed, it's necessary. We must all buy everything we can from members of our own community; even if it's a little more costly. Let's face it-the little guy can't compete with the corporate giants like the Wal-marts and the Targets. For a few extra bucks you've made a very large statement: I support Hamilton County, not corporate America.

The motto set forth in the 1992 Earth Summit still rings true: Think Global-Act Local. We need honest, open dialogue between community leaders and individuals, partnerships with local organizations, and education on constraints faced by rural communities. Individuals need to understand the impact of state and federal policy; must be aware of individual strengths and opportunities in developing strategies to sup-

port long term development; as well as accepting individual responsibility. Everyone's contribution is important and necessary-everyone.

May 10 will be two years since papa passed. Like the canned tomatoes lining my shelves, what he taught me will last forever. We can become a sustainable community learning and building upon those who came before us. So today ask yourself: what am I doing to contribute. Remember that 10,000 mile journey? That's right, it starts with...

"Ask not what this country can do for you, but what you can do for this country." ~JFK
~Beth Harris, CSCS, CHFS, LWMC
www.jayeeizabethharris.com

Jasper Legals

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

CASE NO. 2011-CA-000444

FIRST FEDERAL BANK OF FLORIDA, a Banking corporation organized under the laws of the United States of America, fka FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK OF FLORIDA

Plaintiff,

vs.

MELANIE K. BECK and HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, ET AL,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that W. Greg Godwin, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Hamilton County, Florida, will on the 3rd day of May, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. at the Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 NE 1st Street, Jasper, FL 32052, offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described property situated in Hamilton County, Florida, to-wit:

Lot 12, of Lake Country Highlands at Oak Woodlands, a subdivision according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 4, public records of Hamilton County, Florida.

Pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in a case pending in said Court, the style of which is as set out above, and the docket number of which is 2011-CA-000444. 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 sixty (60) days after the sale.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of said Court, this 2nd day of April, 2012.

(Seal) W. GREG GODWIN
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Hamilton County, Florida

/s/ Cynthia Johnson
By: Deputy Clerk

04/12, 19

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Hamilton County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning the special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Florida, serving also as the Board of Adjustment of Hamilton County, Florida, at public hearing on May 1, 2012 at 9:00 A.M., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, County Courthouse located at 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida.

SE 12-1, a petition by John L. Vassar, Jr., requesting a special exception be granted as provided for in Section 4.5.5.9 of the Land Development Regulations to allow for a consulting business in an AGRICULTURE-4 (A-4) zoning district submitted as part of a petition dated April 3, 2012, to be located on property described as follows:

A PARCEL OF LAND IN SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 15 EAST, HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 35; THENCE SOUTH 0°19'46" EAST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 35, A DISTANCE OF 411.36 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 0°19'46" EAST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 35 A DISTANCE OF 159.50 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 73°56'14" EAST, 96.63 FEET; THENCE NORTH 39°43'02" EAST, 446.08 FEET TO THE SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF STATE ROAD 25 (U.S. 41); THENCE NORTH 49°17'36" WEST ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY 268.83 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 27°43'24" WEST, 375.80 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

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

Jasper Legals

notice concerning the matter will be published. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the special exception. Copies of the petition for special exception are available for public inspection at the Office of the Land Use Administrator, located at 204 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida, during regular business hours.

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in the proceeding should contact Greg Godwin, at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the hearing. Mr. Godwin may be contacted by telephone at (386) 792-1288 or by Telecommunication Device for Deaf at (386) 792-1288. 04/12

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING ALSO AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3215, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Hamilton County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning the amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Board of Hamilton County, Florida, serving also as the Local Planning Agency of Hamilton County, Florida, at public hearing on April 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, County Courthouse located at 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida.

SE 12-1, a petition by John L. Vassar, Jr., requesting a special exception be granted as provided for in Section 4.5.5.9 of the Land Development Regulations to allow for a consulting business in an AGRICULTURE-4 (A-4) zoning district submitted as part of a petition dated April 3, 2012, to be located on property described as follows:

A PARCEL OF LAND IN SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 15 EAST, HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 35; THENCE SOUTH 0°19'46" EAST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 35, A DISTANCE OF 411.36 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 0°19'46" EAST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 35 A DISTANCE OF 159.50 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 73°56'14" EAST, 96.63 FEET; THENCE NORTH 39°43'02" EAST, 446.08 FEET TO THE SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF STATE ROAD 25 (U.S. 41); THENCE NORTH 49°17'36" WEST ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY 268.83 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 27°43'24" WEST, 375.80 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

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

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

Copies of the petition for special exception are available for public inspection at the Office of the Land Use Administrator, located at 204 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. 04/12

Hamilton County Extension Office celebrates National Agriculture Day

By Greg Hicks
Hamilton County Extension, UF/IFAS

Agriculture is a constantly changing, complex industry, striving to meet the needs and concerns of its consumers and customers. Food and fiber are essential to everyday living and we would like to salute the men and women who provide it not only to America, but the world.

In celebration of National Agriculture Day, 4th grade students from North, Central, South Hamilton Elementary Schools and Corinth Christian Academy participated in Youth Ag Day on March 15 at the Hamilton County Arena. This event was coordinated by Greg Hicks (Hamilton County Extension Office) in cooperation with Dan Buchanan (Hamilton County Farm Bureau) and Philip Pinello (Hamilton County School District).

Approximately 150 youth were bused from their respective school to the arena where they were divided into groups and rotated through 10 stations by group leaders, to learn about Hamilton County Agriculture. At each station was a knowledgeable volunteer who talked about the commodity located at their station. The stations included Rabbit Production (Doug Clayton/HCHS Ag Teacher), Dairy/Beef Production (Rick Young and Winston Warner), Vegetable Production (Russ Hamlin/Coggins Farms), Forestry Products (Greg Staten, Robert Martin, and Chad Burnett/Florida Division of Forestry), Peanut Production (Harrell Tyree/Suwannee River Peanut), Swine Production (Keith Wynn/Selph Farms), Old Farm Tools (Dean Franklin), Phosphate, Fertilizer Production (Dale Baker/PCS), Corn Production

(Mike Adams) and Bee Keeping (Thomas Honey). The group leaders were FFA members from the local FFA Chapter of the Hamilton County High School. After the rotation was complete, the groups joined together for a presentation, by Farm Bureau (Dan Buchanan), consisting of an overview of the food and fiber production chain... "From The Gate To The Grocery Store."

The students were given a packet of goodies/educational materials donated by the Florida "Ag In The Classroom" Program, Florida Beef Council, Florida Cattle Women's Association, Florida Dairymen's Association, Florida Peanut Producers Association and the Hamilton County Extension Service.

Lastly, the youth, teachers and volunteers were served a delicious meal of grilled hotdogs, hamburgers, chips and a drink sponsored by PCS Phosphate. The meal was prepared by the Hamilton County Farm Bureau: David Goolsby, Jr. (Property Appraiser), Westley Deas, Dan Buchanan, Karen Goolsby, Ellen Deas, Patricia Tyree, Tracy Deas and Mary Bemby. Hamilton County 4-H teen volunteers and Carolee Tucker (adult 4-H volunteer) helped prepare for and serve the meal. This program was designed to be a fun day, as well as, an educational day for the children. However, our main purpose was to have each child leave with the understanding of how important agriculture is to Hamilton County.

The Hamilton County Extension Service would sincerely like to thank the Hamilton County Farm Bureau, Hamilton County FFA Members, Principals, Teachers, Volunteers and all others that helped make this day a success.



Learning about tractors and planting at Ag Day.



Kids admired a furry rabbit.



Grilling up some nice hamburgers. - Courtesy photos



A 4th grader feels just how high this tractor is.

NOTICE

75th ANNUAL MEETING

of

Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Will be held at the

Suwannee County Coliseum

Saturday, April 28, 2012

In Live Oak, Florida

ENTERTAINMENT, PRIZES, BUSINESS, FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

8:00 a.m.		Registration
8:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.	“Mercy Mountain Boys”	Entertainment
10:00 a.m.		Registration Closes
10:00 a.m. Invocation		Reverend Matt Swain

“Meeting Begins”

Welcome	Alton Blair, President
Introduction of Trustees & Guests	John C. Martz, V.P./CEO
Announcement of Quorum	William Hart, Secretary
Reading of Official Notice & Mailing Thereof	William Hart, Secretary
Treasurer’s Report	Hugh Hunter, Treasurer
Manager’s Report	John C. Martz, V.P./CEO
Business Session	Attorney Josh Crapps
Election of Trustees	Districts 4, 5 and 6
	(Board Approved Proxies Available at SVEC Headquarters)
Drawing of Prizes	Hugh Hunter, Treasurer Tim Steichen, Trustee

OVER 100 PRIZES GIVEN AWAY (MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)

Two (2) PRIZES: UP TO \$100 CREDIT PER MONTH FOR THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS

Two (2) PRIZES: UP TO \$75 CREDIT PER MONTH FOR THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS

Two (2) PRIZES: UP TO \$50 CREDIT PER MONTH FOR THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS

(REGISTRATION CLOSSES AT 10:00 A.M.)

Adjourn



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Official Notice Mailed to Members on April 13, 2012 in Accordance with the Bylaws

22nd Annual Miss NHE pageant



Tiny Miss NHE 2012 - Mercedes Hernandez, 1st Runner-Up - Ashlynn Newsome, 2nd Runner-Up - Ella Deas.



Little Miss NHE 2012 - Jenna Tolle, 1st Runner-up - Jessica Mendiola, 2nd Runner-up - Melodi Hernandez.



Miss NHE Ticket Queen 2012 - Melodi Hernandez



Junior Miss NHE 2012 - Logan McCulley, 1st Runner-up - Taylor Smith, 2nd Runner-up - Shamekia Lanier.



Submitted

North Hamilton Elementary's PTO presented their 22nd Annual Miss NHE pageant on March 10, 2012 under the direction of Tammy Moffses and Menieca Kennedy. The pageant was a

delicious and sweet celebration with cupcakes, lollipops and gumballs galore. All the "sweet" contestants did an outstanding job as they competed to this year's theme Land of the Sweets. Congratulations to all the contestants and winners.

Miss NHE 2012 - Ariana Gomez, 1st Runner-up - Alyssa Culbreth, 2nd Runner-up - Audrey Selph.
- Courtesy Photos:



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April 14, 2012

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-OR- \$1,250 CUST. CASH + \$250 FMCC CASH + \$1,000 TRADE ASSIST

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0% APR PLUS \$3250 BONUS CASH

\$5,250 CASH BACK

-OR- \$2,000 CUST. CASH + \$1,000 XLT BONUS CASH + \$1,000 FMCC CASH + \$500 6.0 L BONUS CASH + \$750 TRADE ASSIST

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SUPER CAB OR SUPER CREW



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2011 FORD F-150..... \$25,995
XLT, CREW CAB, WHITE

2011 FORD F-150 XLT..... \$25,995
CREW CAB, SILVER

2010 DODGE RAM..... \$27,495
1500 LARAMIE, CREW CAB, WHITE

2001 TOYOTA SIENNA..... \$4,995
LE, MINIVAN, SILVER

2005 HONDA CIVIC..... \$4,995
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1998 DODGE RAM..... \$5,995
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S, HATCHBACK, GRAY

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2006 NISSAN ALTIMA..... \$8,495
2.5 S, SEDAN, WHITE

2005 DODGE DURANGO..... \$8,995
SLT, BLACK

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