

The Jasper News

Today's Weather
High 88° F
 Precip: 30%
 Partly to mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. High 88F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30%. For up to the minute weather go to www.nflaonline.com.



141ST YEAR, NUMBER 26

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2012

3 SECTIONS 32 PAGES

50¢

Congratulations! CLASS OF 2012

Graduation ceremonies for Hamilton County High School seniors will be held at the football field at HCHS on Friday, June 8, from 8 to 9 p.m. Come celebrate with family and friends as HCHS seniors receive their diplomas. In case of inclement weather, graduation ceremonies will be held the following morning, Saturday at 9 a.m. at the high school.

**Qualifying continues
Until noon, June 8**
 Federal, statewide, multi-county, county and district

Scott talks jobs, education

Governor meets with constituents, community leaders in Jasper

By Joyce Marie Taylor
 joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

Florida Gov. Rick Scott made a scheduled stop at the Woman's Club of Jasper in Hamilton County on Tuesday, June 5, as part of his North Florida tour in rural counties to talk about economic development. More than 50 city and county officials were invited to participate in the roundtable discussion and all corners of Hamilton County from Jennings to Jasper to White Springs were well represented. R.B. Davis, Hamilton County Development Authority chairman, presided over the meeting.

With Scott were Florida Department of Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson and Sherri Martin from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to assist in answering questions from the public.



Florida Governor Rick Scott chats with White Springs Mayor Helen Miller and Vice-Mayor Walter McKenzie prior to Scott's roundtable meeting in Hamilton County at the Woman's Club of Jasper.

"We're proud that you're here," Davis said to Scott. "And we're delighted that you want to talk with us about economic development."

Scott said he was there to listen to ideas and concerns from citizens of the county and to make sure they knew it was their government, since they are funding it mainly through sales tax and property taxes.

"You're paying for this gov-

ernment, so we've got to be responsible to your needs," Scott said.

Although the main topic for discussion was supposed to be economic development, the majority of those who addressed the governor focused their questions and comments on healthcare, education and housing as being integral elements of

SEE SCOTT, PAGE 2A



Gov. Rick Scott addresses city and county officials of Hamilton County. - Photos: Joyce Marie Taylor

Missing Hamilton County girl found safe

HCSO: 14-year-old left home because "she needed time alone"

By Jeffrey Boatright
 jeffry.boatright@gafnews.com

A 14-year-old Hamilton County girl who went missing Wednesday, May 30, was safely located Thursday afternoon, May 31, and found to be unharmed, according to Hamilton County Sheriff Harrell Reid.

Kayla Ruth Whatley, 14, left her Hamilton County home on her own and spent the day alone in nearby woods,



Kayla Ruth Whatley

authorities say. "She was located about three or four miles

SEE MISSING, PAGE 2A

School Board Budget talks continue

SHE remains in limbo

By Joyce Marie Taylor
 joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

Dollars and sense?
 Budget shortfalls continue to plague the Hamilton County School District and as such, another workshop was held Tues-

day, May 29 with school board members and members of the advisory committee. Director of Business Services Bonnie Penner offered an overview of next year's budget, which needs to be in place by the end of the summer, according to Supt. of Schools Martha

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 3A

Wild Blackberry Festival is Saturday

The Wild Blackberry Festival will be held on Saturday, June 9 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Central Avenue downtown Jasper. In the event of rain, a backup date for the event will be June 10.

Bring the whole fam-

ily out to the festival for a fun-filled day beginning with a blackberry pancake breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m., followed by a bake-off contest from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SEE WILD, PAGE 2A

Martha Butler seeks re-election as superintendent of schools

Submitted

I, Martha W. Butler, am pleased to announce that I have qualified to seek re-election as your superintendent of schools in Hamilton Butler County. I bring over 30 years of sound business experience to the job of superintendent, plus eight years of experience as a member of the Hamilton County School Board, where I served as



SEE MARTHA, PAGE 2A



Laura Dees seeks another term as supervisor of elections

Submitted

Hello Hamilton County voters. It is election time again in our county, state and nation. We, as concerned patriots, have the responsibility for being an "Informed Voter" in order to be "a Successful Voter".

I, Laura Dees, your supervisor of elections, would like to announce that I will be on the ballot for re-election in the Aug. 14, 2012 primary to continue the honor of serving you. I have been dedicated in upholding state election laws, registering and educating



SEE DEES, PAGE 2A

Harry "Buster" Oxendine seeks re-election for county commissioner

Submitted

I, Harry D. (Buster) Oxendine, would like to announce that I have qualified to seek re-election for county Oxendine commissioner of District 5. I have served as your commissioner for four years and would like the opportunity to be your voice for another term.

I have been a life-long resident of Hamilton County, and I am married to BaDonna Oxendine. We have one daughter, Jana Oxendine. I am very thankful to live in a community



SEE HARRY, PAGE 2A

Calvin Paul seeks county commission District 3 seat

Submitted

Compassion, commitment and determination are three qualities that make a great leader. Not only do they describe a great leader, they describe me as well. My name is Calvin Paul, a life-long resident born on May 4, 1958 to Veretta Paul. I am the proud father of four boys and five girls, as well



SEE CALVIN, PAGE 2A

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Scott talks jobs, education

Continued From Page 1A

the matrix. Without those basic needs first being fulfilled, the citizens in Hamilton County seemed convinced that successful economic development can't happen.

Scott turned the microphone over to Robinson, who jokingly said, "FCAT was never mentioned as a part of economic development," which drew laughter from the crowd.

Since education issues have been on the front burner for quite some time, especially in Hamilton County, Robinson was there to offer his views on the subject that included the new FCAT programs that have recently been put in place. Not surprisingly, the discussion on education took up the majority of time at the meeting.

White Springs Mayor Helen Miller, who is also on the charter school governing board for South Hamilton Elementary, asked Robinson for his support to help them expedite the charter conversion process. After Miller briefly explained the situation, Robinson

thanked her for bringing it to his attention, but that he also respected the authority of the local school board to make the right decision.

"We want quality schools...period," said Robinson. "I will watch from afar what takes place here."

One particularly moving speech was given by Charles Barrett who asked for assistance with the poor black communities in Hamilton County.

"We need to find a solution," Barrett said. "I know that all boys and girls, white or black, everybody likes going to college. This is what I'd like to see put back in the school system. If we could put back vocation...I think vocation would save a lot of these students that have dropped out."

Scott agreed that vocation is a significant need.

"There's a lot of children that don't like to take tests, don't want to take tests, don't enjoy it, and don't do well in it," said Scott. "That doesn't mean they can't succeed in life. It's not like one program works for everybody, because it doesn't."

Robinson stressed the

fact that even for kids who want to study subjects like agriculture, they still need the basics of education in order to make that vocation work.

School board member Johnny Bullard said another problem for rural counties like Hamilton is getting highly qualified teachers to not only come to the area, but also to stay a while.

School Superintendent Martha Butler commended Robinson on the good job he has been doing since he came on board as education commissioner, as well as thanked him for his support.

Aside from education issues, another important matter that was brought up by several in attendance was healthcare and the fact Hamilton County doesn't have a local hospital.

County Commissioner Lewis Vaughn told the governor, "We definitely need healthcare in Hamilton County."

Scott said a lot is yet to play out as far as "Obamacare" goes and that hopefully things would change for the better soon.

White Springs Vice

Mayor Walter McKenzie asked for help in promoting his town as "Florida's Original Tourist Destination" in order to let folks know there are other places to see in the state besides amusement parks in Central Florida.

"Anything that your office can do to help us raise the awareness of the opportunities that tourists would have here would build a lot of businesses and would help our economy quite a bit," said McKenzie.

Scott explained about Visit Florida, the official tourism marketing corporation for the state of Florida. He said they were funded by the state with \$54 million this year, an increase over last year.

"Their job is to promote all 67 counties," said Scott.

He offered to get McKenzie in touch with the right people at Visit Florida.

The hour went by quickly and Scott concluded his visit in Hamilton County at 4:30, after which he rushed off to finish his North Florida tour with a discussion in Suwannee County from 5-6 p.m.

Correction

Sgt. Ken Blanton got the ball rolling on the memorial ceremony for slain former Hamilton County Sheriff Raiford Royals. The Jasper News incorrectly reported his name on May 31.

Missing Hamilton County girl found safe

Continued From Page 1A

away from home," Reid confirmed. "She had walked away and said that she needed time alone and had spent some time in the woods."

According to Reid, the HCSO was notified that Whatley was missing around 5:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 31, and immediately began investigating the matter.

"We went through the day trying to figure things out, but really did-

n't have a lot to go on," Reid said.

Through their investigation and contacts, the HCSO determined that Whatley had been contemplating leaving and a break came through when she left the woods and placed a telephone call, requesting that a friend pick her up.

Authorities were then able to determine the juvenile's whereabouts and locate her.

"Thankfully it all ended well," Reid said.

Wild Blackberry Festival is Saturday

Continued From Page 1A

Entertainment will be provided by Teddy MacElvis and the Legends with karaoke from 10 until 2 p.m.

There will be children's games, arts and crafts, food and amuse-

ments, as well as a 50/50 cash raffle drawing. No alcohol is permitted at the event and feel free to bring your own lawn chair or blanket.

For more information contact Cindy Eatmon at 386-792-2725.

Rat Race a success for Jasper Kiwanis club



Larry Cail, Gary Gowin (golf cart winner) and Martin St John.

Harry "Buster" Oxendine seeks re-election for county commissioner

Continued From Page 1A

where, in times of need or disaster, churches and citizens pull together to defeat any challenge. We live in a great place.

As your commissioner, I will continue to work hard for you. I will continue to try to

find ways to reduce our budget. I will also continue to work with our Economic Development Board to try and encourage economic growth for new jobs.

I would like to ask for your vote and support on Aug. 14, 2012.

"Working Today for a Better Tomorrow."

On Saturday, May 26, the Jasper Kiwanis club held a drawing for their annual Rat Race at the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park in Live Oak. Members met up where the streets fork in front of the restaurant. SOS personnel were also there with us giving free hot dogs, drinks and chips to everyone (including us).

We would like to thank all the people from Hamilton, Suwannee, Columbia, and surrounding counties who donated money in

this, the main fund raiser that Jasper Kiwanis does each year. This money earned helps fund projects for the youth of Hamilton County, such as Donuts for Dads, Muffins for Moms, scholarships, and the HCHS key Club.

Winner of the first prize was Gary Godwin, who received the golf cart. Other winners were, Shannon Burnham, PCS fishing trip; Steve Doherty, \$100 and Pat Bonnell, \$50 gift certificate.

Calvin Paul seeks county commission District 3 seat

Continued From Page 1A

as the grandfather of nine grandchildren.

I am the owner and operator of CP's Janitorial Service, which has served this and sur-

rounding counties for 15 years. In addition to that, I worked at the recently closed Hamilton County Hospital for 21 years. During my tenure there I was supervisor of housekeeping as well

as vice-president of public relations. In my spare time, I assisted the emergency medical transportation department. Whenever or wherever, I always gave 110 percent to the job.

Aside from all of that my platform is simple:

- To always put the citizens of Hamilton County first.

- To reduce the unemployment rate by bringing job opportunities to this county.

- Have a 24-hour emergency care unit or a full-service hospital.

- To be hands on by knowing the issues of the people and working together toward a common goal for the best interest of the citizens of Hamilton County.

The only way to achieve these goals is for the elected officials to work hand in hand.

We all want and deserve the best for this county. Let that change begin with me. Cast your vote early Aug. 4-11, 2012 or on Aug. 14, 2012 for Calvin Paul as your new county commissioner, District 3.

Martha Butler seeks re-election as superintendent of schools

Continued From Page 1A

board chairperson for six of those years. I have also served the public as a member of the town council for the town of Jennings and as a council member for the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

As superintendent, I have completed the Chief Executive Officers Leadership Development Program through the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. This year-long program covers all aspects of school leadership including finance, law, human resources, and collective bargaining. I have also completed the Northeast Florida Educational Consortium's Board of Development Leadership Development Program.

The economic situation of the last four years has been extremely difficult for public education throughout the state. The funding for Hamil-

ton County alone has been reduced by approximately \$5 million since I became superintendent in 2008. Despite the tremendous impacts of these budget cuts, my proven business experience has enabled me to move the school district forward, while protecting the integrity of instruction in the classroom and avoiding employee layoffs.

Hamilton County schools have made many gains in student achievement during the past four years and it is my goal to continue to provide the support necessary to sustain this growth so our district will become a model school district for the state.

I continue my pledge to be a good steward of your tax dollars and I sincerely ask for your vote and support. I am humbled and honored to serve you as your superintendent of schools. Thank you.

Laura Dees seeks another term as supervisor of elections

Continued From Page 1A

voters, training poll workers, qualifying candidates, filing your committee forms, registering the seniors at Hamilton County High School and assisting our senior voters in the nursing home, along with whatever it took to do the job at hand since 1985.

In the last 10 years I have had the honor of representing Hamilton County as your supervisor of elections. My office has had 10 successful financial audits with balancing the budget and returning funds to the county, being a good steward of the taxpayer's

money. I have orchestrated 20 elections along with my part-time staff as well as educated, dedicated poll workers and the last 20 county-wide elections have been flawless. My office has brought our county voters through the ever changing legislative election laws as well as the demands of the governor with great success. In a recent survey from the governor's office after the presidential preference primary, Hamilton County was listed as one of the highest rated county's in the state for completing requirements on time as per Florida Statutes.

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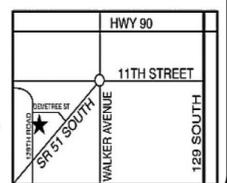
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Budget talks continue

Continued From Page 1A

Butler.

Penner said with estimated revenue, and in order to keep the structure of the district as it is, they are looking at about a \$650,000 deficit. The district identified over \$250,000 worth of cuts that can be made from attrition and positions that don't need to be continued. Much still hangs in the balance and hinges on results of Central Hamilton Elementary's school grade as they come out of their second year of intervene status. If they don't make a passing grade, South Hamilton Elementary will close and those students will be transferred to CHE, as was voted on by the board in January.

A large ticket item to be considered in the upcoming budget, Penner said, is the Florida Retirement System rate, which is increasing .22 percent and will add an additional \$17,800 to the budget. Another is risk insurance, (property/casualty), which will also increase by a little over \$33,000.

Previous talks about the budget suggested levying taxes. By levying a 1 mil tax increase, it could bring in about \$715,000, Penner said. However, it would have to be approved by the voters of Hamilton County. Two years ago, she said, voters approved a 2.5 critical millage operating levy.

"That is currently in its second year," said Penner. "We would have to go back to the voters at the end of the 2012-13 year if we wanted to continue that."

Sales tax was another suggestion and Penner said there was a way to do it, but it has to be levied by the county commissioners, who would have to get approval from the voters and then make the decision to give those dollars to the school district. A one cent sales tax increase would raise about the same amount of money as the 1 mil tax levy, she added.

Both those suggestions, however, would take time and there is no guarantee that either one will fly with the commissioners or the voters. Plus, attorney Jay Willingham said the money from those tax levies would not flow into the district until the following school year.

Another option to reduce the budget, which has already been discussed numerous times, is to combine South and Central elementary schools, which would save the district about \$604,000, Penner went on. Yet another option is to close Greenwood and integrate those students into the other schools, which would be a savings of about \$114,000. Penner said they will be losing two of the Greenwood students next year because they aged out of the program and also that at least two and possibly up to seven Suwannee County students could be lost should Suwannee opt to take them back, which they have said they are contemplating. With those children gone, the projection is to have about 24 Greenwood students next year.

Other considerations of the total budget, Pen-

ner said, is to try to incorporate raises for employees, who have not received any for four years, as well as increased employee benefit contributions by the district, due to new legislation.

"We don't have our renewal rates yet, so we're not sure if this is going to be something that affects us or not, but we are one of the lowest contributors to health-care insurance in the state," said Penner.

Anticipated closure of South Hamilton again stirs emotions

Quite a large number of White Springs residents were in attendance, including SHE teachers and personnel, as well as Mayor Helen Miller, who is on the charter school governing board for SHE. Many of them voiced their opinions about the closure of their community's school.

SHE Guidance Counselor Annie Pinello was quite vocal with her concerns.

"On behalf of South, it's been a very stressful year down there," Pinello said. "I know you can sit there and nod and say you know, but you don't know, until you've been hit by the children and the parents and the staff members. They don't know whether to pack. We have professional certificates. We're told to dress professionally, act professionally...we need professional courtesy. We need to know. We have six days left to pack. I don't want somebody coming in and packing my personal belongings that I'll never find. If this is the route we're going, I think we should know."

Pinello said she has already filled out recommendation letters, filled out transcripts and copied report cards for SHE students who are considering switching to a school in Columbia County next year if SHE does indeed close.

"They have plans to go elsewhere," said Pinello. "I had another one call today. She's actually moving out of state with her children...just because."

Pinello said it seems as if the school board is asking SHE to solve the budget problem, whereas, if they levied the proposed tax increase, then the entire county would be a part of balancing the budget.

Pinello said that if SHE does close, there will be lost jobs, as was pointed out by the school board in January, and there is no guarantee SHE teachers and personnel will be melded into CHE's staff. Personnel reductions could include two teachers, one principal, one guidance counselor and one each of media, ESE, bookkeeper, custodian, physical education teacher, curriculum coordinator, computer coordinator and administrative assistant.

With only two more weeks of work, teachers and personnel at SHE are running out of time to make career decisions, Pinello said.

Another SHE teacher/parent begged the board to keep the school open one more year until their charter application could be approved, even stating

they could cut their funding back to the bare minimum.

"We'll do what it takes as teachers and parents, if you'll just leave us open one more year," she said. "Let us get to that charter school. Give us a chance."

District 4 School Board Member Johnny Bullard said, "It does something to a community when the only school there closes down. There are some of us who own real estate down there and when we talk about dollars and cents, it's going to cause our property values to decrease significantly."

With no school in the community, Bullard said no one would want to buy property in White Springs. He suggested that since there is one entire empty wing at the high school, the board should consider closing the administrative building and move those services over to HCHS.

"And that doesn't affect any children," said Bullard.

SHE Principal Maceo Howell reiterated the sentiment of the citizens of White Springs that if it was at all possible to keep SHE open another year it would be the best thing for the community, the teachers and staff.

"My people are in limbo. They don't know what to do," he said. "Whatever it takes, please keep it open."

Pinello even suggested getting out of the high school business, since HCHS is the one school that takes the biggest portion of the budget, and sending those students to Suwannee or Columbia. That suggestion didn't fly with the board, Butler or Assistant Principal Rex Mitchell.

More discussion between board members, advisory committee members and the audience got a bit heated and in the end there was still no decision made as to how to balance the budget.

Interlocal cooperation lacking, says mayor

Mayor Miller said White Springs has tried to provide information about their representation in the decision-making process to the school district. She gave everyone a copy of the interlocal agreement between the school board, county commissioners, and cities and municipalities in Hamilton County. She pointed out the agreement specifically states that before a decision is made on the closure of a school, a joint meeting needs to be held so that all parties could have input.

"We haven't been involved, invited or given the opportunity to participate in that," said Miller.

"So, I am formally requesting that the town of White Springs be involved as a member of that committee, so we can have our input", she said.

Miller said when the school board voted to close SHE the town of White Springs was not given advance notice or the opportunity to participate in the discussion.

"So, in my view, that vote is invalid," Miller

said.

Supt. Butler stated an invitation went out to the towns of White Springs, Jasper and Jennings, the county commissioners, every municipality and every elected official in Hamilton County to attend a board workshop, but no one showed up. Miller said she didn't receive that invitation. Although, Butler seemed confused as to which workshop Miller was referring to, later it was clarified by Miller that the date was Jan. 17 when the board met and Butler reversed her previous recommendation to close CHE if they didn't exit intervene, and instead asked the board to approve closing SHE. The following week the board voted 3-2 to close SHE.

Miller stated a school board workshop and a formal interlocal agreement committee meeting are two totally different things and that it never took place before the decision to close SHE was approved.

Miller requested she be allotted a seat on the school board advisory committee and Butler said, "Absolutely," although, she explained it was an "advisory" committee only.

Later in the meeting Miller brought up the subject of the complexity of identifying where costs go, as Penner had tried explaining. Miller said a previous audit of the school district uncovered the fact that for 17 months the bank accounts were not reconciled. The recommendation by the Florida Department of Education was for the school board to make financially sound decisions using good financial data.

"If that's not being done on a timely basis, the information we're getting, by definition, cannot be accurate," said Miller.

Penner objected, saying that bank records

are current and have been for several months. She said that during the last year they went to a new financial accounting system and with limited staff it was a huge undertaking. Financial statements, she said, are also current.

Miller also said she was told by Howell that they could not utilize any space at SHE for their summer enrichment program this year because of maintenance issues that needed to be addressed.

"So, if we're closing the school, are we still doing maintenance?" she asked. "But, if we're doing maintenance, does that mean that the school will be open next year?"

Butler told Miller that since the board hasn't given her any direction, she is continuing to move forward. She also said there is classified information on computers at the school and there are also inmates who will be doing work at the school.

"It was the same answer we gave last year," said Butler. "If we're going to maintain the facility... we have summer school going on, we have third grade reading camp, so we have to operate our program first and foremost."

McHugh and Associates

Consultant Mike McHugh of McHugh and Associates gave an update on the SHE charter school application, stating the official date of submission of the application to the school district was May 15, 2012. The district has 60 days to review the application and either approve or deny it.

His recommendation to the school district was to form a charter review committee and utilize the state approved evaluation rubric, which is required by the DOE.

"There are 19 different areas in making the evaluation rubric that

have to be evaluated, and they correspond with the 19 sections in the application itself," he said. "There are specific guidelines in this document that tell you what you need to be looking for in each area of the application and what the standards are for either meeting the standard or partially meeting the standard or not meeting the standard."

After the committee reviews the application, the next step, he said, is the applicant interview where clarifying questions can be asked of the governing board and information can be shared by all concerned. Once that is completed the committee offers their final recommendation to the superintendent and the board, either approving or denying the application.

If the application is approved, it moves on to contract negotiations between the district and the charter school governing board. The statutory timeline for negotiating a contract, McHugh said, is that the district has 60 days to put a draft contract in the hand of the applicant, by utilizing the state template and making it unique to Hamilton County. Both parties then have 75 days to negotiate the final contract.

McHugh said he didn't think it was possible for all the negotiations to be completed in time for the charter school to open for the 2012-13 school year. He also said the same timelines apply to start-up charter schools as they do with conversion charters.

If the application is denied, the district has 10 days to give a written response to the applicant, who can then appeal the denial to the DOE, whose decision is final.

"The appeal process works at the speed of a glacier," said McHugh.

Norris Notes

By Lillian Norris

The big news this week happens to be what has been happening with our schools and their 'end of the year' activities, and what is coming up in our community this weekend. I will be reminding you all through this column. Cindy Eatmon says we NEED VOLUNTEERS! Let her or someone hear from YOU.

Regarding our schools, it has been my privilege to attend awards programs at Hamilton County High School for the high school and middle school. What a great group of kids we have here. We need to encourage them and their leaders, parents, family, and everyone that they have what it takes to become our leaders of the future. With much encouragement, they can and will make us proud and make themselves proud to be from Hamilton County.

It is my hope that families and parents

will keep us posted on how your children are doing. We will be happy to pass on news through the Jasper News. I personally will enjoy hearing from and about them.

Congratulations to all who have finished this school year. We look forward to hearing good things in the future. You can keep in touch with us yourself, on your own.

BLACKBERRY FESTIVAL - Cindy Eatmon wants you to know that we still NEED volunteers to help on Saturday. It is a lot of work to keep it going, as well as the getting ready.

The WEEKEND is HERE! We hope to be very, very busy. There are many activities and still much work to be done. You know you can get in touch with Cindy at Bass's, 386-792-2725, or email at bassfurniture@windstream.net.

Entry forms for the bake-off and dog show are available from Cindy or from the Extension Office. Bake-off drops should be Sat. 10-12 a.m. Private judging 12:15 - 2 p.m.; awards at 3 p.m. Dog Show - 8:30-9 a.m. registration. Show is 9 to 10:30

a.m. Email address for the Extension Office is hfitch@ufl.edu.

The trees are still being tended by UF and they are looking good. Hope they will continue to do so after UF finishes their term of care. It looks so good coming into and leaving town.

Glad Jean Fralick's yard still is so beautiful, and thanks to all others who have been making things more beautiful for the weekend. The roses at the traffic light in the middle of downtown are looking so pretty. Thanks to those who planted them and to Carlton Brown who maintains them in memory of classmates. Many things such as this can be done to make us PROUD of our Town and County.

If you have further questions call the telephone numbers above. Better yet, come see for yourself on Saturday - we will be expecting you - come, have fun and support YOUR community's efforts. SEE YOU THERE!

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

OPINION

Immoral beyond redemption

Benjamin Franklin, statesman and signer of our Declaration of Independence, said: "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters." John Adams, another signer, echoed a similar statement: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." Are today's Americans virtuous and moral, or have we become corrupt and vicious? Let's think it through with a few questions.

Suppose I saw an elderly woman painfully huddled on a heating grate in the dead of winter. She's hungry and in need of shelter and medical attention. To help the woman, I walk up to you using intimidation and threats and demand that you give me \$200. Having taken your money, I then purchase food, shelter and medical assistance for the woman. Would I be guilty of a crime? A moral person would answer in the affirmative. I've committed theft by taking the property of one person to give to another.

Most Americans would agree that it would be theft regardless of what I did with the money. Now comes the hard part. Would it still be theft if I

were able to get three people to agree that I should take your money? What if I got 100 people to agree -- 100,000 or 200 million people? What if instead of personally taking your money to assist the woman, I got together with other Americans and asked Congress to use Internal Revenue Service agents to take your money? In other words, does an act that's clearly immoral and illegal when done privately become moral when it is done legally and collectively? Put another way, does legality establish morality? Before you answer, keep in mind that slavery was legal; apartheid was legal; the Nazi's Nuremberg Laws were legal; and the Stalinist and Maoist purges were legal. Legality alone cannot be the guide for moral people. The moral question is whether it's right to take what belongs to one person to give to another to whom it does not belong.

Don't get me wrong. I personally believe that assisting one's fellow man in



**A
MINORITY
VIEW**
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BY WALTER WILLIAMS

need by reaching into one's own pockets is praiseworthy and laudable. Doing the same by reaching into another's pockets is despicable, dishonest and worthy of condemnation. Some

people call governmental handouts charity, but charity and legalized theft are entirely two different things. But as far as charity is concerned, James Madison, the acknowledged father of our Constitution, said, "Charity is no part of the legislative duty of the government." To my knowledge, the Constitution has not been amended to include charity as a legislative duty of Congress.

Our current economic crisis, as well as that of Europe, is a direct result of immoral conduct. Roughly two-thirds to three-quarters of our federal budget can be described as Congress' taking the property of one American and giving it to another. Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid account for nearly half of federal spending. Then there are corporate welfare and farm

subsidies and thousands of other spending programs, such as food stamps, welfare and education. According to a 2009 Census Bureau report, nearly 139 million Americans -- 46 percent -- receive handouts from one or more federal programs, and nearly 50 percent have no federal income tax obligations.

In the face of our looming financial calamity, what are we debating about? It's not about the reduction or elimination of the immoral conduct that's delivered us to where we are. It's about how we pay for it -- namely, taxing the rich, not realizing that even if Congress imposed a 100 percent tax on earnings higher than \$250,000 per year, it would keep the government running for only 141 days.

Ayn Rand, in her novel "Atlas Shrugged," reminded us that "when you have made evil the means of survival, do not expect men to remain good."

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.

Healthy Living

A little bug went ka-choo

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

It's interesting to watch beavers dam a creek. Gradually over time water forces its way through another avenue. Eroding and changing, finding the path of least resistance. It's funny, but the same exact phenomenon occurs within our bodies.

Picture our skeletal system: solid foundations for attachment of

muscles working as levers and pulleys to propel us through time and space. Working in perfect synchronicity, fluidity and ease reign, allowing us to move without pain or discomfort. Now for a moment imagine a chink in the system.

The vertebral column protects our spinal cord consisting of 33 verte-

brae categorized by regions. Vertebrae occupying these different regions are shaped differently to accommodate their differing functions. Cervical vertebrae for example, attach to the muscles of the neck and shoulders. Throughout the day tension builds in our neck. Talking on a phone frequently, for instance, you may tilt your head repeatedly to one side. Over time this tension causes vertebral shift.

We must remember even a slight shift (not to mention ones resulting from falls or traumatic injury) in any vertebrae causes a corresponding shift in the corresponding muscles, which affect movement patterns. Picture this vertebrae with a matching muscle attached to each side. Now picture it shift to

the right. The muscle on the left will now be pulled slightly tight, the right side looser. Now put us in a situation where our bodies absorb force, i.e. walking, jogging, reaching, lifting, any movement requiring the application of force and injury almost always results, whether acute or chronic.

Subtle changes at first may have no serious consequences outside of an occasional tension headache, but what if this shift begins to compress nerves? From our spinal cords these nerves are responsible for telling our muscles to move. A break down in communication can have deleterious effects on our bodies.

When we can no longer bear the pain we go see our doctor, who refers us to an ortho,

who takes X-rays and MRI's, and then send us to physical therapy. Our pain is alleviated for a while but never really goes away. Many times resulting in chronic issues leaving one to adopt the 'suck it up' mentality all because one little vertebrae came out of alignment. I am comically reminded of Dr. Seuss's, All because a little bug went ka-choo. This is a very important message-you do not have to live with pain. Your body wants to heal itself, but you must give it the tools to do so.

Go right now and make an appointment with a chiropractor who practices applied kinesiology. These individuals perform muscle testing to determine which muscles are firing correctly or not, then per-



form proper adjustments to initiate realignment. How long you've lived in a state of imbalance will determine to what extend your body fights the change. Strength training also plays a pivotal role. Don't know a good chiropractor? Call me!

"That started something they'll never forget, and as far as I know, it's going on yet. And that's how it happened, believe me it's true. Because, just because, a small bug went ka-choo!"

~Dr. Seuss

The Jasper News

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Myra ReganPublisher
Jeff WatersEditor
Joyce Marie TaylorReporter
Brenda DemaraisSales Representative

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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.

Patricia Peaden named to spring 2012 President's List at BCF

Graceville, Florida - Patricia R. Peaden has been named to the President's List at The Baptist College of Florida in Graceville, Florida for the spring 2012 semester. The President's List is published each semester to honor those students who maintain a 4.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Peaden is a sophomore at The Baptist College of Florida pursuing a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She is active in music, choir and photography.

Peaden is the daughter of Charles and Lynn Peaden of Live Oak, Florida.

She is a 2011 graduate of Suwannee High

School. The honor student is a member of Westwood Baptist Church in Live Oak, Florida.

The Baptist College of Florida is an agency of the Florida Baptist Convention and is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to offer associate, baccalaureate and graduate degrees in the areas of

ministry, biblical studies, music, music education, elementary education, leadership and Christian education, missions, Christian counseling, English, history and social studies, secondary education (English), secondary education (history and social studies), contemporary worship ministry, ministry studies, Christian studies, business leadership and divinity.

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Free admission

CMJ Basketball Tournament

Sponsored by Empowering Tabernacle House of Prayer and Spc. Walter (Papa Red) Jones, Jr. Men's on 5 basketball tournament
Where: Jasper-Old High School gym

When: June 23
Time: 10 a.m.

Awards given: 1st place
Point of contact: Mike Cohen,
386-234-0948 or 386-697-5003
Bro. Andre Jackson, 386-855-1656
Bro. Josh Johnson, 386-792-2683
Pastor Phillip M. Jackson and
Mother Ledia S. Jackson

Obituaries

William "Bill" H. Carden, Jr.,
May 28, 2012

William "Bill" H. Carden, Jr., age 71, of Jacksonville, Fla., passed away Monday, May 28, 2012 at Lake City VA Medical Center. Bill was a former resident of Hamilton County. He was a retired police officer and served for a time as Police Chief in Jennings, Fla. Bill also served in the United States Marines.

Survivors include one son, William Carden, III, Guatemala; two daughters, Kimberly DeRoche, Tampa, Fla. and April Padgett, Jasper, Fla.; one sister, Sandy Rogers, Dothan, Ala.; five grandchildren.

Memorial services were held Thursday, May 31, 2012 in the

chapel of Harry T. Reid Funeral Home, Jasper, FL.

Jennifer Nicole Watterly
March 23, 1988 -
May 30, 2012

Jennifer Nicole Watterly, age 24, of Jasper, Fla., passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, May 30, 2012 at Shands Live Oak Regional Hospital. She was born in Metter, Georgia on March 23, 1988. Jennifer enjoyed spending her spare time visiting her friends on Facebook and most recently took on the care of a new puppy. She was a big Florida Gator fan and not mind telling you about her Gators. Jennifer was predeceased by grandparents, Irvin L. Watterly, Katherine Elizabeth Watterly, Thelma Butler, great grandmoth-

er, Helen Wilson and a niece, Addison Lauranne Roush.

Survivors include her mother, Laurie Watterly, Jasper, Fla.; her father and step-mother, Robert and Tammy Watterly, Hillsborough, Ohio; three brothers, Christopher, Robert L. and Eric; six sisters, Tiffany, Neoma, Tracy, Kristin, Katie Marie and April Lynn; paternal grandparents, Mary Williams and Wayne Koontz.

Funeral services were held Sunday, June 3, 2012 in the chapel of Harry T. Reid Funeral Home with Bro. Sid Baker officiating. Interment followed at Saspers Landing Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Suwannee Springs Freewill Baptist Church, 3801 US 129, Live Oak, FL. 32060.

Heart Matters Congrats class of 2012

By Angie Land

You made it! Congratulations to the graduating class of 2012. Graduation marks the celebration of a long-awaited accomplishment, as well as the beginning of a new challenge: "What will I do with my life?" Some of you have carefully mapped out plans, while others are still struggling for answers. In your search, consider the words of Jeremiah 6:16:

"This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look: ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls..."

You now stand at one of the biggest crossroads of your life. Graduation is the end of a path that began years ago as you left Mom and Dad to climb onto the school bus and walk into the classroom on your own. Now is the time to celebrate...with an eye to the future.

Stand at this crossroad and look. An intersection is a place where you must make a decision about which way to go based on where you want to end up. Consider what you have learned about life and about yourself, and look for the good way that leads to your future. The

right path for living is marked out by God, but it requires a careful search to uncover. The popular, easier path is always going to be offered and it will be tempting, but know that it leads to a dead-end life...when we ignore God's map we lose our way.

Walk in it. Once you get a glimpse of that good way, don't get frustrated if you can't see the whole plan right now...start with one step...it may be that you find the directions for the next step on the way. Get going...a tiny rudder can turn a huge ship, but only if it is moving. Be confident that God has a plan for your life. In Ephesians 2:10 the Bible tells us "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." That word "workmanship" also means "masterpiece"...one of a kind! God created you uniquely for a specific purpose...to do good works. The kicker is that He has prepared them "in advance" for you to do. All we have to do is follow His map to find them!

Find rest for your souls...Of all the things I could hope and pray for you...this is it. In a world full of unrest,



strife and lack of peace, having rest for your soul is priceless, and it only comes from being in right standing with the One who created you. Notice that this rest comes as a result of standing, looking, asking, and walking...with Him. Your life consists of the time between your appointed birth and death...how will you spend it? Choose carefully...because your heart and your life matters!

Congratulations and 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

SRWMD Governing Board meetings

On Tuesday, June 12, 2012, the Suwannee River Water Management District's Governing Board will meet at 9 a.m. at District headquarters, 9225 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060. The meeting is to consider District business and conduct public hearings on regulatory, real estate, and other various matters. A workshop will be held immediately following the meeting.

On Monday, June 25, 2012 at 1 p.m., a Tentative Intermediate Governing Board Meeting will be held at District Headquarters in Live Oak. Public should

check the District website at <http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/> or contact the District at 386-362-1001 to confirm that

the meeting has not been canceled or rescheduled.

All meetings, workshops and hearings are open to the public.

HCHS Class of 1977
35 Year Class Reunion
Saturday, June 16, 2012 at 7 p.m.
Someplace Else of Jasper, FL
\$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per couple
For more information call:
Debbie Lindsey Reid 229-834-0896 or
Lillian Bennett Cato 850-603-0099

Freedom is Here The Gift of Life

By John Whittington

Genesis 2:7 the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

What was it like for Almighty God to transfer the breath of life into a speck of dust? The light coming from one candle flame measures about 5-10 lumens, depending on the average candle. The sun is 250 octillion lumens - That's 250 followed by 27 more zeros! And that analogy falls short because God isn't measurable, He's infinite!

Job 12:10 says, In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind. God has given you the gift of life. If you're reading this, that's a gift. If you're breathing at all, that's a gift! Deuteronomy 30:20 says the Lord is your life!

Feeling and emotion - joy, happiness, love, peace, smiles - it's a gift from God! When you enjoy the sound of the rain - it's a gift from God!

When you see a baby smile and you smile back - it's a gift from God! When you eat a steak grilled exactly to your taste or listen to your favorite song - it's a gift from God!

Someone may ask, "If life is such a gift, then why does so much go wrong?" Why is there misery and disease? Why is there war and poverty? Why are children born sick? Why do chunks of mountains slide off and crush people?

Read the Bible, and then go back and observe the world. You see the beautiful designs from the mind of a perfect God. You also see the defects that sin has caused. You see a beautiful, broken world crying out for God to return and make it right!

After Jesus rose from the grave, He breathed on his disciples and said, "receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22). Those who have been born of the Spirit, have a taste of a sin-sick world made

right. As we live out the the life-giving Holy Spirit in our walk with the Lord, the world is going to see and want what we have.

What you see today is only a dim reflection of what it was, and what it will be again someday. God will return to wipe out sin and breathe life back into a dying world. In the meantime, you can be a breath of fresh air to someone who needs life. Point them to Jesus and let Him breath life back into them!

Pastor John Whittington
Lighthouse
Christian Center
Mayo, FL
www.lcmayo.com

Progress Energy donates \$1,000 to Riding Club



Pictured here is Progress Energy Community Relations Manager Robert L. Pickles presenting Linda Weatherington of the Riding Club with a check for \$1,000. - Courtesy photo

The Hamilton County Riding Club, Inc. would like to extend our thanks to Progress Energy for their many years of supporting our annual rodeos. Our rodeos are funded entirely by fundraising and sponsorships collected by our members. Progress Energy, PCS, the Hamilton County Tourist Development Council, Richmond Entertainment and PCA are a few who have generously continued to sponsor our local rodeo every year in the main or co-sponsorship category. We appreciate your willingness to support our club. Thank you.

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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. THERESA 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	<div style="text-align: center;"> </div>
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 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 style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">To list your church on our church directory, please call Virginia at 386-362-1734</p>	

Progress Energy Presents Check to Hamilton County 4-H



Gaye Hanna presents Greg Hicks with a check for Hamilton 4-H on behalf of Progress Energy.

Gaye Hanna and Robert Pickels presented a check to Hamilton County 4-H on behalf of Progress Energy's community grant program. Hamilton County 4-H was selected to receive funds amounting to one full scholarship to Camp Cherry Lake and funds to support other summer programs. Progress Energy is a proud supporter of positive youth development community pro-

grams like 4-H. Over the last ten years these grants have provided over \$125 million in supporting local communities and programs.

On behalf of Hamilton County and Florida 4-H, we would like to sincerely thank Progress Energy for their continued support of 4-H and its dedication to developing proactive citizens and communities through positive youth development programs.

Jasper Legals

PUBLIC AUCTION

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

Date: 06-19-12
Time: 8:00A.M.

2004 Ford
Vin# 1FMFU17L74LA94124

Date: 06-29-12
Time: 8:00A.M.

1999 Ford
Vin# 1FMRE11L9XHA31004

1997 Mitsubishi
Vin# JA4LS31P7VPO05693
06/07

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09, FLORIDA STATUTES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of SUWANNEE RIVER IRON WORKS, located at 4884 SW 69TH DR. in the County of HAMILTON, in the City of JASPER, Florida 32052 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

Dated at Live Oak, Florida, this 29th day of May, 2012.

Owner's name: David L. Smale
06/07

NOTICE OF FIRST PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 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 Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Florida, at public hearing on June 19, 2012 at 6:00 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.

LDR 11-1, a petition by the Planning and Zoning Board of Hamilton County, Florida, requesting an amendment to the Hamilton County Land Development Regulations as provided for in Article 13 and 16 of the Land Development Regulations regarding cemeteries.

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 amendment are available for public inspection at the Office of the Land Use Administrator, located at 204 Northeast First Street, Suite B, 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 THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO: 2012CA000143

PALMETTO HOLDINGS, L.L.P.
Plaintiff,

vs.

RONALD EUGENE CLELAND,
and all his heirs or assigns.
Defendant.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: RONALD EUGENE CLELAND, and all his heirs or assigns.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action foreclosure on the following property in Hamilton County, Florida:

A tract of land in Section 23, Township 2 North, Range 12 East, Hamilton County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

Jasper Legals

Commerce at a P.R.M. At the S.W. Corner of S.E. 1/4 of Section 23, Township 2 North, Range 12 East, Hamilton County, Florida; thence run in a Northwesterly direction along the West right-of-way line of Oak Forest Circle West a distance of 200.00 feet to an iron bar; thence run in a Northerly direction along the West right-of-way line 199.80 feet to an iron bar for P.O.B. Thence continue along the West right-of-way line of Oak Forest Circle West, a distance of 200.00 feet to an iron bar; then run South 85 degrees 14'08" W a distance of 455.00 feet to an iron bar; thence run South 08 degrees 22'09" West, a distance of 200.00 feet to an iron bar; thence run North 85 degrees 14'08" East, a distance of 455.00 to P.O.B. Subject to an easement for purposes of utilities in width of 20 feet along any side thereof fronting a road and 10 feet along any other side thereof.

has been filed against you and all your heirs or assigns, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Donald K. Rudser, Esquire, Plaintiff's Attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 948, Jasper, Florida 32052, within 30 days after the first publication of this notice and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's Attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

Dated this 22nd day of May, 2012.

(Court Seal) Greg Godwin
As Clerk of the Courthouse

By: /s/ Cynthia Johnson
As Deputy Clerk

05/31, 06/07

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 3RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION

CASE NO.: 2012 CA 000073

TD BANK, N.A., a national banking
association,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SKIERSKI INVESTMENTS, INC., a
dissolved Florida corporation,
THOMAS J. SKIERSKI, JESSIE L.
SKIERSKI, and UNKNOWN TENANTS
IN POSSESSION,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 14, 2012, entered in Civil Case No. 2012 CA 00073 of the Circuit Court of the 3rd Judicial Circuit in and for Hamilton County, Florida, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 N.E. 1st Street, Jasper, Florida 32052 at 11:00 a.m. on the 11th day of June, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure, to-wit:

Part of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 15, Township 1 North, Range 12 East, Hamilton County, Florida being more particularly described as follows: For point of reference commence at the Northeast corner of said Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4, thence run South 89 degrees 47 minutes 18 seconds West along the North line of said Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 a distance of 40.00 to the West right of way line of County Road No. 751; thence run South 00 degrees 38 minutes 49 seconds West along said West right of way line a distance of 100.00 feet; thence run South 89 degrees 47 minutes 18 seconds West, a distance of 348.00 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence run South 00 degrees 38 minutes 49 seconds West, a distance of 271.73 feet; thence run South 89 degrees 47 minutes 18 seconds West, a distance of 141.65 feet; thence run North 00 degrees 38 minutes 49 seconds East, a distance of 311.40 feet to the South right of way line of an existing county graded road; thence run South 87 degrees 06 minutes 39 seconds East along said South right of way line, a distance of 141.74 feet; thence run South 00 degrees 38 minutes 49 seconds West, a distance of 32.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Property address: 5349 751 CR SW, Jasper, Florida 32052

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.

Dated this 17th day of May, 2012.

(Court Seal) GREG GODWIN
As Clerk of the Court

By: /s/ Cynthia Johnson
Deputy Clerk

05/31, 06/07



Around the Banks of the Suwannee

By Correspondent
Johnny Bullard

Just plant a watermelon up above my grave-- And let the juice (slurp) through--(make slurping noise with your mouth)

Just plant a watermelon up above my grave-- That's all I ask of you-- Now a chocolate chip cookie may taste mighty fine--

But nothing's quite as pleasant as that watermelon rind--

So plant a watermelon up above my grave, and let the juice (slurp) through--

I learned the above little ditty over 45 years ago from the late "Cousin" Thelma Boltin, longtime Florida Folk Festival director and mistress of ceremonies for over 30 years at the Florida Folk Festival. Can you believe the Stephen Foster Memorial Commission actually required her to go out into area schools and spread the word about the Florida Folk Festival? And, that she planned, coordinated, and executed the annual festival with a staff of two - she and the late Barbara Beauchamp and, that, when they were in charge, the festival attendance was just as high if not higher than it is today. Off they went to morning talk shows, did newspaper interviews, visited area schools and on, and on it went. Anything and everything to promote the festival.

Well, enough about the Folk Festival, I've beaten that mule to death. This article is about summer time and one of my favorite summer time treats - the luscious, delectable, deep pink to red ever sweet, ever wonderful, watermelon.

Yes, indeed. Whether one likes it cold, hot, with seeds, without seeds, served with salt or, the way I like it, just by itself, the watermelon is near and dear to the hearts of many in our area, and it makes a perfect summertime treat, dessert, and the rinds can even be made into pickles.

Much is written about this area and the growing of flue cured tobacco as part of the storied agricultural past of the Suwannee River Valley. Almost the same could be written about watermelons.

Chiefland, Newberry, and, I believe, Monticello, all have watermelon festivals, select watermelon queens to pay homage to and celebrate this cherished southern vegetable. Did I write vegetable? Yes, indeed, a vegetable and a member of the gourd family. Did you know that? I didn't until I did a little research. The watermelon is a member of the gourd family, those things that are sometimes grown, dried out, and hung from high poles as nesting places for the little purple black birds, purple martens.

ple martens.

When daddy and Uncle Warren were growing tobacco, and the day came to a close, everyone who worked there would pile into the back of a pick up truck and go down to our landing on the Suwannee River to swim and cool off. Often that recreational activity would include picking a couple of ripe watermelons from the garden placing them in the cool water and eating them on the banks of the Suwannee as part of the end of the day recreation.

What 4th of July barbecue or picnic is truly complete without watermelon? It is such an integral part of the lifestyle of summer time in our area. My paternal grandmother, the late Mary Joyner Bullard (1893-1969) did not make many requests of my daddy and Uncle Warren in regards to their farming operations but she did make one. She asked them to grow enough watermelons for her to enjoy through the growing season, and they honored their mother's request. I can remember the dark green "Cannonball" and "Stone Mountain" watermelons being grown at the farm; picked and placed each day on Grandma Bullard's porch. They made certain she had one each day when watermelons were in season. She loved watermelon. She

placed hers on the porch, and cut it early in the morning when the temperature was a little cooler, never placed it in the refrigerator. She ate the heart of half of the watermelon each morning for breakfast, and sliced the other half for my first cousin, Leann, my oldest friend, Mac Pound, and myself. We looked forward to that watermelon each day. Slicing and sharing a watermelon was tantamount to a mini celebration; kind of like blowing out candles on a birthday cake, something out of the ordinary in the everyday world of the hot summer.

School is almost over for the summer. Summer time activities will soon begin; trips to the area rivers, lakes, springs, trips to the beach, family gatherings, 4th of July celebrations. I hope everyone enjoys each to the fullest, and, in advance, I extend my congratulations to seniors who have graduated or are graduating from area high schools. Many of those in Live Oak, Lake City and Jasper are my former students, and I am proud of each and every one. Best wishes for the future!

I hope amidst all the celebrations, you will take some time to slice a watermelon, savor its juicy sweetness and, for just a moment, know that life with all of its challenges, ups and downs offers a lot of pure joy and one of those simple joys is the enjoyment of a slice of red, ripe watermelon.

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

First Hope Notes Silent Auction at Suwannee River Jam raises \$10,190 for band kids in Suwannee, Columbia and White Springs



WHITE SPRINGS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM - White Springs After School Program check presented by Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park Marketing Director Teena Peavey to Town of White Springs Vice Mayor Walter McKenzie.

SUWANNEE SPIRIT KIDS MUSIC CAMP - Suwannee Spirit Kids Music Camp check was presented by Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park Marketing Director Teena Peavey to camp director Charley Dame.

- Photos: George Peavey



First Street Music and Sound Company of Lake City for its significant involvement in the auction.

Peavey said more than 60 items including ceiling fans, trips, furniture, gift certificates, purses and musical instruments were donated this first year of fundraising. As the donations came in, Peavey could barely make her way to her office desk as her office became the storage area for the large number of donations.

While guests enjoyed delicious refreshments served by the SOSMP staff, Peavey spoke about the program and its success. She said the band volunteers successfully ran the first silent auction, something she appreciates. "Four schools brought 28-29 volunteers," she said proudly. She also noted that next year's donated items are already coming in! Peavey said next year, her goal is \$15,000 for the silent auction. "I feel anything we can do to

help the band programs we should do," Peavey, a former band student herself, stressed. "This is an annual commitment by the SOSMP during the Suwannee River Jam to help our children. This was a lot of work to collect all the donated items and oversee the auction, but well worth it to help our kids."

Peavey introduced the band director or representative of each school present after which checks were presented. Checks were awarded based upon the number of volunteers each school provided during the silent auction. One hundred percent of the money raised went to the band programs. Schools receiving checks were Suwannee Middle School, Suwannee High School, Branford High School, White Springs After School Program, Lake City Middle School, Ft. White High School, Richardson Middle School, Columbia High School and Suwannee Spirit Kids Music Camp.

For more information about the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park, call 386-364-1683, email spirit@musicliveshere.com or go to www.musicliveshere.com. You may also contact the SOSMP to inquire about any of the many exciting events coming up such as the Texaco Country Showdown auditions and finals, Suwannee River (gospel) Jubilee, July 4th and Labor Day Get-a-Ways, Magnolia Fest featuring artists Bonnie Raitt, Del McCoury Band and Emmylou Harris to name only a few and many other wonderful events this year.

The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park is located at 3076 95th Drive 4.5 miles north of Live Oak, Fl off US 129 at the famous Suwannee River. The park is 4.5 miles south of Interstate 75 and 4.5 miles north of Interstate 10 off US 129. Keep an eye out for the SOSMP sign and white painted board fence.

Fundraiser for Crossroads VFD

The Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department is having a fundraiser in honor of Tyler Rogers on June 23 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Pulled pork and chicken with all the trimmings will be sold. All proceeds go to Crossroads VFD where Rogers served as a volunteer. The station is located at 5769 SW CR 141, Jasper, FL 32052.

Flag disposal ceremony

VFW 8095 Post Commander Lamar Royals announces that there will be a flag disposal ceremony at the VFW on Flag Day, Thursday, June 14, at 11 a.m. All who wish to dispose of their flags may bring them to the VFW that morning or drop them by the Jasper Library before June 14. A fish fry which is open to the public will follow at noon. Plates of fish and grits will be \$5. Widows of veterans will be the guests of the VFW.

Burnham Christian Church Vacation Bible School

Burnham Christian Church, located at 4520 NW CR 146, Jennings, Florida, invites children and youth four-years-old through sixth grade, to join us for SonRise National Park Vacation Bible School June 10-15, 2012. VBS will begin on Sunday and go through Thursday from 6-9 p.m. On Friday, the Family Night closing program will begin at 6 p.m. with refreshments.

SonRise National Park creates a fun and exciting atmosphere where children will have a great time learning God's Word, singing, watching skits, creating crafts and playing games.

Arrest Records

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

The following abbreviations are used below:

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

May 28, Tashara Cianne Hicks, 24, 10494 NW 36th Drive, Jasper, Fla., disorderly conduct: HCSO-Howell

May 30, Cornelius Maurice Daniels Jr., 29, 1226 Bee Street, Jennings, Fla., affray: JNPD-F. Gantous

May 30, Robert Lee McClain Jr., 29, 1486 Berry Street, Jennings, Fla., JNP12-0066 (affray) 01-21CF VOP (homicide): JNPD- Gantous

May 31, William H. Simmons, 29, 351 Dudley Street, Jax, Fla., DWLS, poss. less than 20 gms marijuana: DTF-Cheshire

May 31, Morgan Anna Eilts (Thumbtzen), 19, 7962 SE 125th Lane, Jasper, Fla., Suwannee County 12-360CF (Agg. manslaughter on child and child neglect): HCSO-Thomas

May 31, Willie Bernard Claridy, 47, PO Box 627, Jasper, Fla., DTF 1000147 sell of cocaine 1,000 ft church, poss. of cocaine 1,000 ft church: DTF-Brownfield

June 1, Warren Delean Cook, 51, 16637 Second Ave., White Springs, Fla., contributing to the delinquency of a minor (2 counts): FHP-Hughes

June 1, Armando Reyes, 38, 1290 Cherry Street, Jennings, Fla., VOP 08-210CF o/c burglary while armed, robbery while armed w/firearm or deadly weapon: P&P-Redic

June 1, Robert William Pogue, 613 NW 16th Ave., Jasper, Fla., out of state fugitive, hold for U.S. Army: HCSO-Sgt. Hughes

June 1, Joshua Adam Hopkins, 28, 3621 NW 23rd Court, Jennings, Fla., fail to comply with registration law, fail to report name or residence change: HCSO-Fouraker

June 1, LeKisha D. Tharp, 32, 5140 N. Daniel Drive, Lake Park, Ga., poss. of cocaine and narcotic equip. poss.: DTF-Cheshire

June 1, Robert Henry Allen, 51, 6040 SW 69th Drive, Jasper, Fla. DTF-Cheshire

June 1, Carlos Rodriguez Johnson, 44, 3461 CR 152, Jasper, Fla., resist w/violence, assault on LEO: JAPD-Rickerson

June 2, Dareama Denise Walls, 39, DUI, DWLS, poss. of controlled substance: JAPD-T. Rickerson

June 2, Tyler Rashard Hayes, 23, 507 SW MLK, Jasper, Fla., burglary-unoccupied dwelling unarmed, petit 1st degree property 100 to under 300 dollars: HCSO-Hughes

June 2, Everett LeJohn Jordan, 42, 4868 SW 71st Loop, Jasper, Fla., out of county warrant Madison CO SO# 12-118MM Failure to register wrt#12-000044CFMA: HCSO-Griffin

June 3, Scott Frederick McLeod, 58, 2008 Barrington Lane, Villa Rice, Ga., poss. of less than 20 grams of cannabis: DOA-Hingson

June 3, Edwin Lamar Lowe, 44, 5090 Great Meadows Road, Lithonia, Ga., DWLS/R

June 3, John Temple, 28, 3600 NW 104th Ave., Battery: HCSO- Griffin

HCHS senior lunch



Hamilton County High School recently honored their seniors with a luncheon at the school.



Enjoying each other's company at the luncheon. - Courtesy photos

COME AND ENJOY 2 EVENINGS OF FUN, FRIED FISH, AND FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY AND SATURDAY JUNE 8TH AND 9TH 2012

7 - 9 p.m.
at the Park across from the courthouse in Downtown Jasper

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Preaching : Heaven/Eternal Life or Hell/Lake of Fire

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JESUS OUR HOPE FOR TOMMORROW

BIBLE- Best Selling Book in History
BIBLE- Historical Accuracy, proven by the findings
BIBLE=TRUTH of the Dead Sea Scrolls. (copper scrolls found in a cave near Qumran)
...Faith cometh by hearing
BIBLE- Endured the Test of Time, Generations, and is and hearing by the the Word of God

Word of God

BE RECONCILED TO GOD
START YOUR NEW LIFE TODAY AND BE FREE

JUNE BUG IS COMING!!!
BRING EVERYONE TO THE 4TH ANNUAL JUNE BUG FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 16th.
9:00 A.M. - 9:15 P.M.
At Historic Downtown Live Oak, Florida
FUN FOR EVERYONE!!!

CAR & MOTORCYCLE SHOW
ARTS & CRAFTS • KIDS AREA
FREE ENTERTAINMENT
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FLEA & FARMERS MART
AND SO MUCH MORE!

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HCHS honors/awards night



Some HCHS seniors. - Courtesy photos

Hamilton County High School honored its seniors recently with night of honors and awards. Here are some scenes from that event. Congratulations to all students, families and staff.



HCHS Principal Wanda Law, left, and Rebecca Jackson.



Trophies are nice.



Madiah Tomoney receives recognition from HCHS principal Wanda Law.



A little recognition.



Chineeta Jackson, left, and Paige Fenneman.



More seniors showing off their awards.



Chineeta Jackson, left, and Kalene Dedge.



Some of the seniors with their award.



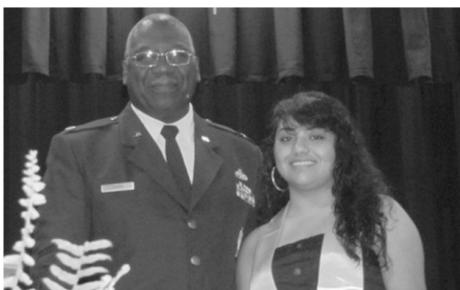
Smiling for the camera.



Seniors with their recognitions.



Cheyenne Laws receives a handsome check from the US Army.



Mariela Garcia.

LEGAL NOTICE

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Medical Benefits Settlement

Providing Benefits to Clean-Up Workers and Certain Gulf Coast Residents

If you have a medical claim related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, you could get benefits from a class action settlement with BP Exploration & Production Inc. and BP America Production Company ("BP"). Go to DeepwaterHorizonSettlements.com for more information, including information on how to file a claim.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE MEDICAL BENEFITS SETTLEMENT?

The Medical Class includes (1) clean-up workers and (2) certain people who resided in specific geographic areas in coastal and wetlands areas along the Gulf Coast during specific periods in 2010. The website DeepwaterHorizonSettlements.com has detailed descriptions and maps to help you determine whether a geographic location may be included in one of these zones. Additionally, you can call 1-866-992-6174 or e-mail info@DeepwaterHorizonMedicalSettlement.com to find out if a geographic location is included.

WHAT DOES THE MEDICAL BENEFITS SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

The benefits of the Medical Benefits Settlement include: (1) payments to qualifying people for certain acute (short-term) and chronic (ongoing) medical conditions occurring after exposure to oil or chemical dispersants; (2) provision of periodic medical examinations to qualifying people; and (3) creation of a Gulf Region Health Outreach Program, consisting of projects to strengthen the healthcare system. Benefits (1) and (2) will be provided only after the Court grants final approval and any appeals are resolved.

HOW TO GET BENEFITS FROM THE MEDICAL BENEFITS SETTLEMENT

You need to submit a Claim Form to request benefits. You can get a copy of the Claim Form by visiting the website or by calling 1-866-992-6174. Claims can

be submitted by mail. If you have questions about how to file your claim, you should call the toll-free number for assistance.

The deadline for filing a Claim Form is one year after the Medical Benefits Settlement becomes effective (that is, after the Court grants "final approval" and any appeals are resolved). The exact date of the claim filing deadline will be posted on the website. It is highly recommended that Medical Class Members complete and submit their claim forms promptly. Please read the Economic and Property Damages Settlement notice because you may also be eligible for a payment from that settlement.

YOUR OTHER OPTIONS

If you do not want to be legally bound by the Medical Benefits Settlement, you must Opt Out or exclude yourself by **October 1, 2012** or you won't be able to sue BP over certain medical claims. If you stay in the Medical Benefits Settlement, you may object to it by **August 31, 2012**. The Detailed Notice explains how to exclude yourself or object.

The Court will hold a hearing on **November 8, 2012** to consider whether to approve the Medical Benefits Settlement. You or your own lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own cost. Class Counsel will ask the Court to consider an award of fees, costs, and expenses of 6% of the value of the benefits actually provided under the Medical Benefits Settlement Agreement. Class Counsel fees, costs, and expenses under the Medical Benefits Settlement Agreement and the Economic and Property Damages Settlement Agreement jointly cannot exceed \$600 million. Class members' payments will not be reduced if the Court approves the payment of Class Counsel fees, costs, and expenses because BP will separately pay these attorney fees, costs, and expenses.

Economic and Property Damages Settlement

Providing Money to Individuals and Businesses

If you have economic loss or property damage because of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, you could get money from a class action settlement with BP Exploration & Production Inc. and BP America Production Company ("BP"). Go to DeepwaterHorizonSettlements.com for more information, including information on how to file a claim.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE ECONOMIC & PROPERTY DAMAGES SETTLEMENT?

The Economic and Property Damages ("E&PD") Settlement Class includes people, businesses, and other entities in the states of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, and certain counties in Texas and Florida, that were harmed by the oil spill. The website DeepwaterHorizonSettlements.com has detailed descriptions and maps to help you determine whether a geographic location may be included in the E&PD Settlement. Additionally, you can call 1-866-992-6174 or e-mail questions@DeepwaterHorizonEconomicSettlement.com to find out if a geographic location is included.

WHAT DOES THE ECONOMIC & PROPERTY DAMAGES SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

The E&PD Settlement makes payments for the following types of claims: (1) Seafood Compensation, (2) Economic Damage, (3) Loss of Subsistence, (4) Vessel Physical Damage, (5) Vessels of Opportunity Charter Payment, (6) Coastal Real Property Damage, (7) Wetlands Real Property Damage, and (8) Real Property Sales Damage. There is no limit on the total dollar amount of the E&PD Settlement; all qualified claims will be paid.

HOW TO GET BENEFITS FROM THE ECONOMIC & PROPERTY DAMAGES SETTLEMENT

You need to submit a Claim Form to request a payment. You can get a copy of the various Claim Forms by visiting the website or by calling 1-866-992-6174. Claims can be submitted online or by mail. If you have questions about how to file your claim, you should call the toll-free number for assistance.

The deadline to submit most E&PD claims will be April 22, 2014 or six months after the E&PD Settlement becomes effective (that is, after the Court grants "final approval" and any appeals are resolved), whichever is later. There will be an earlier deadline to submit E&PD Seafood Compensation claims. The earlier deadline to submit Seafood Compensation claims will be 30 days after final approval of the Settlement by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana (regardless of appeals). Actual claim filing deadlines will be posted on the website as they become available. Valid claims will be paid as they are approved, beginning shortly after the Court-Supervised Settlement Program commences. It is highly recommended that E&PD Settlement Class Members complete and submit their claim forms promptly. Please read the Medical Benefits Settlement notice because you may also be eligible for benefits from that settlement.

YOUR OTHER OPTIONS

If you do not want to be legally bound by the E&PD Settlement, you must Opt Out or exclude yourself by **October 1, 2012** or you won't be able to sue BP over certain economic and property damage claims. If you stay in the E&PD Settlement, you may object to it by **August 31, 2012**. The Detailed Notice explains how to exclude yourself or object.

The Court will hold a hearing on **November 8, 2012** to consider whether to approve the E&PD Settlement. You or your own lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own cost. The Court will also consider Class Counsel fees, costs, and expenses including an interim payment of \$75 million and additional awards equal to 6% of class claims and benefits paid. Class Counsel fees, costs and expenses under the Economic and Property Damages Settlement Agreement and the Medical Benefits Settlement Agreement jointly cannot exceed \$600 million. Class members' payments will not be reduced if the Court approves the payment of Class Counsel fees, costs, and expenses because BP will separately pay these attorney fees, costs, and expenses.

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2004 LINCOLN TOWN CAR.....**\$9,535**
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2005 DODGE RAM.....**\$10,511**
1500 ST

2008 FORD FOCUS.....**\$10,516**
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2005 NISSAN PATHFINDER.....**\$11,078**
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LT

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LT

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LT

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2007 GMC CANYON.....**\$13,045**
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2006 CHEVY COLORADO.....**\$13,594**
LT, EXT CAB

2006 DODGE DAKOTA.....**\$13,546**
SLT, EXT CAB

2011 CHEVY IMPALA.....**\$13,513**
LS FLEET

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2011 MAZDA3.....**\$14,312**
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