

Spring House RETURNING back to 'normal'



The Spring House at White Sulphur Springs in White Springs is no longer underwater from torrential rains and river flooding from Tropical Storm Debby. Much debris and dead vegetation lies in and around the Spring House and brownish residue has collected on all the woodwork that will need some serious cleaning. - Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

GETTING OFF THE GROUND



The new library in White Springs is getting off the ground with walls in the process of being erected. - Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

The Jasper News

nflaonline.com

Today's Weather

High
90° F



Precip: 50%

Partial cloudiness early, with scattered showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. High around 90F. Winds WSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

For up to the minute weather go to www.nflaonline.com.

141ST YEAR, NUMBER 32

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2012

3 SECTIONS 32 PAGES

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Groundwater levels rebound in some, but not all regions of SRWMD

Groundwater levels in most regions within the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) have rebounded following record rainfall, courtesy of tropical storms Beryl and Debby. But the eastern and extreme southern portions of the District are still experiencing low and extremely low groundwater levels, and many counties still have 12-month rainfall deficits of as much as 15-20 inches.

"There were signifi-

cant improvements in many areas of the District and those improvements are ongoing," said Megan Wetherington, District senior professional engineer. "Other areas did not recover greatly due to the severity of the drought."

Consequently, District Executive Director Ann Shortelle said it is premature for the District to lift a water shortage order that was declared just

SEE GROUNDWATER, PAGE 7A



Florida Senator Bill Montford enjoys the camaraderie at a meeting with Hamilton County officials. - Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

Sen. Montford visits Hamilton County

By Joyce Marie Taylor

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Florida Sen. Bill Montford, D-Tallahassee, stopped in at the Hamilton County Economic Development Authority in Jasper on Tuesday, July 10, for a meet and greet with his new constituents, followed

by a question and answer session.

The recent changes to Florida's redistricting map brought new leadership to many Florida counties and Hamilton in District 3 is one that was affected. Montford, who currently represents 11 counties, 10 of

SEE SEN. MONTFORD, PAGE 7A

Architect: Don't repair pre-k building

By Joyce Marie Taylor

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Architect Greg Kelly from Clemmons-Rutherford and Associates out of Tallahassee recommended to

the Hamilton County School Board not to repair the pre-kindergarten building (Building 3) at South Hamilton Elementary (SHE) that was damaged during Tropical Storm Debby.

At the July 16 school board meeting, Kelly presented his findings and recommendations to the board on the pre-

SEE ARCHITECT, PAGE 2A

Hamilton County man vanishes in Suwannee River



A Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission boat sits Tuesday near the area where a man went missing in the Suwannee River at the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park. FWC, Suwannee County Sheriff Tony Cameron and others were on other boats searching for the man Tuesday morning.

>> Search continues

By Jeffrey Boatright

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A search has been ongoing since Saturday for a swimmer who vanished in the Suwannee

River near Live Oak, according to Suwannee County Sheriff Tony Cameron.

According to Cameron, an unnamed male in his 30's was wading in chest deep water near the sand bar at the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park en-

joying the river with family when witnesses saw him vanish into the water. Cameron said that authorities have not been able to locate the missing man at this point, but continue to

SEE HAMILTON, PAGE 2A

Charter school application withdrawn

Deadline extended to correct deficiencies

By Joyce Marie Taylor

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The South Hamilton Elementary Charter School application submitted in May by the town of White Springs was withdrawn at the July 16 meeting of the Hamilton County School Board. Due to findings of deficiencies by the charter review committee, the charter school gov-

erning board agreed to withdraw their application for a conversion charter school they planned to open for the 2013-14 school year, correct the deficiencies in the application and resubmit another application. The school district, by mutual agreement with the charter school governing board, waived

SEE CHARTER, PAGE 2A



Mayor Helen Miller addresses the Hamilton County School Board regarding the charter school application for SHE. -Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

ELECTION 2012

Darnell Lumpkin seeks county commission seat

Submitted

I, Darnell Lumpkin, announce my candidacy for District 3 County Commissioner. I am a lifelong

resident of Hamilton County and the son of the late Waddie and Nora

SEE DARNELL, PAGE 2A



Lumpkin

Would closing Greenwood School shore up budget shortfall?

According to a recent workshop, it would

By Joyce Marie Taylor

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Hamilton County School District's budget shortfall could be rectified by closing Greenwood School, as was discussed in a recent school board workshop.

Hamilton County School Board Director of Business Services Bonnie Penner updated board members on the status of the budget for the upcoming school year at a workshop held Monday, July 16. A revised budget showing the closure of Greenwood will be given

SEE WOULD, PAGE 2A



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Would closing Greenwood School shore up budget shortfall?

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to board members on Monday, July 23 and if approved will be advertised on Thursday, July 26.

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) requires school districts to retain a three percent fund balance each school year. The budget proposal Penner submitted to the board, after making adjustments for cuts at the district level, left a bottom line total of \$214,568, which is less than a three percent fund balance, she said.

"It is a 1.81 percent fund balance," said Penner. "So, we were not quite able to get to a balanced budget where we would have a three percent fund balance like we need to have."

To maintain a three percent fund balance, Penner said, the school district must wind up with a fund balance of just over \$355,000.

"We still need savings of \$140,000," Penner said. ESE Coordinator Regina Jordan was asked to give comments about Greenwood School, a special needs school that serves students K-12 from Hamilton, Suwannee and Madison counties. Currently projected enrollment for the 2012-13 school year at Greenwood is 22 students; nine from Hamilton, seven from Suwannee and six from Madison.

"In looking at staff, we have one teacher who is retiring," Jordan said. "We would probably not need to add any staff to Greenwood should the board make the decision to move the children to Central and to the high school, based on age level and grade level. I think one point that came out during the conversation I had with one of the board members was, 'how can we place these children who are very special in with regular students?' The answer to that is, we're required to place children where they can get the very best education that they can get, based on their individual needs and on the decisions made by that child's individual

educational plan team."

Some children, she said, can participate in regular education very well with only consultation, however, the more severely disabled students need to be in a self-contained class with other disabled students, and with a special teacher and special aids, as well as nursing services.

One advantage in moving the Greenwood special needs students to Central and the high school, Jordan said, is that they would be among their normal peers, so they could have friends.

"There would be expectations for them to participate as best they could with their peers," said Jordan. "That may mean only at lunch, or it may mean only during certain P.E. activities. It may mean only riding on the bus. It may mean none of those."

The challenge, she said, is that their individual needs and safety will need to be met.

"Special education is not a place," Jordan said. "It is a service that we provide."

Superintendent Martha Butler stated that the high school has an area that was designed for special needs students that has an adult diapering station, a wheelchair accessible shower, a large bathtub, a washer/dryer and a kitchen.

By closing Greenwood, Penner said they would save about \$34,000 just in overhead expenses, such as utilities and office machinery.

"With the one retirement and facilities costs, we'd be looking at right around \$100,000 in savings," Penner said.

The facility, Penner continued, could only be used by the HeadStart program and she suggested talking with them to see if they'd be interested in moving into the building. Jordan made a suggestion that Hamilton Cares, an early learning coalition, who has not had any luck finding a facility in Hamilton County to date, might be interested in using the facility.

Charter school application withdrawn

Continued From Page 1A

the application deadline of Aug. 1, 2012 and extended it to Oct. 1.

July 17 was the deadline for the school district to either approve or deny the original conversion charter school application and the item was placed on the school board meeting agenda of July 16.

It was brought out at the meeting that the charter review committee found only two of the 19 evaluation rubrics of the application review process that met the standard; the mission, guiding principles and purpose, and English language learners.

Eight others, they said, partially met the standard; school climate and discipline; management; human resources and employment; student recruitment and enrollment; facilities; transportation; food services; and budget.

Eight more evaluation

rubrics did not meet the standard, according to the charter review committee; target population and student body; educational program design; curriculum plan; student performance, assessment and evaluation; exceptional students, governance; financial management and oversight; and action plan.

One evaluation rubric for educational service providers was not applicable.

One of the eight deficiencies that the charter review committee said did not meet the standard was governance. The review committee stated that a municipality is not allowed to apply for a charter school. White Springs Mayor Helen Miller pointed out that the Florida Department of Education (DOE) clearly states on their website that a municipality can indeed apply for a charter school.

On the DOE's website it states, "Charter schools are created when an individual, a group of parents or teachers, a business, a municipality, or a legal entity submits an application to the school district."

Consultant Mike McHugh of McHugh and Associates, who was hired by the school district, said the municipality issue of the application was a legal interpretation of the charter school state statutes and that phone calls to the DOE by he and school board attorney Jay Willingham resulted in no definitive answer as to whether a municipality could or could not submit an application for a conversion charter school. Later in the meeting it was suggested that a definite answer from the DOE needed to be obtained.

The other deficiencies, Miller said, could be interpreted differently by many points of view. She

said the town of White Springs, the governing board, the parents and the community would like to work with the school district in coming up with a productive resolution in getting the charter application approved.

"In the best interest of keeping the process moving forward, the town of White Springs withdrew the application tonight with the understanding and agreement of the school board that we would resubmit the application on Oct. 1," said Miller. "That gives us two and a half months to address the issues brought forward by the charter review committee. We believe this is a win-win for the community and the school board."

If the resubmitted application is not approved, the charter school governing board can then appeal to the DOE.

Darnell Lumpkin seeks county commission seat

Continued From Page 1A

Mae Lumpkin. I am the father of three kids, Lawrence, Latia and Darnell, Jr. I have seven grandkids. Lawrence (Todd) is a tax collector for Pinellas County. Latia is a nurse at North Florida Pediatrics and she is the owner of Gentle Love and Care LLC, a homemaker/companion service and Medicaid waiver provider for Area 3. Darnell Jr. is in the Army.

I am a graduate of J.R.E. Lee High School. I served in the U.S. Army with a tour of duty in Korea. I am currently

employed by PCS for 42 years. I also own and operate a small farm outside of Jasper.

I have served on the Jasper City Council for four years, the Hamilton County SHIP Advisory Board for 12 years, and on the statewide redistricting committee. I have appeared before the Legislature on issues affecting Hamilton County. One accomplishment I am most proud of is helping save our local libraries. On May 4, 2011, I received a personal letter from Sen. Charles Dean, R-Inverness thanking me for my efforts and support in

helping to save state funding for our libraries.

I am very concerned about the continuing decline of our county as our population decreases, mainly from the loss of our young people leaving the county to find jobs, the loss of industries and businesses, the decline of our school system, the loss of our doctors, and the closing of our local hospital, while the county's budget continues to grow without resolution to these issues.

It is time to approach these issues head-on and quickly to resolve them to the benefit of our

county, and I will work toward these goals. We need to closely monitor the use of taxpayers' dollars and make sure we use these dollars wisely and in areas which will benefit all of us.

I believe my experience in matters of government and my love of Hamilton County qualifies me to serve as your next District 3 County Commissioner. I will work hard to make a good county even better.

I ask for your support and vote of August 14. A vote for Darnell Lumpkin is a vote for Hamilton County's progress.

Hamilton County man vanishes in Suwannee River

Continued From Page 1A

search for him.

Cameron said the search will continue for as long as it takes.

Cameron, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and others continued searching for the missing man Wednesday. However, Cameron

said the high river level is making it difficult to search.

"But the conditions are becoming more conducive for the search," said Cameron.

Cameron said the missing man, whose name is not being released at this time, is a resident of Hamilton County.

Architect: Don't repair pre-k building

Continued From Page 1A

kindergarten building at SHE. The problem, he said, is basically three-fold; the ravine alongside and partially underneath the building, the large tree that is hanging over top of the building, and the building itself, which he said is over 50-years-old.

Parts of the ravine, Kelly said, are six to eight feet deep and 16 to 20 feet wide in places, and somewhere along the property line they'd have to figure out how to cap off the ravine with some sort of retaining wall to hold the dirt back. Then, he added, there are other trees just beyond the building that are eventually going to wash out and start falling.

To fix the ravine, Kelly said it would cost about \$50,000 to haul in dirt and construct a retaining wall. Removal of the tree is another \$6,000-8,000 project. Then, to underpin the building with dirt to make it structurally safe, another \$100,000 would probably need to be spent, he said.

"You could spend \$150,000 to bring it back to where it was two weeks ago," said Kelly.

By doing so, it would still be a 50-year-old wood building with old roof shingles and no

new HVAC, new electrical or new technology, he continued.

Kelly said the nearby bus drop seems okay, but some adjacent sheds need to be moved out of the way in case there is more washout.

When Supt. Martha Butler asked Kelly if he would recommend redoing Building 3, Kelly said, "No ma'am, I would not recommend redoing that building. You're going to spend a lot of money. You could get a brand new building that size with new everything for \$300,000-\$350,000.

Hamilton County School Board Director of Business Services Bonnie Penner stated their insurance adjuster has been out to the site, however, they have not yet heard back from them as to what kind of coverage the damage falls under in the policy, whether it is water damage or damage from the storm.

"If they do decide it is damage due to a named storm, our deductible moves to \$500,000," said Penner.

Based on current construction costs, the building could be replaced for about \$350,000, she said.

"The good news is FEMA would pay a good portion of that," Penner added.



Damage at the pre-kindergarten building at SHE from Tropical Storm Debby. - Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor



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Life in WHITE SPRINGS

By Walter McKenzie

lifeinwhitesprings@gmail.com

Communities are made up of a lot of divergent components, some of them positive, some negative, some important and some trivial, but all of them part of the unique recipe that is the makeup of a community. The core part of the recipe, the main ingredient if you will, is what determines whether a community has a good taste to it, how appealing it is, and how much potential it may have to become even better. The other ingredients, the spices, the amount of loving care that goes into preparing the dish, these are all important too.

Here in White Springs we have a very good main ingredient, and that is love. There is a core group of people and families that really love this town. For some folks it is a family type of love, the kind that comes from being part of a multi-generational White Springs family. For others, it is a new love, a love of a newly discovered treasure. It can be love at first sight too. I love to hear my wife Merri tell the story of when she came to White Springs for the first time from Tallahassee in the 1970s. She was coming here to interview for the position of "artist in residence" at the Stephen Foster Memorial. She said that when she crossed the bridge over the Suwannee River and caught her first glimpse of White Springs, she knew right then that she was home. That added a little spice to the community recipe! Many others have told similar stories, and many brought their own ingredients and added their own taste to the recipe. It is a delightful process. Of course, every now and then someone tries to add something to the recipe that doesn't fit. Then, we all just have to work harder to make sure that the main ingredient doesn't get spoiled. And there are some who are like the person, we have all known this person, who shows up at a pot luck dinner uninvited and doesn't bring anything except their appetite and plenty of criticism for everyone else's cooking. We shouldn't let these folks spoil the feast! We should just keep on making our own positive contributions and enjoying the results. And we should set aside a little bit of the main ingredient, love, just in case we have to start over again.

The Stephen Foster CSO had its membership meeting recently and everyone enjoyed a delicious pot luck dinner there too. I'll share with you some of the interesting highlights of the meeting. Park Manager Ben Faure is on a much needed vacation in the Colorado Rockies. Nelly Bly's Kitchen is getting a major remodeling, including a complete makeover of the kitchen. AmeriCorps

came to the rescue in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Debby, which included cleaning up the 20 trees that fell. They worked side by side with park staff and volunteers and it made for a great disaster cleanup team! The Folk Festival posted its best year in a long, long time, quite an achievement considering that a storm cut attendance drastically on Sunday. The park now has 10 bicycles for rent at extremely reasonable rates. Congratulations to Scott Gay on being appointed to the position of treasurer and many thanks to Bill Freeman for his years of service in that position. The CSO is a great organization, full of great people!

Last Saturday night the Reverend Gary Heath was treated to a combined birthday and retirement party hosted by daughter Kelly Waters and granddaughter Kary Waters of Live Oak. Reverend Heath and his wife Shirley, our town clerk, moved here in 1994 and have been here longer than anywhere they have ever lived before, having moved so often due to being in full time ministry. Many of the Heath's extended family were in attendance and it was a very joyful celebration. We all wish Rev. Gary a wonderful retirement and we are so glad to have him and Shirley as part of our White Springs family too.

Firehouse Subs of Lake City is heating up the White Springs Volunteer Fire Department with more than \$23,000 worth of life-saving tools. As a good example of how community can extend far beyond the city limits, I am pleased to share with you that Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation is awarding much needed equipment to the White Springs Volunteer Fire Department during a ceremony at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, July 19, 2012 at the Lake City Firehouse Subs restaurant. Otherwise unavailable due to budget constraints, the department benefits with a Polaris Ranger 6x6 RKO and utility fire rescue slip-in worth more than \$23,000. The vehicle will greatly increase the department's rescue capability in response to off-road incidents, the transportation of victims, and extinguishing brush fires. Since 2005, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation has donated more than \$924,900 to public safety entities in Florida.

Firehouse Subs is renowned for hearty, oversized portions and piping hot subs. The founders' 200-year firefighting heritage inspired the formation of the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, which provides funding, resources and support to public safety entities. This company is a great community partner! Thank you Firehouse Subs!

Another wonderful week in White Springs that proves that, even after the storms in life, life goes on and offers many opportunities for all of us to get up, get out, enjoy

and be a part of life in White Springs.
Walter McKenzie
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386-269-0056

Catherine Moffses selected as Dancer of the Year



Catherine Moffses was selected as the Dance Works 2012 Dancer of the Year. She is the 14-year-old daughter Tom & Tammy Moffses, of Jennings. Catherine has danced for 10 years, studying ballet, tap, jazz, & pointe, is a member of the competition team, and a student assistant. She would like to remind everyone that registration for the 2012-13 dance year begins July 24! Congratulations Catherine!

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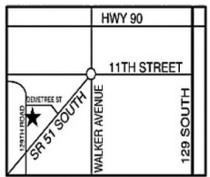
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OPINION

Tyrants and human nature

The agendas of liberals, progressives and assorted tyrants desperately depend on the aspects of human nature they often condemn, such as acquisitiveness, profit motive, self-interest and greed. This crossed my mind while reading "How Departures From Economic Freedom Can Affect Freedom In General," by Dr. John Taylor, a Hoover Institution scholar. Taylor tells how former Wells Fargo CEO Dick Kovacevich was forced to take Troubled Asset Relief Program funds even though Wells Fargo did not need or want the funds. Kovacevich was

threatened that if he did not accept TARP money, regulators would declare his bank capital-deficient even though Wells Fargo had a triple-A rating. At the time, October 2008, Wells Fargo was in the process of acquiring Wachovia, and to be declared capital-deficient would have killed the deal. U.S. Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson and Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke could rely on acquisitiveness, profit motive and self-interest to bully Wells Fargo into accepting TARP money. They also knew that Wells Fargo's competitors would go after Wachovia. If all sound banks had refused TARP money, Paulson and Bernanke's tyrannical threats would have failed.



A MINORITY VIEW
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BY WALTER WILLIAMS

to continue to disobey the order, he'd face the imposition of a higher fine. The agency tyrant's behavior simply acknowledges the first fundamental law of demand, which correctly predicts that the higher the cost of doing something the less people will do it. Conversely, the lower its cost the more people will do it. There are no known exceptions to the reality of the law of demand.

Though the law of demand is not rocket science, liberals and progressives sometimes pretend it doesn't exist. Suppose one wants to reduce the number of rapes, robberies and homicides. Should we raise or lower the cost of committing such acts? Though the death penalty exacts a high cost for a homicide conviction, most liberals and progressives are against it. Some liberals and progressives don't hold criminals responsible, because they believe that poverty and discrimination are the cause of crime and that it's society that must be cured. Others think that soft sentences and rehabilitation programs reduce criminal behavior. Both visions lower the cost to criminals of committing a crime.

An excellent example of how liberals and progressives -- and even some respected economists -- deny the law of demand is their support for increases in the minimum wage. The effect of mandated wage increases is to raise the cost of labor. The entrepreneurial

response to higher labor costs is to use less of it by finding substitutes, and examples abound. Back in the 1930s, '40s and '50s, when you pulled into a gasoline station, there was a kid to pump the gas, wipe your windshield and check the oil. Today virtually all gasoline stations are self-serve, and it's not because today's Americans like smelling gas fumes. The minimum wage has destroyed that kind of job. Other responses to higher mandated wages include automation and relocation of production facilities to places with cheaper wages.

Though a few liberals and progressives acknowledge the minimum wage law's negative effects on low-skilled workers, none acknowledges the law's racially discriminatory effects. If an employer must pay a minimum of \$7.35 an hour to everyone he hires, the costs to discriminate in the employment of people whom he doesn't like are less. The minimum wage is so effective at promoting racial discrimination in employment that it was a major tool in the arsenal of South Africa's racists during its apartheid era. Racist unions were the country's major supporters of minimum wages for blacks.

Liberals, progressives and tyrants acknowledge the reality of human nature when it fits their agenda and ignore it when it doesn't.

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.

The Jasper News

Published weekly every Thursday. USPS #755-980
Office located at 105 NE 2nd Avenue,
Bank of America, Jasper, FL 32052
Phone (386) 792-2487 FAX (386) 792-3009
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Periodicals postage paid at Jasper, FL.
Annual subscription rate is \$17 in county,
\$25 out of county and out of state.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Jasper News, 105 NE 2nd Ave., Jasper, FL 32052

Letter to the editor and Article Policy

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

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

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

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

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Healthy Living

Protein pancakes

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



Pancake Sunday, a family tradition since childhood. Every Sunday we'd wake to the smell of sizzling bacon and yummy pancakes. I've continued this tradition with my son, Matthew: every Sunday I wake, do my morning cardio, then begin Pancake Sunday festivities. Because I'm very physically active, protein is a big player in my diet. Not wanting to miss Pancake Sunday, I decided to get creative.

Before we go into my pancake creation, let's branch off here for a moment to chat about the importance of breakfast. Not to beat a dead horse, hopefully everyone is getting the idea: Breakfast is important and should be eaten within an hour of waking up, ideally a carb and protein.

Research shows people who eat eggs at breakfast weigh less.

More research shows people who eat cereal at breakfast weigh less. Other research shows people who eat breakfast and then eat chocolate cake weigh less. Holy cow what could this mean?! I think I've figured it out: people who eat breakfast weight less.

Sunshine is not the only factor influencing 'waking' up your body and telling you the day has started. When you eat breakfast ('break' the nights 'fast'), you're sending a signal to your body to wake up! Affecting your circadian rhythm, or your body's internal clock, eating breakfast sends a very powerful metabolic jumpstart to your system. This means you will more efficiently metabolize nutrients all day long!

There is another piece to this 'must eat breakfast' metabolic puzzle-ideally 12 hours should precede your first meal. Here's the skinny: part of the food you eat during the day is stored in the liver as glycogen, to later be released for blood sugar homeostasis. When these stores are depleted fat is used

for the job. Note to self: minimize late night snacking.

Remember also to take into consideration your overall caloric expenditure for the day. If your target caloric intake is somewhere around 1,400 calories daily and you consume a 600 calorie breakfast, you have around 800 calories left. You'll need a lighter lunch and dinner and don't forget about mid morning and mid afternoon snacks.

Enough metabolism talk, back to my pancake story; all these thoughts are swirling around in my head while I'm trying to creatively devise a pancake plan that jives maintaining metabolic efficiency. In a blender I mixed 1 scoop (~25 grams/100 calories) vanilla protein, 2 egg whites, ¼ cup oat-

meal, 1 teaspoon cinnamon and added 1% milk til' I got the consistency I wanted. With a bit of syrup I had a perfectly portioned protein packed breakfast! The moral of this protein story: eating healthy doesn't have to be boring or interfere with fun family traditions. There are always creative ways to transform our favorite family feast to fit friendly and fun!

Need help with fit friendly meals? Visit the link below~
~Beth Harris, CSCS, CHFS, LWMC
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NOTICE

Bible Baptist Church
4786 US Hwy 41 S
Jasper, FL
WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Hamilton County
Supervisor of Elections • Laura Dees

By law, Florida is a closed primary state, which means you may only vote for candidates in your party registration. However, in the coming primary election, there will be Universal Contests. UNIVERSAL CONTESTS are races open to all voter parties. Hamilton County has 2 county wide Universal contests, The Sheriffs race and The Supervisor of Elections race.

Also, in District # 3 County Commissioner and District # 5 County Commissioner and District # 3 School Board. In the races mentioned above the highest vote getter will be the winner of that contest and will not have to go on to the General election. Rule Number 1S-2.002

The Hamilton County Voter does not have to worry about what and who will be on their voter specific ballot, because we will be mailing out Sample Ballots once again to be sure our voters are informed and ready to vote.

Wedding Announcement

Pittman and Whiddon



Brittany Louise Pittman and Bobby Joe Whiddon

Gary and Gloria Pittman of Jennings, are pleased to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter Brittany Louise Pittman to Bobby Joe Whiddon, son of Ricky and Robyn Whiddon of Jennings.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of James and Juanita Pittman of Jennings and Edward and Rose Graves of Madison. She is a recent graduate of Saint Leo University with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and a 2007 graduate of Hamilton County High School. She is currently employed with Hamilton Correctional Institution of Jasper.

The groom-elect is the grandson of the late Gordon and Ruth Larkin and the late Freddie Whiddon and Barbara Griffin. He is a 2006 graduate of Hamilton County High School and is currently employed with Rescar, Inc. of White Springs.

The wedding will be held at the First Baptist Church of Jasper on Aug. 25, 2012 at 6 p.m. All friends and family are invited. No local invitations are being sent. Reception will follow the wedding.

Driver license and vehicle inspection checkpoints

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office will be conducting driver license and vehicle inspection checkpoints until Sept. 30 in Hamilton County.

Recognizing the danger presented to the public by defective vehicle equipment, deputies will concentrate their efforts on vehicles being operated with defects such as bad brakes, worn tires and defective lighting equipment. In addition, attention will be directed to drivers who would violate the driver license laws of Florida.

The sheriff's office has found these checkpoints to be an effective means of enforcing the equipment and driver license laws of Florida while ensuring the protection of all motorists.

The checkpoints will be:
US 41, CR 145, NW 16th Avenue, CR 751, CR 25A, SR6W, SR 6E, CR 141, CR 143, CR 51, CR 249 and SR 129.

Obituaries

Harold Thumbtzen June 29, 2012

Harold Thumbtzen, 65, Jasper, Fla., passed away on Friday, June 29, 2012 after a long illness. The Jasper native moved back to Jasper from Clearwater, Fla. in 2003 and attended New Apostolic Church. He retired from the Navy after 20 years of service and from Continental Airlines after 20 years. Mr. Thumbtzen is survived by his wife of 23 years: Sookhi Thumbtzen, Jasper, Fla.; mother: Evelyn Thumbtzen, Jasper, Fla.; three daughters: Angela Smelts, Santa Fe, N.M., Mistee Dolphin, Green Bay, WI, Deidre Thumbtzen, Jasper, Fla.; three sons: Maurice Thumbtzen, Charleston, S.C., Desmond Thumbtzen, Clearwater, Fla., D'Vore Thumbtzen, Jasper, Fla.; two sisters: Pamela Kok, Safety Harbor, Fla., Tatiana Thumbtzen, Safety Harbor, Fla.; one brother: William Thumbtzen, Jasper, Fla. and 13 grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 7 at Daniels Memorial Chapel in Live Oak with Mr. Peter Eves officiating.

Daniels Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc., of Live Oak and Branford, FL in charge of arrangements.

Magdalene (Peggy) McGhin Sept. 24, 1929 - July 6, 2012

Magdalene (Peggy) McGhin was born Sept. 24, 1929, and

went to be with her Savior on July 6, 2012. Mrs. McGhin was a former resident of St. George Island, Florida, and recently relocated to Gainesville, Florida. She retired from the USDA, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) in 1990, after 41 years of service. She was the precious wife of Harry D. McGhin.

Magdalene enjoyed a long and distinguished Federal career. She began her career as an employee of the Holmes County, Florida ASCS office. She also worked in the President Harry S. Truman White House. She returned to the Holmes County ASCS office serving the farmers of Holmes County. She was employed for a short period of time in the Leon County ASCS office. After that, she transferred to the Florida State ASCS office in which she held several positions including Reviewer and finally as a Program Specialist.

Magdalene's most significant achievement was the legacy she leaves to her family. She is survived by a brother, Jack Leavins, and a sister, Virginia Money, as well as her husband, Harry and three children; Linda Gail Allen (Edwin Lynn), Wayne McKinnon, and Peggy Bracewell (Mark). She was "Mema" to seven grandchildren; Rachel Benson (Mark), Ben Allen, Stacy Tew (Brad), Alisha McKinnon, Kyle Bracewell (Stacy), and Kris Bracewell (Kayli). Magdalene was preceded in death by grandson Danny McKinnon. She had five great-grandchildren, Sarah Allen,

Isabella Benson, Owen Benson, Paisyn Tew and Harper Bracewell. Magdalene is also survived by three step-daughters, Katrina Larkin (Frank), Susanne Katz (Larry), DeAnn Thompson (Michael) as well as grandchildren Johannah Mahfood (David) Barry Larkin, Rose Katz and Roni Katz.

Services for Magdalene were held at New Hope Baptist Church, Jennings, Florida, Monday, July 16, 2012. Interment followed at the New Hope Church Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. George Island Christian Retreat Center, 501 Bayshore Drive, St. George Island, FL 32328.

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

William Herbert Register July 7, 2012

William Herbert Register, age 40, of White Springs, Fla., passed away unexpectedly Saturday, July 7, 2012 at Shands Lake Shore Hospital in Lake City, Fla. William was a native of White Springs, Fla. He was a maintenance supervisor at Cal-Maine Foods but like most young men in the south his passion was hunting and fishing. William was a member of White Springs Congregational Holiness Church.

Survivors include, his wife, Karen McGhin

Register and one son, Corey Register, both of White Springs, Fla.; his parents, Herbert and Penny Register; three brothers, Brian, Ben and Bear Register, all of White Springs, Fla.; one sister, Nikki Kistler of Lacey Washington; his grandmother, Gladys Ruh, Lake City, Fla. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Ethel McGhin, White Springs, Fla.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 12, 2012 in the chapel of Harry T. Reid Funeral Home with Sister Veronica Thomas and Rev. Randy Ogburn officiating. Interment followed at Riverside Cemetery in White Springs, Fla.

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

Lora LaVerne Seckinger July 11, 2012

Lora LaVerne Seckinger, 76, of Lake City, Fla., passed away on Wednesday, July 11,

2012, at Shands at The University of Florida Hospital in Gainesville, Fla.

A native of Genoa (Hamilton County), Fla., she was the daughter of the late Gelon S. Cheshire and Mary Beulah Johnson Cheshire. She had lived most of her life in Hamilton and Columbia counties and was a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church and a past member of White Springs First Baptist Church. She had worked for the Social Security Administration for 24 years and enjoyed being a member of the Suwannee River Squares dance group. LaVerne loved flowers, gardening, reading, was devoted to her family and she loved the Lord.

Survivors include her loving husband of 58 years, David Seckinger Sr.; one son: David Seckinger Jr. (Kim), Pensacola, Fla.; one daughter: Pam Beauchamp (Rick), Lake City, Fla.; one sister: Annette Boatrigh (Alfred), Jack-

sonville, Fla.; four grandchildren: Heather Law (Drew), Lake City, Fla., Trey Beauchamp (Carlee), Lake City, Fla., David Seckinger III (Sarah), Pensacola, Fla. and Justin Seckinger (Brianna), Pensacola, Fla.; and three great grandchildren: Drew Law IV and Riley Law, Lake City, Fla. and Taylor Seckinger, Pensacola, Fla.

Funeral services was held on Saturday, July 14, 2012, at 11 a.m. at White Springs First Baptist Church with Rev. Lowell Osteen officiating and assisted by Bro. Joe Shiver. Interment followed at Camp Branch Cemetery in Genoa, Fla. Visitation with the family was on Friday, July 13, 2012 from 5-7 p.m.. at the funeral home.

GATEWAY-FOREST LAWN FUNERAL HOME, 3596 S. US Hwy 441, Lake City, FL (386-752-1954) is in charge of all arrangements.

Please send words of comfort and love to the family at www.gatewayforestlawn.com..

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Church & Family Go Together

ADVENT CHRISTIAN FIRST ADVENT CHRISTIAN N.W. 15th Avenue Jasper Rev. Wayne Sullivan Sunday Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00 p.m. 717860-F	BAPTIST (Southern) FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH "Where Friends become Family" 207 N.E. 2nd Street, Jasper. 792-2658 Pastor: Roger Hutto Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Supper.....6:00 p.m. Children, Youth & Adult Programs 6:30 p.m. 717850-F	METHODIST FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 405 Central Ave., Jasper, FL Pastor - Dale Ames Phone - 386-792-1122 Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wednesday Family Night Dinner 3rd Wednesday Clothes Closet 4th Saturday 1-5pm 717823-F	PRESBYTERIAN 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 938-1285 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 in our church directory, please call Virginia at 386-362-1734</p>	

Heart Matters

It is one of life's mysteries, how much time one person can spend trying to change another. Since we are all prone to try this, you (like me) have discovered that trying to change other people is a lot like spitting in the wind, it doesn't work, and it can get real messy! In fact, we are even limited in our own ability to produce lasting change in ourselves, so why on earth do we ever think we can change someone else?

The boundary of power makes clear what we have power over and where we have no power. It is critical for us to understand that we have no power over the attitudes and actions of other people, we cannot make them more mature or responsible. We also cannot change another person's character, or stop their bad habits, no matter how obvious it is to us that they need to.

What we do have is the power to influence others. Webster's dictionary defines "influence" as "power of producing an effect without force or a direct command." Think about some things that we often do to try and get someone to change: repeat ourselves over and over (better known as nagging), criticize, scream and yell, bully, threaten, withdraw and give the silent treatment. Now think about those who influence you, would someone doing these things make you want to listen and cooperate? Me neither.

We all are more likely to respond to someone who is not trying to "fix us" even if we know

they don't approve of our choices or behavior. Instead we can draw a boundary by saying something like, "Your irresponsible behavior (be specific) is causing problems in our relationship. Is there some way I can help you? I love you, but if this behavior continues our relationship will suffer (explain how). It is your choice." This allows the "offender" to be aware of the problem and to understand the consequences if they continue their irresponsible behavior. This may mean not being included certain activities or a distancing in the relationships. It also gives the freedom to choose to change the behavior with the benefit of being reconnected to the relationship.

The problem is that we spend so much time and effort trying to change someone with ways that hurt our influence with them, that we actually lose what we did have power over to start with.

The most important part of the boundary of power is gaining wisdom, so that we don't spend time and energy where we have no power and keep our influence where we do. The very familiar "Serenity Prayer" offers a great explanation:

"God, grant me the serenity (calm and without worry, stress or disturbance)

to accept the things I cannot change (have no power over),

the courage (the ability to face danger, difficulty, uncertainty, or pain without being overcome by fear or being



detoured from a chosen course of action)

to change the things I can (that I do have power over),

and the wisdom to know the difference.

The Bible tells us in James 1:5 that "If anyone lacks wisdom, they should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." This means that we can bring our problems to God and ask the question: Do I have power to change something in this situation, and if I do, where? When we do, He will generously give us wisdom without blaming and finding fault. Why would God do this? ...He wants us to have strong, healthy relationships...because our hearts do 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

Norris Notes

By Lillian Norris

Hope you had a "safe and sane 4th of July", do not know exactly how that statement came about but seem to remember that would be our expression to someone prior to the holiday. It is time to settle down (for me, at least) and get back to work, as many of you will be doing.

Our Norris Family Reunion is always the weekend after the 4th of July, we just returned from Beaufort, S.C., we have been having the reunions in that area several times in the past few years as a number of the family members live in that area. It was a great weekend, lots of family and good times. I travelled with Ben, Leigh Ann, Trey and Kaleigh and we had a safe trip, with a good trip to Savannah GA Mall on the way to SC, that is a good experience and I had a good time there, I remember stopping there back when Kaleb and Jordan were small and they had a merry-go-round in the center and I rode with them (I was seated and watched them) it was fun, did not see one this year, the only time I remember merry-go-rounds when I was small was when a carnival would come to town in Franklin, N.C. Malls get bigger and bigger, last year

the places I visited were book store and Target, this year I found Dillard's and others as well as jelly beans, candy, ice cream and food, when I left Dillard's in order to get exactly where I was to meet the others, I asked where Target was located and was told it was at the other end, about like going from one end of town to the other around her, but I made it and had an interesting time down the way. All five of us came together at the right time. It is interesting how the same stores in any of the malls are different but still the same, like Dillard's, Target, etc. and Subway (of course food).

We had a good trip, Marybeth and Kaleb joined us, for the first time Jordan did not make it, she had started a new full-time job at Lowe's for the summer and could not get away, we missed her, not sure how many we had but probably about the same as last year, when we had 72. The reunion was held at the Hilton, Beaufort, S.C.

Speaking of Beaufort, it has always been interesting to me that there is a town by this name and one in S.C. by the same name but pronounced differently. On Internet it doesn't give a real reason, as both were named for the same person. I have never visited in the one in N.C. but visited a cousin near there and they didn't give an ex-

planation either. We did not go downtown in Beaufort, but I remember that from another visit there for a wedding, the downtown was so interesting, with specialty shops of all kinds downtown, they have really kept the town alive, we did have lunch (after a tour by car in the residential area of the beautifully homes, and down by the river) downtown in a building that had been a bank at one time, similar to the one that was downtown here, but larger, it was lovely and the food very tasty).

In the item that was written last week we did not mention that Lee Norman was the groom-to-be and the wedding was held on Saturday and from all accounts was BEAUTIFUL, you will be reading about it.

What did you do over the 4th of July? I could watch the fireworks from my apartment and that was probably the best for me, they were outstanding as usual. We feasted at the home of Ben and Leigh Ann, along with Mitchell and Larry and Mary B Cail.

Will stop for now, may be a little long, trying to get both weeks in, will see how it works out with the main office.

HOPE to hear from you soon.

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



Around the Banks of the Suwannee

By Correspondent Johnny Bullard

Fast or slow, high or low, the Suwannee River provides a lot of entertainment and joy for those who love to fish. Everyone who is a fishing enthusiast has a "fish story" and many of those stories in our area are tied to the Suwannee River.

I grew up with a Daddy the late Wade Bullard, as well as a maternal grandpa, the late Bowman Taylor, Live Oak, who loved to fish in the Suwannee River and its tributaries - creeks, sloughs and branches.

The fruits of their fishing trips would often include channel catfish, bream, war mouthed perch, as well as small mouthed bass, oh, and don't forget red bellies.

These fish were skinned, scaled, cleaned, and then it was time for a get together of family and friends at one of the most wonderful and celebrated of gatherings near and dear to the heart of many of us who live "Around the Banks of the Suwannee" - the fish fry.

There is nothing more tasty, more delicious than channel catfish, and not big ones, deep fried, crispy, just right and served up with grits, hushpuppies, and coleslaw. I have discussed the menu for a down home fish fry with a number of friends and relatives, and I asked them if they could recall any additions to the basic fish fry menu I described here. Some of the answers will surprise you and some will not.

One friend of mine who grew up in south Alabama related to me that she had never witnessed grits being served at a fish fry until she visited with her sister here in north Florida during the early 60s. They were invited to a fish fry in our area, and she related that when the grits were placed on the table, she and her sister just looked at each other and were puzzled.

No grits at a fish fry - that's sacrilege with those of us raised in this area. That would be tantamount to serving unsweetened

iced tea at family reunion or a church dinner. I asked her what they served in south Alabama of her childhood.

Here is the answer:

They served the fried fish, and, sometimes, not always, but sometimes, cole slaw. Their hushpuppies were patted out flat in a small circle--they were made with corn meal, but they were patted out flat, and a little indentation was put in the center. She said the "dent" in the middle of the flat hush puppy was so they could pour cane syrup on the hush puppies. She said they made some hushpuppies with onions and some without. I can understand that. I love mine made with onion, but some people don't. Well, I love cane syrup, and I love hushpuppies, and I am sure the combination would be delicious, but this was new to me. She also told me that in most instances they "floured" their fish before frying and didn't coat them with corn meal, that was new; never tried that.

Another friend related to me that they always, always had guava jelly on the table to serve with hush puppies. This wasn't new to me. I have been to many fish fries where guava jelly was served with hush puppies.

Sometimes we served hushpuppies with fig preserves or mayhaw jelly, whatever we had. But guava jelly is a Florida thing and, most assuredly a north Florida thing and I love it and it is traditional for a north Florida fish fry.

One friend mentioned baked beans, that at their fish fries someone always served baked beans. My comment about this is "Yes".

The ubiquitous baked bean is often overlooked but often utilized at family fish fries, barbecues, and I could go on and on. Each individual has his or her own recipe but they are usually dense, sweet, and cooked with chopped up or

strips of bacon and, sometimes with hamburger, but that's a "jazzed up" version.

With the Suwannee beginning to fall, it will soon be an ideal time for those who love to fish and take to the river. Many times their fish will be strung on a long palmetto stick with palmetto fan or frond serving as the holder at the end. How many of you have seen that?

Since the net ban was implemented, mullet, once very inexpensive, were often used for a jumped up fish fry when folks had not made a trip to the river. It's a different story now, mullet are not that inexpensive. Some folks are of the opinion that mullet is a throw away fish. If it is, then throw it my way, especially if it's fresh, I love it. It is the only fish of which I am aware that has a gizzard and many times mullet will swim up into the Suwannee River and are caught by avid sportspersons (let's be politically correct). Well, I digress.

We have many precious and wonderful traditions here in our beloved north Florida.

When the fish cooker or big iron skillet is fired up, and the peanut oil or hog lard is poured into the cooker and heated, when the fish, caught fresh from the dark waters of the Suwannee, are "mealed" and dropped in that grease to sizzle and fry to a crispy brown, I tell you, good friends, it comes close to being a sacred experience when you wrap your lips around those succulent fried fish and delicious hush puppies. And that, dear friends, is one of the many reasons I love where I live.

"Way down upon the Suwannee River".

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. Have a good day.

HamCo Firearms Safety Class

By Joyce Marie Taylor

joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office will be holding Firearm Safety Training classes on Monday, July 23 and Thursday, July 26 from 7-9 p.m. both nights.

The classes will be held in the Sheriff's Office Operations Center, which is located at the Hamilton County Courthouse Annex, and as a public service the classes will be provided free of charge by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Upon completion of the class, you will receive a certificate that satisfies the state's requirement for a concealed weapon permit.

Be advised this is only one portion of the process in obtaining a concealed weapon permit. The state of Florida has specific requirements about gun ownership and eligibility for a concealed weapon permit that include background checks and fingerprinting.

You must be at least 21 years of age, unless you are a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or an honorably discharged veteran, and you must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident alien. Proof of residency is required. You must also show proof of competency with a firearm by submitting acceptable training documentation.

If you have been convicted of a felony in the state of Florida and have not had your civil and firearm rights restored, you are ineligible. Certain

misdemeanor violence and domestic violence convictions will also deem you ineligible, as well as certain substance and alcohol abuse convictions, and mental health conditions.

More information about Florida's gun laws and eligibility requirements for a concealed weapon permit can be found online at www.mylensesite.com.

For more information about the firearms safety class, please contact the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office at 386-792-7102.

Calling all artists for Autumn Artfest 2012

The Live Oak Artists Guild, in partnership with the Suwannee River Regional Library, will be presenting their annual fine arts exhibition Sept. 10-21. All artists, age 18 or older, are eligible and invited to submit an application.

Applications, and with an entry fee of \$25 for members or \$35 for non-members, must be submitted by Aug. 21. A photo or digital image must be submitted with the application. Applications are available at the following locations: The Frame Shop & Gallery, Rainbow's End, and the Suwannee River Regional Library. Or, artists may download/print the application from our website: LiveOakArtists.com

SEE CALLING, PAGE 7A

Groundwater levels rebound in some, but not all regions of SRWMD

Continued From Page 1A

weeks before the arrival of the tropical storms and which remains in effect through Sept. 30.

"We certainly understand that in our flooded counties, water conservation may be the furthest thing from most people's minds," said Shortelle. "But in other regions of the District groundwater levels remain low and we should all remember that water conservation is vital to protecting our water resources."

District staff will continue to monitor conditions until longer-term

effects of the tropical storms are evaluated and then will make recommendations regarding continuation of the water shortage accordingly, said Shortelle.

Tropical Storm Debby brought up to 26 inches in three days. Average rainfall in the District in June was 18.37 inches, the highest monthly average on record. In the 36 days between May 26 and June 30 – the time period of Tropical Storms Beryl and Debby – a portion of Suwannee and Lafayette counties received up to 48 inches, almost a typical year's amount of rain.

The majority of rainfall fell in the central areas of the District. Portions of Suwannee, Columbia, and Lafayette counties received up to 33 inches in June. The coastal and outlying areas in the District received as little as 9 inches for the month.

Some areas on the Upper Suwannee River and many lakes and tributaries of the Santa Fe River experienced major flooding. The Suwannee River at White Springs rose 32 feet in two days, cresting at almost 85.3 feet. The Suwannee River at Suwannee Springs crested at almost 70.3 feet.

The New River near Lake Butler and the Santa Fe River at Worthington Springs crested with the highest stage since 1992 and both exceeded the 10 percent flood. The Santa Fe at O'Leno State Park crested higher than any recorded flood since 1980.

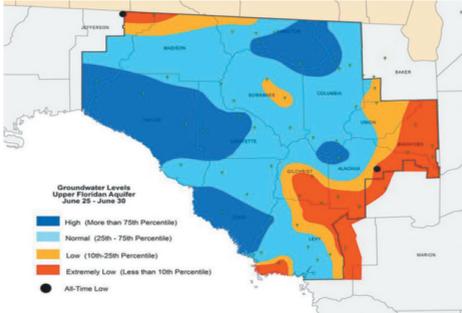
By the end of June, levels in all but two District monitor wells had risen. Wells near the Suwannee and Santa Fe rivers rose to their highest levels since previous floods. Eighteen percent of monitor wells were above normal, 34 percent were normal, 13 percent were below normal, and 34 percent were

in the lowest 10 percent of records.

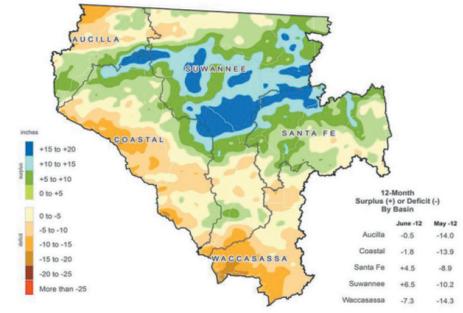
The three-month outlook issued by the Climate Prediction Center calls for above-normal precipitation and temperatures through Sep-

tember.

The District's June hydrologic conditions report is available at http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/archives/35/June2012_TSDebby_Hydroconditions_Report.pdf



Groundwater levels for June 25-30.



June 12-month deficit by river basin.

Flash flea and farmers market

JENNINGS, FL – Residents of Hamilton County and surrounding areas are invited to a flash flea and farmers market being conducted in Jennings on Saturday, July 21, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The project results from the efforts of the Jennings BEST Neighborhoods Community Council, which is hosting the event. The group came into existence as a result of a grant awarded to United Way of Suwannee Valley through the BEST Neighborhoods initiative of Volunteer Florida, The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism. The BEST program, which stands for Build-Engage-Sustain-Transform, is based on neighboring, a model concept of community en-

gagement that utilizes volunteering as a tool to empower, mobilize and facilitate positive changes within communities.

Those interested in having a booth at the Jennings Flash Flea and Farmers Market should contact committee member Roger Farinha at 386-938-3340. A \$10 donation is requested from vendors participating at the Jennings event. Those interested in volunteering at the Jennings market should contact Katie Roonie at 386-938-4092. For further information on the White Springs farmers market, contact Don Wilson at 386-397-2551. For more information regarding the Jasper farmers market, contact Cindi Eatmon, 386-792-2725.

Sen. Montford visits Hamilton County

Continued From Page 1A

which are rural, replaces Sen. Charlie Dean, R-Inverness, as the county's senator. Additionally, State Rep. Elizabeth Porter, R-Lake City, is Hamilton County's new Florida House Representative, replacing Leonard Bemby.

Many county and city officials were in attendance at the meeting, including Commissioner Randy Ogburn, County Coordinator Danny Johnson, Attorney John McCormick, Supervisor of Elections Laura Dees, Tax Collector Mary Sue Adams, Property Appraiser David Goolsby, Sheriff J. Harrell Reid and Major John Davis from HCSO, R.B. Davis, Chairman of the Hamilton County Development Authority and Director Susan Ramsey, Veteran Services Officer Bo Beauchemin, School Superintendent Martha Butler and school board member Sammy McCoy, Jasper City Manager Charles Williams, and Engineer Greg Bailey, as well as other citizens from the county.

Montford is a Florida native, born in Marianna and raised in Blountstown, and his list of educational, career and political credentials is impressive.

"Quite a resume," said Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Greg Godwin, who introduced Montford.

After Montford briefly explained his background and some of his accomplishments, he spoke about all the recent changes in education, expressing his concern that all those changes have not corrected the flaws in the system.

"The point is, we haven't looked far

enough in advance to be able to say, we'd better stop," Montford said.

He also gave his views on privatization of prisons, of which he has nine in his district, and he expressed the same sentiments as he did with education issues, which is that our government is not looking far enough into the future. Local sheriff's offices will be the ones having to provide services to the privatized prisons while not receiving any extra funding for doing so.

"The unfunded mandates drive us crazy," said Montford.

Florida's future, he said, doesn't look any worse, but it doesn't look any better. Also, rural counties in North Florida, he said, face a different set of challenges than Central and South Florida.

"Far different," said Montford. "What happens is, sometimes, rural districts get caught up in something that has a far more profound negative impact than it does in other districts."

The same thing happens in education, he went on.

"A large district can absorb the loss in their education budget and you don't feel it as much as you do in a small district," he said. "That's just the way it is."

With only four senators in North Florida, Montford said these small rural counties are at a disadvantage within the state. Dade and Broward, he said, has more senators than in all of North Florida.

When asked if he saw any additional funding for schools in the near future, Montford gave a one word answer for

"Nope."

Montford said most people don't know about a new law that just passed that states teachers can no longer attain tenure.

"Every teacher from now on will work 10 months at a time," said Montford. "They'll get a contract for 10 months. Then after those 10 months, you're out of a job unless you get rehired. Then your salary will be based on how well your students do."

Half of a teacher's salary will be based on how well their students perform, he added.

"You wonder how many young people will go into education," said Montford. "It's already tough enough."

Hamilton County Supt. of Schools Martha Butler reminded everyone that Hamilton County Schools have lost about \$5 million in funding over the past few years. New end-of-course exams that are phasing out the FCAT, she said, are also an additional expense to the school system because they don't have the personnel to prepare all the new end-of-course exams.

Additionally, the new three percent retirement contribution continues to be an issue for teachers, when added on to the loss of tenure and teacher merit pay.

Resident Cecil Davis asked Montford to keep rural libraries at the top of his list of priorities because for the last few years the state has been trying to cut funding and it has been a struggle to fight those cuts. Hamilton County, she said, has one library in each municipality of Jasper, Jennings and White Springs.

"I've got to tell you, that's all we've got,"

Davis said.

Montford agreed that rural libraries are important because for many residents, including students, it is their only access to computers.

"Without the small rural libraries we're in deep trouble," said Montford.

Bo Beauchemin brought up the subject of how much identifying paperwork is needed when one has to renew their driver license, something that Homeland Security instituted after 9/11 in order to show proof that a person is a U.S. citizen. One of those items needed is a birth certificate, either the original or a certified copy.

Sammy McCoy said, "The bad part about it, when you go to get your birth certificate, you have to have a copy of your driver's license to get it."

In small rural counties where everybody knows everybody, Beauchemin asked Montford if there could be a provision in the law where the manager of the local driver's license office could certify that they know the person trying to renew their license.

Montford agreed it was a hardship for some, especially the elderly.

"We're going to do something," he told Beauchemin.

In closing, Montford said he hoped to be invited to Hamilton County a lot and that it is a pleasure to be their senator.

"My goal is to be able to be here, for y'all to get tired of seeing me, and to really know what you're facing, the challenges you're facing, and what we're doing wrong in Tallahassee. You'd be surprised sometimes what we don't know in Tallahassee."

Jasper Legals

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

CASE NUMBER: 2012CA000608

WOODLAND III, LTD., a Florida limited partnership,

Plaintiff,

vs.

DIPRAJ V. BALDEO, Deceased, the estate and heirs of DIPRAJ V. BALDEO, Deceased; and through his known heir, MOHANE BALDEO, his surviving spouse; and by and through any unknown heirs and creditors at law,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that, pursuant to an Order or a Final Judgment of Foreclosure in the above-captioned action, I, Greg Godwin, Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, in the lobby of the Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 NE 1st Street, Jasper, Florida at 11:00 a.m. on the 3rd day of August, AD, 2012, the following described property:

Parcel 4M, Three Rivers Plantation West, as more particularly described as follows:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 11 EAST, HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: FOR A POINT OF REFERENCE COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 14; THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 29'52" WEST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 14, 724.24 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 32'21" WEST, 985.24 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 32'21" WEST, 864.05 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 43'31" WEST, 1892.60 FEET TO THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD NO. 6; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 32'21" EAST ALONG SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE 428.67 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVE OF A CURVE CONCAVED NORTH-WESTERLY HAVING A RADIUS OF 11511.93 FEET; THENCE RUN ALONG AND AROUND SAID CURVE AND SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A CHORD BEARING AND DISTANCE OF NORTH 88 DEGREES 04'53" EAST, 582.00 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 02 DEGREES 46'15" WEST, 1910.43 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING CONTAINING A NET AREA OF 40.11 ACRES MORE OR LESS, EXCLUSIVE OF ANY LANDS LYING WITHIN THE EAST 30.00 FEET THEREOF. SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER AND ACROSS THE EAST 30.00 FEET THEREOF FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS AND UTILITIES.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the sale, must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 6th day of July, 2012.

(Court Seal) GREG GODWIN Clerk of the Circuit Court

BY: /s/ Cynthia Johnson As Deputy Clerk

07/19, 26

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

CERTIFICATE NO.: 294 Issued May 26, 2005

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Parcel No. 3770-280 Section 22 & 27 Township 2N Range 12E Lot 4 Lakewood Forest East ORB 305-77

NAME(S) IN WHICH ASSESSED: Gary Dinkins

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

Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the South Front Door of the Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 9, 2012.

Pursuant to Chapter 197.542(2), Florida Statutes, the highest bidder is required to post a non-refundable cash deposit of \$200 with the Clerk of Court at the time of the sale, to be applied to the sale price at the time of full payment. The Clerk may require bidders to show their willingness and ability to post the cost deposit.

/s/ Kristy Morgan Greg Godwin Clerk of Circuit Court Hamilton County, Florida 06/28, 07/05, 12, 19

Jasper Legals

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CERTIFICATE NO.: 569 Issued May 26, 2005

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Parcel No. 6013-000 Section 6 Township 1N Range 14E Part of Lot 6 Blk 1 desc in ORB 461-123 Caldwell Survey Town of Jasper

NAME(S) IN WHICH ASSESSED: RNCLK, Inc.

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

Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the South Front Door of the Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 9, 2012.

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CERTIFICATE NO.: 585 Issued May 26, 2005

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Parcel No. 6259-000 Section 6 Township 1N Range 14E 92 1/2 R & E W 91 N & S in Block 76 ORB 449-307 Caldwell Survey Town of Jasper

NAME(S) IN WHICH ASSESSED: RNCLK, Inc.

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

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CERTIFICATE NO.: 589 Issued May 26, 2005

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Parcel No. 6287-000 Section 6 Township 1N Range 14E W/2 of Lot 5 & Lot 6 Blk 83 ORB 449-307 Caldwell Survey Town of Jasper

NAME(S) IN WHICH ASSESSED: RNCLK, Inc.

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

Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the South Front Door of the Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 9, 2012.

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<p>2012 CHEVY Silverado REG CAB</p>  <p>WITH TRADE-IN BONUS: \$16,988*</p> <p>\$17,988</p>	<p>2012 CHEVY Silverado LS EXT CAB</p>  <p>WITH TRADE-IN BONUS: \$22,988*</p> <p>\$23,988</p>	<p>2012 CHEVY Silverado CREW CAB</p>  <p>WITH TRADE-IN BONUS: \$23,988*</p> <p>\$24,988</p>

TOTAL CONFIDENCE PRICING **Silverados \$1,000 Trade In Bonus Cash!**

<p>2012 CHEVY Tahoe</p>  <p>IN STOCK</p> <p>\$33,988</p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td>2006 SCION TC COUPE</td><td>\$7,000</td><td>2011 TOYOTA COROLLA LE, SEDAN</td><td>\$15,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2003 NISSAN FRONTIER XE, EXTENDED CAB</td><td>\$7,000</td><td>2007 NISSAN PATHFINDER S, SUV</td><td>\$16,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2003 FORD MUSTANG V6, CONVERTIBLE</td><td>\$8,500</td><td>2007 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 LT, CREW CAB</td><td>\$16,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2006 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 SL, SEDAN</td><td>\$8,500</td><td>2010 TOYOTA CAMRY LE, SEDAN</td><td>\$16,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2005 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LS, SUV</td><td>\$9,000</td><td>2011 FORD ESCAPE XLT, SUV</td><td>\$16,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2008 NISSAN VERSA 1.8 S, HATCHBACK</td><td>\$10,500</td><td>2006 HUMMER H3 MAINSTREET, MINIVAN</td><td>\$17,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2011 KIA RIO LX, SEDAN</td><td>\$11,000</td><td>2011 DODGE GR CARAVAN MAINSTREET, MINIVAN</td><td>\$17,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2005 TOYOTA RAV4 COMPARE, SUV</td><td>\$11,000</td><td>2005 CADILLAC ESCALADE SUV, BLUE</td><td>\$17,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2011 NISSAN SENTRA 2.0 S, SEDAN</td><td>\$12,200</td><td>2012 CHEVY MALIBU LT, SEDAN, WHITE</td><td>\$18,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2011 MAZDA3 I, SEDAN</td><td>\$13,000</td><td>2011 DODGE CHARGER SE, SEDAN, V6, SILVER</td><td>\$20,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2005 NISSAN TITAN SE, CREW CAB</td><td>\$13,000</td><td>2009 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LS, SUV, V6, BLUE</td><td>\$21,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2007 DODGE RAM 1500 SLT, CREW CAB</td><td>\$13,000</td><td>2011 DODGE RAM 1500 SLT, PICKUP CREW CAB, V8</td><td>\$22,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2010 CHEVY MALIBU LT, SEDAN</td><td>\$14,000</td><td>2010 NISSAN MURANO S, SUV, V6, 21K MILES</td><td>\$22,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2010 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 2.5L, HATCHBACK</td><td>\$14,500</td><td>2010 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 V6, CREW CAB, RED</td><td>\$23,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2009 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 WORK TRUCK, REGULAR CAB</td><td>\$14,500</td><td>2011 DODGE DURANGO CREW, SUV, V6</td><td>\$23,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2011 KIA SOUL PLUS HATCHBACK</td><td>\$15,000</td><td>2012 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT, CREW CAB, V8</td><td>\$23,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2010 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S, SEDAN</td><td>\$15,000</td><td>2012 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LT, SUV, V6</td><td>\$25,500</td></tr> <tr><td>2011 HONDA CIVIC VP, SEDAN</td><td>\$15,500</td><td>2011 INFINITI G37 X, SEDAN</td><td>\$27,000</td></tr> </table>	2006 SCION TC COUPE	\$7,000	2011 TOYOTA COROLLA LE, SEDAN	\$15,500	2003 NISSAN FRONTIER XE, EXTENDED CAB	\$7,000	2007 NISSAN PATHFINDER S, SUV	\$16,000	2003 FORD MUSTANG V6, CONVERTIBLE	\$8,500	2007 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 LT, CREW CAB	\$16,000	2006 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 SL, SEDAN	\$8,500	2010 TOYOTA CAMRY LE, SEDAN	\$16,500	2005 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LS, SUV	\$9,000	2011 FORD ESCAPE XLT, SUV	\$16,500	2008 NISSAN VERSA 1.8 S, HATCHBACK	\$10,500	2006 HUMMER H3 MAINSTREET, MINIVAN	\$17,000	2011 KIA RIO LX, SEDAN	\$11,000	2011 DODGE GR CARAVAN MAINSTREET, MINIVAN	\$17,000	2005 TOYOTA RAV4 COMPARE, SUV	\$11,000	2005 CADILLAC ESCALADE SUV, BLUE	\$17,000	2011 NISSAN SENTRA 2.0 S, SEDAN	\$12,200	2012 CHEVY MALIBU LT, SEDAN, WHITE	\$18,000	2011 MAZDA3 I, SEDAN	\$13,000	2011 DODGE CHARGER SE, SEDAN, V6, SILVER	\$20,500	2005 NISSAN TITAN SE, CREW CAB	\$13,000	2009 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LS, SUV, V6, BLUE	\$21,000	2007 DODGE RAM 1500 SLT, CREW CAB	\$13,000	2011 DODGE RAM 1500 SLT, PICKUP CREW CAB, V8	\$22,000	2010 CHEVY MALIBU LT, SEDAN	\$14,000	2010 NISSAN MURANO S, SUV, V6, 21K MILES	\$22,500	2010 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 2.5L, HATCHBACK	\$14,500	2010 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 V6, CREW CAB, RED	\$23,000	2009 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 WORK TRUCK, REGULAR CAB	\$14,500	2011 DODGE DURANGO CREW, SUV, V6	\$23,000	2011 KIA SOUL PLUS HATCHBACK	\$15,000	2012 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT, CREW CAB, V8	\$23,500	2010 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S, SEDAN	\$15,000	2012 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LT, SUV, V6	\$25,500	2011 HONDA CIVIC VP, SEDAN	\$15,500	2011 INFINITI G37 X, SEDAN	\$27,000	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">  1986 MERCEDES BENZ SEDAN \$5,999 </td> <td style="text-align: center;">  2006 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER CONVERTIBLE \$6,999 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">  2009 LINCOLN MKZ SEDAN V6 \$19,999 </td> <td style="text-align: center;">  2011 DODGE RAM 1500 SLT CREWCAB \$19,999 </td> </tr> </table>	 1986 MERCEDES BENZ SEDAN \$5,999	 2006 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER CONVERTIBLE \$6,999	 2009 LINCOLN MKZ SEDAN V6 \$19,999	 2011 DODGE RAM 1500 SLT CREWCAB \$19,999
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