



Five win performance spots during Jam Final Audition at SOS Music Park - Page 8A

United Way Suwannee Valley recognized

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The Jasper News

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Today's Weather

High 83° F
Low 55° F



Precip: 10%

Partly cloudy. A stray afternoon thunderstorm is possible. High 83F. Winds NW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 10%. For up to the minute weather go to www.nflaonline.com.

142nd YEAR, NUMBER 20

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2013

2 SECTIONS 28 PAGES

50¢

Voters to decide .25 mil levy for schools Tuesday

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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On Tuesday, April 30, Hamilton County voters will head to the polls to decide whether or not to approve a four-year .25 mil levy for critical operating needs of the Hamilton County School District.

"For many years, school districts were authorized to levy 2.0 mills in taxes for capital outlay expenses," said Superintendent of

SEE VOTERS, PAGE 2A

Golf tournament set for Saturday

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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The Hamilton County Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Coalition (the Coalition) is getting prepped to swing into action "fore" the youth of the county with their 6th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament that will be held Saturday at Suwannee Valley Golf Course.

SEE GOLF, PAGE 2A

County denies use of voting building for food pantry

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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Use of the White Springs elections voting building for the



New Hope food pantry was denied by the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners at their April 16 meeting.

Richard Marshall from the town of White Springs had requested use of the county-owned building for

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 2A



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Residents swarm commission meeting to get dirt road paved



Residents have been waiting 20 years for this road to be paved. - Courtesy photo:

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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At the April 16 meeting of the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, Alberta Young, speaking on behalf of Erma Fields who was on the agenda but unable to attend, addressed the board with regard to road repairs and paving of NW 23rd Boulevard in Belleville.

Young said she has lived there for 20 years and she has been waiting 20 years for the dirt road to be paved. The road, she said, serves several residents, as well as a tomato farm and two churches. It also connects to other roads leading to Lake Park, Valdosta, Madison and Jasper.

"This is a road that should have been done a long time ago," said



Alberta Young pleads with the commissioners to pave NW 23rd Blvd. -Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

Young. "I don't understand why this road can't be paved."

Young is trying to get NW 23rd Blvd. moved to the top of the list of

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 2A

Humane Society donated pet food to eligible families



Humane Society board members Pame' deVroomen and Katie Rooney handing out a bag of dog food. Not pictured, Lori Johnson, president and photographer. Courtesy photos:

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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The Hamilton Humane Society, Inc. participated with Catholic Charities Feed-A-Family Outreach Program recently in Jasper by donating pet food to eligible families, according to Katie Rooney, public relations for the Humane Society.

"We were glad to give away 62 large bags of dog and cat food," said Rooney.

For more information about the Humane Society and its programs, call 386-

SEE HUMANE, PAGE 7A



Some of the pet food being distributed.

United Way celebrates 45

Awards banquet and annual meeting



PotashCorp of White Springs' Terry Baker, right, receives the Community Leadership Award from United Way of Suwannee Valley past president Mike McKee for the company's ongoing exemplary service to the community. - Photo: Rob Wolfe

PotashCorp recognized for generous contributions

Submitted

The United Way of Suwannee Valley had its 45th awards banquet and annual meeting at Florida Gateway College recently.

After the welcoming of those in attendance, past president Mike McKee spoke about the organization and its continued success.

"There are so many who contribute to the success of our United Way's community impact initiatives and to the fundraising campaign," said McKee. "It's important for us to recognize these individuals and ensure each one feels appreciated for their contribution to the overall success

SEE UNITED, PAGE 7A

White Springs Town council election



Tonja Brown



Rhett Bullard

Incumbent Tonja Brown keeps seat, Rhett Bullard wins the other

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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Joining Richard Marshall, Walter McKenzie and Helen Miller on the town council are incumbent Tonja Brown, who received 139 votes and Rhett Bullard, who received 172 votes. The third candidate Joe Griffin received 53 votes and was not elected.

There were two seats up for grabs with three opponents running for office; incumbent Tonja Brown, Rhett Bullard and Joe Griffin. Dennis Price, whose term was up, declined to run for re-election.

Town clerk Shirley Heath stated by phone, "We received 199 ballots. It was the most votes we've ever had."

Some voters only voted for one candidate, while others voted for two, Heath said.

Congratulations to the winners.



Residents swarm commission meeting to get dirt road paved

Continued From Page 1A

roads that need paving in the county. When she learned that nearby CR 143, which is already paved, is on this year's list of roads to be repaved by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), she made a telephone call.

Young said she spoke to Jordan Green and Bill Henderson from FDOT and they told her she had to speak to her county commissioner, Beth Burnam, and so she did.

Young explained that it is costing the taxpayers on 23rd Blvd. money because they have to resort to an alternate route to gain access to Interstate 75. Additionally, she said residents who live there are having major issues with damage to their cars because the road is so bad.

"I had a Cavalier," Young said. "It tore up my whole dashboard. It

broke it to pieces."

She said even though the road is being graded, it hasn't helped. She also said the road has been surveyed about five times already in years past, and it got everyone's hopes up that the road was about to be paved. It never happened, though.

Commission Chair Randy Ogburn explained to Young that CR 143 is funded under a different program than NW 23rd Blvd.

"I was on the board when that road was placed on the five-year road plan," said Ogburn.

Ogburn said he had a road in his district that was also on the plan and it has been 14 years and the road still isn't paved.

Burnam interjected that she had spoken to FDOT and that NW 23rd Blvd. was being placed

in the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) to be paved.

County Clerk Greg Godwin said, "For years SCOP would not address a dirt road. That's the difference in the issue."

"Two years ago you could start doing dirt roads," said County Engineer Greg Bailey.

Burnam said FDOT told her if the board could work out the legalities and get homeowners to sign off on the rights of way and easements, then NW 23rd Blvd. could be swapped out on the list and be placed above CR 143 on their five-year road plan.

Ogburn said before SCOP allowed dirt roads two years ago, the county simply didn't have the money to pave the road. Additionally, Ogburn said, the state is the one who prioritizes the roads on their five-year road plan list.

Young said she was told by FDOT that all that needed to be done

was to have the county commissioners approve moving NW 23rd Blvd. to the top of the list.

Young reiterated, "There's no reason for 23rd not to be done when you got already a paved road over there on CR 143 that's been paved and there's nothing wrong with it that I can see. They already have a paved road. We don't have one. We're tearing up our cars and spending a lot on gas going around and trying to get to where we have to go."

Young said there are no grocery stores in Belleville, so they have to go to Valdosta or Madison.

"It would serve a purpose for a lot of people down there," said Young.

Commissioner Josh Smith said he didn't have an issue with swapping out CR 143 with 23rd Blvd., but as Og-

burn said, FDOT is the one who prioritizes the list.

It was suggested by Burnam to have Greene from FDOT come to the next board meeting so that their questions could be answered.

Young asked all those in the audience who live on 23rd Blvd. to stand up and they all agreed that granting right of way deeds to have the road paved was not an issue.

"All I wanted you to see is that the voters are not going to take no for an answer with this situation because it's been too long," said Young. "It's not fair to us."

One resident said he had to trade his car in for an SUV so that he could have more clearance underneath the vehicle to avoid getting stuck in the mud.

Commissioner Buster Oxendine estimated a rough guess of 12

months for work to begin on the road once it is approved to be moved to the top of the list of priorities.

"It's just part of the process," said Oxendine. "I don't want you to leave here with the assumption that we can start next month because it won't happen. There's nothing we can do as a board."

Bailey explained that FDOT's fiscal year begins July 1 and it probably wouldn't be until September before any funds are released.

Ogburn directed McCormick to begin getting the right of way paperwork ready and that County Coordinator Danny Johnson would contact Greene from FDOT and ask him to be at the May 7 commission meeting.

"If he's not able to be here, we'll ask him to send a letter," said Ogburn.

Voters to decide .25 mil levy for schools Tuesday

Continued From Page 1A

Schools Thomas Moffses. "In 2008-09, the legislature changed the amount that could be levied for such expenses, reducing the capital outlay millage to a maximum of 1.75 mills."

In 2009-10, the legislature again made another change, Moffses explained, which authorized school districts to use .25 mil of the 1.75 mills for critical operating needs purposes, subject to a super majority

vote by the local school boards. The total levy was still less than the 2.0 mills that had been allowed in prior years, he added.

The Hamilton County school district, Moffses said, approved the .25 mil to help offset the school system's budget cuts of about \$1.5 million. The next year school districts were required to get the voters' approval to continue the levy and voters approved it for three years. That three-year ap-

proval period ends June 30, 2013. Without the continuation of the .25 mil levy, Moffses said, the district will lose about \$200,000 in funding as of July 1, 2013.

"We are asking that voters again approve the .25 mil levy on Tuesday, April 30," said Moffses. "Approval of this levy will not represent an increase in what residents pay in millage; it will allow only a continuation of what has been levied over the past four years."

Golf tournament set for Apr. 26

Continued From Page 1A

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. There will be door prizes and lunch will be provided.

The Coalition began as an advisory council to the Hamilton County Safe and Drug Free Schools program in the early 1900s, and then evolved into a "grassroots" coalition in 2003.

Their mission is to reduce substance abuse among youth and adults by addressing factors in the community that serve to increase risk of substance abuse. Grace McDonald currently serves as project director for the Coalition.

The Coalition urges the community to come out and have a great time at the golf tournament and at the same

time you will be doing your part to help the youth in the county become "our future leaders."

For more information about the golf tournament contact Coalition member Laura Dees at the Supervisor of Elections office, Grace McDonald at 386-792-9388 or any Coalition member.



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County denies use of voting building for food pantry

Continued From Page 1A

his food pantry ministry and, as requested by the board, he had secured a \$1 million insurance policy naming the county as additional insured.

Marshall was given tentative verbal approval by the commissioners for use of the building on April 2, but was advised that County Attorney John McCormick would review the insurance documents and then check with the county's insurance agency to confirm whether or not they would allow the food pantry at the site. The matter was placed on the April 16 meeting agenda.

At that meeting, Commission Chair Randy Ogburn read aloud a letter from their insurance agent Mr. Whitaker of Harrell Insurance.

One paragraph in the letter stated, "Please be advised that this is possible under the following conditions. No perishable food items distributed or stored in this building."

The letter also stated that it was the insurance company's understanding that the building was used previously as a food bank, however the county was never informed or had any knowledge of it.

"This is a substantial variation from what we now cover it for," Ogburn read from the letter.

There was some con-

fusion at first as the board did not remember that Marshall had already secured the required insurance and had given the documents to McCormick on April 2.

Then Ogburn reiterated the paragraph about not storing perishables in the building.

Marshall, after realizing the limitation stipulated in the letter, stated, "Now, that would be a problem, wouldn't it?"

Marshall then argued that even canned goods are perishable because they have expiration dates. The building, Marshall said, was used as the H.O.P.E food bank under the auspices of the town of White Springs last year with Marshall as director, and Catholic Charities used it for many years prior. Marshall said there was an employee of Catholic Charities who worked at the building, they paid electricity and rent, and they distributed food out of the building.

"It's been a while, but probably 10 years back," said Marshall. "The shelves that I used (inside the building) were already there and labeled from USDA from previous years."

Marshall clarified when Catholic Charities used the building it was not like the mobile food pantry truck that they now use. Further efforts from Marshall to convince the board that his food pantry would only

store food overnight and distribute it the following day, and the fact he needed space to hold board meetings, as well as a place to store emergency foods were futile. Currently, he is using space at his church for his food ministry and he only has a small refrigerator for storage.

In the end, Ogburn told Marshall that because the county's insurance won't cover perishable foods in the building, his request was denied.

Marshall said he would still like the county to utilize his services should the need ever arise in times of emergency or natural disasters.

"We will be set up to mobilize," said Marshall. "We will assist in any area of the county that we can. We want to do that for you with the volunteers that we have."

"We appreciate it," said Ogburn.

Ogburn also said he would work with the attorneys and come up with something to assist Marshall.

Meanwhile, the town of White Springs held a special called meeting on Thursday, April 11, five days prior to the county commission meeting, to consider possible action to allow Catholic Charities Feed-A-Family Mobile Outreach to service the town. The vote was 5-0 for approval, according to Mayor Helen Miller.

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Boxes to Marines bring thanks



Packing boxes for Marines at the VFW are: front row (L to R): Evelyn Mathis, Lanie Crosby, and Elizabeth Coleman. Back row: Billy Jackson and Winston Crosby.

Boxes for Marines that were packed in March at the monthly VFW meeting resulted in the receipt of several notes of thanks.

Lamar Royals, Commander of VFW Post 8095 stated, "We don't send the boxes expecting to be thanked; we send them to show how much we support our military and the job they are doing."

The 53 boxes were mailed to the Sergeant Major of the II Marine Expeditionary Force, who is based at Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan. He passed them out to the chaplain for distribution.

Most of the Marines are a long way from a base camp. They are in teams of 20, living and working with their Afghani counterparts.

Upon being e-mailed that the boxes had been shipped, SGT MAJ Oldenburg responded, "Thanks again for all that you do for the deployed Marines, sailors and soldiers. As you know, it really means a lot. We truly appreciate the support and energy you and your organization put into sending boxes to the deployed service members."

A letter was received from a female lance corporal with the 2nd Law En-

forcement Battalion.

She wrote, "Your letter brightened up my day. I enjoyed the colors; it is brown and colorless here. It means a lot to us that we have so much support at home. The care packages boost the morale of everyone. We greatly appreciate the thoughts and prayers. Semper Fidelis!"

A letter from the chaplain of the 87thCSSB addressed to members of New Hope Baptist Church read, "I will personally like to say thank you! Thank you for your support and contribution to us while we are away from home. We are all so grateful for your prayers, the drawings, the cards, and donations. It makes the life of our soldiers easier and is a morale booster. We so greatly appreciate you!"

Royals said, "We don't expect thanks because, after all, these young Marines are constantly busy. When we do get a thank-you note, it's the icing on the cake. We are the ones who are getting the thanks, but these boxes are possible only because of the generosity of the churches and individuals who contribute the items we send. They deserve the thanks."

United Way Suwannee Valley recognized



Rita Dopp (left) accepts her proclamation from mayor Helen Miller. -Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

By Joyce Marie Taylor

The town of White Springs proclaimed April 9, 2013 as the Mayor's Day of Recognition for National Service at their town council meeting on April 9.

The proclamation states that the nation's mayors are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to address city challenges.

Many volunteers in White Springs donate their time and services toward the H.O.P.E. after school and summer program, the H.O.P.E. fuel bank, the

special events committee, the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park Citizen Support Organization, United Way of Suwannee Valley/Best Neighborhoods, the University of Florida Department of Landscape Architecture, as well as many others.

Executive Director Rita Dopp of United Way of Suwannee Valley was on hand to accept her proclamation at the meeting. Miller explained that United Way donated school backpacks for White Springs students last year and that they plan to donate more backpacks for their summer program this year.

Norris Notes

By Lillian Norris

First, let me thank everyone for your patience in helping me get back to work, the staff of the paper, and for you to ask about my column. Hope things are getting back to work and we will be back in business.

Sorry about the rainy weather for the Relay for Life last week, they were getting set up well before the rains came. I went by for a few minutes, then Larry Cail saw that I got home safely and not too wet. Later learned that they closed earlier due to the weather, but felt it was a worthwhile event, do not know the results as yet but it may appear elsewhere in the paper. Thanks to all who participated in any way and know that your efforts will help to further the work of the people who are striving to aid those who need services of the American Cancer Society, we only need to talk with families who have been affected, and who hasn't in some way been affected, to know of the services needed when faced with cancer.

Alice Jones spent Saturday of last week

in Gainesville to help great-granddaughter (and of course we do mean great), Hayden McCulley, daughter of Colby and Heather McCulley, celebrate her second birthday. Hayden's grandmother (Alice's daughter Joni) came for Georgia to help with the celebration. Other relatives and friends of Hayden's joined in the celebration at the home in Gainesville.

My son, Dr. Ben, daughter Marybeth Windham, and I traveled to South Carolina last week to attend the funeral of my sister-in-law, Mary Norris Carter, the last sister of my husband, Dr. Wade. One brother, John, Lake City survives. We had planned to go for an overnight visit, instead attended her funeral and visited with the family, had just received notification of plans for the family reunion to be held in South Carolina in July.

Mary and her family have visited with us a number of times, returning to Jasper with us following the family reunions in July in S.C.

Thanks again to Larry Cail for the very informative presentation of the work the Kiwanis Club is doing with the Key Club at Hamilton County High School, what a great program for the young

people at the School. And speaking of the School, hope the FCAT went well last week, things were quiet at Central, and now events are happening, getting ready for the end of school.

Our thoughts and prayers of course are with those affected (and we are all affected in some way) by the events of the past week, a tragic ending to a very special occasion, the race is such a very important occasion in the lives of those who participate, as they are to everyone, from locals all the way to the top.

This week I am working from the home of the Ben Norris family and appreciate the opportunity, and to all who have helped make this possible for me, hope to get re-settled in the near future, so PLEASE be in touch, can't do it without you and your news, and what may not seem important to you, it is important to let people know what is happening with you.

If you have anything you can share, good news, or needs for others in your family, or for friends, let me hear from you. Just realized I do not have email right now, but my telephone is still working, 386-792-2151, hope to hear from you soon.

Homecoming Day at New Harmony Methodist Church

Please join us at New Harmony United Methodist Church located at 19983 160th St., Live Oak, Florida, on Sunday, May 5, at 9:30 a.m. for our Homecoming Day.

The speaker will be our former pastor Rev. Bill Peterson. There will be congregational singing and special mu-

sic by the gospel group Southern Joy. Lunch will follow the service in the fellowship hall of the church.

If you have any stories about the church you would like to share with everyone, please call 386-776-1806 and leave a message or e-mail it to: newharmonyumc@gmail.com.

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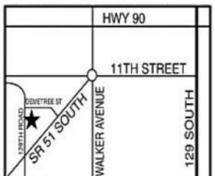
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OPINION

Academic cesspools

Over the past 10 years, I have written columns variously titled "Academic Cesspools," "Academic Dishonesty," "The Shame of Higher Education," "Academic Rot" and "Indoctrination of Our Youth." Therefore, I was not surprised by David Feith's April 5th Wall Street Journal article, "The Golf Shot Heard Round the Academic World." In it, Feith tells of a golf course conversation between Barry Mills, the president of Bowdoin College, in Brunswick, Maine, and philanthropist Thomas Klingenstein. Klingenstein voiced disapproval of campus celebration of diversity and ethnic differences while there's "not enough celebration of our common American identity."

Because Klingenstein wouldn't help finance the college's diversity craze, Mills insinuated, in remarks to the student body, that Klingenstein is a

racist. Mills also told students: "We must be willing to entertain diverse perspectives throughout our community. ... Diversity of ideas at all levels of the college is crucial for our credibility and for our educational mission."

Klingenstein decided to check out Mills' commitment to diverse perspectives by commissioning the National Association of Scholars to examine Bowdoin's intellectual diversity, rigorous academics and civic identity. Its report -- "What Does Bowdoin Teach?" -- isn't pretty. There are "no curricular requirements that center on the American founding or the history of the nation." Even history majors aren't required to take a single course in American history. In the history department, no course is devoted to American political, military, diplomatic or intellectual history; the only ones available are organized around some aspect of race, class, gender or sexuality.

Some of the 37 seminars designated for freshmen are "Affirmative Action and U.S. Society," "Fictions of Freedom," "Racism," "Queer Gardens," "Sexual Life of Colonialism" and "Modern Western Prostitutes." As for political diversity, the report estimates that "four or five out of approximately 182 full-time faculty members might be described as politically conservative." During the 2012 presidential campaign, 100 percent of faculty donations went to President Barack Obama. Despite political bias and mediocrity, in 2012, Bowdoin was ranked sixth among the nation's



A MINORITY VIEW
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BY WALTER WILLIAMS

liberal arts colleges in U.S. News & World Report and was ranked 14th on Forbes magazine's list of America's top colleges. That ought to tell us how much faith should be put in

college rankings. I applaud Klingenstein for not making a contribution to a college agenda that is so common today. Wealthy donors are generous but tend to be lazy and uninformed in their giving. They give large sums of money that winds up supporting college agendas that are contemptuous of donors' values, such as enlightened racism, anti-capitalism and Marxism. A rough rule of thumb to discover modern-day racism is to search a college's website to see whether it has vice presidents or deans of diversity and diversity programs. If so, keep your money.

Recent evidence has emerged that some colleges have become bold enough to hire former terrorists to teach and possibly indoctrinate our young people. That's the case with Columbia University in the hiring of convicted Weather Underground terrorist Kathy Boudin, who spent 22 years in prison for the murder of two

policemen and a Brink's guard. She now holds a professorship at Columbia's School of Social Work. Her Weather Underground comrade William Ayers is a professor of education on the faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Unrepentant, in the wake of 9/11, Ayers told us: "I don't regret setting bombs. I feel we didn't do enough." Bernardine Dohrn, his wife, is a professor at Northwestern University School of Law. Her stated mission is to overthrow capitalism. Ayers and Dohrn, as well as the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, are people who hate our nation and are longtime associates of President Obama's. That might help in explaining our president's vision.

What we see on college campuses represents a dereliction of duty by boards of trustees, which bear the ultimate responsibility. Wealthy donors who care about the fraud of higher education should recognize that there's nothing like the sound of pocketbooks snapping shut to open the closed minds of college administrators.

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

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Letter to the editor and Article Policy

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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, P.O. Box 370, Live Oak, FL 32064 or FAX it to: 386-364-5578.

GUEST COLUMN

The therapy of writing a column

Dwain Walden
The Moultrie Observer

Routinely someone will say that they don't think I'm old enough to write about some of the things that I discuss in my columns. Well thank you for that compliment.

And also I'm asked if much of the stuff I've written about actually happened or did I just make it up. Well, if you've got time I will take the crosscut saw down from over my fireplace and show you how to use it. "Pull don't push!" And as a snack, we'll have some some meat on saltine crackers.

But then some readers will proclaim that we must have gone to different schools together. The exchanges are

mostly enjoyable.

To add to that enjoyment, I hear from people from all over the country and things that happened to me here in South Georgia may have also happened to someone in Ohio. You see outhouses and oak snakes were not limited geographically. And the only difference in a corn row in Nebraska and one in Georgia is the length.

I'm often asked where do the subjects for columns come from. Well, they are just out there. Daily experiences, observations, conversations, meditations, etc.

Some readers say they had the same thoughts but just couldn't put them

SEE THE THERAPY, PAGE 7A

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Obituaries

W. Jean Sparks
February 12, 1943
April 2, 2013

W Jean Sparks, age 70, Jasper, Fla. passed away Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at Haven Hospice in Lake City, Fla. following a lengthy illness. Jean was born in Crossville, Tennessee on February 12, 1943 to the late Ira and Edna Ross Burden. She worked in the restaurant business for most of her life. Jean loved the outdoors, working with her flowers, gardening and going fishing. The family moved to Hamilton County over 30 years from Bushnell, Fla.

Survivors include her husband, David Ameron of Jasper; three sons, Dale Collins, Jacksonville, Fla., Dwayne Collins and his wife Marsha of Jasper and William "Billy" Collins and his wife Gerry, also of Jasper; one daughter, Karen Sparks Whatley and her husband Charlie of Jasper; two brothers, Clyde Burden, of Virginia and David Burden of Tennessee; one sister, Carolyn Whittenburg of Tennessee; four grandchildren, Jessica, Sammy, Steven and Kayla; two great grandchildren, Jayme and Kase.

Per her wishes, Jean was cremated. Memorial services will be held at a later date.

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

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

Mildred E. McQuaig
March 2, 1929
March 1, 2013

Mildred E. McQuaig, resident of Jasper, Fla. passed away March 1, 2013 at Surrey Place Care Center, Live Oak, Fla. following an extended illness. Mildred, 83, was born March 2, 1929 in Lake Park, Ga. to Joseph E. Zipperer and Annie Lee Cone Zipperer. She was a housewife and homemaker. She loved gardening of any kind and acquired the reputation of having a "green thumb". She is preceded in death by her parents; two sons, Walter E. Nolen, Jr. and James W. Nolen. Cherishing memories: children, Lawrence Clyde Christie (Rachel), Milton, Fla., Carolyn A. Storie (Tom), Holley, NY., Shirley A. Frank, Jennings, Fla. and

Doris M. Gonzalez (Reynaldo); nine grandchildren; seventeen great-grandchildren.

Memorial service will be May 4th, 2013 at the Jennings Missionary Baptist Church located at 1294 Oak Street from 1-3 p.m.

Colton Lee McHaney
Aug. 6, 1990
April 16, 2013

Colton Lee McHaney also known as "My Little Buddy", age 22, of Lake Butler, Fla. passed away Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at his residence. Colton was born on Aug. 6, 1990 in Gainesville, Fla. His hobbies included fishing, playing on the computer, playing guitar and like every young man, he loved his truck. Colton was loved by everyone who knew him. He loved spending time and getting in trouble with Landon, James and Cooper. Colton was preceded in death by his great grandmother and grandmother whom he was very close to, Mary Mack and Debbie Conner. He was also predeceased by his grandfather, Ralph McHaney.

Survivors include his mother, Daquiri McHaney (Brad Rimes), Lake Butler; his father, Daryl Leon McHaney (Sue Bowen), White Springs, Fla.; one brother, Cooper Rimes, Lake Butler; grandparents, Betty and Harold Harless and Trent and Melinda Rimes.

Funeral services were held Friday, April 19, 2013 in the chapel of Harry T. Reid Funeral Home with Rev. Randy Ogburn officiating. Interment followed at Riverside Cemetery in White Springs, Fla.

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

James "Jimmy" MacArthur Dampier, Jr.
Sept. 12, 1962
April 20, 2013

James "Jimmy" MacArthur Dampier, Jr., age 50, of Jasper, Fla. passed away Saturday, April 20, 2013 at the Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville, Fla. following an illness of some time. Jimmy was born in Jasper, Fla. on Sept. 12, 1962. He served his country in the United States Air Force and was a retired auto mechanic.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia Lynn Keys Dampier of Jasper; his parents, James MacArthur "Mac"

Dampier and Mary Elizabeth "Libby" Walk, of Jasper; three brothers, Clay Goolsby (Valerie), Jennings, Fla.; Neal Wachob of the Carolina's and Nathan Wachob (Mary), Tallahassee, Fla.; several nieces and nephews also survive.

Memorial services were held Tuesday, April 23, 2013 in the chapel of Harry T. Reid Funeral Home, Jasper, FL. with Rev. Ralph Dillard officiating.

Per Jimmy's wishes he will be cremated.

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

Heart Matters

By Angie Land

Good fences make good neighbors! Whether barbed wire or white picket...a good fence can prevent a lot of conflict. By letting others know where your property begins and reminding you of where it ends, a fence is a great example of a healthy boundary. Boundaries, like a fence, make clear the area for which we are responsible and have the authority to make decisions. If this area is not plainly marked, we may cross the line onto someone else's property and try to take authority.

Even if our intentions are good, the property owner may not agree with or appreciate our efforts. Likewise, we won't usually welcome others who try to take responsibility or authority over our property without permission.

Relationships have very much the same need for clarification in order to work. Disagreements are inevitable in every relationship. In fact, struggles are necessary to allow both parties to work together to resolve conflict. When this occurs, it pictures a healthy relationship that



tionships that seem to be going nowhere: conflict becomes the routine and the same issues will be rehashed, but never resolved (picture neighbors without a fence dueling over a property line!) Major warning signs include: one person taking responsibility for the other's behavior, attitude or feelings (i.e. making excuses for bad behavior, depending on the other to "make you happy"), one or both trying to change the other, and treating each other with lack of respect.

The first step to attaining a healthy relationship is to realize that you and I can only make decisions and changes on our own property, and that taking responsibility or authority for someone else's property will likely cause us a high level of frustration and evoke resentment. In some cases, it may even allow them to continue a dangerous or irresponsible behavior. The Bible reminds us in Galatians 6:5 that "each one should carry his own load." Let this truth give us permission to take responsibility for our own life, attitude, and behavior and truly begin to live. At the same time, let's give those that we are in relationship this freedom as well.

Take inventory of any relationship that seems "stuck." Where do you need to reclaim ownership over your own property, and let others take responsibility for theirs...because our hearts really 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

Being filled with the spirit - Part 1

Hugh G. Sherrill
ems-hugh43@comcast.net

John 14:16,17,26 NKJ: "The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

Probably no doctrine in the Bible has been more misunderstood and more abused than the truth concerning the Holy Spirit of God and His ministry throughout the ages. Dr. M. R. DeHann wrote "Now the reason for the ignorance and abuse of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit are; first of all, lack of knowledge of the Word of God. The Bible, the Word of God, is the Spirit's own message inspired, and given by Him concerning the Lord Jesus Christ and concerning Himself. There is no other revelation concerning the Holy Spirit than that which is revealed between the covers of the Bible". He goes on to say "The second reason for ignorance concerning the Holy Spirit is a faulty translation of the original text into the English Bible. In many cases the Spirit is spoken of as "it" or "that" instead of "He" or "Him" or "Whom".

The Holy Spirit is called the Eternal Spirit, teaching us that He is not a created spirit, but, like the Father and the Son, always was from the beginning. So what does it mean "to be filled

with the Spirit?" The Evangelist E. J. Daniels once said "It is my honest conviction that not ten percent of the professing Christians of our day even know what the filling of the Holy Spirit is. Therefore they cannot obey the command for they do not know how."

There are far too few sermons and Bible studies today on the Holy Spirit. Satan loves this for he knows Christians are powerless without the filling of the Spirit of God. Being filled with the Spirit is not another Pentecost. Pentecost means fiftieth, and happened 50 days after the Resurrection and can never be repeated. It is not a second blessing, as some say.

When one accepts Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, they receive all the Holy Spirit they will ever get. The question is; "How much of you are you going to let the Holy Spirit use of you?" As someone once said, "every child of God has the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit does not have every child of God". Receiving the Holy Spirit only happens once for the believer and that's at Salvation. Being filled with the Spirit can happen many times. When one is filled with the Spirit, he gets all the junk out of his life and lets the Spirit move in. His actions, walk, speech is controlled by the Spirit and not by the flesh. The flesh knows not the things of God as verse 26 says; the Holy Spirit is the one who teaches us the things of God. Today too many put their hope for knowledge in the hands of man-made institutions. "Be ye filled with the Spirit."

Freedom is Here Use your words

By John Whittington

Romans 10:9-10 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. This passage puts

much emphasis on the word. In order to be saved you must not only believe in your heart, but you must declare, or profess that belief audibly. I understand that God can hear even the cry of our heart, in case someone is unable to speak. But for the rest there remains this command: Speak up! Use your mouth to confess

your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

The word has always been of utmost priority in the plan of God. In the beginning, God said, and creation came into being. "Let there be..." He said. And it was. The universe was formed at God's command ("...the words

SEE FREEDOM, PAGE 7A

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Freedom is Here - Use your words

Continued From Page 5A

were framed by the word of God..." - Hebrews 11:3). When the first man came on the scene, he was given authority to name God's creatures. Again the power of the word spoken was manifested.

Even when reaching out to fallen humanity, God chose to reveal Himself to us through the spoken and eventually the written word. Although people were writing down the passages that would be compiled into two Testaments, they were being carried along - inspired

by the Holy Spirit. Now, every time you pick up a Holy Bible, you hold in your hand God's revelation to us in human language! That's amazing!

Going back for a moment, if we can think in terms of before the beginning, the word already existed then. "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God" (John 1:1). Jesus, our Savior, is the word made flesh. Suddenly the importance of the word takes on new meaning!

We are called to speak out of our mouths confession for salvation,

praise to God, blessing to each other, witness to the world, and rebuke to our enemy! Our words, when repeating God's written word, backed by Jesus the living Word, empowered by the Holy Spirit, will impact the world around.

I encourage you to start speaking God's Word. Find out what the Bible says about a given situation and start saying that! Speak up! Use your mouth to confess your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Use your words!

Pastor John Whittington
www.lccmayo.com

The therapy of writing a column

Continued From Page 4A

down in words. That might be one of those right brain/left brain things. I'm not sure which side of the brain the writing part calls home, but it always seemed rather easy to me. On the other hand, whichever side algebra resided on apparently required a visa to enter.

Someone once noted that the difference between a violin and a fiddle is the person playing it. That logic might also apply to Southern fried chicken and Northern fried chicken. My guess is, the chicken couldn't tell the difference. More binds us than separates us.

Sometimes people call and say they have ideas that I should write about.

Just this week a fellow called to describe his frustration with trying to get through to a "real live human" while calling a home office. Been there, done that, wrote about that. In fact I once punched all the available numbers and

wound up talking to a cleaning lady. We had a nice conversation, and I was glad to know that everyone in that building had not been taken away by extraterrestrials.

Except for subtleties, I tend to stay away from political commentaries. To me they are too predictable and boring for the most part. Either the Democrats are all wrong and the Republicans are all right or vice versa. I'm willing to bet there are some good folks in both camps. And there's humor in both camps I've noticed.

I get kidded a lot about some of things I write about. When I learned to build fire by rubbing sticks together and then wrote about it, people sent me cigarette lighters and books of matches. So why do that when you can just flick a Bic? So I asked, why take guitar lessons when you can just turn on the radio? Why hit a little white ball with a stick when you can just walk up to the hole and drop it in? But not too surpris-

ingly, I've had a number of adults ask me to teach them how to build a friction fire with sticks. And I have.

Now chances of ever having to use such a skill as a matter of survival are incredibly slim. But then, the chances of most people every playing "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" on a flat top Martin are just about as remote. Yet the challenges are fun. And so is writing a personal column. I also find it's good therapy and cheaper than the other kind.

Something just hit me. I'm wondering if the right brain/left brain thing can be connected to being classified as liberal or conservative. Probably not. In that analysis it would probably be referred to as right brain/wrong brain, depending on one's perspective.

Dwain Walden is editor/publisher of The Moultrie Observer, 985-4545. Email: dwain.walden@gafnews.com.

United Way celebrates 45

Continued From Page 1A

achieved."

United Way of Suwannee Valley operates several community impact initiatives. Collectively, these initiatives resulted in United Way's receipt of \$625,490 and community agencies' receipt of \$456,070 for a total of \$1,081,560 of resources beyond the community fundraising campaign to enhance the level of human services available.

The most challenging community impact initiative this year has been the Tropical Storm Debby long-term recovery effort. PotashCorp of White Springs responded quickly by contributing \$100,000 to United Way for the long-term recovery effort and another \$100,000 to Catholic Charities, which operates the Florida Gateway Food Bank and provided food and water during the event.

PotashCorp also provided financial support to Florida Gateway College in their Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education programs.

"PotashCorp funds supported a vocational academy in Hamilton County High School which provides a nationally-recognized certified production technician certificate program worth 15 college credit hours," said McKee. "They also supported the Columbia High School's Robotics Club, another STEM function and PotashCorp recently contributed to five area high school FFA chapters to complete a scientific project on the value of plant nutrients."

Additional contributions were made to many of the community's non-profit agencies including Kiwanis Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, American Cancer Society, March of Dimes, Love INC and Christmas Dream Machine.

The company's philanthropy focused on STEM education and education technology to prepare students for the workforce at both the secondary and post secondary levels. It also focused on food outreach to the less fortunate in keeping with the company's goal to feed the world and to community programs with an emphasis on children's programs and serving those in need.

BEST program

Another inspiring community impact initiative has been the BEST Neighborhoods Grant. The BEST program, which stands for Build-Engage-Sustain-Transform (BEST), is based on "neighboring," a model concept of community engagement that uses volunteering as a

tool to facilitate positive community change.

For the grant period ending Sept. 2012, the initiative resulted in seven projects in Lake City, White Springs, Jennings, Jasper, Branford, Live Oak and Mayo.

Each community determined its own project designed to facilitate where residents directed efforts at assisting their fellow residents. This resulted in disaster preparedness kits for senior citizens in Jasper and Branford, weekend hunger backpacks for summer school students in Live Oak, back-to-school backpacks for Lake City and White Springs, a community flea market in Jennings, and the inclusion of a nutrition component in the Mayo back-to-school backpacks.

"Helen Brunson and I communicated with longtime United Way friend Cheryl Mae (Brunson) to assemble participants for a Community Conversation designed to brainstorm ideas for the six Suwannee County projects," said UW Executive Director Rita Dopp.

There emerged the idea of serving the neighborhoods on the Suwannee County School bus routes.

"I've never been so impressed with my fellow human beings as with this group to assist the students on their buses," said Dopp. "As though it's not enough to carry the heavy responsibility of ensuring these students' safety daily regardless of challenging weather or distracting behavior."

The idea was that bus drivers would conduct choral reading with primary students on board during wait times and to pair middle school students with primary students for tutoring. By the end of the school year, 80 percent of participating kindergarten and first grade bus riders will demonstrate mastery of grade level math facts and 100 percent of participating pre-k, kindergarten and first grade bus riders will participate in regular choral reading.

"We sought the participation of six bus drivers," said Dopp. "There are 12 who will read big books to pre-k, kindergartners and first graders during wait times."

The bus drivers implemented incentives for older participating students to help the younger ones. Older students teaching successfully one set of flash cards to a younger student would receive a point towards a pair of Suwannee High School Bulldog sunglasses. The younger students would earn a Bulldog sticker for recognition in mastering a set of cards. Teaching/learning 10

sets of cards will be rewarded with SHS Bulldog sunglasses for older students and scented pencils for the younger students. If the project is successful within the 12 buses, it will be tweaked and/or replicated for Branford High School and Branford Elementary School. The project has been dubbed the "Top Dogs" and already has 47 volunteers with 470 volunteer hours to report.

Challenger's Club

"It takes all of us giving and working together to keep our community strong," said Sue Tuell. "The Challenger's Club gives our United Way an opportunity to recognize our leadership donors whose households commit \$500 or more to the annual campaign."

This year's Challenger's Committee set a goal to contribute \$150,045 toward the overall campaign goal with the \$45 signifying the 45th year of UW of Suwannee Valley. There was an established goal of 225 CC members.

"This year, there are 200 CC members, 30 of which are new this year," said Tuell. "These members collectively contributed \$149,090 which is 99 percent of their goal and 25 percent of the overall community fundraising goal."

Campaigns

"As we have heard earlier, PotashCorp-White Springs supports our community in many ways, only one of which is the outstanding United Way campaign, organized and conducted by this employee campaign team," said Hillhouse. "The PotashCorp of White Springs employees raised \$86,527 which the corporation matched for a total of \$173,054."

Campaign contributions as a whole have increased over five percent from last year.

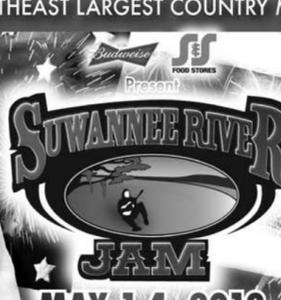
"Our campaign team has worked through another difficult campaign year," said Hillhouse. "These determined volunteers, together with our caring corporate citizens, raised \$551,500. This amount constitutes 91 percent of the \$600,000 goal."

Hillhouse said it was important to note that if there had not been the reduction resulting from the change in the Florida State Employees' Charitable Campaign, they would have exceeded their goal. Together with the grant funds of \$1,081,560, United Way's community impact total is \$1,633,060.

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Humane Society donated pet food to eligible families

Continued From Page 1A

938-4092 or check them out on Facebook or their website www.hamilton-humanesociety.net.

"While the Humane

Society is looking for a permanent home, we are being 'fostered' by North Florida PAWS at their offices in Jennings," said Rooney.

TABE tests

Monday - Thursday at 5 p.m. (by appointment): TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) at NFCC Testing Center (Bldg. #16), Madison. TABE is required for acceptance into vocational/technical programs. Photo ID required. Pre-registration & scheduling time & date are required. To register please call 850-973-9451.

Five win performance spots during Jam Final Audition at SOS Music Park

Just two weeks before the 2013 Suwannee River Jam at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park (SOSMP) May 1-4 in Live Oak, five amazing Florida entertainers have won a spot on the Jam stages. Winners at the April 13 Suwannee River Jam Audition Finals at the SOSMP were Emily Brooke (Wellington), Rion Paige (Jax), Crystal Black (Lake City/Trenton), JR Hernandez (Bell) and Kevin "Ski" Swenszkowski (Jax).

These terrific artists, along with seven other contestants, wowed the audience and the judges with their performances in the Music Hall, making it extremely difficult to select winners. Finally, judges selected the five main winners, but added in three Wild Card contestants in hopes the Jam can find a place for them to perform this year! The Wild Card winners are Brittney Lawrence (Jax), Jeremiah Ross (Live Oak) and Shelby Clark (Hampton). The audience gave their approval with thunderous applause and cheers.

Four of the main winners have performed at the Jam previously while Emily Brooke, JR Hernandez, Jeremiah Ross and Shelby Clark will all make their first trip to the Jam as performers! Talk about excitement.

Those chosen to perform will share the bill with Cheryl Crow, Florida Georgia Line, Rodney Atkins, Eli Young Band, Easton Corbin, Randy Houser, Aaron Tippin, LoCash Cowboys, Josh Thompson, Adam Sanders, Jared Ashley, Tobacco Rd Band, The Sweeney Family Band, Steel Bridge Band and Justin Case Band May 1-4 at the SOSMP.

Of the eight selected, all are teenagers except for two, Crystal Black and Kevin "Ski" Swenszkowski, and of course, they are just over the 20s mark.

Emily Brooke, 14, first performed at the SOSMP during the Colgate Country Showdown when she was just 10, singing and playing the guitar she had just learned to play. Now, she's going to the largest country music Jam in the South to perform! But that won't make Emily nervous, she's opened for many, many big country artists and frequently performs in Nashville. Not only is Emily an audition winner, she is tall, beautiful and extraordinarily talented as she sings, plays guitar and writes many of her songs.

Rion Paige, a tiny tornado with a vibrant personality and loads of talent, stirs up excitement the moment she takes the stage as she pulls the audience into her entertaining. Rion is only 12! But, her biggest birthday EVER will be this year when she turns 13 on May 3 AT THE JAM! Rion, with long curly hair and a voice meant for entertaining, also has opened for many country artists all over, has performed at the Jam and just owns the stage when she performs.

Crystal Black, a beautiful hair dresser who hails from Trenton but now lives in Lake City, was a winner last year in the auditions and was so excited to perform at the Jam! She performs all over Florida and has opened for that special country artist from her home town of Trenton, Easton Corbin! Crystal's dream is to be a country music artist in Nashville soon. She's been performing for many years and



Five win performance spots during Jam Final Audition at SOS Music Park.

loves nothing better than to take the stage and get the audience clapping and involved in her music!

JR Hernandez, a 17-year-old from Bell who just graduated from the Suwannee Hamilton Technical School of Auto Mechanics in Live Oak this month, is a quiet guy until he gets on stage. It's then you are amazed as you hear this deep, Josh Thompson type voice coming from JR with the smoothness of honey. He plays guitar, writes some of his music and knows country music like a Nashville native! He sang "Hey Pretty Girl" and "Folsom Prison Blues" in the first round, then wrapped up the beautiful musical package with a bow with "Arlington," sending shivers down everyone's arms as he touched the hearts of judges and audience as well with the patriotic song!

Kevin "Ski" Swenszkowski owns his own construction business in Jacksonville. "Ski" as many call him, took the stage, knocked the audience out of their seats with his music and mastery of the guitar with his first two songs. He entertains in night spots all over Jacksonville and is frequently asked to give up his job and perform full-time. So far he's said no, but that may change very soon. When Ski was called back as a finalist, Ski quietly told the audience his song, "I Will Never Give Up On You," was being dedicated to his dad who died just two days before the audition! Ski sang the emotional song after saying that his dad had inspired him during his lifetime. The audience response was dramatic!

Wild Card winners Brittney Lawrence, Jeremiah Ross and Shelby Clark are all seasoned performers. Brittney has been performing since she was very young, has won many contests, opened for many

artists and traveled to Nashville to perform. She has a fantastic voice range, stage presence and beauty to go with it. Jeremiah has true God-given musical ability and plays many instruments, writes his own music, has a voice that is just waiting for a record contract and owns the stage when performing. At 19, he's ready for the big-time! Shelby Clark plays various instruments including the guitar, fiddle and stand-up bass, has been the lead singer for a bluegrass band for more than six years and she's only 17! Shelby, home schooled, has almost completed her first two years of college and she hasn't graduated from high school yet! Looking like the girl next door, Shelby was a real audience pleaser during the auditions.

Other contestants performing were Cassidy Kinsman, Jamie Howard and Ken Walker. Steve Briscoe, who oversees the Jam Auditions and performances of the winners, said the talent was excellent, as good as it's been over the years, but because there was only room for a few to perform, those going home should know they did a fine job of performing.

If you would like to make reservations for RV parking, cabins, primitive camping or camper parking for the SOSMP or to purchase tickets for the Suwannee River Jam, please call 386-364-1683, email spirit@musicliveshere.com or go to www.musicliveshere.com.

The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park is located at 3076 95th Drive, Live Oak, 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!

Girls Just Want To Have Fun!

THOMASVILLE
TIMES-ENTERPRISE
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Saturday May 4th
9AM-4PM

THOMASVILLE EXCHANGE CLUB
FAIRGROUNDS EXHIBITION BUILDINGS

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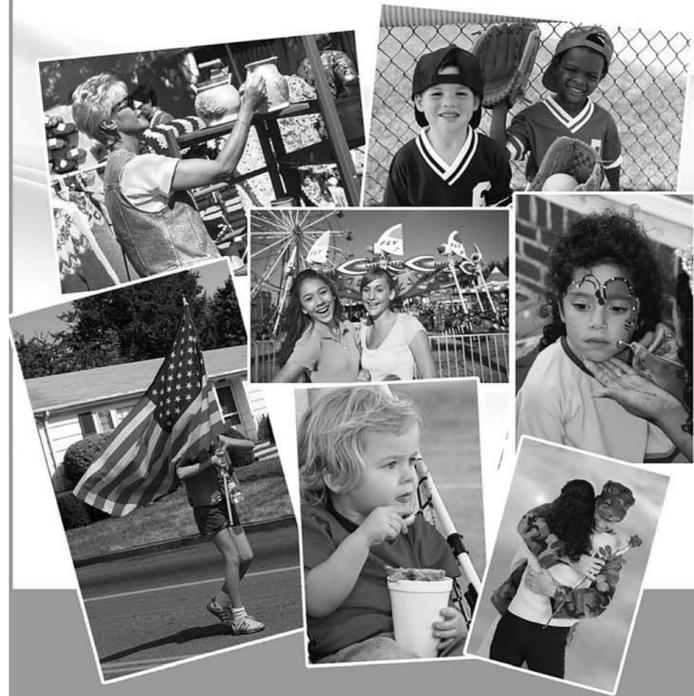
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796804

Hamilton County Riding Club

is pleased to announce the 41st Rodeo

Rodeo Queen 2012



Hannah Godwin
2012 Miss Rodeo



Anna Barbee
2012 Jr. Miss Rodeo

Miss Rodeo Queen Contestant 2013



Katey Godwin
Daughter of Gary & Gimmy Godwin
Sponsored by Chandler Farms

Jr. Miss Rodeo 2013



Taylor Smith
Daughter of Tommy and Dana Smith
Sponsored by Dana's Salon



Olivia Cohen
Daughter of Seth & Kari Cohen
Sponsored by Larry & Michelle Top and Shaina Lopes



Ariana Gomez
Daughter of Feliz & Christina Gomez
Sponsored by Joe & Debbie Roskey

Little Miss Rodeo 2013



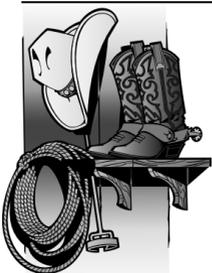
Gracie Ball
Daughter of Charlie & Deana Ball
Sponsored by Great Grandmother Elizabeth Deas



Riley Welch
Daughter of Allen & Susan Welch
Sponsored by Will's Auto & Repair



Jordenn Waters
Daughter of Matt Waters & Ashley Marshall
Sponsored by Home Town Care



HCRC presents 2013

RODEO WEEK



All Around Cowboy Competition

April 27th, 2013, Saturday will Kick Off our Rodeo Week with the second All Around Cowboy Competition. Local FFA will be selling dinners. Begins at 6pm.

Rodeo Queen Competition

April 29th, 2013, Monday Night is the Rodeo Queen Competition, Local FFA will be selling BBQ Dinners. The Queen contest begins at 6pm.

Goat Dressing & Stick Horse Barrel Racing

April 30th, 2013, Tuesday will be the Goat Dressing Competition for all ages and Stick Horse Barrel Race for 8 and Under. Don't forget your camera's! Begins at 7pm

Cowboy Church

May 1st, 2013, Wednesday evening Corinth Baptist Church will be hosting Cowboy Church in the Hog Barn. Lots of great fellowship and music! A fantastic dinner will be served. Begins at 6pm.

Parade & Cowboy Up

May 2nd, 2013, Thursday Parade begins after school at 5pm This years parade theme is "Classic Cowboys" Most creative float award to be given at start of parade. If interested contact awether1@go.nfcc.edu. Come out to the City Park and have some fun! Live Bands featuring Natalie Nichole Green "A Little Bit More," dancing, Games, Car Show, Face Painting, Rock wall, Bungee Jumping, Mechanical Bull, Pony Rides, Arts & Crafts Vendors, Food Vendors with hamburgers, hotdogs, BBQ, popcorn, cotton candy and much more. If you'd like to have a booth for your crafts, clubs, church group etc contact Sandy Beal at sandy.beal@live.com or 386-623-7885. Booths Still Available.

Suwannee River Iron Works Custom Made Furniture

41st Annual Rodeo

May 3rd and May 4th, 2013, Friday & Saturday Rodeo gates open at 6pm.

All Around Cowboy Competition of HCRC



Our 2012 AAC was Austin King

My name is Austin King, I am the 2012 All Around Cowboy for the Hamilton County Riding Club. I am seventeen years old. I have been riding since I was a little kid. I've rode all around Florida, from competition drill in Tampa, to riding barrels in Suwannee, and to riding rodeo's here in Jasper since I was seven. I've had some tremendous people help me through the years; Renee Daigle, Cindy Eatmon, Carolee and Doodle Tucker, and Richie McCoy, just to name a small few. I have to say that the HCRC is an outstanding riding club. I have to give my mom and dad a big thank you for all they do. If it wasn't for them, I probably wouldn't be riding. I also have to say thank you to Mr. Doodle Tucker and Mrs. Carolee Tucker for doing all they can for the All Around Cowboy Competition.



Branden Tucker

16 yr old son of Eddie and Carolee Tucker of Jasper FL. He has been a member of the HCRC since 2009, FFA, Born to Ride Competition Drill Team, and the Denim & Dust Saddle Club. Branden attends Home School, HCHS, and Harvest Fellowship Church. His favorite class is Ag with Mr. Clayton. He loves trail riding and team penning, hunting, fishing, and 4Wheeling with his friends. He is riding his 6 year old mare Tootie Lena. He plans to graduate in 2015 and become a Florida Fish and Wildlife Officer.



Elijah Cohen

The 10 yr son of Seth and Kari Cohen of Jasper FL. He attends North Hamilton Elementary school. He enjoys riding Rodeo, trail riding and barrel racing. He especially enjoys the 4H trips and summer camp outs with his horses. He rides a bunch of different horses because his mom rehabs horses, so he never knows who he will be using, this has made him a versatile young rider. His favorite horse to ride is Doc. Doc is an old rescue that came in 3 years ago. He was very underweight and has no back teeth. Luckily on a special diet he is back to a healthy weight. Eli loves to ride Doc, but because Doc is 34 years old he can't ride him too long or hard so he also rides a big Bay Mustang named Cassie. Doc is an old Ranch horse he is an American Quarter horse. Elijah is an outgoing young man who loves to be friends with anyone. He can't wait to ride in this years Rodeo!



Clyde Tucker

14 yr old son of Eddie and Carolee Tucker of Jasper FL. He has been a member of the HCRC since 2009, Born to Ride Competition Drill Team and Denim & Dust Saddle Club. Clyde attends Home School and Harvest Fellowship Church. He loves Fishing, hunting, 4wheeling and riding his new horse Gator. He plans to attend U of FL and become an Engineer and Ferrier. Clyde would like to give a Big Thank You to the H.C.R.C for hosting the All Around Cowboy Competition.

Genoa Volunteer Fire Dept. Annual business meeting

Genoa Volunteer Fire Department located at SE 137 Blvd., White Springs, Fla., will be holding their annual business meeting at 7 p.m. on May 6, 2013.

National Day of Prayer

Live Oak City Hall

Thursday, May 2, is the National Day of Prayer. Area churches will be gathering on the steps of Live Oak City Hall for a time of prayer beginning at 12:15 p.m. Prayers will be offered

for the needs of our nation and community. Seating will not be provided. Lawn chairs are welcome. For more information, contact the Rev. Randy Wilding at 386-362-2323.

JAPD and FHP get IRC funds from county

By Joyce Marie Taylor

On April 2, the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners granted disbursement of IRC funds to the Jasper Police Department and the Florida Highway Pa-

trol.

At the March 19 county commission meeting Sergeant Matthew Morgan and Chief Jeff McGuire of the Jasper Police Department asked the commissioners for a one-time amount of \$20,717 from the Intergovernmental Radio Communications (IRC) Fund to update their computer system, which is over 10 years old and will no longer be functional come January, 2014.

Additionally, the Florida Highway Patrol also requested \$11,000 and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office had requested funds be reserved for them to upgrade their dispatch system.

With only 47,188.36 available in the IRC fund, the board had to make a decision how to disburse the monies. After discussion on proper use of the funds, the

board asked County Attorney John McCormick to research and report back to the board on April 2. His legal opinion was that it was okay to use the funds for both of the requests.

By granting both requests from JAPD and FHP, the balance in the fund is a little over \$16,000. Commission Chair Randy Ogburn reminded the board that they may have to put some money into the IRC fund from their general revenue account if the IRC fund isn't replenished back up to at least the \$40 grand the Sheriff's Office will need should their radio dispatch console goes down.

A motion was made and seconded to disburse the IRC funds for JAPD and FHP and the board approved by a vote of 4-1. Commissioner Josh Smith voted against.

NATIONAL TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

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May 3-5, 2013

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General Admission:
\$10 for 12 & over



Meet the

Swamp pEOPLE

Meet Junior, Willie & Teresa Edwards
Saturday May 4th

For more event details contact:

National Trappers Association: 1-866-680-TRAP(8727) toll free

Bill Crowder: 850-973-4830 or wildbillc40@gmail.com

Steve MacKellar: 239-699-5418 or steve.allscrap@yahoo.com

Carol Lokken: 941-475-1206 or beachbum5253@comcast.net

www.nationaltrappers.com or www.floridatrappers.org

The Hamilton County Republicans passed the following Resolution in their meeting on April 18, 2013:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution states that "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed";

WHEREAS, Article VI of the United States Constitution requires that members of Congress be bound by oath or affirmation to uphold and defend the Constitution;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights is to restrict the powers of the federal government and to protect the unalienable Rights of the people, among those rights being Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness;

WHEREAS, it is clearly stated that the purpose of the Second Amendment is to ensure a free state against tyranny;

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment is clear in its text that private ownership of firearms is not in reference to hunting, target shooting, or sportsmanship;

WHEREAS, there have been recent tragic shootings in Aurora, Colorado, Sandy Hill, Connecticut, Big Bear Lake, California, and others; we are saddened by these tragedies, but investigations are still ongoing;

WHEREAS, these tragic events have been exploited for political purposes, and many have called for either gun confiscation or tighter restrictions in direct violation of the Constitution;

WHEREAS, bills have been filed in the Florida Legislature (HB 97 & HB 993) which could adversely impact Floridians' Second Amendment rights;

WHEREAS, the "New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act" passed in New York on January 14, 2013, substantially prohibits the possession of firearms;

WHEREAS, Colorado recently passed a bill (HB 1224) that will outlaw magazines that hold more than 15 rounds of ammunition;

WHEREAS, legislation proposed in California will, if passed, call for a ban and confiscation of all semi-automatic weapons and criminalize the ownership of greater than 500 rounds of ammunition;

WHEREAS, bills have been proposed and/or scheduled for a vote in Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, New Jersey, Maryland, Hawaii, Delaware, Connecticut, and Washington that will further restrict citizens' gun rights;

WHEREAS, several retailers are stopping sales of firearms as a result of fear and political correctness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Hamilton County Executive Committee and the Hamilton County Republican Party petition U.S. Senators Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson, U.S. Representative Ted Yoho, and members of the Florida Legislature to take any and all necessary steps to prevent any further infringement on Americans' Second Amendment rights and the right to bear arms, including ammunition and ammunition feeding devices (magazines.)

804262

Volunteers/Donations Needed

Do you have a skill or hobby you would like to share with the elderly of Hamilton County? We are in need of volunteers at the Senior Center in Jasper. Can you spare a few hours a week teaching arts & crafts, low impact exercises, computer classes, blood pressure checks, or help by being a game leader? We are also in need of arts & crafts supplies, board games and other recreational items. Please contact Linda Kramer at 792-1136 for more information.

Donate your old cars

People may be thinking of donating their old cars as part of a clean up. The Boys and Girls Clubs would be happy to take their old cars. People donating to the Clubs will not only get rid of the unwanted car but will be contributing to the clubs. Boys and Girls Clubs really work with kids in most communities and offer a safe place for them. If you wish to donate a car, call 800-246-0493. Not only will donors be helping the kids, they will be able to take sale price as a contribution for income tax purposes.

Local NFCC students honored for outstanding leadership



NFCC President John Grosskopf with PTK All-Florida Academic Team Members (l-r) Selena Phillips and Andrew Land. - Courtesy Photo

North Florida Community College students were honored during the college's annual Leadership Awards ceremony held April 9 at the NFCC Student Center. Students from various clubs and organizations received recognition for outstanding student achievement and leadership outside of the classroom during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Clubs and organizations participating in this year's leadership event were Art Club, Business Club, Phi Theta Kappa, Save Our Animal Resources (S.O.A.R.), Sentinel Service Corp, Sentinel Upstage Players and Student Government Association. Students were recognized for membership, service and leadership with a Member of the Year Award presented by each organization.

Individual Achievement Awards were also presented for Rookie of the Year, Unsung Hero and Exemplary Service to the Community. The NFCC Business Club was honored for its Rock the Vote Lecture Series, naming it both Outstanding Campus Initiative and Outstanding Educational Program.

"The student leaders honored here today have had a rich and complete college experience at NFCC, said Director of Campus Life and SGA advisor Kim Halfhill. "They are the very definition of success. Their dedica-

tion to being the best that they can be has been an inspiration to their instructors, advisors and student peers."

NFCC's Save Our Animal Resources (S.O.A.R.) club was not only recognized as the Outstanding Community Service Organization, but advisor Bonnie Littlefield was named Organization Advisor of the Year. S.O.A.R. Member of the Year, Houston Smith, presented Littlefield with her award stating that she had made a tremendous impact on his life.

The event wrapped up with guest speaker Louis Garcia, CEO, of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Big Bend, challenging students to take advantage of their positive experiences at NFCC to inspire others and make changes in their own communities. For more information about NFCC's clubs and organizations contact Kim Halfhill at 850.973.1623 or email halfhillk@nfcc.edu.

Area students honored at NFCC's Leadership Awards are:

Suwannee County

Andrew Land

Phi Theta Kappa - Member of the Year & Phi Theta Kappa - All-Florida Academic Team Member

Hamilton County

Winston Crosby

Award for Exemplary Service to the Community

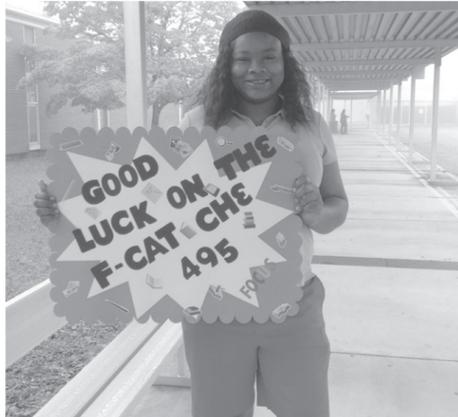
Central Hamilton Elementary

FCAT Celebration

Central Hamilton Elementary wants to say THANK YOU to our parents, community members, faculty and staff, our superintendent and district staff. At 7:15 a.m. on Monday morning, April 15, our halls were lined with people cheering and clapping for our students as they entered the building to

begin the FCAT testing week!

On the CHE campus, we "SOAR FOR MORE" every day and we appreciate all the support of our parents and community; we are on our way to 495. We are the number 1 school in the state of Florida for improvement.



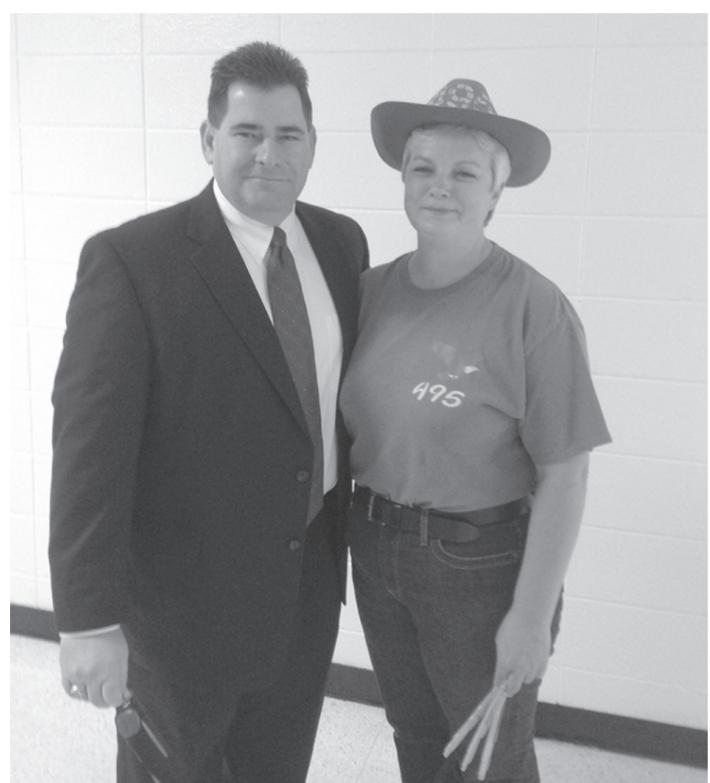
Good luck on the FCAT.



Students and their families get ready for FCAT.



Encouragement was key for FCAT success.



Supt. Tom Mofsses and CHE Principal Lee Wetherington Zamora are ready for FCAT.

Central Hamilton Elementary Third nine weeks Honor Roll

Progressing in Skills

Pre-kindergarten
 Brandon Atwood
 Jacob Barker
 Mallory Blue
 Aisia Daniels
 Kyler Hart
 Jacob Johns
 Amari Johnson
 Jadis McFadden
 Katelynn Melvin
 Amelia Montague
 Rena Morrison
 Eshan Patel
 Georgia Perry
 Dylan Reddish
 Phoenix Rickey
 Caleb Steedley
 Adrianna Tice
 Kamron Ash
 Brielle Morrell
 Jayda Tice

Kindergarten
 Goodin
 Allen Bryant
 Shemari' Carter
 Christina Combass-Bradford
 Julius Curry
 Jimmy Davis III
 Jhaki Dubose
 Roderick Gibbons
 Amiya Harris
 Jedarius Hawkins
 Asiya Iqbal
 Karmari Johnson
 Ty'vion Starling
 Cortaysia Vaughn
 De'syrius Williams
 Anna-Marie Worthington
 Doyle Worthington III

Shaw
 Izak Burnett
 Lelin Dunaway
 Aiyanna Kennedy

Kwan McCloud
 Johnathen Rowe
 Jayliah Sapp
 Breanna Simone
 Allison Strickland
 Jon'Darius Temple
 Charles Walls
 Jacory Wilkerson
 Markayla Williamson

V. Williams
 Lamaria Brown
 Javier Cohen
 Conner Downing
 Jessica Drosopoulos
 Desmond Gibbons Jr.
 Stephon Gibbons
 Tyqueria Hughe
 Kaliyah Hutcherson
 Princess Jackson
 Da'miya Reed
 Da'niya Reed
 Kyle Robidoux Jr.
 Ja'marion Smith
 Javen Smith
 Alan Southland III
 Cherish Sutton
 Jaworski Williams Jr.
 Ariel Zipperer

First Grade
G. Smith
 Gracie Ball
 Hailey Cribbs
 Kailey Cribbs
 Alexis Fennell
 Russell Fry III
 Jevon Hawkins
 Mercedes Hernandez
 Ja'mya Houston
 Luke Hutto
 Gabrielle Johnson
 Kemarion Jones
 Keondrick McCloud
 Tyra Oliver
 Valerey Reynolds
 Erika Thompkins
 Logan Thompson
 Tyanna White

Whitaker
 Ahmiya Bell
 Aleana Gallegos
 Nikol Jackson
 Alex Kornegay
 Aaliyah McFadden
 Erica McLendon
 Natalie Morse
 Samoria Newsome
 Traviunna Simmons
 Kendell Thompson
 Kajae Vaughn
 Kacy Warren

S. Williams
 Amari Arthur
 Tyion Cohens
 Makiyah Daniels
 Shalayah Green
 Salimah Iqbal
 Jy'kyon Owens
 Halley Rickey
 Alexis Robidoux
 Jamarius Smith
 Ta'von Smith
 Cassi Taylor
 Jeremy Walls II
 Anaya Wright
 Jamiya Wright

Second Grade
Cook
 Kenneth Anthony Jr.
 Brea Davis
 Mo'naisha Hawkins
 Jordan Johnson
 Tre'vis Johnson
 Darian Moody
 Meet Patel
 Alicia Powers
 Iyanna Speights
 Brianna Temple
 Jeffrey Walls
 Tiyan White
 Dalton Wiggins
 Ja'myia Williams

Dempsey
 Julia Bristol
 Key'Asia Cole
 Christian Dye
 Andrea Forbes
 Antoine Hawkins
 Timothy Johns
 Kyla Johnson
 Arianna McClain
 Christopher McDaniel
 Roman Perez
 Joseph Phillips
 Ariana Richardson
 Darnell Stewart Jr.
 Shannon Wheeler

Lambert
 Kayla Allen
 Darion Gandy-Smith
 Jeremiah Gibson
 Alissia Harris
 Stephen Hawkins
 Jose Hernandez
 Ja'Kayla Lanier
 Sarah Needham
 Davon Nixon
 Gracelynn Steedley
 D'marion Tarver
 Kenya Turner
 Alexis Walgamotte
 Erin Walker

Third Grade
Blue
 A
 Orane Hughes
 AB
 Mayaylah Aaron
 Britlee Hawkins
 Devan Hawkins
 Melodi Hernandez
 Matthew Register
 Bailey Swayze
 James Swift

Armstead/ Schneider
 A
 Timothy Warfel
 AB

Christopher Harris
Woodard
 AB
 Hannah Brisbane
 Elijah Grantham
 James Jackson
 Amaya Johnson

Bailey
 A
 Levaughn Brown
 Earl Claridy
 Kayla Herriott
 Melvin Thompkins

Fourth Grade
Carter
 AB
 Caleb Deas
 Autumn Register

Griffin
 A
 Rachel Armstrong
 Andrea Cromartie
 AB
 Key'Undrea Zanders
 B
 Keerin Swayze

Fifth Grade
Bond
 A
 Ashley Hand
 AB
 Kassondra Carter
 Hadiya Iqbal
 Janiria Miles
 Brianna Mitchell
 Daleah Nixon
 Dylan Washington
 B
 Isaiah Baker
 Zhymiri Nelson

Merine
 A
 Noah Kersey

AB
 Kalynda Heck
 Emily Johnson
 Malakai Perez
 Jacob Simpson
 Gary Wright
 B
 Kimberly Reynolds
 Mykelti White

Sixth Grade
McGee
 A
 Logan Hughes
 AB
 Preshanna Drawdy
 Caleb Herring
 Madison Register

Norris
 A
 Jonathan Steedley
 Taylor Mofsses
 Destiny Perry
 AB
 Kalei Bracewell
 Robert Brisbane
 Tyrese Brown
 Brittany Cribbs
 Hannah Gaines
 Dahahran Hawkins
 Alisha Lewis
 Traevion Sanford
 Aisha Smith
 Cale Stout
 Nicholas Williams
 Shatina Young

Perez
 A
 Tanyah Akins
 Logan Register
 Jeremiah Vaughn
 AB
 Jaderrius Brown
 Emery Mahamery



Around the Banks of the Suwannee

By Correspondent
Johnny Bullard

In today's world of speedy electronic communication and lightning fast technology, folks can almost, to coin the lyrics of the old country and western song, "Take a trip and never leave the farm." Well, not quite, but almost.

A person, can, though, from the comfort of their favorite recliner, order everything on line or from the television, from "soup to nuts" with speedy delivery, if you pay the extra charge.

There was a time in our beloved area "Around the Banks of the Suwannee", not too many decades ago, when not everyone had a television and certainly not everyone had a telephone. I remember our first telephone at the Eight Mile Still. I was in the second or third grade, and we were on a "party line" with about six to eight other people. When you phoned Live Oak, you had to go through an operator by dialing "0", and then you heard the voice. "May I have the number you are dialing, please." You gave them the number, and they connected you. We've come a long way since those days.

A lot of folks did not go to town but once a week and some did not go that often. In highly rural areas such as the one where I live at the Eight Mile Still, we looked forward to a number of folks who came to our door with all kinds of items to sell.

I remember Mr. J.W. Hall from Jasper, Florida, operated the "Rolling Store". The "Rolling Store" was a "store on wheels" and was, in design, very much like the present day UPS vehicle. You stepped up into the vehicle and there on shelves were all kinds of groceries and other items to purchase. The "Rolling Store" even carried some candy and "cold drinks". Many folks along the route "bartered" or "traded" for goods from the store. They might offer farm fresh eggs, vegetables, a bucket of wild blueberries or blackberries, chickens (live ones) in exchange for groceries and other goods from the "Rolling Store". The late Mr. J.W. Hall, Jasper, was a wonderful

Christian gentleman and was always kind, patient, and understanding with all his customers along the "Rolling Store" route.

I can also recall the "Watkins" salesperson. Watkins products were highly prized and are still sold to this day. My mother bought Watkins vanilla extract, pie fillings, and their famous liniment and camphorated salve (like Vicks). The Watkins salesperson "came around" about once a month. I recall one Watkins representative who would call on my cousins and myself to sing a song for her, and we would break forth into "Jesus Loves Me" or "Do Lord" and, in exchange, would receive a bottle of the concentrated Watkins cherry or grape Kool Aid..

In addition to products, I can vividly recall when the Suwannee River Regional Library System which, at that time, was in its infancy, operated their famous "Bookmobile". I can still see the smiling face of Ruth McLeran Mizell, Wellborn, who, for many years, we called "The Bookmobile Lady". She was an icon in the Suwannee River Valley and we remembered her and still remember her sweet smile and her beautiful platinum blonde hair, always neatly "coiffed" in her signature "up do". The bookmobile brought wonderful books to your door and, in our case, at the school in White Springs. They were our library for many years. We did not have a fully operational school library with a full time librarian until the early seventies, but we had "Miss" Ruth and the Bookmobile.

I remember visiting my cousins in Lake City and hearing the tinkling sound playing "Pop Goes the Weasel" and asking what that was. I was told it was the ice cream man and to run in and ask for some change from my Daddy to purchase an ice cream. I thought this was "up town" stuff, and it was to me, being raised in the flatwoods of Hamilton County. I had never seen a traveling ice cream truck in my life.

I can also recall when some folks purchased whole

sets of "World Book Encyclopedias" for research. Mrs. Geraldine Gamble from over near Live Oak would make an appointment with folks and come and talk about the World Book. She was always so kind, patient, and professional. She visited the schools, too.

At my Grandma Bullard's house in White Springs, I recall several vendors who "came around". From time to time, a man came around selling "fresh fish" caught at the coast, and many people purchased from him.

The late Mr. Leonard Newsome, an African-American business man, who was the father of the late Mrs. Verna Mae Johnson, operated a "store on wheels", where he sold goods, and he bartered.

Times have changed, and the world, today, travels at a much faster pace. If you have a computer, a telephone, and a television, you can order about anything you want, and it will be delivered right to your door. Somehow, though, none of this has the same "charm" nor does it elicit the same thrill as the thrill one received in seeing Mr. Hall's "Rolling Store" pull up in front of the house or yelling to Mama "The Watkins lady is here." You looked forward to purchasing goods from these individuals, but you also looked forward to the visits you shared. They became part of your life, and you became part of theirs, and, to this day, that is still a very special and unique quality that makes life "Around the Banks of the Suwannee" so very special.

The "Rolling Store", the Watkins representative, the Bookmobile, Mrs. Gamble and the World Book Encyclopedias are all memories now, but they were a treasured part of so many lives "Around the Banks of the Suwannee." With the cost of gasoline escalating, we might need a return of some of them.

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.

CJBAT tests

Monday - Thursday

Monday - Thursday at 5 p.m. (by appointment): CJBAT (Criminal Justice Basic Abilities Test) at NFCC Testing Center (Bldg. #16), Madison. CJBAT is required for acceptance into Corrections & Law Enforcement programs. Photo ID required. Pre-registration & scheduling time and date are required. To register please call 850-973-9451.



“Are Expired Medications Still Safe?”

It is 2 a.m. and that cough and stuffy nose you have been battling is still keeping you up. You reach for the nighttime cold relief medicine only to find it expired a few months ago. If you take a dose to ease your symptoms, will you be putting yourself at risk?

This situation is a relatively common occurrence. Many medicine cabinets are stocked with over-the-counter drugs as well as prescription medications that may be past their expiration dates. It is a good idea to routinely discard expired medicines, but if you happen to take a drug that has passed its expiration date, you will most likely suffer no ill effects.

According to the Harvard Medical School Family Health Guide, the expiration date on a medicine is not the dates when a drug becomes hazardous. Rather, it marks the period of time after which a drug company can no longer guarantee the efficacy of

the medication. Since 1979, drug manufacturers selling medications in the United States have been required by the Food and Drug Administration to stamp an expiration date on their products. This is the date until which the manufacturer can still guarantee full potency of the drug.

Expiration dates also may be a marketing ploy. Francis Flaherty, a retired FDA pharmacist, has said drug manufacturers put expiration dates on products for marketing purposes rather than scientific reasons. It doesn't make financial sense to a company to have products on the shelves for years. Therefore, most drug manufacturers will not do long-term testing on products to confirm if they will be effective 10 to 15 years after manufacture.

The U.S. military has conducted their own studies with the help of the FDA. FDA researchers tested more than 100 over-the-counter and prescription drugs. Around 90 percent were proven to still be effective long past the expiration date -- some for more than 10 years. Drugs that are stored in cool, dark places have a better chance of lasting because the fillers used in the product will not separate or start to break down as they might in a warm, humid environment. Storing medicines in the refrigerator can prolong their shelf life.

Although a pharmacist cannot legally advise consumers to use medication past an expiration date, most over-the-counter pain relievers and drugs in pill form should still be fine. Certain liquid antibiotics and drugs made up of organic materials can expire faster than others. For those who still want to err on the safe side, routinely clean out medications from cabinets once they expire. However, if an expired medication is taken by mistake, there's little need to worry about potentially adverse effects.

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