

The Jasper News

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Today's Weather

High
88° F



Precip: 20%

Some sun in the morning with increasing clouds during the afternoon. A stray afternoon thunderstorm is possible. High 88F. Winds light and variable. For up to the minute weather go to www.nflaonline.com.

142nd YEAR, NUMBER 23

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2013

3 SECTIONS 38 PAGES

50¢

Student dies in accidental shooting

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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Eleven-year-old South Hamilton Elementary student Jarvin Jackson died Tuesday from injuries sustained in an accidental shooting on Sunday, May 12, according to the Lake City Police Department.

Reports show that on Sunday, May 12, officers from the Lake City Police Department responded to a report of a shooting incident at Cedar Park Apartments in Lake City. Upon arrival, officers and responding medical personnel discovered the 11-year-old boy had been shot with a firearm.

The preliminary findings, according to LCPD, indicated a four-year old shot the victim and the incident was ruled accidental. Jackson was transported to Shands in Gainesville in critical condition.

In an updated press re-

lease from LCPD, authorities stated that Jackson passed away on Tuesday, May 14, around 2:45 p.m. from injuries sustained in the accident.

South Hamilton Elementary classmates of Jarvin took the news hard, according to Site Administrator Annie Pinello.

"The kids are very sad-

dened," said Pinello. "He made a tremendous impact on the other students with his million dollar smile."

The investigation by LCPD is ongoing into the

circumstances surrounding the possession of a firearm by a minor. More updates will be provided as information is received, according to LCPD.

Election bill takes shape

Legislation will impact 2014 elections

Submitted

Although last November was not quite the nightmare scenario experienced in the 2000 election, Florida still bore the brunt of national scrutiny as many stood in long lines during early voting and on Election Day. This, coupled with Florida not reporting results until two days after the election, prompted legislators to make election law reform a top priority of the 2013 legislative session. However, even with the sense of urgency, the final product, House Bill 7013, didn't pass until just before the traditional dropping of the handkerchiefs, which marks the end of the session.

Legislators concluded the long lines last November were a result of laws passed in 2011 reducing the number of early voting days from 14 to 8. Having realized the problem, the debate quickly focused on increasing the number of days in order to avoid a similar situation in the future. This led to the provision in HB 7013 which mandates supervisors of elections provide at least eight days of early voting while allowing them the flexibility to increase that number to 14.

Another culprit blamed

SEE ELECTION, PAGE 2A



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ARE WE READY? Preparing for, responding to natural disasters Lessons learned

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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Editor's note: This is the third installment of a series titled "Are we ready?", in which we delve into local storm preparedness. This article focuses on lessons learned from TS Debby.

Hardships rarely come without lessons to be learned. In June of 2012, residents watched as Tropical Storm Debby left an imprint both physically and financially, not just in Hamilton

County where damage was minor in some areas and major in others, but in neighboring Suwannee County where massive damage was incurred from flooding and sinkholes.

Since the last major flood prior to Debby occurred over 50 years ago, many became complacent and were ultimately unprepared for the high levels of flooding that ensued after days of rain pounded the region and forced rivers to overflow their banks with massive amounts of water.

For many, TS Debby brought people closer together...neighbors helping neighbors in need, so to speak. It reminded everyone what a blessing it is to have a tight knit community of caring individuals who look out for one another.

Prior to a storm's impact, communications begin between local Emergency Operations Centers and other state and federal emergency agencies. Weather

SEE LESSONS, PAGE 2A

Veterans park moving forward despite temporary work delay

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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Construction of Veteran's Memorial Park in downtown Jasper has hit a temporary road bump, according to Veterans Service Officer Clay Lambert.

In a letter to the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, Lambert offered a brief update on the status of the project, which has been delayed due to work that needed to be corrected by

SEE VETERANS, PAGE 2A



Work has been temporarily delayed on the masonry work at the entrance to the park. - Photos: Joyce Marie Taylor

Lightning struck one of the pine trees at the site that Lambert had asked to be removed.

Historic schoolhouse moves to library

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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The historic Camp Family Schoolhouse was moved to its new location beside the White Springs Public Library-PotashCorp Building at 16403 Jewett Street on Wednesday, May 8.

Previously, the schoolhouse sat across the street from the historic Camp family mansion on the corner of US 41 just north of the Stephen Foster Folk



The historic Camp Family Schoolhouse at its new location beside the White Springs Library. Courtesy photo:

SEE HISTORIC, PAGE 2A

Burton talks economic development in Hamilton

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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At the May 7 meeting of the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners,



resident Bob Burton talks economic development with county commissioners. - Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

Burton again addressed the issue of obstructions to economic development in the county.

Burton said, "I'm here about economic development actually, and some of the things we feel are obstructions that we've run into in the past. We really just want to bulldoze past them and get something going."

Burton said he had sent all the board members an e-mail about possibly recalling some board members.

"We just picked one and started with (Commissioner Josh Smith) and I got to talking with Josh about it and I found Josh pretty well thinks the way I do,

SEE BURTON, PAGE 2A

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Lessons learned

Continued From Page 1A

data gets compiled and storm forecast reports are sent to appropriate agencies, organizations and groups, who then pass along the information to residents.

Events and actions are logged, evacuation routes are reviewed and prepared for, county department heads are briefed on emergency duties and responsibilities, coordination of public shelters is commenced, and those with special needs are looked after should they need emergency transportation out of harm's way.

As for lessons learned, Hamilton County Emergency Management Director Henry Land said,

"Due to historical record keeping, we pretty much had an idea what to expect from the storm. It has, however, allowed us to be able to harden some of our roads and improve the infrastructure."

Jewett Street in White Springs, Land said, is one example, as the county is currently diligently working to make repairs so that the road won't completely wash out again.

Land also said, "The town of White Springs is working hard to prevent that, too."

For related national stories visit the section "Are we ready?", on the homepage at nflaonline.com.

Historic schoolhouse moves to library

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Culture Center State Park.

The Camp family donated a parcel of land just a couple blocks north of the mansion to Hamilton County so that a new library could be constructed. Nearly 200 people turned out for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new library on Sunday, Feb. 10.

One condition of the land agreement between the Camp family and the county was that the old Camp family schoolhouse had to be moved to the site once the new library was completed.

According to historians, the one-room schoolhouse was built for the children of the late Dr. and Mrs. B.F. Camp, who were prominent citizens of White Springs around 1900.

White Springs Librarian Tracy Woodard said, "Site prep at the new site had occurred on April 30 through May 2, so we knew it would be on its way soon."

Woodard said the move was a week-long process.

"On Monday, May 6, they were at the old site jacking up the building and getting it ready," said Woodard. "Tuesday it was up and ready to go. On Wednesday the truck backed under it and brought it up US 41 to the new library drive, where they backed it in through the parking lot and onto its new location."

By Thursday the building was set up and ready for business, Woodard said.

"The little Camp schoolhouse is a beautiful neighbor for us," said Woodard. "It's a charming part of White Springs history."

Woodard said she had the greatest admiration for the men who moved the building. Hamilton County Commissioners had arranged the move utilizing county employees.

"There was some apprehension in the community that the building might suffer damage being moved, but here it is in one piece and ready for its next chapter in the story of White Springs," said Woodard.

Election bill takes shape

Continued From Page 1A

for the long lines was the length of amendments included on the ballot last election. All amendments last November were placed on the ballot by the Legislature, which does not have to comply with the same 75-word limit ballot summary citizens who collect initiative petitions do. However, HB 7013 contains a provision placing the same word limits on the Legislature which should reduce the time it takes an individual to vote, thus quickening the voting process during an election.

Other improvements found in HB 7013 involve the absentee voting process. Voters who forget to sign the back of an absentee envelope will now have until 5 p.m. on the day before

an election to "cure", or fix, the problem and have their vote counted. The bill also adds security to the absentee process by having voters submit signed requests if the ballot is being delivered to an address other than the voter's home, with the exception of overseas and military voters. It also prohibits political organizations from collecting more than two absentee ballots from non-family members.

Through the collaborative efforts of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE) and the Florida Legislature, HB 7013 overwhelmingly passed the Senate and the House and is now on its way to Gov. Rick Scott.

House Bill 7013, upon the signature of the Governor, will take effect Jan. 1, 2014.

Veterans park moving forward despite temporary work delay

Continued From Page 1A

the vendor doing the masonry for the park entrance. Lambert was in training and was unable to attend the county commission meeting on May 7 to give a personal update.

"We have lost confidence in the vendor's ability to do the necessary concrete work," Lambert wrote in his letter.

"The concrete work is needed before the steel gating between the two lower columns can be placed in order to ensure proper height," Lambert continued in the letter. "Since this should not affect the placement of the arch, we'll have Mr. McGhin work towards getting it in (place). We are very aware that visible progress needs to continue."

The vendor was contracted to do the column work only, Lambert said, and now that the corrections have

been made and the caps on the columns are done, Lambert is searching for another vendor who can provide the quality work they desire for the project that includes the walkway.

Commissioner Josh Smith stated that the caps on the brick columns did not look like the drawing.

"The finished product was supposed to be an ivory-looking cap," said Smith.

Commission Chair Randy Ogburn asked County Coordinator Danny Johnson to verify with Lambert whether or not the contractor did what was expected of him in the contract.

Additionally, there is a pile of dirt near the entrance that has been there a while and looks unsightly. Lambert explained in his letter that they weren't in a hurry to remove it because they knew more dirt would be coming out

eventually and didn't want to tie up county assets that were needed elsewhere. He did state, however, that if it was an issue, there was no reason why the dirt couldn't be removed.

On a more positive note, Lambert stated that Jon Carline has volunteered to provide professional landscape architectural drawings and assistance in order to help move the project forward. Also, sales of memorial bricks continue to increase, Lambert said, and he hopes to place his initial order soon.

"Other donors are in contact with us and are planning sizable contributions," Lambert stated.

Commissioner Beth Burnam advised the other board members about a tree issue at the park; something that was negotiated between the commissioners and Lambert on Feb. 5 this year when deciding which trees to re-

move before work began.

"One of those two big pine trees that we wanted left (alone), lightning struck it," said Burnam.

Lambert had tried to convince the commissioners in February that by leaving the old, dead pine trees they would only serve as potential lightning rods. Now, the board needs to decide if the trees should come down or not, Burnam said.

"We want to ensure the Board of County Commissioners that the park effort continues in earnest and that we are doing all to make sure funding and assets are being used wisely to obtain quality work by vendors," said Lambert. "We are acutely aware that constituents are not aware of everything taking place and that visible, tangible structure construction is their measure of progress. This is as important to our efforts as it is to the BOCC."

Burton talks economic development in Hamilton

Continued From Page 1A

so I'm sorry, Josh," said Burton. "We need to get on it with something to bring business...reasonable business."

Burton said he is not attacking Susan Ramsey, director of the Hamilton County Economic Development Authority, but rather that he takes issue with some on the governing board of the Authority.

"It's not the administrative people like Susan," he stressed.

Burton said the county needs a "salesman" to bring businesses into Hamilton County.

"Because of what I used to do, I know how to do that," said Burton. "My sales strategy is 'Hannibal is at the gate.' I don't wait on them to call me. I'll go out and bring them here. I know what they want. I know what they don't want. I'll bring them here," he repeated.

Burton said he wasn't looking for a job, but

would go out as a salesman for the county and show them some results. He also said he would like to help existing local businesses.

"They're hurting," Burton said. "There's enough money floating around that's going into who knows where, that needs to come here for some of those people who are investing their own money, and really bring an economic impact into Hamilton County. We need to work with them. Get them a little more help."

Burton said he and his wife are starving and their clients are being hit, being raided by those that are influenced by multi-national corporations that are influencing the economic development board of Hamilton County.

"That's hurting our business," he said. "It's hurting our vendors that we need."

The board, Burton said, has been dis-

cussing construction of a new pavilion at the recreation center.

"We'd like to build it out of lumber out of the Suwannee River to make it something beautiful that is regional," said Burton. "We'd really like to talk to you guys about building some of this stuff. Just as these multi-national corporations and the F-20 forms that I showed you all, they don't recognize our civil and criminal law, so we want to be exempt from all of that, too."

Burton said if the multi-national corporations don't have to comply with laws, statutes and regulations, then he shouldn't have to either.

Commission chair Randy Ogburn reminded Burton that the economic development authority was a separate entity from the board of county commissioners.

"You'd have to get on their agenda and talk with them about that

part of it," said Ogburn.

"They're involved in an EB5 program, which is bringing in Chinese investors," said Burton.

"They need to give up the name Hamilton County Development Authority and let us do it," Burton said.

Ogburn again told Burton he would need to get on the development authority's agenda.

"We don't set their agenda," said Ogburn.

"The people of Hamilton County don't need a development authority," Burton insisted. "I don't know who they are, but I know their interest isn't the people of Hamilton County. It's to steal our resources and that is an issue that the commissioners should be involved with. They are somebody we don't want here."

"We try to be involved as much as we can and I'll be glad to talk with you about it," said Ogburn.

Arrest Records

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

The following abbreviations are used below:
 DAC - Department of Agriculture Commission
 DOA - Department of Agriculture
 DOT - Department of Transportation
 FDLE - Florida Department of Law Enforcement
 FHP - Florida Highway Patrol
 FWC - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 HCDF - Hamilton County Drug Task Force
 HCSO - Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
 ICE - Immigration and Custom Enforcement
 JAPD - Jasper Police Department
 JNPD - Jennings Police Department

OALE - Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement
 P&P - Probation and Parole
 SCSO - Suwannee County Sheriff's Office
 WSPD - White Springs Police Department

May 6, Bruno Fernandez, 37, 3963 Spanish Oak Drive, Doraville, Ga., expired driver license more than six months: DOA-Arentino
 May 6, Robert Louis Barwick, 42, 14872 71st Road, Wellborn, FL, sell of methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of a church (2), poss. of drug paraphernalia: HCSO-Cribbs
 May 7, Eric Devon Brooker, 24, 410 SW 12th Ave., Jasper, FL, NVDL: JAPD-Rickerson
 May 7, Marvin Jerome Clay, 20, 1215 Bee Street, Jennings, FL, poss cocaine with intent to sell, poss of cannabis with intent to sell: P&P-Johnson
 May 7, George Williams Oserholt, 30, 4751 SW 86th Blvd,

Jasper, FL, VOP (DWLS/R): P&P-Bristol

May 8, Alphonso Walker Jr., 49, 865 Emerald Drive, Mt. Dora, FL, DWLS felony, false ID to LEO: HCSO-Murphy
 May 8, Clifford C. Jewell, 30, 1149 SE Bisbee, Madison, FL, DWLS first offense: HCSO-Fouraker
 May 8, Devonne M. Udell, 27, 808 SW MLK Drive, Jasper, FL, possession of firearm by convicted felon, discharging firearm in public: HCSO-Belote
 May 10, Trevon Lawrence Udell, 21, 10474 2nd Street, White Springs, FL, poss. more than 20 grams marijuana, poss. of marijuana with intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a church, poss. marijuana with intent to sell: WSPD-Golub
 May 10, Astrid Helena Trujillo-Vargas, 27, 6702 Camden Bay Drive, Apt. 105, Tampa, FL, out of county warrant: JNPD-Meeks
 May 11, Roger Gayle Thompson, 44, 7928 W SR 6, Jasper, FL, driving knowingly with license

suspended: FHP-Hughes

May 11, Lovie Leroy Folmar, 30, 10558 Moore Street, White Springs, FL, disorderly intoxication: WSPD-Golub

May 11, Wayne Alonzo Hawkins, 38, PO Box 633, Jasper, FL, DWLS/R, hit and run: JAPD-T. Rickerson

May 11, Ervin Ramon Cantillano, 30, 1201 Cedar Lane, Greenville, S.C., no DL: OALE-Cook

May 11, Brandon Ray Gibson, 24, 16205 Helen K Drive, Spring Hill, FL, poss. less than 20 grams marijuana, poss drug paraphernalia: OALE-Everett

May 11, Janet Calton Morgan, 38, 11213 71st Drive, Live Oak, FL, DUI: JAPD-Rickerson

May 11, Anthony Carmen Voinisi, 32, 1450 Gables Ave., Spring Hill, FL, DWLS/R, poss. drug paraphernalia: DOA-Everett

May 13, Eric Shawn Busby, 36, 470 W 1st Ave., Windermere, FL, DWLS: DOA-Jenkins



Life in WHITE SPRINGS

By Walter McKenzie

lifeinwhitesprings@gmail.com

Just returned from a fishing trip on the southern end of the Mississippi River Delta in Louisiana. What was really striking to me on my brief visit was that nothing there seemed permanent. The Delta itself is constantly being changed by the river and by the ravages of weather and storms and hurricanes, Katrina certainly being foremost in our collective consciousness. The residences are mostly modest mobile homes and the businesses all look like they were built or rebuilt in the last few years. It was comforting to come home to White Springs, where there is a sense of permanence and history in our architecture and in our people, along with our culture and traditions that we can trace back a cen-

ture or two. I thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie of my fishing buddies and the folks we met, but as for the place itself, well, the Delta had some charm but it does not hold a candle to the charm of White Springs or rural Florida. It is good to be home again!

Speaking of local charm, much of our culture and many of our regional traditions will be on hand this Memorial Day weekend at the Florida Folk Festival. Yes indeed, a treasure trove of music, dance, crafts, traditions and culture that you can be proud of all await you just inside the gates of the Stephen Foster Center. There will also be a considerable amount of interesting activity going on in town too, so don't forget to take a look around White Springs. I have written about this fantastic three day festival many times and, as I've said before; If I have not convinced you by now that this is more than just a festival, that it is a tradition that has grown into a production of

historical significance, that is a window into the very heart and soul of our state, then either I've not done my job or you are beyond persuasion. If you are coming for the first time, don't be confused by the many choices and simultaneous performances that are going on. Just stand at the top of the amphitheater hill, close your eyes and spin around a few times, then head off in whichever general direction you are pointed in when you come to a stop. You will have a very special experience, wherever you go! You might stumble upon some extraordinary music, either on one of the many stages or in an impromptu shade tree jam session. World class musicians abound at the FFF! Perhaps a gastronomical adventure awaits you from one of the dozens of food venues, perhaps to be topped off by a genuine old time root beer float. A visit to the festival beer garden is also a refreshing pause where you might meet some old friends and make some new ones, all while contributing to the park's citizen support organization's efforts to raise funds. Somewhere in your wanderings you will surely hear a good story or two, join in a dance, or buy some amazing artwork and crafts. Demonstrations and workshops abound. Most noteworthy is that you will be surrounded by the salt of the earth, the people of Florida! So, after reading this, how could you resist the urge to come to the Florida Folk Festival, Friday, May 24 - Sunday, May 26? Come and experience it, a very important part of your life in White Springs and Hamilton County!

St. Luke free will Baptist church of White Springs, Rev. Henderson Hudson, pastor, will be hosting their women day program Sunday, May 19th at 11:30 am. The speaker is Janice Stockton.

Happy birthdays shout out to: Magdalene Scott Harden - May 27th, Arthur Bryant - May 28th, and Charles Stone - May 30th. May your celebrations be joyous and may you have many more!

The weather has been unusual but it is starting to seem like summer may show up after all. While some of our friends in more northern climates may still have to shovel the last snow of the season, the hum of air conditioners reminds us that we are in Florida. Given a choice, this is where I would rather be.

I hope to see you out and about, enjoying life in White Springs and if you have any news that is fit to print, I would love to hear from you.

Walter McKenzie
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386-269-0056

Norris Notes



By Lillian Norris

First, CONGRATULATIONS! to the graduation class of Hamilton County High School! Wow! can it be here already, weren't you just first graders a few years ago? I remember well when most of your parents were graduating. You have certainly come a long way, hopefully a great trip, looking to the future, making plans. Although some days may be discouraging, hope for better always - if you will pardon me for looking back, my graduation was at a very difficult time, the middle of WWII - 1944 (I know that is history) we had 44 girls and 19 boys in our class, many of the boys already gone into service, two leaving immediately after graduation, at a speech which I gave, quoting as I re-

member, 'each of us doing his, her part in winning the war and planning for the post war world'. Remember, you have your future ahead of you, it may seem difficult at times, we have faith in each of you that you will help to make it a better place. Remember to thank your family and friends, school personne, and all others, for tll they have done to make this time possible

Of course Prom Night is coming up before graduation, have a great, safe time, a night to remember.

Just have to mention this as it is on my mind. My handwriting is getting terrible now (due to old age) but it is hard to believe that handwriting is on the way OUT. I remember a few years ago my cousin in N.C.

said a young lady taking piano lessons from her, replied to her when she told her she would write her a note, her answer was "I cannot read cursive", "No way" was my response. But I did read the articles in the JASPER NEWS. As we age our handwriting is not so legible, then I am thankful for typing out what I have to say, My problem is that everyone should be able to sign his, her name, and certain other things. I do much of my communication now by typing (made my living for years with i), but still would like to be able to write by hand if I could; however as we get older that gets harder to read one's own writing, but I would still like to WRITE my name. Some of us still remember the letters above the blackboard, capitals and small letters, we had to practice until it was just right and the teacher thought it was beautiful (so did we).

A belated HAPPY

BIRTHDAY to Mrs. Mary Ard, who celebrated her 90th, as well as Mothers' Day on Sunday with a family party. Congratulations and love to Mrs. Ard.

Next week we want to mention the Veterans Park, plans being made, it is going to be a wonderful place, something of which to be proud and to honor our loved ones. If you have a veteran or had one, contact the Veterans Service Office regarding placing a brick in honor and remembrance. We will have more next week, we head this discussed at Woman's Club by Sgt Clay Lambert, our new Veterans Service Officer.

Hope you all had a great Mothers Day weekend!

Lillian Norris
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Class of 2013

Let your Graduates know how proud you are of them!

Family and Friends, place your congratulate to your seniors by Friday, May 24th to be in the special Grad Tab published in the Jasper News on June 6th

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OPINION

Hating America

Brothers Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who are accused of setting the bombs that exploded at the Boston Marathon, attended the University of Massachusetts. Maybe they hated our nation before college, but if you want lessons on hating America, college attendance might be a good start. Let's look at it.

"We need to think very, very clearly about who the enemy is. The enemy is the United States of America and everyone who supports it." That's taught to University of Hawaii students by Professor Haunani-Kay Trask. Richard Falk, professor emeritus at Princeton University and the U.N. Human Rights Council's Palestine monitor, explained the Boston bombings by saying, "The American global domination project is bound to generate all kinds of resistance in the post-colonial world." Professor Falk

has also stated that President George W. Bush ordered the destruction of the twin towers.

University of Southern California professor Darryl Sragow preaches hate to his students in his regulation of elections and political finance class, recently telling them that Republicans are stupid, racist losers and that they are angry old white people. A few years ago, Rod Swanson, a UCLA economics professor, told his class, "The United States of America, backed by facts, is the greediest and most selfish country in the world." Penn State University professor Matt Jordan compared supporters of the voter ID laws to the Ku Klux Klan. Professor Sharon Sweet, an algebra teacher at Brevard Community College, told her students to sign a pledge that read, "I pledge to vote for President Obama and Democrats up and down the ticket." Fortunately, the college's trustees fired her.

University of Rhode Island history professor Erik Loomis tweeted, "I want (National Rifle Association executive vice president) Wayne LaPierre's head on a stick." He asked, "Can



A MINORITY VIEW



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BY WALTER WILLIAMS

(we) define NRA membership as dues contributing to a terrorist organization?" Here's a sample of how Professor Loomis frequently expresses himself: "Motherf---ing f--- heads f---ing f---."

Then there's Georgetown law professor Louis Michael Seidman, who explained our national problems by saying, "But almost no one blames the culprit: our insistence on obedience to the Constitution, with all its archaic, idiosyncratic and downright evil provisions." Professor Seidman worked for the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. When he was sworn in as an officer of the court, I wonder what constitution he swore to uphold and defend.

Parents don't have to wait for college admission for their youngsters to receive America-hating lessons. Scott Compton, an English teacher at Chapin High School in Chapin, S.C., was put on administrative leave after he allegedly threw an American flag on the floor and stomped on it in front of his students. He has chosen to resign.

An Advanced Placement world geography teacher at Lumberton High School in Texas encouraged students to dress in Islamic clothing and instructed them to refer to the 9/11 hijackers not as terrorists but as "freedom fighters." They were also told to stop referring to the Holocaust as genocide. John Valastro, the superin-

tendent of the Lumberton Independent School District, told Fox News that the teacher did absolutely nothing wrong.

In McAllen, Texas, teachers tried to force a teenager to sing the Mexican national anthem and recite Mexico's pledge of allegiance. The teen refused, saying it was against her beliefs as an American. She was thrown out of the class and given a failing grade for that day's assignment. Her father has filed a lawsuit on behalf of his daughter against the McAllen Independent School District.

Investor's Business Daily ran a story that shows student indoctrination is official union policy: "A New Low From The California Federation Of Teachers: Urine Indoctrination" (12/5/12). The union's website has a cartoon narrated by leftist Hollywood actor Ed Asner. In tones used when reading to children, Asner says: "(Rich people) love their money more than anything in the whole world. ... Over time, rich people decided they weren't rich enough, so they came up with ways to get richer." The cartoon finishes its class warfare message by graphically depicting "the rich" urinating on the poor.

These people running our education system are destroying the minds and values of our young people, and we allow them to do it.

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

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Letter to the editor and Article Policy

Letters to the editor and article submissions can be mailed or dropped off at the news office at 211 Howard St. E, Live Oak, FL 32064, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Letters to the editor should be typed, 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 news office by noon on Friday.

Submissions, 400 or less words, should be typed, brief and to the point. Not all submissions are published.

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

You may fax letters/submissions to 386-364-5578.

Hamilton County Democrats meeting are third Monday of the month at the Jasper Public Library at 7 p.m.

Melody Church announces FREEDOM FEST

Melody Church announces their inaugural FREEDOM FEST. The event will be on June 29 and will be a day filled

with fun for the whole family celebrating our freedom as Americans. Families are encouraged to come out together and enjoy what they hope to make a lasting tradition.

Melody Church is coordinating the event and is planning a Firecracker 5k to kick off the event, followed by live music, food and arts/crafts vendors, water slides and kids area, car show and more. The event will end with a BANG, a professional fireworks show that will be sure to be the talk of the town. Currently they are looking for other business sponsors and community partners to help donate funds to cover the cost of the fireworks and other activities. Food and craft vendors are also welcome to apply to set up a booth at FREEDOM FEST. Applications will be available online at melody-church.com. Volunteers are needed to help the day of the event. Pastor

Darrin Baldwin said, "We want to celebrate the greatest nation in the world and thank God we are able to enjoy our freedom here."

Melody Church invites families of Suwannee County and surrounding areas to join them on June 29, for this fun family event. For more information contact their church office or follow them on facebook at facebook.com/melody-churchliveoak or visit their website at melody-church.com.

Pastor Darrin Baldwin sees FREEDOM FEST becoming an annual family tradition.

Pickin' & Grinnin'

Every Saturday 6 p.m. Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park

If you play an acoustic instrument or just like to sit and listen to good Country, Gospel or Blue Grass music, come on out to the Pickin' shed in the loop camping area. Pot luck dinners the third Saturday of each month. Join us --- its fun --- its free! Sponsored by Suwannee River Bluegrass Association.

Free English Classes

Clases de Ingles - Gratis, aprenden, Pronunciacion, Conversacion, cada lunes y jueves, 7-9 p.m. Maestra Felicia Doty y el equipo, 386-249-0096. Las clases van estar en la Iglesia Episcopal, San Lukas, 1391 SW 11th St., (Se encuennta la Iglesia en frente del hospital en Live Oak).

I am putting together a family history book

On the descendants of Stephen, William & Sarah Ann Grant. Surnames include Grant, Hewitt, Adams, Land, McCray, McClamma & any other related. If you would like to submit information or photos or are interested, please contact Cher Newell at 386-209-1559 or 386-364-1608.

Haven Hospice hosts

Helping Hands Volunteer Orientation When: Every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. Where: Haven Hospice Suwannee Valley Care Center, 6037 W. U.S. Hwy 90, Lake City,

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 11A

AGENDA

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
Room 112 – Courthouse 207 Northeast First Street
Jasper, Florida
MEETING DATE: MAY 21, 2013

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

LISTED ITEMS

- 1) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – UNAGENDAED APPEARANCES (*)
- 2) CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL
- 3) STATUS OF HOSPITAL PROPERTY/RURAL HEALTH CLINIC
- 4) MAPPING MODULE
- 5) 2011 MATURE COUNTY TAX CERTIFICATES
- 6) INDOOR BATTING FACILITY
- 7) SHELTER FOR RECREATION CENTER – BID AWARD
- 8) VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK-STATUS REPORT
- 9) APPROVE BILLS
- 10) CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 11) ADJOURN

TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

- 6:00 P.M. – CALL TO ORDER – INVOCATION – PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
- 6:05 P.M. - COUNTY ROAD PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT
 - A) White Springs Flood Repair
 - B) Milling of road near PAWS Facility
- 6:10 P.M. – AGREEMENT – USE OF PROPERTY FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

THIS AGENDA MAY NOT CONTAIN ALL MATTERS BEFORE THE BOARD. A COMPLETE COPY OF THE AGENDA MAY OBTAINED AFTER 1:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2013, FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT, COURTHOUSE, JASPER, FLORIDA.

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

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

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

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

NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2013 AT 9:00 A.M.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
CONSENT AGENDA

MAY 21, 2013

- 1) MINUTES - APPROVE:
 - A) MAY 7, 2013 - REGULAR MEETING
- 2) DEPARTMENT HEADS - ACTION ITEMS:
- 3) DEPARTMENT HEADS - INFORMATION ITEMS:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held before the Jasper Planning and Zoning Board at 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 30, 2013 in the City Council meeting room of the Jasper City Hall, to consider the following:

A petition by James Daniels, to change the zoning classification of the land described as: Block 105 of Jasper, Florida and being in Section 6, Township 1N, Range 14E, according to Lang's Map of the City of Jasper, Florida physically located at 312 9th Ave SW.

All interested parties are encouraged to be present, but representations of support or objection may be presented in writing to Jennifer Cone, City Clerk, 208 W. Hatley Street, Jasper, Florida. Please mark the envelope, Public comment on zoning hearing to be held Thursday, May 30, 2013.

Obituaries

Heart matters



Geraldene M. Strunk
April 27, 2013

Geraldene M. Strunk, 75, died April 27, 2013 at Haven Hospice Suwannee Valley Hospice Care Center in Lake City. She was born in Mt. Heron, Virginia and lived in Jasper for 18 years coming from Cocoa, Fla.

Survivors include husband of 55 years, Charles Robert Strunk of Jasper; sons, James "Jim" Park Strunk and his wife, Lisa of Aliso-Viejo, California and Robert "Bob" Keith Strunk of Jasper; daughters, Patricia Kelly King and her husband, John of Jacksonville and Tracy Helen Edwards of Jasper; sister, Odelene Hale and her husband, Curtis of Bristol, Virginia; 7 grandchildren, Brandi, Mark, Coty, Ashley, Alyssa, Courtney and Ethan and 2 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Joanne Mullins Hernandez; parents, Lester and Lillian Mabe, brothers, Garnett and Sonny Mabe and sister Vaydon Hayes.

SERVICES: A Memorial Service will be held on May 18, 2013 at 11 a.m. at the First

Baptist Church of Baldwin, 97 Center Street South, Baldwin, Fla. 32234.

Arrangements are by

Strunk Funeral Home and Crematory, Vero Beach.

A guest book is available at www.strunkfuneralhome.com.

Myrtle Daniels Stewart
Nov. 23, 1947
May 11, 2013

Myrrtle Daniels Stewart, age 65, of Jasper, Fla. passed away Saturday, May 11, 2013 at Haven Hospice in Lake City, Fla. following an extended illness. She was born on Nov. 23, 1947 to the late Walter "Catfish" and Minnie Rachael Daniels. Myrtle loved her family and friends and in turn was loved deeply. She enjoyed listening to and playing bluegrass and gospel music. Myrtle loved to travel all over to bluegrass festivals and go camping with family and friends. She was a member of Harvest Fellowship Church.

Survivors include her husband of 46 years, Harry Stewart; two sons, Scott Stewart and his wife Denise and Michael Stewart and his wife Deanna; all of Jasper, Fla.; one daughter, Shela Stewart Stallings, Jacksonville, FL.; two brothers, J.D. Daniels (Linda) and Jimmy Daniels (Maureen) and one sister, Pauline Harvey (Ralph), all of Jasper; six grandchildren, Kyle Stewart, Thomas Stallings, Matthew Stewart, Braxton Stewart, Nathan Stewart and Rachael Stallings.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at Harvest Fellowship Church. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

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

Three years ago. An acquaintance recently shared with me it had been three years since she last felt content. Flip that over and three years of discontentment can seem like an eternity! Our conversation took another direction, but later I couldn't help but wonder what was going on in her life during that time to cause it to stand out as a time of contentment. What about you? When is the last time you remember feeling content? I'm talking about actually experiencing contentment that was tangible enough to make you think, "I am really okay with everything in my life." My next question is this: what were the circumstances that surrounded your state of contentment? Was everything going well for that season? Bills paid, promotion received, kids healthy and touting a good report card? Maybe you were even on vacation, sitting at the beach with a whole week ahead of you and

thinking, "Ah, now this is life...if I could just stay here, I would be content!"

This has often been my experience, and I'm willing to bet yours as well. However, the Bible offers a fresh perspective on the reality of true contentment. In Philipians 4:11-12, the Apostle Paul becomes our mentor in this lesson:

"...for I have learned to be content, whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well-fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."

Okay, so the first obvious thing we notice is that Paul's contentment was not dependent on circumstances...at least not external ones. As we scratch our heads over this verse, let's take a look at the definition of contentment for a little insight. Webster's dictionary says that "content" is an adjective meaning

"to appease the desires of; to limit oneself in requirements, desires and actions." This definition opposes our assumption that contentment is only possible if everything is going well. It also stands in contrast to a passive stance of just deciding that nothing is worth opposing. Even a quick glimpse into Paul's life will tell us that was not his mentality!

This definition gives us a vital approach to "fleshing out" life as a Christian. In our determination to live within the will of God, we are called to limit ourselves, especially our desires and actions, to those things that are pleasing to God...and that will result in contentment, no matter the circumstances. Paul had this figured out, but notice that two times he mentions learning how to be content. Biblical contentment is not natural. In fact, left unchecked, our sin nature reeks of discontentment. Understand that limiting ourselves to God's plan for



our lives will not always be easy, but it will be worth it. And we can learn to be content with that...because our hearts matter.

Blessings, Angie

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

The church escapes the tribulation

By Hugh G. Sherrill
ems-hugh43@comcast.net

Matthew 24:15-18; Mark 13:14-23; and Luke 21:20-24 are the recorded words of Jesus prophesying the coming of a Time of Great Tribulation on earth. That time is a period of seven years. The book of Revelation gives two periods of 42 months (3 1/2 years each for a total of 7 years) or into two periods of 1260 days (7 years). Matthew 24:22 speaking of those days says: "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened".

There is much confusion in the churches today concerning the church during the tribulation. Some say it will be taken out before that terrible day; some say it will go through half of it. This is called the Mid-Tribulation Rapture. Some say the church will go through it all. So what does the Bible say? Will it be a pre-tribulation rapture, a mid-tribulation rapture, or a post-

tribulation rapture?

A study of the passages of scripture mentioned in our opening paragraph points a very dark picture of the end of this age; but I believe it to be a realistic picture, and one that is taught throughout the entire Bible. One might ask: Is their no hope? The answer is yes, there is hope, a wonderful hope, sometimes called the Blessed Hope. It is the promise of our Lord that before that awful time is here, He will come back in the clouds to take His church out of this world.

Just a couple of examples are: Genesis 5 records the life of Enoch, the father of Methuselah. Genesis 5:24 says "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him". Hebrews 11:5a says "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death". This happened before the flood that destroyed the whole earth except for Noah and his family. Also in Genesis 19 we have the record of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. God sent two angels to warn Lot to get out of the cities before He de-

stroyed them. Verse 22 God says: "Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." God's man had to be out before He would destroy the cities.

In the New Testament I Corinthians Chapter 15 is known as the Resurrection Chapter. I Thesalonians 4:13-18 speaks of a time when Jesus will come in the air to bring up those who have died in Christ and those who are still alive and catch them up on the air to be with Him. This is suppose to be a comfort to us. The next place I want to point out is found in the book of Revelation.

Chapters 2 and 3 is the whole history of the church age that began at Pentecost and will end at the Rapture. Revelation 4:1 opens with these words: "After this (the church age) I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in Heaven; and the first voice which I heard was a if it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said Come up hither; (The Rapture of the Church) and I will show thee things which must be hereafter (The Tribulation Period)".

The pre-tribulation rapture is The Blessed Hope!

Memorial Day services

Memorial Day services will be on Monday, May 27, at the veteran monument in front of the Hamilton County Courthouse at 10 a.m. It is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Bryant-Phillips Unit 215, Jasper. Mrs. Sharon Oliver, president. Please join us as we remember the tremendous service and sacrifice of America's veterans and pay tribute to our fallen heroes. In case of inclement weather, services will be in the old Hamilton County High School auditorium.

Gracie Lee Ball
"2013"
LITTLE MISS RODEO QUEEN

Church & Family Go Together

<p>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. 784022</p>	<p>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. 784012</p>	<p>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 783995</p>	<p>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. 783982</p>
<p>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. 784014</p>	<p>NON-DENOMINATIONAL BURNHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH 4520 NW CR 146, Jennings, FL 32053 938-1265 Pastor: Johnny Brown Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Evening Service.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Youth Program.....5:30 p.m. 784003</p>	<p><i>Building On</i> FAITH</p>	

To list your church on our church directory, please call Treena at 386-362-1734

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May Specials

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2 Chairs \$400.00
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Price includes fabric & labor.
More than 300 fabrics to select from!
Price also includes spring & frame repairs, new padding added to entire piece.
New cushion foam is extra if needed.

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Super Sew Saturday for Missions

First Baptist Church of Jasper's "Women on Mission" learned about a ministry that makes dresses for little girls in poor villages in Haiti and decided to take this as a mission project for the church. On April 27 about 25 women got together in the church fellowship for a "Super Sew" Saturday; making "pillowcase dresses" for girls in Haiti.

A pillowcase is used to help provide a good night's sleep, but it can also be made into a dress for a child in need. What are pillowcase dresses? Crafted from brightly patterned pillowcases and other colorful fabric, they can be sewn for girls of all ages and sizes. The dresses run from the smallest pillowcases for babies to queen and king-size cases used for larger and taller girls. The dresses are cute and are inexpensive, but with a little know-how, can be a real blessing where needed.

Lora Tyre, the director of Women on Mission, coordinated the event. Lora and Gail Newsome were the instructors. Donations of pillowcases and brightly colored fabric were received

from members of First Baptist. Sewers and non-sewers were in attendance. In order to get as many dresses made as possible that day, many of the ladies brought their own sewing machines, irons, ironing boards and whatever was needed to sew the garments. Some of the ladies brought lunch and snacks for everyone. Young and old alike met together that day and worked in small groups, whether cutting the material, ironing, sewing: everyone was involved in a part of making the dresses. At the end of the day, over 50 dresses were made.

The dresses will be going to El Shaddai Orphanage located in a small town just outside of Port Au Prince, Haiti. The orphanage has 23 children from age 18 months to 21 years of age. This orphanage is also able to support a community school and clothes closet. The orphanage is sponsored in part by the Florida Baptist Convention.

By taking these dresses overseas, the receiver will know that someone is caring about them and loving them; most importantly, praying for them.



Lucille Garraghan, Ruth McGauley, Sira Ramos, Jan Yancey



Vonnie Wood, Arletta Kline, Haley Krantz, Charleen Bemby



Haley Leslie, Karen Leslie



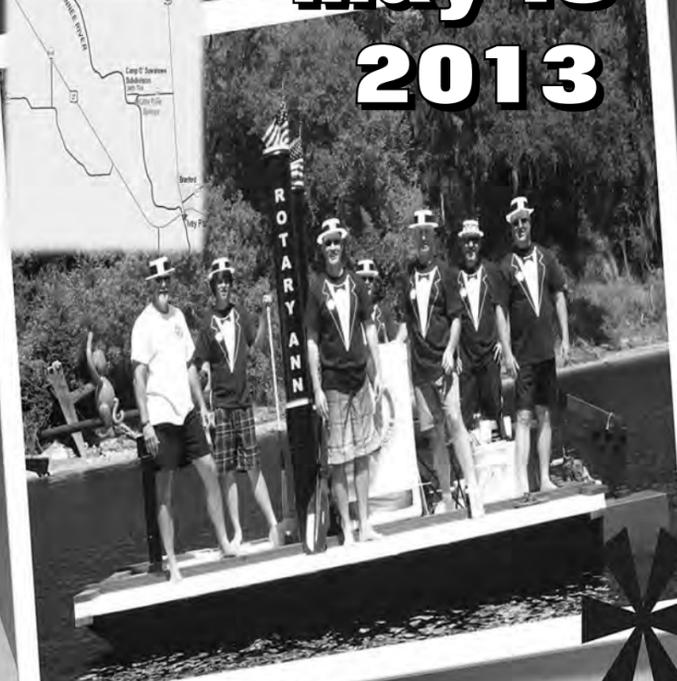
Ruth McGauley, Sira Ramos, Aileen Van Garsel



Jean Eatmon, Pat Robinson



May 18th 2013



Great Suwannee River Race

Rafts, Canoes & Kayaks

Race From Little River Spring
to Ivey Park, Branford

Presented by
**The Kiwanis Club of Live Oak
& The Rotary Club of Live Oak**

Sponsored in part by the
Suwannee County Tourist Development Council

Information:
386-362-3300

Branford Outfitters will have canoes and kayaks for rent for \$25 at the registration site.

Blueberry Festival

20th Annual
Wellborn Blueberry Festival
Wellborn's Weekend of Summer Fun
Andrews Square, downtown Wellborn

June 7 & 8, 2013
Rain Date June 9th

No Admission Fee * Family Fun * Bring Your Lawn Chair

Friday Open 2pm to 8pm
Saturday Open 7am to 5pm
 Arts & Crafts Vendors * Food Vendors
 Live Entertainment by Herold White * Karaoke all day *
 Ponies, Petting Zoo, Water Walkers and more
 Country Store featuring blueberry pies, cobbler,
 jelly, syrup, and more
 Big-Ticket Item Raffle (do not have to be present to win)

Friday Special Events
 Bake-Off Contest begins 4:00 pm
 * Tasting Party (\$3.00) 6:30 pm *

Saturday Special Events
 Blueberry Pancake Breakfast 7am to 10am
 (\$5 adults; \$3 children)
 Last Breakfast Ticket Sold at 9:30am
 * Three Stations Open *
 Parade at 10:30 am
 (Prizes and awards for best entries)
 Parade Theme: "All Fired Up"
 Grand Marshalls: Chief James Sommers &
 Commissioner Phil Oxendine
 Talent Contest 1:30 pm (1st Place \$500; 2nd Place
 \$300; 3rd Place \$200)

Hosted by the Wellborn Community Association, Inc.,
 a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation

For information call: Parade 386-963-2908;
 Talent Contest 386-590-6175 or 963-1562
 Bake-Off 386-590-6175 or 963-1562
 or see
<http://www.wellborncommunityassociation.com>

Thank You to our Major Sponsors:
 The Suwannee Democrat,
 Suwannee Correctional Institution,
 Suwannee TDC, B & B Stores,
 First Federal Bank of Florida,
 Big Country 98.1/Talk 106.5,
 Jerry Scarborough Supt. of Schools
 See our program and website for complete list.



Around the Banks of the Suwannee

By Correspondent Johnny Bullard

"Freedom, oh, Freedom, yes, freedom now I see.
And before I'll be a slave. I'll be buried in my grave.
And go home to my Lord and be free."

The lyrics of the old African American spiritual reverberate when sung by those who have a deep, emotional feeling. This coming weekend, throughout our region "Around the Banks of the Suwannee", countless thousands will celebrate with May Day or Freedom Day celebrations. These celebrations in the state of Florida are traditionally held and celebrated very close to May 20. Sometimes the celebrations are called Twentieth of May celebrations.

President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, which, in effect, and by law, freed all slaves in the United States of America in those areas in rebellion against the United States - the states of the Confederate States of America.

However, it was over two years, later on May 20, 1865, when, from the steps of the historic Knox House in Tallahassee, and the end of the "War Between the States" that Florida's scores and scores of African American slaves were officially given their freedom.

As a result, many African Americans in the state of Florida historically celebrate their official Emancipation in the state with May Day or Freedom Day celebrations. Many times these celebrations include church services, homecoming recognitions, singing, dancing, and, usually, lots and lots of good food and fellowship. In many communities, too, it is a time of "homecoming". Many of our hometown folks who have made lives in other communities come home to celebrate this important day with their close friends and relatives.

For many years in my hometown of White Springs, the May Day celebrations have been held on the grounds of the old Carver High School, later Elementary School, but in our community, if you simply say The Carver School, everyone knows to what you are referring. Folks gather early around cookers and grills of all shapes and sizes and begin preparing their specialties, barbecue of every kind, fried chicken, collard greens, chicken pilau, crab pilau, pies and cakes of every description and on, and on it goes. Young people play games, older folks sit in the shade of the trees and reminisce, music plays, and laughter floats over the hot, humid North Florida air.

It is a tradition that has been a part of the rich patchwork fabric of life "Way down upon the Suwannee River" for as long as I can remember, and I am glad it still goes on to this day.

If you don't know from where you came, you may not know where you are going. We can't dwell in the past, but we must know about it; the glory, the bumps, the warts, all of it, if we don't want to repeat it.

Freedom is a concept that can be valued and appreciated by most Americans. We fought for it, we've died for it, and we certainly value it. Freedom can be buried, but it can't be killed. As long as it remains in the hearts of those who desire it, it is alive.

African Americans in a large portion of this nation were denied freedom as part of the law of the land

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Florida Forest Service Forest Landowner Workshop to be held on June 13

Submitted By Florida Forest Service Senior Forester, Greg Staten

The Florida Forest Service in cooperation with the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Hamilton County Extension Office will be having a Forest Landowner Workshop to discuss "Habitat Management and Enhancement for Ground Nesting Birds" beginning at 9 a.m. on June 13, 2013. The workshop will be held at the Hamilton County Extension Office located at 1143 US Hwy 41 NW, Jasper, FL 32053.

The presenter for this workshop will be Mr. Ricky Lackey of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Ricky is a wildlife biologist with extensive knowledge on this subject. This work-

shop is scheduled to start promptly at 9 a.m. and last approximately one to two hours. It is geared toward the private forest landowner that is interested in learning more about how to manage their forest property to provide habitat for quail, wild turkey, and other ground nesting birds.

There is no charge for attending, but due to limited seating, pre-registration is required. Pre-registration will run from now until June 12, 2013 or until all spaces are filled. To pre-register you may contact Hamilton County Forester Greg Staten by phone at 386-792-1269 or by email at Greg.Staten@fresh-fromflorida.com. We look forward to seeing you there.

from the time the first slaves arrived on the American shore in the late 1600s until freedom came for them in 1865. Close to two centuries of being a people who were in bondage. No wonder this day, May 20, is an important day to African Americans as a people. I write this, in answer to a question from someone who asked me not too long ago, what all the "to do" was about the Twentieth of May or May

North Florida Texaco Country Showdown auditions set for June 21 & 28, July 19 & Aug. 2 at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park!

State finals winner Sept. 14 at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Parks wins \$1,000, goes to regionals and could be named the Best New Act in Country Music and take home \$100,000 in prize money

The 32nd Annual Texaco Country Showdown's North Florida competition is set for June 21 and 28, July 19 and Aug. 2 at the beautiful Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park (SOSMP) in Live Oak, Fla. Winners from the first three competitions will compete Aug. 2 at the SOSMP in the final North Florida competition. One North Florida winner will compete statewide at the SOSMP Sept. 14 for a chance to win \$1,000 and go to regional competition, just one step away from the grand finale.

Country artists wishing to enter the SOSMP contest should contact the SOSMP at 386-364-1683 or email spirit@musicliveshere.com.

The Texaco Country Showdown, America's Largest Country Music Talent Search, is designed to find the most promising country music talent in America and give these performers a chance to launch their professional music careers. Contests are held in every state. Each state winner goes to one of five regional contests across the nation where one winner from each region is chosen to compete in the national finals at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium in January of 2014. The national winner will be named Best New Act in Country Music in January 2014 on the Grand Ole Opry stage and receive a check for \$100,000.

The North Florida contest is sponsored by radio

Day celebrations. I've answered above as best I can.

As those in my community celebrate this year, I hope they will celebrate, the freedom of everyone, because if one person is in bondage, we are all in danger of that same bondage and we have seen it over and over again throughout the world.

This coming Saturday, if God spares my life, I plan on sitting in a cool place with my hand fan and a glass of iced tea, and laughing and visiting with friends I've known for a life time, and some of "my children" who I had the privilege of teaching who have come home for the weekend, and I hope as the smoke drifts upward from the barbecue grills, and the fragrance of fried chicken floats over the humid, North Florida air, and as the sounds of Aretha Franklin's "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" can be heard by those around Carver School, that, inwardly, and without saying a word, folks will know that FREEDOM is truly a wonderful thing.

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.

station The Big 98 WQHL 98.1 and The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park.

Go to www.CountryShowdown.com for more information and to sign up for the song writing contest that has a \$5,000 prize for the winner.

The SOSMP hosted the statewide competition in 2008 and the winner, Orlando's Johnny Bulford, went on to win the national and \$100,000 in cash! Johnny just recently had the honor of seeing a song he co-wrote, "A Woman Like You," sung by Lee Brice, hit #1 on the Billboard charts. Johnny, along with his co-writers and Lee Brice were nominated for an ACM award for Best New Song this year.

The Showdown begins each spring with more than 450 talent contests sponsored by country music radio stations throughout the US. A uniform judging system is used at all levels of competition to ensure fairness.

If you would like to make reservations for RV parking, cabins and camper parking for any of the Texaco Country Showdown events at the SOSMP in Live Oak, Fla, now's the best time to make sure you get a good spot. You may call the SOSMP at 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 4.5 miles north of Live Oak, FL off US 129 at the famous Suwannee River. The park is 4.5 miles south of Interstate 75 and 4.5 miles north of Interstate 10 off US 129. Keep an eye out for the SOSMP sign and white painted board fence.

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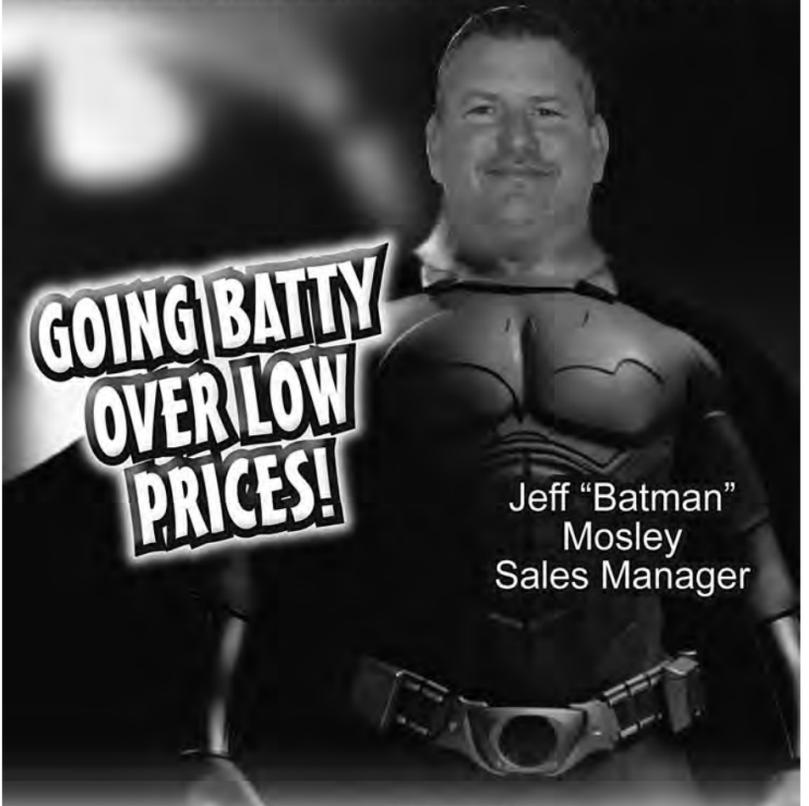
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Charter school makes it 'On the Radio'

By Terry Rauch

Shining Star Academy of the Arts had their first public performance of the play "On the Radio" Friday night at the Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex Auditorium. This event drew over 500 family members and friends including radio station WJHC Talk 107.5 based in Hamilton County.

of the Arts is a charter school that enhances the artistic abilities of a child. Being a charter school there is no charge to family members for a student to attend. The school accepts children from four surrounding counties of its location.

Currently the grades that are taught at the school are K-5.

Other than this being an enjoyable show what was also announced is that the school plans to

host a weekly talent show that will be aired on WJHC Talk 107.5 FM on Saturday's and a replay on Sunday nights at 7 p.m. starting June 1.

Principal Anthony J. Buzzella announced that the contract has been signed for this agreement to the public and that the shows can be heard on the radio and on streaming all over the world.

Terry Rauch, general manager of WJHC, said, "This is truly a family show and we are honored to be able to broadcast it to the public. The children who will be performing are not just from the school but can be anybody who shows artistic skills. This show is being paid for by donations from the public which means no com-



Shining Star Academy of the Arts of Columbia County will be hosting a weekly talent show on local radio soon. Courtesy photo

Community Calendar

Continued From Page 4A

Fl. Call Carolyn Long at 386-752-9191 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.

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.

College Placement Tests

Monday - Thursday
Monday Thursday at 5 p.m. (by appointment): College Placement Test (CPT), NFCC Testing Center (Bldg. #16), 5 p.m., Madison. Register in NFCC Student Services 24 hours before test. For information please call 850-973-9451.

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.

Jasper Legals

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

CASE NO. 24-2012-CA-000258

FIRST FEDERAL BANK OF FLORIDA

Plaintiff,
vs.
PETER K. THOMPSON, LORI J. THOMPSON AND UNKNOWN TENANTS/OWNERS,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure for Plaintiff entered in this cause on May 3, 2013, in the Circuit Court of Hamilton County, Florida, I will sell the property situated in Hamilton County, Florida described as:

THE WEST 1/2 OF LOT 2, OF BLOCK 1 ACCORDING TO CONE'S SURVEY OF THE TOWN OF WHITE SPRING, FLORIDA, IN SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 16 EAST; SAID LOT BEING BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: ON THE NORTH BY SPRING STREET, ON THE EAST BY PROPERTY FORMERLY OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE C. F. CONE, ON THE SOUTH BY PROPERTY FORMERLY OF L. V. MCLEOD AND W. G. CATE, AND ON THE WEST BY PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE TOWN OF WHITE SPRINGS AND USED AS WATER WORKS SITE AND ALSO BY PROPERTY FORMERLY BELONGING TO THE ESTATE OF C. F. CONE, THE FOREMENTIONED LANDS ARE ALSO DESCRIBED AS LOT 2B OF BLOCK 1, CONE'S SURVEY, ON THE LAND'S RETRACE MAP OF THE TOWN OF WHITE SPRING, FLORIDA, IN SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 16 EAST, HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA.

and commonly known as 16613 SPRINGS STREET, WHITE SPRINGS, FL 32096; including the building, appurtenances, and fixtures located therein, at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, Sales are held in lobby of the main courthouse, on June 6, 2013 at 11 a.m.

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

Dated this 3rd day of May, 2013.

(Court Seal) Clerk of the Circuit Court
Greg Godwin

By: /s/ Cynthia Johnson
Deputy Clerk

05/16, 23

NOTICE OF SALE

The Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Florida, gives notice of intent to sell, at public auction, the certain real property in Hamilton County, Florida, described as follows.

The following lands in Suwannee River Campsites according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, page 9-A, public records of Hamilton County, Florida:

Campsite (Lot) - 82 Campsite (Lot) - 621
Campsite (Lot) - 92 Campsite (Lot) - 622
Campsite (Lot) - 637 Campsite (Lot) - 595
Campsite (Lot) - 638

The following lands in Withlacoochee River Campsites (also known as Florida Campsites), according to the plat thereof

Jasper Legals

recorded in Plat Book 2, page 10, public records of Hamilton County, Florida:

Campsite (Lot) - 181 Campsite (Lot) - 211
Campsite (Lot) - 182 Campsite (Lot) - 212
Campsite (Lot) - 183 Campsite (Lot) - 213
Campsite (Lot) - 184 Campsite (Lot) - 214
Campsite (Lot) - 185 Campsite (Lot) - 215

The Board will offer that said property for sale to the highest bidder, for cash, at a public auction at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 31, 2013, at the South front door of the Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 North-east First Street, Jasper, Florida.

In addition to the bid offered, the highest Bidder shall pay for the state stamp charges and all recording costs for recording the Deed in the public records of Hamilton County, Florida.

The form of the deed conveying said property shall be as provided in, and in conformity with, Section 125.411, Florida Statutes. Section 125.411(3), Florida Statutes, providing "All deeds of conveyance by any county or its Board of County Commissioners shall convey only the interest of the county and such board in the property covered thereby, and shall not be deemed to warrant the title or to represent any state of facts concerning the same". A copy of the form of the Deed is available in the office of the Clerk of Circuit Court at said Courthouse.

The highest bid made at the auction aforesaid, will be considered for acceptance by the Board of County Commissioners at 9:05 a.m. during the Board meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 2013, in the Board Room (Room 112) of said Courthouse. The Board reserves the right to reject all bids if determine to be too low. Payment of the full amount of the highest bid accepted by the Board, as aforesaid, shall be paid to the Clerk of said Board on June 4, 2013, and upon payment of the full amount of that bid, along with the amount of state stamps and recording costs, Deed from the County, through its Board of County Commissioners, will be delivered at time of such payment.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
05/16, 23

GRANT APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

The Hamilton County School Board is in the process of developing a grant application for Exceptional Student Education Federal Entitlement and Discretionary Supplemental Projects, IDEA Part B, for 2013-2014 school year. This grant is for students with disabilities, and who are in need of additional special services, ages 3-21. The grant will also address the needs of preschool children with disabilities, ages 3-5.

Comments will be accepted between May 1, and May 31, 2013. Comments may be submitted in writing to Regina Jordan, Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Coordinator, 4280 SW County Road 152, Jasper, Florida 32052, via email at regina.jordan@hamiltonfl.com or via fax at (386) 792-6600. Copies will be available upon request. If you have questions about this document, please contact the ESE Office at 386-792-7837. 05/02, 09, 16, 23, 30

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The District Board of Trustees of North Florida Community College will hold its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the NFCC Board Room, NFCC, 325 NW Turner Davis Dr., Madison, FL. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by writing: NFCC, Office of the President, 325 NW Turner Davis Dr., Madison, FL 32340. For disability-related accommodations, contact the NFCC Office of College Advancement, 850-973-1653. NFCC is an equal access/equal opportunity employer. 05/16

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24 ACRES--Older 3/2 DWMH,

front porch full length of MH. Open floor plan, inground pool (needs TLC), huge pole barn. Handicap access. \$99,000. Nelda Hatcher, 386-688-8067. MLS#82998

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GREAT LOCATION in downtown Live Oak. 1500+ sq.ft., Corner office is within walking distance to the Courthouse. \$177,500. Call Ric Donovan, 386-590-1298 MLS#83248

GORGEOUS,

like new 3/2 home in Dowling Park. Home handicapped accessible, deed restricted. Too much to list. \$215,000. David Mincey, 386-590-0157. MLS#83368

GORGEOUS

35 ACRES w/3,000+sq.ft. 4/3.5 ranch style home w/3 car garage, pole barn, equipment barn, full basement, & mature pecan orchard. \$400,000. David Mincey 386-590-0157, MLS# 82968

WELL KEPT

3/2 home with Hard wood floors, an expansive master suite that has surround sound, french doors to small back deck. \$66,000 MLS#83642

JUST LISTED-- Bank Owned--

5 acre wooded lot partially fenced. \$30,850. MLS#83877 Columbia County

BANK OWNED-- NICE LOCATION

In Columbia county. Older DWMH in need of some repairs, 3/2. Large covered back porch. Workshop. \$39,995. MLS#82213

WATERFRONT:

2.3 acre river lot on the Suwannee River. Well & power. Two old cabins of no value. Bring the R.V. & the fishing rods. \$53,000. David Mincey, 386-590-0157 MLS#82482

WATERFRONT--2 acres

with almost 200ft on the Suwannee River. Two RV pads, water and septic hookup. \$67,500. Ric Donovan, 386-590-1298 MLS#83832

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Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; Sunday by appointment

802555

804178

Spirit Kids Music Camp, Jamie Davis and also Cliff Worrell and the Restless Kind May 17-19 at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park



Cliff Worrell and his band The Restless Kind.

Go to www.musicliveshere.com to register your children ages 5-17 years old for the Music Camp!

It's another fabulous weekend of fun and music at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park (SOSMP) in Live Oak, Fla this weekend! The free Suwannee Spirit Kids Music Camp will be held for three days with The Restless Kind Band entertaining in the Music Hall Friday night, May 17, and Jamie Davis and his band Saturday night, May 18. Music Camp graduation/concert Sunday afternoon! It is going to be a great weekend at the SOSMP...please come join us and bring the kids!

The Suwannee Spirit Kids Music Camp begins Friday evening, May 17, with registration and other activities. Children 5-17 may attend the free sessions but parents or a guardian must be onsite while the children are in class. Children receive instruction in fiddle, guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, harmonica, ukulele, vocals and hand drums and are treated to four two-hour lessons, a tee shirt making arts and craft session, Saturday afternoon BBQ chicken dinner and a Sunday afternoon concert showcasing the children's new accomplishments. To pre-register, contact the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park at 1-800-224-

5656 or register online at www.musicliveshere.com/events/kidsmusic-camp. Instructors are experienced musicians who give their time and energy to ensure this event continues to effect the live of young people.

Friday evening Cliff Worrell and the Restless Kind Band will entertain in the Music Hall beginning at 8 p.m. The band has performed hundreds of shows all over North Florida, including the SOSMP, restaurants, bars, festivals, fairs, promotional events and private parties. They have shared the stage with national acts like JoDee Messina, James Wesley, Steel Magnolias, Keith Anderson, Jason Michael Carol and Frankie Ballard, as well as being recognized by radio stations and newspapers. This high energy band performs hard charging country music from the 60s to current radio hits, with a sprinkling of bluegrass, rock and blues. It's sure to be a great evening with this band in the house...don't forget those dancing shoes!

Jamie Davis and his band will shake the rafters in the Music Hall Saturday night! Jamie has played country, bluegrass, rock and blues all over America, played for President Bush, played in country and bluegrass bands, including for his many fans at the SOSMP!



Jamie Davis

His CD, High Weeds & Rust, is on the racks. "I love what I do," says Jamie. "I'm at home on a stage and loving every minute of it. I still find it hard to believe that fans pay to see me perform. And perform I will, for you, the FANS." You do not want to miss Jamie Davis and his band!

Doors to the Music Hall open at 6 p.m. and shows begins at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. As always, the SOSMP's SOS Café and Restaurant will be open during events and have available delicious food at regular prices along with nightly specials and a full service bar. Dancing is encouraged!

If you would like to make reserva-

tions to overnight at the SOSMP or to purchase tickets for upcoming events, call 386-364-1683, email spirit@musicliveshere.com or go to www.musicliveshere.com.

Upcoming events include Memorial Day Get-a-Way, Suwannee Gospel Jubilee, Tropical Nights Rock the Suwannee, July 4th Get-a-Way and much, much more.

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

Local students honored at NFCC Spring 2013 Commencement

NFCC announces graduates for Spring Term 2013

MADISON, FL – North Florida Community College awarded 96 students with degrees or certificates at the conclusion of its Spring Term 2013. Graduates were honored at NFCC's Spring 2013 Commencement Ceremony on May 2 at Van H. Priest Auditorium. Walter Boatright Jr., Director of Career, Technical, and Adult Education and Principal of Suwannee-Hamilton Technical Center in Live Oak, was guest speaker at the commencement ceremony.

NFCC is proud to recognize its Spring 2013 graduates and applauds their accomplishments. NFCC's Spring 2013 graduates are:

Hamilton County

Leslie Carter, Jasper, FL, Associate in Arts, MAGNA CUM LAUDE, Human Resources Ad-

ministrator (Certificate), SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Valerie Tucker, Jasper, FL, Associate in Arts
Lisa D. Hill, Jennings, FL, Associate in Arts, SUMMA CUM LAUDE
Amber Nichole Laffoon, Jennings FL, Associate in Arts, SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Danielle Muzzey, Jennings FL, Early Childhood Professional Certificate (ECPC) HIGHEST HONORS

Yvett Sanchez, Jennings FL, Associate in Arts

Regina A. Hester, White Springs FL, Human Resources Administrator (Certificate) SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Lafayette County

Ethan A. Clark, Mayo FL, Associate in Arts
Shelby Kaytlyn Hart, Mayo FL, Associate in Arts, CUM LAUDE

Suwannee County

Lyndee Fletcher, Live Oak FL, Associate in Arts, SUMMA CUM LAUDE

John Fullbright, Live Oak FL, Associate in Arts

Timothy A. Horn, Live Oak FL, Emergency Medical Technician / EMT-B (Certificate) HIGHEST HONORS

Jasmine D. Jefferson, Live Oak FL, Associate in Arts

Brooke LaTrelle Lamm, Live Oak FL, Associate in Arts

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Congressman Yoho congratulates 3rd District Congressional Art Competition winner



Reginald and Sheryl Vaughn (parents of Brenna Vaughn), Brenna Vaughn, Congressman Ted Yoho, and Mrs. Carolyn Yoho. Courtesy photo

Congressman Ted Yoho (FL-03) congratulated the winner of the 2013 Congressional Art Competition for Florida's Third District, Brenna Vaughn of Fleming Island.

Ms. Vaughn, a sophomore at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, submitted her piece titled "Self Portrait With Hands." The piece, done with acrylic on canvas, features creative use of color and expression.

"Self Portrait With Hands" was selected by a committee of art educators from across North Florida out of more than a dozen entries from high school students district-wide.

Congressman Yoho said, "Creativity and imagination are what drive the American dream. It was a pleasure to see the beautiful pieces created by our next generation of leaders, and I congratulate

Brenna on winning the competition."

The Congressional Art Competition is open to high school students across the country and coordinated by each Member of Congress for his or her district. Brenna Vaughn's piece will be a part of the collection of winning pieces, called An Artistic Discovery, which will be displayed in the United States Capitol over the course of the next year.

Scott Tucker joins the Suwannee River Partnership



Tucker

Scott Tucker joined the Suwannee River Partnership (SRP) as a conservation technician on March 26. In this capacity, Tucker will assist agricultural producers in Gilchrist, Alachua, Columbia, Union and Bradford counties to implement best management practices to conserve water and protect water quality.

Tucker will focus on the Santa Fe Basin to assist producers in attaining water quality improvements established in Santa Fe Basin Management Action Plan.

Basin Management Action Plans are adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that identify strategies to restore water quality in designated impaired water bodies.

The position is administered by the Gilchrist Soil and Water Conservation District and is funded by the Suwannee River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Prior to the SRP, Tucker worked with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency for more than three years. At the USDA, Tucker worked with crop insur-

ance adjustments. He also surveyed crops to review damages and establish production yields. Tucker has also produced crops of his own since he was a teenager, including vegetables and row crops in the Santa Fe Basin for more than 30 years.

Tucker has earned numerous certifications from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences program, in-

cluding pesticide application, irrigation management and nutrient management. He also has been recognized through the County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship program for implementing BMPs on his own farming operation.

"I am glad to have the opportunity to help other producers realize the benefits of the BMP program," Tucker said.

Understanding Allergy Treatments

Millions of people across the globe suffer from allergies, many of which rear their ugly heads during the spring season. Such a reality can quickly spoil the excitement of the nice weather. Although there is no cure for allergies, individuals who do suffer from allergies have a host of treatment options at their disposals. Some are over-the-counter medications while others require prescriptions. Each type of medication works differently, and allergy sufferers may find it interesting and beneficial to understand the different ways some of the more common allergy treatments work.

Antihistamines

Some of the more well-known over-the-counter antihistamines include Benadryl, Claritin and Zyrtec. Prescription antihistamines include Clarinex and Livostin.

When an allergy sufferer is exposed to an allergen, cells within the body's immune system release a substance called histamine, which then attaches to receptors in the blood vessels as well as additional receptors. As a result, the blood vessels enlarge and histamine's attachment to other receptors causes swelling, itching, changes in secretions, and redness. However, when an allergy sufferer takes an antihistamine, the medication blocks the histamine receptors, preventing the symptoms in the process.

Though antihistamines are effective, they can also cause drowsiness. Allergy sufferers should look for non-sedating antihistamines, which may require a prescription.

Decongestants

Some of the more recognizable decongestants are Visine eye drops, Sudafed tablets or liquid, and Zyrtec-D. Each of these is an over-the-counter decongestant. Prescription decongestants like Claritin-D are often combination medications, which means they contain both an antihistamine and a decongestant.

When an individual is having an allergic reaction, the tissues in the nose swell as a result of contact with the allergen. This swelling results in fluid and mucous production, and swelling in

the blood vessels of the eyes also occurs, which causes the redness of the eyes many allergy sufferers experience during spring.

Decongestants work by shrinking the swollen nasal tissues and blood vessels. This helps relieve the swelling, mucous secretion, redness, and congestion.

Many allergy sufferers prefer nasal sprays and eye drops to relieve symptoms. However, such medications, which often require a prescription, can only be used for a few days. Use beyond a few days can actually make allergy symptoms worse.

Not all men and women can use decongestants to relieve their allergy symptoms. That's because decongestants may raise blood pressure, essentially making them off limits to those who already have high blood pressure. Additional potential side effects of decongestants are insomnia, irritability and restricted urinary flow. When considering a decongestant to relieve allergy symptoms, men and women should consult their physician before buying any products.

Steroids

Thanks to professional sports, many people shudder at the mere mention of the word "steroids." However, steroids used to treat allergies are corticosteroids and not the anabolic steroids athletes use to build muscle. Steroids used to treat allergies can be nasal (Flonase, Nasonex), inhaled (Flovent, Alvesco), eye drops (Alrex and Dexamethasone), or oral (Prednisone).

Steroids work by reducing inflammation and swelling. Steroids can be highly effective in treating allergies, and work for seasonal and year-round allergies as well as skin allergies. When prescribed a steroid to treat an allergy, it's important for men and women to continue to take the medication daily as directed, even if the symptoms of the allergy have disappeared. This can be as long as two weeks.

Though highly effective, steroids do come with significant side effects. When taken orally, short-term steroid use can cause weight gain, high blood pressure and fluid retention, while long-term use can result in muscle weakness, bone-thinning osteoporosis and even diabetes. When taking inhaled steroids, men and women might suffer from coughing, hoarseness or even develop a yeast infection in their mouth.

Even though spring is commonly referred to as allergy season, men and women have a host of allergy treatment options to try. Before committing to any treatment, it's best for a person to examine each option to determine which is the best fit for him or her.



CAPTION: Despite their beauty, spring flowers often trigger allergy season.

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