

The Jasper News

Today's Weather

High
61° F



Precip: 20%
Partly cloudy skies today with highs around 61°F and lows around 50°F. Winds NNE at 9 mph. Chance of rain 20%.
UV Index: 3 - Moderate
For up to the minute weather go to www.nflaonline.com.

143rd YEAR, NUMBER 5

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2014

1 SECTION 14 PAGES

50¢



The ceremonial grand opening ribbon is cut for Hamilton Primary Care in Jasper. -Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

PotashCorp to continue as major taxpayer in Hamilton Hamilton County vows to monitor chemical plant shutdown

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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With the recent massive lay-off at PotashCorp White Springs and the eventual closure of the Suwannee River Chemical Plant this year, the effects on Hamilton County as a whole should be minimal, according to Public Affairs Manager Mike Williams.

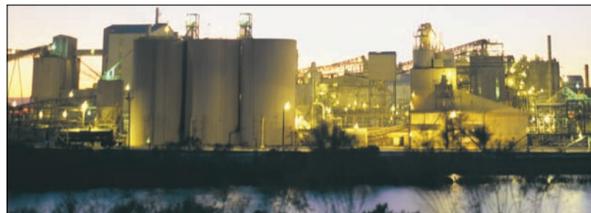
White Springs Agricultural Chemicals, Inc (PotashCorp White Springs) announced Tuesday, Dec. 3, that it will permanently close the Suwannee River Chemical Plant – one of two plants at the White Springs facility – during the second half of this year. Initial closure activities resulted in an immediate reduction of 248 people. Final closure later this year will result in an additional reduction of approximately 100 people; a cumulative reduction of approximately 50 percent from current levels.

Williams stressed that the reduction in force at PotashCorp-White Springs was based upon operational and workforce changes, not only locally, but at all PotashCorp sites. The announcement/rollout of the event was coordinated to be released at all sites simultaneously.

248 personnel were immediately impacted by the layoffs. This reduced PotashCorp's workforce by 18 percent.

Hamilton County	68
Suwannee County	71
Columbia County	91
Alachua County	1
Madison County	2
Baker County	2
Echols/Lowndes, Ga.	13

SEE POTASHCORP, PAGE 2A



A night view of the Suwannee River Chemical Plant in White Springs. Courtesy photo

District Teacher and School-Related Employee announced

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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On Wednesday, Dec. 18, Hamilton County Superintendent of Schools Thomas Moffses and Director of Administrative Services Philip Pinello announced Hamilton County's Teacher of the Year and School-Related Employee of the Year.

"We surprised two well-deserving employees this afternoon by appearing at their school and announcing their selections as Hamilton County's 2015 Teacher of the Year and



(L-R) Joanie Blue, Amanda Wiggins and Supt. Thomas Moffses. Courtesy photo

SEE DISTRICT, PAGE 8A

Special Olympics basketball is Saturday

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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The Special Olympics Area Four Basketball Competition is set for Saturday, Jan. 11, in the gymnasium at Hamilton County High School, located at 5683 Highway 129 South in Jasper.

Opening ceremonies will begin at 9:45 a.m. and the event will continue until 2-3 o'clock in the afternoon, according to Helen Udell, Hamilton County coordinator for the games.

A total of five counties will

be represented at the event that include Hamilton, Marion, Alachua, Bradford and Columbia counties. There should be

about 200 athletes competing, along with their coaches and

SEE SPECIAL, PAGE 6A



A scene from last year's event. -Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

Hamilton Primary Care now open for business in Jasper

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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Hamilton Primary Care, a subsidiary of Shands Live Oak Regional Medical Center, opened to the public on Tuesday, Jan. 7 after a ribbon cutting ceremony the previous afternoon.

On Monday, Jan. 6, local dignitaries, the Hamilton County Hospital Board, members of the community and staff from Shands gathered at the facility for the grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony of the new rural healthcare clinic, Hamilton Primary Care, located at 1150 US 41 NW, Suites 11 and 12 in Jasper.

This new rural

healthcare clinic is a joint effort between Shands, Hamilton County, the hospital board and the economic development authority.

Shands Live Oak Regional Medical Center CEO Richard Huth was beaming with pride as he led visitors on a grand tour of the facilities that includes a state-of-the-art portable digital X-ray machine, which was bought by the county. The X-ray images, Huth explained, will be transmitted via the Internet to a radiologist to read.

It was noted that any doctor's office or the health department can send a patient to Hamilton Primary Care for routine X-rays.

Huth explained that

SEE HAMILTON, PAGE 2A



Alexander Solomon and Amanda Caban, 2014 Stephen Foster/Jeanie winners. -Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

National Stephen Foster Day is Sunday

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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On Sunday, Jan. 12, Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park in White Springs will be hosting a concert to celebrate the 63rd Annual National Stephen Foster Day. This yearly event commemorates the 1864 death of master songwriter Stephen Foster.

Alexander Solomon and Amanda Caban, winners of the statewide Stephen Foster/Jeanie vocal competition sponsored by the Florida Federation of Music Clubs will be the featured guest performers. They, as well as others, will be dressed in period attire. A performance on the

Stephen Foster Carillon will also be played. The carillon is more than 200 feet tall and contains the largest collection of tubular bells in the world.

These live performances from talented young musical artists in a beautiful setting in the park are sure to entertain both young and old alike.

The concert begins at

SEE NATIONAL, PAGE 2A

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PotashCorp to continue as major taxpayer in Hamilton

Continued From Page 1A

ly so that everyone was informed at the same time.

"While this was a difficult decision, it was a business decision, not a personal one, and based upon the continued sustainability of the company during a downturn in the global market," said Williams. "These reductions should keep White Springs as a strong and viable operation, while adding approximately five years to its lifespan. PotashCorp is here to stay for many more years."

PotashCorp, he said, will still be a major employer for the county with about 350-400 employees, as well as be a major taxpayer and community contributor.

The 248 personnel impacted by the layoffs so far are as follows: Alachua County-1, Baker County-2, Columbia County-91, Hamilton County-68, Madison County-2, Suwannee County-71, and Echols/Lowndes County, Ga.-13. Of the 248 personnel laid off, 27 percent lived in Hamilton County and 28 percent lived in Suwannee County.

"While this was a significant event for our regional area, it was not focused on any one county," said Williams.

"At this time, we cannot accurately predict how a partial closing of the PotashCorp plant will affect the assessment of its property in 2014 or future years," remarked Hamilton County Property Appraiser David Goolsby. "Real and tangible personal property (TPP) values are determined as of January 1 of each year."

The actual closure date of the Suwannee River Chemical Plant will be sometime during the second half of this year, according to Williams. Some portion of the plant may operate and be in production, based upon demand until that time.

History

The Suwannee River Chemical Plant (and mine) groundbreaking was Oct. 31, 1964, with a \$35 million investment by Armand Hammer, President and CEO of Occidental Petroleum Corporation (Oxy). By today's standards that investment amount would be somewhere in the range of \$255 million.

PotashCorp purchased all outstanding shares of White Springs Agricultural Chemicals Ltd. from Oxy in 1995. They have not only been a significant part of the local economy, but also very active in the local communities for the past 18 years.

"This investment and membership in our local communities

will continue," said Williams.

From 1964 to the present, Suwannee River Chemical Plant was a part of the local economy.

"Our granulation plants, Swift Creek Mine and Mill, and Swift Creek Chemical Plant will continue to be a part of our local economy with hundreds of employees and strong involvement in our communities," Williams said.

PotashCorp will continue to develop its phosphate resources for use in fertilizers that will be necessary globally, due to population growth and increased agricultural demand. PotashCorp is engaged in the global process of helping to feed the world by providing quality plant and animal feed nutrients.

Williams noted that historically things change over time for many reasons, based upon a myriad of contributing factors. Populations of towns such as White Springs ebb and flow, he said, from a high of around 1,500 to a low of 770.

In Hamilton County the local economy was forestry, timber, naval stores, farming and tourism. The sawmills disappeared, as did the naval stores, and then the interstate highway was completed. Some factors were based upon economy, technology and the marketplace, Williams explained. When the phosphate industry came to Hamilton County in the 1960s it provided a significant boost to the economy, but was not meant to be the sole source of the economy.

"It provides significant tax revenue (approximately 47 percent), which equates to about \$1.2 million, based on tons of phosphate severed for economic development and major expenditures in the millions with local vendors," said Williams. "It has been a source of employment for 50 years ranging from over 2,000 employees at its height to the current hundreds it employs today."

Things change. The industry changed, automation improved and the manufacturing process was streamlined over the years, noted Williams.

"In today's business climate, you have to compete in a global marketplace," Williams explained. "To do so, you must evolve and change with the industry to be successful. PotashCorp is doing that and will continue to be an industry leader because of its ability to evolve over time to meet the challenges of today and the future. As such, PotashCorp will continue to play a significant part in Hamilton County's economy for years to come."

Plant closure

Williams said when the Dec. 3 announcement of the Suwannee River Chemical Plant closure hit the streets, a shockwave rippled through the communities.

"There were stories everywhere," Williams said. "Understandably so. This event reduced the company's workforce by 18 percent."

PotashCorp, Williams said, is doing everything possible to assist impacted personnel through this challenging period. Those laid off are drawing pay for 60 days and will receive appropriate severance packages. PotashCorp is also working with North Florida Workforce Board to provide a resource fair to assist them.

Commissioners weigh in

Meanwhile, at the Dec. 17 meeting of the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, the mood was still somber as to how this event at PotashCorp will ultimately affect the county. Resident George Roberson expressed concern about clean up measures at Suwannee River Chemical Plant once it is permanently closed. He urged the board to stay on top of it and ensure that any and all chemicals are disposed of properly.

Roberson also said he understood PotashCorp was lagging behind on reclamation efforts. He suggested the board appoint a committee to work with the state to make sure these matters are handled.

Commissioner Randy Ogburn assured Roberson that the county has always and will continue to work closely with PotashCorp to make certain things are handled properly. The county, he said, utilizes environmental counsel and consultants, and go through an extensive review every five years before PotashCorp can renew their mining permit.

Commissioner Josh Smith reminded Roberson that PotashCorp is a private company that purchased the land where they do their mining and chemical business. He also said he, as well as Ogburn, serve on the technical working group committee that meets quarterly to review the operations at PotashCorp.

Ogburn said he couldn't say that PotashCorp has always done things properly.

"I agree with you," he told Roberson. "There's a lot of things that probably aren't the best for the county that has happened out there through the years. Our land is being turned upside down, absolutely. The reclamation don't always suit my fancy. I argue about it all the time."

Smith told Roberson that the board would ask Williams to come to the next commission meeting to give an update.

"At that point in time, we'll discuss whether we want to put a committee together to try to work in coalition with PCS as they shut that plant down and then monitor what's going on," Smith said.

Colbert Croft passes

Prolific gospel songwriter, evangelist and singer remembered



Croft

Submitted

One of America's premier gospel songwriters, the Rev. Colbert Croft, formerly of Jasper, passed away from this life in Valdosta early Jan. 1 following a long illness.

Colbert Croft was known throughout America as a prolific gospel songwriter with his lovely and musically talented wife Joyce. Their 5,000 plus gospel songs have become standards in the gospel music industry.

The Crofts were part of the Suwannee River Jubilee held at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park (SOSMP) in Live Oak for the past 25 years.

"He was the fellow who made the key contact with the Florida Boys' Les Beazley," said SOSMP co-founder Bob Cornett. "Les Beazley headed up the Florida Boys' gospel group at that time," Cornett said. "The Dixie Echoes were a part of it, and they put it (the Jubilee) on together. But Colbert was the main man that made the deal originally and called the Florida Boys to set it up," Cornett said of the beginning of the Jubilee. Colbert and Joyce hosted the Bean Supper every year on Wednesday night before the three-day gospel sing began. A gospel concert followed the bean supper. Joyce said she and Colbert led the morning worship every morning during the Jubilee each year. Both were involved in the event throughout the first 25 years celebrated in 2013.

The Crofts were married nearly 50 years and were traveling evangelists who spread the gospel through music, song and Colbert's preaching. Colbert's love of the Lord was exemplified by his willingness to help others, share his music and always offer a helping hand to those trying to break into gospel music or in need.

Colbert founded and pastored Faith Chapel in downtown Jasper. It was here he would invite numerous famous gospel groups to stop by and sing. Many of those groups would ask for any new songs available from the couple and of course, Colbert always had a compilation disk ready, according to long-time friend, The Rev. Randy Lamb of Brunswick, Ga.

"I would sing the new songs for the compilation disks," he added. Randy also recorded, "Daddy Had A Friend," written by the couple. It went to #88 on gospel charts in 1988, Lamb said. "I never knew if Colbert wrote that song about my granddaddy who was an old-time preacher or how

he got the words, but it described my granddaddy, the Rev. Jack Lamb, perfectly." Lamb, a former youth leader and evangelist who is also a gospel singer and pastor, said he saw God use Colbert to heal people several times over the years, but Colbert never told anyone God had used him in that way. "He had the gift of healing," Lamb stated emphatically.

Gospel's Best Words and Music Song Book lists the names of 525 of the best gospel songs which includes the following songs written by the Crofts: "The Future's Looking Brighter," "I Believe He Died For Me," "I can't Even Walk (Without You Holding My Hand)," "I'm The Reason" and "Is That Footsteps I hear?" The Crofts' names are listed in this book among the best gospel songwriters such as Rogers and Hammerstein, Bill and Gloria Gaither, Rusty Goodman, Mylon LeFevre, Kris Kristofferson, Marion W. Easterling, Clevant Dericks, Reba Rambo, Aaron Wilburn, Eddie Crook, Dottie Rambo, Wally Fowler, Albert E. Brumley, Adger M. Pace, Squire Parsons, Gov. Jimmie Davis, Ralph Carmichael, Elton John, G.T. Speer, J.D. Sumner, Jack W. Campbell and more.

One of their songs, "Flow Through Me Holy Spirit," was translated into the Navajo language by Guy James and recorded on video for the Navajo nation to hear the word of God in their language. County music great Marty Stuart recorded the Crofts' "I Can't Even Walk" on his 13th album, Souls' Chapel. The album was nominated for a Dove Award for Country Album of the Year in 2006 at the 37th GMA Dove Awards. The song was also included in 16 Great Southern Gospel Classics, Vol. 2.

Perhaps the most well-known of all, "I Can't Even Walk (Without You Holding My Hand)," a standard in Southern gospel, was recorded and sung by many and included in The Worlds' Greatest Southern Gospel Songs (50 Southern Gospel Classics) edition.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7, at Perimeter Road Baptist Church in Valdosta. Viewing and family visitation was Monday, Jan. 6, from 5 - 7 p.m. at Carson-McLane Funeral Home, 2215 North Patterson Street, Valdosta, Ga. Burial was at Evergreen Cemetery in Jasper, Fla.



The Suwannee River Chemical Plant. Courtesy photos

Hamilton Primary Care now open for business in Jasper

Continued From Page 1A

all health records will be done electronically, eliminating the need for storing physical paperwork on each patient.

The clinic will accept Medicaid and Medi-Pass, and will have sliding fee scales that are designed for the specific population in Hamilton County, according to Huth.

Office hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1-7 p.m. The entire staff was eager to greet their first customers on Tuesday, Jan. 7, the official opening day of the new clinic.

Some of the staff includes Office Coordinator Michael Ogburn, Physician's Assistant Judy Lynch, Advanced Registered

Nurse Practitioner Rogelia Muro, and Radiologist Josie Stipp, among others.

"We're going to have some doctors rotate through here," said Huth.

Those doctors include, but are not limited to Peter Go, general surgery; K.P. Moni, cardiology; and Dr. Mohan, OB/GYN. A midwife may also be added soon.

"As we add more specialists, we'll be rotating them up through here," said Huth.

By having such a large selection of specialists on hand, Huth said people won't have to drive to Lake City or Gainesville, but they'll be able to be seen in Jasper at Hamilton Primary Care.

County Commissioner (Chair-

man) Josh Smith, along with commissioners Beth Burnam and Robert Brown were on hand at the ceremony, as well as many others in the community who were instrumental in making the healthcare clinic vision a reality.

"Mr. Huth was a driving force behind making this a possibility," said Smith.

Former Hamilton County Coordinator Danny Johnson, Smith said, was also extremely instrumental in getting the ball rolling on this healthcare project, and he and the other commissioners wished to thank him for all his efforts.

After the official ribbon cutting ceremony everyone was invited to share in some light and healthy refreshments.

National Stephen Foster Day is Sunday

Continued From Page 1A

2 p.m. in the Stephen Foster Carillon Tower.

Refreshments, sponsored by the Stephen Foster Citizens Support Organization, will be

served after the concert. Admission to the event is free with paid park admission of \$5 per vehicle for up to eight passengers.

For more information, call 386-397-4408.



Life in WHITE SPRINGS

By Walter McKenzie

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For months the sign in front of the White Springs Fire Department has had one message, "members needed". This simple statement is meant to convey that White Springs does not have enough volunteer firefighters to respond to the needs of our family, friends, neighbors, and businesses in times of distress. This sign does not request money, new fire trucks, or equipment. The sign simply requests volunteers to serve the community as firefighters.

The simple statement "members needed" is meant explain that the community is in need of people who are willing to place service before self. This is an old fashioned value that seems to be disappearing in today's society. Many of us choose to live in White Springs in an attempt to try and hold onto some of those old fashioned values. We recognize that old fashioned values, like service before self, are greatly rewarding and lead to a more meaningful life. Volunteer firefighters know that there is no greater feeling than the feeling that you get by serving others.

The simple statement "members needed" is meant as an invitation to those seeking to belong to something bigger than one's self. As a volunteer firefighter, your success is the community's success. Your achievements are the community's achievements. By choosing to become a volunteer firefighter, you are vested in the improvement and success of the town.

If you are unable to become a certified firefighter, become a supporter of your fire department. There are many support functions that do not require going into burning buildings. We need volunteers to serve in any way that they feel called to.

The simple statement "members needed" is meant to inform, inspire, and invite. We do not have enough volunteer firefighters in White Springs to meet our needs. Serving as a volunteer firefighter is rewarding and meaningful. I invite every citizen of White Springs to join the White Springs Volunteer Fire Department. Please come by Town Hall and fill out a volunteer application and turn it in. You can call 397-2310 for more information.

The cold weather has come and the volunteer efforts of the White Springs Hope firewood providers is much appreciated. All during the

year these men and women cut and stockpile firewood for needy members of our community. Their work goes largely unnoticed by most of us but now that really cold weather is here, that work is much appreciated by those that need the firewood to stay warm. I say to these fine volunteers, good work and God bless! You have given much to help those that need it and it is more appreciated than you know!

Prayers and gentle thoughts go out to Doris Odom, an extraordinary woman that I have had the pleasure of knowing these last few years. Ninety one years old, Doris is "mom" to many of us, but especially to Deb Odom and also to Khryss Kantarze. Mom, we wish you well. You have been a gentle and loving, yet forceful presence in the lives of many people. Thank you for all the gifts and kind words you have bestowed upon us all.

Stay warm, but don't spend too much time indoors. Get up, get out, and enjoy your life in White Springs. Make it a New Year resolution to let me know about positive news in your neck of the woods! I would love to hear from you.

Walter McKenzie
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Volunteer opportunity and meeting notice

Florida's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers to join its corps of dedicated advocates who protect the rights of elders residing in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family care homes. The program's local councils are seeking additional volunteers to identify, investigate and resolve residents' concerns. Special training and certification is provided.

All interested individuals who care about protecting the health, safety, welfare and rights of long-term care facility residents - who often have no one else to advocate for them - are encouraged to call 1-888-831-0404 or visit the program's web site at <http://ombudsman.myflorida.com>.

The local council meets on Jan. 16 at the Alachua Regional Service Center,

14107 NW Highway 441 in Alachua to discuss the program's current activities and give the public a chance to provide comments about long-term care facility issues. These public meetings begin at 1 p.m. Concerned citizens and those interested in volunteering are welcome to attend.

TPOA Annual General Membership Meeting

Timberlake Property Owners Association will have its Annual General Membership meeting on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 10 a.m. at the Jasper First Baptist Church fellowship hall. The church is located at 207 NE 2nd St. in Jasper (behind the courthouse). Members are invited to attend.

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OPINION

Politics and minimum wage

There's little debate among academic economists about the effect of minimum wages. University of California, Irvine economist David Neumark has examined more than 100 major academic studies on the minimum wage. He reports that 85 percent of the studies "find a negative employment effect on low-skilled workers." A 1976 American Economic Association survey found that 90 percent of its members agreed that increasing the minimum wage raises unemployment among young and unskilled workers. A 1990 survey reported in the American Economic Review (1992) found that 80 percent of economists agreed with the statement that increases in the minimum wage cause unemployment among the youth and low-skilled. If you're searching for a consensus in a field of study, most of the time you can examine the field's introductory and intermediate college textbooks. Economics textbooks that mention the minimum wage say that it increases unemployment for the least skilled worker. The only significant debate about the minimum wage is the magnitude of its effect. Some studies argue that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage will cause a 1 percent increase in unemployment, whereas others predict a higher increase.

How about the politics of the mini-

mum wage? In the political arena, one dumps on people who can't dump back on him. Minimum wages have their greatest unemployment impact on the least skilled worker. After all, who's going to pay a worker an hourly wage of \$10 if that worker is so unfortunate as to have skills that enable him to produce only \$5 worth of value per hour? Who are these workers? For the most part, they are low-skilled teens or young adults, most of whom are poorly educated blacks and Latinos. The unemployment statistics in our urban areas confirm this prediction, with teen unemployment rates as high as 50 percent.

The politics of the minimum wage are simple. No congressman or president owes his office to the poorly educated black and Latino youth vote. Moreover, the victims of the minimum wage do not know why they suffer high unemployment, and neither do most of their "benefactors." Minimum wage beneficiaries are highly organized, and they do have the necessary political clout to get



A MINORITY VIEW

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BY WALTER WILLIAMS

Congress to price their low-skilled competition out of the market so they can demand higher wages. Concerned about the devastating unemployment effects of the minimum wage, Republican politicians have long resisted increases in the minimum wage, but that makes no political sense. The reason is the beneficiaries of preventing increases in the minimum wage don't vote Republican no matter what; where's the political quid pro quo?

Higher-skilled and union workers are not the only beneficiaries of higher minimum wages. Among other beneficiaries are manufacturers who produce substitutes for workers. A recent example of this is Wawa's experiment with customers using touch screens as substitutes for counter clerks. A customer at the convenience store selects his order from a touch screen. He takes a printed slip to the cashier to pay for it while it's being filled. I imagine that soon the customer's interaction with the cashier will be eliminated with a swipe of a credit card. Raising the minimum

wage and other employment costs speeds up the automation process. I'm old enough to remember attendants at gasoline stations and theater ushers, who are virtually absent today. It's not because today's Americans like to smell gasoline fumes and stumble down the aisles in the dark to find their seat. The minimum wage law has eliminated such jobs.

Finally, there's a nastier side to support for minimum wage laws, documented in my book "Race and Economics: How Much Can Be Blamed on Discrimination?" During South Africa's apartheid era, racist labor unions were the country's major supporters of minimum wage laws for blacks. Their stated intention was to protect white workers from having to compete with lower-wage black workers. Our nation's first minimum wage law, the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931, had racist motivation. Among the widespread racist sentiment was that of American Federation of Labor President William Green, who complained, "Colored labor is being sought to demoralize wage rates."

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.

GUEST COLUMN

Complexities that are cast upon us



Dwain Walden
The Moultrie Observer

A woman in Toronto gave birth to twins. One was born in 2013 and the other was born in 2014. Lindsay Salgueiro was due to give birth on Jan. 19 but Mother Nature played a trick on her. And now just imagine that these kids will go through life having to explain that a matter of 38 seconds put them in two different years. It's very fortunate that one wasn't born in the cab just prior to crossing the state line on the way to the hospital.

And you may say that it doesn't really matter, but wait until one day when they have to factor such an occurrence against some government bureaucracy.

I have first-hand experience of such. You see my mother was a Walden before she married my father. And no, we're not from Alabama.

So when I was a teenager and got a public job, I had to have a Social Security number. So I filled out the paperwork which asked for my mother's maiden name. Apparently someone in the Social Security administration had never heard of two people with the same last names getting married. They asked me to refile and put my mom's "maiden" name. They even explained to me what "maiden" meant.

So I resent the application and made a little note that the information was correct. They sent it back with a note that said, "No. We need your mother's name before she married your father."

So this time I wrote a narrative of how such could occur. And I drew a family tree and attached it. Of course I couldn't just let it pass without some levity so I drew a tire swing in the family tree. I added a few

knot holes and a couple of squirrel nests. Actually I think it may have been anatomically correct in that regard. Anyway, I got my Social Security card.

Now after all these years, I've discovered that I do not have a valid birth certificate. I have a "document of live birth" but apparently that is not official, and so now I have to prove that I was born and that I have not been a figment of someone's imagination all these years.

I have no idea how my mom's maiden name will play out in this scenario. I might ask them if they still have that picture of my family tree.

So I got to thinking. Maybe I'm not real. Maybe I am just a figment. If the government isn't convinced that I was born and that I exist, then maybe I should go with that. If I don't exist then I shouldn't be paying taxes. If I don't exist, how would they prosecute me?

I know, I'm being facetious. I'm pretty sure that I'm for real. I've had gout and kidney stones. Also I took algebra in high school and college. And you can't feel that much pain if you don't exist.

It's kind of ironic that to renew my driver's license, apply for Medicare and Social Security, I will need an

official birth certificate. Yet, when they wanted to send me to Vietnam, all I had to do was show up. Go figure!

Now back to those two kids. They are girls, and one is always going to be referred to as "little sister." One will be proud to be the oldest until they get to age 30, and then the younger one can play the 38-second trump card. Not only that, but the younger one came in a pound lighter than her sister. Weight and age are two big issues for females, I have learned.

The news story did not relate the names of the two girls. I just hope that the parents name them something they can actually spell by the time they get to the third grade and that their first names are what they intend to call them.

I don't even know why we have to have a middle name. The only time it's needed is when your mama is mad at you and screams at you from the back porch. And later when you are announced to come on stage and receive your high school diploma.

And life goes on!

Dwain Walden is editor/publisher of The Moultrie Observer, 229-985-4545. Email: dwain.walden@gafnews.com.

ARREST RECORDS

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

The following abbreviations are used below:

DAC - Department of Agriculture Commission
DOA - Department of Agriculture

DOT - Department of Transportation

FDLE - Florida Department of Law Enforcement

FHP - Florida Highway Patrol

FWC - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

HCDTF - Hamilton County Drug Task Force

HCSO - Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

ICE - Immigration and Custom Enforcement

JAPD - Jasper Police Department

JNPD - Jennings Police Department

OALE - Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement

P&P - Probation and Parole

SCSO - Suwannee County Sheriff's Office

WSPD - White Springs Police Department

Dec. 23, Anthony Rene Goss, 23, 18831 Greeley St., Detroit, MI, leaving scene of accident w/property damage, JAPD-McDonald

Dec. 24, Kyle Jarod George, 21, 1554 SW Armadillo Lane, Lake City, Fla., lewd lascivious battery on a child, child abuse, contributing to delinquency of minor, HCSO-McDonald

Dec. 27, Danny L. Isom, 31, 6519 Creekview Ct., Riverdale, Ga., out of county warrant-Broward Cty., out of county warrant-St. Lucie Cty., HCDTF-Brownfield

Dec. 27, Earnest James McCray, 33, 16914 Sunrise Dr., White Springs, Fla., agg. assault w/deadly weapon, WSPD-Harden

Dec. 28, Patrick Oneal Gibbons, 37, 16943 Sunrise Dr., White Springs, Fla., agg. assault w/deadly weapon,

WSPD-Harden

Dec. 28, Vinnie Louise Crawford, 39, 9902 80 Terr., Live Oak, Fla., battery DV, HCSO-Fouraker

Dec. 28, Natalie Smith, 40, 800 Winston Dr., Apt. J4, Cookeville, Tenn., petit theft, JAPD-McGauley

Dec. 29, James Arthur Shanks, 28, 669 Seabrook Parkway, Jacksonville, Fla., poss. K2 Spice, introduce into detention facility, out of county warrant-Nassau Cty., HCSO-Hughes

Dec. 30, Robert Lee McClain, 30, 1486 Berry St., Jennings, Fla., vop, hold for Echols County, HCSO-Burnam

Dec. 31, Douglas Leigh McGauley, 49, 3072 NW Hwy. 129, Jasper, Fla., burglary of mobile conveyance, disorderly intoxication, assault, JAPD-Rickerson

Jan. 1, Milton Albert Bell, Jr., 18, 927 NW Olive Court, Lake City, Fla., poss. less than 20 grams marijuana, tampering with evidence, JAPD-Rickerson

Jan. 1, Dontay Johnson, 26, PO Box 43, Sander-son, Fla., dwls/r with knowledge, JAPD-Rickerson

Jan. 1, William L. Brown, 29, 506 NW 1 Ave., Jasper, Fla., battery DV, HCSO-Griffin

Jan. 1, Tyrone Devon Dumas, 43, 4991 Billy Creek Dr., Ft. Myers, Fla., reckless driving, dwls, JNPD-Raggins

Jan. 2, Jonathan Lee Douglas Parr, 18, 310 SW Central Ave., Jasper, Fla., dui, open container, poss. alcohol under 21, JAPD-McGauley

Jan. 3, Alfredo Sanchez, 62, 17100 SW 100 Ave., Miami, Fla., dwls knowingly, out of county warrant-Nassau Cty., WSPD-McDonald

Jan. 5, Sergio Arandi Cruz DeLeon, 38, 1277 Britain Dr., Lawrenceville, Ga., bypass ag station, no DL, DOA-Everett

Jan. 5, Joshua Dylan Barwick, 21, 3878 NW 91 Lane, Jasper, Fla., no or improper DL, vop, JAPD-McGauley

Jan. 6, Teddrick Antonio Anderson, 28, 1113 Fieldcrest Rd., Jasper, Fla., vop, resist w/o violence, HCSO-Murphy

The Jasper News

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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.

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Obituaries

Mabel Hunter
Dec. 24, 2013

Mabel Hunter, age 85, of Jasper, Fla. passed away Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2013 at Tidewell Hospice in Port Charlotte, Fla. Mrs. Hunter was a native and longtime resident of Hamilton County, Fla. She moved to Punta Gorda area just recently to be closer to her daughter.

She was preceded in death by her late husband Baker Hunter in 1996. She was a wonderful and loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother. She was a friend to so many and will be missed. In addition to Baker, Ms. Hunter was predeceased by her sister Sybil Williams and grandson, Joe Hunter, Jr.

Survivors include one son, Joe Hunter, Sr. (Peak), Valdosta, GA.; two daughters, Connie Small (T.C.), Tallahassee, Fla. and Diane McGarity (Bob) of Punta Gorda, Fla.; two brothers, James "Brownie" Bass, O'Brien, Fla. and Billy Bass, Cross City, Fla.; one sister, Betty Jo Foster, Jennings, Fla.; seven grandchildren, John, Bill, Cherie, Chris, Robert, Jason and Michael; 16 great grand-

children and 7 great-great grandchildren with one more on the way.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 28, 2013 in the chapel of Harry T. Reid Funeral Home, Jasper, Fla. Interment followed at Hebron Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Tidewell Hospice 5955 Rand Blvd, Sarasota, Fla. 34238 or to the local American Cancer Society.

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

Santos Gallegos-Uvalle
Dec. 30, 2013

Santos Gallegos-Uvalle, age 76, of Jennings, Fla. passed away at his home on Monday, Dec. 30, 2013 following an extended illness. Santos was born on February 6, 1937 in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico to the late Lorenzo and Francisco Gallegos. He was a retired farm worker. Santos was predeceased by his parents, two brothers, Leonel and Pablo and a sister Clara.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Marie Solis Gallegos; four sons, Antonio, Santos Jr., David, Daniel and Richard Gallegos; four

daughters, Juana Rodriguez, Yolanda Mendez, Veronica Gallegos and Maria Orta; three brothers, Guadalupe, Fernando and Lorenzo Gallegos; three sisters, Celia Renteria, Juana Gallegos and Emma Gallegos; 26 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Friday, Jan. 3, 2014 in the chapel of Harry T. Reid Funeral Home in Jasper, Fla. with Pastor Carlos Ceja officiating. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

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

James S. (Jimmy) Rogers
Feb. 20, 1941
Jan. 5, 2014

James S. (Jimmy) Rogers, 72, of Lake Park died Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014 at his residence. He was born on Feb. 20, 1941 in Echols County to the late Harley Franklin Rogers and Ethel Bernice Coggins Rogers.

Mr. Rogers was a retired air conditioner mechanic from Valdosta State University, a United States Army veteran, a Vietnam War veteran and a member of Wright's Chapel United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Dorothy (Dennis) Rogers of Echols County, son, James Harley Rogers of Echols County and his three children, Haley Rogers, T. J. Rogers and Harley Rogers, all of Pinetta, son, Samuel Doyle Rogers and his wife, Rachel (Hiers) Rogers and their two children, Caleb Rogers and Jacob Rogers all of Echols County, son, Richard Dennis Rogers and his wife, Nora Leigh (Norris) Rogers and their

child, Chloe Rogers all of Echols County, two brothers, Ronald V. Rogers and his wife, Linda of Echols County, Donald G. Rogers of Hamilton County, several nieces and nephews, and a very special sister in law, Bonnie Dennis. Mr. Rogers is predeceased by his parents and one brother, O. Franklin Rogers.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014 at 2 p.m. at Wright's Chapel United Methodist Church with Reverend Jackie Asbell officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Flowers will be accepted or donations may be made to Halcyon Hospice, 101 East Northside Drive, Valdosta, GA. The family received friends from 6 - 8 p.m. Tuesday at the McLane Lakewood Funeral Home in Lake Park. Condolences to the family may be expressed online at www.mclanecares.com.

McLane Lakewood Funeral Home.

DEATH NOTICES

Samatha Plummer
Jan. 2, 2014

Samatha Plummer a resident of Live Oak, passed away Jan. 2, 2014 in Gainesville, Fla.

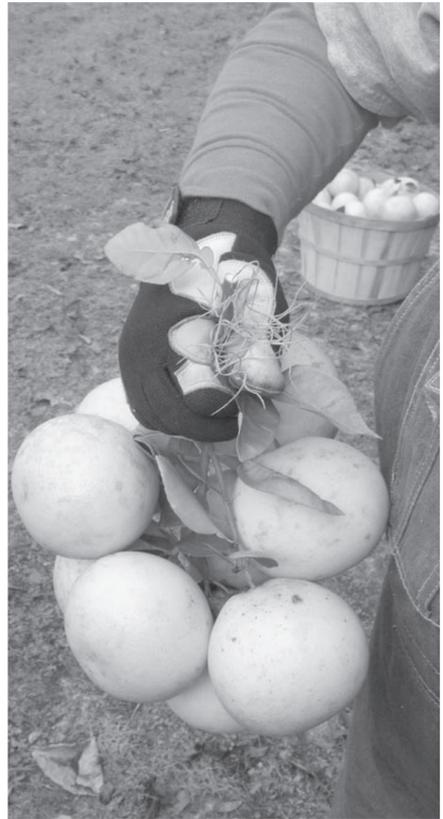
D.M. Udell and Sons Funeral Home are in charge of arrangements.

Charles Young
Jan. 3, 2014

Charles Young a resident of Live Oak, passed away Jan. 3, 2014.

D.M. Udell and Sons Funeral Home are in charge of arrangements.

Growing grapefruit



A single bunch of pink grapefruit grown by Marlene Shaw in Genoa was picked from the tree on Saturday, Jan. 4. This particular bunch contained nine succulent grapefruit.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Timberlake Property Owners Association will have its next board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m. in the room at the Race Track on CR 152 in Jennings. Members are invited to attend.

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

Porter Crapps memorial service to be held Jan. 11

A public memorial service will be held for Porter Claude Crapps, III on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church.

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SRWMD and FWC are working to restore the natural flow at Bell Springs in Columbia County

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) are partnering to restore the natural spring run and ecology of Bell Springs in Columbia County.

Prior to the District acquiring the property, the spring flow was interrupted by the installation of earthen berms and culverts to partition the spring run into three distinct ponds.

The narrow spring run was converted into a 1.3 acre pond and two smaller ponds. Interruptions in the natural flow caused the main pond to become dominated by algae and the smaller ponds to be overrun with duckweed.

The District acquired the 54-acre Bell Springs Tract in 2008 to protect water quality, floodplains, and natural systems. The spring discharges about 350 gallons per minute or 180 million gallons per year. It flows to the Suwannee River just northeast of White Springs.

Removing the berms will convert the artificial ponds back to a natural spring run, which will restore the natural hydrology and the natural communities at the spring.

Construction crews are presently removing the berms and relocating the fill on site. The fill will be used to rebuild the natural grade and contours of the original spring run channel.

"The top of the largest dam was about 30 feet above the natural

grade," explained Patrick Webster, project manager for the District. "In total, 3,019 cubic yards of fill, which is enough fill to cover a football field nearly 1.5 feet deep, will be removed from the spring run to allow the spring to flow uninterrupted to the Suwannee River."

Native trees and vegetation will be planted along the spring run to restore natural habitat and prevent erosion. FWC will monitor survival of vegetation and habitat improvements.

"The deeper, relatively stagnant waters of a pond system supports a different vegetation community, and provides habitat for a different suite of fish and wildlife species than the shallow flowing waters of a spring run," said Patrick McCord, project manager for FWC. "We're working to restore the natural hydrology of the system, which in turn will support important habitat communities that are associated with a spring run."

McCord said FWC is pleased to partner with the District on a restoration project of this nature.

"The vast majority of projects that FWC is involved with are focused on managing the impacts that human disturbance and landscape alteration has on habitat quality. At Bell Springs we have an opportunity to remove the source of disturbance from the landscape altogether, and actually restore a natural system back to the way nature intended



Construction crews use excavators to remove one of four earthen berms at Bell Springs, which has interrupted the spring's natural flow.

it to be," said McCord. "We don't run across very many opportunities to do true restoration like this. We're very pleased to be working with the District on a common goal of springs restoration."

"The District appreciates the opportunity to partner with FWC to achieve restoration of the ecological integrity of Bell Springs, which will yield benefits to the public through enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and restoration of the natural hydrology," said District Executive Director Ann Shortelle.

The FWC provided

funding for the topographic survey, construction services and planting of native trees and ground-cover vegetation for the project. The District provided

the engineering and design for the site plans, the construction specifications and drawings, and secured all permits for the construction activities.

During construction, the Bell Springs Tract will be closed. The construction phase of the project is scheduled for completion in a few weeks.

Special Olympics basketball is Saturday

Continued From Page 1A

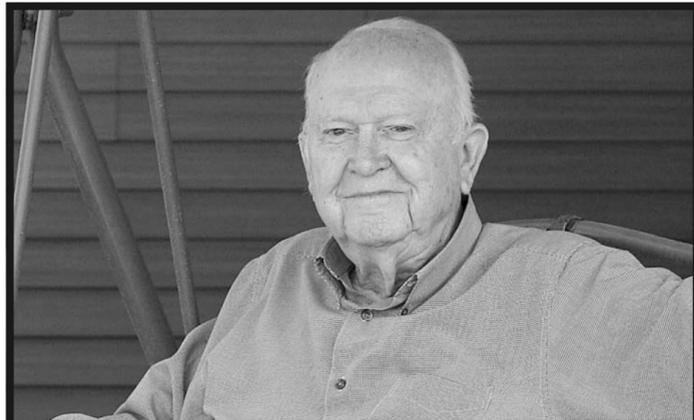
volunteers.

Udell said volunteers are still needed to assist with the labels and ribbons, as well as to help serve the food. Concessions will also be sold. The public is invited to attend.

To volunteer your time and services, please contact Helen Udell at 904-504-5632 or 386-792-6540, ext. 2366.

At last year's Special Olympics, Jasper Mayor Ann Lessman said, "What these athletes do is a little more special because what they do, they do it from the heart. They do it because they want to do it, because they love what they do."

The Special Olympics Oath states, "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."



Dr. Fred Mickler, retired Hamilton County physician

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Hamilton County 4th graders participate in Farm City Week essay contest.

Courtesy photo

Farm City Week Awards

The Hamilton County Farm Bureau recently held their Annual Farm City Week Awards Banquet celebration for the 4th graders in our county. This awards program was held in conjunction with Farm City Week, which is a national celebration all over the United States and Canada.

During September every 4th grade student in Hamilton County was given a task of writing a 100-word essay on "Why is agriculture the most important industry in our nation?" The school kids had to do research and actually write their essay during the school day without the assistance of parents. This is a great exercise for students to practice for the writing skills on FCAT.

President of the local Hamilton County Farm Bureau Damon Deas said the top five students from each class were determined by the teachers and then about 40 of the top essays were sent to Gainesville to be read and judged by the public relations department of the Florida Farm Bureau. The local Farm Bureau had nothing to do with the judging, as it was all done in Gainesville by writing profes-

sionals.

The winners this year are as follows: 1st place, Hannah Sparks; 2nd place, Jenne Tolle; 3rd place Timothy Warfel; 4th place Sari Aldami; and 5th place, Jordan Beck. The teacher with the winning student also received a cash award to be used in the classroom. The winner was Mrs. Melanie Parks.

This essay contest is definitely accomplishing our purpose. Farm Bureau wanted to have our school children learn about the importance of farming and what agriculture means to our nation.

"We gave the winners cash money for their excellent work, as well as a much deserving teacher," said Deas. "This event is always held during Farm City Week, which is celebrated on a nationwide scale. The week leading up to and including Thanksgiving is Farm City Week and we all need to understand the importance of farming and what farming means to our nation," Deas added.

The students and parents also enjoyed an evening meal of smoked sausage and pancakes prepared by the local Farm Bureau board members.

GAINESVILLE GOES MEDIEVAL

Hoggetowne Medieval Faire comes to life Jan. 25-26 and Jan. 31-Feb. 2

For two weekends each year, the clear blast of trumpets mingles with the laughter of children as the kingdom of Hoggetowne opens its gates. Performers in period garb sing and dance in the streets, while knights joust on horseback and magicians captivate the crowds. Tucked away in the enchanted forest of the Alachua County Fairgrounds in Gainesville, this medieval marketplace will come to life on Jan. 25-26 and Jan. 31-

Feb. 2. Hoggetowne is home to more than 160 talented artisans from across the country who journey to the Faire to sell and demonstrate their wares, offering medieval crafts such as weaving, blacksmithing, leatherworking, wood carving and glass blowing. Fairgoers can browse through a selection of delicate medieval jewelry or glimpse into their future with a mystical fortune teller.

"Visitors should arrive

early to take full advantage of the exciting medieval magic," said Linda Piper, faire coordinator. "Each morning all the entertainers greet the Hoggetowne guests as the city gates open to this enchanted kingdom."

The sound of applause echoes from the Faire's eight stages, where the forgotten skills of full-flight falconry, gripping aerial acrobatics and old-world magic come to life. Jugglers, knife throwers and gypsy dancers add to the excitement as they fill the streets of Hoggetowne.

"Visitors should plan to spend the entire day enjoying Hoggetowne's enticing blend of artwork, period music and medieval traditions," Piper said. "People wait all year for this highly anticipated event."

One of the Faire's most popular attractions is the

joust, where knights in full body armor battle on horseback. Children can meet the knights and their magnificent steeds, or they can watch the Living Chess Match, where medieval heroes show off their swordsmanship and battle the forces of evil.

This year's theme is "The War of the Roses," where you can meet the beautiful and fierce Margaret of Anjou and her arch enemy, Richard, Duke of York at the Alachua County Fairgrounds. The Tournament Field will host a living chess game where Margaret tries to surprise and capture Richard at Hoggetowne, but is thwarted by superior moves in a stunning show of combat entertainment.

Visitors can also engage in traditional medieval games of chance and skill. They can shoot

arrows or hurl battle axes at targets, or they can navigate their way through a winding maze. Thrilling human-powered push rides, as well as camel and elephant rides, attract eager children and adventurous adults.

Children can also enjoy the Faire's School Day on Friday, Jan. 31, in which thousands of students from Florida journey to Hoggetowne for a day of face painting, hair binding and medieval crafts. General admission is half-price, and larger discounts are available to school groups that register in advance.

After roaming the streets of Hoggetowne and working up an appetite, both adults and children can enjoy a feast fit for a king at the food court. The tempting aromas of freshly baked pastries, blooming

onions, sweet potato fries, giant turkey legs and succulent ribs attract scores of lords and ladies.

Produced by the city of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire draws more than 50,000 guests each year. On Saturdays and Sundays, the Faire is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and costs \$15 for adults and \$7 for children ages 5 to 17. The Faire is free for children under 5. School Day, Friday, Jan. 31, is open 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and admission is half-price. Pets are not permitted. The Alachua County Fairgrounds is located east of Gainesville at 2900 NE 39th Ave. adjacent to Gainesville Regional Airport. For more information, visit www.gvl-culturalaffairs.org or call 352-334-ARTS.

Florida Museum of Natural History lets the dogs out in 'Wolf to Woof' exhibit opening Feb. 15

GAINESVILLE, Fla. --- Visitors will soon be able to uncover the mysteries of man's best friend at the Florida Museum of Natural History's new temporary exhibit, "Wolf to Woof: The Story of Dogs," opening Feb. 15, 2014.

"Wolf to Woof" is the largest and most comprehensive traveling exhibit on the history, biology and evolution of dogs. It shows how dogs have secured a special place in human society as an incredibly diverse and versatile species that serves as hunters, herders, guards and companions.

"The canine/human relationship is something so special and unique in nature," said Tina Choe, Florida Museum exhibit developer. "As a dog owner, I am thrilled to share this experience with our visitors."

The exhibit reveals an in-depth history of dogs and their connection with wolves through four themed sections featuring

artifacts, multimedia displays, photomurals and dioramas.

Visitors may participate in interactive, hands-on activities like climbing into an avalanche scene to see what it's like to be saved by a search-and-rescue dog. Visitors may also guess what dogs are saying in a "howling area" and test their nose against a dog's powerful sense of smell.

The museum will host an opening celebration event for the exhibit on Feb. 22 that will include a dog adoption drive and service dog demonstrations. Admission is \$7 for adults (\$6 Fla. residents and seniors); \$4.50 for ages 3-17 and free to museum members and University of Florida students with a valid Gator 1 card.

The museum will display the exhibit through Sept. 1, 2014.

For more information, visit <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/exhibits>.

Santa visits Haven Hospice Attic in Lake City

Lake City - Over 50 children met Santa and picked out over 200 donated holiday gifts which were wrapped by dedicated volunteer "elves" at the annual Kids Night at the Haven Hospice Attic in Lake City on Dec. 12. Haven Hospice employees, volunteers and members of the community generously donated toys and gifts as well as their time and talents to make the event a success.

About Haven Hospice

Haven Hospice is your not-for-profit community hospice organization providing services since 1979 and licensed in Florida since 1980. Haven is North Florida's expert in end-of-life and palliative care, receiving national recognition as a Circle of Life Award Recipient from the American Hospital Association for its excellence and innovation. Haven has also been recognized as a Florida Pacesetter for its leadership in promoting advance directives. For more than 30 years Haven has had the honor and privilege to serve more than 60,000 patients and families in North Florida. For more information, visit www.havenhospice.org or call 800-727-1889.



LifeSouth Community Blood Centers January Blood Drives

Day	Date	Location	Time	Information
Thursday	January 9	City Hall & Courthouse FHP Office	9 am to 5 pm 11 am to 2 pm	Lake City
Friday	January 10	Anytime Fitness Lake City Mall Pilgrim's Pride Hungry Howie's Lake City	3 pm to 6 pm 11 am to 2 pm Noon to 6 pm 2:30 pm - 7 pm	Free Small Pizza or Sub
Saturday	January 11	Branford Rotary Champs Pizza	9 am to 4 pm 11 am to 6 pm	Hatch Park Free Cheese Pizza
Sunday	January 12	Hardee's Lake City Dollar General Wellborn	9 am to 5 pm 10 am to 4 pm	By Walmart
Monday	January 13	Suwannee Hamilton Tech Walmart Lake City	8 am to 3:30 pm 10 am to 7 pm	
Tuesday	January 14	Suwannee Courthouse Shands Lake Shore Dairy Queen	8:30 am to 2 pm 10 am to 6 pm 2:30 pm to 6 pm	
Wednesday	January 15	Live Oak Library Columbia Correctional Hardee's Live Oak	9 am to 3 pm 10 am to 6 pm 3:30 pm to 6 pm	
Thursday	January 16	Hardee's Live Oak Columbia Correctional Shands Live Oak	9 am to noon 10 am to 6 pm 1 pm to 6 pm	
Friday	January 17	Columbia Correctional Cancer Care of North FL Harvey's	7 am to 5 pm 10 am to 4 pm 4:30 pm to 7 pm	
Saturday	January 18	Thriftway Mayo Empire Tattoo	10 am to 5 pm 1 pm to 8 pm	
Sunday	January 19	Dairy Queen Winn Dixie Lake City Circle Cross Cowboy Church	10 am to 4 pm 11 am to 2:30 pm 3 pm to 6 pm	Small Ice Cream Cone N FI Livestock Market
Monday	January 20	Hardee's Lake City Hungry Howie's Live Oak	9 am to 1:30 11 am to 6 pm	Downtown Small Pizza or Sub
Tuesday	January 21	Fish & Wildlife Office Dairy Queen Lake City Correctional Suwannee Health Care	2 pm to 5 pm 9:30 am to 11:30 am 11 am to 6 pm Noon to 5 pm	Lake City
Wednesday	January 22	Windstream Lake City Correctional Suwannee Valley Electric	9 am to 12:30 pm Noon to 7 pm 1:30 pm to 6 pm	
Thursday	January 23	Cheek & Scott Baker Correctional	11 am to 6 pm 11 am to 7 pm	Live Oak
Friday	January 24	PCS - Swift Creek Chemical Baker Correctional	8 am to 4 pm 11 am to 7 pm	
Saturday	January 25	Walmart Live Oak Olive Garden	11 am to 5 pm 11 am to 7 pm	Discount Coupon
Sunday	January 26	First Christian Church Walmart Live Oak Lake City Mall	8:30 am to 1:30 pm 11 am to 5 pm 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	
Monday	January 27	Walmart Lake City VA Domiciliary S&S White Springs	11 am to 6 pm 11 am to 5 pm Noon to 6 pm	
Tuesday	January 28	Hardee's Live Oak Hardee's Lake City UPS Distribution	11 am to 6 pm 11 am to 4 pm 4:45 pm to 7:45 pm	
Wednesday	January 29	Florida Forestry Hamilton Courthouse Annex Lake City Mall	10 am to 1:30 pm 11 am to 5 pm 2 pm to 4:30 pm	
Thursday	January 30	Parkview Baptist Church Hamilton Correctional	5 pm to 7:30 pm 11 am to 5 pm	
Friday	January 31	Burger King Downtown Tractor Supply Lake City Florida State Prison Hamilton Correctional	11 am to 6 pm 9 am to 12:30 pm 11 am to 6 pm 3 pm to 9 pm	Lake City

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Chili cook-off set for Feb. 1

By Joyce Marie Taylor
 joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

The Hamilton County Chamber of Commerce would like to invite everyone to come out for their annual Chili Cook-off on Saturday, Feb. 1 at the Jasper Women's Club beginning at 11 a.m.

The deadline to enter is Thursday, Jan 30. Entrance fee for contestants is \$10 per individual and \$30 per business. Chamber members will receive a \$10 discount on their business entry fee. Awards will be given to the winners in both categories.

Admission for spectators is \$5 at the door and will allow you to taste test as many of the chili entries as your heart desires.

The annual chili cook-off is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to mingle with friends, neighbors and others in the community. For more information, please call 386-792-1300.



Courtesy photo

Gold City, Wilburns headline Pure Gold Gospel Music week



Gold City

Gold City, the nation's leading southern gospel quartet, and Wilburn and Wilburn will headline two gospel music concerts at Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park in Madison, Florida.

Wilburn and Wilburn, which features Jonathan Wilburn, former lead vocalist for Gold City, and LifeSong will be in concert on Saturday, January 11, at 7 p.m.

Gold City, the Stephen Jones Band and LifeSong will take the stage Thursday, January 16, at 7 p.m. A free chili dinner will be available during the evening.

With their unique style and versatility, Gold City has produced over 49 hit songs and more than 40 recordings, as well as earned numerous awards and nominations. Gold City is known for their hit songs, "Midnight Cry," "John Saw," "In My Robe of White," "There Rose A Lamb," "It's Just Another Red Sea," "God Handled It All," "I Think I'll Read It Again," "Truth Is Marching On," and most recent, "Peter, James and John."

For over 30 years Gold City has consistently delivered a concert and a message that ministers to each person individually in a way that is genuinely and sincerely felt by all, and they are committed to continue doing so for as long as God makes a way. As they continue to add hit songs to the list, and as the bus continues to roll week after week, it's not about the who, when or where, it's about the why: to minister to those in need, through the greatest music on earth, and following His lead, every step of the way.

Wilburn and Wilburn is a new name but familiar faces. This father and son duo combine a solid foundation of "Old School" with a flare of youthful presence to bring the message of Christ in a song.

Jonathan Wilburn has taken the stage with his family the Wilburns and was the lead vocalist with Gold City for over a decade. His tenure in

gospel music has brought him close to the heart of people from all ages. It seems as though the fans agree, for Jonathan has been nominated and voted America's favorite lead vocalist five times by the subscribers of the Singing News magazine.

Jonathan is noted for his distinguished voice on Gold City classics such as "Midnight Cry," "He Said," "I'm Not Giving Up," "That Little Baby," and many more.

"We are looking forward to our return to Madison," Jonathan said. "We love singing here and sharing with some of the greatest gospel music fans in the world. It's also a blessing to be in a bit warmer climate. Sweet Florida and gospel music!"

For more information, please visit www.lifesonggospel.com or call (850) 464-0114.



Wilburns

District Teacher and School-Related Employee announced

Continued From Page 1A

2014 School-Related Employee of the Year," said Moffses.

Third grade teacher at Central Hamilton Elementary Joanie Blue was selected as Teacher of the Year and paraprofessional Amanda Wiggins, also at Central, was selected as School-Related Employee of the Year.

"Earlier this month, 12 individuals were chosen by their peers to represent their respective work sites," said Moffses. "A selection committee had the difficult task of determining the two individuals it felt would best serve as the district's representatives."

There will be an awards program/reception on Monday, March 10, at 5 p.m. in the Hamilton

County High School cafeteria to honor all the district's selections.

"Congratulations to all of our representatives and thank you for your dedication to the students of Hamilton County!" said Moffses.

Location	Teacher	School-Related
Central Hamilton	Joanie Blue	Amanda Wiggins
North Hamilton	Judy Steedley	Roxanne Zamora
South Hamilton	Julie Law	Jocelyn Smith
Hamilton County High	Geniane Bell	Wanda Udell
Greenwood	Renee Daigle	Suretta Bell
General Services District Offices	Joe Mattox	Cindy Pittman



Around the Banks of the Suwannee

By Correspondent Johnny Bullard

"All round the little farm,
I wandered,
When I was young,
Then many happy days I
squandered,
Many the songs I sung..
When I was playing with my
brother..
Happy was I.
Oh, take me to my kind old
mother...
There let me live and die...
All the world is sad and
dreary...
Everywhere I roam.. Oh,
Lordy, how my heart
grows dreary...
Far from the Old Folks at
Home."

The lyrics of the Stephen C. Foster's ever popular "Old Folks at Home", Florida's state song since 1935, are indelibly imprinted on the minds and hearts of many in our area, through which flows the beautiful Suwannee River; river of song, river of lore, river of beauty.

Stephen C. Foster was born near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, July 4, 1826; a very auspicious day. Not only was the date of his birth the golden anniversary of the United States of America as a free, independent nation, it was also the day that two great Americans - former presidents and

founding fathers of the Republic - Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died.

Foster, in his very short life penned over 200 songs including two songs that went on to become state songs: "My Old Kentucky Home", the state song of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and, of course, "Old Folks at Home", state song of the state of Florida.

This coming, Sunday, Jan. 12, Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park in White Springs will celebrate the life of Stephen Collins Foster, one of America's foremost composers. Foster died on Jan. 13, 1864, and for over 60 years, the United States has celebrated "National Stephen Foster Day" in January.

The auditorium of the historic carillon tower at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park will be the site of a beautiful program of story and song, beginning at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 12. The annual event is sponsored by the Stephen Foster Citizens Support Organization. A musical program followed by a reception will be the feature of this program celebrating the music of Stephen Collins Foster.

If you have the chance to attend this program, I know you will receive a blessing, and

you may learn something about Foster that you never knew. I learn something new each year and I have been attending and/or participating in the program for a long, long time.

I love the historic Stephen Foster carillon tower which houses the world's largest set of tubular bells, mainly because the carillon tower and I are the same age. Both of us officially "started out" in the world in 1958. The carillon bells will play Foster melodies on National Stephen Foster Day for all to enjoy.

The "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair" and "Stephen Foster", both selected by the Florida Federation of Music Clubs, will "warble" Foster melodies and other selections by American composers. I hope this year's Stephen remembers the words to "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair". The one last year had a great voice and wonderful stage presence, but when he launched out into "Jeanie", I knew that "Lamb of God" was headed down the wrong pathway. He was a "Lost ball in high weeds" and soon ran into a brick wall, but I will say this, he had the grace and stage presence to stop, say "I messed up and forgot" and

start over again, and that takes "moxie" and a lot of it. It was one of the things that made the program a delight; the human factor of it all.

Great refreshments are served afterward, compliments of the Stephen Foster Citizens Support Organization.

If you attend, the price is nominal, an entry fee, I believe of \$3, for an afternoon of wonderful, wholesome entertainment, in a historic and storied atmosphere. Even though the buildings are centrally heated, better wear something warm. All that marble in the building is as cool as it looks with a marble bust of Stephen Foster looking over everything.

Still, it's a "step back in time". Moss festooned oaks, carillon bells, hoop skirts, tinkling pianos, beautiful camellias on the white linen covered tables all under the expert direction of Patricia Sandlin Cromer, who is descended from a family who has been in this part of the world, the Sandlin families of Columbia and Hamilton counties, since "Moby Dick was a minnow". Pat is an employee of the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, and she knows how to do things "the right way" when it comes to Stephen Foster Day.

For a northern boy who, supposedly, never saw the Suwannee River, let's face it, he did a lot for our part of the world, when he penned "Old Folks at Home". He immortalized the Suwannee River by shortening it to two syllable "Swanee" and "voila". What would have been another dark watered, rather short, in mileage as rivers go, turned into something im-

mortal, and truly, truly, that song, and the beauty of it, opened the state of Florida to tourism.

Twenty-one years ago, I had the privilege of attending the Harvard Principal Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, thanks to the Crown Consortium of Florida and, then, Superintendent of Schools for Hamilton County, Pat Parks. I shall forever be grateful to them for that experience. It was, unforgettable. One thing I can remember and still recall that brought some moisture to my eyes is when principals from about 17 foreign countries gathered around a grand piano at The Charles Hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts and sang for me "Old Folks at Home", and they knew each word. Unless the good Lord takes my mind, I will never forget that. "Old Folks at Home", like it or, hate it, and I LOVE it, falls slightly behind "Happy Birthday" and "Jesus Loves Me" as one of the best known American songs, WORLD WIDE.

We can thank the late Senator Clayton Bass of Suwannee County for sponsoring the bill that made the song Florida's state song in 1935. So, if you want to learn more about Foster, if you feel a little nostalgic, and if you skip that Sunday afternoon nap this coming Sunday at 2 p.m., come join us in White Springs. I will be there "emceeding" the program, and, I can promise you, "A good time will be had by all".

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.

"Way down upon the Swannee River"...

Stay healthy when the sick season of sneezes and sniffles arrives

The cold weather brings with it a season of smiles, the first snowfalls and, unfortunately, cold and flu outbreaks. While everyone else is suffering, there are ways you can make it through the season unscathed.

It is estimated that a billion people across North America will succumb to the cold virus this year, says Medline. Considering there is no cure for cold and flu viruses, prevention remains a person's best option at fending off cold and flu. There are different precautions to take that can help protect you against getting sick or at least reduce the frequency and severity with which cold and flu strikes.

Although there is no magic pill to take that will prevent you from catching a cold or the flu, there are ways to improve your odds.

* Wash your hands the right way. Washing your hands frequently remains the single-best way to keep viruses and bacteria that can make you sick from infiltrating the body. Washing your hands for at least 20 seconds can effectively remove any dirt, grime and invisible invaders.

* Skip antibacterial products. Because colds and the flu are the result of viruses, which are different in behavior and structure from bacteria, they will not be killed off with the use of antibacterial products. What you may succeed in doing is killing off any beneficial bacteria on your hands as well as creating resistant bacteria that form with over-use of antibiotics and antibacterial products.

* Get the flu shot. There is no vaccination to prevent the common cold, but there are immunizations that can help reduce your risk of getting the flu or help minimize its severity. Doctors' offices, clinics and even pharmacies all offer annual flu shots.

* Use sanitizer on items around the house. Surfaces that are frequently touched by all members of the household should be wiped down with a disinfectant product. A bleach-and-water solution is an effective sanitizer. Surfaces to sanitize include phones, doorknobs, light switches, remote controls, computer keyboards, faucets, toys, and countertops.

* Avoid sick people. KidsHealth.org states that flu viruses and colds can travel up to 12 feet (from a sneeze or cough). Steer clear of anyone exhibiting symptoms, especially someone who is frequently sneezing or coughing. Parents should keep children home from school if they are sick. Do so until symptoms subside so as not to infect others.

* Use a sanitizer product. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advise that when hand-washing is not readily available, a good way to kill germs is to use an alcohol-based sanitizer lotion. While not as effective as washing hands in warm, soapy water, sanitizing products can be used in a pinch while you're on the go.

* Cough into your sleeve. Rather than coughing or sneezing into your hands, do so into the crook of your elbow since this area rarely touches anything else.

* Skip the buffet lunch. Buffet-style offerings are convenient and offer variety, but they are also a breeding ground for illnesses. These foods may have been sneezed or coughed on. Also, the serving spoons have been touched by dozens of people.

There are many different ways to avoid getting a cold or the flu this season. Diligence is one of the keys to staying germ-free.



The elderly are more at risk for serious side effects from the cold and flu

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Suwannee Weddings Expo is Sunday in the Grande Hall of SOS Music Park



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This exquisite wedding cake was designed by Publix Bakery in Live Oak.



A beautiful bride's dress modeled for a past Expo.



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 <p>POSSIBLE OWNER FINANCING - Half acre lot on the Suwannee River. Gorgeous views, conveniently located. \$29,000. Call Nelda Hatcher, 386-688-8067 MLS#81920</p>	 <p>BANK OWNED - 2006, 3/2 DWMH, 1,200+ sq.ft., located on 3 acres with lots of trees, and some fencing. \$40,000. Ric Donovan, 386-590-1298 MLS#85013 www.RealEstateShows.com/696158</p>	 <p>JUST LISTED - 1,800+ sq.ft., 3/2. Convenient location to shopping, hospital, and interstate. Great home with screen porch, side entrance garage, fireplace, paved circular drive. \$108,500. MLS#85947 Columbia County</p>
 <p>BEAUTIFUL cedar home with great location. Convenient to schools and shopping. Large walk-in-closet in master bdrm, oversized windows, screened in back porch, 32x40 shelter. \$149,500. MLS#85327 www.RealEstateShows.com/696013</p>	 <p>BANK OWNED - Custom built 2 story home on 2 acres just outside of town. 2,500+ sq.ft., 3 bedroom 2 1/2 baths. Just outside of town. Balcony, 2 fireplaces, covered front porch, attached 2 car garage. \$193,500. MLS#85601</p>	 <p>NEW IMPROVED PRICE: 45,000+ sq.ft. Commercial building in Live Oak. Just minutes from Wal-Mart and 1-10 interchange. \$560,000. MLS#36340</p>

Just \$9,900! Several lots to choose from in the Azalea Park Subdivision. Located inside the city limits. Close to schools, doctors, and other amenities. MLS#85801

TWO LOTS for the price of one. Close to the river and out of the flood zone. Asking \$5,000. Call Irvin Dees, 386-208-4276 MLS#80336

10 ACRES - with well, septic, and electricity available. Close enough for city convenience yet with all the pleasures of country living. \$35,000. Nelda Hatcher, 386-688-8067 MLS#85896

REDUCED! BANK OWNED - 1996, 3/2 DWMH, 1,300+sq.ft. on almost an acre on Lake Jeffery Road. Large covered back porch. Workshop. \$29,500. MLS#82213 www.RealEstateShows.com/656213

NICE 3/2 DWMH just minutes from town on 5 acres of pasture. Ideal for that mini farm or for your horses. Complete w/a couple of out buildings for storage. \$49,900 Call Irvin Dees, 386-208-4276 MLS#85299

\$69,900 - Cute 2/1 frame house on 1 acre. Paved road frontage. Very secluded and private. Handicap accessible bathroom. Fenced. Only 3 miles from Charles Springs/Boat ramp. Call Sylvia Newell, 386-590-2498 MLS#83618

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GREAT OPPORTUNITY for commercial drive thru business (formerly Domino's Pizza)/ Great location at roundabout. \$289,000. Call Sylvia Newell, 386-590-2498 MLS#83080

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Brides to be all over are planning their big event for 2014, but before you decide, check out the 5th Annual Suwannee Weddings Expo at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park (SOSMP) in Live Oak, Jan. 12.

This event features free admission, food samples by caterers, a huge bridal show by the popular Golden Needle of Lake City, entertainment, wedding/event specialists, photographers, travel agencies, florists, Origami jewelry, wedding DJs, Allies of Lake City, caterers, Suwannee Valley Party Rental, wedding cake displays, wedding jewelry, prizes and ideas galore for any size wedding, reception or other special event. For the bride to be, it's a do-not-miss event at just the right time of the year to make planning easy. Scott Carroll will emcee the event.

The Golden Needle of Lake City will present a fantastic array of breath-taking bridal gowns, gorgeous bride's maid dresses, elegant mother of the bride, father of the bride, groom and groomsmen attire and gorgeous outfits for the precious little ring bearers and flower girls. Area models will show off these fashions during the Expo with a huge inside fashion show where you are sure to find wedding attire for everyone in the bridal party.

Admission is free to this popular event held from 1 - 4 p.m. Jan. 12 in the spectacular Grande Hall, one of North Florida's most favorite and most beautiful wedding reception venues. The large Grande Hall is located

on the banks of the famous Suwannee River and features a beautifully decorated wedding, reception, family reunion, birthday, anniversary or business event facility with a covered, wrap-around porch and huge, open-air deck. Step inside the beautiful double doors at the front or back, and you'll see the Grande Hall's two elegant staircases leading to a second floor balcony, a first floor open fireplace with a one-of-a-kind, hand-made metal sculpture and unique decor. A kitchen is available and tables and chairs are available to rent or we can recommend an offsite vendor.

The SOSMP has RV sites, primitive camping and beautiful, luxurious cabins available for the pleasure of you and your guests during your special event on the banks of the Suwannee River in North Florida. Consider spending your honeymoon in our spectacular tree house overlooking the Jam field with its own balcony and gorgeous views.

For more information about the Wedding Expo, email Michelle Goddard at michelle@musicliveshere.com or call her at 386-209-2798. To contact the SOSMP directly, email spirit@musicliveshere.com, call 386-364-1683 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.

Visitors enjoy Decar Scaff Christmas Village

Many visitors enjoyed the display of Decar Scaff's Christmas villages at the Gingerbread House located next to his family home at 7337 NW

CR 146 in Jennings during the Christmas season.

Scaff has a variety of detailed displays including the fall season, a car-

nival/fair, an operating train, mountain ski lodge, winter camping grounds, German town, college town, residential section, business section,

downtown with parade, Fisherman's Wharf, Pirate's Cove, Disney princesses, dinosaurs, western section, Indian section, animal park and the life of Christ from birth to resurrection

with towns of Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

Newly added this year were displays of Noah's Ark and the Tabernacle. Several collections of memorabilia were on display.

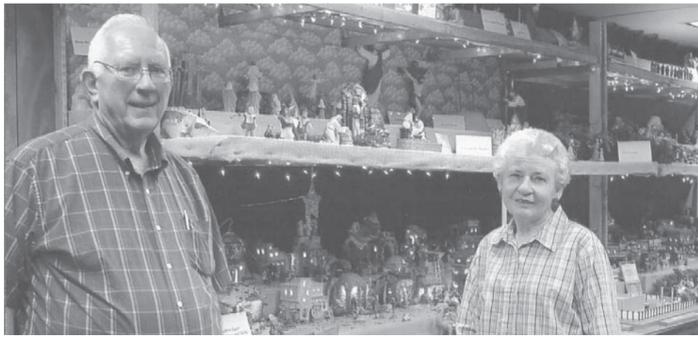
There's no charge or accepted donation. The Lord willing, the display will be available for viewing again next December. You're invited to visit and bring someone with you.



Decar Scaff's Christmas Village.



Decar Scaff's Christmas Village.



Visitors enjoy all the displays. Courtesy photos

North Hamilton student wins trip to Jaguars game

Devin Cherry, a fifth grade student at North Hamilton Elementary, was chosen to attend the Jacksonville Jaguar football game on Sunday, Dec. 22.

Cherry was chosen to receive a ticket to the football game for demonstrating exceptional academic and behavior

performances. He has demonstrated good sportsmanship, role model behavior, healthy choices, and excelled academically.

When Cherry was asked how he felt about receiving this opportunity, he stated, "I am very excited and look forward to this experience."



Fifth grade student Devin Cherry with NHE Assistant Principal Peggy Sue Hasty.

Courtesy photo

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Applications are being collected through our website: www.svec-coop.com under the "about us" tab and employment opportunities. Please direct any questions to Vicky Talmadge at vicky@svcc-coop.com or (386) 362-2226 ext. 5656. The deadline for accepting applications will be Friday, January 17, 2014.
847230



Suwannee Weddings Expo is Sunday

Named one of the most beautiful outdoor venues in America, the SOSMP is your wedding destination with a fairy tale wedding chapel on Rees Lake, the Grande Hall for receptions/weddings and a deck overlooking the famous Suwannee River where you may say your vows.

Brides to be all over South Georgia and North Florida are planning their big event for 2014 but before you decide, check out the 5th Annual Suwannee Weddings Expo at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park Jan. 12, 2014. This event features food samples by caterers, a huge bridal show by the popular Golden Needle of Lake City, entertainment, wedding/event specialists, photographers, travel agencies, florists, Origami jewelry, wedding DJs, Allies of Lake City, caterers, Suwannee Valley Party Rental, wedding cake displays, wedding jewelry, prizes and ideas galore for any size wedding, reception or other special event. For the bride to be, it's a do-not-miss event at just the right time of the year to make planning easy.

The Golden Needle of Lake City will present a fantastic array of breathtaking bridal gowns, gorgeous bride's maid

dresses, mother of the bride, father of the bride, groom and groomsmen attire and gorgeous outfits for the precious little ring bearers and flower girls. Area models will show off these fashions during the Expo with a huge inside fashion show where you are sure to find wedding attire for everyone in the bridal party.

Admission is free to this popular event held from 1 - 4 p.m. Jan. 12 in the spectacular Grande Hall, one of North Florida's most favorite and most beautiful wedding reception venues. The large Grande Hall is located on the banks of the famous Suwannee River and features a beautifully decorated wedding, reception, family reunion, birthday, anniversary or business event facility with a covered, wrap-around porch and huge, open-air deck. Step inside the beautiful double doors at the front or back and you'll see the Grande

Hall's two elegant staircases leading to a second floor balcony, a first floor open fireplace with a one-of-a-kind, handmade metal sculpture and unique decor. A kitchen is available and tables and chairs are available to rent or we can recommend an off-site vendor.

The SOSMP has RV sites, primitive camping and beautiful, luxurious cabins available for the pleasure of you and your guests during your special event on the banks of the famous Suwannee River in North Florida. Consider spending your honeymoon in our spectacular tree house overlooking the Jam field with its own balcony and gorgeous views.

For more information about the Wedding Expo, email Michelle Goddard at michelle@musicliveshere.com or call her at 386-209-2798. To contact the SOSMP directly, email spirit@musicliveshere.com, call 386-364-1683 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.

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