

The Jasper News

Today's Weather
High 59° F
 Precip: 0%
 Partly cloudy skies today with highs around 59°F. Lows today expected to be around 27°F. Winds NW at 8 mph. Chance of rain 0%.
 For up to the minute weather go to www.nflaonline.com.



143rd YEAR, NUMBER 7 THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2014 1 SECTION 18 PAGES 50¢

Armed suspect sought in domestic dispute

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office is seeking a man who fled into the woods armed with a loaded rifle following a domestic disturbance late Wednesday night, Jan. 15, near US 41 in White Springs.

According to Hamilton County Sheriff Harrell Reid, a man who lives near the Genoa area on US 41 had been heavily drinking and roughed up his girlfriend and her friend before taking off from the residence with a rifle in hand.

Police were called to the disturbance at 11:24 p.m. Jan. 15. Numerous units who responded to the scene were still tracking the suspect as morning broke Thursday, Jan. 16, according to eyewitnesses.

An HCSO incident report states that HCSO was dis-

SEE ARMED, PAGE 2A

Stamp price to increase

By Bryant Thigpen
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The United States Postal Service has announced the rate for stamps will increase to 49 cents effective Jan. 26. The new rate approved late December has been said by US Postal officials to be a measure taken to recover from the economical downturn that began in 2008.

According to a USPS report, the new price increase is expected to generate \$2 billion in new revenue to improve the financial status of the service.

Letters (one ounce) will increase from 46 to 49 cents; letters (additional ounces) will increase just one cent to 21 cents; letters to all international destinations (one ounce) will be \$1.15; and postcards will increase by one cent to 34 cents.

The new postal rates will take effect Sunday, Jan. 26.

Sen. Montford and Rep. Porter in Hamilton Jan. 28

Senator Bill Montford, along with Representative Elizabeth Porter will be holding a Hamilton County Delegation Meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the county commission chambers in the Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 NE 1 St., Jasper.

School bus forced off road, no injuries reported



No injuries were reported after this school bus was forced off the road Tuesday morning. - Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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A Suwannee County School bus narrowly missed being hit by a truck that was coming out of the Love's Truck Plaza at I-75 in Hamilton

County as it was transporting four special needs kids to Greenwood School in Jasper, Tuesday morning. The bus driver took evasive action to avoid a collision and went into the ditch, according to Jesse Lovelace, director of transportation for Suwan-

nee County schools. No injuries were reported and a back up bus was sent to pick up the kids.

Lovelace said the bus driver did a great job keeping the bus from rolling over and keeping the kids calm.



Shirley Heath receives recognition from her fellow city clerks. -Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

Retiring town clerk gets huge send-off in White Springs

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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On Tuesday, Jan. 14, White Springs Town Clerk Shirley Heath was treated to a huge retirement send-off par-

ty inside town council chambers.

More than 50 friends, neighbors, town officials and other guests were on hand to salute Heath's 18 years of

SEE RETIRING, PAGE 5A

School district not happy with DJJ negotiations

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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At the Jan. 13 meeting of the Hamilton County School Board, the matter of the contract between the school district and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to provide a 40-bed moderate risk residential facility and program was met with much discussion and no resolution.

"As you are aware, the DJJ would like to open a facility here in Hamilton County," Moffses told the members of the school board and the audience. "As such, there is an agreement that should be in place between the school

Youth treatment center on hold for now

SEE SCHOOL DISTRICT, PAGE 7A

School board rejects phase 3 of redistricting plan

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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Attorney Cliff Adams spoke to the school board members and county commissioners about redistricting at the second joint meeting in November, 2013. -Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

Phase 3 of the county's proposed redistricting plan was discussed again at the Jan. 13 meeting of the Hamilton County School Board, and against Superintendent Thomas Moffses's recommendation to proceed with phase 3, the board made

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 3A

MLK event packs White Springs community center

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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More than 100 people turned out for the 3rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration and event in White Springs on Monday, Jan. 20.

In Mayor Helen Miller's opening remarks, she said, "We're thrilled to have every-

body here and I think every year this event grows larger and larger, as we come together to celebrate something truly wonderful for our nation and our community. Dr. King will always be a role model for all of us. His

SEE MLK, PAGE 3A



These beautiful centerpieces were made by Rhonda Johnson. See more photos, Page 2A. -Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor



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Scenes from MLK Jr. Day celebration in White Springs



▲ Sista Hattie Mae Jenkins (Letitia Bristol) entertained the crowd. -Photos: Joyce Marie Taylor



▲ The Sunrise Community Choir sang some uplifting songs for the crowd.



▲ Rev. Fred Scippio from Sweet Home Baptist Church gives the invocation.



► Winner of the essay contest, Azaria Thompkins with Mayor Miller.



Beautiful Dreamer Awards (L-R) Dorothy L. Bryant, Mayor Helen Miller and Eleanor Bradley.

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Armed suspect sought in domestic dispute

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patched to a single family residence off SE 87 Terrace in White Springs in reference to a domestic violence battery. While enroute to the scene, dispatch advised responding HCSO deputies that the victims had fled the residence and the suspect was armed with a .243 caliber rifle with scope.

Upon arriving at the scene, deputies learned from the victims that the suspect was Chain Lee Williams, who had fled into the woods with a loaded rifle and extra

rounds. The victims said Williams told them he would shoot it out with police, reports state.

Back-up units and a Department of Corrections K9 unit were dispatched to the scene due to the subject fleeing into the woods. For officer safety, EMS was also dispatched to the scene, due to the severity of the situation.

For officer safety, a helicopter was requested to respond, but none were available, so Columbia County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team responded to assist. HCSO deputies accompanied

CCSO SWAT to the residence and deployed an armored vehicle to secure the residence and property. Once the scene was secured, the K9 team was notified to come in and the hunt began for the suspect, who was tracked for several miles through swamps, flatwoods and open fields. The end track was at a location where it appeared the suspect was picked up by a vehicle waiting for him, reports state.

The investigation is ongoing and an arrest warrant has been requested for Williams.

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MLK event packs White Springs community center

Continued From Page 1A

courage, his perseverance and his commitment to doing the right thing no matter the obstacles."

Rev. Fred Scippio from Sweet Home Baptist Church provided the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a beautiful rendition of

the National Anthem by Johnny Bullard.

The Sunrise Community Choir, accompanied on piano by Ms. Earnestine, sang "We Shall Overcome"

As in past years, the students at South Hamilton Elementary were asked to participate in a contest with the younger students submitting colored drawings of Dr.

King and the older students submitting written essays. The essay assignment was for the students to write about someone they know who reflects the best characteristics of Dr. King.

There were blue ribbons for all the winners and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of the essay contest received

monetary gift cards.

"For the writing contest, the first place winner wrote a very moving tribute," said Miller. "She wrote about her friend who passed away last year from a gunshot accident. The writer talked about how good her friend was, how he looked after others, stood up for what was right, and that he had a profound impact on her and other kids. The writer is Azaria Thompkins."

The Sunrise Choir sang another selection, "Down by the Riverside", which lifted everyone's spirits with a lot of "Amen's" all around.

This year two Beautiful Dreamer awards were given out to local citizens, one of them posthumously to Jake Coleman Bradley. His award was accepted by his wife Eleanor (Lumpkin) Bradley.

Bradley, who was born in Lake City, moved to White Springs in 1976. He attended Florida A&M University and played on the "Blood, Sweat and Tears" football team. He and the team won two national championships. While at FAMU he was selected as All American football player and then he was drafted into the NFL and played for the Chicago Cardinals. He went on to have a successful 34 year coaching career in Bradford and Columbia counties. He was also the first director for the summer program at the Old Carver School in White Springs.

He was a pillar of the White Springs community and at one time served on the town council. He devoted his life to his wife, his five children,

nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The second Beautiful Dreamer award was given to Dorothy L. Bryant, an educator and community leader, as well as a loving wife and mother.

Bryant also attended FAMU and received a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics education, a certification in English and a master's degree in guidance. She served on the Suwannee Valley 4 C's board of directors and also as chair of the South Hamilton Elementary School Advisory Council, as well as devoted 49 years to the Hamilton County School District in a variety of positions. Bryant was selected as teacher of the year in 1995 and 2000.

She is married to Sammy G. Bryant and has two sons.

After Bryant accepted her award, she asked all in the audience who came under her instruction to please stand up. More than half the people in the room rose to their feet.

Johnny Bullard then sang "Beautiful Dreamer" a cappella and received a generous ovation.

One of the highlights of the day was when Sista Hattie Mae Jankins (Letitia Bristol) arrived to engage the audience in some irreverent hu-

mor. Ever the comedic storyteller, Jankins had the entire audience in stitches.

Sabrina Marshall has been married to her husband Richard for 24 years and she had the honor of introducing him as the guest speaker. The Marshall's, who have four children, have been operating an assisted living facility in Jennings for the last 10 years. Richard Marshall is also on the White Springs Town Council and is the pastor of Cornerstone Apostolic Outreach Ministry in Lake City.

"He is such a wonderful man of God," his wife said. "I love him so much."

When Richard Marshall got up to speak, he said he would ask that all his relatives stand up, "but the whole room could move." He went on to give a moving speech in recognition of the day.

A large group of kids from New Jerusalem Baptist Church performed a praise dance to close out the ceremony called "Break Every Chain", which was well received by the audience.

Many thanks to Linda and Charles White for the meal preparation, Mrs. Richard Tennis for the dessert cake, Rhonda Johnson for the elegant centerpiece decorations, and Anita Rivers for coordinating the event.

School board rejects phase 3 of redistricting plan

Continued From Page 1A

no motion to move forward.

"We had worked with the county commission on their plan for review of the county population and possible re-draw of county lines," Moffses reminded the board members. "Again, this was a county project that was initiated. As a board, you agreed to phase 2 of that project and I believe the cost of that was \$4,000. We agreed that the county would pay half and the school board would pay half."

Phase 3, Moffses said, is another \$2,000 - again split two ways between the county and school district - however, it was noted there was never any discussion by the school board to participate in the third phase.

"At this point I would need some direction and discussion from the board," Moffses said. "It was my understanding, after phase 2, that you would discuss and make a determination if you were going to proceed with any of the additional phases. If you so

choose to proceed, I would need an approval from the board for payment of phase 3."

Attorney Jay Willingham explained that phase 3 of the redistricting project will consist of narrowing the new district maps down to three to five different alternatives and giving a presentation to the board.

"I personally think it's a waste of money myself," said board member Gary Godwin.

Board member Johnny Bullard reminded everyone of the 1985 federal court order, which arose out of a NAACP lawsuit to create a single minority district.

"They can't go against that," said Bullard. "That was a federal court order that has never been rescinded and it's going to stay in place one way or another, so procedure, as far as this is concerned, is kind of a moot point. You're going to have to have a majority-minority district in this county, regardless. They can draw it any way they want to, but the percentage is go-

ing to have to be there. If they don't, they're not going to just be in violation of a state law, but a federal law."

"That's the concern," said Willingham.

Bullard replied, "It should be more than a concern."

A majority-minority district is one in which racial or ethnic minorities comprise a majority (50 percent, plus 1 or more) of the population.

Bullard said he respects the commission, but the school board didn't become aware of the redistricting negotiations until far too late in the process. Since the deadline has already passed, which ended in Dec. 2013, the redistricting maps can't be changed until 2015, the next odd-numbered year.

Moffses then made a recommendation that the board approve the payment for phase 3 of the project and the continuation of the Hamilton County re-districting process. There was no motion made by any of the board members, so the recommendation failed.

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WHITE SPRINGS
By Walter McKenzie
lifeinwhitesprings@gmail.com
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OPINION OK to feel sorry

At one time in our nation's history, blacks feeling sorry for whites was verboten. That was portrayed in Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird." This is a novel published in 1960 -- and later made into a movie -- about Depression-era racial relations in the Deep South. The novel's character Tom Robinson, a black man, portrayed in the movie by Brock Peters, is on trial, falsely accused of raping a white woman. The prosecuting attorney, while grilling Robinson, asks him why he spent so much time doing chores for the alleged rape victim when he had so much of his own work to do. After persistent prosecutorial haranguing, Robinson timidly admits that he felt sorry for her. That response elicits shock and dismay from the prosecutor and the courtroom: How dare a black man feel sorry for a white woman?!

As a result of the achievements of the civil rights movement, which gave black Americans full constitutional guarantees, I am free to feel sorry for guilty or timid white people. But there may be less



A MINORITY VIEW

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BY WALTER WILLIAMS

of a need because of white people's response to former NBA player Dennis Rodman's bizarre interview from North Korea in which he claimed that North Korea's evil tyrant, Kim Jong Un, is his best friend. Rodman has since apologized for some of his remarks. But he's been a bit of catharsis. White liberals, both in and out of the media, made criticizing him nearly a national pastime. Even Sen. John McCain, who couldn't summon up the courage -- nor would he allow his presidential campaign staff -- to speak ill of Barack Obama's minister, Jeremiah Wright, told CNN's Piers Morgan in reference to Rodman: "I think he's an idiot. I think he's a person of not great intellect who doesn't understand that he really does provide propaganda for this very brutal, ruthless young man."

The widespread and open criticism of Rodman shows that there's been considerable progress and that I don't have to feel as sorry for white people. But what about the weak media response to Rep. Henry C. Johnson, D-Ga., who, during a 2010 House Armed Services Committee hearing concerning U.S. military buildup on Guam, told Adm. Robert F. Willard, the then commander of U.S. Pacific Command, "My fear is that the whole island will become so overly populated that it will tip over and capsized"? Adm. Willard replied, with all sincerity, "We don't anticipate that." I'd pay serious

money to know what the admiral and his white staff said about Johnson after they left the hearing room.

Then there's Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, who asked NASA scientists whether they could drive the Mars rover to where Neil Armstrong placed the American flag. Actually, Armstrong planted the flag on the moon in 1969. In 2010, Jackson Lee pointed out: "Today we have two Vietnams, side by side, North and South, exchanging and working. We may not agree with all that North Vietnam is doing, but they are living in peace." The fact of business is that as a result of North Vietnam's conquest, today it's only one nation, Vietnam. Another Jackson Lee geographical observation was her reference to "countries like Europe." But we shouldn't be that critical of her, because President Obama also has referred to people from "countries like Europe." Referring to "countries like Europe" is just as ill-informed as saying countries like Africa or countries like South America. Of course, they are continents.

Some might recall the field day the media and social commentators had with Vice President Dan Quayle and his misspelling of potato, some of which was quite ruthless. Esquire named Quayle among "The Dumbest Vice Presidential Picks of All Time." That kind of field day wasn't seen in mainstream media in the cases of Johnson, Jackson Lee and Obama. To have done so might have been deemed racist.

The bottom line is I'm glad the day has come when I can freely feel sorry for whites, who have to bite their tongue when it comes to criticism of blacks.

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.

Chili cook-off set for Feb. 1

By Joyce Marie Taylor
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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.



Jasper Chili Cook-off is Feb. 1.

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4. Why is the Super Bowl measured in Roman numerals? _____
5. Who is the only player to earn the Super Bowl MVP honor from the losing team? _____
6. Who holds the Super Bowl record for the most rushing yards in a game? _____
7. When did the NFL-AFL championship game officially get named the Super Bowl? _____
8. Who is the only person to win the Super Bowl as both a player and a coach for the same team? _____
9. What company pays the MVP of the Super Bowl every year to sponsor their business? _____
10. How many footballs are used for the Super Bowl game? _____

SUPER CHALLENGE TRIVIA CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Contest Rules

1. Please print all answers in black/blue pen.
2. All entries must be turned in by Jan. 30, 2014
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THE TOWN OF JENNINGS FIRST PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Town of Jennings is considering submitting an application for funding of up to \$600,000 through the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) under the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for FFY 2013. These funds must be used for one of the following purposes:

- I. To benefit low and moderate income persons or
2. To aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or
3. To meet other community development needs of recent origin having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

The categories of activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of housing, neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization, or economic development and include such improvement activities as acquisition of real property, loans to private-for-profit business, purchase of machinery and equipment, construction of infrastructure, rehabilitation of houses and commercial buildings, and energy conservation. Additional information regarding the range of activities that may be undertaken will be provided at the public hearing.

For each activity that is proposed, at least 51 % of the funds must benefit low and moderate income persons.

In developing an application for submission to DEO, the Town of Jennings must plan to minimize displacement of persons as a result of planned CDBG activities. In addition, the Town of Jennings has developed a plan to assist displaced persons.

The public hearing to receive citizen views concerning the community's economic and community development needs will be held at Town Hall, 1199 Hamilton Avenue, Jennings, FL 32053 on Tuesday, February 4th, 2014 at 7:05 p.m. For information concerning the public hearing, contact Christy Smith at (386) 938-4131 .

The public hearing is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Any handicapped person requiring an interpreter for the hearing impaired or the visually impaired should contact Christy Smith at least five calendar days prior to the meeting and an interpreter will be provided. Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public hearing should contact Christy Smith at least five calendar days prior to the meeting and a language interpreter will be provided. To access a Telecommunication Device for Deaf Persons (TDD) please call (800) 955-8771. Any handicapped person requiring special accommodation at this meeting should contact Christy Smith at least five calendar days prior to the meeting.

A Fair Housing Workshop will be conducted immediately after the public hearing on the same date and at the same location.

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Retiring town clerk gets huge send-off in White Springs

Continued From Page 1A
 service to the town of White Springs.
 When Mayor Helen Miller asked Heath if she thought her retirement day would ever come, Heath responded, "No, when I turned in my letter in August, I thought January was years away, but it went like that," she added, snapping her fingers.
 Guests were invited to come up and say a few words and first up was District 4 Hamilton County Commissioner Randy Ogburn, who said Heath has been a great friend and neighbor to he and his wife Martha. He thanked for

for all her hard work to make White Springs a better place to live.
 "The thing that I think you the most for is your integrity," Ogburn said to Heath, "That speaks louder than anything."
 Former White Springs Mayor Joseph McKire said, "I do want to thank you for your service to the town of White Springs, particularly during the time I was in office. You and I came through some times where we had to have the right person for the right job at the right time, because we were under some mandates that we had to fulfill, and not just anybody could do that," he

added.
 "You have really conducted yourself very professionally through a wide range of many, many, circumstances, some of which would be so frustrating that it would be difficult for a person to keep their cool," said Vice Mayor Walter McKenzie. "You have well represented the town of White Springs because in many instances you were the face for the town of White Springs."
 Elaine McGrath from Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park said it seems as if she has

worked with Heath forever.
 "You've done a lot to help bring the town and the park together," said McGrath. "Like I said before, we have lots of volunteer jobs here at the park."
 Three of Heath's Florida Association of City Clerk cohorts presented a moving, and at times tearful, presentation about their times spent with Heath at different functions. Jasper City Clerk Jennifer Hightower, along with Audrey Sikes and Linda Johns, on behalf of all the members of the association,

gave Heath an honorary resolution plaque that detailed her career.
 "We are a network of people and we help people," said Johns. "Not only in our community, but Shirley has helped with every community that we've been a part of."
 Heath thanked everyone for coming out to help her celebrate her retirement and offered a few humorous anecdotes about her associates at town hall.
 When all was said and done, Heath proclaimed, "Well, I've attended my last council meeting,

typed my last minutes, held my last election, and hopefully handled my last 119 request for public record," she added, as everyone laughed along with her. "I can't tell you how many thousands I've handled," she added.
 All in attendance enjoyed a delicious buffet of food, including Heath's retirement cake that was beautifully decorated as a beach with palm trees and surf boards. It seemed quite apropos as Heath is leaving soon on a Caribbean cruise with her husband.

Obituaries



Joseph T. Cooks

Joseph T. Cooks
 Jan. 18, 2014

Joseph T. Cooks resident of Jasper, Fla. passed away Jan. 18, 2014 at his home in Jasper, Fla.

Mr. Joseph T. Cooks is survived by his father: Mr. Mark Cooks; mother: Mrs. Marjorie Cooks, siblings, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services for Mr. Joseph T. Cooks will be Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014 at 12 p.m. at the former Hamilton High School Auditorium in which is now the Court House Annex. Viewing and visitation for the family will be on Friday, Jan. 24, 2014 at the former Hamilton High School Auditorium in which is now the Court House Annex from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Burial will be in the Swift Creek Cemetery in White Springs, Fla.

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

Call D.M. Udell and Sons at 386-362-4189 or cell 386-209-0223 Douglas M. Udell L.F.D. and Douglas M. Udell II L.F.D.

Pauline Hurst Hogan
 Oct. 22, 1943 - Jan. 14, 2014

Pauline Hurst Hogan, age 70, of Jasper, Fla. passed away Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014 at Haven Hospice in Lake City, Fla. following an extended illness.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014 in the chapel of Harry T. Reid Funeral Home in Jasper, Fla. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery in Jasper.

Pauline was born in Jasper, Fla. on Oct. 22, 1943 to the late Wiley and Geneva Allen Hurst. She taught elementary school in Hamilton County for 28 years and was a member of Bright Pond Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband of 52 years, George "G.B." Hogan,

Jasper; two sons, David Hogan and his wife Rose Marie of Jasper and Jeffrey Hogan and his wife Christie of Lake City, Fla.; one brother, Billy Hurst, Live Oak, Fla.; one sister, Dorothy Vanosdol, Dowling Park, Fla.; one grandson, Jordan "Sugarbear" Hogan; numerous nieces and nephews also survive.

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

Lois Jean Smith
 Oct. 14, 1924 - Jan. 17, 2014

Lois Jean Smith, age 89, of White Springs, Fla. passed away Friday, Jan. 17, 2014 at Haven Hospice in Lake City, Fla.

Lois was born in Adrian, Michigan on Oct. 14, 1924 to the late Burt Eugene Wheeler and his wife Mildred Morgan Wheeler.

Ms. Smith was raised during hard times and learned to work hard for what she needed and wanted. Education became a primary goal late in her life. She worked as a beautician, school bus driver and in the school cafeteria to complete her high school education and college degree. Thinking she could do more to make a difference in some child's life, she went on to earn her degree in special education and retired after many years of teaching from Greenwood School.

Ms. Smith was predeceased by her parents, her husband's Leonard McKey Platt and Frank L. Smith, a son, Phillip E. Platt and a grandson, Matthew L. Platt.

Survivors include two sons, Joseph Platt and his wife Pamela of Jacksonville, Fla. and Frank "Butch" Smith of White Springs, Fla.; one daughter, Mildred R. Pound and her husband Frank of White Springs, Fla.; a daughter-in-law, Janiece Platt of Athens, GA.; one sister, Doris McCumber, Gainesville, GA.; eight grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild on the way.

Graveside services were held Sunday, Jan. 19, 2014 at Evergreen Cemetery in Jasper, Fla.

Her nephew Mr. McCumber gave the eulogy and following the service friends and family enjoyed a treat of soda and chocolates at her request.

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



A very appropriate retirement cake was enjoyed by all.



Vice Mayor Walter McKenzie and Mayor Helen Miller recall Heath's years with the town.



A delightful assortment of refreshments were offered to all the guests.



Heath had fun opening all her gifts. -Photos: Joyce Marie Taylor

A special wish for a special trip

Haven Hospice employee and family traveled to Cuba

Haven Hospice assisted Haven RN Liaison Jacqueline Thompson in getting a travel visa so that she could accompany her stepfather to his hometown in Cuba. This was the first trip for Jacqueline to meet her relatives there and possibly the last trip for her father.

"I especially wanted to go to Cuba before my dad declines and may not be able to handle traveling," said Thompson. Roberto, aged 88, emigrated from Holguin, Cuba to the United States in the 1960s. "He has been going back ever since they opened up travel, but I wanted to go and finally meet my step sisters and brothers and all of their children," said Jacqueline "I heard I could go back as a family member so that is why I contacted Haven Vice President of Governmental Affairs and Community Relations Jim

Poole."
 "We knew how important this trip was for Jacqueline and with my experience in governmental relations, I was familiar with the process, so I contacted Senator Marco Rubio's office and assisted Jacqueline in getting the paperwork started," said Poole. "At Haven, we not only want to help our patients and families at that crucial time but also our employees and their families as well."

Jacqueline, Roberto, her son Ross and niece Tyasia spent their time traveling to the homes of friends and relatives in Holguin unannounced because there was no phone service, but they were always welcome. "I was a little fearful of going because I don't speak Spanish but my Dad does," said Jacqueline. "The people there were so loving and open, so it was

a wonderful and refreshing experience."

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.

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IN GOD WE OUGHT TO TRUST God's new years desire for us



By Hugh G. Sherrill

As we approach the New Year many are thinking of the things they want to do different next year. New Years resolutions will be the topic of many conversations. Most of them will be about weight loss, living healthier, finances, etc.

The most important resolution we can make is to serve God better in the coming year. My prayer is that we all strive to do what His Word says we ought to do. Paul, writing to the Galatians said, "I say then: walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16 NKJ). The Galatians were noted for their impetuosity, fickleness and love for new and curious things. Does this not sound like the people of America today? We are a nation of people who act without thinking; doing

things on impulse; and we certainly have a love for new things, especially in the electronic line. It seems we are never satisfied.

Paul tells us in the next verse (17) "For the flesh lust against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things you wish." In other words we are in a spiritual war everyday.

How do we as Christians win this war? It's simple. The side that wins is the side that we feed the most. Its sad today that many Christians feed the carnal or fleshly side more than the spiritual side. Paul says in verses 19-21 that the work of the flesh are evident. That means they are clear for all to see. They are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery (the abuse of prescribed medication), hatred, contentions, jealousies, outburst of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murderers, drunkenness, revellers. Some think that their lives as a Christian are not seen by anyone; but I assure you they are. They are visible for all to see.

We must feed the Spirit in us to win the war. Verse 22-23 speak of the fruit of the Spirit. Notice that fruit is not plural. One can't just pick and choose which he wants to have. We must have them all. They are love. Love is the charac-

teristic word of Christianity. Love can only be known by its action. 1 Cor. 13:8 says "Love never fails." Joy - "to abound more exceedingly." John 15: 11b Jesus said "I am come that your joy may be full". Peace - "a harmonious relationship between men." Patience or long-suffering "to bear with"; (thank God for His patience and long-suffering toward us). Kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. All these characteristics are noticeable in a Spirit-filled Christian.

How do we feed the Spirit? Bible study, much prayer, going to a good Bible believing, preaching church, fellow-shiping with other Spirit filled Christians. One cannot alienate themselves from God's Word, prayers to God, and God's people and live the Spirit filled life. Baptism is the symbol of putting to death the old man and being raised a new man to walk in the Spirit. Verse 25 says "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

We wish all of you the very best God has to offer in the New Year. We also from the bottom of our hearts thank all those who make it possible for us to have this weekly Bible study article. Our prayer is that you abound in the wonderful grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Hugh G. Sherrill
ems-hugh43@comcast.net

Two great judgments to come

By Hugh G. Sherrill

Hebrews 9:27: "And it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment," Lately several people have asked questions about the coming judgments. I realize today that there are many differences of opinion on the subject, but the Bible is clear on its teachings.

Some believe that at some point in time all will be resurrected and the lost, called "goats," will be sent to hell; and the saved, called "sheep," will go to heaven. This is confused with the judgment of the nations that will take place at the Second Coming of Jesus. The two great judgments that are still in the future are The Judgment Seat of Christ and The Great White Throne Judgment.

2Nd Corinthians 5:10 states: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has

done, whether good or bad." This judgment is for the saved only. Many today that profess to be Christian do not take this judgment seriously. It's not preached or taught enough in many of our churches today. 1st Corinthians chapter 3 verses 11-15 says: 11 "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."

The last judgment is known as The Great White Throne Judgment. This judgment is for only those who reject the sav-

ing grace of our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary. It is the last event on God's calendar before eternity begins. This will be the most horrible event ever to take place. All those who stand before this judgment will be lost forever in a hell that was prepared for the Devil and his angels. Revelation 20:11-15 records this as follows: 11 "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death

and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

The Judgment Seat of Christ will be a blessed time for all those who serve God and use their talents to His glory. On the other hand, it will be a sad time for those who do not. But even they will be saved from a Devil's Hell. I pray that none who read this will reject God's simple plan of salvation. If you do, Hell awaits you. Trust Him today!

Hugh G. Sherrill
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A RESOLUTION FOR SAFETY: White Springs firefighters recommend creating an emergency plan

Disasters can take many forms - home fires, hurricanes, floods or tornados - and they can strike anywhere, at any time.

"Before a disaster strikes, it's important for families to have a plan. If you don't already have one, make it your New Year's resolution. Include how to get to a safe place, how to contact each other, how you will get back together and what you will do in different situations," said White Springs Fire Administrator Chris Greene.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a plan template available on their website.

White Springs volunteer firefighters suggest using the following guidelines to create a personalized home emergency plan for you and your family:

- Discuss the types of



By Angie Land

Doesn't take much for us to have a bad day does it? Flat tire? Slow waitress? Get cut off in traffic? Any one of these can make for a bad day, but combine several and look out! The fact is, at times daily life can be pretty frustrating and downright inconvenient! However, the way we choose to handle these situations may tell us more about our own character than we want to know! In the book of Proverbs 24:10, the Bible suggests that:

"If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength!"

Times of trouble can be useful to show us what kind of moral fiber we are made of, and if we are willing, they can strengthen those fibers considerably. Often we fail to take advantage of this benefit because we misunderstand what a trial really is. Trouble actually means adversity or affliction; real trouble, not simply a minor inconvenience or a nuisance. It seems that we make it our goal to avoid any kind of real trouble and seek to detach from anything that might cause us discomfort. We grow comfortable in our luxury (compared to the rest of the world), and become more and more self-absorbed. Our problem then becomes mistaking simple annoyances for real suffering.

For example, we grumble about standing in line too long at the grocery store, when

HEART MATTERS

many in the world won't have enough to eat today. We stay busy running our errands and keeping the laundry done and ignore the struggles that our teenagers are facing daily. Irritated by the mistake of another driver, we assume that we are the only one on the road with an important place to be. Are we really living our lives so detached and self-absorbed?

The trials that develop strength are ones that test your faith. Troubles that can only be overcome or even accepted by the understanding that we are not in control, nor does this world revolve around us. According to James 1:2-3, trials develop perseverance, which produces maturity. Webster's defines maturity as being fully developed. In context, we are mature not because of our physical size or the number of our years, but by how clearly we can differentiate between an inconvenience and an authentic trial. We are wise to learn to tell the difference, 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 or comments at angieland3@windstream.net

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Ark Skinners in concert Feb. 7

The Ark Sinners, of Ukraine, will be in concert at Bible Baptist Church in Jasper on Friday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. The church is located at 4786 US Hwy 41 S. Jasper FL 32052. For more information, call 386-792-0720.

College Placement Tests

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.

School district not happy with DJJ negotiations

Continued From Page 1A

district and the DJJ."

Moffses explained that on June 19, 2013, the DJJ solicited an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN #10001) stating that the DJJ was seeking a 40-bed residential program for low to moderate risk boys ages 14-18, with innovations in delinquency programming. The basic care and custody would be provided in accordance with Florida statutes, administrative rules and department policy to meet minimum requirements. The solicitation specified that the facility would be located at 11180 NE 38 St. in Jasper, which is where the former Panther facility was located.

As required to do, the school district responded to the solicitation on July 18, 2013, letting the DJJ know they were aware of the proposal and that the facility could be opening in the district if awarded.

On Nov. 21, 2013, after a request for information by the school district on Nov. 20, 2013, the DJJ responded with a letter that stated the Jasper Youth Treatment Center at the above mentioned address would be opening to receive students committed to the DJJ on Jan. 13, 2014.

Moffses said vendors were showing up at the district office stating they were going to be in charge of a facility.

"We had no idea what was taking place," said Moffses.

The opening date, Moffses said, was since changed to Wednesday, Jan. 15. He also went through all the specifics of Florida Administrative Code that defines the responsibilities of school districts to provide instruction and educational

services for students who are placed in a DJJ program.

"These things should have been done long before an announcement took place that we were going to receive a facility," said Moffses.

There are some options, Moffses said. The school district can provide their own staff for the facility or they can contract with a vendor to provide the services.

"We are looking at that," he said. "Understand that if we do contract with a vendor, we are required by these laws to provide at least 90 percent of Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding that we get to the vendor."

Questions began arising, Moffses said, when they reviewed the documents and saw that if they were going to use an outside private vendor, they were required to submit a completed contract to the Department of Education (DOE) for review prior to the October FTE (full-time equivalent student count) reporting survey.

Moffses said, "We weren't even notified of the facility until November, so we had no contract in place to submit to DOE during the October timeframe to even make the FTE projection count."

FTE dollars are the funds the school district uses to operate, Moffses explained. At this point, he said, the school district reached out to the financial team at the DOE to let them know what was taking place.

"We verified every option that was available to us, and how to try and overcome some of the funding possibilities," said Moffses.

In order for the school district to man the facility, Moffses said it would take five individuals at an approximate cost of \$220,000 that the district might not get reimbursed for until a year later.

Moffses reiterated there is no agreement in place between the school district and the DJJ and that the previous agreement expired in October, 2013, which was for a specific facility called Panther. That agreement, he said, is not even applicable to the agreement now being discussed.

Moffses said, after consulting with legal counsel, it was determined that "without a cooperative agreement, the facility, in our mind, cannot even open."

"At this time, we're close on an agreement, but we do not have an agreement," he said.

Moffses said that although the school district's finances are better than they have been in a long time, they are still a financially constrained district.

"There are needs of our own students that we need to address," he said.

"As we calculated all the dollars that could possibly be put toward a DJJ facility, we were very clear to them that we didn't feel that it was appropriate that we are redirecting funds and losing money on a process with the DJJ when our students are in need."

Moffses said the DJJ wants the school district to fund students who aren't even from their district.

One item in the documents Moffses pointed out, states, "The timelines and responsibilities, as required by Section 1013.53 F.S., for the notification by

DJJ to the local school board of the siting of new facilities and the awarding of a contract for the construction or operation of such a facility shall be included in the agreement."

"So, again, we have no agreement," said Moffses. "None of this information was placed in the agreement. That's the position that we've taken all along, that we are in a financial hardship situation as it is."

Moffses added that the DJJ did not provide the information in advance to the school district to help offset the costs.

A meeting was held on Dec. 19, between the school district, the DJJ, representatives from the DOE, as well as FADSS (Florida Association of District School Superintendents), which was represented by Senator Bill Montford and staff attorney Joy Frank.

"It was a good discussion, no resolution," Moffses said. "We provided them with all the financial data that they needed and showed them where the possible shortfalls could be."

The school district's position, as of this meeting, Moffses explained, is (1) Backed by statutes and states a cooperative agreement must be in place before DJJ can open a facility and seat students; (2) A cooperative agreement has not been finalized; (3) HCSD intends to contract with vendor G4S to provide all educational services; (4) A contract with G4S is pending a cooperative agreement with DJJ; (5) And an alternative FTE count has been requested from FLDOE for the week ending March 14, 2014, to address DJJ's student

population.

The reason for extending the FTE count, Moffses said, is to ensure a maximum amount of students in house during the count.

Moffses said the school district is not trying to make money. They just don't want to lose money. As such, they have added an addendum to the proposed agreement that would protect the school district, whereby the DJJ would be responsible for any dollar difference in excess of FTE dollars actually received.

Moffses went on to say that the board was aware that in the past, students had been transferred out of the district during funding count weeks, which caused the district to lose FTE dollars. Then, after the count, the students would reappear, he added, which is why the district asked the DJJ to sign off on the addendum to the agreement.

"They will not agree to that," Moffses said.

The DJJ's response was that they agreed to use best efforts to try and

work within the count structure. Moffses said the ongoing discussions with the DJJ have been lengthy, but for the most part, very cordial.

"At the same time, this is one agency of the state putting another entity in a financial situation," said Moffses. "They are taking the position that they will not address any of the funding and that it is our concern, so if there was a loss of funding, that is on the district."

HCSD, Moffses said, stands by ready, willing and able to assist DJJ to have a productive and successful program, however, current funds need to be directed to the district's students.

Moffses then left it up to the school board to decide how they want him to proceed. He said he would have a hard time recommending the district accept the agreement, knowing there was a potential to lose money.

After more lengthy discussion, the board agreed not to sign off on the agreement as is.

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Have you made a New Year resolution for weight loss?

By Heather M. Futch,
UF/IFAS Extension
Hamilton County
4-H Youth Development/
Family and Consumer Sciences Agent II
Reference: Dietary
Guidelines for Americans 2010

One of the most common New Year's resolutions seems to be weight loss and the most common way to handle that is going on a diet. Going on a "diet" is far less likely to stick than making a lifestyle change. By "changing your lifestyle", it is meant that you can still eat all of the foods you enjoy (in moderation), start drinking the daily recommended water, keeping track of the things you are taking in, and increasing your physical activity. It's that simple!

Yes, I did just say to not stop eating what you enjoy; however, there are choices one must make to become healthy. In fact, getting healthy should be the goal in losing weight, not just looking good or fitting in old clothes.

It is highly recommended that individuals making the decision for weight loss see their doctor first to get a check up before beginning your weight loss program. Your doctor will let you know if the program/diet you have chosen is the best choice for your body. Your doctor can also tell you the nutrients you should be looking for and even the food ingredients to avoid in your diet. The following three elements of moderation, calories, water, and physical activity are relatively sim-

ple to follow.

The first element is, "Moderation and Tracking Calories": This sounds like one of those "diets" where you keep track of the number of "points" each food is worth but it is actually much easier than that. Remember this basic rule: to lose one pound, you must have a total 3,500 calorie deficit in your diet.

Okay, so getting into numbers may get confusing but it's simple; talk with your doctor or use an app such as "myfitnesspal" or find a website that can recommend the amount of calories you should try to reach daily. From this, you can estimate that a daily deficit of 250 calories equals a half pound loss per week, 500 calorie daily deficit equals one pound loss per week, and a 1,000 calorie daily deficit equals a two pound loss per week.

Unless doctor recommended, no more than two pounds is the recommended loss per week you should strive for. You should strive to reach 1,200 calories daily, at least. Be aware that if you are NOT eating the number of calories your body needs, it will begin shutting down activities, activities like metabolism.

Metabolism is the mechanism that is so successful in burning all of the calories you take in. Without it functioning properly, your body begins storing calories for a time it feels is coming when it will not be fed. So, you see, food is important, just how much of it you eat is important, too.

It is recommended that you write down the number of calories you take in each day. If you do this, you are more likely to stick to your goal of weight loss, as well as getting healthy. There are many apps or websites that can aid in this, as well.

You can simply scan barcodes or you can choose to do it the old fashioned way and pull out your handy dandy pen and paper. Serving size is another thing to pay attention to. I recommend placing a digital scale in your kitchen (if you want to get high tech) or for those that prefer the simple way, use measuring cups and spoons. Trust me; you will realize that a lot of times that the serving sizes called for on the nutrition label are not exactly the amounts/sizes you thought they were.

The second element is, "Daily Water Quota". Drinking water and plenty of it cannot be stressed enough. It is recommended that your daily water equals to 64 ounces or eight 8 ounce glasses. It is important to realize that dehydrating your body will do nearly the same as will starving your body; it will shut down some of your processes.

You should strive for your urine to be a very pale yellow (not bright or orange); this indicates you are well hydrated. Also, did you know that many times when you think you are hungry, you are actually only thirsty?

Try this. Drink one full glass of water before each meal. It might just

help in decreasing how much you eat. I recommend having a glass of cold water first thing in the morning to wake up your system and get it ready to go for the day. Cold water can aid in keeping your metabolism going, as well, by making your body heat the water to process it. Get yourself a nice water bottle to carry around and start drinking up.

The third and final element is, "Physical Activity". It's difficult to find a gym here in Hamilton County and many think that makes it easy to sneak out of having to "workout." Well, the word "workout" is something I've struggled with because I don't feel like I need to go and lift weights and/or run on a treadmill to be physically active. If you choose to do those things, that is wonderful.

Strength training is very helpful to your aim of becoming healthy and fit. However, have you ever thought of simply walking in place while watching TV or parking further away from the grocery store or mall so that you have a little bit of a trek to go shopping?

Small activities like these can add up throughout the day and help you to meet your daily goal of 10,000 steps. When I say 10,000 steps, that amazes many individuals, and when I tell them 10,000 steps is equal to approximately 5 miles it nearly blows their mind. However, 10,000 steps can be counted from the time your feet hit the floor upon waking until they hop back in the bed for sleep again.

Washing dishes, taking a shower, and folding clothes are all instances when you could very well be walking in place and adding more steps to your day. Additionally, there are tons of physical activity monitors or simple pedometers that can help you keep track of these things and some (back high tech again) will even sync with apps.

An individual can even earn free things AND syncing can show you how many MORE calories you get to eat that day. Increasing the number of calories you can eat, can you imagine that? Having a calorie goal of 1,200 and that increasing to 1,600 for the day just because you went out and did some physical activity? Doesn't sound right does it? Well, it is correct. Burning additional calories by being physically active actually requires more calories for your body over-all.

Your body has what's called Basal Metabolic Rate (BMR) which is how many calories your body would burn daily just by lying in bed and breathing and having your bodily functions continue on. The BMR explains why when you weigh more, you have a higher calorie recommendation than someone that weighs less - it takes more power to run a larger machine, so to

speak. Overall, in physical activity, the goal is to pick something you enjoy, something you will stick to, and something that is easy for you.

These three elements will work together in successfully helping you achieve your goal(s). Remember how long it has taken for you to put on the weight you presently have? One year, 10 years, your entire life? Well, the weight you want to lose won't fall off by tomorrow or next month. It took a while to put on, so it will take a little while to work off. Don't get discouraged. Just stay patient and find the things that work best for you to get healthy. Let's avoid the diseases and health problems that are a strong possibility when being overweight and/or obese.

Think about this: Are those around you important to you? Do you support or help those around you? What would happen if you weren't around to be able to do those things that you are able to do for them now? Your family and/or friends and you, yourself, need to get healthy, so you can stick around.

For more information, please contact UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County at 386-792-1276 or hfutch@ufl.edu. The University of Florida is an equal opportunity institution.

"GONE COASTAL"

Helping your fish survive helps you

By Guest Columnist Amanda Nalley

Imagine for a minute you are out to sea, line wet, with about 150 feet of water separating boat from the bottom. You feel a tug. Instinct kicks in and you want to yank up to set the hook, but you remember that doesn't work with circle hooks, a required gear when fishing for reef fish like snapper and grouper in all Gulf waters and in federal waters of the Atlantic south of 28 degrees north latitude. So you gently start reeling it in, hoping nothing eats your catch before you can get it to the boat.

Alas, the fish surfaces, but it is too small to keep and it seems to be experiencing barotrauma, a condition that occurs when the gases in the swim bladder expand after being brought to the surface from depth.

STOP! The choices you make from here on can greatly impact whether or not that fish you are about to release survives to be caught another day. Do you know what to do?

Post-release fish survival should be important to all anglers. The more fish that survive being caught and subsequently released, the more fish there will be in general. This can eventually mean extension of open seasons, increases in bag limits and more successful fishing trips.

While every situation is different, there are plenty of things you can do to help maximize the survival of fish you plan on releasing, from using wet hands when touching a fish to holding your catch horizontally. Matching your gear to the size fish you are targeting can help shorten the time it takes to get the fish to the boat, which can help a fish survive if released because it will be less exhausted.

If your fish is experiencing barotrauma, time is of the essence. Barotrauma can potentially cause injury to the internal organs as they are pushed out of the body (signs of this include stomach protruding from mouth, intestines protruding from the anus, eyes bulging out and bloated belly).

There are two main types of tools currently used to help relieve the effects of barotrauma. Venting tools are hollow, sharpened devices (think a syringe without the plunger) that can be used to release the expanded gases. Descending devices, which are used to send the fish back down to depth, also have promise.

Until recently, it has been required to have and use venting tools when fishing for reef fish in the Gulf, but this requirement was removed in federal waters last year and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) voted to remove the requirement in state waters last November. The rule change should go in effect around the end of the month.

The removal of this rule will give anglers the ability to choose the best method to maximize survival of released fish.

For example, on a hot summer day, using a descending device might be a better option because you are quickly returning the fish to the cooler water at the bottom.

And while venting, when done correctly can help,

Area students graduate NFCC fall term 2013

MADISON, FL - North Florida Community College awarded 144 students with degrees or certificates at the conclusion of its Fall Term 2013 in December. Graduates were honored at NFCC's Fall 2013 Commencement Ceremony on Dec. 17 at Van H. Priest Auditorium. Daryll Gunter, Mayor of the City of Perry and a Taylor County public school educator, was guest speaker at the commencement ceremony.

NFCC's Fall Term 2013 graduates for our area:

Hamilton County

NAME	RESIDENCE	DEGREE	HONORS
Abbott, Andrea Lee	Jasper	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	MAGNA CUM LAUDE
Barney, Robert	Jasper	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	
Parks, Allison May	Jasper	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	SUMMA CUM LAUDE
Toske, Kimberly C.	Jasper	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	
Barney, Robert	Jasper	Cisco Certified Network Associate (Certificate)	
Reyes, Michel	Jasper	Emergency Medical Technician / EMT-B (Certificate)	
Carnline, Christy	Jennings	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	CUM LAUDE
Hotchkiss Megan	Jennings	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	
Gallegos, Yolanda	Jennings	Child Care Center Management Specialization (Certificate)	
Muzzey, Danielle	Jennings	Preschool Specialization (Certificate)	
Snow, Brad Edward	Jennings	Emergency Medical Technician / EMT-B (Certificate)	HIGHEST HONORS

Lafayette County

NAME	RESIDENCE	DEGREE	HONORS
Barnes, Julia Lee	Mayo	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	
Callis, Joshua	Mayo	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	
Fleming, Zachary Davante	Mayo	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	
Walker, Patricia M	Mayo	Associate in Science Degree / Registered Nursing	
Johnson, Donna	Mayo	Paramedic (Certificate)	HONORS

Suwannee County

NAME	RESIDENCE	DEGREE	HONORS
Bemis, Hannah May	Live Oak	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	MAGNA CUM LAUDE
Boatright Laura-Kaitlyn	Live Oak	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	SUMMA CUM LAUDE
Collins, Nicole Lee	Live Oak	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	
Glass, Benjamin	Live Oak	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	
Hornik, Katherine	Live Oak	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	
Howard, Christopher Wayne	Live Oak	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	
Jenkins, Kyle Monroe	Live Oak	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	
Rodriguez, Paige	Live Oak	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	
Ross, Emily	Live Oak	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	CUM LAUDE
Verdegem Caitlin	Live Oak	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	MAGNA CUM LAUDE
Burleson Jennifer	Live Oak	Associate in Science Degree / Registered Nursing	CUM LAUDE
Gibbs, Krista Marie	Live Oak	Associate in Science Degree / Registered Nursing	
LeBlanc, Heather Lynn	Live Oak	Associate in Science Degree / Registered Nursing	
Sapp, Kailey Denise	Live Oak	Associate in Science Degree / Registered Nursing	
Fletcher, Jennifer Nicole	Live Oak	Patient Care Technician - PCT (Certificate)	HIGH HONORS
Gonzalez Esmeralda	Live Oak	Emergency Medical Technician / EMT-B (Certificate)	HIGHEST HONORS
Hernandez Arriaga Jamie	Live Oak	Emergency Medical Technician / EMT-B (Certificate)	
Tyrell, Meghan Alexandra	Live Oak	Emergency Medical Technician / EMT-B (Certificate)	HIGHEST HONORS
Warren, David C.	Live Oak	Emergency Medical Technician / EMT-B (Certificate)	HIGHEST HONORS
Willis, Miranda Leigh	Live Oak	Emergency Medical Technician / EMT-B (Certificate)	HIGHEST HONORS
Dyess, Joseph D.	Live Oak	Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Recruit (Certificate)	HIGH HONORS
Gallahar, Jessica	Live Oak	Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Recruit (Certificate)	
Smith, Ty T.	Live Oak	Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Recruit (Certificate)	HIGHEST HONORS
Heaton, Eric	Live Oak	Paramedic (Certificate)	HONORS
Nobles, Brandon M.	Live Oak	Paramedic (Certificate)	HIGH HONORS
Owens, Chad	Live Oak	Paramedic (Certificate)	HIGH HONORS
Wood, Shannon Elizabeth	McAlpin	Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)	
Fields, Shanna A.	McAlpin	Associate in Science Degree / Registered Nursing	



Ichetucknee Springs

Ichetucknee Springshed Water Quality Improvement project reaches a milestone

Submitted

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) is partnering with the City of Lake City and Columbia County to improve water quality by reducing Lake City's wastewater nutrient loadings to the Ichetucknee River by an estimated 85 percent.

Referred to as the Ichetucknee Springshed Water Quality Improvement project, the project involves converting Lake City's wastewater effluent disposal sprayfields into constructed treatment wetlands to reduce nitrogen loading. The project will also provide beneficial recharge to the Upper Floridan aquifer.

The project will assist with implementation of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Basin Management Action Plan to reduce nutrients in the Santa Fe River Basin.

The DEP is providing \$3.9 million toward the \$4.6 million project. The District has committed \$400,000 toward the project. The City of Lake City is providing \$200,000 toward the project, the land needed to build the project, and operation and maintenance. Columbia County is providing \$100,000 toward the project.

"The District and our local partners are focused on completing this project to benefit the health of the river and springs," said District Executive Director Ann Shortelle. "This project is only possible because of landmark springs funding provided by the Governor and Legislature to DEP and the District for protecting and restoring springs in Florida."

"Both reductions in nutrient loading and restoration of flows are necessary to achieve the health of the Santa Fe

Basin," said Tom Frick, Director of DEP's Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration. "This project will be another significant step to achieving required nutrient reductions set for this spring system by the Department in 2012 as part of the restoration plan for the Santa Fe River and its associated springs."

The District's Governing Board on Jan. 14 entered into an interlocal agreement with Lake City and Columbia County to implement the project. The Governing Board also authorized the District to enter into a contract with the project contractor to begin execution of the project. The contractor will initiate the data collection phase of the project, followed by design of the project. Construction on the project is scheduled to begin early next year.

Month of December - S.V.N.C.

December was filled with lots of Christmas events. First Baptist, White Springs held a Christmas party on Dec. 7. Divonia Church came out the evening of Dec. 10, singing Christmas songs.

The Annual Family / Residents Christmas Party was held on 14th. Residents opened gifts and enjoyed entertainment by Ted McMullen "Elvis" and then refreshments were served afterwards.

New Hope Church

adopted two special residents and provided them with gifts. Bruce Glueck bought a gift for every resident and on the 21st, he came out and hand delivered each gift.

Lisa Barber, a Mary Kay representative, provided every resident with a gift. Our December birthday party was hosted by the ladies of the Assembly of God, Jasper. Homemade pound cake was served and enjoyed by all.

Linda Waldron entertained residents with her

special talent of chalk painting, and painted beautiful Christmas art on Dec. 18. Annie Millers Circle out of Live Oak provided a gift for each resident.

A special thank you to all who came out and made Christmas a little brighter with singing, gifts, visiting and caring.

Championship Bingo winner is Ruby Morgan. Staff of the month were Hazel Warner, Dietary and Jackie Hawkins, CNA. Congratulations.



Mikayla Byrd, activity assistant assists Elvis.

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(L to R) Wendy C. Bash, First Federal Bank of Florida VP Financial Center manager; Suwannee Valley Humane Society board members and volunteers.

First Federal Bank contributes to the Suwannee Valley Humane Society

First Federal Bank of Florida proudly announces a \$500 contribution to the Suwannee Valley Humane Society. The organization will use the donation to fund ongoing programs centered around caring for homeless animals.

The Community Rewards Program is a way for First Federal and the community to partner together to support local organizations. Every time a First Federal customer, who is enrolled in the program, uses their debit card to make a signature-based transaction, First Federal donates money to a participating organization. First Federal customers just have to swipe, sign and support! All money raised comes from First Federal.

"I am grateful to the loyalty of our customers who share in our mission to provide support to our communities," said Keith Leibfried, President and CEO of First Federal. "It is through their commitment to First Federal that we are able to donate to these organizations that provide valued services to our communities. We are hopeful that our contributions will inspire other businesses and individuals to also contribute to these important worthwhile projects."

At First Federal we believe that banking with us is an investment in you. For over 50 years First Federal has been committed to building vibrant communities through the support of education, sports, the arts and improving the

quality of life for all. Since its inception in 2010, First Federal has given over \$108,379 to local agencies through the Community Rewards Program. This is in addition to the thousands of dollars and volunteer hours that First Federal and its employees give each year.

If you are interested in helping support your community through the Community Rewards Program, stop by your local First Federal branch or our call customer care center at (386) 362-3433 to enroll your debit card. If you are an organization that is interested in participating in the Community Rewards Program, please visit our website www.ffsb.com and click on the Contribution Requests learn more picture.

Trail of Hearts

The Arc
North Florida

Annual Benefit Ride

Advocacy and Services Provided for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



4th Annual Trail of Hearts
- 2014 Benefit Ride
Feb. 22, 2014
at McCulley Farms, Florida
(North Central Florida)

We are actively looking for sponsors for this event, if you would like to be a part of this event as a sponsor please email at arcnfl@gmail.com

All Proceeds support The Arc North Florida, Inc. - A 501(c)(3) not for profit organization that provides services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Proceeds will go to support services such as our Therapeutic Riding Program that is 3 years strong and completely volunteer run!

If you would like to participate as a rider:
REGISTER ONLINE
<http://www.arcnfl.com/ride>
* early entry get entered into a Walmart gift card drawing!
* you can fill out the registration form online
* you can pay via PayPal by credit card, echeck or paypal
* you can fill out the form, print it and send it in with a check or money order

For more information, please contact: Janet Sampson at 386-362-7143 #5, or email at arcnfl@gmail.com.

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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783226

Wanee Music Festival with The Allman Brothers Band to celebrate 10th anniversary at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park

This event is April 10 - 12 with artists such as Trey Anastasio, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Tedeschi Trucks Band, Gov't Mule, Ivan Neville's Dumpstaphunk, Bobby Lee Rogers, Jassz Band, Umphrey's McGee, Ziggy Marley, Blues Traveler and many more.

The Allman Brothers Band will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Wanee Music Festival April 10 - 12 at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park (SOSMP) in Live Oak, with two performances from its band and a huge lineup of other artists. Those artists include Trey Anastasio, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Tedeschi Trucks Band, Gov't Mule, Jaimoe's Jassz Band, Umphrey's McGee, Ziggy Marley, Blues Traveler, The Chris Robinson Brotherhood, Hot Tuna Electric, Moe., Rusted Root, Ivan Neville's Dumpstaphunk (music of Led Zeppelin), Soulive, Royal Southern Brotherhood, Walter Trout, Rob Garza (of Thievery Corporation), Blind Boys of Alabama, Bobby Lee Rodgers, Melvin Seals & JGB, Futurebirds, Matt Schofield, Break Science, Sean Chambers and The Yeti Trio.

General admission and VIP tickets are on sale at the SOSMP at www.musicliveshere.com, by calling 386-364-1683 or emailing spirit@musicliveshere.com. You may also go to www.waneefestivalval.tickets.musictoday.com/WaneeFes-

tival/calendar.aspx.

TICKETS

Three day general admission tickets are \$195 plus fees until Feb. 16 at 10 p.m. EST when prices increase. Tickets include three nights primitive camping (Thurs. -Sat.). Music begins at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10.

VIP TICKETS - \$475 plus Fees includes one VIP three-day festival pass to the festival beginning Thursday with special concert viewing area at Peach and Mushroom stages, catered lunch/dinner Fri. - Sat., complimentary snacks and soft drinks, discounted beer and access to the Wanee VIP only pre-party, commemorative Wanee 2014 laminate, three nights primitive camping Thurs. - Sat., air conditioned restrooms, commemorative Wanee 2014 poster and Wanee 2014 VIP T-Shirt.

If you would like to make reservations for RV parking, cabins, primitive camping or camper parking for the weekend at the SOSMP for this and other great events happening at the SOSMP, call 386-364-1683, email spirit@musicliveshere.com or go to www.musicliveshere.com. You may also go to www.waneefestival.com for more about Wanee.

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

Jasper Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Vertex Development, LLC, is proposing a 195' monopole-type telecommunications tower within a 4,900 square foot (MOL) lease area to be located near Northwest 49th Trail in Jasper, Hamilton County, Florida, coordinates N30-29-26.8, W83-13-41.1. The FAA has determined that the tower will not be a hazard to air navigation and that lighting is not necessary for aviation safety (FAA Study 2013-ASO-8554-OE). Vertex's Federal Communications Commission ASR 854 File Number is A0874785, which you can view at http://www.fcc.gov/asr/applications. Vertex seeks comments from all interested persons on the potential environmental impact or concerns of the tower, visit the FCC website to learn how to file a comment at http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. Or, if you wish to file a paper copy: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Comments will be due no later than February 24, 2014. 01/23

NOTICE OF HEARING

The Hamilton County School Board will conduct a public hearing on Monday, February 10, 2014, beginning at 8:45 a.m. The hearing will be conducted in the Board Room of the school district's administration building at Hamilton County High School, 5683 US Highway 129 South, Suite 1; Jasper, Florida.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider changes to the following board policies:

- 2.05 Board Meetings
- Revision
- 3.06 Safe and Secure Schools
- Revision
- 3.10 Flag Display and Pledge
- Revision
- 4.013 Academic Acceleration
- Revision
- 4.081 Field Trips
- Revision
- 8.03 Inspections
- Revision
- 9.06 Distribution of Literature and Materials to Students
- Revision

Reason for changes: various
Authority: 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.
Estimated economic impact: minimum

A complete copy of these rules are available for review at the office of the Superintendent of Schools; Jasper, Florida.

HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

By: */s/ Thomas P. Moffses, Jr.*
Thomas P. Moffses, Jr.
Superintendent

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board, with respect to any matter considered at this hearing, that person will need a record of the proceedings; and for such purpose that person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. 01/23

PUBLIC AUCTION

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

Date: 02-11-2014
Time: 8:00 A.M.

2005 NISSA
VIN #1N4BA41E65C811384
01/23

LEGAL NOTICE COLUMBIA, HAMILTON AND SUWANNEE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: February 12, 2014 immediately following the regular business meeting of the Board

PLACE: Live Oak Public Library Meeting Room, located at the Live Oak Public Library, 1848 Ohio Avenue South, Live Oak, Florida 32064.

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To hear a grievance concerning transportation services provided by Suwannee Valley Transit Authority.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice).

Jasper Legals

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued. 01/23

LEGAL NOTICE COLUMBIA, HAMILTON AND SUWANNEE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING AND BUSINESS MEETING

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a public hearing and business meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: February 12, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Live Oak Public Library Meeting Room, located at the Live Oak Public Library, 1848 Ohio Avenue South, Live Oak, Florida 32064.

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct a public hearing and business meeting of the Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice).

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued. 01/23

LEGAL NOTICE

The Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. Board of Directors will hold a meeting for the Executive Committee Members on Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 10:00 A.M. at Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. Administration Office located at 1171 Nobles Ferry Road NW Live Oak, Florida. 01/23

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

CASE NO.: 130002720CAAMX

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

WILLIE ISAAC BUTLER, JR., et. al.,

Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS-PROPERTY

TO: KATHLEEN D. BUTLER
ADDRESS UNKNOWN BUT WHOSE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS IS: 3633 NW 60TH AVE, JENNINGS, FL 32053

Residence unknown and if living, including any unknown spouse of the Defendant, if remarried and if said Defendant is dead, his/her respective unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lienors, and trustees, and all other persons claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendant; and the aforementioned named Defendant and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendant and such of the unknown name Defendant as may be infants, incompetents or otherwise not sui juris.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following described property to-wit:

LOT 1, TIMBER LAKE LANDING SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 81, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, ALONG WITH A 2008 HOMES OF MERIT INC DOUBLEWIDE MOBILE HOME WITH VIN #S FL26100PHB300572A AND FL26100PHB300572B THESE MOBILE HOME TITLES WILL BE RETIRED WITH THE FLORIDA DEPT. OF MOTOR VEHICLES ACCORDING TO THE FLORIDA STATUTE SECTION 319.281 AND HEREAFTER ALWAYS A PART OF THIS REAL PROPERTY

more commonly known as: 3633 NW 60TH AVE, JENNINGS, FL 32053

This action has been filed against you,

Jasper Legals

and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, to it on the Plaintiff's attorney, FLORIDA FORECLOSURE ATTORNEYS, PLLC, whose address is 601 Cleveland Street, Suite 690, Clearwater, FL 33755, on or before 30 days after date of first publication, and file the original with the Clerk of the Circuit Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on the 26th day of December, 2013.

(Court Seal) Clerk of the Court
HAMILTON County, Florida

By: */s/ Cynthia Johnson*
Deputy Clerk

01/23, 30

IN THE COUNTY COURT, IN AND FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 2013CC000067

JIM JEAN AND SONS, INC.,
a Florida corporation

Plaintiff,

vs.

ROBERT J. FARMER; STEPHANIE RENEE MANNIS, f/k/a STEPHANIE R. FARMER; THE STATE OF FLORIDA; PALISADES COLLECTION, L.L.C., a foreign limited liability company; CAPITAL ONE BANK, corporation; CACH, LLC, a foreign limited liability company; and EQUITY ONE, INC., a foreign profit corporation,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: ROBERT J. FARMER
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS
3242 111th Place NW
Jennings, Florida 32053

and

STEPHANIE RENEE MANNIS
f/k/a STEPHANIE R. FARMER
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS
3310 NW 23rd Court
Jennings, Florida 32053

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following described property:

Let 48, FOREST TOWNE SUBDIVISION, a subdivision as per the plat thereof filed at Plat Book 3, page 1, public records of HAMILTON County, Florida.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Eddie M. Anderson, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 1179, Lake City, Florida 32056-1179, no later than thirty (30) days after the first publication of this notice, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. There may be money owed to you after a foreclosure sale. You may contact the clerk of the court at (386) 792-1288 for information on what you need to do to get the money. You do not need to hire an attorney or other representative to get this money.

DATED on January 9, 2014.

(Court Seal) GREG GODWIN,
Clerk of Court

By: */s/ Melinda Travwick*
As Deputy Clerk

01/23, 30

HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
CASE NO.: 2013-041-CP

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

IN RE: ESTATE OF SAMMIE LEE McCLAIN

Deceased.

NOTICE

FLORIDA, HAMILTON COUNTY
PROBATE COURT

DARLENE RELIFORD has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the estate of SAMMIE LEE McCLAIN, deceased, of said County. The petitioner is not required to post bond pursuant to F.S. 733.402 because the will waives the bond requirement. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections, to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before February 27, 2014. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

(Court Seal) */s/ Andrew Decker*
JUDGE OF THE PROBATE COURT

By: */s/ Tiphaine Jenkins*
CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT

01/23, 30, 02/06, 13

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Crappie anglers enjoy a happy new year

By Bob Wattendorf

Welcome to 2014. Black crappie are favorite cool-weather targets for freshwater anglers, so join the fun, check your fishing license (License.MyFWC.com) and the list of top sites and tips below and go fishing. What better way to start off a new year than with some healthy outdoor activity and a mess of fresh fish?

Crappie are among the most popular freshwater fishes in Florida. Their deep body with nearly symmetrical dorsal and anal fins and a speckled pattern on the body make them easy to distinguish. Crappie spend much of their time offshore, feeding on small fish. This time of year they will be preparing to spawn and, as the temperatures reach 62-65 degrees Fahrenheit, they move inshore to build nests in colonies. Nests over gravel or muddy bottoms in depths of 3-8 feet are fanned by males.

Crappie eat crustaceans, insects and small fishes. A bright, 1/16-oz. to 1/8-oz. jig or Hal-flies will produce once they are inshore. If they are schooling offshore, drift Missouri minnows or grass shrimp below a float, with a #4 hook and small split shot. Depth is key, as crappie school at the same level, so experiment until you find the right depth.

Crappie (aka speckled perch or papermouth) longer than 14 inches or heavier than 2 pounds qualify for a Big Catch angler-recognition certificate (www.BigCatchFlorida.com). Youth under 16 can participate with an entry longer than 10 inches or heavier than 1.5 pounds. Easy registration makes people eligible for both Big Catch and TrophyCatch (which rewards anglers for catching-documenting-releasing largemouth bass heavier than 8 pounds), as well as a drawing to take place in October 2014 for a Phoenix bass boat powered by Mercury.

Looking for the best places to go? Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) fisheries biologists compile annual lists of top fishing sites for bass, crappie, bream, catfish or striped bass. It is available at MyFWC.com/Fishing (select "Freshwater" and "Fishing Sites and Forecasts"). You can also find quarterly updated regional forecasts for other key water bodies, with links for more current information. Here are the selections for your best black crappie fishing in 2014, as compiled by Cheree Steward, FWC fisheries biologist.

Lake Talquin (8,800-acre reservoir, west of Tallahassee)

Lochloosa Lake (5,705 acres, between Gainesville



and Ocala)

Lake Weir (5,685 acres, south Marion County)

Lake Griffin (10,000 acres, Lake County)

Lake Monroe (9,406 acres, near Sanford)

West Lake Tohopekaliga (18,810 acres, south of the city of Kissimmee)

Lake Kissimmee (34,976 acres, east of the city of Lake Wales)

Lake Marian (5,742 acres, Osceola County, east of Lake Kissimmee)

Mosaic Fish Management Area (1,000 acres, southern Polk County)

Tenoroc Fish Management Area (8,300 acres, Polk County)

Lake Weohyakapka (Walk-in-Water) (7,800 acres, east of Lake Wales)

Lake Arbuckle (3,800 acres, east of Frostproof)

Lake Marion (2,990 acres, east of Haines City)

Lake Istokpoga (28,000 acres, near Sebring)

Lake Trafford (1,500 acres, southeast of Fort Myers, in Immokalee)

Crappie are considered to be some of the tastiest freshwater fishes. With general bag limits for crappie set at a generous 25 fish and no size limit, unless otherwise specified, you can easily take a "mess" home to eat. So bring your family and friends and get out on the water.

Instant licenses are available at MyFWC.com/License or by calling 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). Report violators by calling 888-404-3922, *FWC or #FWC on your cell phone, or texting to Tip@MyFWC.com. Visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "more news," and subscribe to FWC columns and news updates by visiting MyFWC.com, and select the "Sign up for updates" button on the top right of the page.

DAYTONA Rising January project update: Daytona International Speedway kicks off the new year with race-ready preparation



Daytona International Speedway has shifted its focus to race-ready preparation for the 52nd Anniversary of the Rolex 24 At Daytona and Budweiser Speedweeks 2014.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – Daytona International Speedway has shifted its focus to race-ready preparation for the 52nd Anniversary of the Rolex 24 At Daytona and Budweiser Speedweeks 2014. Construction activities related to the DAYTONA Rising project will continue during this time. However, the Speedway's main goal is to accommodate and entertain hundreds of thousands of race fans during its premier events in the early part of the year.

"We are proud of the progress thus far on the DAYTONA Rising project and equally excited to welcome fans for the start of the 2014 racing season," Daytona International Speedway President Joie Chitwood III said. "They will get an up close and personal look at all the progress we've made to date and hopefully, they will share in the excitement that we've felt since the groundbreaking in July. Our partners at Barton Malow and ROSSETTI have put us in a great position to continue momentum for the DAYTONA Rising project while preparing the facility so we can deliver unforgettable experiences for our loyal fans during our marquee events."

Race-ready activities that are currently underway:

- Relocating merchandise store building pad outside the frontstretch
- Setting up hospitality village and the Budweiser 1876 Club
- Building temporary suite tower lobby and temporary ticketing trailers
- Mobilizing the Americrown temporary kitchen
- Admission Gates relocation completed and ticket scanning systems tested
- Paving within the construction site to support fan access and pedestrian traffic

Here is a recap of key construction activities since the last update in December:

- Steel installation near the middle bowl section of the frontstretch grandstand
- First slab on the metal deck (first elevated concrete pour)
- Completed pile cap installation

About DAYTONA Rising

DAYTONA Rising is a \$400 million reimagining of an American icon – Daytona International Speedway. Five expanded and redesigned entrances, or "injectors," will lead fans to a series of escalators and elevators, transporting them to three different concourse levels. Each level features spacious social areas, or "neighborhoods," along the nearly mile-long frontstretch. At the conclusion of the redevelopment, Daytona International Speedway will have approxi-

mately 101,000 permanent, wider and more comfortable seats, twice as many restrooms and three times as many concession stands. In addition, the Speedway will feature over 60 luxury suites with track side views and a completely revamped hospitality experience for corporate guests.

DAYTONA Rising: Reimagining an American Icon, expected to create 6,300 jobs, \$300 million in labor income and over \$80 million in tax revenue, will be completed in time for the 2016 Rolex 24 At Daytona and DAYTONA 500. DAYTONA Rising was recently cited as a key source of expected job growth in Volusia County as part of the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey.

Barton Malow is serving as the design-builder for the project. In addition to DAYTONA Rising, Barton Malow has renovated the University of Michigan "Big House" and the Rose Bowl.

ROSSETTI, an award-winning architectural design and planning firm for the past 40 years, which headed the design for Ford Field NFL Stadium, University of Notre Dame Compton Family Ice Arena and five Major League Soccer Stadiums, is leading the master planning of the DAYTONA Rising site.

Race fans can follow the progress of the DAYTONA Rising project by visiting www.DAYTONARising.com and connecting with Daytona International Speedway on Twitter, Facebook and Pinterest. Also, fans can see the construction project up close by taking one of the daily tours available at the Speedway on non-event days throughout the year. Visit www.daytonainternational-speedway.com/tours or the Speedway Ticket and Tours Building for more information.

For tickets and more information on Daytona International Speedway events, visit www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com or call 1-800-PITSHOP.

About Daytona International Speedway

Daytona International Speedway is the home of "The Great American Race" - the DAYTONA 500. Though the season-opening NASCAR Sprint Cup event garners most of the attention - as well as the largest audience in motorsports - the approximately 500-acre motorsports complex boasts the most diverse schedule of racing on the globe, thus earning it the title of "World Center of Racing." In addition to eight major weekends of racing activity, rarely a week goes by that the Speedway grounds are not used for events that include civic and social gatherings, car shows, photo shoots, production vehicle testing and police motorcycle training.

"OUTTA' THE WOODS" Finding hunting success on small-acreage leases

By Tony Young

Many people think you need a large tract of land for hunting to harvest a mature buck. But for a lot of us, leasing a large chunk of property is just not financially feasible. So I'm here to tell you that you don't need a large tract of land



if your small hunting lease is in the right spot and you manage your herd correctly and let the young bucks walk.

My wife and I lease a little patch of woods less than 30 minutes from where we live and work. It's barely 20 acres but has provided us some nice hunting over the past couple seasons.

So we've made our little lease as good as we can make it. We've got corn and soybean feeders and mineral rocks out. We hire a good friend to bring over his tractor, and we plant cool-weather and warm-weather food plots twice a year.

There's a flock of turkeys on the property and a small deer herd. We're familiar with the deer that use the property because of the game cameras we have out and from what we see with our own eyes.

This season, we decided not to shoot any does during the archery and antlerless deer seasons because we want to increase our herd. There are a few young bucks, including a 6-pointer, which we've seen and passed on because we want to give them the chance to grow another year or two, giving us something nice to go after in the future. But there were two nice, mature 8-points that we have seen on camera for the past two years, and those were the only two deer that we were going to target this season, unless some other mature bucks showed up.

The dominant buck in the herd, however, was a 4.5-year-old 8 point with a heavy and very symmetrical rack and a white patch of hair between his shoulders. That's the deer I set my sights on. We named him "Blaze" – a fine Florida buck.

During one short, afternoon sit, there was a steady, northeast wind, perfect for our favorite tree stand. I had only about 45 minutes to hunt before dark. Soon as I settled in, two does stepped out of the woods and into the food plot followed, by a spike. It was the pre-rut period, and we were seeing more deer activity, especially bucks, during daylight hours. Things looked promising.

I enjoyed watching the three deer graze on oats, wheat and rye, and I heard the turkeys fly up to roost at sunset. The does were still upwind but started acting strange, and one of them put its tail up and started blowing. They all ended up running off.

I decided to give it a last-ditch effort by doing a multiple-note "tending" grunt call. There were about five minutes left of legal shooting hours, and I started gathering my things together when the flash of my old-school game camera went off.

Something had just walked in front of the camera: a deer, and a pretty good-sized one at that.

I slowly picked up my rifle and looked through the scope. It was a racked buck, but it was hard to tell if it was one of the younger bucks that we didn't want to shoot. The buck was looking right at me, and I knew I didn't have much time to make a decision. That's when he bent down to feed and I saw the white patch on his back! That's when I knew it was Blaze!

"Buck fever" immediately set in; my heart just went to poundin' and my hands a-shakin'. This was the deer I'd been hunting for two seasons. This was the dominant buck of our little patch of woods, and I needed to pull myself together and make a good shot.

Time was running out, my hands and breathing were all over the place, and Blaze was facing me, not presenting me with the shot I wanted. All of a sudden he turned to his left and gave me his right shoulder. I managed to calm down and steadied the crosshairs on his right shoulder. I slowly squeezed the trigger.

After the recoil, I could see the buck's white belly, laying on the ground right where he had stood. I immediately climbed down and walked over to my trophy buck. His 172-pound body and perfect rack were just as grand as they looked on all the game cam pictures.

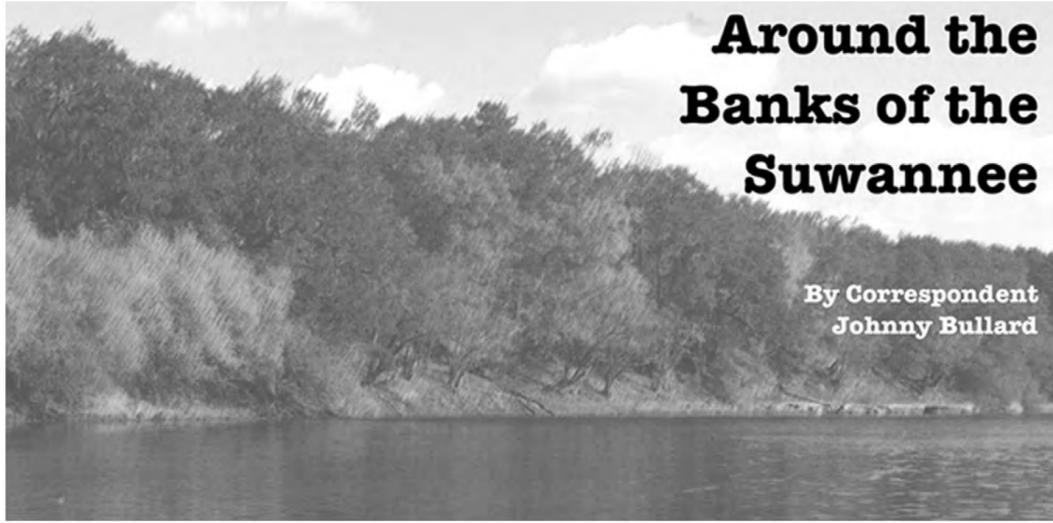
And the shot placement was right on the money and humane. My .270-caliber bullet found its mark, killing the deer instantly.

So it just goes to show you that you don't need a large piece of land to find hunting success. All you have to do is put in a little time providing year-round, quality food sources, and if you want the chance to shoot a mature buck year after year, let the young bucks walk, and manage your deer according to the herd size.

And another thing – some hunters say they don't like the game cams that use flash photography because that scares off big bucks. Well, not only did my old-school cam not scare away Blaze, but if it hadn't flashed, I may not have known he was even there.

I hope you enjoyed a great Christmas holiday, and I wish you a very happy new year. Remember, you can get big things from small packages, and deer season is not over yet in central and north Florida. And I still have that other big 8-point deer running around somewhere on our little piece of hunting paradise too.

Tony Young is the media relations coordinator for the FWC's Division of Hunting and Game Management. You can reach him with questions about hunting at Tony.Young@MyFWC.com.



Around the Banks of the Suwannee

By Correspondent Johnny Bullard

Winter time in north Florida. Damp, cold, rainy, then a couple of days of intermittent sunshine and then back to cold, rainy, and damp, but thank God it doesn't last for too many weeks. When I think of the winters of my childhood growing up "Around the Banks of the Suwannee", I remember frosty mornings, the school building in White Springs having steam heat. I remember the steam heaters in the classrooms and the halls. No thermostat, if you got too hot, you raised the window, big windows until you kind of equalized the temperature.

I also remember waking up mornings at my Grandma Bullard's home on Mill Street. There was no central heat and air in that house during my childhood. She had space heaters in some of the rooms and six or seven fireplaces scattered throughout the house, and they were not there for looks.

I can recall going out on the front porch of her house and turning and looking over White Springs and from chimneys everywhere on winter mornings, one saw smoke, smoke, smoke. Fat "lightard" splinters were used to start fires and, sometimes a piece of fat "fat" lightard would start the fire rolling and, then usually, pieces of oak were added which burned more slowly throughout the day.

In my Grandma Bullard's big old rambling house, we lived, essentially, in about three rooms during the deep months of winter. The rest of the

house was closed off and was "too" cold. Those big old houses with 14 to 16 feet ceilings were built, primarily, for hot weather and not for cold weather. Since it is hot more months than it is cold in north Florida, that worked out well.

I can also remember stories told in front of those fireplaces. The South as a region and particularly the White Springs of my childhood was a rich, fertile ground for storytellers. My paternal grandmother, the late Mary Joyner Bullard, was a great storyteller. Her sisters, and she had seven, the beloved Joyner "great aunts" were master storytellers, and my Daddy, the late Wade Bullard, was one of the best.

In front of those fires the years of the past were peeled away and through their words we saw a north Florida in a time long before I was born. Stories of the Great Depression and "hard times", stories of the Second World War, stories of family connections and how this one was kin to that one, stories, stories, and more stories.

I am glad I grew up in a day and age when communication and storytelling were valued. Here is one of my favorites told to me by one my Grandma Bullard's cousins from Franklin County, North Carolina. I relate it here to you as he told it to me.

"Your paternal great-great grandfather, Augustus Perry Joyner, was a college graduate long before the War Between the States. He served Franklin County, North Carolina, in the same capacity a superintendent of schools would serve today, oversee-

ing and directing a number of one room and two room school houses across the county. He was also a farmer, and he owned a sizable farm, about a section and a half of land. A big farm in our part of the world. When the War Between the States came, he fought for the Confederacy and was elected captain of his troop. Your great-great grandmother, Eveline Temprance Yarbrough Joyner was left at home with her children and relatives. Late, during the war, towards the end of 1864, some Federal, northern, Yankee troops, about eight of them came riding up to the Joyner farm. They killed most of the fowl, mainly turkeys and chickens and demanded that your great-great grandmother prepare a big meal for them. She did as she was ordered and went out behind the house in a swampy area and picked a pot full of poisonous mushrooms, cut them up and cooked them in with the poultry dishes. She poisoned all the Federal troops and those who didn't die quickly, they either shot or stabbed and took to the back of the property and buried in the swampy area behind the house. Some people in our family doubted whether this story was true but, about 40 years ago, a cousin bought the old home place including the little swampy area and began to do some land clearing. They found some human skulls, bones, and other fragments of skeletal parts there in the swampy area, as well as one, and how it had stayed in tact, I don't know, USA, looked like a belt buckle."

Well, every family has its stories. I

guess "Muv", as they called her, a combination of "Mother and Love", "Muv", struck her blow for the cause and buried her evidence behind the house never to be discussed again. Maybe they enjoyed their last supper. I hope they did. This was a story that was told before me as I sat in a rocking chair in front of the fireplace at my Grandma Bullard's home, and there were many others.

The richness of the South as a region has always been mainly derived from our storytelling tradition. I hope that all the cellphones, iPhones, and texting won't severely "water down" the wonder and the richness of storytelling in our region. It is a characteristic that makes our region unique and special.

I also heard stories about White Springs in its "hey day" when it was a major resort. I heard stories from my Daddy about the early days of naval stores and the beginning of folks planting flue cured tobacco in our region as a cash crop. I heard stories that could make me laugh, make me picture the scenes and the people, and, sometimes stories that could just about make you cry; some could.

I hope during these winter months you will spend time with those you love and, if you have the chance, share a recollection, tell a story. It means far more than you will ever know. You are passing on a piece of personal history told in your own special, unique, and, many times, colorful manner.

There are a few people in our region I have been privileged to listen to and "learn from" and each offers something marvelous, unique and wonderful.

A friend of mine once told me "Seek a story in the stranger". I will take it a step further - whether stranger or friend - stories are wonderful and everyone has some to tell. Like beautiful heirloom patchwork quilts that cover many beds here in our beloved north Florida, the personal stories that make up our area are just as colorful, unique and varied and they're right at your own backdoor or even in your own family.

There's no time to be bored. "It's story time".

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. So blessed to be in the number "one more time".

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Breakfast with Santa enjoyed by all



This youngster needs a little encouragement from dad.



Santa waits as Mayor Miller calls the first child's name.



Dad proudly introduces the youngest members of the community.



Santa's helpers, Florine, Michelle and Pam.



Mayor Miller and Coach Tom announce Santa's arrival.

Rodriguez of the White Springs Police Department, in partnership with Stephen Foster State Park, the Citizen's Support Organization, the town's Special Events Committee, and the Suwannee Bicycle Association (SBA), which is headquartered in White Springs. Volunteers arrived early to decorate Nellie Bly's for the Christmas party and to cook up a mountain of pancakes and sausages for the children.

Mayor Helen Miller joined in to assist Chief Brookins in calling out the names of children who were receiving presents from Santa. The roar of excitement and delight grew as parents and grandparents took photos of their children on Santa's knee.

White Springs Vice Mayor Walter McKenzie represented the SBA and called out the names of children receiving shiny new bikes. Each year, SBA members generously contribute five new bikes for children in the White Springs community. It's a wonderful tradition that is greatly appreciated by all the Breakfast with Santa partners and local families.

As the children said their thank-you's to Santa, both Miller and McKenzie expressed their appreciation on behalf of the entire community to all the party organizers and volunteers who made the day special for so many local children, and wished all a merry Christmas, and a safe and happy new year.

Once again Santa found his way to Nellie Bly's Kitchen in the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park for 70 invited children to have "Breakfast with Santa".

Santa arrived to a chorus of "Santa, Santa, Santa", as the children and their parents were finishing their breakfasts of pancakes, sausages and fruit juices. Coach Tom had just completed his traditional reading of "The Night Before Christmas", so all were happy that Santa was on time for the annual event.

Breakfast with Santa is a community-wide event organized by Chief Brookins and Lt.



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 <p>OWNER FINANCING- Nice 3/2 SWMH on 4 wooded acres. REDUCED to \$39,900. David Mincey, 386-590-0157 MLS#83985 O'Brien, FL.</p>	 <p>LOVELY 2/2 DWMH on 1.5 acres. Priced to sell. Larger than it looks, this home has no wasted space. Spacious bedrooms and baths. Move-in ready. \$69,000. Call Nelda Hatcher, 386-688-8067 MLS#81372 www.RealEstateShows.com/656604</p>	 <p>REDUCED- 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 Count</p>
 <p>GREAT Custom built home in sought after S/D. 2/2, 1,500+ sq.ft., close to Live Oak, huge screened in back porch and FP. \$149,000. Call Sylvia Newell, 386-590-2498 MLS#84918</p>	 <p>MINUTES FROM TOWN. 3/2 on 4 pristine acres, grape arbor, immaculate home with vaulted ceilings, screened in back porch. 28x32 Large metal building, and 18x21 shelter for all your equipment. \$175,000. Call Irvin Dees, 386-208-4276 MLS#84794</p>	 <p>CUSTOM- 2 story log home on 8 acres. Features High ceilings, French doors, Bay windows. 3/3. Master bdrm Downstairs and upstairs. \$214,900. William Golightly, 386-590-6681 MLS#81654</p>
 <p>A MUST SEE- 3/2.5 brick home has all you could ask for. First rate from the argon filled insulated windows to the tiled floor garage. FP, vaulted ceilings, and a beautifully landscaped yard with 3 outbuildings. 24x34 metal bldg complete w/a car lift. \$219,000. Call Irvin Dees, 386-208-4276 MLS#84695</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>VACATION HOME on the Santa Fe River. 1,400+ sq.ft., 2/2 in good condition with large deck to view the beautiful scenery. \$220,000. Call David Mincey, 386-590-0157 MLS#84883 www.RealEstateShows.com/692278</p>
 <p>ENERGY EFFICIENT- 3/2 w/wrap around porch on 14 acres, metal out buildings, second home site, fenced & cross fenced, paved road frontage. \$259,900. Call William Golightly, 386-590-6681. MLS#85988</p>	 <p>SUPERIOR MEDITERRANEAN STYLE HOME 4100+ sqft under roof, 3.25 baths, master suite with exercise room and huge master bath. Travertine tile flooring and carpet throughout. Located on 4.75 acres with paved driveway, 2 car garage, storage building. \$350,000. Call Kellie Shirah, 386-208-3847 MLS#86216</p>	 <p>10 MINUTES from High Springs. Buy your own private fresh water spring on the Santa Fe River. 3.5+ million gallons of water per day! 4,500ft of water frontage and 561 acres. William Golightly, 386-590-6681 MLS#83354 www.SantaFe561.com</p>

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"GONE COASTAL" Helping your fish survive helps you

Continued From Page 8A

and back up again. While both devices can be homemade or purchased and while both are inexpensive, descending devices can cost, on average, slightly more than venting tools. Both devices also come in various sizes, but venting tools tend to generally be smaller than descending devices and do not take up a lot of space in an already-crowded tackle box.

Either way, the choice is yours. So shop around, be sure to read the instructions thoroughly and, hopefully, take home a keeper or two. For more on how to make sure your fish survives release, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater," "Recreational Regulations" and "Fish Handling."

not all fish need to be vented. Both tools have advantages and disadvantages. Hit a hot spot? It is possible to vent and release several fish in the same amount of time it would take to descend a single fish. Then again, not everyone feels confident on when, where and how to vent. Going too deep or venting in the wrong place can cause more damage than good. But you also need to know what you are doing when using a descending device. If done incorrectly, the fish may come loose too soon. Descending devices also can require the dedication of a rod, which is used to bring the descending device down

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REGIONAL

Band of Brothers building a huge fan base

■ This group of country boys from Mayo have found the golden formula for musical success - longtime friendship and kinship.

Courtesy Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park

Six avid musicians from Mayo are making waves in the country music world in north Florida. The Band of Brothers is also making a name for itself at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park (SOSMP) in Live Oak, where they have packed the house every time they have been on the Music Hall stage. The last time they rocked the house, let's just say there was not many left in Mayo to lock up the town that night. When this band, one of the best kept secrets in country music until recently, plays the SOSMP again Friday, Jan. 31, there likely will be hundreds of fans on hand to enjoy their music.

So how do you describe this Band of Brothers? Awesome? Off the charts? Outstanding? Spectacular? What about just plain great? Yep, that should adequately describe this band made up of brothers Tyler and Ross Wimberly, Kevin and Scott Barrington and cousins Hal Thomas and, last but not definitely not least, Travis Prine.

On a chilly January night big, high-rise pickup trucks are parked in the winter dark outside the old Barrington home where the band practices. Maybe a little past its prime, but a gentle reminder of family heritage, good family times and a haven for these musicians, the home pays homage to the long history of agriculture families by its mere existence on the family farm. The guys have their electric guitars plugged in, the speakers are ready, Ross has the drums warmed up. A journalist joins them to create a story of the band while the guys begin to express their excitement at how family, friends and complete strangers have become their fans.

If you wondered how they came up with the band's name, it's pretty simple.

"We started going over to the beach (to play) and Mayo people came," said Hal Thomas, lead vocalist, harmony and rhythm guitar player.

Hal said in the beginning they never thought about giving themselves a band name.

"We played a freebie at a nursing home early on. They called and asked the name of the band for an article that was going into the paper," he stated.

Hal had to think fast. There was no name.

"It took me 30 minutes and several phone calls, and we had a name; Band of Brothers."

It stuck and they have no intention of ever changing it.

"We started playing to have something to do," Scott, a full-time farmer, said as he warmed up his rhythm guitar. "We just wanted something to do to get away from the everyday troubles."

"It was never meant to be anything but this, just playing for ourselves," Hal added, as the other five nod in agreement.

"We never intended to play events," commented Kevin, bass player, full-time farmer and businessman.

As the guys settled in for their regular weekly practice session, they figured out the band got together about 2009, although the date may be a little off. They now practice in Kevin and Scott's granddaddy's old house on the Barrington property where the two brothers and their families farm and live.

"We played at the beach, someone heard about us, asked us to play a birthday party, then a wedding," said Travis, lead vocalist (yeah, he gets a lot of kidding from the other guys about his "awesome" reviews), "guitar holder" and most athletic guy in the band. "We've played a lot of fundraisers."

It seems everyone in the band has been involved in music their entire lives and finally decided to put together a band. Mayo being the small community it is, everyone knows everyone else, their families, their history and certainly who can play music. Phone calls went out and bingo, an awesome band was forged for the guys to just enjoy playing.

The music backgrounds of the band members are similar. Kevin and Scott began playing in high school in the Lafayette County Future Farmers of America (FFA) Band in the 70s and 80s. As in all FFA bands, there was a wash tub bass in that band. Kevin had the honor of playing it.

Hal, the senior member of the band at 63, was a teacher in Lafayette County at that time. He had picked up a guitar at age 12, learned to play chords and "never stopped," he said. "My neighbors were the Johnsons and all of them played," said Hal.

So he learned from them as he grew up.

Hal went on to college and while there played everywhere he could, playing mostly acoustic. Later, he played with Jerry Jackson, known in north and west Florida for his musical abilities and great bluegrass bands. After returning to Mayo for many years to teach and moving up to administration, Hal moved back to Tallahassee for about 20 years, returning to Mayo in 2008. He was just in time to build a shed out back at his home where the band practiced for the first year or so until the guys moved to the Barrington farm. Hal plays rhythm, sings lead and harmony.

Tyler Wimberly plays lead guitar and sings. "When this band began I could hardly play guitar at all," he said. You would never know it today as he rips across the strings with assuredness and skill. The other guys kid Tyler that he's going to make his singing debut on-stage by himself soon, but Tyler insists it's just not time as the rest chuckle.

Tyler's brother, Ross, seems quiet, but when he takes drum sticks in hand, the skins begin to sing. He's described as "the hardest working guy in the band." Ross, who also does vocals with the band, says as a child he always wanted to play drums. His uncle had a set but wouldn't let him play, so Ross would wait until the uncle left home then sneak in and play those drums.

"He eventually gave me a set, and I've now played at every church in town," he said proudly. His performances with the band are a sight to see and hear. Travis, a spectacular performer and lead singer, has taken a lot of kidding from his "brothers" about his reviews after recent performances at the SOSMP. He's taken full advantage to gig back by telling the guys to pack up his equipment while he visits with his "fans" after performances. The kidding is all in fun, but the reviews are spot on.

Travis, who works in private industry as an electrician, has a God-given singing talent and stage performance that is hard to beat. Travis gives his grandmother credit for his love of music.

"The first time I remember singing is at my Big Mama's. She liked Elvis gospel, and I would stay over at her house as a child and sing those songs," Travis remembered. "As a child I sang at church and always did karaoke every where I could. And I won."

He said he won so many times at one area radio promotion he couldn't enter again. Winning seems to follow Travis. When the Band of Brothers entered the recent Battle of the Bands at the SOSMP, they won. Travis believes the band has been successful and stayed together because "We've known each other all of our lives. I think that's what keeps us from arguing as band members."

Even as the band practices during on this night, Travis gives it all he's got, as if thousands



Drummer Ross Wimberly, far left, brothers Scott (rhythm guitar) and Kevin Barrington (bass guitar).



Lead singer Travis Prine gives his all to a country song during practice.



Tyler Wimberly (lead guitar and vocals). Courtesy photos



Hal Thomas (rhythm guitar, lead and harmony).

er happens, this fantastic Band of Brothers will still be making plenty of country music fans happy all over north Florida with its incredible musical abilities.

If the invite ever comes, you can be sure there'll be lots of Lafayette County folks making their first visit to the SRJ along with those who are regulars!

Don't miss any opportunity to hear Band of Brothers perform.

Band of Brothers plays Friday, Jan. 31, beginning at 8 p.m. in the Music Hall at the SOSMP. Admission is free. If you want to ensure you have a table for Jan. 31, call the Music Hall now at 386-364-1703 to make reservations. If you would like to know more about the SOSMP, call 386-364-1683, email spirit@musiccliveshere.com or go to the website at www.musiccliveshere.com.

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

This band of unintended stars plays country, a little rock, Elvis and lots of other music genres they like. Their fans love to dance to the band's music and fill the dance floor of the huge Music Hall at the SOSMP during performances. Several of the band members have attended the Suwannee River Jam (SRJ) in the past and loved it. The 2014 SRJ is coming up April 30 - May 4 at the SOSMP with a huge line-up of great country artists.

Other band members haven't attended yet but say it's their dream to play at the Jam as a band. Kevin said he can't imagine what it would be like to play on the big Jam stage or the Amphitheatre stage as an artist. If that dream nev-

er happens, this fantastic Band of Brothers will still be making plenty of country music fans happy all over north Florida with its incredible musical abilities.

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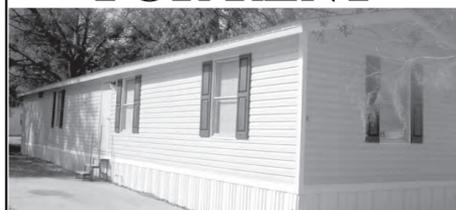
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2014 Chevrolet Cruze stk# 7608



\$17,924 or \$259/Mo.

Truck prices reflect all applicable rebates including trade assistance and owner loyalty and all other vehicles reflect all applicable rebates and owner loyalty. Prices are plus tax and title. Payments are with \$0 down for 75 months @ 2.59% with lender approval. 0% disclosure: Example: 2014 Chevrolet Traverse. MSRP 37935 Selling Price 35924. 599.00 per month for 60 months @0%. Plus tax and title, no down payment.



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RAM 1500

MOTOR TREND TRUCK OF THE YEAR ★ 2013  **2014 ★ FIRST EVER BACK-TO-BACK CHAMPION**

2014 RAM 1500  Q140098 \$21,994	2014 RAM 1500 QUAD  Q140040 \$25,993	2013 RAM 1500 CREW  V130209 \$26,994	2014 RAM 1500 LARAMIE 4 DR  Q140075 5.7L HEMI, AUTO, HEATED LEATHER BUCKETS, REMOTE START NAVI, 20" CHROME WHEELS, REAR BACK-UP CAMERA MSRP \$47,290 DISCOUNT -\$7,292 \$37,993
2014 RAM 2500 4 DOOR 4X4 HEAVY DUTY  Q140190 \$33,594	2013 DODGE DART  V130040 \$16,994	2013 CHRYSLER 200  V130186 \$18,993	2013 DODGE AVENGER  Q130286 \$20,994
2013 DODGE CHARGER  Q130333 \$23,943	2013 DODGE CHALLENGER  V130182 \$26,994	2013 CHRYSLER 300 S  V130285 3.6L 8 SPEED V6, DUAL PANE SUNROOF, NAVI, LEATHER HEATED SEATS, LOADED! MSRP \$36,630 DISCOUNT -\$5,637 \$30,993	2014 RAM 3500 DUALY 4 DOOR HEAVY DUTY  Q140313 6.7L CUMMINS DIESEL, REAR BACK-UP CAMERA, TRAILER BRAKE CONTROL, 5TH WHEEL/GOOSEBOX TOW GROUP, CHROME GROUP MSRP \$48,205 DISCOUNT -\$6,212 \$41,993
2014 JEEP CHEROKEE  Q140106 \$22,994	2014 JEEP COMPASS  Q140038 \$19,993	2014 GRAND CARAVAN  Q140042 \$19,774	

All prices plus tax, title & Lemon Law fee of \$3 and reflect all applicable factory rebates. Vehicles may be located at either of our Quitman or Valdosta dealerships. All prices good through January 25, 2014 or until vehicle is sold, whichever comes first. Truck prices include \$1000 rebate when financed with Chrysler Capital. Must present ad at time of purchase to receive all/any advertised price.

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2014 CHEVY EXPRESS VAN  C140106 POWER WINDOWS, DOORS & LOCKS, REARVIEW CAMERA, PERFECT FOR YOUR BUSINESS! \$25,894	<p>2013 "RECORD-BREAKING YEAR!" OUR SALES UP 27%!</p> <p><i>Thank You!</i></p>		2013 CHEVY SUBURBAN LT  130135 LUXURY PKG., HEATED LEATHER SEATS, 20" WHEELS, NAVI, POWER LIFTGATE, REAR CAMERA, LOADED MSRP \$51,650 DISCOUNT -\$6,004 \$45,646
2013 CHEVY SONIC LT  C130251 1.8L EcoTEC ENGINE, AUTO TRANSMISSION, POWER EQUIPMENT GROUP, CHEVY MYLINK, BLUE TOOTH \$16,993	2014 CHEVY CRUZE  C140097 1.8L EcoTEC ENGINE, AUTO TRANSMISSION, POWER EQUIPMENT GROUP, ON-STAR SIRIUS, SATELLITE RADIO \$17,894	2014 CHEVY EQUINOX  C140065 32 MPG (PER WINDOW STICKER), BLUE TOOTH WIRELESS, USB PORT, 2.4L SIDI, SIRIUS/MP3 PLAYER \$23,394	2014 CHEVY CAMARO  C140101 \$23,993

27% Increase per Chevrolet 2013 Year End Results. All prices plus tax, title & Lemon Law fee of \$3 and reflect all applicable factory rebates. Vehicles may be located at either of our Quitman or Valdosta dealerships. Vehicle prices include Trade-In & GM Loyalty Rebate (owners of 1999 or newer GM vehicles). All prices good through January 25, 2014 or until vehicle is sold, whichever comes first. Must present ad at time of purchase to receive all/any advertised price.

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