

Washington County NEWS



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IN BRIEF

Free tax return preparation available

CHIPLEY — A VITA volunteer, sponsored by the United Way of Northwest FL Inc., will be preparing free income tax returns from 1:30-4 p.m. Fridays at Washington County Chamber of Commerce, 672 Fifth St., Chipley. Call 638-8572 for an appointment. Walk-ins will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The service also will be available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays at Vernon City Hall and Thursdays at Wausau City Hall by appointment only. Call 638-8572 for appointments.

The VITA Program generally offers free tax help to people who make \$50,000 or less and need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation to qualified individuals in local communities.

They can inform taxpayers about special tax credits for which they might qualify such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled.

Tax returns will be e-filed and if a refund is due, they are taking from 10 to 21 days to be direct deposited.

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Vortex Spring cave diver dies

By CECILIA SPEARS
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LARRY HIGGINBOTHAM

PONCE DE LEON — A Biloxi, Miss., diver died in Vortex Spring on Saturday, almost a year and a half after a Tennessee diver disappeared in the same underwater caves.

Larry Higginbotham, 43, of Biloxi, had gone to the spring at 10:45 a.m. Saturday, said Chief Deputy Harry Hamilton and Sgt. Michael Raley with the Holmes County Sheriff's Office.

"When he didn't return, his girlfriend contacted the Vortex Springs management, who in turn contacted the Holmes County Sheriff's Office," Hamilton said.

Hamilton said the body was recovered Sunday evening with the aid of volunteer cave divers.

Ben McDaniel, 30, from the Memphis, Tenn., area, was reported missing in August 2010. His body never was recovered. On Monday, an episode of Investigation Discovery's "Disappeared"

featured the McDaniel case.

Vortex Spring produces 28 million gallons of crystal-clear water daily at year-round temperature of 68 degrees. Depths in the spring basin range from about 50 feet for open water divers to more than 160 feet for cave divers, according to vortexspring.com.

The bottom of the spring bowl is sandy, with limestone near the vent. A handrail leads cave divers back 400 feet. Vortex waters flow out of the 225-foot-diameter spring, which flows into Blue Creek, which flows more than 10 miles before entering the

Choctawhatchee River, according to the website.

Dive training is offered at the park, and the underwater cave is accessible to 310 feet, at which point further entry is blocked by a steel gate, according to the website. Experienced divers only are allowed to dive to 115 feet.

Hamilton, when coordinating the search for McDaniel in 2010, said the cave at Vortex Springs is very challenging and extremely dangerous. So far, divers have penetrated the cave 1,500 feet at a depth of 150 feet.

VENDORS APLENTY



CECILIA SPEARS | The News

Vendors were plentiful at the fourth annual Down Home Festival during the weekend in Bonifay. Music, beautiful weather and hundreds of visitors made the annual event a success. See full story and photos on **Page B1**.

Appeals court sides with Bay on water dispute

By CHRIS OLWELL
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PANAMA CITY — Bay County officials are declaring a partial victory in their ongoing dispute over a regional water supply plan, but an attorney for Washington County is cautiously optimistic after an appeals court decision last week.

The 1st District Court of Appeals ruled Friday in favor of Bay County and the Northwest Florida Water Management District, saying Washington County and other parties opposed to a regional water supply plan do not have legal standing to challenge the plan as written.

The plan, approved in 2008, calls for the NFWMD to develop alternative groundwater sources, among other things, and it does not specifically mention the permit allowing Bay County to drill 10 wells near the

See **WATER A2**

Hagan recognized by BOCC

By RANDAL SEYLER
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CHIPLEY — Washington County Emergency Management Director Roger Hagan was recognized Thursday by the Washington County Board of County Commissioners.

Hagan received the 2012 Chad Reed Emergency Manager of the Year award at the FEPA Annual meeting and conference on Feb. 9, and was presented his award by County Manager Steve Joyner.

"This award recognizes Roger's 35 years of expertise," Joyner said. "He is very dedicated to the county."

As the "Chad Reed Emergency

Management Director of the Year Award, was honored Tuesday by the governor and cabinet as part of the annual Fire Service Awards.

Manager of the Year," Hagan was recognized by the governor and cabinet at a ceremony Tuesday as part of the annual Fire Service Awards.

The Chad Reed award represents the highest recognition of achievement for FEPA. Chad Reed was Dixie County Emergency Management Director

and FEPA President in 2004 and served with distinction, energy and dedication. Chad was killed in the line of duty in 2010 while serving with the Dixie County Sheriff's Office, and FEPA's Emergency Manager of the Year Award was named in Chad's

See **HAGAN A2**

Cook seeks re-election as superintendent

From Staff Reports

CHIPLEY — Washington County School District Superintendent Sandra Cook announced her plans to seek re-election Monday.

Cook is a 1972 graduate of Chipley High School and she earned degrees in business administration and mathematics education as well as receiving her doctorate in educational leadership in April 2005.

"After receiving my bachelor's degree, my husband, John, and I owned and operated a feed store for five



SANDRA COOK

See **COOK A2**

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Caryville approves pursuit of Gulf Power settlement

By CECILIA SPEARS
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CARYVILLE — Caryville Town Council approved a settlement with Gulf Power during their regularly scheduled meeting March 13 after a lumber company recently employed by the town cut down trees on land owned by Gulf Power.

"The Town of Caryville's land borders Gulf Power's land and the man we hired went too far when he was cutting," Caryville Town

Attorney Lyndia Spears said. "Unfortunately, we are unable to see how much money he received for the amount of trees he cut and if that money was included to the city when he paid for the trees."

Spears said Gulf Power estimated an amount by the stumps left on their land, but instead of charging the town with the amount they would usually receive for their trees from their contractor, which would've been estimated at over \$9,000 and decided to go with what the town would've received, which is \$5,272.

Since the town council agreed that they didn't authorize for the contractor to cut down the trees, the council approved to pursue only paying half of the \$5,272, which is \$2,686.

The council is also going to see about paying the amount to Gulf Power in payments while looking into getting the contractor to pay the other half.

"Just going to court alone would cost over \$4,000 in legal fees," Spears said. "It would be best at this point to minimize the

damages as much as possible."

Chairman Mayor Chambers suggested that now that the town has a new garbage truck, perhaps they could have a fundraiser to build a pole barn to house it in and keep it out of the elements.

Town council members agreed to get a quote on how much it would take to build a pole barn and then see about getting together a fundraiser for it.

Chambers also said they are seeing about getting power to the local flea market.

"They were using Christmas lights till the generator blew," Chambers said.

Council member Ransom Works asked about getting Caryville sprayed for mosquitoes.

"We don't have a spray truck any more and the mosquitoes are really bad," Works said.

The council agreed to look into surrounding areas for some quotes for help in spraying for mosquitoes.

The next Caryville Town Council meeting will be at 6 p.m. April 10 at the Caryville Town Hall.

HAGAN from page A1

honor after his loss.

"I knew Chad Reed, and I never dreamed when this award was started that one day I would be holding it," Hagan said.

Hagan has more than 35 years of emergency management service with Washington County, 19 of these years as director. Hagan served for more than 20 years as Washington County administrator and during 2011 was called to service again as interim administrator.

The board also heard a report on the county's emergency plans from consultant Frank Koutnik. Koutnik was hired by the county to help prepare the various disaster readiness plans needed to run the county in

case of an emergency.

Of the numerous plans discussed, Koutnik warned commissioners the disaster debris management plan often can be the most hazardous to public officials. "I have seen a lot of well-meaning people get into trouble with their debris plans," he said.

The debris removal plan has to be approved by both FEMA and the state. Debris removal also is the most expensive disaster-related cost, Koutnik said. "If you improperly pick up debris you can get to pay 100 percent of the cost instead of getting 87 cents on the dollar from the government."

The main issue county officials must be aware of is picking up

debris from private property. If it is necessary for state or official use, it is permitted, but otherwise picking up debris on private land is not recommended. "The main plan is to push the debris off the roads so police and EMS can get access to hospitals," Koutnik said.

The plan not only has to have priorities, it also has to have a monitoring process. Once the debris is collected, then FEMA officials come and measure the amount in cubic yards and reimburse the county based on debris totals.

The board also met in executive session for almost 90 minutes to discuss pending litigation, but took no action.

WATER from page A1

border between the two counties. Because the plan does not mention Bay County's permits, Washington County officials and the plan's other opponents could not establish how the plan harmed them.

"While this is certainly a win for us, we're not out of the woods yet," Bay County spokeswoman Valerie Lovett said.

The court ruled the proper venue to challenge the permit would be a separate administrative proceeding, which already has happened. A 20-day hearing was held in September in Tallahassee. The appeals court's decision could bode well for the challengers, said attorney

John Thomas, who is representing Washington County, because the judge in the September hearing could decide the NFWMD did not provide adequate notice to parties that could be affected by new wells in Bay County.

Thomas said NFWMD's permitting process was flawed to the point that it gave Bay County "a leg up in all the proceedings on the well field." He would not rule out or commit to an appeal to the Florida Supreme Court; he said he is looking for the best way to proceed.

Bay County officials have said the wells would provide an alternate source of drinking water in the

event Deer Point Lake, the county's primary source of drinking water, was to be inundated with saltwater, such as in a hurricane.

But opponents in Washington County said the effect of the wells mostly would be felt there, in places like the Sand Hills lakes just across the county line, which feed from the same aquifer as the Bay County wells would. Property owners on the lakes have voiced concerns for years about the effect the wells would have on water levels and local ecosystems.

Thomas said he expects a decision on Washington County's challenge of Bay County's permits within 60 days.

COOK from page A1

years," Cook said in a news release. "I began my career in education by being a substitute teacher and bus driver. Both of these jobs made clear the needs facing our school system. Soon after that, I was hired as a mathematics teacher at Vernon High School and remained there for 26 years."

Since November 2008, Cook has been school superintendent.

"Because of my concern for helping students reach their goals beyond high school, I became involved with the Washington County Scholarship Trust," Cook said. "Today, I am currently the president. I am very proud to be in the leadership role of an organization that has given over 250 CHS and VHS students additional financial support to continue their education beyond high school in the past 10 years."

"With all my experiences as a substitute teacher, bus driver, teacher and superintendent, I know that I can continue to lead our school system into the future," Cook said.

Cook is the daughter of Margie Early of Tallahassee and the late Carl Early of Chipley. Her brothers are Dan, Fred and the late David Early.

"I have been married to John Paul Cook Sr. for 35 years. I have three step-sons, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. John and I attend Bonnet Pond Community Church in Vernon," she said.

"As superintendent, I have been able to help our district move forward with technology — implementing a district email system, beginning the tough process of implementing a new

student information system due to requirements imposed by the legislature.

"I am working diligently to secure funding for the building of a new Kate M. Smith Elementary School in the near future. This is our oldest school in the district and is in need of replacement; however, we rely on the legislature to help allocate funds through Special Facilities," Cook said.

"As the economy has declined and the education funding by the Florida Legislature and the county's tax base has decreased, the Washington County School District has been able to maintain our status without laying off employees at any level," she said.

"The ability to accomplish and maintain our high level of education has been partially attained by attrition and retirement of employees. Additionally, the district has evaluated our expenses and found ways to streamline in order to maximize our funding resources. With every obstacle, our district has been diligent to always provide our students with the best possible education, above all other goals," Cook said.

"It takes all of us within the school system and the community of Washington County to nurture our greatest asset, our children," Cook said. "I have dedicated my entire career to giving students what they need to pursue their careers and goals beyond high school, starting where they begin: in elementary school. Students have all ways been and will continue to be my priority."

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Emergency mass notification system may come to Holmes County

By CECILIA SPEARS
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BONIFAY — Several Holmes County agencies gathered at the Holmes County Emergency Operations Center to discuss moving forward in equipping Holmes County with an emergency and mass notification system on Thursday.

Representatives from Holmes County Health Department, Doctors Memorial Hospital, Holmes County Sheriff's Office, Bonifay Police Department, City of Bonifay, 911 Office, County Commissioners Office and Emergency Operations Center

were present for a presentation from Chris Cornelison, regional sales manager for DeltAlert.

The system is used to send out emergency notifications on a mass scale throughout Holmes County via residents' cell phones, home phones, emails, text messaging, Twitter, Facebook and other communication devices.

It will include emergency notifications for hurricanes, tornadoes, water safety alerts, fires, road closings, service alerts, water usage restriction alerts, HAZMAT emergencies, biohazard incidents, hostage situations, kidnappings (AMBER alerts), robberies, escaped

convicts, school shootings and other dangers.

"If you've got Internet access, you can send out these alerts," Cornelison said. "If you find yourself without Internet access, you can call a 1-800 number and the company can post the alert for you."

One visitor said that his daughter lived and went to school in Troy, Ala., and she was signed up with their alert system that was similar. He said that as a parent, he felt safer to know if there was an emergency in that they would be immediately alerted to it.

Cornelison said many would have to opt into the service by

providing their information and how they wished to be contacted.

"They will have to go to the website to show they want to be notified or if they want to opt out," said Cornelison. "Some will opt out because they got a tornado alert and the tornado never hit, then regret it later when a tornado hits and they opted out of the service."

Outreach Specialist for Holmes County Health Department Moises Valiejos said there would still have to be a big push to get people to register.

"Text alerts are free, we just don't have that ability now," Valiejos said. "We're not promoting a single company,

DeltAlert was just kind enough to come down and give us a demonstration and answer questions."

Valiejos said that in order to go forward and receive funding, they would have to present it to the Holmes County Board of County Commissioners for approval and if it is approved, the county would have to bid it out to see about getting the best service for the cheapest rates.

All agencies attending approved to move forward and present it at the next BOCC meeting, 6 p.m. March 27 at the Board of County Commissioners Chamber next to the Holmes County Court House.

Washington County ARRESTS

March 5 - 12

Sara Bigler, 29, Vernon, violation of state probation on aggravated battery

Ginny Brown, 41, Panama City, harassing phone call

Justin Brown, 24, Caryville, possession of paraphernalia, recommitted on possession of paraphernalia, produce meth, possession of controlled substance without a script

Bernard Bryant, 51, Caryville, driving while license suspended or revoked

Clyde Bryant, 51, Greenwood, failure to appear on driving under the influence, driving while license suspended or revoked

Christopher Davis, 24, Chipley, possession of listed chemical, violation of state probation on possession of meth

Antonio Dickson, 27, Marianna, Holmes County warrant for worthless check

John Drummond, 40, Vernon, child support

Kentral Ector, 24, Bonifay, possession of marijuana with intent, Resist officer with violence, battery on law enforcement officer, violation of county probation on possession of marijuana less than 20 grams

Christopher Edelman, 28, Panama City, violation of county probation on operate motor vehicle without a license

Robert Harris Jr., 64, Chipley,

violation of state probation on sell of cocaine

Tristan Hartzog, 28, Chipley, possession of paraphernalia, possession of controlled substance without a script

Ricky Kennedy Sr., 48, Chipley, possession of paraphernalia, violation of state probation on sell of cocaine

John Loria, 29, Vernon, simple assault, criminal mischief

Jammie Murraray, 20, Ebro, Battery

Jay Patterson, 52, Bonifay, attach tag not assigned

Danielle Pyfrom, 29, Bonifay, possession of controlled substance without script two counts, distribute listed chemical, driving while license suspended or revoked, recommitted on possession of listed chemical, possession of paraphernalia

Karen Raley, 52, Chipley, worthless check

Cecil Robbins, 43, Bonifay, Holmes County warrant for violation of state probation on possession of meth

James Schupp, 25, Crestview, Violation of state probation on sex offender

violation fail to register

Alicia Scutchfield, 29, Vernon, Bay County warrant for violation of state probation on possession controlled substance without script

Daniel Steele, 53, Chipley, battery

Lois Steele, 58, Chipley, battery

Kenneth Texton, 49, Chipley, Marion County warrant for child support

William Todd, 29, Chipley, dealing in stolen property



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left are Desiree Beman, Brooklynn Hayes, Bailey Miller and Julie Serpas.

4-H livestock tests skills

Special to the News

CHIPLEY — Livestock judging requires skill, critical thinking, decision making and problem solving. These are all life skills that members of the Livestock 4-H Club are developing by participating in judging contests. At the North Florida Livestock Show held in Quincy,

members judged two classes of steers and two classes of heifers to test their skills.

Team members Brooklynn Hayes, Desi Beman, Julie Serpas and Bailey Miller placed 2nd in the Junior Division with Brooklynn Hayes scoring 2nd highest individual and Bailey Miller placing 4th highest individual.

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Opinion

Memories of tobacco and rolling your own

A review of the small books by E. W. Carswell, most of which are still for sale at the Washington County Society Museum, can easily bring topics for a “prattle” writing. His book, “He Sold No Shine Before Its Time”, is a treasure trove of other stories in addition to the one with the above title.



PERRY'S PRATTLE
Perry Wells

One such story, which is headlined, “Tailor-made cigarettes” on page 12 of the above book, impressed your writer to approach this as a story.

Another label for the home made “smokes,” was ‘roll your own,’ distinguishing them from the more sophisticated ‘ready rolls,’ for the elite smokers.

A variety of tobaccos for preparing your own cigarettes were on the market and included such popular brands as Golden Grain, Bull Durham and the ultimate in the tailor made, Prince Albert. It was packed in a colorful tin which kept it moist and fresh, while the cloth bags containing the other product soon dried out. If subjected to the elements, it would puff up and lose its aroma and kick. A national thirty minute segment of the world famous Grand Ole Opry, broadcasted each Saturday night from WSM in Nashville, was sponsored by Prince Albert. It used this singing advertising jingle:

“You Roll Your Own With Old PA — And Take A Puff Or Two — It Gives That Extra Smoking Joy—Prince Albert Offers You.”

Mr. Carswell points out that, irrespective of the brand, each purchase of tobacco contained a package of 50 or 100, thin and strong, “papers” for use in rolling the tobacco into a cigarette. “Almost invariably, the packets carried a notice saying they were made in France,” according to the Judge Carswell story.

The subject of smoking tobacco is very much a part of my memory of growing up.

At Brackin School, the teachers never acknowledged the possibility that the boys may be smoking during recess and lunch. However, it was commonplace as we secluded ourselves in woods among the gall berry bushes. There we striped dog fennel weed and rabbit tobacco and rolled it into a crude cigarette. Our ‘papers’ were mostly used paper bags which had contained our lunch. They had to be crushed and softened in order to hold the ingredients. Vernon High School designated a place for smoking. It was the towering pine tree at the north boundary of the campus. When the “have nots” got their cigarettes from the “haves”, it was

called “bumming.”

Meanwhile, back at home, dad was furnishing “store bought” smoking tobacco for the farm hands, many picked up along the highway as hitchhikers, broke, no job and no prospects.

Vivid in my mind is my father saying, that he only promised the newly acquired worker, his food, a place to sleep and smoking tobacco. The tobacco was an extremely important part of the “payday” for the masses of unemployed who were walking the highway or “hoboing” railroad boxcars during the Great Depression in an effort to find jobs. Dad would allow the transient laborers to work for neighboring farmers, who might be able to muster up the usual \$1 per day thus giving him some much needed spending money.

These newcomers into our lives on the farm brought some colorful characters into the household. The Wells children still remember some choice expression and words of wisdom.

The discarded portion of a smoked cigarette was called both a “duck” or “short,” with “butt” added in later years. The hired help on the farm knew it would be unacceptable to pass the left over, burning cigarette to a younger person, who eagerly stood by ready for the prize. Instead, he would toss it to the ground saying: “pick it up if you want to, but I did not give it to



This carryover, unopened, pouch of Wild Kentucky Club tobacco made for pipe smoking, is from the collection of Hester's father, Herbert Lucas, who quit smoking late in life.

smokers were also available. Cigars were there for the more affluent smokers.

In 1966 the U. S. Surgeon General was directed to add this wording on all smoking tobacco products: “Cigarette Smoking May Be Hazardous To Your Health”. Within a few years, with much more added pressure, this agency was instructed to include four forceful statements to the tobacco packages, with the most powerful one being “Smoking Causes Lung Cancer”.

Notwithstanding all the warnings and published documented proof showing a direct relationship to smoking and cancer, the product is still openly on the market with the blatant message of its health hazards. Anti smoking programs are presently being presented by governmental agency in schools and health departments. Taxing authorities continue to impose hefty taxes on all tobacco products of every kind, including the smokeless tobaccos which have become popular in the past couple of decades.

At the ripe old age of 84, I take great pride in the fact that I put cigarettes down more than 59 years ago and have no desire to resume the habit at this time.

See you all next week and who knows what might be the subject matter.

you!”

Our busy father possibly justified buying “ready rolls” as a time saver. He bought Dominoes at eleven cents per package and graduated to Wings at about the same price. He never went to the more expensive Camels, Lucky Strikes nor Taryton's. Many recalls the sales pitch: “I'd walk a mile for a Camel,” or the billboard ads during World War II: “Lucky Strike Green Has

Gone to War” and, later years, the advertising slogan for Taryton: “I'd Rather Fight Than Switch” which pictured a female smoker with a black eye.

Every country store shelf was stocked with tobacco products including the “makings” for ‘rolling your own’, or as Mr. Carswell labeled them, the ‘tailor-made’ cigarette. A variety of snuff, chewing tobacco and tobacco for pipe

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

Letters to the editor and comments on Web versions of news stories are welcomed.

Letters are edited only for grammar, spelling, clarity, space and consistency, but we ask that they be limited to 300 words where possible. Letter writers are asked to provide a home address and daytime telephone number (neither is printed) for verification purposes.

Letters may be sent to 1364 N. Railroad Ave., Chipley, FL 32428 or emailed to news@chipleypaper.com. Please specify if the letter should be printed in the Washington County News or Holmes County Times-Advertiser. Questions? Call 638-0212.



Washington County NEWS

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Peaceful walk a time to stop thinking

Sunday I finally got out for a nice trek along the walking/bicycling trail down Falling Waters Road — my first walk since getting to Florida.

Between work and settling in, not to mention my old pal gout, I hadn't been in a position to go out for a nice hike until this past weekend. I'm pretty sure a week's worth of prednisone also helped, thanks again to Dr. Sloan.

Anyway, before loading up like Jed Clampett, I routinely walked a few miles a day through whichever town I happened to be living in, so Sunday I was getting back into the routine.

Starting at the Church of Christ on the corner of Brickyard and Falling Waters, I headed south, just me and my sneakers.

Walking for me isn't just about exercise. I like to use the time to stop thinking and enjoy breathing, and to try and really see what is

going on around me. Sunday's weather was spectacular, and as I walked down the trail, I was amazed at the color of the trees and sky as the sun began its Western swan dive



RANDAL SEYLER
Editor

into the Pacific. The trees were by turn dark green, light green and gold.

I passed a couple of other joggers and walkers who were listening to mp3 players, and I have been guilty of doing the same thing, but to really enjoy a walk I feel like I need to hear the wind and the birds — not the Monkees

and the Beatles — as I hike along. I also want to be able to listen to my breathing, which is in itself an exercise called “mindful breathing.”

Mindful breathing is a meditation practice designed to help you stop thinking and become a bit more aware of the present moment, and it is a basic exercise I have been repeatedly flubbing since about

1995, when I first came across the practice in a wonderful little book called “Peace Is Every Step.”

The way you fail at stopping thinking, of course, is you start thinking, “Hey look at me! I'm not thinking ...” About 10 minutes of that and you think, “Oh. Drat!” And start back over.

The swamp and swamp accessories that lie to the west of the trail were a new treat for me to walk past, and I wondered if I would have to try and dodge an alligator or two before reaching my goal, which was Interstate-10.

Finally I got to peer down at the highway traffic. The cars were pretty much all going in either one of two ways, and the sun was still debating taking the plunge.

I realized I was thinking about the cars, and the sun, and alligators, and gave myself a D- for mindfulness but an A for effort, then turned around and headed back to the church.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
Enough, enough, with the gas prices. I really think they are really bad. I know I am not the only one who is complaining. The big shots in Washington, D.C., say they can not do anything. They are full of it. They sure know how to sock it to us with taxes and everything else. Either they have investment in oil or a lot of stocks.

What do they care? They probably don't have to worry about paying for there gas. I know there are people out there who will be staying at home a lot. The high gas prices will cause a problem just getting to work. I can't believe they say there is nothing they can do. I think they are full of you know what. I sure hope they do something soon. It is really hurting the economy. They tried this back in the '70s and the truckers went on strike and pulled off the highways. Without them no one would have food or anything at all.

As for the shooting in Ohio, it is a major tragedy for anyone who loses a loved one. I think it is really bad that someone is shot over something senseless. The problem today is bullying. When a child or a adult is having a problem with someone and they tell someone in charge, why don't they do something about it. Most times they do not do anything and the problem keeps going. A person can take only so much abuse and they are going to snap. I think with all the shooting they have had in the last few years people would realize they should not be doing those things. I was told a long time ago you treat people like you want to be treated. As long as there is bullying going on there will always be problems and someone will end



up dead. I was not surprised when I heard about the shooting and the results because if people do not do anything about it, there will be someone ending up dead. Even with adults there is a lot of stress out there, and some people lose it. If there would treat people with respect we wouldn't have all this violence against each other.

Yours Truly,

Beverly Perdue
Sunny Hills

Chamber hosts golf tournament

From Staff Reports
BONIFAY — Holmes County Chamber of Commerce hosted its fifth annual Golf Tournament at Dogwood Lakes Golf Club on Friday.

The weather was unbelievable. Twenty-one teams took to the greens, some just to enjoy the day with friends and co-workers — some with a little more competitive outlook. The teams are rated by their handicaps then separated into A Teams and B Teams.

The Flight A \$500 first place team was Dogwood Lakes A Team.

The \$300 second place was First Baptist Church Team, and third place for \$200 went to Hatcher and Lowe.

The Flight B first place and \$500 went to the Professional Title Team, second place and \$300 was won by Dogwood Lakes B Team and C.W. Roberts in third for \$200. We had some real close calls for the \$10,000 hole but unfortunately no winners.

"I greeted each team when they returned and asked how they did some said we played a good game," said Chamber Coordinator



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE TIMES-ADVERTISER

Bettie Slay, president of the chamber, watches the teams get ready.

Julia Bullington.

"The day is brought together by lots of sponsors, some put together teams,

some buy tee box signs, some donated gift for door prize drawings. some donate items for the

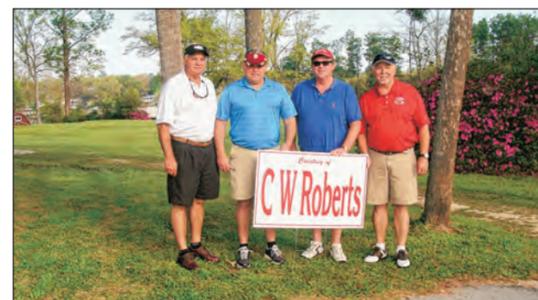
players goody bags, some supply breakfast, or lunch but the county always come together for this annual

fundraiser," she said.

"Thank each and very one of you for all you do."



Above left, the first place A Flight winner at the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament this weekend was Dogwood Lakes Team A, including Jamie Wells, Trevor Bush, Larry Urquhart, Laura Tinsley. **Above center**, the second place A winners were the First Baptist Church team consisting of Randy Sellers, Luke Taylor Mike Wells, Alan Riley. **Above right**, the third place A winners were team Hatcher & Lowe, including Patrick Hatcher, Scott Lowe, Billy Warren, Kenneth Bond.



Above left, the team of Professional Title won first place in the B Flight of the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce golf tournament. The team included Paul Alvis, Howard Holland, Al Griffin, Chris Padgett. **Above center**, Dogwood Lakes B Team took second place in the B Flight. Members are Rodney Tate, Ed Bowns Bobbie Smith Rex Darby. **Above right**, Team C W Roberts took third in the B Flight. Members include Ronnie Bell, Darryl Carpenter, Monty Merchant Larry Jones.



The Holmes County 4-H Archery Club recently competed in the state archery match.

Holmes County 4-H Archery Club attends state match

BONIFAY — On Friday March 9, a few members of the Holmes County 4-H Archery Club and its volunteers traveled to Newberry, to compete in the 4-H state Archery Competition that was held on March 10 at Easton-Newberry Archery Center. About 200 4-H'ers, up 34 percent from last year, gathered at the state archery match to compete in feta, field, and 3D shoots. The students were excited and had spent the past several weeks practicing and getting ready. Brett Kandzer, the club's leader, worked with the youth to prepare them for the event. The youth shot well, and all had a great time. The team members included: Claudia Monk, Tyler Dunn, Logan Chitty, Frankie Storey, Johnny Curlee and Jerrett Kandzer. The skills demonstrated were impressive, and so was the sportsmanship. Congratulations to the Holmes County 4H State Archery Team on a job well done.

PDLHS LADY PIRATES BASKETBALL



Members of the PDLHS Lady Pirates and their coaches, Tim Alford and Laurie Tinsley, were guests of State Sen. Greg Evers in Tallahassee on March 9. While in Tallahassee, the team had the privilege of meeting Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll and being introduced to the Senate Chamber. The Lady Pirates recently won the Class 1A State Championship classification.



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Hooked on Outdoors

Ladies who always have wanted to learn how to fish and had no teacher will be glad to know the FWC will be having a workshop March 31 at St. Andrews State Park to teach you all the ins and outs.

The free Women's Fishing Clinic will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Gulf pier. Participants will receive free admission into the park unless they bring others with them in their vehicle. Advanced registration is required since the classes are capped at 25 participants.

You can pre-register with Jennifer Saranzak at 352-543-9219, ext. 216, or Jennifer Saranzak@MyFWC.com. Participants must be at least 16 years of age. All

equipment is provided, but you can bring your own if you prefer. Lunch and drinks are not provided, so you will have to bring that along with sunscreen, etc.

Participants will learn skills such as casting, fish handling and much more with a catch-and-release event at the end. The participant will need to have a fishing license to take part in that portion of the clinic.

If you are only tagging along, there is plenty to do at the park. At the pier where the clinic is taking place, there is swimming and roaming the beach. If you like to fish, the pier offers pompano and whiting fishing along with the jetties.

If you enjoy watching nature, there are plenty of deer to be seen along the roads. Just get out and follow the paved roads. They all come back to the place you started. Come and enjoy one of Florida's best state parks if not the best.

Overdue boaters found in pair of searches

By STAN KIRKLAND

Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

Every day of the year, literally hundreds of anglers, hunters and others who enjoy the outdoors head out for a day of recreation and away from suburbia to some of the state's most remote places. However, on occasion things go wrong and they need help.

That's when Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission law enforcement officers usually get a call for help. That was the case last week when officers rescued three people in back-to-back incidents on the lower Apalachicola River area.

In the first incident on March 8, an Apalachicola woman called at about 8 p.m. and reported that her 65-year-old husband was overdue from a day-long fishing trip. FWC Lt. Charlie Wood said they quickly found the husband's truck and boat trailer at Abercrombie Boat Ramp on the Jackson River, off Bluff Road in Apalachicola. The wife told officers where she thought her husband had gone fishing.

After requesting other officers to assist in the search, Wood and another officer launched from the same ramp on the Jackson River. Twenty minutes later they found the husband 1 mile upriver, with motor troubles.



HOPE THROUGH HUNTING



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

At top, Johnny Harris, left, and Seasons of Hope took Harden Evans on a hunt where he was able to take an 8-point buck. Evans suffers from juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Below, Michael Harris, right, and a friend pose after they shot this gobbler at a Holmes County farm. It was the first gobbler taken there in 15 years because of a previous restriction there to allow the turkey population to make a comeback.



By MIKE CAZALAS

News Herald Editor

Michael Harris is no stranger to adversity and is not one to shrug something off just because it might be a challenge. An avid hunter, Harris last weekend had his sights set on both this weekend's opening of spring turkey season and last weekend's special early hunt for youth.

But unlike most turkey hunters, some of whom have a tendency to think of themselves more as "real" hunters than someone who sits in a stand and waits on a deer to show up, Harris wasn't busy pulling his gear out of closets, preparing turkey calls or searching for mosquito repellent. He was leading a small group of medically challenged children on a youth turkey hunt.

It was just another in an already growing list of hunts Harris and three others have led since they formed Seasons of Hope — a 501(c)(3) nonprofit — to bring the outdoors to people who otherwise might not be able to enjoy it.

On Dec. 23, 2010, the group received its federal 501(c)(3) status and Harris was onto his next challenge. He is quick to point out this is not just about him — "It's definitely not just me, this takes a group effort and I want that emphasized," he said — but his outdoor and media contacts along with his ongoing recovery kind of push his face to the front.

"We really want to do a wide range of things, but mainly we help kids who are terminally ill, disabled or kids with disadvantages who don't have hunting opportunities," Harris said.

But doing that is not easy, and it is not free. First off, you have to find a landowner who will let you hunt. Then there's equipment needs, transportation needs, etc.

"Right now we're just relying on word of mouth," Harris said. "We're trying to find people, let them know we're here. We're trying to raise money for literature that we can get into the hospitals."

Bay Guns and Gear "has been very generous," Harris said, helping with raffles for guns, fishing and a turkey hunt. Mike Miller at Miller Marine in Southport is working on a boat for the group that will be completely handicapped-accessible to include a winch where the kids can get out of their wheelchairs and be lowered into the water for a dip.

But all of that revolves around community involvement and how many people want to participate. If you are one of those, you can reach Harris at 850-630-8187. Donations (tax deductible) are accepted but checks must be made out to Seasons of Hope and can be mailed to Michael Harris, 1205 Buena Vista Blvd., Panama City, FL 32401.



BRAD KESELOWSKI

Brad Keselowski wins at Bristol

By CATHRINE LAMB
638-0212 | @WCN_HCT
Clamb@chipleypaper.com

Brad Keselowski raced neck-and-neck with Matt Kenseth to win the Food City 500 at Bristol by only seven-tenths of a second.

What was the first thing Brad did when he made it to victory lane, you ask? What every 28-year-old who has won his first race of the season would do — he tweeted a photo from victory lane. The race lasted just shy of three hours, had seven leaders, 13 lead changes and five cautions.

The average speed of the drivers was 93.068 mph. The first caution of the race was the first and only major accident in the race. The accident involved Kasey Kahne, Kevin Harvick, Marcos Ambrose, Carl Edwards and Kyle Busch. Makes one wonder how long Kyle Busch will be able to hold his temper and hold on to his sponsors, after the stunt of slamming his fist into the roof of his car after the accident. I say he did a pretty good job of holding his temper by not hitting or cussing anyone this time, but who knows how long this will last.

Pit Road stayed closed for the next 16 laps, because clean up was being done at the exit of Pit Road. The second caution came on lap 116 when Ken Schrader hit the wall in turn three and in turn four. Have we seen this before? I think we have. The third caution came on lap 340 when David Stremme hit the wall and boy did he hit it. The fourth caution came when Jeff Gordon spun into turn three. The accident started when Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Jr. made contact on the backstretch; that contact cut Gordon's right rear tire. Everybody knows what happened next — Gordon spins. The last caution of the race came on lap 478 when Tony Stewart the reigning Sprint Cup champion backed his car into the wall. Eventful race,

yes. Spectacular race, not really. Results from the weekend of March 16-18

Ford EcoBoost 300

Elliott Sadler
Kasey Kahne
Brad Keselowski
Joey Logano
Dale Earnhardt Jr.
Ricky Stenhouse Jr.
Justin Allgaier
Trevor Bayne
Kevin Harvick
Ryan Truex

Food City 500

Brad Keselowski
Matt Kenseth
Martin Truex Jr.
Clint Bowyer
Brian Vickers
Jeff Burton
Jammie McMurrery
Juan Pablo Montoya
Jimmie Johnson
Paul Menard

Standings as of March 18

Nationwide Standings
Elliott Sadler
Ricky Stenhouse Jr. — 25
Trevor Bayne — 29
Austin Dillon — 30
Cole Whitt — 41
Sam Hornish Jr. — 49
Tayler Malsam — 62
Michael Annett — 63
Justin Allgaier — 65
Mike Bliss — 86

Sprint Cup Standings

Greg Biffle
Kevin Harvick — 9
Matt Kenseth — 12
Martin Truex Jr. — 18
Dale Earnhardt Jr. — 20
Denny Hamlin — 20
Tony Stewart — 27
Clint Bowyer — 31
Joey Logano — 31
Paul Menard — 34

Next Races

March 24 — 4:46 p.m.
ESPN — Royal Purple 300 — Auto Club Speedway — Fontana, Calif. — last year's winner was Kyle Busch.

March 25 — 2:16 p.m. Fox — Auto Club 400 — Auto Club Speedway — Fontana, Calif. — last year's winner was Kevin Harvick.

There is no Camping World Truck Series race this weekend.



Greg Biffle, the Sprint Cup Series point leader, is seen with Miss Sprint Cup Rachel Rupert.

Elliott Sadler, was the winner of the EcoBoost 300 and is the Nationwide Series points leader.



All-Star Classic East girls team set

By BRAD MILNER
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bmilner@pcnh.com

It's been said that variety is the spice of life. And it's variety that may bring a victory to the Freedom All-Star Classic East girls team.

The 12-player basketball roster comprising senior athletes in The News Herald's coverage area has been selected and it's balanced. The East girls have struggled in the series against the West, which is chosen by the sports department at the Northwest Florida Daily News, losing six of the previous seven games.

One key ingredient in the East's lone win in 2007 was post play. Graceville's Erika Johnson paced the East to a 90-76 win and earned MVP honors. One of the coaches on that team, Mosley's Steve Canfield, returns this year for his third appearance in the series. This year's game starts at 11 a.m. on April 7 and will be contested at the Billy Harrison Field House on the campus of Gulf Coast State College.

Post play could figure to be another key ingredient this year. The East team features three players who can stake a claim to the paint in Ponce

de Leon's Jazz Flock, Graceville's Wynterra Pittman and Arnold's Grace Tennyson.

Flock averaged a double-double in scoring and rebounding during the Pirates' Class 1A semifinal and final games in leading her team to a 28-2 record and state championship. Pittman nearly averaged a double-double in the same categories for the season and Tennyson averaged 7.9 rebounds a game while adding 31 blocked shots for the Marlins.

They combine with Mosley's Deanna Canfield and Malone's Olivia Daniels as players that can play forward and provide a presence around the rim. Canfield, a true forward, was a record-setting rebounding machine for the Dolphins, who won 20 games for the first time in four seasons, with nearly 12 a game. Daniels worked her way into a dual role on an undersized Malone team.

The remaining seven spots on the roster are occupied by guards with varied size and speed.

Bay's Tia Webb stands 5-foot-9 and played point guard for the Tornadoes, albeit doing so out of her natural shooting guard spot because of roster necessity. Bethlehem's Kaylin Griffin

played taller than her 5-7 stature with eight rebounds a game for the Wildcats and both she and Webb averaged more than 10 ppg. Graceville's Tiara Sorey also stands 5-7 and provides size at point guard.

They join smaller guards in Mosley's Tasha Trzaska, Rutherford's Lakia Snowden, Ponce de Leon's Kate Carroll and Sneads' Latilya Baker. Each proved they can provide scoring punch and 3-point prowess. Several of the guards, including Baker, Sorey, Snowden and Webb, participate on their schools' respective track and field teams.

The 2012 Freedom All-Star Classic East girls roster:

- G — Latilya Baker, Sneads
- F — Deanna Canfield, Mosley
- G — Kate Carroll, Ponce de Leon
- G/F — Olivia Daniels, Malone
- F/C — Jazz Flock, Ponce de Leon
- G — Kaylin Griffin, Bethlehem
- F/C — Wynterra Pittman, Graceville
- C — Grace Tennyson, Arnold
- G — Tasha Trzaska, Mosley
- G — Lakia Snowden, Rutherford
- G — Tiara Sorey, Graceville
- G — Tia Webb, Bay
- Coach: Steve Canfield, Mosley



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12th Grade



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Bethlehem H.S.
Softball, Pitcher/Outfielder
11th Grade



Jasmine Flock
Ponce de Leon H.S.
1A Florida Dairy Farmers
Player of the Year



Zack Yarbrough
Vernon H.S.
Football & Basketball
12th Grade

Holmes County High School chose not to participate at this time.

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JAIL FOR BAIL

Holmes County Sheriff's Office holds Relay for Life fundraiser

By CECILIA SPEARS

BONIFAY — Holmes County Sheriff's Office hosted Jail for Bail to raise money for Relay for Life starting Friday morning at Cooks Corner on the corner of Highway 79 and 90. The concept of the event was that someone could buy a "warrant" for another's arrest through a \$15 donation to Relay for Life, and in order for the person to be "bailed" out, a \$50 "bond" must also be donated. The person paying for the warrant would then give charges for their arrest.

Officers also stood at the corner of Highway 79 and 90 collecting donations and hosted lunch, bake sales and raffles, in additional efforts to raise funds for Holmes County Relay for Life.



Items were donated to raffle to help raise money at the Relay for Life 2012 Jail for Bail. **Below right**, Holmes County Sheriff Tim Brown being "arrested" on "charges" of littering the county with too many campaign signs. **Below left**, Employees of the Holmes County Sheriff's Office asking for donations for the American Cancer Society on the corners and medians of Highway 79 and 90.

Photos by CECILIA SPEARS | The News



Marsha Sherrouse being "arrested" on "charges" of possession of too many purses.



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Surplus & Salvage of Chipley

Washington, Holmes at a glance

Family Dollar to Hold Job Fair

CHIPLEY – The Family Dollar Distribution Center will be holding a job fair at the Chipley Goodwill Career Training Center from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today. There are about 100 local jobs with about half of those being at the Distribution Center. If you have never worked at the Distribution Center you may be eligible for employment.

Chipley Garden Club to Hold Spring Gardens and English Tea

CHIPLEY – The Chipley Garden Club will be holding a Spring Gardens and English Tea event starting at 9 a.m., on March 31. The garden tour will begin at 9 a.m., at Edwin's Cottage Garden on 5th Street, then will move on to The Pigotts' Place on U.S. Highway 90 East. Their will be English Tea at high noon, at Chipley's Downtown Farmers' Market on North 7th St. Enjoy a leisurely stroll through two different gardens, then relax the "English" way with a hot cup of tea and goodies. Be sure to visit "The CGC Garden Spot" before you leave us. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance.

Holmes County Candidate Workshop

The Holmes County Supervisor of Elections' Office will be conducting a Candidate Workshop for anyone interested in running for county office in 2012, at 6:30 p.m. on March 29. Topics will include: Offices up for Election in 2012, Becoming a Candidate, Qualifying for Office, The Petition Process, Political Advertising, Campaign Contributions and Expenditures, and Reporting Requirements. Please call the Supervisor of Elections at 547-1107 by March 26, to register for this workshop. The workshop will be held at the Holmes County Emergency Management Office, located at 1001 Hwy 90 East, in Bonifay.

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Hundreds attend Bonifay's fourth annual Down Home Street Festival

By **CECILIA SPEARS**
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BONIFAY — Hundreds gathered, and vendors filled Veterans Boulevard in Bonifay to attend the city's fourth annual Down Home Street Festival held this weekend.

The first day of the event kicked off Friday evening with Pickin' in the Park where listeners could pull up a lawn chair and listen to Blue Grass and Southern Gospel at Middlebrooks Park or Battle of the Bands, which featured local youth bands competing for prizes at the Holmes County Recreational Center.

The second day started with a 5K run at 8 a.m., it was sponsored by the Holmes County Health Department and Tourist Development Council to benefit the PINK program, which pays

for women under the age of 50 to have a free mammogram if they do not have the necessary insurance.

The day continued with events such as Bull Jam Junior Bull Riding, BarnYard Review Show, Bakin' Wars, Black-eyed Pea and Cornbread Sampling, a car show, Holmes County High School Chorus' performing from Decades of Music, demonstrations from Bonifay's American Taekwondo Association school, free health screening and much more.

The evening wrapped up with Bull Jam 2012, presented by God Is Faithful Ministries, where a range of bull riders from all over the country competed. A portion of the proceeds went to Ovarian Cancer Awareness and Bonifay Street Festival.

For photos and videos check out www.bonifaynow.com.



PHOTOS BY CECILIA SPEARS

Holmes County Public Library was raising money by painting faces and selling books and tapes during the second day of Bonifay's fourth annual Down Home Street Festival held this weekend.



Local youth bands competed in Battle of the Bands during the first day of Bonifay's Down Home Street Festival at the Holmes County Recreational Center.



Booth dedicated to raising donations for the Mia Brown Scholarship featured all of Mia's favorite snacks and beverages for sale during Bonifay's Down Home Street Festival.



Bonifay's American Taekwondo Association held a demonstration during the second day of Bonifay's Down Home Street Festival held this weekend.



Holmes County High School Chorus performed selections of their production, Decades of Music, during Bonifay's Down Home Street Festival.

Pickin' in the Park was an event featuring local Bluegrass and Southern Gospel bands at Middlebrooks Park in Bonifay for the first official day of Bonifay's fourth annual Down Home Street Festival.





GUETTLER AND RILEY TO WED

Daniel and Kimberly Guettler are happy to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Danielle Helen Guettler, to Heath Dustin Riley, son of Kenny and Gail Riley and Tony and Kim Weaver.

Danielle is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Leo Guettler, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Bush, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Franklin.

Danielle is a 2007 graduate of Chipley High School. She earned her Bachelor of Applied Science degree in General Management from Chipola College and will complete her Masters of Public Administration from Troy University

in May of 2012. Danielle is employed by the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Heath is the grandson of Mrs. Margaret Rustin and the late J.T. Rustin, the late Earl Riley, and Mr. Earl Ray Kolmetz and the late Windell Kolmetz.

Heath is a 2003 graduate of Chipley High School. Heath is employed at Florida Department of Transportation.

The couple will be married on April 7, 2012, at the home of Richard and Cathy Williams, at 864 U.S. Highway 277, Chipley, at 5:30 p.m. The reception will be held after the couple says I do. All friends and family are invited to attend.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



T.J. and Muriel Crutchfield celebrating their 58th Wedding Anniversary.

Foxworth Graduates Basic Training

Air Force Airman Joshua C. Foxworth graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare

principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Foxworth is the son of Doug Foxworth of Clarksville, and Charlotte Boyden of Chipley.

He is a 2007 graduate of Altha High School.

First Annual Hearts of Love Tea held

Submitted by Linda Hagans

COTTONDALE – The first annual “Hearts of Love” Tea was held at Piney Grove Baptist Church in Cottondale. The church’s social hall was transformed into a fairyland of gleaming silver, sparkling china, crystal and flickering candles along with gorgeous table decorations.

With the room filled to capacity the fun filled evening began. Hostess Linda Hagans of Bonifay greeted friends and guests with a warm welcome and by saying grace over the food. As the salad course was served, Paisley Howell of Bonifay entertained us with her signing. Jolene Taylor brought a short devotional and was followed by Laura Tice who preformed a song.

A wonderful meal then followed as hostesses served their table guests. Fabulous fellowship, food and laugh-



From left: Linda Hagans, Paisley Howell, Terrie Howell and Sue Howell



Table decorations

ter, endured throughout the meal. Each hostesses chose a Bible verse and decorated her table to reflect that verse there were some extraordinarily beautiful tables decorated.

The tea was held as a community-wide event and served as a fundraiser for an outdoor pavilion. Co-Hostesses were: Sharon Miller, Barbara Smith, Brenda

Maphis, Carol Dilmore, Donna Barber, Melanie Roland, Renee Scurlock, Hope Corbin, Kim Lee and Lisa Jenkins. All hostesses provided gifts for their table guests.

When the meal ended the fun and excitement resumed. A drawing was held for approximately 50 gifts. Avery Roland drew winning tickets and gifts were

handed out.

The evenings entertainment was the comedy act of Johnnie and Hezzie. These two ladies ended our evening with lots of laughs and fun. A wonderful time was enjoyed by all who attended.

“Hearts of Love” was chosen to reflect why we do the Lords work.

HOLMES COUNCIL ON AGING BIRTHDAY DINNER

Holmes Council on Aging had their birthday dinner for the month of February on Feb. 24, we had homemade veggie soup and grilled cheese sandwiches.

Thank you to the Piggy Wiggly of Bonifay for the birthday cake. Our birthdays are from left to right, Marie Thrush and Council on Aging Director Amber Wing, Happy Birthday Amber.



MARIE THRUSH



AMBER WING

Community EVENTS

Tombstone Tales: Cemeteries, Symbols, and Stories

CHIPLEY – The Washington County Public Library and the Florida Public Archaeology Network are proud to present “Tombstone Tales: Cemeteries, Symbols, and Stories”. This program will focus on why cemeteries are cool and not creepy, and includes a neat activity with symbols often found on headstones. The program will be held at 3 p.m. today. Call to confirm your reservation. Seating is limited. For more information or to reserve your spot call 638-1314.

The Hunger Games

CHIPLEY – You are invited to participate in The Hunger Games brought to you by the Washington County Library. Identify yourself at “THE CAPITOL (WCPL Chipley Branch) to celebrate the opening of the movie. The games will be held at the Washington County Public Library from 4-5:30 p.m. Thursday. To register call 638-1314.

Get on Board With Northwest Florida Community Hospital

CHIPLEY – Join NFCH on Get on Board and surf into giving from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 30. Call Heather Shelby at 415-8119.

Confederate Soldier Memorial Service

CHIPLEY – A memorial service is planned for Confederate Soldier W. T. Jeffries (William Thomas), who was a confederate soldier and resident of Chipley, at 11:30 a.m. on March 31. He passed away in 1928. His descendants, along with The Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1614 Finley’s Brigade and The Mary Ann Harvey Black Confederate Rose Society will hold a memorial service and set a marker on his grave at

Piney Grove Cemetery in Chipley.

KMS Kindergarten Registration

CHIPLEY – KMS will begin Kindergarten Registration on April 2 for the 2012-2013 school year. You may pick up a packet at KMS. Requirements for registration will be attached to the packet. All forms and proper documentation must be completed for a child to register. Children must be five years of age on or before September 1, 2012.

Kiwanis Announces 57th Annual Pancake Dinner

The Kiwanis Club of Chipley announced that the 57th Annual Pancake Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 12th, at the Kate M. Smith Elementary School Cafeteria from 5- 7 p.m. As in recent years there will be delivery service for group orders, in addition to the carry-out packages available during the dinner. Plenty of seating is available for those wishing to dine-in as a group or individually. It’s a great way to start the day with friends and contribute to programs for the youth of Washington County.

Kiwanis is celebrating its 71 year in Washington County. Throughout the year, the Kiwanis Club of Chipley conducts fund raising events such as the ever-popular Dinner Theatre, the holiday fruit sale, the Marvin Engram Memorial Golf Tournament, and others. Funds raised are used to provide grants and donations to over 30 organizations and events focused on the youth of Washington County. Additionally, scholarships are provided each year for several students pursuing a college education.

The Kiwanis Club of Chipley meets on Tuesdays, Noon to 1 p.m. at Pattillo’s Restaurant in the Washington-Holmes Technical Center complex

off U.S. Highway 90 west. New members are always welcome, and community-minded individuals are invited to contact David Solger, membership chairperson, 638-1276, for more information.

Kiwanis International has over 600,000 members in about 15,000 local clubs in more than 90 nations. The Kiwanis motto is, “Serving The Children of the World”, and it’s six permanent objects have remained unchanged since adoption in 1924.

8th Annual Holmes Valley Heritage Day

VERNON – The 8th Annual Holmes Valley Heritage Day will be held on Saturday, April 14 at 3901 Wilderness Road in Vernon. The gates open at 8 a.m. until the last pull. The antique tractors begin with races at 9:30 a.m., followed by the pulls of the 2500#-10500# divisions at 10 a.m. There will be a 1912 Case Steam Traction Engine on site. At 11:30 a.m., there will be a children’s pedal tractor pull, the parade of tractors at noon, and then the ladies’ skillet throw at 12:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and children 12 and under are free. The garden tractor pulls will be occurring simultaneously as the antique tractor pulls. Exhibits, merchandise, and food vendors will all be available and open to anyone who would like to attend. Any one who needs further information about the show or to be a vendor, please contact Sandra Cook at 535-2426.

Two-Toed Tom Festival

ESTO – The Town of Esto will hold the Two-Toed-Tom Festival on April 14-15 at John Clark Park. The festival will feature vendors, live music, children’s events and other events. Vendors and musical acts are being sought. For information call Darlene Madden 263-3201, or 272-3213 or the Town Hall at 263-6521 or email at two-toedtomfest@yahoo.com or visit the website at two-toedtomfest.com.

Senior Group going to Savannah Ga.

WASHINGTON/HOLMES COUNTY – Senior Group will be going to Savannah Ga., on April 4-7. The tour will include stops at Tybee, Jekyll, and St. Simons Islands. For more information call Merita Stanley at 594-9980.

Washington Rehab and Nursing Center to Hold Open House

CHIPLEY – The Washington Rehab and Nursing Center will be holding an open House and Hall of Fame Cafe on April 26. The open house will be from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The Hall of Fame Cafe will begin at 6 p.m. Please come out and help us celebrate our new 5 star rating.

2012 Holmes County Farm Bureau Youth Scholarship

HOLMES COUNTY – The Holmes County Farm Bureau will award a \$1000 scholarship annually, \$500 per semester, to a graduating senior from any Holmes County high school who will be attending any college or post-secondary school.

To be eligible to receive the scholarship the parents or grandparents of the applicant must be a current member (in good standing) of Holmes County Farm Bureau and have maintained their membership for at least two years prior to the application.

Applicants must complete the application and include a copy of their high school transcripts and a letter of acceptance to the college. In order to receive the second semester award. Applicants must send official notice from the college that shows they are in good standing.

The application deadline is May 1. To get an application or for more information call Debe Miller at 547-4227

this **Saturday**

PARADE
www.parade.com

INSIDE

Washington County NEWS

PDLHS FCCLA CHAPTER

Special To Extra

PONCE DE LEON — Members of the Ponce de Leon High School FCCLA Chapter and their advisor Deborah Smith were guests of State Sen. Greg Evers in Tallahassee on March 9. While in Tallahassee the chapter met Lt Gov. Jennifer Carroll and was introduced to the Senate Chamber. The chapter recently returned from their state convention,

where all participating members of the chapter received gold medals in their project presentations and placed first in their respective divisions. Sophomore Brayson English was elected State President for the 2013 school year, a rare honor for a small school chapter. All participating members qualified to attend the National Convention which will be held this summer in Orlando.



Relay FOR LIFE

Relay For Life

Washington County's Relay For Life will be May 11-12 at Pals Park soccer fields on Rustin Drive, starting at 6 p.m. May 11. This year's theme is "Storybook Ending is a Cure." The following related events are planned. All teenagers without an adult must leave by midnight.

Holmes County's Relay will begin at noon April 28 at Memorial Field in Bonifay and conclude at sunrise April 29.

Sponsorship

WASHINGTON COUNTY — Any one wishing to be a sponsor for this year's Relay should call Cindy Johnson-Brown at 407-625-5111 or email her at cindydajon@gmail.com for more information. Sponsorship must be paid by March 30 to be included on the back of the participant T-shirts. Gold sponsorship is \$5,000, Silver sponsorship is \$3,500 and Bronze sponsorship is \$1,500. In order to get your

name on the participant shirts you must be a Silver sponsor or Gold sponsor. All sponsors will be on the banner at Relay. Our sponsorship goal is \$8,000 we are at \$3,156 as of March 5.

Team NWFRC serving breakfast

WASHINGTON COUNTY — Team NWFRC will be serving breakfast in the Training Building in Greenhead from 6-7:30 a.m. every Wednesday until Relay. Breakfast will include made-from-scratch items including biscuits and pancakes.

Luminaries for donations

All Relay For Life teams are selling luminaries to be displayed on the night of the Relay around the track. After dark, the Relay For Life celebration will include a special luminary ceremony. Encircling the track with lights of hope, the Luminary Ceremony reaches for tomorrow with each candle of life and

touches the stars for only a moment to remember those of yesterday.

Your donation for each bag will place a luminary along the pathway to memorialize or honor someone you love. The bags will stay lit throughout the evening, reminding us that hope lives among us. The ceremony will begin just after dark. If you would like to participate in the ceremony by honoring or remembering a loved one who has battled cancer, contact a Relay For Life team.

Relay track markers for sale

All Relay For Life teams are selling track markers to be displayed on the night of the Relay around the track. Track markers are 18 feet by 14 inches and are \$100. Rules for the markers:
- Message must fit in boxes on the order form
- The squares include letters and/or spaces (there are 46 squares)
- No logos or pictures
- No political or campaign issues
- Messages may be

business or personal For more information, contact a team.

Atkins Team Fundraiser

WASHINGTON COUNTY — Atkins Relay for Life Team is selling tickets for a chance to win a new Vera Bradley All Around Toe in "Very Berry Paisley". Tickets are \$2 for one ticket or \$5 for three tickets. The drawing will be held March 21 at the Atkins office. Your need not be present to win. Please help us in our support of the American Cancer Society.

Team Survivor Scentsy fundraiser

Team Survivor is holding a Scentsy fundraiser in March. The consultant has agreed to give 10 percent of all proceeds to Relay For Life. For a book or to place an order, call Cathrine Lamb at 326-0121, Cecilia Spears at 658-4038, Connie Wheeler at 260-4073 or Linda Bybee at 260-9658.

PET TALK: CHOOSE SAFE PET TOYS

It is never desirable to leave a pet at home alone, but when it is necessary, it is nice to know the pet will be entertained. But the price of entertainment can be high when the pet is left with inappropriate toys; some may cause choking or even require surgery if swallowed.

Buying safe toys for your pet is a must to keep them safe from harm. The problem is that most people are not aware of the potential hazards that pet toys may cause their animal.

Dr. Mark Stickney, clinical associate professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences recommends when looking for a toy for a dog, "Don't buy anything too soft where the dog could bite off pieces and swallow them," he said.

Stickney said a dog could choke on these pieces or even swallow them. If the dog was to swallow the pieces, surgery might be needed in order to remove them. Toys that may be too soft are toys made of soft plastic or rubber; these materials are

easy for dogs to bite through.

Stickney also recommends that toys not be too hard. He strongly suggests that dogs not be given animal bones. Bones are too hard, leading the dog to chip or even break its teeth.

Stickney advocates the use of raw hide chews, he believes that dogs enjoy playing with them and that they are the safest material for the dog. Stickney also urges pet owners to buy toys that are appropriate for the size of their dog. If the dog is smaller, naturally the toy should be smaller; and the same holds true for larger dogs. A safe toy is one that the dog can easily hold in its mouth without its teeth puncturing the toy. Yet, the toy should not be small enough to fit down the dog's throat.

The best toys, in Stickney's opinion, are called 'Kongs.' They are tubes that are filled with treats in the center. They come in a variety of different sizes for different dogs, and are hard enough that the dog cannot chew through them. The tubes even

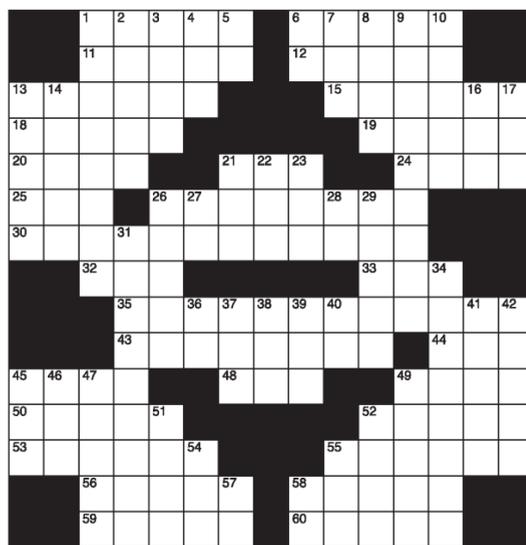
have weight recommendations on their boxes, signifying the most appropriate tube for the weight of the dog.

Cats are a bit different with their toy preferences than dogs. They tend to like toys that move and are stimulating to the eye. Stickney says that, "Cats tend to like toys that are free." Such as playing with small aluminum and paper balls. "Any toy that a cat can place under its paws and the toy springs out, cats will often love."

Stickney cautions that cat owners should not give their cats toys that have long strings. The cat may swallow the string causing choking. Cat's preferences on toys tend to be more varied than dogs, but most prefer round toys that move.

The best places to purchase these toys are places with a wide selection of pet toys, such as Petco and PetSmart. These places usually have a large variety, and if a toy has proven to be harmful, they are good about taking it off the shelf.

Crossword PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- Duck cartoon character
- Town in Guinea
- Upright posture
- Rest on your knees
- Move upward
- Disposed to take risks
- Makes a sweater
- Grooved surface of a tire
- Identical in kind
- Radiotelegraphic signal
- "Picnic" author William
- Bashkir Republic capital
- Male highlanders
- Doing several things at once
- Title of respect
- Old world, new
- "Sophie's Choice" actress
- Encloses completely
- Decaliter
- Makes angry
- Commercial free network
- Latvian capital
- Tycho __, Danish astronomer
- Leave slowly and hesitantly
- Harm to property
- Dining, pool and coffee
- Remove all traces of
- Yemen capital
- Passover feast and ceremony
- Trenches

CLUES DOWN

- Proper fractions
- Ridgeline
- Marshland area of E. England
- Flood Control District
- Canadian province (abbr.)
- Project Runway designer judge's initials
- Along with
- Orderly and clean
- A short-barreled pocket pistol
- Extraterrestrial being
- Ancient capital of Ethiopia
- Goof
- Annoy constantly
- Haitian monetary unit (abbr.)
- Arrived extinct
- Belonging to a thing
- Tounge click
- Fireman's signal
- Connecticut
- 3rd tone of the scale
- Language spoken in Russia
- Split occupancy
- Diacritics for s's
- Mobile camper
- Affirmative (slang)
- Bachelor of Laws
- ___ Angeles
- State police
- U.S. gold coin worth 10 dollars
- Bets on
- Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- Macaws
- Julie Andrews and Judi Dench
- Capital of Morocco
- Oh, God!
- ___ Carvey, comedian
- Point midway between E and SE
- Principle of Chinese philosophy
- Trauma center
- Atomic #62

SOLUTION ON PAGE B5

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Faith BRIEFS

Church offers fish fry on Lenten Fridays

BONIFAY — Blessed Trinity Catholic Church of Bonifay, 2329 Highway 177A, is holding their annual fish fry suppers every Friday during Lent. Meals are served from 4:30-7 p.m. and are available for either dining in or taking home. Cost is \$7 a plate and beverage and dessert is included. The fish fry suppers will be through March 30.

One Heart

BONIFAY — Bethany Baptist Church, Highway 79 North in Bonifay, will host One Heart at 7 p.m. Saturday March 24.

The Kingsmen perform

BONIFAY — The Kingsmen will be live at Mt. Zion Independent Baptist Church 7 p.m., Saturday, March 24.

Secret Church at Gully Springs Baptist Church

BONIFAY — A live telecast of Secret Church entitled "The Cross and Suffering" will be at Gully Springs Baptist Church on Good Friday, April 6. The telecast will begin at 6 p.m. and end at midnight. It will be led by David Platt of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala. The cost will be \$5 for a study guide, due the night of the telecast. The first 100 people to sign up will be guaranteed a guide. You

can call Martha at 850-547-4079 to sign up. Visit www.disciplemakingintl.org to learn more.

Union Hill Ladies Ministry to Observe Jewish Passover

The Union Hill Ladies Sunday School Ministry will share the Jewish Passover Seder Meal at 9:45 a.m. Sunday. All ladies are invited. This Passover Seder is based on Exodus 12. For more information call Martha Fender at 850-263-2263.

First Baptist to hold Passion Play 2012

BONIFAY — For the past 29 years, the Music Ministry of First Baptist Church, Bonifay, has presented the last days of our Lord's earthly ministry through music and drama. Each year, we are pleased to see faces in our services who have come from the surrounding tri-state area. This year the Passion Play will be presented on the following dates: At 7 p.m. April 6; 5 and 7-30 p.m. April 7; and 7 p.m. April 8.

We would like to invite you to celebrate the Easter season with us through these special presentations. If you have a youth group, senior adult group, or individuals who would like to attend, we have free early seating tickets available through the First Baptist Church office. You may call us at 547-9821 or fax us at 547-9821 or email us at robin@fbcbonifay.com.

It's my body; I'll exercise it if I have to

By REV. JAMES L. SNYDER

Lately, I have noticed a lot of news regarding all aspects of the body. According to one report I read, this is a multibillion dollar-a-year business. I never knew my body was worth so much money. I'm tempted to sell it, or at least rent it out on a part-time basis.

I did not know how big of a deal this was until, one night this past week, I had a little trouble sleeping.

One reason I have trouble falling asleep is my deep fear of falling. Actually, it's not the fall that worries me so much as that sudden stop. For some inexplicable reason I always stop three inches past the floor.

I would not worry so much about falling asleep if I knew I was going to fall on my pillow instead of the floor. However, I can't count on anything these days. Not even my fingers.

I once woke up in the middle of the night engaged in a vicious life or death pillow fight. Unfortunately, the pillow won and I cannot find anyone to take my case.

I did find one lawyer but he was three-sheets-to-the-wind and my case was no breeze.

One fear I have in the middle of the night is falling into the hands of some vicious nightmare because of my horsing around the day before. My wife keeps nagging me about my daytime activities, but I have a hard time harnessing these erratic urges.

Often when I have trouble going to sleep, or when I wake up in the middle of the night and can't get back to sleep, I simply get up quietly so as not to disturb the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and turn on the television. I once disturbed her; when I came to, I vowed never to repeat that offense.

You would think with so many channels on television there would be something interesting to watch in the middle of the night. Something

that would make the time spent profitably. Unfortunately, the nighttime airwaves are devoted to things holding no interest for anybody still clutching to a slim strand of sanity. You do not have to be crazy to watch nighttime TV; it is just a consequence of watching nighttime TV.

What I do not understand is why they run so many infomercials for exercise equipment at two o'clock in the morning. Who in their right mind is up that time of night? I know I'm not.

Using my remote, I channel surfed for probably 20 minutes and found nothing but people demonstrating exercise equipment and taunting me that I need to begin an exercise regimen if I am going to live a healthy life. One man's healthy life is another man's pain in the back, the knees and the elbows. After all this exercise, I only end up with a tennis elbow and athlete's foot.

Not only exercise equipment, but also a good portion of these infomercials touts on the latest fad diet. According to one commercial I can lose all the weight I want to lose in a six-month period for only six easy payments of \$99 which they would gladly charge to my credit card account. "Call right now," they invite through the television screen, "for this special one-time offer."

This "special one-time offer" is conveniently offered every night. The only weight being lost is from my checking account. If anyone ever had a gander at my checkbook, they would readily see that my goose is cooked. Perhaps I could start a new fad diet: Cooked Goose. I could market myself as the "Cooked Goose Gourmet."

All this hype made me hungry, so I raided the refrigerator and kidnapped a tasty snack and immediately put it out of its misery and into my middle-age spread.

I say enough is enough. I am tired

of other people telling me how to take care of my body. It takes all the strength and energy I have to drag my body from one place to another, let alone adding exercise to my daily schedule.

For a person my age I get plenty of exercise, more than I really need. A typical day for me always includes a rigid exercise regime; jumping to conclusions, running my mouth even when I'm told to be quiet from You Know Who and throwing my weight around every chance I get. After a full day of this, I am thoroughly exhausted.

For my money, it's my body and I'll exercise it if I have to, thank you. However, right now, I have more important things to do. Places to go. People to see. Experiences to enjoy. I can't think of any right now, but anything is better than some artificial exercise program. Who do you think I am? Jack LaLane?

With all this emphasis on exercise, I wish some of these people would exercise the right to keep their viewpoint to themselves.

In my opinion, the apostle Paul had the right attitude about all of this. I like what he writes to a young man by the name of Timothy. "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:8 KJV).

The body exercised is no substitute for the daily exercise of godliness. To exercise godliness is to make the best possible use of each day.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

Wake Up!

Though it is a well-worn cliché, it is nonetheless true that since we do not know the day or the hour of our deaths, we should live each day as if it were our last. Do not put off the good deeds which you could do today. Do not neglect to tell your friends and family how much they mean to you. Be vigilant and awake. Many of us are sleepwalking through life, unaware of where we are heading

"And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed." Romans 13: 11

and what the purpose of this life is. If we do not wake up every morning with a clear understanding that our purpose in life is to serve our fellow humans and by doing so to glorify God, then we are asleep and living in a dream world. In our dreams we often drift from one scene to another without any logical connection between them. But our lives should not drift haphazardly along. Rather, we should have a clear sense of what we are doing and why, asking always whether it serves our fellow man and glorifies God. We should be single-minded and determined in our pursuit of what is good, and stay awake!

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Good News Bible Acts 1:8

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Africans in Israel join forces for improvement

DIMONA, Israel (AP) — For years, Israel's array of African communities had little interaction, divided by religious, linguistic and cultural differences. That is changing.

They are facing a common situation in Israel — relegated to bottom rungs, partly because of discrimination over their skin color. That has brought some members of a wide range of communities together, including Jewish Ethiopians, nomadic Muslim Arabs and migrants from Eritrea and Sudan.

"What is said against me is said against my brother," said Sheik Ayed al-Abed, referring to the derogatory names that he and other members of a newly formed advocacy group have been called.

Al-Abed was among dozens of members of the various communities with African roots who met for three days last week in the southern Israeli desert town of Dimona. They formed a group, the "Middle East African Diaspora Commission," but offered no specific plans.

Participants hope to launch economic projects that would provide employment to the most disadvantaged blacks in Israel — African asylum seekers and Bedouin Arabs. They also plan to lobby the government to improve the situation of blacks in Israel.

Ultimately, they hope to be recognized by the 54-nation African Union as a diaspora community, though such an affirmation of their roots would be largely symbolic.

Al-Abed is part of a community that descended from African slaves who served lighter-skinned Arabs generations ago. His last name means "the slave" in Arabic.

It's also Arabic slang for a black Arab.

Some Hebrew-speaking Israelis refer to blacks as "kushim," a term derived from an ancient name for Ethiopia but today considered derogatory.

Jonathan Takele, an Ethiopian-Israeli participant in the initiative, said he was thrilled to find a place to discuss "the future of black people" in the Holy Land.

"I can share my experience. It doesn't matter if you are Christian, Muslim, Jewish," he said.

Even so, few Israelis from Ethiopia have joined, identifying with fellow Israeli Jews more than with other black Africans.

"You can't say because of racism, we are all thinking the same way," said Shlomo Mollah, the only Ethiopian member of Israel's parliament. "If you are raising the Bedouin problem, it's not like the Ethiopian problem. We are Jews, we have the same identity as other Jews."

While still in its infancy, the new group is the first known case in Israel of blacks crossing rocky religious and ethnic lines to champion a joint cause.

"It's extremely unique and extremely exciting, but I don't know if it will hold," said Dafna Strauss, an Israeli academic who has followed developments of African communities in Israel.

The populations are vastly different. Bedouins are Muslim Arabs who identify more with Palestinians than with Israelis, though they are Israeli citizens. The Eritreans, who include both Christians and Muslims, are caught in legal limbo as asylum seekers and face the possibility of expulsion from Israel. Ethiopians are Jews and citizens of Israel, facing their own set of problems.

Reasons for low status

among the various communities are as varied as their origins. One of the main causes is a difference in educational levels. Also, citizens and legal migrants are inevitably treated differently from illegals who sneak into the country looking for work.

Seeking to protect its Jewish character, Israel has implemented increasingly strict policies meant to limit the number of migrants who enter.

Government spokesman Mark Regev denied those policies are racist.

"The government of Israel has a zero tolerance policy on racism, and every time we've unfortunately seen the issue of racism raise its ugly head, the prime minister has forthrightly condemned it," he said.

The force behind the emerging alliance are the Black Hebrews, a 2,500-strong group of vegan polygamists who believe they are descendants of a lost tribe of Israelites.

The Black Hebrews, who first arrived in Israel from the U.S. in the 1970s, aren't considered Jews, but Israel has granted many of them residency rights. Khazrail Ben-Yehuda, a Black Hebrew, said he doesn't know how many members the group will have, because it is still collecting signatures.

Ben-Yehuda said the new lobbying group is meant to remind Israelis and their government of the higher standards they often claim for themselves.

"Israel is supposed to be a light unto the nations," he said. "That will be our agenda."

Out of some 7.8 million people in Israel, some 200,000 people have African roots. In addition to the Black Hebrews, there are about 120,000 Ethiopian Jews, 50,000 African

asylum seekers, an estimated 10,000 black Bedouins and at least 12,000 dark-skinned urban Arabs. There are no official statistics based on skin color.

Ethiopian Jews, who trace their ancestors to the Israelite tribe of Dan and were cut off from the rest of the Jewish world for more than 1,000 years, first arrived in Israel in large numbers in the 1980s in dramatic airlifts.

As Jews, they are automatically eligible for Israeli citizenship, but their absorption into society has been problematic. Suffering from a lack of a modern education, many have fallen into unemployment and poverty and have watched their family structures disintegrate.

Ethiopian Jews say racism has added to their troubles. In some towns, Israeli parents have tried to prevent Ethiopian children from sharing classrooms with their own. Ethiopians have also claimed discrimination in housing and job opportunities. Ethiopian religious leaders have struggled to win recognition.

The Israeli government provides stipends to Ethiopians for housing and education and offers help in employment, among programs meant to help them integrate.

Ethiopian Israelis have average monthly household incomes of around \$1,800 dollars, less than half the average of other Jews, according to the Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews.

Still, the Ethiopian community is making inroads. Following a traditional path to integration, many have risen through the ranks of Israel's military. Others have entered politics, and scholarships are available to send Ethiopians to universities.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Library hours

Wausau Library
 Monday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Tuesday: 1-6 p.m.
 Wednesday: Closed
 Thursday: 1-6 p.m.
 Friday: Closed
 Saturday: Closed
 Sunday: Closed

Holmes County Library (Bonifay)

Monday: Closed
 Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Saturday: 8 a.m. to noon
 Sunday: Closed

Washington County Library (ChIPLEY)

Monday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Thursday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Friday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Saturday: Closed
 Sunday: Closed

Vernon Library

Monday: Closed
 Tuesday: 1-6 p.m.
 Wednesday: 1-6 p.m.
 Thursday: Closed
 Friday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Saturday: Closed
 Sunday: Closed

Sunny Hills Library

Monday: 1-6 p.m.
 Tuesday: Closed
 Wednesday: 1-6 p.m.
 Thursday: Closed
 Friday: Closed
 Saturday: Closed
 Sunday: Closed

WEDNESDAY

10 a.m. to noon: Holmes Council on Aging provides hot meals and socialization. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: The Vernon Historical Society Museum is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meetings are fourth Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

Obituaries

Annie S. Blue

Annie Sybil Blue, passed away March 8, 2012, at the Northwest Florida Community Hospital after an extended stay. Sybil was the youngest of 11 and the last living child of Duncan and Annie McQuagge Blue, she was 90 years old. Sybil graduated from Vernon High School in 1930 and three years later from Massey Business College in Montgomery, Ala. She will be remembered for the

many years she cared for her mother and disabled brother. She was an avid reader, played the piano and had a great love for fashions including shoes, hats and purses.

She is survived by many nieces and nephews and has been under the care of local relatives, Tommy Hardy and Robert Williams.

A private memorial service was held at 1:30 p.m. March 10 at Brown

Funeral Home, Brickyard Road Chapel. Interment followed in Wachob Forest-Lawn Cemetery. A special thanks to Northwest Florida Community Hospital, Long Term Unit staff for the wonderful love and care given to her over the past years, and to the third floor hospital staff the last few days of her life. Friends and may sign the online register at www.brownfh.net.

Billy H. Hudson

Mr. Billy Hayward Hudson, Sr., 72 of Bonifay, died on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at Flowers Hospital in Dothan, Ala. Born Monday, Oct. 30, 1939, in Andalusia, Ala., he was the son of the late Charlie Hudson and the late Nellie Collier Hudson.

He was predeceased by a son, Gillis Charles Hudson.

Mr. Hudson is survived by his wife, Luvern Payne

Hudson; sons, Billy Hayward Hudson Jr., of Bonifay, Richard Dwayne Hudson of Bonifay, Anthony Hill Hudson of Vernon, and Mark Alan Hudson of Bonifay; daughter, Becky Berry of Bonifay; brother, Hillary Hudson and wife Valerie of Bonifay; sisters Sue Long, of Bonifay, and Mary Ballard, of Bonifay; six grandchildren, Joshua, Haley, Christy, Codey, Zachary, Billi Rebekah

and several nieces and nephews.

A Funeral service was 11 a.m. March 16, at Sims Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Larry Sewell and Kenneth Yates officiating. Interment followed in Bonifay Cemetery, Bonifay, with Sims Funeral Home directing. The family received friends from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, at Sims Funeral Home Chapel.

Phyllis J. Hall

Mrs. Phyllis Jeanette Hall of Spring Valley Lane, Bonifay, passed away Friday, March 9, 2012. She was 90. Mrs. Hall was born Nov. 4, 1921, in Ashley, Mich., to the late Harry Lester and Nellie Gladys Wagner Harp.

In addition to her parents, a son, Terry Hall; granddaughter, Karyn Ewing; two grandsons, Tommy Hall and Bobby Hall; three sisters and one brother, all preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband of 71 years, Jack Hall Sr., of Bonifay; two sons, Jack (Connie) Hall Jr., Robert (Sharon) Hall, of Safety Harbor; two daughters, Sherry (Terry) Redden, of Clarksville, Ga., Karen (Gordon) Ewing, Bonifay; one sister; one brother; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were 10 a.m. Tuesday,

March 13, in the chapel of Sorrells Funeral Home in Geneva with the Rev. Ryan Begue officiating. Burial followed in the Poplar Head United Methodist Church Cemetery with Sorrells Funeral Home of Geneva directing. The family received friends at the funeral home Monday, March 12, from 6-8 p.m. Flowers will be accepted or memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation.

Dorothy Y. Yates

Dorothy Yvonne Yates, 80, of Bonifay, died on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, at Flowers Hospital in Dothan, Ala. Born Friday, Jan. 8, 1932, in Hartford, Ala., she was the daughter of the late James Ward and the late Mollie Smith Ward. She was the wife of Jack Yates.

Surviving are son, Frank Yates and wife, Debra, of Hartford, Ala.; daughter, Jackie Benton

and husband, Warren, of Prosperity; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A Funeral service was held at 3 p.m. on Friday, March 16, at Bethany Baptist Church.

Interment followed in Bethany Cemetery, Bonifay with Sims Funeral Home directing.

The family received friends from 2-3 p.m. at Bethany Baptist Church.

Melvorie W. Horton

Mrs. Melvorie Wright Pate Horton, 88, of Pensacola, passed away March 10, 2012, at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola. She was born June 9, 1923, in Hartford, Ala., to the late Benjamin Alexander Wright and Ophelia F'Delia Davidson Wright.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Horton was preceded in death by the husband of her children, James Earl Pate, five sisters and four brothers.

Mrs. Horton is survived by her husband, Bill Horton, of Pensacola; two daughters, Brenda Jackson and husband, Jimmy, of Pensacola, and Karon Meeks of Marianna; four grandchildren, Amanda Jackson, Ryan Jackson, James Earl Meeks and wife, Brenda, and Kimberly Meeks; four great-grandchildren, Brandy Lee, Dylan Meeks, Danielle Meeks and Amber Rodelle; and three great-great-grandchildren, Kagen, Taylyn and Aiden.

Funeral services were at 2 p.m., March 14, at Peel Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Shelly Chandler officiating. Interment followed in the Shady Grove Baptist Church Cemetery with Peel Funeral Home of Bonifay directing. Family received friends from 1-2 p.m. Wednesday at Peel Funeral Home.

Linda B. Pittman

Linda Bazzell Pittman, 71, of Lovedale, died March 12, 2012.

Funeral services were held, March 15, at Lovedale Baptist Church. Interment was in the church cemetery with James and Sikes Maddox Chapel directing.

John J. Calamita, 74, of Sunny Hills, passed away Sunday, March 11, 2012, at a local hospital. He was born in Erie, Pa., and had lived in Bay and Washington counties for the last 20 years, moving from Texas. John retired as MSGT after 22 years in the U.S. Air Force. He was

a parishioner at St. Teresa Catholic Church and was the Faithful Navigator, District Warden and Council Trustee of KOC No. 3035, Chipley.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Kathryn Calamita, in 2008.

Survivors include his

John J. Calamita

children, Angela Kimes, of Lynn Haven, Carla San Angelo and husband, Kenny Sr., of Panama City Beach, and Daniel Calamita, of Chipley; a sister, Josephine Detter, of Erie, Pa.; and three grandchildren, Chad Kimes, Kenny San Angelo Jr. and Jenny San Angelo.

A Rosary Service was at 10:40 a.m. and a Funeral Mass at 11 a.m. March 16, at St. Bernadette Catholic Church with Msgr. Francis officiating. Interment followed at Forest Lawn Memorial Cemetery with U.S. Air Force Honors at graveside. The family received friends at the

funeral home March 15, from 6-8 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions in John's name may be made to the American Cancer Society, 2012-A Lisenby Ave., Panama City, FL 32405. Kent-Forest Lawn, 2403 Harrison Ave., 763-4694. www.kentforestlawn.com.

Leon P. Trammell

Trammell, Westville; four daughters, Leona (Jerry) Lindsey, Westville, Ida (Charles) Cumbie, Opp, Ramona (Jerry) Duncan, Crestview, Tammy Trammell, Westville; two sons: Park (Kay) Trammell, Terry (Cindy) Trammell, all of Westville; one sister-in-law, Nancy Trammell, Westville; eight grandchildren, Kim (Lori) Trammell, Timmy (Heather) Trammell, Keith Trammell, Donna (Jason) Hudlow, David Trammell, Aric (Tonya) Cumbie, Ashley (Ashley) Sutley and Beth Deal; Eighteen great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews,

other extended family and friends.

Funeral services were held at 6 p.m., Friday, March 16, in the chapel of Sorrells Funeral Home in Geneva with Minister Ken Lefler officiating. The family received friends at the funeral home Friday at 5 p.m. and continued until service time. Graveside services were 10 a.m. Saturday, March 17, at Midway Cemetery with Sorrells Funeral Home of Geneva directing. Sorrells Funeral Home of Geneva, 334-684-9999, is in charge of arrangements. Express your condolences in our guest book at www.sorrellsfuneralhomes.com.

Shirley A. Milwood

Shirley Ann Millwood, 70, of Caryville went home to be with the Lord on March 12, 2012, at Gulf Coast Community Hospital. She was born May 30, 1941, in Hall County, Ga. to Joe and Udell Benifield. She graduated from Dacula High School in 1960. She moved to the Washington County area in 1998 coming from Buford, Ga. She was a nurse's aide and a member of Mt. Calvary Baptist church in Flowery Branch, Ga.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Sam and Billy Benifield; two sisters, Agnes Whitmire and Frances Benifield.

She is survived by

a son, Everett "Eddie" Millwood Jr. and wife, Vickie, of Commerce, Ga.; daughter, Cheryl Williams of Caryville; two brothers, Jim Benifield and wife, Anna, of Rockhill, S.C., and Roy Benifield and wife, Velda, of Martin, Ga.; two sister-in-laws, Mary Benifield of Buford, Ga. and Annette Benifield of Statesville, N.C.; four grandchildren, Jessica and Heath Millwood and Riley and Alex Wright; two great-grandchildren, Taylor and Tristan Wright; and several loving nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Mrs. Shirley's life will be at a later date with Obert Funeral Home of Chipley, in charge of arrangements.

Fred L. Morris

Fred L. Morris, 78, passed from this life Thursday, March 8, 2012, at Washington County Rehab and Nursing Center. He was born in Holmes County Sept. 5, 1933, to Russell and Inez (Wells) Morris. Mr. Morris was self-employed baker and of the Baptist faith. He has lived here for the past 30 years, coming from Lake Placid.

Mr. Morris is preceded

in death by one daughter, Teresa Morris, and one brother, James Edward Morris.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanette Morris, of Slocomb, Ala.; one son, Curtis Tony Morris and wife, Eddie, of Lake Placid; three brothers, Cecil Morris, of Chipley, Tommy Morris and wife, Mildred, of Chipley, and Richard Morris and wife, Brenda, of Graceville; and two

grandchildren, Jason and Justin Morris.

Funeral services were 2 p.m. March 11, at Brown Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Tim Owen officiating. Interment followed at Glenwood Cemetery with Brown Funeral Home directing. Visitation was one hour prior to service. Friends and family may sign the online register at www.brownfh.net.

Jo Anne Marsh

Mrs. Jo Anne Marsh, 62, of Bonifay, died Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012.

She was born Nov. 15, 1949.

Survivors include Dennis Ballard of Bonifay, her significant other; her daughter, Janice Sasser; her son, Mikecal Simmons; her sister, Patricia Harris of Caryville; and six grandchildren, Raymond Mixon, Tommy Coatney Jr., Dustin Simmons, Alexis Simmons, Noah and Jacob.

A funeral service was March 2, at Winterville Assembly of God. Interment was in Winterville Cemetery.

Crossword SOLUTION

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1100-1170 ANNOUNCEMENTS
LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
OFFICIAL
NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION
I, Ken Detzner, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that a GENERAL ELECTION will be held in WASHINGTON County, State of Florida, on the SIXTH day of NOVEMBER, 2012, A.D., to fill or retain the following offices:

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
12-CP-06. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatu-

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Final Judgment in Foreclosure dated the 6 day of March, 2012, in the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash sell to the highest bidder for cash on the front steps of the Washington County Courthouse in Chipley, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. (CT), on the 25 day of April, 2012, the following described property set forth in the Final Judgment:

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
HANDLE EDUCATORS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION and PROSPERITY BANK, Defendants.
NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Final Judgment in Foreclosure dated the 6 day of March, 2012, in the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash on the front steps of the Washington County Courthouse in Chipley, Florida, at 11:00 a.m. (CT), on the 25 day of April, 2012, the following described property set forth in the Final Judgment:

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
32401, before service on the Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition. Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Court's office. You may review the document's upon request.

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
and best bidder for cash, on the north courthouse steps of the Washington County Courthouse, 1293 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, Florida, at 11:00 o'clock a.m., on the 29th day of March, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment to wit:

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
the estate of NANCY H. METCALF, a/k/a NANCY HARRELL METCALF, a/k/a NANCY C. METCALF, deceased, whose date of death was on January 26, 2012, and whose social security number is XXX-XX-3413, is pending in the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Court for Washington County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 1293 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, Florida, file number 12-CP-16. The names and addresses of the beneficiaries and the beneficiaries attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatu-

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
The date of first publication of this Notice is March 14, 2012.
Beneficiary: GARY METCALF 3654 Metcalf Road Vernon, FL 32462
JAC DALE METCALF 1445 A Brickyard Road Chipley, FL 32428
Attorney for Beneficiaries: James J. Goodman, Jr. Jeff Goodman PA. 935 Main Street Chipley, FL 32428 850-638-9722
Florida Bar NO. 0071877
As published in the Washington County News March 14, 21, 2012

LEGAL ADVERTISING 1100
the Defendants, The Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at FRONT STEPS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE at 11:00AM, on April, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:
LOT 1, BLOCK 177 OF SUNNY HILLS UNIT NO. 4, A SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 42-54 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA.
A/K/A 1809 ULMER LANE, CHIPLEY, FL 32428
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale. WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of this Court on March 14, 2012.
Linda H. Cook Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: K McDaniel Deputy Clerk
As published in the Washington County News March 21, 28, 2012
PUBLIC AUCTION
The following vehicle(s) will be sold at auction on APRIL 9th, 2012 at 8:00AM at Brock Auto Body & Towing, 1135 Main Street, Chipley, FL 32428.
1991 TOYOTA VIN #JT4RN01P3M0019037
As published in the Washington County News March 21, 2012.

02-3128
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
FILE NO.: 12-CP-06
DIVISION: PROBATE
IN RE: ESTATE OF JOE K. HUGHEN
Deceased
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of JOE K. HUGHEN, JR., deceased, whose date of death was on June, 15, 2011, and whose social security number is XXX-XX-1370, is pending in the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Court for Washington County, Florida, the address of which is 1293 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, Florida, file number

03-3188
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY
FIRST NATIONAL BANK NORTHWEST FLORIDA, Plaintiff, vs. CASE NUMBER: 11-531
JERRY C. WILSON and wife, STEPHANIE RENAE WILSON, PANHANDLE EDUCATORS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION and PROSPERITY BANK, Defendants.
NOTICE OF SALE

03-3183
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY
FIRST NATIONAL BANK NORTHWEST FLORIDA, Plaintiff, vs. CASE NUMBER: 11-531
JERRY C. WILSON and wife, STEPHANIE RENAE WILSON, PAN-

03-3186
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY
Case No.: 09-433-DR
TERRY JAMES McDADE, Sr., Petitioner/Maternal Great-Grandfather, LOIS MARIE McDADE, Petitioner, and AMANDA MARIE LUCAS, Respondent/Mother
RODOLFO ORTIZ, Jr., Respondent/Putative Father.
NOTICE OF ACTION TO: RUDY ORTIZ
No known address and Amanda Marie Lucas LKA: 6833 W River Chase Drive, Apt 3133 Temple Terrace, Florida 3637
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on TERRY JAMES McDADE, DR., AND LOIS MARIE McDADE, C/O Carroll L. McCauley III, 36 E Oak Avenue, Panama City, Florida 32401 on or before April 20, 2012, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at 533 E 11th Street, Panama City, Florida, I will sell to the highest

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 67-08-CA-526
DONALD V. FARRELL, Plaintiff, vs. ZAIDY L. GANTT, et al., Defendants. /
NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated November 14, 2011, and an Order resetting foreclosure sale date December 14, 2011, entered in Civil Case No. 67-08-CA-526 of the Circuit Court of The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Washington County, Florida, wherein DONALD V. FARRELL, is the Plaintiff, and ZAIDY L. GANTT, is the Defendant. I will sell to the highest

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
FILE NO.: 12-CP-16
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
FILE NO.: 12-CP-16
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3130

AUCTION
Farm Equipment Saturday, March 31, 2012, 8:30 a.m. CST
Sale site: Greenwood, Florida on Highway 69 and Fort Rd. Watch for signs. Consignments Welcome. 10% buyer premium on all sales. For more information: (850)594-5200 or (850)718-6510 Bradley Clark or John Stanley AU044/AB491

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Multi-Family Yard Sale Saturday, March 24, 2012, 7:00 a.m.-12:noon. Two miles east of Miller's Crossroad off Hwy 2 at 1161 Alex Brown Road, Bonifay. Follow the signs.

Yard Sale Saturday March 24 7AM 712 5th Street Chipley. Lots of misc.

Yard Sale Friday 3/23 & Sat 3/24. 804 1st St. Chipley

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4100-4130 EMPLOYMENT

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4100

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HELP WANTED
4100

HOUSING /REHAB SPECIALIST POSITION
QUALIFICATIONS: Washington County Grants Department is seeking a qualified individual who has his own transportation, vehicle insurance, camera, and has a personal computer and basic computer skill. Must be licensed Contractor in the State of Florida, holding a minimum of Roofing, Building, Electrical and Plumbing Licenses, with at least 5 or more years work experience in these fields. Also, will be required to hold a Certified Renovator Certificate, with experience in performing work on Pre-1978 homes. Have previous experience in performing inspections, collecting data, preparing bid sheets, also have knowledge of cost estimates for materials and labor to perform necessary work on prepared bid sheets, prepare a sketch of each dwelling with all measurements, including width, length, doors, windows, etc. Hold a General Liability Insurance Policy and list the County of Washington SHIP program as a Certificate Holder. Provide proof of Workers Comp Insurance or W.C. Exemption. **BID QUOTES FOR SELF-EMPLOYED CONTRACTOR:** Washington County Grants Department is accepting bids to perform an initial inspection, prepare work write-up bid packets, conduct contractor walk-thru, perform baseline bids, conduct bid openings with county staff, conduct 1 interim inspection and 1 final inspection for a set fee of _____ per each qualified housing unit. If additional trips to housing units are required, an additional fee of _____ per trip. **ACCEPTING BIDS STARTING 9AM MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012 TO 4PM THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012. BIDS WILL BE OPENED 9AM FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2012**

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The News Herald Careers

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The News Herald and the News Herald.com continue to expand. We are looking for highly motivated, energetic sales people. This is a unique opportunity to help build sales revenues and be a leading part of a progressive advertising sales team. The Sales Executive will be required to make sales calls, train and offer guidelines regarding pricing and packaging of all digital products and services. The ideal candidate must be a leader and have an innovative approach to client development and an understanding of how companies are using the internet to market their business. You must have a drive to win and a passion for consultative media sales.

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Digital Sales Representative

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- Professional and positive manner when working with clients and others
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- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Keen attention to detail
- The candidate with mobile and Yahoo! experience will have an edge

Required Experience
To be considered, you must have at least 3 years of sales experience, including 1-3 successful years in the area of outside sales and/or online media including internet ad sales. Experience working with media is preferred. The candidate must be highly analytical with meticulous attention to detail. 4-year college degree in advertising/marketing or equivalent experience.

SALES/RETENTION CLERK

We are seeking an eager part-time telephone sales clerk to sell and/or retain home delivery and single copy circulation. Essential duties include providing excellent customer service, pleasant telephone voice, and outbound dialing.

Qualified candidates will have general office experience, sales experience and computer skills. High School Diploma or equivalent is required and one year of customer service experience. This is a part-time position with hour pay, plus commission and benefits.

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The News Herald offers a competitive benefit package including medical, dental, vision and life insurance, 401(k) plan, vacation and sick leave, and six paid holidays per year. (Part-time positions have 401(k) plan options).

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HORIZONS 2012

Washington County News / Holmes County Times-Advertiser

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

2012 may bring more opportunities to region

By **RANDAL SEYLER**
638-0212 | @WCN_HCT
rseyler@chipleypaper.com

The year started off with the promise of growth for Washington and Holmes counties and things don't appear to be slowing down anytime soon.

Voters approved an initiative to allow slot machines at Ebro Dog Park in Washington County in January, which will mean growth for the park and increased traffic and revenue for the county.

Likewise, Washington County officials gave the final nod to the Rhythm Project, the age-limited community planned for the southeastern corner of the county, clearing the way for developers to begin working in earnest on pursuing needed permits.

The region was mentioned as one of several possible sites for a planned megasite, a development strategy meant to bring a large manufacturer, such as an automobile plant, to the I-10 corridor. Meanwhile, work continues on the planned spec building, meant to attract industry to Holmes County.

On the medical front, Northwest Florida Community Hospital unveiled plans to build a new office building this year, and Doctors Memorial Hospital welcomed new clinics to the Bonifay area as well.

RHYTHM

Once the Washington County Board of County Commissioners approved the requests of the developers, the Rhythm Project could begin the long process of transforming from an engineering plan to a reality.

Rhythm is an age-restricted community of 55 and older with plans for 3,200 dwelling units and promising a small amount of commercial, office and retail for the community's immediate needs. The 1,883 acre parcel — purchased in 2006 for about \$3,700 an acre and currently on the tax rolls at \$1,000 an acre



— is located in the southeastern corner of the county where Jackson, Bay and Washington counties join along County Line Road.

From February 2008 until February 2012, Rhythm developers worked for approval of its DRI, or Development of Regional Impact, which includes requirements for specific and detailed plans on everything from how infrastructure will be supported to the impact on the environment.

"The adoption hearing appeal period is running through the last few days," said J. Scott Henderson of the Henderson Planning Group LLC, which represents Florida Landings LLC. "In addition, we are working on the updating of the development cost for the initial phase of the project and the update for the market research study that will help us fine tune the details of the home sizes/floor plans and elements of the community for the final planning phase," Henderson said.

"In addition, we had an initial meeting with the power company addressing power service and phasing. We are focusing on the planning out the implementation phase and timing of the work program."

"In other words this is not the exciting phase, as yet," Henderson joked.

The Rhythm DRI was submitted to the WFRPC in Pensacola on Feb. 29, 2008 and received WFRPC approval on Oct. 27, 2011 after all agency comments had been satisfied with three review cycles at each level.

Washington County Senior Planner Michael DeRuntz explained that there was also a change that had to be made to the county's comprehensive plan to identify Rhythm as a Planned Unit Development (PUD).

A PUD is, essentially, another method of defining how a piece of property may be used and includes specific criteria. In Rhythm's case, DeRuntz said, the PUD was refined to include a 100-foot buffering zone to adjoining land and protected land, except for when joined to agriculture/silviculture, which would then be 50 feet. And it includes language that concerns watersheds, identifying spring sheds, both primary and secondary.

"Since water is such a precious resource, this includes the protection of water sheds," said DeRuntz, adding later, "We've got to protect our water. There are some areas with more sensitive recharge areas and we've got to be especially careful in this area because most of the county is on wells."

EBRO

Washington County voters approved allowing slot machines at Ebro Greyhound Park. However, the governor's office has balked, saying permits for the machines would not be issued. But for local residents, the decision was about much more than just the addition of some electronic gaming machines.

Proponents of the measure said passing the referendum mean more jobs and more funding for local governments. Opponents warned of increased crime, increased addiction and a potential reduction in government spending.

See **Region** Page 2



Region: Ebro expansion calls for \$300 million resort hotel

Continued From Page 1

Plans call for more than just 2,000 machines. The gaming was just part of a proposed expansion of Ebro Greyhound Park into a \$300 million resort hotel and entertainment center that would include 300 to 500 hotel rooms, retail, restaurants and an entertainment venue, said Stockton Hess, owner of the park, and his son, Mark Hess.

The park now includes 36 acres, of which 18 are occupied. The facility includes greyhound racing, which has been in place since 1955, and a poker room that opened in 1997.

Initially, a temporary expansion would al-

low for the installation of slot machines, and they projected the first phase of construction would create 400 to 500 jobs. They estimate the first phase of construction could be completed within a year and 1,200 to 1,500 jobs could be created at the end of full build-out in three to five years.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

“The biggest thing that Washington County has accomplished is updating the Comprehensive Plan through the Evaluation and Appraisal Report for the Department of Community Affairs, now Department of Economic Opportunity,” said Mi-



Revelers celebrate the passage of the referendum allowing gaming at Ebro Greyhound Park on Jan. 31.

chael DeRuntz, Washington County senior planner.

“By completing this process, Washington County is not restricted from reviewing requests for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and the Future Land Use Map.”

The county, as part of the approved amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, held six “Public Information Meetings” last year to take input to proposed amendments to the Future Land Use Map, DeRuntz said.

The Planning Commission is reviewing those recommendations, as well as, language

changes to the Land Development Code.

They will be presenting those Future Land Use Map and Land Development Code amendments to the Board of County Commissioners in the near future, DeRuntz explained.

Public hearings will be scheduled with each of the communities to review these amendments. After those hearings conclude, more public hearings will be scheduled with the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners.

HOLMES COUNTY

The development of highest impact for Holmes County was the expansion of LKQ, Inc. here in Bonifay, said Jim Brook, executive director of the Holmes County Development Commission.

“The company expanded by 20,000 square feet and \$2 million. This expansion increased wages by over \$1 million annually.”

LKQ is one of the world’s largest auto part remanufacturing and redistribution companies. The increase in salaries will add another \$3 million to \$7 million flowing through the local economy, Brook said.

“Bonifay was being considered against at least two other existing facilities when they decided to expand here. Close coordination with the HCDC, the Planning Commission and the

County Commission influenced the expansion decision as did the availability of Enterprise Zone incentives.”

MEDICAL

On March 5, the Holmes County Chamber held a ribbon cutting for Southern Healthcare Rural Health Clinic, located next to the Doctors Memorial Hospital. The clinic is home to Dr. Dale Mitchum, a general surgeon with 20 years of experience, and Nurse Practitioner Sherry Young. Young is a graduate of Holmes County High School and received her BSN from Florida State University and her ARNP from the University of South Alabama.

Northwest Florida Community Hospital in Chipley has applied for a building permit for an 11,500-square-foot medical office building which will be built on the hospital’s property, said Janet Kinney, chief operating officer of NFCH.

“The building will house three physicians practices and other medical services,” Kinney said. “The building will also free up some space in the hospital.”

The contractor for the project is ready to begin as soon as the permitting process is completed, she said, and the building will be constructed with brick to match the existing facility.

Kinney said she hopes the building will

be completed in six to seven months. The new building will allow the hospital to provide needed services, she said. “It will give us the ability to bring in more physicians and will grow medical care for the community.”

The more services NFCH can provide, the less patients will have to travel for medical care. “Some of our patients can’t afford to travel for their treatments,” she said.

Another area the new building will impact is the DaVita dialysis service at the hospital. The plan is to provide more space in the hospital for DaVita once the new building is completed.

“Travel can become an issue when a patient is undergoing dialysis,” Kinney said. Besides travel time, a dialysis session typically lasts three to four hours. If the patient has to travel an hour each way, that can easily take a day — and patients typically receive dialysis three times a week, she added.

“For the family members taking the patient to dialysis, it can take up a whole day. When they come here, it can be much more convenient for the family members.”

Patients from the rehab hospital who need dialysis can simply be brought across the parking lot in wheelchairs, saving the need for an ambulance trip, she said.

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Dr. James Wall prepares for surgery at Northwest Florida Community Hospital.

WHTC focuses on shorter programs with economic rewards

Special To Horizons

Washington-Holmes Technical Center was established in 1965 with the hope that the “vocational school” would provide individuals with the education and training needed to obtain gainful employment and earn a living.

The hope has been realized over the years as thousands of people have been trained to enter the workforce, climb the ladder of success and make positive economic contributions to our community and beyond.

WHTC has provided such services by continually striving to maintain cost effective education with affordable tuition that allows students to be trained without incurring long-term debt.

As Washington-Holmes Technical Center begins the celebration of its 45th birthday, they are looking back on the growth and successes of their training programs and graduates.

WHTC originally opened with nine programs and has grown to the present 26 programs. Programs have come and gone over the years to meet the



changing demands of the workforce. WHTC works closely with the Region 3 Workforce Board to determine the needs of business and industry and aligns training programs to meet those needs.

Sixty-five percent of the jobs by the year of 2014 will require an education past high school, but most of that training can be completed in less than two years.

With so many people in our region facing unemployment and underemployment, WHTC is focusing on training programs that will allow students to complete their

training in one year or less, earn an industry certification or state license and begin work in a growing career field. In the past year, WHTC has added the Pharmacy Technician and Medical Coder/Biller to the health care training programs.

The Pharmacy Technician program has graduated twelve students and ten already have jobs.

This past fall, Washington-Holmes Technical Center partnered with Chipola College and the University of West Florida to apply for a Technical Skills Training Grant from the US Labor Depart-

ment. The partnership was awarded the grant and provides funds for WHTC to add two new information technology programs — Applied Cybersecurity and Applied Information Technology, both of which can be completed in less than six months. Another program being considered for the upcoming year is Digital Video Production. These new training efforts will help ensure that people from our communities have the chance to succeed in new and emerging fields and that growing businesses have access to a skilled workforce.

highly competitive job market.

Programs are in place to assist students in meeting their career goals through career development training in areas such as resume writing, interview skills and essential job skills to help complete their training package. The goal is immediate placement for program completers through total empowerment of each individual.

For more information about the training opportunities at Washington-Holmes Technical Center, call 850-638-1180 extension 317 or visit the WHTC website at www.whtc.us.

WHTC also recognizes the challenges associated with a



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\$34 million broadband network includes area

Special To The News

MARIANNA — The interior of this hollowed-out 30 year-old factory building looks more like a scene from NASA than the sewing operation that originally occupied the facility. Within this abandoned 31,000 sq. ft. building in the Marianna Industrial Park, rows of white and silver colored telecommunication dishes and boxes of related electronic equipment are arranged in neat, tagged, inventoried

systems, ready for attachment to existing communication towers throughout the eastern end of the Florida panhandle. High-speed, high capacity broadband is soon to be a reality throughout counties served by Opportunity Florida through the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance.

Opportunity Florida, along with its sister organization, the Florida Rural Heartland Economic Development Initiative, are co-owners of the Florida

Rural Broadband Alliance. The two economic development organizations serve state designated "Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern," most often referred to as RACECs.

Opportunity Florida, headquartered in Marianna, is the state's first designated RACEC and serves 9 counties, with the recent addition of Wakulla, County, by Governor Rick Scott. The RACECs jointly own and operate FRBA, a recipient of

a \$24 Million federal stimulus grant for the purpose of providing "middle-mile" broadband telecommunication capacity to this rural region.

"FRBA will employ a network of towers throughout an eight county region that includes Holmes County" said Jim Brook, economic development director employed by the Holmes County Development Commission. Holmes County will be the northwest corner of the wireless broadband system that will stretch from Holmes south to Hardee County in Florida. Brook said, a northern wireless section, includ-

ing eight Opportunity Florida counties will link to six wireless counties in the south, central part of the state by the tier 1 fiber network. The network should include at least six sites in Holmes County according to the preliminary site plan." In 2010, Brook was asked to serve on the Opportunity Florida Executive Committee as Treasurer and serves on the Florida Rural Broadband Alliance board.

Brook continued by adding, "broadband is considered the 'great equalizer' for rural development." "Broadband provides the data capacity to support computerized digital

equipment and networks that can allow remote, rural areas to compete for jobs with urban areas." "Many parts of rural America do not have affordable access to 'always-on, high capacity data networks' and some still rely on dial up Internet access," said Brook. All modern logistic and distribution systems, for example, depend upon high capacity broadband and digital services. Brook added that "logistics is a target market for Holmes County due to the intersection of I-10 and Florida State 79 leading to the Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport."



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Tri-County Region may get mega-site along I-10 corridor

RANDAL YAKEY
Florida Freedom
Newspapers

PANAMA CITY — The Bay County Economic Development Alliance has partnered with three entities to bring a "big project to the I-10 corridor."

The Alabama Development Office, Enterprise Florida and the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce are partnering in a project to develop a "megasite" near Interstate 10.

"When two states and a multitude of counties get together, good things can happen," Neal Wade, executive director of the Bay EDA, said.

A site on State Highway 77 and I-10 is being considered, but it is just one of many sites being considered and no particular site or even state has been chosen for the megasite, Wade said Friday.

"A key to a lot of the sites will be I-10 and there are a number of sites that are being considered," Wade said.

"We're looking at a number of sites across this whole area, in several counties and states," Wade said. "The goal is to get all these regions cooperating, then get a com-

pany interested in the region. Then it would be up to the company to pick the site that works best for them."

Economic development representatives from the three organizations have been meeting for more than six months to prepare for a project that could dramatically impact the region, Wade noted. He did not say which companies the group was courting.

"Southeast Alabama doesn't have the megasites we have here in Northwest Florida."

Wade has described the megasite as an industrial manufacturing center with a multitude of industrial-based companies.

Megasites in states such as Alabama and Mississippi were developed to draw auto manufacturers and their suppliers.

In addition to identifying potential sites, the region has requested a study to ensure for potential companies that an available, trainable workforce exists in the region.

"This is a serious effort and we believe that we can be successful in attracting a major job creator for the region," Matt Parker, president of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

and co-chairman of the effort, wrote as part of the collaboration announcement.

"We know that we have the workforce and great sites with strategic infrastructure. It's the perfect time to come together as a region for job creation."

Greg Canfield, director of the Alabama Development Office, said a collaborative effort helps all those involved.

"From an Alabama perspective, we understand the benefits of working together with our neighboring states and look forward to further collaboration," Canfield wrote in the news release issued Thursday morning.

In the same announcement, Gray Swoop, secretary of commerce and president and CEO of Florida's public/private economic development agency, said he applauded the partnership.

"Florida's focus is on job creation and our team supports any effort of this type to get companies focused on Northwest Florida," he wrote.

Washington County News' Randal Seyler contributed to this report.

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WestPoint Home looks to future

By **RANDAL SEYLER**
Managing Editor

CHIPLEY—Nearly three years after work at WestPoint Home in Chipley was nearly transferred to Mexico, the plant is stable and keeping busy, said Manager Terry Ellis.

WestPoint Home employs about 600 people who live not only in Washington or Holmes counties, but some drive from Alabama and other surrounding counties to work at the nation's largest textile manufacturer.

The Chipley plant now makes all the fill product which includes quilts and pillows, which are both commercial retail and industrial products, such as pillows and quilts made for hotels, and pillows and quilts made for the Ralph Lauren line of home décor.

"We spent all last year consolidating our business with the Greenville, Ala., facility," Ellis said. "It has been a long several years getting to this point."

In 2009 Ellis discovered that the Chipley facility was being considered for closing, with the jobs moving to Mexico. Ellis called on the Employ Florida network for help. With training programs and other assistance accessed through the Chipola Regional Workforce Board and Workforce Florida Inc., Ellis and his staff were able to reduce costs and increase production enough to demonstrate the value of not only keeping their facility open, but of consolidating the operations of another WestPoint plant at the Chipley site.

The 600 employees is nearly double the number of employees who were working at the facility in 2009.

Ellis said his employees drive from towns all around the area, so the economic impact of WestPoint Home is regional. When the facility was in danger of being closed, it was this factor, combined with help from the Chipola Regional Workforce in training employees to work more efficiently, which helped the facility transition into a lean manufacturer.

One of the factors that most troubles Ellis is the rising gasoline costs and the effect he sees that having on his employees. "Some of my folks are having to spend \$70 on gas each week to get here," he said.

The 500,000-square-foot facility is the largest of its kind in the country, and it is the

last WestPoint Home facility in the U.S., Ellis said. It produces 140,000-150,000 units per week. At one time, there were 40 WestPoint manufacturing facilities in the U.S., Ellis said.

WestPoint Home's history dates back to 1813, when Nathaniel "Captain Nat" Stevens began manufacturing woolen broadcloth in a converted stone gristmill in North Andover, Mass., according to www.martex.com, the company website.

Stevens and his son, Moses, began experimenting with wool, cotton and flannel. They created new fab-



Terry Ellis looks over product at WestPoint Home recently.



rics and fashion, such as the "Arabian Suiting," a fancy pattern flannel made by blending wool and cotton. They discovered that when dyed, the wool would take on the color of the dye, while the cotton stayed white,

creating a new, sought-after fabric pattern.

Present-day WestPoint Home is the descendent of this North Andover company, which later evolved into J.P. Stevens, and

See **Facility** Page 6

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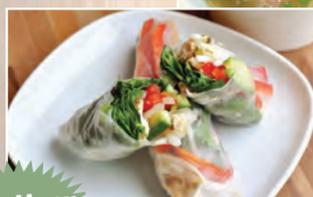
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Facility: Company dates back to mid-nineteenth century

Continued From Page 5

two other prominent manufacturing companies that date back to the mid and late nineteenth century: Pepperell Manufacturing Company and West Point Manufacturing Company, according to the website.

"We have to do everything we can to be cost effective, that is the best way we can be competitive with overseas companies," Ellis said.

The first part of the year is typically slow for the plant, Ellis said, and some shift consolidation has been done to adjust for the slow down. Third shift

has been done away with for the time being and second shift adjusted to take up the slack.

"We had a strong Market Week in New York," Ellis said, referring to the twice yearly New York Home Textiles Market Week held in the Big Apple. The event is very important to the textile industry, Ellis said.

"You can drive through just about any town in the U.S. and see a building where there used to be textile manufacturing," Ellis said. "Now those jobs are all gone, and with them, the impact they had on their communities."



Officials praise accountability act passage

Special To The News

TALLAHASSEE — Workforce Florida Inc. Board of Directors Chairman Dwayne Ingram and President/CEO Chris Hart IV today issued the following statement applauding the Legislature's passage of the Regional Workforce Boards Accountability Act. The legislation aims to enhance the accountability, transparency, efficiency

and effectiveness of Florida's 24 regional workforce boards.

"There is no more important mission than helping Floridians enter, remain and advance in the workforce while strengthening the state's climate for business. This is exactly the focus of our Regional Workforce Boards.

"This Act will ensure that mission remains at the forefront as public workforce

funds are invested in employment and training services and resources throughout the state to help unemployed Floridians get to work and businesses find the skilled talent needed to compete. On behalf of Workforce Florida Inc., and the state's businesses and job seekers, we thank the Legislature for supporting this good bill by Rep. Jason Brodeur and Sen. Andy Gardiner. A

priority for Governor Rick Scott, the Act also has the support of regional workforce board leaders and the Florida Association of Counties.

"It provides clear direction for improving accountability and efficiency -- while balancing local flexibility -- and demonstrates the leadership and collaboration that exists in Florida to ensure jobs remain our top focus every day."



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Chamber director, development commission director weigh in on industry, growth and opportunities

By RANDAL SEYLER
Managing Editor

CHIPLEY — If you want to know what is happening on the economic front in Washington and Holmes counties, then the two people you want to ask are Ted Everett, Washington County Chamber of Commerce executive director, and Jim Brook, executive director of the Holmes County Development Commission. Horizons caught up with Everett and Brook to ask about the highlights of the past year and what they look forward to in their respective counties.

HORIZONS: What were the biggest events/changes to happen in the county/region during the past 12 months, from the Chamber's perspective.

TED EVERETT: From the Chamber's perspective there are several things that were significant. One is that West Point Homes is still open and running. They have been through lost contracts and other issues and yet through it all they are still in operation. Their payroll within the county is significant and to lose it would have a very serious ripple effect on Washington County.

The other change that is not completely through in achieving is broadband.

The 24.7 million dollar grant that Opportunity Florida received along with a similar organization in South Central Florida is doing well. This grant will create the "middle mile" of a wireless internet system that will help our rural counties significantly.

At this time, when I receive leads for call centers, I have no ability to respond to them because they need high speed internet. Currently, deployment of the microwaves is undergoing. This will be extremely important to all rural counties in the Northwest Region

JIM BROOK: The development of highest impact was the expansion of LKQ, Inc. here in Bonifay. The company expanded by 20,000 square feet and \$2,000,000. This expansion increased wages by over \$1,000,000 annually. LKQ is one of the world's largest auto part remanufacturing and redistribution companies. The increase in salaries will add another \$3million to \$7 million flowing through the local economy. Bonifay was being considered against at least two other existing facilities

when they decided to expand here. Close coordination with the HCDC, the Planning Commission and the County Commission influenced the expansion decision as did the availability of Enterprise Zone incentives. **HORIZONS:** What are the biggest anticipated events — things you see happening in the county/region in the coming 12 months?

EVERETT: Several things, the continuation of the four laning of State Road 79 is very important to this region and county. When completed goods and services will be able to be hauled faster and safer and it will be only a matter of time before Ebro is a major North-South/East-West. I can see it resembling Hwy 231 and State Road 77. Something else that is gathering a lot of attention is the mega-site concept. Many people are putting time and energy into locating several mega-sites throughout the region. If one is located and eventually sold to a major manufacturing company, it would create more jobs directly and indirectly than any current facility in the rural counties.

Washington County as well as other counties' Economic Development teams are all engaged to see that this happens.

BROOK: The development of a Mega-Site somewhere within the eastern panhandle region.

HORIZONS: What businesses in the county/city have expanded in the last year, and what new businesses may be coming to the county/city that you are aware of?

EVERETT: Ex-



Ted Everett



Jim Brook

pansion is not really a word that is yet being discussed often at this time. Yes, there has been some expansion by smaller businesses such as retail and some restaurants, but the manufacturing sector is still in a standby pattern. Most larger businesses are waiting to see what type of new tax policy will be coming out of Washington, they still have many questions about capital gain taxes, unemployment taxes and many feel that they are being crushed by burdensome regulations, and yes, now they have to worry about higher fuel cost which will be passed on to the consumer. These factors are probably the largest reasons why expansions are yet not occurring in the numbers that we would like to see.

I have talked to a few businesses that thinking about coming here, they are mostly retail type facilities and they are looking in several areas. What we do is give them all the incen-

See **Directors** Page 8



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Beta Club attends event

On Dec. 5, over 1,200 fifth through eighth grade students descended upon the Doubletree Hotel in Orlando. They were on a mission to participate in the Florida Junior Beta Convention. These students were primed and ready to compete in 23 different competitions that ranged from academic to arts / crafts activities. Judy Cox, a 6th and 8th grade reading teacher at Graceville High School in Jackson County, served as the State Sponsor for the conference. Along with Judy's key role in the convention, there was significant representation from PAEC districts in the student junior beta council who assisted with the convention planning and procedures.

In 2011 a student from Graceville High served as President and a student from Poplar Springs in Holmes County served as Vice-President.

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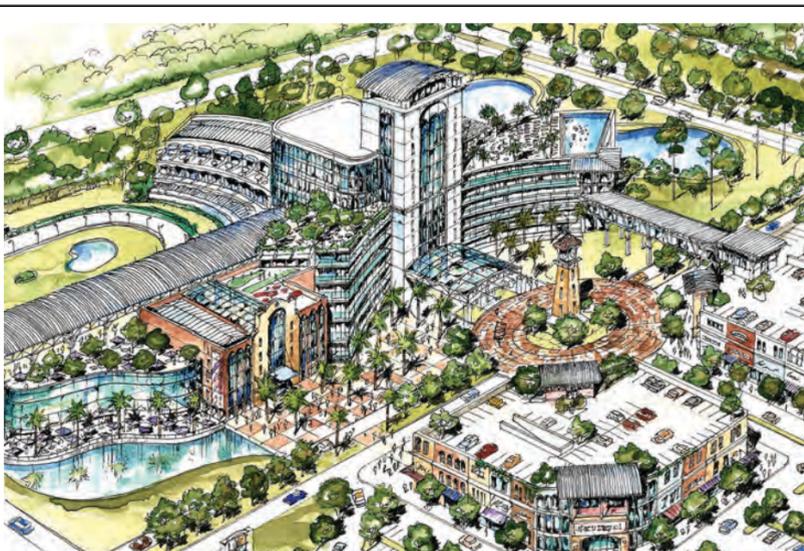
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Directors: Broadband at top of Chamber, County officials' lists

Continued From Page 7

would be available to that business and show them that we have a good workforce and health care system. It is very competitive these days, like buyers of real estate today, the companies looking to relocate do and can ask for the world.

BROOK: Three restaurant start-ups occurred in Bonifay, locating in existing facilities. The proprietors of 4Cs in Ponce de Leon have developed a new line of outdoor and scuba diving apparel sporting a spiritual theme.

HORIZONS: What is the most exciting thing, in your opinion, on the horizon for our county and our region?

EVERETT: Really and truly, it is broadband. This is the game changer. If broadband can become or as close to ubiquitous as possible, one will see many more startup businesses, call centers that are currently beginning to move back from India and other regions could be relocated here.

Let me use this example.

I have seen many leads that would fit the other half of the old Winn Dixie building for

call centers. It has the square footage, enough parking but even with DSL, it cannot be used for a call center. Broadband could change that. We are talking about up and down speeds that are unimaginable for our citizens. This broadband would not be dependent on great weather either. It would simply be the biggest economic development tool we could have put in our toolbox.

BROOK: The development of infrastructure; the four-lane expansion of Highway 79 to Ebro is to be let in the near future; the completion of a middle-mile wireless broadband could have tremendous impacts on business, industry, the medical and public safety community and education.

As energy and transportation costs increase, broadband capacity will become more critical for rural quality of life.

HORIZONS: What is the progress of the spec building planned for Holmes County?

BROOK: The available 34,000-square-foot Interstate Industrial building is a prime location that should lead to prospect visits as the economy rebounds.

HORIZONS: What are some of the key initiatives before the legislature that affect our counties?

EVERETT: In my opinion, there are several. Businesses are being choked by regulations at the State and Federal level. One example that I hear from businesses that want to build is their problem with DEP.

They have a process that takes way too much time and the cost to obtain the permit is very prohibitive. I know of one case where the business owner had to pay \$50,000 dollars for a permit and engineering and construction for a 100-foot-by-50-foot retention pond on his own property.

That is excessive. There are many in the legislature that want to see an end to this sort of cost and time that businesses have to experience to do business. There are more such as the septic tank issue and I spoke with Jimmy Patronis about this last week and they are still trying to hammer something out that will help the citizens of rural counties with this issue. Stay tuned to this.

BROOK: Redistricting.



Washington County Chamber Executive Director Ted Everett, left, presents an award to Ray Dubuque, former area director for legislative and external affairs for AT&T, for his service to the county recently.

Unemployment rate down In January

Special To The News

MARIANNA — Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January 2012 was 9.6 percent, the lowest since March 2009 when the rate also was 9.6 percent, according to the Chipola Regional Workforce Board. This represents 894,000 jobless out of a labor force of 9,297,000. The January unemployment rate of 9.6 percent is the lowest in almost three years. The national unemployment rate for January was 8.3 percent. The 5 counties that make up the Chipola Regional Workforce Board region showed a 0.2 percent decrease in unemployment over December 2011. There are 4,222 unem-

ployed out of a labor force of 49,936 in the Chipola Workforce Board region. Holmes County posted a 7.7 percent unemployment rate in January, down from 7.8 in December, 2011 and down from a 8.9 percent mark in January 2011. Washington County had a 10.2 percent unemployment rate in January, the highest of the five counties. It was down from 10.4 percent in December and down from January 2011's rate of 11.9 percent. Calhoun County posted a 9.1 percent rate in January, down from 9.2 in December and from 9.9 percent in January 2011. Jackson County's unemployment rate for January was 7.9 percent, down from

December's 8.0 percent and January 2011's 8.1 percent. Liberty County recorded a 7.9 percent rate in January as well, up from December's 7.8 mark but down from 8.3 percent in January 2011. The Chipola Region overall had an 8.5 percent unemployment rate for January, down from December's 8.6 percent and well down from last January's 9.2 mark. Unemployment rates by age are as follows: 16-19 year-olds, 28.6 percent; 20-24 year-olds 15.5 percent; 25-54 year-olds 9.1 percent; and 55 year-olds and older 8.3 percent. By gender, males posted 10.7 percent unemployment, females posted 9.2 percent.

To the south, Bay County posted a 10 percent unemployment rate in January, down from 10.2 in December and 11.8 last January. There were 71,100 nonagricultural jobs in the Panama City-Lynn Haven-Panama City Beach metro area in January, up 1,400 jobs over the past year. The same area posted an annual rate of job gain of 2 percent, while the state gained jobs at a rate of 1 percent. "We are a bit surprised to see our job growth rate double the state's rate for the month of January, but we'll take it any day of the week," said Kim Bodine, executive director for the Gulf Coast Workforce Board. Leisure and hospitality saw the biggest growth in jobs, up by 900 from January 2011 to January 2012. Bodine said that in the past the county would lose about 1,000 jobs after the tourist season ends.

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WEEKLY ADVERTISER

Volume 50 Number 1

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2012

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