

MONTICELLO NEWS

144th Year No. 26

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

50¢ 46¢ + 4¢



DEBBY TAKING TOLL ON COUNTY

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Since Saturday Tropical Storm Debby has been taking its toll on Jefferson County.

From the onset Saturday until Tuesday morning, approximately 14 inches of rain has fallen on the county.

Tuesday morning, Emergency Management Staff Assistant Mark Harrell reported that all together there were 1,393 customers in the county without power, which included 206 customers for Tri County Electric and 1,187 customers for Progress Energy. Contract crews have been brought in to assist local crews due to being overwhelmed. Crews may be slowed in progress due to flooding and downed trees but they are working diligently to return power to all of their customers as soon as possible.

Please See **DEBBY** Page 3A



ECB Publishing photo by Fran Hunt, taken June 26, 2012
Martin Road within the Monticello city limits was one of several roads closed to either flooding or erosion due to Tropical Storm Debby.



FIRE DESTROYS MOBILE HOME



This home located at 600 Peter Brown Road was totally destroyed by fire Saturday after a passer by called in seeing heavy black smoke coming from the roof.

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

A mobile home fire over the weekend totally destroyed a local woman's home.

Jefferson County Fire Rescue reported that on Saturday, June 23 at 12:17 p.m., Fire Rescue received a call reporting a structure fire located at 600 Peter Brown Road. The home belonged to Brook Houston.

Responding to the scene were squad one, engine one, squad five, engine five and tanker two, as well as volunteers from the Lloyd Volunteer Firer De-

Please See **FIRE** Page 3A

Commissioners Still Wrestling With Landfill Assessment Fees

New Coordinator To Inherit Issue

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

Unable to agree on the amount of funding needed to operate the Solid Waste Department, which calculation plays into a determination of the amount of the landfill assessment fees for commercial and residential users, the Jefferson County Commission last week decided to refer the matter to the new coordinator as one of his first projects.

The workshop on Tuesday morning, June 19, wasn't completely fruitless, however. Commissioners more or less agreed on the need for establishment of a base annual fee for both commercial and residential users, with businesses possibly to be charged an additional fee for the rental of the three-or-six-yard container and another for each garbage pickup. What commissioners couldn't determine was what exactly the base and extra fees should be.

Commissioners also more or less agreed that the department should maintain a minimum reserve of \$300,000. Other than that, however, all bets are off.

The issue of the Solid Waste Department's budget and what revenues it must generate via the landfill assessment to fund its operation adequately is one that commissioners have now been debating for more than six months, with Commission Chairman Hines Boyd at the heart of the debate.

It's Boyd's contention — one that Solid Waste Department Director Beth Letchworth adamantly disputes, as do her supporters on the board — that the department is living high off the hog, having accumulated a \$1.7 million surplus; and that it's high time that residents and businesses be given some relief by way of a reduced landfill assessment.

Under the present system, residents pay an annual landfill assessment of \$224.88 and businesses pay \$0.57 per square foot, with a minimum payment of \$380.46 and a maximum of \$3,535.90 annually for the latter.

One problem with the present system, borne out by a recent study that the county paid \$45,000 to have done, is that footage is not a good way of calculating the com-

Please See **LANDFILL** Page 3A

JUDGE TO RULE ON MAP REDISTRICTING THURSDAY

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

Circuit Court Judge Frank Sheffield on Monday afternoon, June 25, heard arguments from both sides in the map redistricting case and promised to render a decision as early as this Thursday.

The case involves the allegations of four petitioners who charge that county and school officials violated state law when they adopted an amended district map on Dec. 19, 2011, and then respectively rescinded their decisions on Jan. 5 and 9, 2012.

The gist of the petitioners' suit, represented by Attorney John C. Davis, is that state law requires that redistricting be done in odd-number years, and the 2012 rescissions constituted redistricting in an odd-numbered year and hence a clear violation of Florida law.

Davis asked the court to compel the two boards to return to the 2011 map and complete their required ministerial duties, which include publishing the map and filing it with the Department of State.

"What they did was to redistrict in an even number year," Davis told the court.

Arguing the case for the Jefferson County Commission was Attorney Suzanne Van Wyk, of the Tallahassee law firm of Bryant, Miller and Olive, with County Attorney Buck Bird as backup. And representing the Jefferson County School Board was School Board Attorney Opal Williams, of the Tallahassee law firm of Ausley & McMullen.

Attorney Ron Labasky, representing the Supervisor of Elections, was there to answer any questions the court might have about the elections process and to un-

Please See **REDISTRICTING** Page 3A

P.S. ART WEATHERS RECESSION; ON SLOW ROAD TO RECOVERY

Company Expect 2012 Sales To Top \$5M



ECB Publishing by Laz Aleman, June 20, 2012.

P.S. Art Company owner and president, David Woodyard, right, looks on as one of his employees, Antwan Tim, cuts and staples a canvas on a frame. Tim, a graduate of Jefferson County High School, has been with P.S. Art five years.

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

Mention the Jefferson Industrial Park or economic development and the discussion is sure to focus on the new portion

of the park and the need to attract new businesses there. Rarely, if ever, is the talk about the old part of the industrial park and the existing businesses there.

Case in point: P.S. Art,

a multimillion-dollar operation now in its 22nd year under the leadership of company owner and president, David Woodyard. A homegrown business that

Please See **RECESSION** Page 9A

BEWARE OF UTILITY SCAM

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is warning consumers to be aware of a multi-state scam targeting utility customers.

The scam claims that President Obama is providing credits or applying payments to utility bills. The scammers contact consumers through posted flyers, social media, texting and/or visiting consumers in person. The scammers ask for the consumer's social security number and then provide a phony Federal Reserve Bank routing number to use to receive the credit or bill payment. The routing number is fake and no payments are posted to the consumer's bill.

Consumers are warned not to provide personal information to strangers who come to your door or in

Please See **SCAM** Page 3A

Special Elections Issue Coming Up



JACOB BEMBRY
Greene Publishing, Inc.

On Wednesday, Aug. 1, The Monticello News will publish a special section entitled "Meet the Candidates." In preparation for this informative section, ECB Publishing, Inc., has questions for each candidate.

Each candidate is asked to email Laz Aleman (laz@embarqmail.com) for copies of the questions for the race. Each candidate's answers will appear exactly as he or she has answered them in the "Meet the Candidates" section.

In addition, candidates can also purchase ads for the special section.

If anyone has questions about this special election issue, please email them to Emerald Greene at emerald@greenepublishing.com.

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Local Weather

Wed 6/27 87/68
Windy. A few showers in the morning.

Thu 6/28 92/73
Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 70s.

Fri 6/29 90/74
Isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 70s.

VIEWPOINTS & OPINIONS

Letters To The Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE TYPED WORD FOR WORD, COMMA FOR COMMA, AS SENT TO THIS NEWSPAPER.

We The People Are The Solution

I saw a mask one time that had two faces. One was laughing and the other was crying. Tragedy and comedy in one place! People pay good money to be entertained by being moved to tears or to laughter. Seems to me that we are fortunate in this county to have so much available entertainment. There is the Watermelon parade, the Opera House, and best of all we have politics. The various parades are free to the public, and the Opera House generally has a modest charge, but Politics this is the most expensive entertainment in the county.

Just look at what our city and county politics have cost us. Seems to me, we have streets in need of repair, buildings in disrepair and near collapse which lowers other property values,

provides a breeding ground for drugs and other forms of expensive mischief. We have buildings that at one time housed many businesses but now lay vacant, no longer providing jobs, taxes, or community atmosphere. Our politicians are spending money like they were printing it, destroying serviceable buildings to make way for new, bigger, better shrines that could just as easily wait till the economy improves. I guess it is jealousy of those that are doing a great job that makes them a target for dismissal. Do you remember how the road department functioned prior to Mr Harvey. His loss would be a loss to us all.

Seems to me, we are on a downhill spiral and we are picking up speed. I haven't even mentioned

the best show in town and probably the most expensive, the School system. The anger and hostility demonstrated at so many meetings is generally instigated by a very vocal few and encouraged by one or more of the board members. If you attend three school board meetings, it is a pretty good bet you will experience humor, tragedy, and the bonus emotions of frustration and anger. I have even heard it called the Shirley Circus, and it is easy to understand why after observing a few nights at ringside.

Seems to me that we start meetings with a pledge and a prayer and then lock civility, reasonable and respectful debate, and the ability to agree to disagree out of the board room. Is it any wonder some very capable and qualified citizens

do not participate more and or seek office.

I believe we have a few good politicians, who are working hard for us and our future as a county, and I compliment our Sheriff, Supervisor of elections, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, City and County Clerk to name a few. Seems to me that Mr Boyd is doing a great job, trying to save us from the poor house. For sure he does his research and has presented some logical solutions to some major situations. Mr Fulford is gonna be missed. I sure hope his district picks another highly qualified individual like him.

Seems to me, some of our citizens overlooked the fact that county commissioners and school board members, though elected by their particular district, their job is to represent

the entire county.

Seems to me, sadly, that We the People are the problem and WE the People can be the solution. We don't honor the flag when it passes in a parade, we allowed prayer to be taken out of the school system, and we allow a few loud mouth trouble makers with a personal agenda to influence our leaders. Until we all, male-female, black-white, young-old, liberal-conservative begin to communicate honestly, openly, and seriously, and demand the same from the folks we pay to represent and lead us, our problems will continue.

If we elect ineffective folks, because they did me a favor one time, there will be no need to get angry. If we elect folks who had rather grandstand and be noticed than make difficult choices, then it will be too late to cry. If we do not look at what we have allowed to happen in the past, and don't demand better in the future, there will be nothing to laugh about. The show will close, the party will be over, and the last one out, please turn off the lights and close the door.

God Bless us, everyone!

Fred Shofner

STINGERS

“Is it legal for a convicted felon to hold public office?”

“Paid Holiday Proposal goes down in flames” As well it should. I wonder which “Brain trust” in our “School Board” was responsible for this idea. Nut case - don't you realize that if it were not for Veteran's you would have no freedom's at all. I also wonder if “anyone” will ever own up to this gaffe? I know the answer.”

“Do not write an article in the paper if you cannot give credit where credit is due. The JEFFERSON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION K-9 TEAM responded to the inmate escape on June 13, 2012 NOT Apalachee Correctional Institution. These guys work way to hard and give up way too much to not be recognized, especially by their own county and local newspaper!!”

“To the County Employees who were mowing 6/19/2012. My greatest appreciation for your job on Linton Place off of Old Lloyd Rd. You did good, very good...THANKS.”

Watermelon Festival Memories

I wanted to share some information with you. The 62nd annual Watermelon Festival was simply fantastic and the food was excellent; congratulations on a job well done to the planning committee. The watermelon I ate this year was sweet and I did not get it all over my shirt... this is a major accomplishment for me! In addition, I had an opportunity to participate in the Mr. Watermelon Contest; congratulations to JM Cravanzola with the Cottage B&B. And, the Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest... I don't think Angela Gray retained her title. On the bright side, I was able to have a picture with Ms. Watermelon

Queen and Ms. Teen Watermelon Queen. Could you please send me the pictures?

Most importantly, I wanted you to know it was a pleasure meeting you and others in the community and hearing what you had to say about the School District and how concerned you are about the direction of our schools. I want to continue our dialogue and I would like to invite you to a “Meet the Candidate” function at Rosemary Tree Café and Gifts from 5 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 30. The establishment is located at 150 North Jefferson Street in Monticello.

My Watermelon Festival Day

experience was capped off by riding in the parade with the Creative Moments Learning Center and Ms. Daphne Cummings, owner. We had a great time signing nursery rhymes and I could not believe how well behaved the children were during the entire parade procession! Daphne, congratulations to you and your team on your Parade Recognition Award.

Finally, please let me know if you will be able to join me by June 26, by sending me an email or call/text me at 850-728-3858. Again, thank you and I look forward to seeing you on June 30.

Colin A. Barton

Follow the Law- Protect the Free Market

The Florida Constitution in Article 7 Section 10 prohibits counties from using tax dollars to aid a company- this differs from property tax credits, which can be authorized by the voters. Yet this aid is exactly what happened today at our Commission meeting when our Commissioners voted to buy 26 acres of private land and give 10 acres to a new company. The city is likewise chipping in \$45,000 in fee waivers.

The law exists to protect our American system of limited government and a free market as opposed to a socialist system where the public owns all companies. When we allow the government to use our tax dollars to aid a company, this creates three things-

An unfair advantage for the company receiving the tax dollars in both start-up costs and property taxes, The expectation and

precedent that this will take place for all other new companies, and

A narrow risk the tax dollars will never be recovered, as was the recent case with Solyndra.

While this is an unpopular view, it is the law. It does not matter if every other county in Florida is doing it. If our government will not follow the law, why should we as citizens?

Paul Henry

Founder of Floridians Against REAL ID. Find

us on Facebook Website: <http://www.liberty2010.org/ealid> Email: realid@liberty2010.org

"Today, they want you to believe that patriotism means that you support everything the government wants. A true patriot defends liberty and the people."

-- Ron Paul
cc: Commissioners and Clerk Reams
bcc: Selected email contacts



Colin Barton
for
School District 1

Candidate Colin Barton for School District 1 invites District 1 Residents & Stakeholders to a **Meet and Greet on Saturday, June 30, 2012 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

Location: Rosemary Tree Café & Gift Shop
190 N. Jefferson St. Monticello, FL 32344
Phone: 850-728-3858
Email: votebarton@gmail.com

Paid for by Colin Barton Campaign for Jefferson County School Board District 1

MONTICELLO NEWS



EMERALD GREENE
Publisher/Owner

LAZARO ALEMAN
Senior Staff Writer

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Deadline for classifieds is Monday at 3:00 p.m. for Wednesday's paper, and Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. for Friday's paper. Deadline for Legal Advertisements is Monday at 3 p.m. for Wednesday's paper, and Wednesday at 3 p.m. for Friday's paper. There will be a \$10⁰⁰ charge for Affidavits.

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180 W. Washington Street
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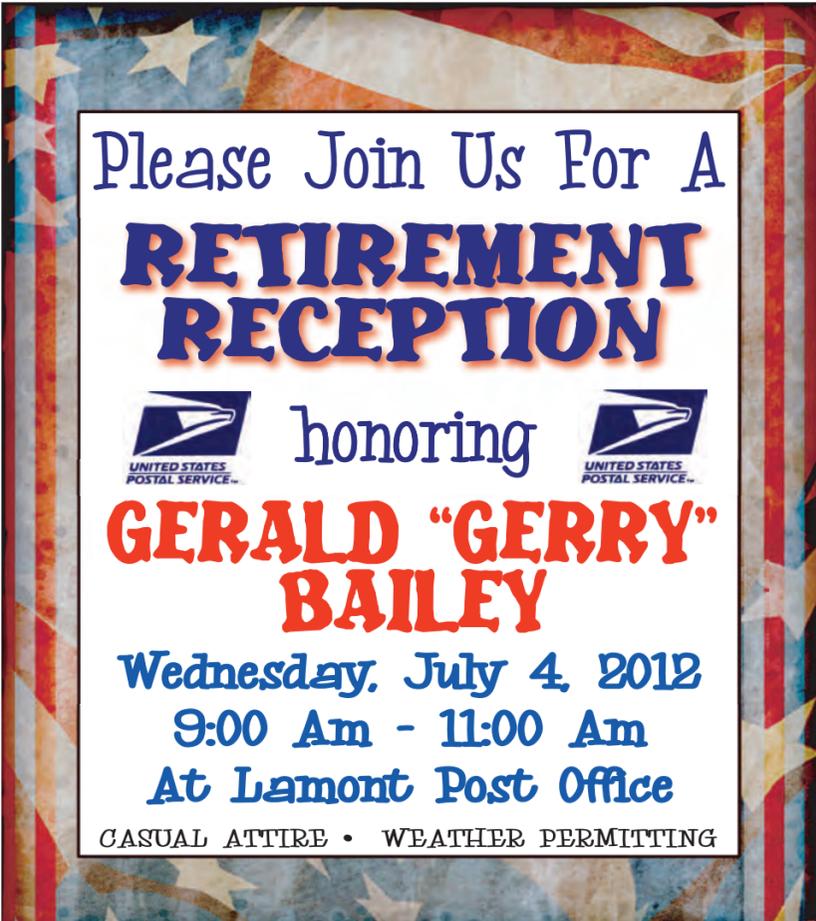
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honoring  **GERALD "GERRY" BAILEY** 

Wednesday, July 4, 2012
9:00 Am - 11:00 Am
At Lamont Post Office

CASUAL ATTIRE • WEATHER PERMITTING

AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY

Landfill

mercial fee, as the footage really doesn't take into account how much garbage an operation generates. A better way, according to the study, is to assess the commercial fee based on the amount of garbage that a business actually generates; hence, a per-pickup fee.

A second problem borne out by the study is that residential users presently are largely subsidizing the commercial side.

Boyd last week proposed as a starting point setting a base fee of \$155 for both commercial and residential users and then possibly charging businesses an additional monthly fee for the rental of the county-owned containers and a separate \$45 fee each time the Solid Waste Department pick ups the container. This way, businesses that generated little trash would pay proportionally less than businesses that generated a great deal of trash, making for a fairer and more equitable system.

Boyd argues that under his proposal, the department would have more than sufficient funds to operate. Moreover, goes his argument, Letchworth would still be able to get her capital improvement wish list fulfilled, and the department would still maintain an adequate reserve fund.

On the other side of the argument, Letchworth and her supporters on the board, particularly Commissioner Betsy Barfield, argue that Boyd is missing the point, notwithstanding his spreadsheet calculations. It is their argument that the \$1.7 million is a misrepresentation, as \$790,000 of this money

has already been committed for capital expenditures.

It is furthermore Letchworth's argument that the reason the department was able to accumulate a surplus in the past was because it received state grants that are no longer available. What's more, the department for years was prevented from purchasing new equipment, which also explains the surplus, she says.

As Letchworth represents the situation, her department is barely breaking even at present, all the while that the department's equipment is aging. If the commission were to do what Boyd proposes, it would leave her department without a reserve fund, she says. How then would her department replace aging equipment or pursue needed capital expenditures in future? Letchworth asks.

The exchanges between Boyd and Letchworth have been carried out in public meetings, one-on-one encounters and emails, and they have grown testy at times.

Tuesday's workshop was generally viewed as a step forward, if only because the commission appeared to agree, in principle at least, to the establishment of a base fee for the commercial and residential fees and additional charges for the latter and a minimum reserve fund of \$300,000.

Equally important, the commission decided to assign the resolution of the issue to newly hired County Coordinator Parrish Barwick, who's expected to begin his duties the first week of July.

According to the recent study by the Government Services Group

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(GSG), 70 percent of the solid waste generated in the county presently comes from residential properties and 30 percent comes from commercial properties.

It was the study's recommendation that the annual residential assessment be increased, from the current \$224.88 to \$227. As for the commercial assessment, the consultant firm recommended that it should be assessed on a basis other than the square footage, but it gave no specifics.

The study merely stated that the county would "need to determine the solid waste generation and the associated cost of disposal for all non-residential properties... and determine the best way to collect these costs from these non-residential properties."

As to the calculation of annual assessment fees for commercial properties, the study offered that it would "require determining how much solid waste each commercial property generates, as well as the frequency of the collections for these parcels, and the size and number of containers at each of the sites."

If the information wasn't available for all non-residential properties, the study recommended that the county might want to charge an interim estimated fee.

"Once all the necessary information is available to accurately calculate the solid waste generation, the county can then reconcile any under, or over, payments," the GSG report concluded.

Boyd has labeled the \$45,000 study a "botched" job.

Debby

continued from page 1A

On Tuesday morning a downed tree fell on a power line across Thompson Valley Road and crews were working diligently to reopen the road, remove the tree and repair the power line.

Several roads in the county have been closed due to either flooding or erosion. Those roads include Barrington Road, Curtis Mill Road, Waukeenah Road, south of US-27, US-27 from Capps to Waukeenah Highway, Walker Springs Road, Fishburn Road, Horseshoe Road, Upper Cody Road, Middle Cody Road, Lower Cody Road, West Pinhook and Martin Road within the city limits.

Harrell said that pretty much of the east side of Wacissa toward Ted Turner's Plantation (Avalon) was inaccessible. The water is up about for feet off of the Thomas City Grade," he added. "There is a lot of flooding in the south end of the county."

The public schools were closed for students only Monday and Tuesday and it was to be determined later Tuesday if schools would once again be closed for students on Wednesday.

Deputies and road crews have been working tirelessly around the clock to assist where needed in diverting traffic, halting traffic from areas with downed trees across the roadways and pulling out the chainsaws and assisting with the tree removals. "The trees are pretty much cleaned up and removed as quickly as they are coming down," said Harrell.

As of Tuesday morning, Emergency Management did not yet have any reports of damage to property due to the storm.

If anyone has any photos of downed power lines, storm damage, downed trees, flooding, etc., please send them to monticellonews@embarqmail.com.

Fire

continued from page 1A

partment. Upon arrival firefighters found a singlewide mobile home fully involved with fire.

Heavy fire was found in the middle of the home and the roof over the middle of the mobile home had already collapsed in on the structure.

Two 1 3/4" attack lines were deployed off engine one. One line attacked the northeast corner of the home and the other line attacked the southeast corner of the home in order to protect other outside structures in the area.

The fire was cut off from both the east side and east side of the home. The rooms on both ends of the home remained intact, but sustained heavy smoke and heat damage.

Progress Energy responded to terminate the power to the mobile home. The Florida State Fire Marshall's Office responded to conduct the investigation. Firefighters noted that the investigation is still ongoing but is most likely to be electrical in nature.

The fire started in the living room area of the home and no one was home at the time of the fire.

Captain Ron Motter reported that a passer by called the fire in when heavy black smoke was observed coming from the roof of the home.

Houston was at the scene when firefighters arrived. She stated that the home had an electrical fire approximately two years earlier and that the home had been rewired by the home manufacturer.

The living room and kitchen had been totally destroyed by fire. The roof over those areas was totally burned away.

The bedrooms on the east end of the home and the west end of the home remained intact and were salvaged and overhauled.

The home, valued at \$65,000 was a total loss. The contents, valued at about \$12,000, sustained \$10,000 in damage.

Approximately 6,000 gallons of water was used to extinguish the fire.

Firefighters departed the scene at 5 p.m. and checked on the scene again at 7:30 p.m. and found no hot spots remained.

Redistricting

continued from page 1A

derscore the need for a quick ruling, as the ballots are scheduled to go to the printer this Friday.

The two sides did not dispute the facts of the case, but rather differed on how they characterized the facts.

Van Wyk and Williams argued similar points on behalf of their respective clients. These arguments were that by definition, a rescission was not a change but a voiding of an action, which returned a thing to its original state; that the two boards were operating under Robert Rules of Order, which permitted their rescinding actions as a parliamentary procedure; and that the two boards were within their discretionary authority to change their votes. So long as the boards had not defrauded or committed other illegal actions, the court had no reason to intervene.

The attorneys for the two sides cited Chapters 124 and 1001 of Florida Statutes, as well as various court cases involving state officials and other county commissions, to bolster their respective arguments.

The judge remained noncommittal throughout the hearing, offering no comment other than to say that he would render his decision by Thursday in consideration of the elections office's request. The hearing took little more than an hour.

Davis filed the petition on behalf of the four local citizens on May 22, in response to the School Board and County Commission respective decisions on May 14 and 17 to stick to their January decisions.

Scam

continued from page 1A

response to unsolicited emails or social media posts. Question anyone who presents themselves as a representative of a utility company and ask for identification before allowing anyone inside your home or onto your property.

For additional information, contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at www.800helpfla.com or by calling 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) within Florida, 1-800-FL-AYUDA (352-9832) en Español, or (850) 410-3800 from outside of Florida.

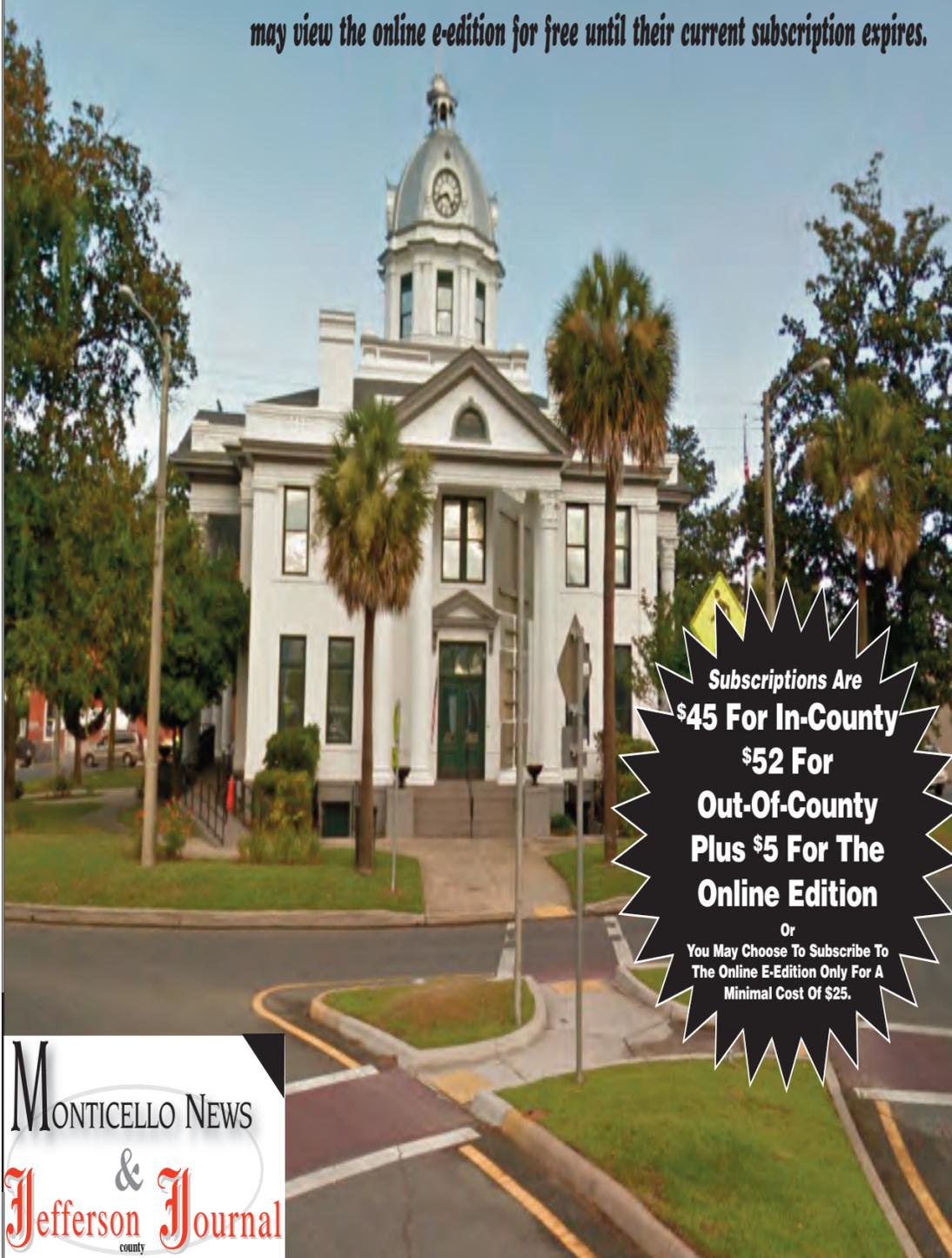
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AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY

Bless The Beast Raises Over \$6,000

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Despite the continual rain, The Humane Society's 18th annual Bless The Beast fundraiser, held June 9, was a huge success raising over \$6,000.

The community, consisting of donors, sponsors, volunteers and guests packed the Mays House to celebrate the animals that the Humane Society works so hard to help.

Attendees enjoyed the delicious food from a barbecue pork buffet, which included the barbecue pork, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad and choice of a tangy red barbecue sauce or a sweet yellow sauce for the meat. The meal was catered by Carrie Ann and Company.

The evening entertainment provided by the Booger Holler String Band kept many a feet tapping and hand clapping time during the event.

More than 100 silent auction items were of-

ferred and professional auctioneer Doyle Connor, headed up the live auction.

All funds raised from this annual event directly benefits the Jefferson County Humane Society and thanks to the community, the fundraiser was a huge success.

"We saw an increase in ticket sales over last year and our donors graciously provided many valuable items available for auction," said Teresa Kessler. "An evening of fun was had by all."

Coordinators wished to give many thanks and much gratitude to the sponsors, donors and those who volunteered during the event. Sponsors of the event included The Booger Holler String Band; Carrie Ann and Company; Creative Stitches; Doyle Connor; Gelling's Floral Design; Katmanos Printing; Kessler Construction LLC; Party, Party Party; Probuild of Tallahassee and PS Art.

Donors included Amanda and Mike Simms; Animal Medical Clinic; Avera-Clark House Bed & Breakfast; Badcock Home Furnishings; Barnaby's; Brick House Eatery; Boyd's Family Sod Farm Inc.; Buggy's Bling; Carrie Ann and Company; Cavallo Farms; Charles and Donna Davis; Creatures Featured Pet Shop; Donna and Stuart MacIver; Dot St. Pierre; Elise Principata; Express Computer Solutions; Florida Pest Control; Gelling's Floral Designs; Greenville Chemical and Fertilizer Company; Greenville Hardware; Gulf Coast Lumber and Supply; Jane Davis; Jane Hand; Jeannie Beetsma; Jeri Kimbrel; Joan Breault; Johnston's Meat Market; Kandy Krowe; Leon County Humane Society; Lisa Hayes; Lowe's of Thomasville; Margaret Levings; Mary Helen Ringe; Me Molly's Chocolate and Flowers; Mellonie Sullivan; Monticello Milling; Monticello Nursery; Monticello



ECB Publishing photos by Fran Hunt, taken June 9, 2012
The Mays House was packed with guests during the 18th annual Bless the Beast fundraiser.



Foot-stompin' hand-slappin' music was provided for the 18th annual Bless the Beast fundraiser by the Booger Holler String Band, which donated their time and talent to the event.



Guests at the 18th annual Bless the Beast fundraiser enjoyed a fantastic barbecue meal buffet, catered by Carrie Ann and Company.

Opera House; Monticello Pizza Kitchen; Nancy and Scott Baker; New Rainbow Garden Restaurant; PS Art; Saddlebrook Farms; Sage; Shelby's Restaurant; Sue Woodward; The Peddler's Marketplace LLC; Tony and Jeanette Nativio; Total Landscape Supply; Tupelo's; Veterinary Associates; Wagging Ways; and Westwood Animal Hospital.

Volunteers included Barbara Thompson, Bonnie King, Carol Watkins Babcock, Carol Austin, Carrie Ann Tellefson, Faye Pritchett, Geannie Davis, Jeanette Nativio, Jeannie Beetsma, Jeri Kimbrel, Joan Beault, Kay Custard, Lisa Hayes, Mark

and Teresa Kessler, Mary Davis, Mellonie Sullivan, Nicole Kessler, Scott and Nancy Baker, Stuart and Donna MacIver, Sue Woodward, Tom and Denise Vogelgesang and Vince Nativio. "Please help support the businesses and thank the individuals who supported this event," said Kessler. "Together, we make great things happen for the animals." The Jefferson County Humane Society is located at 1250 Mamie Scott Drive and can be reached by calling 342-0244. Keep up on what's happening with the organization and to view the animals for adoption at www.jchs.us.

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- ✓ End wasteful spending in Tallahassee
- ✓ Cut taxes so small businesses have the capital they need
- ✓ Strengthen our agriculture sector so farmers have the tools they need to be successful
- ✓ Improve our public education system



HALSEY BESHEARS
for Florida House

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VOTE TUESDAY, AUGUST 14TH IN THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY OR VOTE BY MAIL TODAY.

AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE 27
 'Windows 7 - What's New?' class will be held for individuals who have used previous versions of Windows and wish to learn the new features of Windows 7. The class will be held at the Jefferson County Bailar Public Library from 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday. For more information about the summer programs or the services offered at the library contact Director Kitty Brooks at 850-342-0205 or visit the library at 375 South Water Street in Monticello.

JUNE 28
 You may qualify for assistance through the Capital Area Community Action Agency Weatherization Assistance Program. The program reduces heating and cooling costs by improving the energy efficiency of the home. Contact Nellie Thomas at 850-997-5605 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the fourth Thursday for an appointment in the Dills Community area.

†† Obituary ††

WYNTER LEHELLE BROWN

Wynter Lechelle Brown, the infant daughter of Misty Rena Watson and Barrett Antonio Brown, Jr., passed away on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at the Gulf Coast Medical Center, in Panama City, Florida.

Funeral services were held graveside at 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 24, 2012 at the Oakfield Cemetery in Monticello, Florida.

Wynter Lechelle Brown is survived by her parents Misty Rena Watson and Barrett Antonio Brown, Jr. of Panama City; one sister Xena Rena Watson of Panama City; grandparents Carl Joe Watson of Moultrie, Georgia, Donna C. Watson of Panama City, Barrett A. Brown, Sr. and Tracey Ann Brown of Monticello and Sabena D. Brown of Defuniak Springs, Florida; great-grandparents Sonja Guy of Columbus, Georgia, Blondelle D. Brown and Rev. Willy E. Brown, Sr. of Ebro, Florida, Willie Ann Dickey of Monticello, Carolyn and Hayward Clemons of Defuniak Springs, Agnus and Claude Watson of Moultrie, Georgia and many aunts and uncles.

Beggs Funeral Home Monticello Chapel is handling the arrangements for the family, 485 East Dogwood Street, Monticello, 850-997-5612, beggschmonticello@embarqmail.com.

at the Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church. Contact Pat Hall or Melissa Watson at 850-997-8231 for additional information, and other services currently being offered. This is free to the client.

JUNE 28
 Food Preservation classes at the Jefferson County Extension Office. 'Simple Salsas,' on Thursday and 'No Pressure, We're Just Pressure Canning' on Thursday, July 19. The cost is \$10 per class to cover materials. For more information, to register, or for private preservation parties, contact Extension Agent I Kristin Jackson at the Jefferson County Extension Office 850-342-0187 or kris88@ufl.edu. Participants will preserve at least one item during the class, sample previously preserved items, discuss how processing effects quality and discuss the latest food preservation safety tips. Participants are also encouraged to bring their canners from home and have them inspected, to help ensure they are ready to go for the upcoming canning season.

JUNE 28
 AA meetings are held weekly at 8 p.m. on Thursday at the Christ Episcopal Church annex, 425 North Cherry Street. For more information call 850-997-2129 or 850-997-1955.

JUNE 29
 Rotary meets at 12 p.m. on Friday at the First Presbyterian Church, in the fel-

lowship hall, for lunch and a meeting with a program and speaker. Contact President John Lilly at 850-342-0187 for more information.

JUNE 29
 Monticello Jamboree Band will perform music for dancing at 7 p.m. every Friday evening at 625 South Water Street, in the old JCHS gym. There are doorprizes, cold soft drinks and snacks. Everyone is welcome to come dance, listen to some of the finest music and just enjoy the fun and camaraderie with neighbors and friends. Band members and musicians include Bobby Connell, Don Corbitt, John Howell, Ashley Morgan, Sue and Wanzie Tucker, Arlene and Leon Roberts and Wendell Quick. This is a nonprofit charitable organization. For questions or concerns contact Curtis Morgan at 850-933-8136 or Bobby Connell at 850-445-0049.

JUNE 30
 Jefferson County Branch of the NAACP meets at noon on the last Saturday of each month at the MLK Center. Contact Charles Parrish at 850-997-3760 for more information.

JULY 1
 VFW Post 251 meets 5 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at the Learning Center on Marvin Street for a meeting. Contact Commander Ned Hill at 850-339-5524 for more information.

JULY 2-6
 St. Rilla Missionary Baptist Church will begin Re-

vival Services at 7:30 p.m. on Monday and continue nightly through Friday. Rev. O. Jermaine Simmons, pastor of the Jacob Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Tallahassee, will be the guest speaker. Music will be provided by the St. Rilla Mass Choir and other local choirs, accompanied by Jacob Chapel. Rev. James Mack, church pastor, invites the community to come out and enjoy a spirit-filled week. Call 850-997-8747 for more information.

JULY 2
 Big Bend Hospice Adult Grief Support meets from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at the BBH Counseling & Resource Center located at 1723 Mahan Center Boulevard in Tallahassee. This is a group setting for anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a child two years of age or younger. These sessions are free of charge and provide a safe environment for education, support and compassion. To register, or for more information regarding other services offered by BBH, contact Bereavement Services at 850-878-5310 or 800-772-5862 or www.bigbendhospice.org.

JULY 2
 VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 251 meets 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at Memorial MB Church. Contact President Mary Madison at 850-210-7090 for more information.

JULY 2
 Sons Of The American Le-

gion (SAL) meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in the Otto Walker Post 49 on South Water Street in Monticello. For more information contact District III Commander Buddy Westbrook at 850-997-2973.

JULY 2
 MainStreet of Monticello, Florida Board Meeting is held at 5 p.m. on the first Monday of every month at the Cherry Street Commons on South Cherry Street. Contact Margie Stern at 850-210-4097 for more information. For more information about the third Monday Main Street Speaker Series contact Anne Holt at 850-997-5110 or ahholt@ahholt.com Come to hear about updates and projects that MainStreet has been working on.

JULY 2
 Jefferson County Lions Club Monday Night BINGO. Doors and snack bar open at 5 p.m., at the Capitol City BP Travel Center, in the Big Bend Family Restaurant, 2716 Gamble Road, Lloyd (Interstate 10, Exit 217, Highway 59.) Call 850-997-3538 for directions. JCLC is a non-profit organization, raising funds for area residents in need. All are welcome to come have fun, play and win! Help the JCLC by contributing to

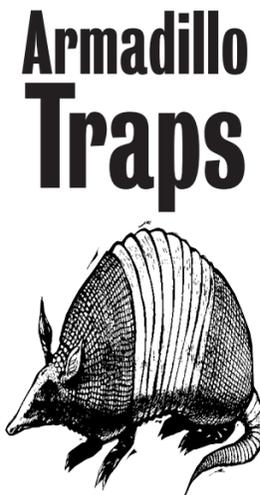
others. Remember... one free Jackpot BINGO card for every eyeglass donation! Contact Lion June at 850-997-1754 for more information.

JULY 2
 Al-Anon meetings are held at 8 p.m. every Monday at the Anglican Church, 124 Jefferson Avenue in Thomasville. For more information go to www.al-anon.alateen.org

JULY 2
 AA women's meetings are held on Mondays at 6:45 p.m.; AA meetings follow at 8 p.m., at the Christ Episcopal Church Annex, 425 North Cherry Street. For more information, call 850-997-2129 or 850-997-1955.

JULY 3
 AA classes are held every Tuesday at 8 p.m. for those seeking help. The classes are held at the Harvest Christian Center, 1599 Springhollow Road. Contact Marvin Graham, pastor, at 850-212-7669 for more information.

JULY 3
 Monticello/Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce General Membership Meeting is held at noon on the first Tuesday of each month. The meeting includes lunch and a program. For more information visit the Chamber Website at monticellojeffersonfl.com or call 850-997-5552.



Armadillo Traps

Guest Speaker to the June 20, 2012 meeting of the Monticello Kiwanis was Ron Hunter, a local inventor of armadillo traps. He displayed his invention and told a number of humorous stories about his pursuit of this common garden pest.



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AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY

Things Of Remembrance Past: Sarah Pittman

BRYANT THIGPEN
ECB Publishing

A lot can change in one day, so it's easy to imagine all of the changes that could occur over 50 plus years. But

from 50 years ago until now, what all did change? This writer sat down with local resident Sarah Pittman, to discuss life back then compared to how things are

now.

Pittman was born on January 2, 1944 in Monticello to Richard and Retha Hopson. "We were farm children," she laughed. "Our family grew tobacco and cotton, and daddy did some watermelon and cantaloupes on the side." Growing up on a farm, there wasn't much to do for entertainment. "But, we would play with the neighborhood kids, and we would play games like hide-and-seek and tag."



Sarah Pittman

She attended schools in Jefferson County be-

ginning kindergarten at Jefferson Elementary School. "The schools were even different back then," she recalls. "The schools were not integrated. I think the schools may have combined in the late 1960's, but it was after I left."

"In 1958, the sixth through eighth grade students were moved to the high school," she explained. Pittman graduated from Jefferson County High School in 1962. "School children back then hung out in groups, and the children I mostly hung out with, I also went to church with. I went to a little ole country church called Olive Baptist Church."

Entertainment was not high on people's list back then, and living in a small town, there was not much for children to do. Pittman remembers, "There was a skating rink out on highway 90 going towards Tallahassee in an old building that is a furniture store now. Every Friday and Saturday I would meet my friends up there and we would skate."

"So many places that were here then have closed down," she stated. "I remember working at the corner around the courthouse at the old Van H. Priest Dime Store. I would work all day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for three dollars a day."

Some of the places Pittman recalled being around the town are

Braswell's Cash Store, Jefferson Elementary School, "The schools were even different back then," she recalls. "The schools were not integrated. I think the schools may have combined in the late 1960's, but it was after I left."

"There was the A & P store where we did most of our grocery shopping. Back then, you didn't go to the grocery store everyday like we do now. Typically everybody did their shopping on Saturdays."

"Most people would come into town and park their car somewhere, and they would go around and visit with people and also do their shopping," she said. "Traffic then was very slow. There were probably only three to four thousand people in the whole county then, so it was the kind of town where you knew everybody."

"Doctor Branson, Sr. had his office upstairs where Jackson's Drugstore currently sits. Doctor Hunter and Doctor Ward had an office where the Farmers and Merchants Bank Annex is now."

In the 50 years that has come and gone, change is one thing that is sure to happen. And as Pittman shared, many changes have taken place in the landscape of Monticello. As time continues to fly by and society moves into the technology age, more changes are bound to take place. But for now, we remember things of the past.



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- Tom Harmon
- Tommy Surlis
- Travis Hussey
- VFW Post 251
- Wallace (Bubba) Bullock



Financial Focus...

WORK TOWARD YOUR OWN FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

Provided by Robert J. Davison

Once again, Independence Day is here, bringing fireworks and barbecues. Of course, the 4th of July is more than hoopla — it's a time to reflect on the many freedoms we enjoy in this country. Yet, for many people, one important type of freedom — financial freedom — is still elusive. So you may want to use this holiday as an occasion to think of those steps you can take to eventually declare your own Financial Independence Day.

Here are some moves that can help:

- Create a strategy. Financial freedom doesn't just happen — it takes planning, patience and perseverance. To work toward your financial independence, you'll need to create a financial strategy, in conjunction with your financial advisor, and stick to that strategy. Over time, you'll need to make adjustments, but if your overall strategy is appropriate for your goals, time horizon and risk tolerance, it should help you get you to where you want to go.
- Contribute as much as possible to your retirement plans. Each year, put in as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 457(b) if you work for a state or local government or a 403(b) if you work for a school or other tax-exempt organization. These plans offer the potential for tax-deferred earnings, so your retirement funds can grow faster than if they were placed in an investment on which you paid taxes every year. Also, if you're eligible, try to "max out" on your IRA every year.
- Maintain adequate life insurance. If you have a family, you aren't just thinking of your own financial independence — you have to think of theirs, too. And that's why you need to maintain adequate life insurance, particularly during the years when your children are growing up. But even after they've left the home, you may find that life insurance can be valuable in providing retirement funds for your spouse, should anything happen to you. And if you have permanent life insurance, which contains an investment component, you can generally access the cash value, through policy loans or withdrawals, to help pay for your own retirement.
- Protect yourself from long-term care costs. You may never need any type of long-term care, such as a stay in a nursing home or assistance from a home health aide, but if you do, the enormous costs can threaten your financial independence — and possibly even put an economic strain on your spouse or grown children. After all, the national average rate for a private room in a nursing home is more than \$87,000 per year, according to the 2011 MetLife Market Survey of Nursing Home, Assisted Living, Adult Day Services, and Home Care Costs. And the national hourly rate for home health aides is \$21, according to the same survey. Medicare typically pays very little of these costs, which puts the burden on you. Fortunately, some investment vehicles can help you deal with long-term care expenses. Consult with your financial advisor to determine which of these vehicles may be appropriate for your needs.

A national holiday won't be declared when you achieve your financial independence — but, for you, it will be a time well worth celebrating. So do what it takes to work toward the arrival of that happy day.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Robert J. Davison
Financial Advisor

205 E. Washington Street
Monticello, FL 32344
Bus. 850-997-2572 Fax 866-462-9184
Cell 850-933-3329
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Palmer Place Book Club To Meet

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The next meeting of the Palmer Place Book Club will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 9, the second Monday of the month. The book for discussion will be an autobiography, 'The Road from Coorain', by Jill Ker Conway.



Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome. For more information or suggestions for future titles, email to douwahnadance@yahoo.com or call the library at 850-342-0205.

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SPORTS

JEFFERSON COUNTY ALL-STARS HEAD TO DISTRICT

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Jefferson County All-Stars traveled to Bainbridge, GA June 9 to participate in a 15U (15 and under) tournament and Jefferson came out on top with the first place trophy. Each player also received a medal.

On the mound, Brandon Cooksey took charge by pitching a seven inning game against Wakulla and only allowing three earned runs, leading to a 14-4 victory for the All-Stars.

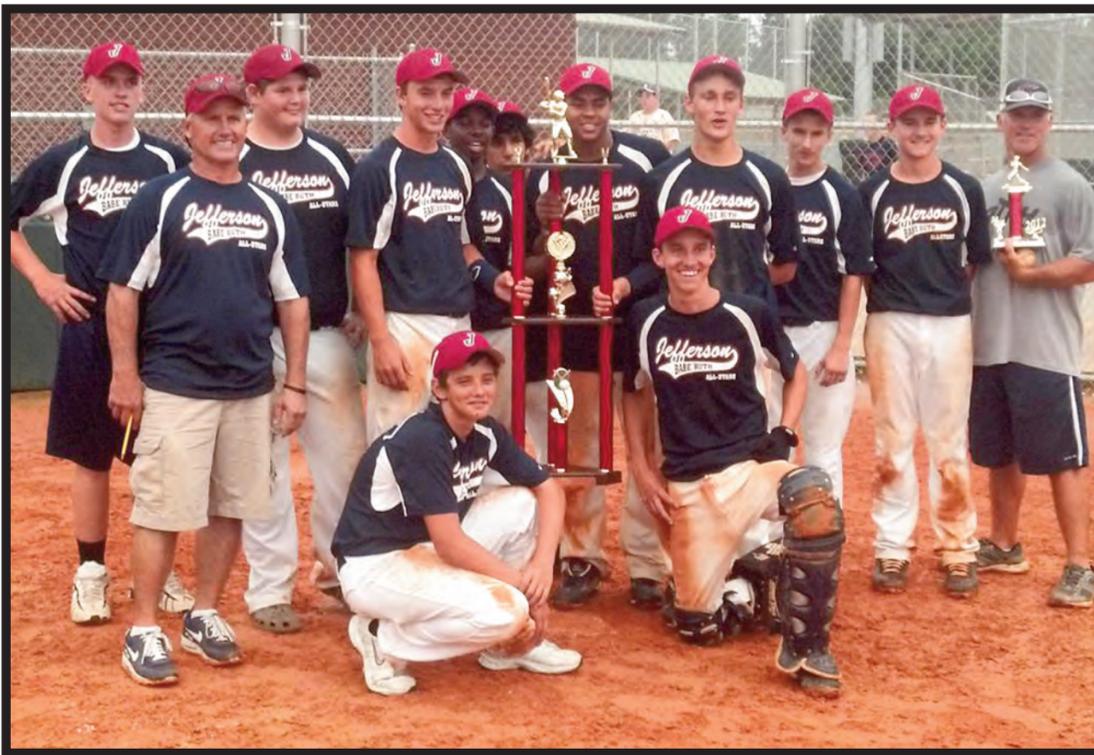
At the plate Casey Demott hit two singles and ripped a homerun in the first game and later in the tournament he hit four additional singles.

Nick Roberts hit a double in the first game and hit another double during the third game.

Ty Chancey scored four runs on two singles and one double.

Hunter Handley scored three runs.

John Burns hit a



once-in-a-lifetime grand slam in the second game and he was the winning pitcher during the third game on a 9-2 win.

Mason Collins was on the ball in the field, making a great play from center field to third base during the second game to

halt run from scoring and creating the third out.

Sean Blue was the winning pitcher in the

fourth game with five strikeouts and one earned run, which led to the 3-1 win.

Brandon Holm hit a homerun during the fourth game and earned tournament MVP by hitting three hits during three at-bats in the second game and he was one for two during the third game.

Additional outstanding accomplishments during the tournament included two spectacular catches from Omir Baraket in right field to halt game-changing runs.

Nick Matthews pitched the third game to a tie.

There was one double-play made by Sean Blue as shortstop, to Ty Chancey at second base, to Brandon Cooksey at first base for a precision play.

Teammate Denijay Maxwell was unable to attend the tournament due to a death in the family.

The Jefferson County All-Stars traveled to the District competition in Lake City June 21, however, those results were unavailable at press time.

Sunshine Express Softball Schedule

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Several games remain in the season for the Sunshine Express softball team.

Action continues against Quitman, July 1, there; Tallahassee, July 8, there; Lake City, July 15, home; Lake City, July 22, there; Quitman, July 29, home; Tallahassee, August 5, home; Barwick, August 12, there; the big game of year against Apalachicola, August 19, there; and Bar-

wick, August 26, home.

Making up the Sunshine Express are Rodney Barnard, Jay McQue, Frankie Steen, Nick Russell, Eldred Jennings, Donnell Gallon, Ronzo Wade, Steven Bivens, Destiny Vangates, Kevin Jones, Mario Rivers, Karlon Blue, Chad Brooks, Joe Andrews, Melvin Holmes and Calvin Holmes.

The Express are coached by Head coach Roosevelt Jones and Assistant Coach Frankie Steen.

A's Chalk Up Two Wins

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Jefferson A's baseball team chalked up two additional wins over the past two weeks to now stand at a perfect and undefeated 8-0 season.

In the game slated against the Ichuaway Redsox June 10, the Redsox failed to attend the game therefore giving the A's the victory by forfeit.

In the game against the Cairo Reds June 17, the A's pounded their opponent for a 14-0 victory.

Coach Jim Norton said

the A's got outstanding pitching from a trio of pitchers.

Leading the way on the mound was starter Mike Thrash, who pitched five innings, giving up two hits, no runs, one walk and striking out four batters.

James Wesley pitched three innings, giving up one hit, no walks, no runs and striking out four batters.

Kesean Lewis pitched the final inning, giving up one hit, one walk, no runs and striking out two batters.

Leading the A's at the

plate was, Micheal Johnson with three hits, including two homeruns and he scored three runs.

Shane Broxie had four hits and four runs.

Dionte Hightower had two hits including one homerun and scored three runs.

Kesean Lewis had three hits and scored four runs.

July 1 will see the A's going into a double-header against the Camilla All-stars at the field in Wacissa. The double-header is slated due to the game slated against the two teams on May 6, being rained out.

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6/1, tfn, c.

Adoptions

June is National Adopt a Shelter Cat Month. Visit the Jefferson County Humane Society shelter at 1250 Mamie Scott Dr. 342-0244 or see their web site www.jchs.us for new faces of cats available for Adoption.

6/13-29, nc.



LOST

Missing June 25 at mile marker 224 on I-10 after an accident dog jumped out of car. Black Laab mix w/ Blue and Brown collar. Call 342-0291. OR after 5:00 P.M. 997-4932

6/27-29, nc

Wanted

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6/13-7/6, pd.

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6/13-29, c.

ASSISTANT TO THE PROPERTY APPRAISER FT Position: (\$20k- \$26k annually) Jefferson County Property Appraiser's Office (JCPA) is currently accepting applications for this position. Position description & applications available at 480 W. Walnut Street btwn 8AM and 5PM or on-line at www.jefersonpa.net. Deadline to apply is 5PM Friday, July 6th. JCPA is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or the position of service.

6/27, 29, c.

MATHEMATICS/PHYSICS INSTRUCTOR wanted at North Florida Community College. See **HYPERLINK** "http://www.nfcc.edu" www.nfcc.edu for details.

6/13-29, c.

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE

The City Council of the City of Monticello proposes to adopt the following ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-03 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MONTICELLO, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 54-126 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF MONTICELLO, FLORIDA CLARIFYING THE PROCEDURE FOR REZONING AMENDMENTS AND AMENDING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The entire text of the ordinance may be inspected at City Hall, 245 S. Mulberry Street, Monticello, Florida between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Public hearing on the ordinance will be held on Tuesday, July 3, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at Monticello City Hall. Interested persons may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance.

6/22,27/12, c.

NOTICE

In accordance with Florida Statute a public auction will be held on July 23, 2012 10:00 A.M. For: 2003 GMC VIN # 1GTGK13U03F238980 To be sold AS IS for towing and storage charges, conditions and terms at auction. Stewarts Towing 175 South Jefferson Street, Monticello, FL 32344 Phone 850-342-1480

6/27/12, c.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Jefferson County Planning Commission will hold its regular monthly meeting on July 12, 2012 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will consist of general business and a workshop on the Land Development Code, Chapters 1-3.

The meetings will be held in the Courthouse Annex located at 435 West Walnut Street in Monticello, FL. The meeting may be continued as necessary.

Information concerning the meeting is available at the Jefferson County Planning Department, 445 W. Palmer Mill Road, Monticello, FL. 32344, Telephone 850-342-0223. From the Florida "Government in the Sunshine Manual", page 36, paragraph c: Each board, commission, or agency of this state or of any political subdivision thereof shall include in the notice of any meeting or hearing, if notice of meeting or hearing is required, of such board, commission, or agency, conspicuously on such notice, the advice that, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings, is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

6/27/12, c.

Recession

specializes in the production of framed artwork and mirrors for the hospitality industry, P.S. Art today employs 38 people, ships its products nationally and internationally, and expects sales of more than \$5 million this year.

Not to mention that the company has experienced four expansions since moving to the industrial park in 1994, increasing the total area of its physical plant from the original 10,000 to 48,000 sq. feet. Or that its workforce grew to 46 employees right before the economy tanked a few years back. Indeed, until 2009, when the effects of the Great Recession took hold, P.S. Art's prospects appeared limitless.

"We hit our peak in 2008, as far as sales go," Woodyard says. "Then the bottom fell out. The recession hit us later than most. Most people would say 2007, but 2008 was a banner year for us. The difficult years were 2009 and 2010."

The dramatic decline in P.S. Art's production numbers followed in the wake of the recession-battered hospitality industry's plummeting revenues, as room occupancy rates faltered and construction of new facilities practically ceased. The company's sales figures for the period graphically depict the story. From peak sales of 162,000 pieces of art and mirrors in 2008, P.S. Art's production fell to 85,000 pieces by 2010. It was only in 2011, in fact, that the picture began to improve, with sales expected to reach 115,000 in 2012.

"We're on a slight recovery now," Woodyard says. "We're coming out of the recession, but it's a real low trajectory; my customers are telling me the same thing. They see growth, but it's going to be slow."

As Woodyard explains it, he seldom, if ever, deals directly with the hotel owners, selling his products instead through some 20 to 25 nationwide distributors with whom he has long and valued relationships. The way it works, the hoteliers go to the distributors, and the distributors then work with Woodyard put together the best possible packages.

"That's the beauty of

it, from my point of view," Woodyard says. "I'm dealing with the same distributors over and over, and they're taking care of the individual customers."

Sometimes, Woodyard says, a customer will come with a specific design or idea in mind, based on a personal preference or a professional designer's recommendation; the issue then becomes one of simply matching availability and affordability.

More typically, however, the customer will have no idea what exactly he or she wants, and it's up to the distributor, in conjunction with Woodyard, to suggest possibilities, especially as several of the distributors have in-house designers or work closely with designers.

Customers can also log on to P.S. Art's website and look for ideas from the hundreds of frames and thousands of prints available. The frames, numbering more than 500, come in a variety of colors, sizes, materials and styles, purchasable at prices ranging from 30 cents to \$20 per foot.

As for the prints, the possibilities are virtually limitless, representing every conceivable style — from contemporary to classical, abstract to representational — and featuring every subject imaginable, be it animate or inanimate, fanciful or realistic.

"Everybody always wants champagne and wants to pay for Gator Aide," Woodyard says good-naturedly, adding that it's his and the distributor's jobs to guide the customer to a more affordable yet acceptable alternative.

It's this ability to participate early in the process, influence the outcome to a degree, and watch the deal unfold from start to finish that he finds especially enjoyable and rewarding, Woodyard says.

"I work with the distributor to develop a product that's acceptable to the customer and that the distributor can then go out and pitch and sell," Woodyard says. "And finally we get the order and I get to see the project evolve through the process and get my joy seeing it shipped out the door."

P.S. Art, he notes, will

not start production on a job until a specific order is in hand.

Woodyard cites Kaleidoscope Limited, now in Gadsden County, as his nearest competitor. Even so, the two address slightly different segments of the market, he says.

"We do the same thing but we don't often run into each other as far as competition," he says, acknowledging that P.S. Art was actually a spin-off of Kaleidoscope in the 1980s, when the latter was located in Jefferson County.

Outside of Kaleidoscope, his nearest other competitors are in Orlando and Atlanta, he says.

Are there advantages to operating in a small rural community?

Labor and overhead costs are definitely lower, which give him a competitive edge in the marketplace, Woodyard says. He's proud to say he doesn't have a turnover problem, and further considers himself fortunate to have loyal, dedicated employees, many of whom are attaining seniority in the company. Which also says something about Woodyard's hands-on and easy-going management style, and the work atmosphere and benefits package that he provides for his employees.

Tour the expansive shop area with its large production and shipping departments and you find a clean, friendly, orderly and well-organized work environment, with supplies neatly stacked in their designated areas, state-of-the-art equipment in use, and workers going about their jobs quietly and efficiently in air-conditioned comfort.

"We're basically an assembly plant," Woodyard says, pointing out several of the stations, where workers are engaged in various aspects of the production process. "The frames, prints, substrates and glass come in and we provide the labor to assemble all the components into the desired finished product. That entails matting the art, putting the frames around it, boxing it, preparing it for shipment, and then shipping it out the door directly to the end user." Computerization and

other technological advances, of course, have made many of the production methods much easier, efficient and sophisticated, Woodyard acknowledges. Concurrently, these advances have raised the level of the job skills required, and they have greatly enhanced the quality and the output of the finished products.

"We're not a cookie cutter place anymore," Woodyard says. "When I first started, everything we did was the same size, the same frame; we just changed the pieces of art and that was it; but not anymore."

Granting that the artwork utilized is still mass-produced, Woodyard notes that the quality of the prints and materials used have vastly improved, so that the framed prints now look more like original artwork. One of the latest developments, he says, is the use of digitally enhanced canvases, which are then wrapped around frames to approximate gallery pieces. Likewise for the mirrors, which now come in all sizes, shapes, designs and formats, he says.

Formerly the manager of a manufacturing division in the Wrangler Blue Jean Corporation, Woodyard came to Tallahassee in the 80s, when the company moved its manufacturing overseas. He subsequently worked in manufacturing jobs in Cairo, GA, and Midway, FL, before purchasing P.S. Art in 1990.

Did he foresee the company growing to this degree when he purchased it?

"It's grown much more than I would have ever anticipated," Woodyard says.

To what does he attribute this growth?

"I think for a long time, the economy in general helped with the overall growth," Woodyard says. "I think we also did a good job of being a low-cost provider with multiple options for people. Our basic philosophy has been and remains, 'if you want it, we'll do it'. So I think working with these distributors, they know they can come to me and if it's something special, we'll work on it. That's how we stay in business; if somebody wants it, we'll do it. And hopefully it works."

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SPORTS

Three Deep Awards In Kiwanis Melon Run

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

At the conclusion of the Kiwanis 5-K Melon Run held June 16 during the Watermelon Festival, awards were given to the three deep male and female in each of the age groups.

Those age groups were: under 10, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, and 65 and older.

The top three finishers in the under 10 male category were Collin Lang (Tallahassee), 192nd overall with a time of 29:29; Alijah Batchelor (Thomasville, GA), 233rd overall, with a time of 31:45; and Camden Riddle (Windermere, FL), 368th overall, with a time of 51:21.

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The top three finishers in the 10 and under female category were Lilly Unger (Tallahassee), 165th overall, with a time of 28:06; Olivia Walton (Monticello), 230th overall, with a time of 31:29; and Lindsey Davis (Monticello), 287th overall, with a time of 35:25.

The top three finishers in the 10-14 male category were Franz Roeder (Tallahassee), 68th overall, with a time of 23:19; Nathan Hildreth (Monticello), 100th overall, with a time of 24:58; and Ryan Jackson (Monticello), 101st overall, with a time of 25:01.

The top three finishers in the 10-14 female category were Emily Molen (Tallahassee), 89th overall, with a time of 24:16; Emma Travis (Tallahassee), 126th overall, with a time of 26:23; and Caroline Campbell (Tallahassee), 142nd overall, with a time of 27:08.

The top three finishers in the 15-19 male category were Stanley Linton (Crawfordville, FL), 3rd overall, with a time of 17:04; Jonathan Thomas (Perry, FL), 38th overall, with a time of 21:18; and Aaron Smith (Crawfordville, FL), 44th overall, with a time of 21:39.

The top three finishers in the 15-19 female category were Margaret Wideman (Crawfordville, FL), 86th overall, with a time of 24:04; Raychel Gray (Crawfordville, FL), 88th overall, with a time of 24:09; and Madison McNeese (Tallahassee), 169th

overall, with a time of 28:11.

The top three finishers in the 20-24 male category were Tony Fusco (Tallahassee), 109th overall, with a time of 25:29; Chris Merritt (Monticello), 110th overall with a time of 25:29; and Max Corbin (Tallahassee), 137th overall, with a time of 26:59.

The top three finishers in the 20-24 female category were Lilly Caldwell (Tallahassee), 78th overall, with a time of 23:54; Allie Caldwell (Tallahassee), 81st overall, with a time of 24:00; and Sarah Cooper (Meigs, GA), 108th overall, with a time of 25:47.

The top three finishers in the 25-29 male category were Stephen Cox (Tallahassee), 1st overall, with a time of 16:28; Peter Kaus (Tallahassee), 6th overall, with a time of 19:12; and Cole Tessier (Tallahassee), 15th overall, with a time of 19:12.

The top three finishers in the 25-29 female category were Ashley Dailey (Tallahassee), 46th overall, with a time of 21:50; Tiffany Roddenberry (Tallahassee), 48th overall, with a time of 21:57; and Kelsey Kilinski (St. Marks, FL), 92nd overall, with a time of 24:24.

The top three finishers in the 30-34 male category were Nate Keiser (Tallahassee), 2nd overall, with a time of 16:56; Vince Molosky (Tallahassee), 4th overall, with a time of 17:10; and Paul Guyas (Tallahassee), 31st overall, with a time of

20:23.

The top three finishers in the 30-34 female category were Micah Adriani (Tallahassee), 24th overall, with a time of 19:42; Katie Showman (Tallahassee), 27th overall, with a time of 19:53; and Kelly Stevens (Tallahassee), 29th overall, with a time of 20:09.

The top three finishers in the 35-39 male category were Brian Molen (Tallahassee), 10th overall, with a time of 18:41; Michael Kinnett (Tallahassee), 14th overall, with a time of 19:03; and Jeremy Ussery (West Point, NY), 58th overall, with a time of 22:35.

The top three finishers in the 35-39 female category were Seeley Gutierrez (Tallahassee), 13th overall, with a time of 18:59; Kristine Cox (Tallahassee), 39th overall, with a time of 21:21; and Andrea Duffy (Monticello), 64th overall, with a time of 22:59.

The top three finishers in the 40-44 male category were Sean Hudson (Tallahassee), 8th overall, with a time of 18:15; Tad David (Tallahassee), 11th overall, with a time of 18:47; and Greg James (Sopchoppy, FL), 19th overall, with a time of 19:29.

The top three finishers in the 40-44 female category were Shannon McNeese (Tallahassee), 76th overall, with a time of 23:47; Sondra Lee (Tallahassee), 123rd overall, with a time of 26:13; and Lisa Unger (Tallahassee), 128th overall, with a time of

26:13.

The top three finishers in the 45-49 male category were Jay Wallace (Tallahassee), 7th overall, with a time of 17:41; Michael Martinez (Tallahassee), 9th overall, with a time of 18:18; and Mike Peymann (Tallahassee), 12th overall, with a time of 18:59.

The top three finishers in the 45-49 female category were Susan Seibert (Alpharetta, GA), 47th overall, with a time of 21:53; Sandra Canada (Woodville, FL), 74th overall, with a time of 23:43; and Birgit Maier-Katkin (Tallahassee), 96th overall, with a time of 24:37.

The top three finishers in the 50-54 male category were Gary Droze (Tallahassee), 5th overall, with a time of 17:18; Tim Unger (Tallahassee), 16th overall, with a time of 19:14; and David Landis (Tallahassee), 49th overall, with a time of 22:00.

The top three finishers in the 50-54 female category were Nancy Stedman (Tallahassee), 57th overall, with a time of 22:30; Fran McLean (Tallahassee), 77th overall, with a time of 23:51; and Susan Stephens (Tallahassee), 164th overall, with a time of 28:05.

The top three finishers in the 55-59 male category were Michael Savage (Tallahassee), 28th overall, with a time of 20:03; David Yon (Tallahassee), 45th overall, with a time of 21:00; and Jerry McDaniel (Monticello), 36th overall, with a time of 21:07.

The top three finishers in the 55-59 female category were Jacque Myers (Tallahassee), 107th overall, with a time of 25:26; Jo Ann Steele (Tallahassee), 152nd overall, with a time of 27:34; and Sandy Starke (Tallahassee), 153rd overall, with a time of 27:36.

The top three finishers in the 60-64 male category were Karl Hempel (Tallahassee), 30th overall, with a time of 20:17; Craig Willie (Tallahassee), 33rd overall, with a time of 20:50; and Tom Ratliff (Tallahassee), 37th overall with a time of 21:11.

The top three finishers in the 60-64 female category were Mary Stutman (Tallahassee), 198th overall, with a time of 29:41; Susan Cornwell (Tallahassee), 212th overall with a time of 30:39 and Stephanie Hurt (Greenville), 296th overall, with a time of 36:06.

The top three finishers in the 64 and older male category were Guy Anglin, 69, (Tallahassee), 91st overall, with a time of 24:23; Gene Opheim, 65, (Tallahassee), 102nd overall, with a time of 25:07; and Mel Wilber, 71, (Monticello), 149th overall, with a time of 27:29.

The top three finishers in the 65 and older female category were Perha Varley, 67, (Tallahassee), 180th overall, with a time of 28:37; Mae Cleveland, 72, (Tallahassee), 185th overall, with a time of 29:00; and Dot Skofronick, 75, (Tallahassee), 240th overall with a time of 32:11.

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