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Two Archeology Experts Talk Of Discoveries Here (County's Archeological Richness Confirmed)

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

Anyone who doesn't yet know that Florida is rich in archeological sites and that Jefferson County in particular is so, apparently hasn't been paying attention to events in recent years.

In case anyone missed the point, however, two eminent experts in the fields of anthropology and archeology revisited the topic at the annual general meeting of the Jefferson County Historical Association (JCHS) on Monday evening, Jan. 27.

As it was, about 50 people attended the event, which was held at the Downtown Club at High and Cherry streets and featured as guest speakers Dr. Glen Doran, chair of the FSU Anthropology Department, and Dr. Jim Dunbar, an archaeologist who has been involved in numerous excavations and whose specialty is the Paleoindian (pre-Clovis)



era, with primary emphasis on Florida.

The bottom line of the two professionals' presentation was that not only is Florida rich in archeological sites, but Jefferson County is home to one of the oldest sites in North America — namely the Page-Ladson site near the juncture of the Aucilla and Wacissa rivers. Discoveries made at Page-Ladson in the last two decades or so not only pre-date those from the Clovis site in New Mexico, but they have raised questions about the long-standing theory of how and when men first came to the Americas.

Dr. Doran, whose research

primarily focuses on archaeology and human skeletal biology in the southeastern United States, is possibly best known for his work at the Windover Cemetery in Brevard County, FL.

Dr. Doran told the audience that interesting as archaeological discoveries have been in recent years, these finds have barely "scratched the surface" of what's out there.

"The future of the past is pretty bright in Florida in general," Dr. Doran said.

He said Florida was particularly rich in wet sites, or those sites located near water bodies. Wet sites, Dr. Doran said, were vastly superior to dry sites insofar as the preservation of organic matter. Typically, he said, archeological sites yielded stone artifacts, which actually represented a small part of a culture. Unfortunately, he said, the or-

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Code Enforcement Back In Spotlight, Maybe

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

A little more than two years after Jefferson County officials adopted a code enforcement ordinance that had been more than three years in the making, it appears that the issue is returning to commissioners' attention.

The cause — as voiced by County Coordinator Parrish Barwick and Solid Waste Department Director Beth Letchworth — the designated code enforcement officer as it turns out — is the ordinance's alleged "lack of teeth".

"She's done what

she can with an ordinance that's without teeth to bite," Barwick told the commission on Tuesday evening, Jan. 21.

"We've got some complaints recently," Barwick added as an explanation for bringing up the issue. "It's trying to rear up its head again, I guess."

Barwick noted that the City of Monticello has a nuisance abatement ordinance that's relatively effective and enforceable. The notable difference, he said, was that residential units were in close proximity to each other in the city and subject to closer oversight and

Please See **ENFORCEMENT Page 3**

County Officials May Revisit Posted Speeds

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

County officials may consider revisiting the posted speeds on some local roads, depending on the outcome of an informal evaluation by staff.

Paul Henry, a retired Florida Highway Patrol trooper and regular attendee at Jefferson County Commission meetings, raised the issue.

Henry expressed appreciation for the paving of New Monticello Road, which he said he often travels on his motorcycle. But he questioned the road's 30 mph speed limit, given the scarcity of houses in the area. He believed that a 40 or 45 mph speed limit would be a

more realistic, he said.

Likewise for Lake Road, which he often rode to and from Leon County, Henry said. This road too was posted at 30 mph in Jefferson County, which was relatively wide open. Yet where it continued in Leon County, which was more populated, the speed limit was 45 mph, he said.

Henry asked that the commission have staff do research and

Please See **SPEEDS Page 3**



Jefferson County At Head Of Regional Organization



Photo is courtesy of Original Florida Tourism Task Force.

Jefferson County is well represented in the leadership tier of the multi-county Original Florida Tourism Task Force in the persons of Nancy Wideman, chair, and Dick Bailar, vice chair. Pictured from left to right are Bailar, Executive Director Steve Dopp, and Wideman.

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

Small in size Jefferson County may be, but even so, it makes its presence known on the Original Florida Tourism Task Force (OFTTF), a regional organization made up of 10 north Florida counties.

Not only is Nancy Wideman, coordinator of the Jefferson County Tourist Development Council, the group's chairperson, but Dick Bailar, Jefferson County's citizen representative on the OFTTF, is now its vice chair.

Bailar's election to the vice chairmanship occurred at the OFTTF's recent meeting in Gainesville, FL, along with the introduction of the organization's new executive director, Steve Dopp, of the North Central Regional Planning Council.

The stated mission of the OFTTF is to market rural north Florida's resources and attractions cooperatively. By pooling their limited marketing dollars, sharing websites development, and jointly advertising in state and national publications, OFTTF member counties are able to get national

and international exposure that they would otherwise be unable to afford individually.

OFTTF member counties also are afforded the opportunity to produce videos for international distribution and be represented at major marketing expositions such as the Tampa International Boat Show, among other outreach venues.

Bailar makes the point that for a mere \$300 annually, Jefferson County gets the benefit of being promoted in 22 European countries by Brand USA, the country's official tourism agency. Moreover, the task force's website promoting its members' various attractions gets more than 18,000 hits and is in the process of being updated and expanded.

"Because of shared dollars, Jefferson County is represented in more than 100,000 rack cards placed in all the states' welcome centers," Bailar says. "And as an Original Florida member, Jefferson County will be represented in Visit Florida's magazine, which has a distribution of 4 million copies."

Wideman, for her part, has asked the Original Florida marketing committee to develop rural

county-specific programs that may qualify for some of the increased funding that Gov. Rick Scott is requesting for Visit Florida, the state's tourism marketing agency.

Wideman was referring in specific to Gov. Scott's request for \$100 million for Visit Florida, which represents a \$32 million increase for the agency. Wideman has more-over appointed a legislative committee to lobby for the funding.

Formed in 1993 and headquartered in Gainesville, the nonprofit OFTTF promotes the natural, historic and cultural attractions of its member counties in the north central part of the state, an area that stretches from Tallahassee on the west, to Gainesville on the south, to White Springs on the east, to Cedar Key on the coast.

The organization's stated goal "is to enhance the area's economy, image and quality of life through expanded revenues and employment opportunities."

The area is credited with the world's largest concentration of freshwater springs, a large inventory of pre-Civil War buildings, and world-class cultural and cuisine assets.

Relay for Life Kick Off Monday

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Jefferson County Relay for Life Kickoff Dinner will be held at the Monticello Opera House on Monday evening, February 10, beginning at 6 p.m.

Live music, a silent auction, door prizes, and more excitement can be expected during this six-hour event. Sheriff David Hobbs and the Jefferson County Sheriff Department Team will provide dinner. Dinner will include a barbecue pork sandwich with baked beans on the side. To-go

orders will be made available, but plan to dine-in and enjoy the scheduled program with others.

You won't want to miss this informative evening of learning the latest about Relay 2014 fundraising ideas, team registration, and more.

The silent auction helps to pay for the venue. If you or anyone you know would like to donate something for the silent auction, contact Relay Chairperson Dana Lastinger at 850-508-2174 or email to aucilla90210.

This year's Relay is a 'Mini-Relay' meaning that the event will only run from 6 p.m. until 12 a.m.



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Local Weather

Wed 80/65
2/5
Mostly cloudy skies early will become partly cloudy later in the day. Warm.

Thu 75/48
2/6
Showers. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 40s.

Fri 65/52
2/7
Occasional showers possible. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 50s.

Letters To The Editor

Letters to the Editor are typed word for word, comma for comma, as sent to this newspaper.

All submitted Letters must be 600 words or less.

Southerland Hypocritical On Health Care, Budget

As the polls show, and as many of you are aware, there is a growing disdain for our politicians in Washington. The 2013 Congress was dubbed the "Do Nothing" Congress. Their partisanship and obstructionism is stifling our country and the well-being of our citizens. Our congressman is no exception.

Congressman Steve Southerland voted with his extreme "Tea Party" colleagues to shut down the government last October, which cost the American taxpayers \$24 billion. That money would have gone a long way toward feeding the poor. Then he voted with the same colleagues to keep the government shut down and not pay the bills he and the rest of Congress appropriated to begin with, all because he op-

posed Obamacare. He has not put forth an alternative to Obamacare, and when he signed up for it he took advantage of a federal subsidy provided by the taxpayers in order to lower his premiums, even though he says his \$174,000 congressional salary is "not so much."

Southerland voted for the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 because the Republican leadership convinced most House Republicans to do so, to avoid another embarrassing shutdown. He is now against what he voted for, and is twisting it around to get votes from Tyndall Air Force Base. Within days after his vote he said, "With two years remaining before these COLA changes are due to take effect, I am hopeful the House will address the concerns of our retirees between now and then." We did not send Southerland to Washington to be "hopeful" of what the House will do between "now and then," we sent him there to be a leader and do what is right for us now. If he is so concerned about the COLA cuts, he should never have voted for the budget to begin with.

In a *News Herald* article, Southerland stated, "I voted against sequestration in 2011 because I knew it was wrong for North and Northwest Florida's military." Actually, he voted against a compromise bill that would lead to sequestration if Congress could not pass a budget. Sequestration was supposed to be so terrible it would force both parties to come together and pass a budget in the future. The compromise, as bad as it was, tempo-

rally funded the government and prevented a government shutdown. If all congressmen had voted against the compromise bill, like Southerland did, it would have led to another shutdown.

Southerland attached an amendment to the Farm Bill cutting food stamps by \$39 billion, which caused the much-needed bill our farmers depend on to fail for the first time ever. Ironically, Southerland stated in his Christmas address, "Dear Friend, as we gather with our loved ones and reflect upon our personal blessings this Christmas holiday season, let us be mindful of those who are less fortunate." Yet he is determined to make harsh slashes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Is taking food away from 47 million poor people being mindful of those who are less fortunate?

Southerland has fought against widely successful commercial fishing programs since taking office in 2010, but a member of his staff told a commercial fisherman last December at a fishing meeting in Tampa that Southerland changed his mind and is now willing to work with commercial fishermen. Is this because he is running against a formidable opponent for his house seat this November? It may be too late for him to garner support from commercial fishermen since, through a grassroots effort, commercial fishermen from Key West to Brownsville Texas, who are not even in Southerland's district, have donated much more to his opponent, Mrs. Gwen Graham, than he has received from his dark-money billionaire contributors.

As one of those fishermen, I am not fooled by Southerland's deceptiveness, and I hope this letter sheds some light on his hypocrisy. Instead of a congressman who does photo ops and makes statements for personal political ambitions, we need a leader in Congress who will truly reach across the aisle and work with both parties and independents, not just for the benefit of our district, but for the sake of our country. That person is Mrs. Gwen Graham.

Jim Clements

Searching For Ambrosia

Rose Klein
Guest Columnist



Taking Ownership Of Recipes

I love how recipes come back around. It's the same way clothes can be retro and songs get a brand new beat, and it gives the upcoming generation a "new" discovery. It's how our history is passed down and our culture stays alive. Maybe not all changes are for the better, but some change is good and especially those that happen because of our growth in knowledge.

Using the example of food, our palate has grown because our world of food has expanded. As cultures collide (in a good way) we learn how other people eat and the food we cook and eat will reflect that.

When I look back at old recipes, some can now make me smile. What I grew up eating as "Italian" or "Mexican" barely reflects what I now know it to be. I recently came across a recipe from the 1970's for a "Middle Eastern Chicken" dish. The recipe was a traditional American casserole dish with the addition of the "exotic spice, curry." While it is funny to me now, I take heart in the fact that somebody had the nerve to try curry before most even knew what it was.

These thoughts came to me as I was eating my Mom's "new" broccoli salad last night. It's a salad that I absolutely love, but is not totally new to me. One of the very first food jobs I had was in a deli and we made a version of the same salad. Several years later, I tried another version and now my third, my Mom's, which was passed to her by her apartment manager. She has already tweaked the recipe to her (and my) liking and has made it for several functions and is now known as "her" broccoli salad.

I think of recipes I've received from people I know or from cookbooks and have liked them so well that I made them for potlucks or other occasions and when asked to bring them a second time, they are referred to as "your" salad or "your" bread.

If you cook, passing down recipes and "making them your own" is fun because not only do you get to try a new food, but you can also be creative and make it your own. If you like to take ownership of recipes, here's my Mom's broccoli salad recipe. If you don't like an ingredient, leave it out or switch it for something you do like. Even if you don't change a thing, take it to work or your next food function and it might become your "new" dish.

Broccoli Salad

- 1 bunch broccoli, cut into small florettes
- 1 to 1 1/2 cups shredded carrots
- 1/4 cup chopped onion; red, white or yellow
- 3/4 to 1 cup raisins
- 3/4 to 1 cup cooked and chopped bacon optional: chopped nuts

Combine all ingredients in a medium bowl.

- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 6 Tbls. sugar
- 3 Tbls. apple cider vinegar

Mix dressing in a small bowl and stir into broccoli mixture. Spoon salad into a sealed container and place in refrigerator to chill for about one hour.



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LAZARO ALEMAN
Senior Staff Writer

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Financial Focus...

How Will Your Investments Affect Your Child's Financial Aid Prospects?

Even though it's only February, college financial aid officers are already gathering documents, crunching numbers and otherwise working to determine grants for the school year that starts this coming fall. If you have children you plan on sending to college, how will your own savings and investments affect their chances of getting financial aid?

The answer depends not only on how much money you have, but also where you keep it. Most colleges base their aid calculations on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which currently counts up to 5.64 percent of certain parent-owned assets in determining federal or state aid. By contrast, FAFSA counts up to 20 percent of a child's assets, such as an UGMA or UTMA account.

So, what parent-owned assets are counted when determining a student's need for financial aid? They include savings and checking accounts, non-retirement investment accounts and other types of assets. You do not have to report retirement accounts — such as traditional or Roth IRAs, 401(k)s and pensions — on the FAFSA. However, if you start taking withdrawals from these accounts, the withdrawals must be reported on the FAFSA as student income for the year in which the transactions occurred — which means these withdrawals could affect your child's financial aid package the following year.

A 529 plan, is one popular college-savings vehicle. If you own a 529 plan, you will need to report it on FAFSA as a parent-owned asset. But when you take withdrawals from the 529 plan, they won't be counted as parent or student income on FAFSA, and they won't incur federal income taxes, provided the money is used for qualified higher education expenses. (If you don't use the money for these expenses, you'll be taxed and potentially penalized by 10% on the earnings.) Because a 529 plan is counted as a parental asset on FAFSA, some people ask grandparents to own a 529 plan. But while the value of an intact grandparent-controlled 529 plan will be excluded from FAFSA, the withdrawals themselves will be counted as untaxed income to the student on the following year's FAFSA, and this money could certainly affect aid decisions.

At least a year before your first child heads off to college, you may want to contact the financial aid office at a local school to ask questions about FAFSA, scholarships, loans and other aspects of assistance. Since most colleges and universities follow similar rules regarding financial aid, you should be able to get some helpful answers, no matter where your child goes to school.

Of course, even with careful planning, your student may not qualify for financial aid. If this is the case, you will need to consider other strategies for paying for college. But keep this in mind: It's best to develop a savings strategy for both college savings and one's own retirement goals. So, study the financial aid rules, consider investing in college-funding vehicles such as 529 plans and do whatever else you can to help get your kids through school, but don't forget about your own needs — because they are important, too.

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

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Making Sense of Investing
MEMBER SIPC





FROM PAGE ONE

Archeology

ganic materials tended to disintegrate and vanish over time. Not so, however, at wet sites, where the anaerobic environment tended to preserve organic matter.

Found all over the world, wet sites were valuable sources of information about ancient cultures, Dr. Doran said. He shared images of remnants of ancient fish traps, which basically consisted of rows of stakes driven into the ground in shallow water by indigenous primitive people to funnel and capture fish in large quantities.

"We know of six fish traps in Florida," Dr. Doran said. "These sites are rich in archeological artifacts."

Among the photographs of found objects at wet sites that Dr. Doran shared with the audience were human skeletal remains, fishhooks, fish-butcherer tools, art-decorated planks, decorative masks and pieces of a fabric woven from palm or saw palmetto, as well as dugouts, of which Florida has the largest collection in the world.

Typically, such organic matter vanishes, Dr. Doran said. But in wet sites, large amounts of these materials survive.

"Wet sites give you a picture that you can't get from dry sites," Dr. Doran said. "And the Aucilla River and adjacent areas have multiple wet sites."

At which point he turned over the presentation to Dunbar, whose research includes excavations at the Page-Ladson site, among many

others.

Dunbar's talk focused on the uniqueness and richness of the Gulf of Mexico region in terms of prehistoric inhabitants and the archeological records that these people have left behind, particularly in Jefferson County and the Aucilla River and its mouth and beyond.

He said one of the biggest and oldest sites was offshore in some 30 feet of water near the mouth of the Aucilla River.

"The eastern Gulf of Mexico has a great potential," Dr. Dunbar said, speaking of archaeological sites.

Specific to Jefferson County and the Page-Ladson site, Dr. Dunbar talked of the many inundated sites here and the discoveries made at some of these, including a bison's head with an embedded hand-made projectile, gourd and hazelnut seeds from the digestive tract of a mastodon, and a mastodon tusk with human-made cuts on it — several of the items dating as far back as 14,000+ years.

He talked also of the neo-tropical epoch in Florida, tied to the warm thermal enclave in the southeastern United States during the late Pleistocene Period. This was an epoch that saw the presence of llamas, giant armadillos, tapirs, jaguars, peccaries and sloths in Florida, among other species now found only in the southern hemisphere.

"Florida had more abundant species than any other place in America," Dr. Dunbar said, under-

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scoring the point that the state contains a trove of archeological wealth.

He concluded by mentioning the third Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference held in October in Santa Fe, NM, in October. Dr. Dunbar said one of the conference's highlights was the presentation of Jessi Haligan on her recent work at the Page-Ladson. Haligan is with the Center for the Study of the First Americans at the Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Dunbar said Haligan's findings confirmed that Page-Ladson was one of the oldest sites in North America, something that Dr. David Webb and he (Dunbar) first established in their excavations of the site between 1983 and 1997.

Dr. Doran concurred that the discoveries at the Page-Ladson and other sites in the Southeastern United States and South America were placing man's presence in the Americas much earlier than previously suggested by the Clovis site in New Mexico, as well as raising questions about how man came into the Americas.

Eroded as the theory of man's first crossing into the Americas by way of the Bering Strait now was, however, he still put some stock in that theory, Dr. Doran said. He conceded, however, that more than likely, man had come by boat rather than on foot. And possibly, some of those boats had taken early man as far south as Florida and South America, he said.

Enforcement

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inspection.

He acknowledged that it would be difficult if not impossible to impose like restrictions in rural areas, given property rights issues, the generally large size of most homesteads and peoples' independent spirit.

Letchworth offered that when it came to designing the enforcement aspects of the county's ordinance, the commission could choose and pick whatever areas it wanted specifically targeted for enforcement.

"It can be as strict as you want it or as lenient as you want it," Letchworth said of the enforcement.

Commissioner Hines Boyd wanted to know what specific complaints had triggered the request for reconsideration of the ordinance, acknowledging that enforcement thus far has largely depended on Letchworth's "silver tongue", i.e., her ability to persuade compliance, an effective method in his consideration.

Barwick and Letchworth cited as examples of the complaints received that of a landowner who was saying that the existence of dilapidated-looking mobile homes was depreciating nearby property values and hurting home sales. Or more specifically, it was discouraging buyers from purchasing the complainant's particular property, which apparently was on the market.

In response to Boyd's questioning, Letchworth clarified that the mobile homes did not pose an attractive nuisance, or a potential danger to children who might be tempted to explore their interiors and get hurt. Rather, the mobile homes represented eyesores, she said.

Which raised the issue of aesthetics and caught the attention of Commissioner Benny Bishop, a strong property rights proponent.

"You have to be careful when you get into an at-

tractiveness thing," Bishop said. "Because what one person considers unattractive may be fine to another."

Bishop recalled an instance in the past where one neighbor had complained about the machinery another was using to earn a living. One had to tread lightly when it came a person's right to use his or her property to earn a livelihood, Bishop said.

Boyd likewise expressed trepidations about too broad or strict an enforcement of the rules, particularly in rural areas.

Paul Henry, the one citizen to speak on the issue, shared Boyd and Bishop's sentiment.

"If you pay property taxes, you should do what you want on your land," Henry said, relating some of his negative experiences he had with code enforcement in other parts of the state. "Use a lot of consideration when you get into aesthetics."

Picking up on commissioners' lukewarm reception of the issue, Barwick offered to email commissioners a copy of the proposal that Letchworth had worked up. That way, he said, commissioners could review and comment individually on the document, before bringing it up for public discussion.

The Jefferson County Commission adopted the current ordinance in September 2011, after more than three years of consideration. The 17-page document allows for the creation of an office of code enforcement, a code enforcement officer, and formation of a code enforcement board — steps that have yet to be implemented in full.

The ordinance defines the code enforcement officer as "any authorized agent or employee of the county whose duty is to ensure compliance with the codes and ordinances of the county." It further states that the officer may be one individual or "more than one persons with par-

ticular areas of jurisdictional responsibility, as determined by the Board of County Commissioners."

The ordinance provides for the creation of a seven-member code-enforcement board appointed by the commission and made up of volunteers. Ideally, this board's composition should include an architect, a businessperson, an engineer, a general contractor, a subcontractor, a realtor and a layperson.

The ordinance establishes procedures and processes for the initiation of code enforcement proceedings against a property owner whom the enforcement officer has determined is violating the ordinance or any of its many referenced codes.

The enforcement process entails the issuance of a notice of violation that sets a specified time period for correction of the violation and sets further steps if the violation goes uncorrected within a specified time-frame.

The ordinance allows for the speeding up of the process if the violation poses a threat to the public health, safety and welfare or if it's a repeat violation.

Once the code enforcement board has deliberated and reached a decision, it may require an abatement of the violation within a given deadline and place liens on a property if the landowner fails to comply.

The code enforcement board may additionally impose daily fines of up to \$250 for a first violation and up to \$500 for repeat violations for every day the violations remains unabated.

In determining the amount of fines, the code enforcement board must take into consideration the gravity of the violation, the actions taken by the violator to remedy the problem, and whether imposition of fines will constitute an undue hardship on the violator, among other things.

Speeds

continued from page 1

establish a speed limit that was legally appropriate for these and other similar county roads, citing the 85 percentile as a good rule of thumb. The 85 percentile supposedly represents the average speed at which the majority of motorists travel a particular road.

County Coordinator Parrish Barwick did not claim any scientific methodology behind the establishment of the various speed limits around the county.

"We took the easy way

out on road speeds," Barwick said. "We took what was there in the past and designated 30 mph for residential areas and subdivisions. There was no scientific method or engineering to what we did. To do it right, we would have to get someone to give us the legally appropriate speed."

Barwick suggested that Henry, as a former trooper, might suggest such an appropriate speed. Henry, however, disavowed him of any such notion, pointing out that

speed setting had to be based on a study, not on opinion or preference.

He suggested the installation of traffic counters to register the number of vehicles per day that travel specific roads. Based on the number of vehicles and speeds, the Florida Department of Transportation could provide a formula that would determine the 85th percentile, he said.

Barwick promised to look into the matter and report back to the commission.



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Obituaries

RUBY STONE WHITSON

Ruby Stone Whitson, 89, passed away on Thursday, January 30, 2014, at her home in Monticello, Florida.

Mrs. Whitson was born to the late Jesse Burton and Nora Lee Stone in Manatee, Florida, on October 11, 1924.

Mrs. Whitson spent time in Merritt Island, Florida, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Lake Park, Georgia, before moving to Monticello in 1981. She was of Methodist faith, and was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Monticello.

Miss Ruby was very active in her community and church. She was a charter member of Altrusa International, and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Monticello Opera House. She was the Representative from Jefferson County to the Board of the State Department of Elder Affairs. She was very active in the Jefferson Senior Center and was a Board member for many years.

Miss Ruby is survived by three sons,

Steve (Susan) Whitson of Monticello, FL, Mark (Janis) Whitson, Valdosta, GA, and Lee Whitson of Colorado Springs, CO. One daughter, Jody Whitson (Steven) Hardy of Franktown, CO. Four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband, Joseph V. Whitson.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, from 5 to 7:00 p.m. at Beggs Funeral Home Monticello Chapel. The Funeral service is set for Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 11:00 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Monticello.

The family will receive friends at the Family Ministry Center following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes donations be made to the Jefferson Senior Center, 1155 N. Jefferson St. Monticello, FL 32344, Jefferson County Humane Society, P.O. Box 954 Monticello, FL 32345, or the First United Methodist Church/Stained Glass Fund 325 W. Walnut St. Monticello.

JERRY BOUCK BRYANT

Jerry Bouck Bryant entered the earth's atmosphere on the 12th of October, 1934.

He enjoyed riding around sightseeing on the USS Champlain while in the US Navy during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

He served a life sentence as a farmer, cow tipping and as a carpenter tearing things apart only to have to rebuild them again. He is credited with the construction of the Spanish building of the North Palm Baptist Church in Palm Springs North, Florida and for letting the old bull, Lancer, chase him up a tree at the Lewis farm.

He was a resident of Monticello and leaped into Heaven due to the cold weather here, surrounded by his family who loved him deeply, on the 30th of January, 2014. It was primarily from being stubborn and not following the doctor's orders or maybe just living life hard for the past seven decades.

You will no longer see him around town wearing a red shirt, blue jeans and boots or drinking Mountain Dew, eating at the Seminole Wind and playing Mahjong Titans while listening to The Marriage of Figaro.

He was sadly deprived of dying on the beach in Costa Rica. True to his personal style, he spent his final days doing exactly what he wanted to do and bar-

gaining with God to watch over his family.

He would like to thank his family and friends for putting up with him for the past 79 years.

He is survived by his wife Vi, daughters Theresa and Julie, son Paul and daughter-in-law Jill, grandson Isaac and granddaughter Elli, son James and daughter-in-law Elesha, brother Dennis and sister-in-law Dolly and brother Seth and sister-in-law Margret and nieces and nephews.

He was met in Heaven by his parents Ralph and Marjory Bryant, his sister Jeanie Bryant-Boekemier and his niece Deloris Bryant-Drilen.

The family will receive friends on the 6th of February 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Beggs Funeral Home, 485 East Dogwood Street, Monticello.

Family and friends are invited to a celebration of his life on the 7th of February, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at Elizabeth Baptist Church in Aucilla.

Interment will follow with Military Honors at the Elizabeth Cemetery in Jefferson County, Florida.

Beggs Funeral Home in Monticello is handling funeral arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, please make a memorial contribution to Big Bend Hospice, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32308. Finally, the family asks that in honor of Jerry please write your Congressman and ask for the repeal of Day Light Saving Time. Jerry wanted everyone to get back on the Lord's Time.

Tuskegee Airman Exhibit Trip Planned

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

For all who would like to attend the opening of the new exhibit at Tuskegee, a charter bus trip is being planned for Saturday, February 15. There are 56 seats available on the bus, at just \$25 per person for the round trip.

The bus will leave from Tallahassee, departing at 7:30 a.m. and will take about four hours for the 201 mile trip; arriving Central time at 10:30 a.m. This is planned as a day-trip, arriving back in Tallahassee early evening.

The showcase diorama display honoring famed Tuskegee Airmen is more than an exhibit. It is a spotlight shining down on a significant period of American history, and this tribute highlights an extraordinary group of men who continue to provide inspiration for anyone who dares to dream. The exhibit features a number of World War II era trainers including a North American AT-6 Texan, a Vultee BT-13B Valiant, and a Fairchild PT-19 Cornell.

Contact Coordinator Scott Sutor at 850-342-1700 to reserve, or go to www.445.caachapter.org for more information. You must RSVP now for a count. What a great opportunity for parents and children.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com or 850-997-3568

February 5, 6, 10, 11

Adult Dance Fitness at MADCo Studio at 7:30 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays; 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 7 p.m. on Thursdays. These 45-minute classes utilize stretch and toning exercising. Contact Melanie Mays at 850-321-0036 for information.

February 6

AA meeting 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.

February 7

National Wear RED Day! Be Heart-Healthy at any age! Cardiovascular disease and stroke are the number one cause of death in

Florida. Heart Disease can happen at any age, which is why Go RED for Women wants you to consider your heart healthy at every age. North Florida Women's Care will be selling 'Red Dress' pins for \$1 at each checkout to raise funds for its Heart Walk team. Learn what you can do to prevent heart disease and stay heart healthy by knowing your numbers: your goal should be less than 200mg of total cholesterol intake daily and strive for a blood pressure of 120/80 mm Hg or less. Visit your doctor so you know your numbers.

February 7
Ashville Area Volunteer Fire Department meets at its facility on the first Friday of each month. For more information, contact Assistant Fire Chief Butch Staffieri at 850-210-2816.

February 7
Rotary will meet at 12 p.m. on Friday at the First Presbyterian Church, in the fellowship hall, for lunch, a meeting, program, and speaker. For questions or comments, contact Neill Wade at 850-545-4940.

February 7
Monticello Jamboree Band will perform music for dancing every Friday at 7 p.m. at 625 South Water Street. Everyone is welcome to come dance, listen to some of the finest music, enjoy doorprizes, soft drinks, snacks, and just enjoy some fun and camaraderie with neighbors and friends. This is a nonprofit charitable event; donations are accepted. For questions or concerns, contact Curtis Morgan at 850-933-8136 or Bobby Connell at 850-445-0049.

Thru February
Jefferson Arts will showcase 'Journey Stories' sponsored by MainStreet Monticello Florida thru Friday, February 28. The Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays for public viewing at 575 West Washington Street in downtown Monticello. For more information about the Arts, or about art classes for children and adults, call 850-997-3311 or go to info@jeffersonartsgallery.com or www.jeffersonartsgallery.com.

Calling All Chili Cookers

SIGN UP FOR THE
5th ANNUAL

MONTICELLO-JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CHILI CHALLENGE 2014



Registration
Deadline
February 12th

February 21, 2014
Monticello Opera House

Chili Entry - \$25

Set-up 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Judging 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

General Public 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

All you can eat Chili! Cash Bar

Chili Entry Name: _____
 Chef's Name/s: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone#: _____
 Cell#: _____
 Business or Sponsor Name: _____
 Special Information (Example: No meat chili, exotic meats, extra hot, etc) _____

Payment Options: _____ Charge _____ Cash _____ Check _____
 \$25.00 Entry Fee (Checks made payable to the Monticello Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce).
Please return form and fee to: Monticello Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
 420 West Washington Street, Monticello,
 FL 32344 Phone (850) 997-5552, Fax (850) 997-1020

Visa/Master Card/Discover/Annex
 Card Holder Name: _____ Expiration Date: _____
 Card Number: _____ Security Code: _____
 Signature: _____ Date: _____

The above information is correct to the best of my knowledge. I have read the Official Contestant Rules and Regulations and hereby agree to abide by such rules and regulations.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
 Signed: _____ Date: _____

CASH PRIZES!

Best Chili - \$300 • Judge's Choice - \$150
 Best Decorated Table - \$50
 People's Choice - 1/2 of your table's complimentary money pot

Organization Challenge

The organization with the highest score wins. Losing organization chooses what it will do for the winning organization.

START MAKING YOUR CHALLENGES!

Best Chili winner will represent the Chamber of Commerce in the Taylor County Chamber of Commerce Chili Cookoff, April 5, 2014!

Dining Out Guide

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Delicious Chinese Food

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Dinner Combo \$6.95

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 217 South Broad Street
www.thomasvilleplaza.com
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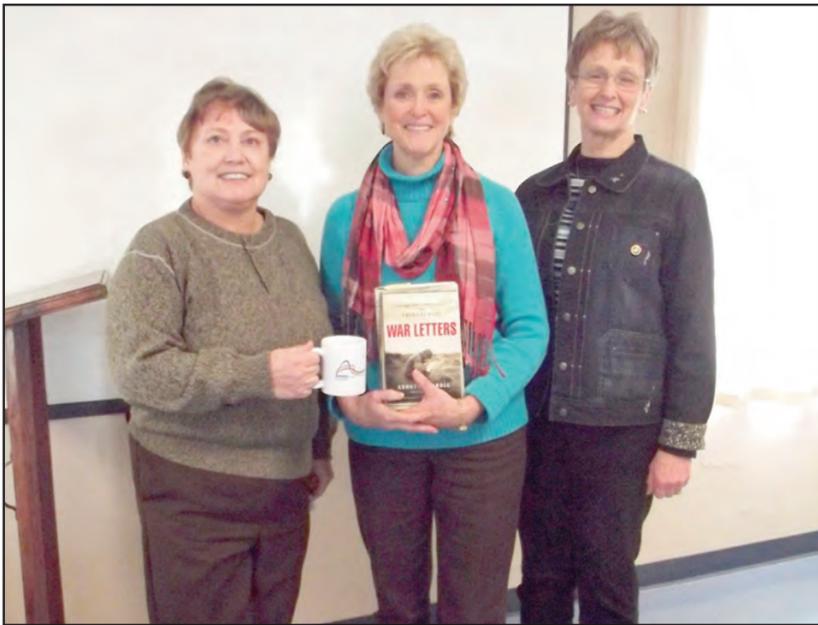
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www.Pauliespizza.net

AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY

Altrusa Hears From Civil War Women



8204, ECB Publishing Photo By Debbie Snapp, January 23, 2014.

Pat Cichon was speaker for the Thursday afternoon meeting of the Altrusa Monticello. Program Chairperson Joanne Brown introduced her to the group along with her presentation. From left to right are: Brown, Cichon, and Altrusa President Joyce Sealey. Cichon was given a gift for her time speaking to the membership.

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Altrusa Vice President Pat Cichon was program speaker for the Thursday afternoon January 23 meeting of Altrusa Monticello. She is president of the local Kate Dilworth Scott Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) and gave a presentation on letters written by women during the Civil War.

The National UDC organization was established in 1894 and membership is open to women who are lineal descendants of men and women who served honorably in the Army, Navy, or Civil Service of the Confederate States of America, or who gave Material Aid to the Cause.

Previously founded as the Ladies Memorial Association, the women were known as 'Monument Builders' in fact, the Confederate monument standing at the north of the Jefferson County Courthouse, was erected in 1899 by the association.

Cichon read excerpts from several interesting and entertaining letters that were written during the

war from citizens, spies, families, and soldiers. An amazing total of 620,000 lives were lost during the Civil War. Florida was the third state to succeed from the Union and Jefferson Davis became the President of the Confederate States, even before President Lincoln was ever inaugurated.

Pat Cichon will be representing Altrusa Monticello in the Chamber Chili Cook-Off on Friday, February 21.

After Altrusa member Betty Messer introduced her guests, Lee Condon and Marianne Miller, President Joyce Sealey introduced her guest, Diana Witherell, and welcomed all the guests to consider joining Altrusa.

Christina Newell was nominated by the membership for the District Conference Joy Robinson Scholarship.

Altrusa Monticello has scheduled its Sunday Fun Day at the Pond Auction Fundraiser for March 23. More information will be forthcoming as the date comes closer.

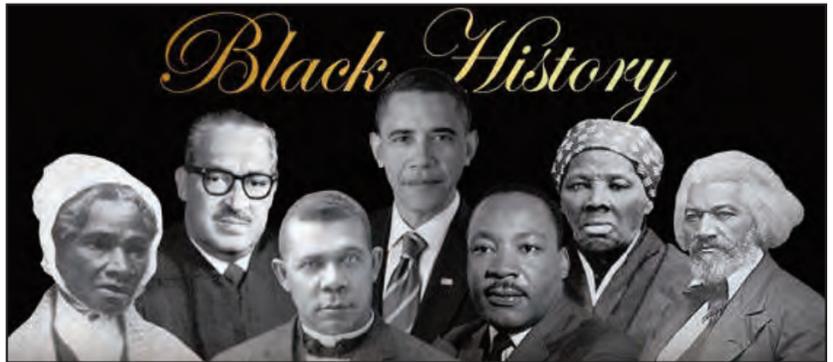
Altrusa is involved in service, leadership, and fellowship... leading to a better community.



Photo By Dianna Westbrook, January 23, 2014.

Also in attendance to the January 23 meeting of Altrusa Monticello were guests Lee Condon and Mary Ann Miller. They are guests of members Betty Messer, and President Joyce Sealey. From left to right are: Condon, Miller, Messer, and Sealey.

Black History Museum Comes To Library



DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Jack Hadley with the Jack Hadley Black History Museum in Thomasville, Georgia will give a presentation at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11 at the Jefferson County Bailor Public Library, in the community room.

Hadley's program for 'Black History Month' is usually well attended and leaves standing room only in the library. So, plan to come a bit early to assure seating.

The Hadley Museum currently operates on the former campus of Douglass High School. It houses thousands of African American artifacts,

photos, books, documents, and other interesting paraphernalia.

This event is made possible by a donation from the Friends of the Jefferson County Library.

For more information, contact Library Director Kitty Brooks at 850-342-0205 The Library is located at 375 South Water Street in Monticello.

Kiwanis Hear From Patriotic Partners



Patriotic Partners Representative Kris Dunn, on right, and Kiwanis Program Chairperson Paula Sparkman, on left, January 22, 2014.

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Guest speaker for the January 22 meeting of the Monticello Kiwanis was Kris Dunn, representing the Patriotic Partners.

Patriotic Partners is a non-profit

organization advocating for veteran-owned and veteran-friendly businesses. The organization helps to match consumers with a business partner, and helps veterans obtain jobs.

The program was very informative and helpful.

CRIME BEAT

ALL INFORMATION IS PRINTED AS TAKEN FROM THE JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. ALL SUSPECTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY IN A COURT OF LAW

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Tasha Lavette Johnson, 35, of Monticello, was arrested January 24 and charged with public assistance fraud. Bond was set at \$500 and she bonded out of jail the same day.

Malcolm Savage Read, 64, of Jefferson County, was arrested January 24 and charged with driving under the influence. Bond was set at \$500 and he bonded out of jail the following day.

Mark Foster Ford, 51, of Tallahassee, was sentenced in court January 24 to serve 180 days in the Jefferson County Jail on the charge of solicitation. He remained at the County Jail January 30.

Rickelle Williams, 23, of Valdosta, GA, was arrested January 25 and charged with bringing forged bank bills into the state, and counterfeiting a payment instrument. A total bond of \$10,000 was set and she remained at

the County Jail January 30.

David Amerson, 23, of Jefferson County, was arrested January 25 and charged with writ of attachment for failure to appear on the charge of disorderly intoxication, and resisting without violence. A total bond of \$610 was set and he remained at the County Jail January 30.

Kennedy Fitzgerald Jones, 27, of Monticello, was arrested January 26 and charged with violation of probation on the charge of two counts of possession of a controlled substance. Bond was set at \$500 and he bonded out of jail the same day.

Sally Mae Shelley, 33, of Jefferson County, was arrested January 26 and charged with violation of probation on the charge of driving under the influence, on a outstanding Sarasota County warrant for her arrest. She was turned over to Sarasota County authorities the next day to face charges there.

Derrick Lashawn Johnson, 38, of Monticello, was arrested January 27 and charged with possession of cannabis with intent to sell, and possession of paraphernalia. A total bond of \$2,500 was set and he bonded out of jail the same day.

Tenisha Nichole McCloud, 29, of Monticello, was arrested January 27 and charged with simple battery. Bond was set at \$500 and she bonded out of jail the same day.

Nyren S. Jones, 26, of Monticello, was sentenced in court January 27 to serve 60 days in the County Jail on the charge of trespass. He remained at the County Jail January 30.

Nelson Davila, 29, of Tallahassee, was arrested January 27 on an outstanding Leon County warrant for his arrest, charging him with impersonating an officer. Bond was set at \$2,500 and he was turned over to Leon County authorities the same day to face charges there.

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CHURCH

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www.cbeflorida.org
Dr. David E. Walker, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45 AM
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
Sunday Evening.....6:30 PM
Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM
Wed. TRAC Club for teens.....7:00 PM

CAPITAL HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

7150 Apalachee Pkwy • Tallahassee
www.chbaptistchurch.org
Pastor Derrick Burrus
850-345-0425

Sunday School.....10:00 AM
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM
Children's Chapel.....11:00 AM
Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM
Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Classes for Students

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

625 Tindell Road • Aucilla • 997-2081
P.O. Box 163 • Monticello
Pastor Daryl Adams
850-251-0129

Sunday School.....9:45 AM
Sunday Worship Service.....11:00 AM
Choir Practice.....5:00 PM
Worship Service.....6:00 PM
Wednesday
Fellowship Meal.....6:30 PM
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study.....7:00 PM

INDIAN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

5593 Veterans Memorial Drive (Hwy 59)
Tallahassee • 850-893-5296
www.indianspringsbaptistchurch.com
Rev. Greg Roberts

Sunday School.....9:45 AM
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM
Children's Worship.....11:00 AM
Wednesday
Fellowship Meal.....7:00 PM
Prayer Meeting.....7:45 PM

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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www.ChristChurchMonticello.com

Rev. James Bowen May, Priest

Communicating the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1840
Sunday 9:00 AM.....Adult and Children Sunday School
10:00 AMHoly Eucharist
Nursery provided for children under 5

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

325 West Washington Street
Monticello • 997-2349
Dr. Rick Kelley, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45 AM
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 PM
Children's Church - Ages 4-6.....11:30 AM
-Nursery for all services-

MEMORIAL M.B. CHURCH

780 Second Street • Monticello • 997-4947
Moderator J.B. Duval, Pastor

Worship Services 2nd and 4th Sundays
Sunday Church School (every Sunday).....9:30 AM
Sunday Worship (2nd & 4th Sundays).....11:00 AM
Youth Worship (2nd Sunday).....11:00 AM
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study.....7:00 PM

NEW HOPE CHURCH OF GOD

415 E Palmer Mill Rd • Monticello • 997-1119
newhope415@yahoo
Pastor Dr. E. Bob Kuschel

Sunday School.....10:00 AM
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM
Wed. Family Training Hour.....7:00 PM
Ignite student Ministries.....7:00 PM

OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

7369 Boston Hwy. Monticello
850-997-1596
Bro. David During

Sunday Bible Study.....10:00 AM
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM
Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible & Prayer Meeting.....6:30 PM

GREATER FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

690 Cypress Street Monticello 850-997-4375
"Standing Firm On The Word Of God"
Dr. Melvin Roberts, Pastor
Sunday Church School.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Praise & Worship.....11:15 A.M.
2nd Sunday Youth Praise & Worship
4th Sunday Individual Outreach Ministry & Fellowship
3rd Sunday Holy Communion
Wednesday Evenings
Prayer Meeting.....6:30 P.M.
Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.

Keepers Of The Dream At Greater Fellowship MBC

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Ministry Department of Greater Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church will host its annual Black History Program on Sunday, February 23 beginning at 3 p.m. with refreshments served after the program and service.

This year's program, 'The Keepers of the Dream', will honor the family of the late Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Webster. The service will celebrate the family's dream, their journey, their contributions, and their successes.

Guest speaker will be Rev. Anthony Web-



ster, with a musical performance by the Howard Academy Mass Class Choir.

A Tree of Remembrance will be on display and decorated with angels in memory of loved ones who were instrumental in aiding

in someone's dream. Also on display will be Black History related artifacts.

To purchase an angel ornament, or to loan/donate a related artifact, contact Sis. Dorothy Barnhart at 850-997-2842.

The community is encouraged and welcome to come celebrate with others in love and friendship for one another.

Missionary President Sis. Elouise Livingston. Rev. Dr. Melvin Roberts, pastor.

Former FSU Player To Share Testimony February 9th At Honey Lake Church

ROSE KLEIN
ECB Publishing, Inc.

T.K. Wetherell, former Florida State University (FSU) football player, Speaker of the House and President Emeritus of FSU, will be visiting Honey Lake Church on Sunday, Feb. 9 to share his personal testimony. Wetherell will share how he achieved the monumental accomplishments he made in his life and also his ten-year battle he waged with stage four cancer.

The former wide-receiver maintained his upbeat attitude through all his trials and tribulations and credits his unwavering faith in Jesus Christ as the foundational strength that enabled him to maintain such a positive mindset and that continues to allow him



to accomplish his goals.

Honey Lake Church and Worldwide Ministries believe all can benefit from this testimony and invites everyone to come and share in this testimony in faith. Honey Lake Church is located at 1290 NW Honey Lake Road in Greenville, with service starting at 11 a.m. To find out more about Honey Lake or their services, call (850) 948-9911 or visit their website at www.HoneyLakePlantation.com.

Meggs To Speak At Business Community Prayer Breakfast

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Spiritual Aims Committee of the Monticello Kiwanis will host the Business Community Prayer Breakfast this month at the Jefferson Country Club, at 748 Boston Highway.

Guest speaker for this Thursday morning, February 6 meeting will be State Attorney Willie Meggs.

The meal will begin at 6:45 a.m. and the meeting will conclude at 8 a.m.

Plan to attend, and



State Attorney Willie Meggs

bring a guest. Also, canned food items will be collected for the area community food pantries.

For more information about this meeting, contact Coordinator L. Gary Wright at 850-997-5705 or 850-933-5567.

Tallahassee Artist Angela Poole

Now On Reverbnation

"If it Had Not Been for the Lord" is an awesome praise song. She



is singing the inspired words of David and the word of God becomes alive in your soul. Let God come abide in your presence as his praises are released into the atmosphere. Check out music from Angela Moss Poole!

Leave a comment on her site and share the love. <http://www.reverbnation.com/angelamosspoole>

Contact her at angelapoolecpa@aol.com.

Women's Fellowship And Tea Party

February 15, 2014

Hickory Hill Missionary Baptist Church

493 Bassett Dairy Rd
Monticello, Fl 32344
(850) 997-6439

Fee: \$10.00 per person

We are asking all women to come and fellowship together as we enjoy each other's company and enjoy a cup of tea!

ELIZABETH BAPTIST CHURCH

4124 Bassett Dairy Rd • Monticello • 997-8444
Email: ebcmonticello@centurylink.net
website: www.ebcmonticello.com

Pastor, Robert Dennison
Student Pastor, Don Self

Sunday Bible Study.....9:45 AM
Morning Worship Service.....11:00 AM
Choir Practice.....5:00 PM
Evening Worship Service.....6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study/Prayer Meeting.....6:00 PM
RA's/ GA's/Mission Friends/Youth

WAUKEENAH UNITED METHODIST

81 Methodist Church Rd • Waukeelah • 997-2171
www.waukeelah-umc.org

Pastor Donald Thompson, Jr.

Sunday School.....9:45 AM
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM
Youth Group.....7:00 PM

Wednesday

Choir Practice.....7:00 PM
Youth Group.....7:00 PM
Family Fellowship
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CHURCH

Evening-In-White At Mt. Ararat

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Mount Ararat AME Church will celebrate its annual 'Evening-in-White' program on Sunday, February 9 at 5 p.m.

Speaker for this special service will be Rev. Leroy Colston, from the New Saint John AME Church on Holton Street in Tallahassee. The New Saint John choir will be the

guest choir for the service.

Rev. Margaret Brown is pastor of Mount Ararat AME Church and welcomes the community to join with her church family on this special occasion.

For more information about this service contact Program Chairman Donald Russell at 850-556-1228. Mount Ararat AME Church is located off South Waukeena Street.



"Keeping the Faith"

Ronnie McBrayer

Like A Rock

This year Bob Seger will celebrate his tenth anniversary in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. His songs and persona are legendary. My personal Seger favorite is "Like a Rock," and it has nothing to do with Chevrolet pickup trucks. I associate the lyrics with the evening of my high school graduation: "I stood there boldly, sweatin' in the sun, felt like a million, felt like number one; the height of summer, I'd never felt that strong, like a rock." And then the refrain, Segar wrote about himself as a younger man: "Like a rock, I was strong as I could be; like a rock, nothin' ever got to me; like a rock, I was something to see; like a rock."

Seger captures the years of youth, perfectly. It is a time of unbridled optimism, strength, and arrogance. A young person can do anything, be anything, try anything, and overcome anything. No challenge is too big, too tough, or too much. Honestly, youngsters need this kind of bravado and audacity when life is just getting started. But he or she will also learn that do-everything, dare-anybody, defy-anything of youthfulness, doesn't last.

We live a little while and experience a few disappointments. We bury loved ones, suffer loss and betrayal, age, have our

hearts broken, or muddle through a couple decades of muted frustration. Then we learn, and this learning is as absolutely necessary as youthful strength, that we really aren't "like a rock" – at least not anymore. Life, like erosion, has a way of reducing the hardest stone into sand.

But the recognition that we won't always be "standin' arrow straight, chargin' from the gate, and carryin' the weight," is not cause for despair. It is liberation. It is deliverance from the "try-harder-and-do-more" life. It is release from the totalitarian, gladiator ethic of "If it's going to be, it is up to me." It is surrender, and surrender is where life begins.

"If you try to hang on to your life," Jesus said, "then you will lose it." This "hanging on" includes our personal arrogance and stubborn self-reliance. We learn to let these go, not because we have hopelessly given up, but because we have given over. We have exchanged our failing abilities and life for the power of God and his life. We have learned to live a life entrusted to the Rock that is Christ.

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, pastor, and author. His newest book is "The Gospel According to Waffle House." You can read more at www.ronniemcbrayer.me.

Health Coverage Summit Set For February 15

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Union Hill AME Church Health Outreach Ministry will host a 'Health Coverage Summit' on Saturday, February 15 beginning at 10 a.m.

The mission of this summit is to maximize coverage for all uninsured Americans. Topics of discussion will

be that of the state of the uninsured, Affordable Health Care, and its benefits and enrollment process.

The summit will also include the distribution of fair, accurate, and impartial information regarding Medicaid and Medicare.

Get Coverage America! Campaign Your Health Your Choice!

Bethlehem Baptist Church Pancake Breakfast

AMBER HOUSTON
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

On Saturday, February 22, Bethlehem Baptist Church will hold a pancake breakfast in Tallahassee, at the Applebees on North Monroe from 8:00 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 for a heaping plate of eggs, sausage, pancakes, and a drink. The church is holding this event as a fundraiser and to celebrate its sixth birthday.

Several local residents attend the church and they invite the community to attend this event.



CHURCH NEWS NOTES

debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com or 850-997-3568

February 5
St. Phillip AME Church will hold its Mid-Week celebrating African American History Month with Speaker Dr. Vivian H. Royster. The community is invited. Rev. JW Tisdale, pastor.

February 6
The Spiritual Aims Committee of Kiwanis will host business Community Prayer Breakfast this month at the Jefferson Country Club, on the Boston Highway. Guest speaker for this Thursday morning meeting will be State Attorney Willie Meggs. The meal will begin at 6:45 a.m. and the meeting will conclude at 8 a.m. Plan to attend, and bring a guest. Also, canned food items will be collected for the area community food pantries. For more information about this meeting,

contact Coordinator L. Gary Wright at 850-997-5705 or 850-933-5567.

February 7
Tent of the Holy Guests offers prayer for the sick and a special scripture message every Friday at 7:30 p.m. The Tent is located at 295 West Palmer Mill in Monticello. Call 850-342-3541 for more information.

February 8
Jefferson County Ministerial Conference will convene at 6 p.m. on Saturday at Memorial Missionary Baptist Church. Guest speaker will be Rev. Joreatha Sloan. All are invited to attend. Rev. Ben Ransom, president. Rev. JB Duval, church pastor. 850-997-2705

February 8
StoryTime Ministry is held from 1 to 2 p.m. every other Saturday at the Jefferson County

Bailar Public Library. For more information contact First United Methodist Church Ministry Chairman Barbara Hobbs at 850-523-1813.

February 8
St. Margaret Catholic Church will host Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, a nine-week life-changing program that empowers and teaches how to make the right money decisions to achieve financial goals and experience a total money makeover. Classes begin at 10:30 a.m. every Saturday. For more information and to register call Class Contact Brian Metty at 850-545-6385, or brian.metty@yahoo.com or register online at <http://www.daveramsey.com/com/fpu/locations/org/48474/class/246588>. Child-care will be provided

upon request.

February 9
Welaunee Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate 'Family and Friends Day' at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Guest Speaker will be Rev. Rudolph Nealy. Guest church will be New Hope Missionary Baptist. Rev. Pedro McKelvin, pastor. For more information and directions contact Josephine Blackmon at 850-274-3543.

February 11
Sons of Allen of the Union Bethel Circuit meet monthly on the second Tuesday at 7 p.m., rotating between the Elizabeth and Union Bethel AME churches; encouraging young men and older males to come be part of the meetings. If you have any questions contact President Leman Ulee at 850-274-6268.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LLOYD

124 St. Louis Street • Lloyd • 997-5309
fbclloyd.pastor@embarqmail.com

Pastor George L. Smith
Sunday

Sunday School-Small Groups..... 9:15 AM
Praise & Worship.....10:30 AM
TeamKID –ages 3 years–5th grade.....5:00 PM
CSI: Youth–Grades 6-12.....6:00 PM
Praise & Worship.....6:00 PM
Adult Choir.....7:05 PM

Wednesday

Church Family Supper 5:45 PM
Joyful Sounds Children's Choir.....6:30 PM
The Potter's Wheel (6th-12th Grades).....6:30 PM
Worship on Wednesday.....7:00 PM

Thursdays

Glory Girls Fitness.....10:00 AM

1st & 3rd Monday

Mighty Monday–Ladies Bible Study.....6:00 PM

2nd Thursday

Lloyd Silver Saints– Senior Adult.....11:00 AM

3rd Thursday

W W Diners.....5:30 PM

Widows/Widowers outing

3rd Saturday

Brotherhood.....8:00 AM

ST. RILLA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

13 Barrington Road • Monticello • 850-997-8747

Rev. James Mack, Pastor

Sunday School.....(Every Sunday)..9:45 AM
Morning Worship.....(1st & 3rd Sundays)11:00 AM
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting-
(Thursday before 1st & 3rd sunday)..... 7:30 PM.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

290 East Dogwood Street • Monticello • 850-997-2252

Interim Pastors

Sunday School.....9:45 AM
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM
Adult Bible Study-Wednesday.....6:30-7:30 PM
Men's Breakfast.....2nd Saturday 8:00 AM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

325 W. Walnut Street • Monticello
Pastor Wayne Cook 997-5545

Praise & Worship.....8:30 AM
Sunday School.....9:30 AM
Traditional Worship.....11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Bible Study.....4:15
Prayer Group.....5:15
Fellowship Meal.....6:00
Chancel Choir Practice.....6:30

TRANSFORMING LIFE CHURCH ASSEMBLY OF GOD

1206 Springfield Road • Lloyd • 997-TLC7 (8527)
Pastors Tim and Beverly Buchholtz
www.TransformingLifeChurch.com

Sunday..... 10:30 AM
Sunday Morning Praise and Worship
Children's Church
Infants & Toddler Nursery
Wednesday.....7:00 PM
Praise & Worship
Adult & Teen Bible Study
Young Explorers (K-5th Grade)

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

US 19 N 1590 N. Jefferson Street (US 19)
850-997-3906
monticellonaz@gmail.com
Pastor Clay Stephens

Sunday School.....9:45 AM
Morning Worship.....10:45 AM
Wednesday Evening
Supper.....5:30 PM
Small Group Breakout.....6:30 PM
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting.....6:30 PM
Saturday
Spanish Church Services.....7:30 PM

WACISSA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

14492 Waukeena Hwy/ P.O. Box 411
Wacissa • 997-2179 or 997-1769
Pastor James Gamble

Sunday School.....9:45 AM
Sunday Morning.....10:55 AM
Sunday Bible Study.....6:30 PM
Wednesday
Prayer Meeting.....6:30 PM
Youth Group.....6:00 PM
Choir Practice.....7:30 PM

First Corinthian Church

955 Lemon St., Monticello, Florida
850-445-0076
sonnyjohnjr@aol.com

Reverend John Jones, Pastor

Saturday Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 PM

RESTORED GLORY CHRISTIAN CENTER

1287 South Jefferson Street • 997-RGCC (7422)
www.restoredglory.org

Pastor Eddie and Elder Veronica Yon

Get Moving Womens Fitness & Fellowship, Monday.....6:00 PM
Sunday Church Service.....10:00 AM
Tuesday Night Taeko.....6:00 PM
Thursday Church Service.....7:00 PM

Pastor's Office by Appointment

ST. PHILLIP AME CHURCH

Hwy. 27 South • (1 mile south of Hwy 59)
Monticello • 997-4226
Rev. J. W. Tisdale

Sunday Morning.....9:30 AM
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM
Tuesday nights basic English classes
w/Gloria Norton at 7:00
Wednesday
Prayer & Bible Study.....7:00 PM

SPORTS

Warriors Overpower Branford

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy varsity Warriors hit the hardwood against Branford on January 16 and the Warriors overpowered their opponent for a 48-22 victory, to now stand 7-9 on the season.

As a team, the Warriors netted 16 of 35 attempts from the field, hit two of 19 attempts from the three-point zone, and netted 10 of 12 attempts from the free-throw line for 48 points.

They collected 12 assists, 14 offensive and 28 defensive rebounds for a total of 42 rebounds, with 14 fouls, 14 steals, and 14 turnovers.

Individually, Braden Mattingly netted two of five attempts from the field, missed five attempts from the three-point zone, and targeted three of three attempts from the free-throw line for seven points. He had one assist, one offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of three rebounds, with one foul, two steals, and one turnover.

Brandon Holm missed one attempt from the field. He had one assist, one offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of three rebounds, with four fouls, and one turnover.

Zack Arceneaux netted one of one attempt from the field, and two of four attempts from the free-throw line for four points. He had two offensive and four defensive rebounds for a total of six rebounds, with two fouls, and one turnover.

Ricky Finlayson netted one of four attempts from the field, and one of three attempts from the three-point zone for five points. He had two assists, two defensive rebounds, one foul, two seals, and one turnover.

Timmy Burrus bucketed five of eight attempts from the field, and missed three attempts from the three-point zone for 10 points to lead to Warriors scoreboard. He had one assist, three offensive and three defensive rebounds for a total of six rebounds, with three fouls, one steal, and one turnover.

Casey Demott targeted two of two attempts from the field, and one of two attempts from the three-point zone for seven points. He had one assist, three defensive rebounds, one foul, and one steal.

Shawn Blue missed three attempts from the field, missed six attempts from the three-point zone, and netted three of three attempts from the free-throw line for three points. He had four assists, four offensive and four defensive rebounds for a total of eight rebounds, with four steals, and three turnovers.

Steven Tres netted three of nine attempts from the field, and hit two of two attempts from the free-throw line for eight points. He had three offensive and four defensive rebounds for a total of seven rebounds, with one foul, one steal, and two turnovers.

Carson Nennstiel targeted two of three attempts from the field for four points. He had two assists, four defensive rebounds, one foul, three steals, and four turnovers.



Warriors Fall To Georgia Christian

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy varsity Warriors manned the hardwood against Georgia Christian on January 13, and the Warriors were dropped for a 62-52 loss, to now stand 6-9 on the season.

As a team, the warriors netted nine of 28 attempts from the field, hit seven of 26 attempts from the three-point zone, and bucketed 13 of 20 attempts from the free-throw line for 52 points. They had six assists, 13 offensive and 13 defensive rebounds for a total of 26 rebounds, with 18 fouls, 11 steals, and 13 turnovers.

Individually, Braden Mattingly missed one attempt from the field, and four attempts from the three-point zone. He had one assist, one offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of two rebounds, with five fouls, two steals,

and one turnover. Brandon Holm netted one of two attempts from the free-throw line for one point. He had four assists, one defensive rebound, two fouls, one steal, and one turnover.

Zack Arceneaux had one steal, and one turnover. Ricky Finlayson netted two of seven attempts from the field, bucketed three of nine attempts from the three-point zone, and targeted six of seven attempts from the free-throw line for 19 points. He had two defensive rebounds, and four turnovers.

Timmy Burrus bucketed two of six attempts from the field, one of two attempts from the three-point zone, and netted two of six attempts from the free-throw line for nine points. He had four offensive rebounds, three fouls, and three steals.

Casey Demott missed three attempts from the field, and net-

ted two of two attempts from the free-throw line for two points. He also had three defensive rebounds, and two fouls.

Shawn Blue bucketed three of five attempts from the field, targeted three of 11 attempts from the three-point zone, and hit one of two attempts from the free-throw line for 16 points. He had one assist, two offensive and three defensive rebounds for a total of five rebounds, with two steals, and four turnovers.

Steven Trest netted two of six attempts from the field, and one of one attempt from the free-throw line for five points. He had five offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of seven rebounds, with one foul, one steal, and one turnover.

Carson Nennstiel had one offensive and one defensive rebound for a two, of two rebounds, with five fouls, one steal, and one turnover.

Warriors Lose To John Paul II

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy varsity Warriors faced off against John Paul II on January 10 and the Warriors were downed for a 52-42 loss, to now stand 6-8 on the season.

As a team, the warriors netted nine of 32 attempts from the field, hit five of 21 attempts from the three-point zone, and netted 10 of 13 attempts from the free-throw line for 43 points. They collected four assists, six offensive and 14 defensive rebounds for a total of 20 rebounds, with 22 fouls, 10 steals, and 17 turnovers.

Individually, Braden Mattingly netted one of two attempts from the field, one of two attempts from the three-point zone, and two of two attempts from the free-throw line for seven points. He had one defensive rebound, two fouls, one steal, and two turnovers.

Brandon Holm bucketed two of five attempts from the field, and one of three attempts from the free-throw line for five points. He had one offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of two rebounds, with four fouls, and one steal.

Zack Arceneaux had one defensive rebound, one steal, and two turnovers.

Ricky Finlayson netted one of eight attempts from the field, hit two of seven attempts from the three-point zone, and targeted two of two attempts from the free-throw line for 10 points. He had one defensive rebound, one foul, two steals, and one turnover.

Timmy Burrus hit two of seven attempts from the field, one of four attempts from the three-point zone, and bucketed three of four attempts from the free-throw line for 10 points. He had one offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of

three rebounds, with five fouls, two steals, and four turnovers.

Casey Demott hit one of one attempt from the field for two points. He had three defensive rebounds, one steal, and three turnovers.

Shawn Blue bucketed one of five attempts from the field, one of eight attempts from the three-point zone, and two of two attempts from the free-throw line for seven points. He had three assists, three offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of four rebounds, with four fouls, and two turnovers.

Steven Trest hit one of three attempts from the field, for two points. He had one offensive and four defensive rebounds for a total of five rebounds, with one foul, one steal, and two turnovers.

Carson Nennstiel missed one attempt from the field. He had one assist, five fouls, one steal, and one turnover.



HONEY LAKE Church & WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES

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FEBRUARY 9TH SERVICE
Honey Lake Church Guest T.K. WETHERELL
Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.

We are honored to announce that former FSU football player, Speaker of the House and President Emeritus of Florida State University, T.K. Wetherell, is joining Honey Lake Church and Worldwide Ministries for an encore visit to share his personal testimony. Not only will he disclose how he achieved the monumental accomplishments that makes him one of the most admired people in Florida, but also how he waged a ten year battle with stage four cancer. In spite of its many trials and tribulations, T.K. maintained a tremendous upbeat attitude throughout it all. He credits his unswerving faith in Jesus Christ as the foundational strength that enables him to maintain such a positive, powerful mindset and accomplish his goals.

Mark your Calendars: Matt Blagg will visit Honey Lake to speak at the March 9th Worldwide Ministry service

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AD BUILDER/GRAPHIC ARTIST NEEDED for the Madison County Carrier and the Madison Enterprise-Recorder, in Madison. Must be a team player and able to handle multiple tasks. Experience with Adobe Photoshop a must, experience with Quark Express a plus. Apply in person only at Greene Publishing, located at 1695 South SR 53, in Madison. 11/20, tfn

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CASHIER NEEDED for concession trailer. Call Early Duggar with the Wharf Express at 508-3779 or Eva Duggar. 544-3917. 2/5, 7, c

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Found

SMALL DOG - OLDER JACK RUSSEL TERRIER, male, found Tuesday Jan. 28 near car wash on South Hwy. 19. Call Mariel at 619-300-5775. 1/31, 2/5, 7, nc

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LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION

CASE NO. 2009CA000349

SUNTRUST MORTGAGE, INC.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JAMES M. FELDT; DEBBIE J. ARMENTI FELDT A/K/A DEBBIE JO ARMENTI A/K/A DEBBIE J. ARMENTI; UNKNOWN TENANT(S); IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;

Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above styled cause, in the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Florida, I will sell the property situate in Jefferson County, Florida, described as:

COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 5 EAST, JEFFERSON COUNTY, FLORIDA AND RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 47 SECONDS WEST 590.71 FEET FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING CONTINUE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 47 SECONDS WEST 492.83 FEET TO A POINT, THENCE SOUTH 87 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 02 SECONDS WEST 677.39 FEET TO A POINT, THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 47 SECONDS WEST 462.81 FEET TO A POINT, THENCE SOUTH 87 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 02 SECONDS WEST 760.86 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST BOUNDARY OF COUNTY GRADED CLARK ROAD (C-44), THENCE NORTH 03 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 02 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID EAST BOUNDARY, 30.14 FEET TO A POINT, THENCE NORTH 87 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 02 SECONDS EAST 1436.52 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at the North Door of the Jefferson County Courthouse, Monticello, Florida at 11:00 a.m., on February 27, 2014.

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 60 days after the sale.

Witness, my hand and seal of this court on the 27th day of August, 2013.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By Sherry Sears
Deputy Clerk

THIS INSTRUMENT PREPARED BY:

Law Offices of Daniel C. Consuegra
9204 King Palm Drive
Tampa, FL 33619-1328
Attorneys for Plaintiff

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a court proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact:

Danny Davis
Office of Court Administration
301 South Monroe Street, Room 225
Tallahassee, FL 32303
850.577.4401

at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. 1/29, 2/5/2014

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice to the public is hereby provided of a proposed licensed private airstrip to be located upon a specific property in Jefferson County, Florida described as Tax Parcel ID # 31-2N-5E-0000-0442-0000. Subject property off Martin Road and listed in ownership of the Ashley P. May Irrevocable Trust, 55 S Ojibwa Road, Monticello, Florida, currently lies within the Agricultural 5 Land Use Category as depicted on the Official Future Land Use Map of Jefferson County, Florida with Allowable Uses of Outdoor Recreational, of which Types of Uses specifically includes licensed airstrips. The turf (unpaved) private airstrip will be for the private and occasional use of the property owner and family. Any person wishing to comment on this matter may file comments in writing to William A. May, Designated Representative, 55 S. Ojibwa Road, Monticello, FL 32344. 2/5/2014

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YARD SALE Sat. Feb. 8 from 9am to 2pm at Jefferson Storage Units #1 & 2, on Hwy. 19 north across from Monticello Liquors. 2/5, 7, c

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LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 13-CA-217

DARDEN COMMERCIAL, LLC,
Plaintiff,

vs.
ESTATE OF JAMES GILBERT HILL, SR.,
et al.,

Defendant.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: ESTATE OF JAMES GILBERT HILL, SR. a/k/a JAMES G. HILL, SR., (deceased) and unknown heirs of devisees, and all other parties claiming by through, under or against JAMES GILBERT HILL, SR. a/k/a JAMES G. HILL, SR. and JAMES G. HILL, JR.,

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Quiet Title has been filed against you and others, regarding the property described as follows:

See Exhibit "A", attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof. and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ANDREW J. POWER, SMITH, THOMPSON, SHAW, MINACCI & COLON, P.A., Plaintiff's attorneys, 3520 Thomasville Road, 4th Floor, Tallahassee, Florida 32309-3469, no more than thirty (30) days from the first publication date of this notice of action, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorneys or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

DATED this 15th day January, 2014.

KIRK REAMS, Clerk of Courts
By: Sherry Sears
Deputy Clerk

EXHIBIT "A"

All that portion of Lots 270 and 271 of the North Florida Pecan Company Subdivision according to map of same recorded in the public records of Jefferson County, Florida, enclosed as follows: Begin at a point marked by an iron pipe in the Easterly line of said Lot 271, on the Westerly side of the old Monticello-Lloyd Road and 50 feet Southwesterly from, measured at right angles to, the center line of State Road No. 10 (U.S. 90), and run thence South 77 degrees 03 minutes West parallel with and 50 feet Southwesterly from the centerline of said State Road, 570 feet to a point marked by an iron pipe, thence run South 400 feet to a point marked by an iron pipe, thence run East 398 feet, more or less, to a point marked by an iron pipe set on the Westerly side of said old Monticello-Lloyd Road, and thence run North 16 degrees 42 minutes East along said Westerly side of said old road 550 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, and containing an area of 5 acres, more or less, SAVING AND EXCEPTING any land within the right of way of SR-158. SUBJECT TO: any easements, reservations, and restrictions of record which are specifically not reimposed or extended hereby.

2/5,12/2014

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEETING NOTICE

Jefferson County's Citizen's Advisory Task Force will hold a public meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the County applying for a grant under the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program for the FFY 2013 funding cycle.

The Citizen's Advisory Task Force will hold the meeting at the Jefferson County Courthouse Annex, County Commission Chambers, located at 435 West Walnut Street, Monticello, Florida. The public is invited to attend. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop is asked to advise the County at least 48 hours before the workshop by contacting: Nick Flynt, Assistant Co., Jefferson County (850) 342-0287 or by e-mail at: nflynt@jefferson-countyfl.gov. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800) 955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800) 955-8770 (Voice).

2/5/2014



STATEMENT

Taxwatch Commends Governor Scott On Budget Proposal

Statement from Dominic M. Calabro, President and CEO of Florida TaxWatch, the independent, non-partisan, nonprofit taxpayer research institute and government watchdog.

"Florida TaxWatch commends Governor Scott for recommending to hold the line on total state spending and return money to taxpayers, while still proposing increased spending for important state priorities such as education. His FY 2014-15 budget proposal totals \$74.19 billion, which is slightly less (0.06 percent) than current year spending of \$74.24 billion.

"The cornerstone of his 'It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget' is more than \$570 million in recurring tax reductions and \$69.2 million in one-time tax savings (see table below). These include saving nearly \$25 per driver by reducing vehicle registration fees and relief for Florida businesses through an increased corporate income tax exemption, reduced filing fees, and a 0.5% reduction of sales tax on business rents. These tax cuts are broad, touching the lives of virtually every Floridian, from families to the businesses that support our communities and state as a whole.

"In addition to returning tax dollars to hardworking Floridians, Governor Scott shows his commitment to Florida's financial health by proposing \$170 million to pay off the state's \$24.6 billion debt and including \$287 million in budget savings. The proposed budget would leave total state reserves of \$5.1 billion, including \$1.7 billion in General Revenue.

"Florida TaxWatch is pleased that the recommended budget includes implementation of many cost-savings recommendations from the TaxWatch Center for Government Efficiency. Since 2009, these cost saving recommendations have saved Florida taxpayers more than \$4.2 billion in

efficiency improvements at the state level.

"Incorporated recommendations from this year's report, Modern Management & Sensible Savings, include the creation of the Agency for State Technology with the resources and authority to consolidate IT governance throughout state government and save Florida taxpayers up to \$20 million with only a one percent efficiency improvement. TaxWatch is encouraged that this highly valuable oversight agency is recommended by the Governor and supported by the Florida Senate and House of Representatives 2014 Work Plan.

"Other recommendations stemming from TaxWatch research include an increase in tourism investment, investment in performance-based funding, requiring all state employees to contribute the same amount to their health insurance and expansion of electronic monitoring for prison inmates.

"TaxWatch is pleased that the budget increased funding for Visit Florida by \$36.5 million to an unprecedented \$100 million annual investment. With \$100 million, Florida could attract 100 million visitors to the state, resulting in an estimated 121,298 jobs for Floridians, according to the TaxWatch Investing In Tourism report.

"A long standing TaxWatch recommendation, performance-based funding holds Florida's higher-education institutions accountable, and will better help our education system prepare students for high-wage, high-skill jobs, promising economic growth and diversification in the Sunshine State."

Statement from John B. Zumwalt, III - Florida TaxWatch Chairman:

"I am encouraged that the Governor's proposed budget contains several Florida TaxWatch cost-savings recommendations. This budget is a good starting

point for our state Legislature to create a spending plan that benefits all Florida taxpayers."

Governor's Proposed Tax Cuts (in millions)

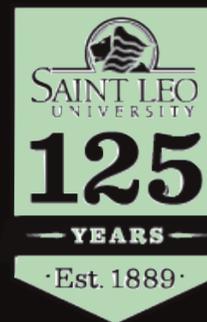
Rollback in Motor Vehicle Fees	First Year - \$312.50
Recurring - \$401.30	
Reduction in sales tax on commercial rents (0.5%)	First Year - 107.9
Recurring - 117.8	
Reduced Corporate Fling Fees	First Year - 29.8
Recurring - 33.3	
Increased Corporate Income Tax Exemption (\$75,000)	First Year - 8.8
Recurring - 21.6	
Sales Tax Holiday - School Supplies	First Year - 48.8
Recurring - 0	
Sales Tax Holiday - Hurricane Preparedness	First Year - 20.4
Recurring - 0	
Total*	
First Year - \$541.50	
Recurring - \$574.00	

* \$25.5 million in the first year and \$13.4 million in recurring revenue loss will be incurred by local governments

Florida TaxWatch is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan research institute that over its 32-year history has become widely recognized as the watchdog of citizens' hard-earned tax dollars. Its mission is to provide the citizens of Florida and public officials with high quality, independent research and education on government revenues, expenditures, taxation, public policies and programs and to increase the productivity and accountability of Florida state and local government. Its support comes from homeowners and retirees, small and large businesses, philanthropic foundations, and professional associations. On the web at www.FloridaTaxWatch.org.

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