

MONTICELLO NEWS

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www.ecbpublishing.com Wednesday, March 28, 2018 No. 4 75¢+Tax

JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Somerset conflicts; Stinger discussed

Ashley Hunter
ECB Publishing, Inc.

The March meeting for the Jefferson County School Board began on Monday, March 12, with the usual invocation, pledge to the flag and citizen participation.

The first to speak was a member of the Sneed Family who had donated land for the old Howard Academy to be built. The speaker requested that the board make no decision about how to proceed with the use of the land until the family had been given a chance to prepare and present their own proposal on how they would like to see the land be used.

Board member and Chairman Sandra Saunders confirmed that no plans have been concreted or set in stone, and encouraged the family to meet with Superintendent Marianne Arbulu, or herself, to discuss their plans.

Next, a representative from Gideons International came forward to request that Gideons be allowed the opportunity to set up a table at the

baccalaureate for Jefferson Somerset students and pass out free Bibles to graduating seniors and school staff, as they had been allowed to do this in the past and had great success with student interest.

Chairmen Saunders directed Gideons to speak directly with Jefferson Somerset to obtain that permission, as the board no longer had jurisdiction over that matter. The board did, however, thank them for their willingness to spread the gospel.

After the conclusion of citizen comments, Board member Shirley Washington voiced displeasure over a recent "Stinger" that had ran within the *Monticello News* which had scolded the board for their lack of participation at school events.

"Sometimes the community believes the Monticello News more than the Bible," said Washington. "Because of this Stinger, the community thinks that the board does not agree with the programs and the activities held at the school."

According to Washington, the board had not been given an invite to the particular event that the Stinger discussed, and did not know about the event

"Sometimes the community believes the *Monticello News* more than the Bible."

"When you hear people in the community talking about this board and what we are not doing, you will be able to set the record straight, regardless of whatever you read in the *Monticello News*."



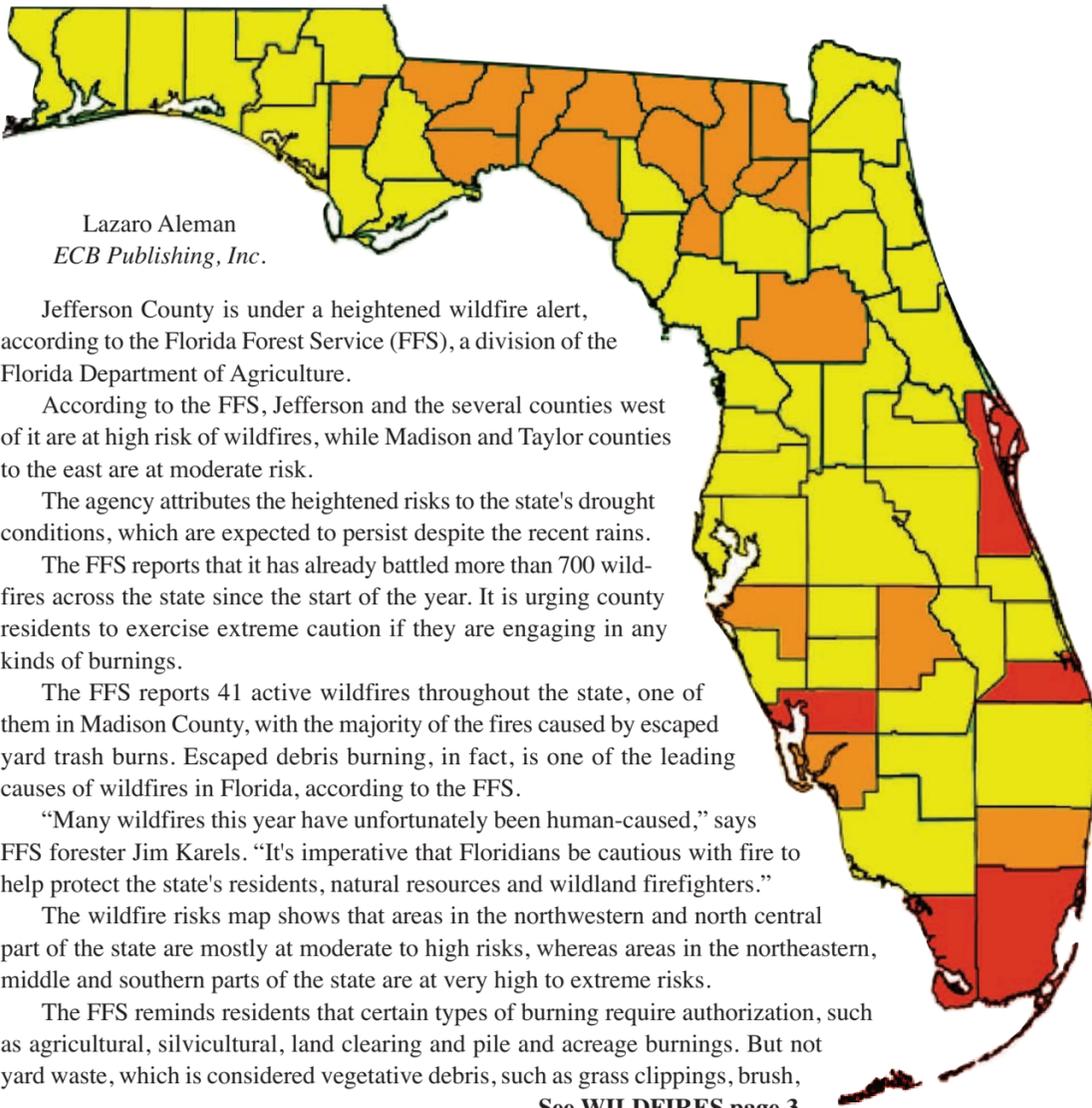
Shirley Washington

until it had already passed. After which, they had confronted the principal about not being invited to participate, but had received what the board felt was a half-hearted apology, which they had yet to accept. Principal Oliver had wrote a letter to the board and had presented it to them at a previous meeting, but had refused to read it aloud, even at the school board's insistence. The letter has remained on the school board table for two months, with the board refusing to open or accept it until it is read to them.

"It will remain there, because if he was serious about his apology, when he was here he could have
See SOMERSET page 3

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Wildfire danger high



Lazaro Aleman
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Jefferson County is under a heightened wildfire alert, according to the Florida Forest Service (FFS), a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture.

According to the FFS, Jefferson and the several counties west of it are at high risk of wildfires, while Madison and Taylor counties to the east are at moderate risk.

The agency attributes the heightened risks to the state's drought conditions, which are expected to persist despite the recent rains.

The FFS reports that it has already battled more than 700 wildfires across the state since the start of the year. It is urging county residents to exercise extreme caution if they are engaging in any kinds of burnings.

The FFS reports 41 active wildfires throughout the state, one of them in Madison County, with the majority of the fires caused by escaped yard trash burns. Escaped debris burning, in fact, is one of the leading causes of wildfires in Florida, according to the FFS.

"Many wildfires this year have unfortunately been human-caused," says FFS forester Jim Karels. "It's imperative that Floridians be cautious with fire to help protect the state's residents, natural resources and wildland firefighters."

The wildfire risks map shows that areas in the northwestern and north central part of the state are mostly at moderate to high risks, whereas areas in the northeastern, middle and southern parts of the state are at very high to extreme risks.

The FFS reminds residents that certain types of burning require authorization, such as agricultural, silvicultural, land clearing and pile and acreage burnings. But not yard waste, which is considered vegetative debris, such as grass clippings, brush,
See WILDFIRES page 3

LOCAL

Frank Blow passes away



Franklin Curtis Blow

Lazaro Aleman
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Franklin Curtis Blow, a longtime county resident and leader in the business community, died last week in Tallahassee. He was 72.

Blow, who most recently chaired the Jefferson County Economic Development Council during its disbandment, died on Wednesday, March 21, at Tallahassee Memorial Health Care after suffering a fall at his home in Monticello.

Born in Nashville, TN. in 1945, Blow graduated from Jefferson County School in 1963 and earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration at The Citadel in South Carolina, after which he did a two-year stint in the Army as a tank company commander.
See FRANK BLOW page 3

COUNTY

Expert sought to help get BP monies

Lazaro Aleman, ECB Publishing, Inc.

Jefferson County officials are seeking the services of a consultant to help them and staff navigate the difficulties of the paperwork and processes associated with acquisition of the monies available to the county as a result of the 2010 British Petroleum (BP) oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

At the request of Commissioner Betsy Barfield, the Jefferson County Commission recently approved the advertisement of solicitations of proposals from qualified grant consultants. Barfield is this county's representative on the Gulf Consortium, the multi-county board that partly oversees the dispersal of the BP monies.

"With the hurdles that we have to jump to bring down the monies from the different BP pots, I don't believe we have the capacity in-house to comply with all the requirements," Barfield said.

She asked the commission to approve the advertisement of a Request for Qualifications and Proposal (RFQP) for the services of a consultant to sift through the many grant requirements and advise the board and staff on how best to proceed to get the funding, as well as complete the grant applications and other necessary paperwork.

The board unanimously approved the request
See BP page 3

County Solid Waste Department gets new truck

Lazaro Aleman, ECB Publishing, Inc.

The Solid Waste Department should be getting a brand new roll-off truck in the coming week or so, according to Director Beth Letchworth. It just won't be one that the department owns.

Faced with the recent choice of buying a new truck or leasing one, Letchworth opted for the latter, which decision the Jefferson County Commission unanimously approved.

Letchworth appeared before the commission on Thursday evening, March 1, to report the breakdown of her department's 2012 Freightliner workhorse. The truck, Letchworth said, had simply died on the road without apparent cause. She said a diag-

nose of the problem by the dealership had determined that the engine was gone and would need to be replaced. At an estimated replacement cost of \$36,669, she said.

"I questioned why this would happen as the truck only has a little more than 200,000 miles," Letchworth told commissioners. "I was told they had three other trucks on their yard with the same problem."

Letchworth said that in light of the apparent problem with the particular engine, she didn't feel confident purchasing a new truck with the same suspect engine. She proposed that she instead be allowed to lease a different truck, to see how that

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Did you know?
All pilots on international flights identify themselves in English regardless of their country of origin

Weather for this week

Wed 78° 57°
Thu 77° 63°
Fri 71° 51°

Emerald's Gem Box... Gun Laws Didn't Save Jaelynn Willey

On March 20 another tragedy occurred; this time in Great Mills, Maryland.

At 7:55 a.m., 17-year-old Wyatt Rollins walked into the school hallway and shot his ex-girlfriend, Jaelynn Willey, in the head and another student in the leg. Within ONE MINUTE, the school resource officer was on scene and shot the shooter. It is still undetermined if the officer's bullet killed Rollins or if his death was self-inflicted. According to all witnesses, the two shots were simultaneous.

Main stream media has all but skipped over this story! For the next several days, following the shooting, the lead story (on mainstream television media) was about the death of the Texas bomber. Hardly any mention of this school shooting. I had to ask myself why! Why was the Florida school shooting more important than this Maryland shooting? Was it because more lives were lost in Florida? (But surely they wouldn't put an "importance" on different teenagers' lives). Or could it be because an armed man, at the school, was promptly there to end the plot; because that would totally be against the liberal way of thinking ... a clear example of a person with a gun stopping an attempted mass shooting.

I came across an interesting read, while reading about the Maryland shooting.

- 14 Laws That Did Not Stop The Maryland School Shooter**
1. Maryland's "assault weapons" ban
 2. Maryland's 10 round magazine limit
 3. Maryland's universal background check system
 4. Maryland's exhaustive application process to obtain a permit to purchase a handgun
 5. Maryland's law prohibiting the purchase of more than one firearm per month
 6. Maryland's law requiring handgun registration
 7. Maryland's law requiring licensing of handgun owners
 8. Maryland's extremely limited approval of conceal carry permits
 9. Maryland's refusal to honor conceal carry permits from other states
 10. Federal law prohibiting handgun ownership under 21
 11. Laws prohibiting carrying a handgun without a permit
 12. Gun free zones
 13. Laws against discharging a firearm in public
 14. Laws prohibiting murder

It is obvious that there are laws in

place that prohibited that young boy from taking that gun into that school and using it against his classmates. Why didn't he abide by those laws? Do we honestly think if there had been MORE laws in place it would have stopped him?

I dare to say that more gun laws would NOT have stopped him! The constant variable in all mass killings (whether it be by guns, bombs, knives, or hand grenades) is that there is a "crazy" person who is committing the violent act. Simply having a weapon did not make him a murderer. His life choices did. A person who wants to commit murder will do so, with or without a gun.

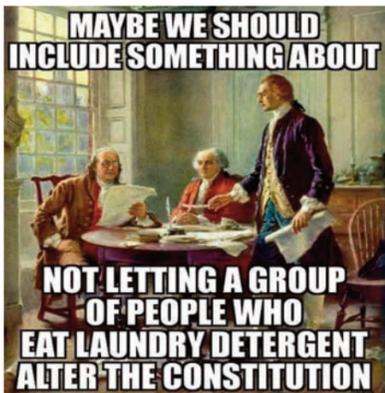
Mass killers have targeted places where they know people will be unarmed. Killings take place in "gun-free" zones. Taking away Americans' rights to own a weapon would, in essence, make the country less safe.

So, I ask ... Rape ... should we take away the freedom of all men by castration because some men cannot handle what they have? No. We allow freedom until an individual chooses to take something that others use for good and use it to do harm to another.

This is not an attempt to say that we should abandon all laws because criminals don't follow them. This simply shows that laws restricting law-abiding citizens from exercising their rights do not stop criminals' intent on doing harm. Sometimes, a good guy with a gun can be the only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun.

I am glad that we are finally hearing some truth being spoken about school aged children being taught not to bully. In most instances, the shooter's (or "crazy" person's) motive stems from being bullied or being characterized as an "outcast." It causes depression, self-hate, and mental conditions within that child. (This is also where suicide comes into play).

Teach your children/grandchildren/friends to be nice, to obey the Golden Rule, to quit being a bully, and to have lunch with a "non-popular" kid. That, in-of-itself, will help America. That is what America's youth needs - just to feel loved. Making America a better place is how we stop bad things from happening; not by taking our constitutional amendments away!



Florida man steals exotic fish, stuffs them down his pants

Clearwater police arrested a man after he was caught on camera stealing exotic fish from a pet shop.

Detectives say Cruz Garcia Jr. entered Pet Safari on Highlands Avenue with his accomplice, Crystal Dixon, and stole Electric Blue Acaras and Blue Ram Cichlids.

"I could see the two of them over here, kind of looking out towards me," said store clerk Kayla Kraut.

Kraut was behind the register that day when she said the two came in the store acting fishy. Kraut said Dixon quickly distracted her while Garcia Jr. worked to net and bag the fish.

The fish ranged from \$18 to \$20 each.

When Kraut wasn't looking, detectives said he snagged several more fish from another tank. With nowhere else

to stash the bag, he shoved the fish down his pants. Kraut said both then made their way to the door.

"The boyfriend came to this fish tank over here, pointed at a fish and said, 'Oh, that's a really cool fish' and then ran out the door," she said. "I immediately went to where I saw them last and I noticed there were droplets of water coming from the tank. I knew there was missing fish."

Kraut was able to get the tag number on the vehicle and turn it over to detectives.

Garcia Jr. was arrested on Jan. 19. Investigators are still searching for Dixon. The fish were not recovered.



Cruz Garcia Jr.

Employment Matters



Johnny Pompey

Your Digital Footprint

Joe and Josephine, Derrius Guice was asked if he was gay in a recent job interview.

Like you, Guice had decided to leave school and pursue a career in his profession of choice. His school Louisiana State University; his desired profession running back in the NFL.

Several media outlets have reported that Guice, a 20 year old junior, was asked about his sexual orientation and if he was a prostitute by a NFL team during the league's annual pre-draft combine two weeks ago.

Every year, the NFL invites the nation's top collegiate football prospects to Indianapolis for tactical drills, physical examinations and meetings with team and league officials to determine their draft status a month or so later. Even though there's a lot of ancillary events and things happening during the NFL's combine week, at its core it's a job fair to be sure.

The Guice interview has prompted several employment-related professionals and media pundits to comment on the necessity to ask the sexual, habits-based questions and whether or not it was legal to do so.

Obviously there is some conjecture as to whether potential employers can ask you questions based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation and/or political affiliation during an interview process. The truth of the matter is... they can.

However, if a company and/or organization chooses to utilize lines of questions based on the topics listed above, it should have a very fortified and defensible reason or reasons as to why. Though most hiring managers have been well coached to steer clear of these topics to avoid being dragged into court, some may venture into this ill-advised practice knowingly and/or unknowingly.

If this concerns you, check with your state's Department of Labor or with the local Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) that has jurisdictional oversight regarding the position you're applying to for the most current hiring statutes. Jurisdictional oversight is usually based on the actual physical location of where the job is to be performed not necessarily where you might live.

For a less bureaucratic and very easily-read example of the lines of questioning an interviewer should avoid you might want to check out

'Illegal or Inappropriate Interview Questions' by the Labor/Employee Relations professional Leslie Cobb. Cobb's resource and others like it should and can be useful tools to help you better equip yourself for the interview process.

A couple of articles ago I said that social media is one of the most important tools in a recent grad's arsenal because of the ease of access to organizational information it allows. You do? Well good, because HR and hiring managers have the same ease of access to information pertaining to you as well. So yes your "digital footprint" can be up for scrutiny by potential employers.

Listen, I would prefer not to go into a long and detailed list of what personal information to and not to post to Facebook, or to Snapchat or Tweet, etc. So to keep it short and sweet, you might want to consider refraining from posting sexually explicit photos and videos; posting race, ethnic and/or gender jokes or comments that could be deemed offensive and/or controversial. You may also want to think about the tone and tenor of your political statements and views if you choose to share them with everyone.

Back to Guice, I'm not suggesting that he has or had posted information/material which would call his sexual preference and/or habits into question by the NFL or any other potential employer. What I am quite certain of is that the NFL team in question and possibly others used every resource, including Guice's online history, to their disposal to investigate him and any other potential draft picks of interest due to the huge annual salaries and media attention these new crop of employees will command.

Yeah I know, more than likely the positions you're apply for won't entice hordes of reporters to follow your every move or put you in the 1 percent tax bracket mere weeks after you graduate. But that doesn't mean your potential employers aren't concerned about how you might affect their image and branding.

So think about it, if the expectation is that hiring managers should not ask questions regarding such topics related to race, religion, sexual preference/orientation, political affiliations, etc. during the interview process because it has no bearing on if you can perform the duties of job. And because it's personal and private. Then common sense dictates that you not make it public for all to see.

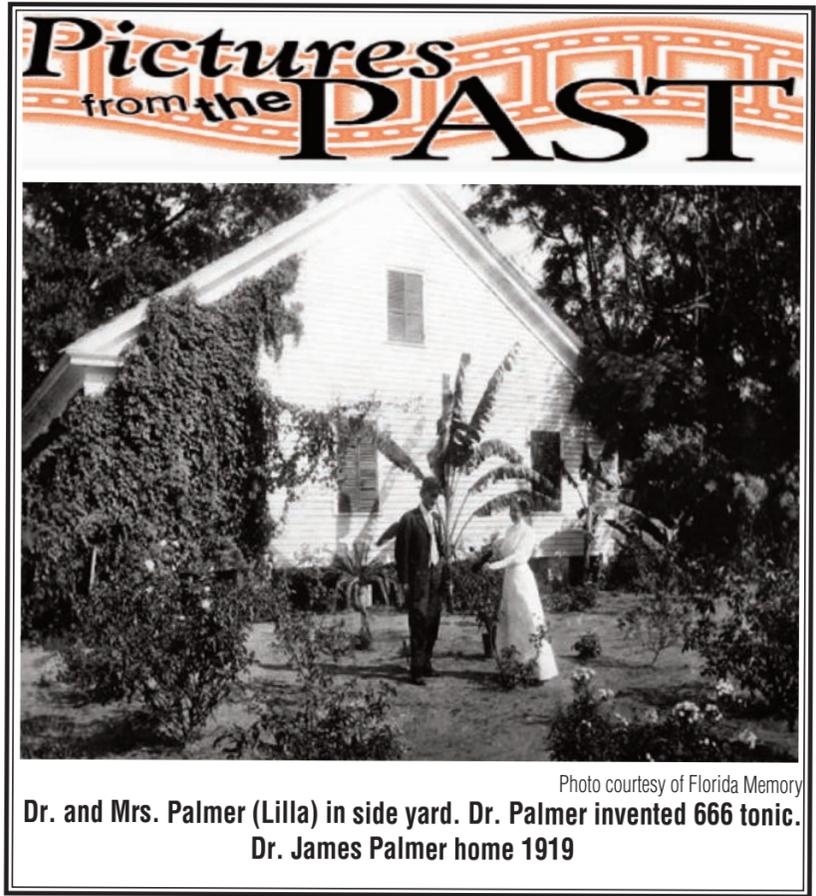


Photo courtesy of Florida Memory
Dr. and Mrs. Palmer (Lilla) in side yard. Dr. Palmer invented 666 tonic. Dr. James Palmer home 1919

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Circulation

Service Hours,
M-T 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
F 8 a.m. - Noon
Subscription Rates:
 Basic: \$60 per year
 Basic plus: \$70 per year
 All access: \$90
 E-Pub \$35

MONTICELLO NEWS

Serving Monticello since 1869

A weekly newspaper [USPS 361-620] designed for the express reading pleasures of the people of its circulation area, be they past, present or future residents.

Published weekly by *ECB Publishing, Inc.*, 180 W Washington St. Monticello, FL 32344.

Periodicals postage paid at the Post Office in Monticello, Florida 32345.

Postmaster:

Send address changes to MONTICELLO NEWS, P.O. Box 428, Monticello, FL 32345.

Office hours
 Open Monday-Thursday
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Friday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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There will be a \$100 charge for Affidavits.

SOMERSET

from page 1

stood there and apologized for this board not receiving an invitation. You can tell when someone is real about their apology," said Washington.

Returning to the matter of the Stinger, Washington believed the person to be naive in order to believe that the board did nothing in the school.

"This board works very diligently with Somerset school. Whatever activity they call on us to volunteer [for], we have been out there volunteering. We do it, and for someone to be so naive as to put that Stringer in the paper to say what this board does not do, and criticize [us] the way they did, it was quite disturbing," said Washington, adding that those who truly know the board and its members will know how they act and volunteer their time. "When you hear people in the community talking about this board and what we are not doing, you will be able to set the record straight, regardless of whatever you read in the *Monticello News*."

Saunders agreed, saying that whoever had submitted the Stinger did not realize how much the board still does with the school, and even went so far as to call the submitter a coward. "I wish they would tell me, instead of being a coward with their hands behind their backs when they say what they have to say, because I could give them an answer quicker than a hurry," said Saunders in conclusion of the topic.

Next up, the school board allowed a parent who had been late to the meeting to share her concern regarding the suspension of her child after he had been arrested, adding that she believed that the treatment of her son was unfair.

There was not much the board could do to aid the parent, due to their inability to become involved in Jefferson Somerset politics. However, the board was adamant about assisting the parent in getting the proper material and assistance for her child.

"I want to assure parents that this board cares about children. We might not have the authority we used to have, but we do know people who can look into those situations," said Saunders.

The board offered to assist her in putting

together a request for her son's education plan and all the document related to his suspension (as she had received none).

The board approved the minutes of their meeting in February before moving on to glance over information-only items that had been placed on the agenda for Jefferson Somerset. The items, which were the 2017-2018 Parent Handbook and the school's financial statement, could not be handled by the board, and this brought frustration to the board members, as no Somerset representative was present to address the items.

"Somerset needs to be here when Somerset has items on the agenda," said Saunders. Which Washington agreed that the information was 'useless' unless there was someone to explain it.

"If Somerset is not here, it does nobody any good," said Saunders. "I think they need to be told that they need to be here without a question."

Superintendent Arbulu advised that the board could extend an invite to Somerset, but they had no jurisdiction to make someone from the Somerset board present themselves.

Board member Washington, who had been reviewing the 2017-2018 Handbook, expressed her dislike of the handbook, as outside of it being late, she felt it was incomplete with bad information and safety procedures and she called the handbook an 'insult' to the board.

"They think that we don't have common sense enough, or aren't intelligent enough to read what they have on here," said Washington. "The whole thing is just nonsense. They threw something together not thinking we were gonna read it."

Arbulu agreed that it wasn't a good handbook, but argued that it might have been the best that Somerset could produce, at which point Board member Bill Brumfield added that Somerset's best was 'not good enough', if that was the case.

Another item involving Somerset was a letter from the Transportation Department of the Florida Department of Education (DOE), which monitors and reviews school district's transportation.

The letter discussed the condition of the buses and informed the district that maintenance needed to be done.

While the board did not disagree with the evaluation, they did not appreciate having this expected of them when transportation was under Jefferson Somerset's jurisdiction. School District Attorney George Reeves suggested that the board needed to contact the DOE so they would know who to address in the future, as well as to contact Jefferson Somerset and request the school proceed with a plan to address and correct the issues presented by the DOE.

The board then approved check reports for a trip the school board and superintendent had taken, as well as the Small School District Council Association participation fees.

They also looked at their policy regarding the use of the old Jefferson High School auditorium for local events and groups. The policy document was outdated, listed buildings no longer of use, and the district had not been uniform in their required rental cost. Some events had been required to pay full price, while others were given half price, and one event had been given use of the auditorium for no charge, of which the board was not aware of the latter.

The board was a bit divided on how the item should be handled, though no school board member wanted to eliminate any group from using the facility.

The topic was one they needed to examine a bit closer, and they agreed to return to it on their next meeting in April.

Moving on, the board finalized a lease agreement with the Jefferson VFW in relation to a building the VFW are going to be leasing from the district before voting to cease funding a contract regarding electronic equipment for buses, as the school district no longer handles transportation needs for the students in the county.

As a final matter before closing their meeting, the board discussed hiring a front desk attendant for the school district office. The staff within the building have other responsibilities outside of attending the front desk and greeting guests would draw them away from those responsibilities, but school board members had received complaints about there not being anyone at the front desk to direct them upon visiting the office.

The next School Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 9 at 6 p.m.

WILDFIRES

from page 1

leaves, tree limbs and the like that result from yard maintenance.

According to the FFS, yard

waste may be burned without authorization so long as the locally established setback requirements are followed, the yard waste was generated on the property, and it fits in an 8-foot diameter pile or non-com-

bustible container. Also, the burning must take place between 9 a.m. and one hour before sunset.

The FFS oversees more than one million acres of state forests. It also provides forest manage-

ment assistance on more than 17 million acres of private and community forests, and is responsible for protecting homes, forestland and natural resources from wildfires on another 26-plus million acres.

TRUCK

from page 1

arrangement would work out.

The county, she said, could piggyback on a contract that the City of Tallahassee had with Capital Truck Inc. Per the contract, Letchworth said, the county could

lease a truck that was worth \$176,500 for \$17,500 annually, or for a 12½-month period.

At the end of the 12½ months, she said, the county could turn in the truck and begin a new agreement on a new one for the same amount or no more than \$500. Or, if the county chose, she said, it could return the

truck and walk away from the arrangement; or it could continue leasing the same truck.

On a related matter, Letchworth noted that her crews are now working seven days a week to keep up with the volume of trash and recyclables that is deposited at the collection sites. She had no idea what accounted for the increased trash, she said.

FRANK BLOW

from page 1

Following his army service, Blow worked 17 years for New York Life Insurance as a training supervisor, before establishing himself as a respected Monticello business owner.

Active in the community, Blow held numerous offices during his years here, including president of the Kiwanis Club and three terms as president of the Monticello-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce.

He additionally served on several boards, including Capital City Bank, the Tourist Development Council and the Sons of Confeder-

ate Veterans Major Pickens Bird Camp. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held for Blow at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 28, at First United Methodist Church, with a reception to follow in the family ministry center.

BP

from page 1

with little discussion.

Per the 13-page RFQP that the commission approved, the consultant must be familiar with the various grant programs and processes associated with the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast (RESTORE) Act of 2012.

It's the county's intention, per the RFQP, to award the contract to the best qualified person or firm that offers the highest probability of success in the administration, monitoring, writing and implementation of various RESTORE Act grants, in keeping with the federal regulations and compliance requirements of the U.S. Treasury.

Among the tasks required of the consultant, the firm or person must research all current and available grant programs, examine the county's applicability and eligibility, develop and monitor the county's various grant applications for RESTORE Act funds and administer the grants once secured.

The person or firm selected must additionally demonstrate fluency in relevant federal, state and local laws and ordinances required for grant project implementation related to the RESTORE Act and the Davis

Bacon Act.

The selected person or firm must also demonstrate expertise in grant management and grant-making processes, have extensive knowledge of local environmental and economic factors that impact Jefferson County, and have an understanding and specific expertise in the areas of workforce and tourism development.

Among the specific tasks required, the consultant must:

- Support Jefferson County in its development, writing, application, and pre and post monitoring of the grants secured.
 - Identify and develop partnerships and coordinate efforts and program applications with other counties in the region that further enhance Jefferson County's grant applications and related planning initiatives,
 - Investigate all grant funding sources available under the RESTORE Act for proposed projects, as well as available leveraging opportunities to facilitate getting the most relevant funding sources.
 - Regularly report on progress, provide updates to the board and other appropriate individuals and entities.
 - Represent Jefferson County and interact with federal, state, local and public entities on issues pertaining to RESTORE activities, programs and processes, as necessary,
- Jefferson County is slated to get \$14 mil-

lion in pot 3 of the BP money, the first funding pot to become available. Before the money can be released, however, it must go through a series of steps and processes and be approved by the Gulf Consortium, the Governor's Council and a federal committee, among other entities. Approved projects must also benefit the natural environment.

County officials have already identify and drawn a list of projects that they want to accomplish with the BP money.

- Among these projects:
 - * Continuation of enhancements at the Wacissa River headwaters park.
 - * Acquisition of land for construction of a boat ramp at Malloy's Landing.
 - * Eradication of the exotic vegetation in the Wacissa River, particularly the hydrilla.
 - * Improvement of Goose Pasture Park, a 10-acre recreational site owned and managed by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD).
 - * Extension of sanitary sewer service to the I-10 and SR 59 Lloyd interchange to reduce septic effluents impacting the Aucilla basin.
 - * Construction of infrastructure that includes utility, roadway and storm water management facilities at the 1-10/SR-59 interchange to support economic development and reduce nutrient loads and improve water quality in the Aucilla basin.

Chamber News and Updates



ECB Publishing Inc. Photo By Debbie Snapp, March 6, 2018
Local business owner and entrepreneur Arun Kundra, on right, and Monticello Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce President Bob Davidson during the monthly meeting.

Debbie Snapp
 ECB Publishing, Inc.

Local business owner and entrepreneur Arun Kundra was speaker for the Tuesday, March 6 meeting. He spoke to the membership and guests about plans for his property location on Gamble Road/Highway 59, just south of I-10 on the west side. The location is where the Capital City Travel Center used to be.

Kundra admits he's dreaming big for his new venture, which will begin construction early summer this year. The establishment will be of a park-like setting, like Tallahassee Cascades Park, on the 167 acres. It will feature several fuel pumps and electric auto plug-ins; three eateries, along with retail and office spaces for rent. When completed it will create 80+ local jobs. He brought a draft of his plans to share with his audience, showing how the finished project will look.

"It will be a state-of-the-art facility," explains Kundra.

The membership meeting continued with announcements about an Open House and Ribbon



ECB Publishing Inc. Photo By Debbie Snapp, March 6, 2018
New owner of North Florida Abstract & Title Leslie Wilkinson.

Cutting at the recently relocated North Florida Abstract & Title, at 710 North Jefferson Street. New business owner Leslie Wilkinson will host the event on Thursday, April 5 from 4 to 7 p.m. She spoke briefly about how she came about taking ownership, and her future plans for the business. She moved into the new location on March 5 of this year, and will continue to offer the same

great service, and more.

The Big Spring Clean, sponsored by MainStreet Monticello, will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 14. Upon arrival check in at the hospitality tent that will be located at 110 East Dogwood Street. Volunteers and donations are needed. Contact Michele at (678) 614-0130. Rain date for this event is scheduled for April 21.

Karaoke Night will be held at The Mays House on Wednesday, April 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. a cover charge for entrance and heavy hors d'oeuvres is \$12. Donations will be taken to benefit the Jefferson Senior Citizens Center by Karaoke Master and Special Guest Jerry Byrd. Come join the fun and sing, sing, sing along with everybody else.

The next membership meeting of the Monticello Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce will be on Tuesday, April 3, at 12 p.m. Lunch will be prepared and catered by Chicken Delite and Program Speaker will be Monticello Police Chief Fred Mosley. RSVP to Chamber Executive Director Katrina Richardson before the monthly meeting.

Chamber Junior Leadership



Photo Submitted

Monticello Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Junior Leadership Class toured Simpsons Nurseries in March. Pictured in the front from left to right are: Emily Mueller, Emily Brock and Kentyra McIntosh. Pictured in the back from left to right are: Ian Hutsell, Evan Courtney, Joe Walton, Ryan Jackson, Rob Beshears (Simpson Nurseries,) Thad Beshears (Simpson Nurseries) and Tri-County Electric Sponsor Jeff Brewer.

Debbie Snapp
 ECB Publishing, Inc.

The Monticello Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Junior Leadership students visited and toured Simpson Nurseries and the Madison Oakes Farm on Wednesday, March 21. They also enjoyed a lunch provided by Madison Oakes Farm (Bubba Burgers) and Simpson Nurseries, prepared by Rusty Hamrick and Dori Collins.

The students took delight in touring areas of the 1000+ acres at

Simpson Nurseries, learning about different aspects of production, management and the selling of products all over the United States. Their tour guides were Philip Crampton and Houston Thompson. Businessman Thad Beshears offered a few words of wisdom and encouragement at the end of the tour.

Big Bend Transit donated services, transporting the students from the Chamber to Simpsons and to Madison Oakes Farm and back. Big Bend Transit provides transportation services in Jefferson County to the disadvantaged and

handicapped.

John Todd, director of ranch operations at Madison Oakes Farm, spoke to the students about the day-to-day operations of the farm. He talked about raising and processing grass fed, grass-finished beef cattle, and about the life-cycle of cattle, as well as management of the property. His words of wisdom and encouragement were to "always enjoy what you do for a living". His words were very-well received by the students. Todd shared that he'd been in the cattle business much of his life.



Photo Submitted

Big Bend Transit transported the Monticello Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Junior Leadership students to and from their class trip locations. Pictured in the front, from left to right, are: Emily Mueller, Kentyra McIntosh and Emily Brock. Pictured in the back from left to right are: Evan Courtney, Ian Hutsell, Ryan Jackson, Joe Walton, Big Bend Transit Bus Driver Ben Ransom and Tri-County Electric Sponsor Jeff Brewer.



Photo Submitted

The Monticello Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Junior Leadership Class students visited Simpson Nurseries in March. Pictured in the front from left to right are: Chamber Executive Director Katrina Richardson and students Emily Brock, Kentyra McIntosh and Emily Mueller. Pictured in the back from left to right are: Ian Hutsell, Evan Courtney, Joe Walton, Ryan Jackson and Dori Collins (Simpson Nurseries.)

Financial Focus...

Newer Investors: Don't Panic if Bear Market Returns

If you're in your twenties or thirties, you might be starting to focus more on investing to reach your financial goals. Because of this, you also may be more attuned to moves in the financial markets.

Depending on your age, you may have only experienced the bull market of the past nine years, so you might not know what to expect—or how to respond—whenever the next bear market strikes.

Of course, just recently, you've witnessed a market correction—a drop of at least 10 percent in the major stock market indices, such as the S&P 500. This sudden plunge made big news and reminded many investors of how volatile the financial markets can be. But a full-fledged bear market usually isn't identified until the markets are down 20 percent from their recent highs. Plus, bear markets, unlike corrections, tend to linger for a while.

The last "bear" emerged from hibernation in October 2007 and stayed on the prowl until early March 2009. During that time, the S&P 500 declined by about 50 percent. Clearly, investors were not happy—but the market recovered and moved to new heights. This long and strong run-up may have obliterated your bear market memories, if you ever had them at all. And that's why you might want to familiarize yourself with some of the bare facts about bear markets:

Bear markets may provide good buying opportunities. When gas is expensive, you may just buy a few gallons at a time—but when the price falls, you're probably more likely to fill up your tank. The same principle can apply to investing—when stock prices are down, your investment dollars will buy more shares. And the more shares you own, the greater your ability to build wealth once the share price rises. In short, a bear market may provide you with a chance to buy quality investments at good prices.

Bear markets don't last forever. No one can predict precisely how long bear markets will run, but they've typically been much shorter than bull markets. So, while you might not particularly like looking at your investment statement during a decline, you can take some comfort in knowing such downturns are a normal feature of the investment landscape.

Bear markets don't affect all investments equally. If you only own U.S. stocks, your portfolio may well take a sizable hit during a bear market. But other types of investment vehicles may not be as directly affected—and some may even show positive results. Consequently, you could reduce the bear's "bite" if you also own a variety of other investments, such as international stocks, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit (CDs) and so on. However, while owning this type of diversified portfolio can help reduce the impact of market volatility, it does not guarantee profits or protect against losses.

A bear market can be challenging. But by making the right moves, such as staying patient, looking for buying opportunities and maintaining a diversified portfolio, you may be able to prevent a market decline from becoming unbearable.

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

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 Financial Advisor

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Making Sense of Investing
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Danielle Sprague at the Kiwanis

Ashley Hunter, *ECB Publishing, Inc.*



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, March 21, 2018

Danielle Sprague, one of the newest agents at the Jefferson County Extension Office, was the guest speaker at the March 21 Kiwanis meeting. Sprague discussed her background, experience and schooling in the fields of agriculture, as well as the programs she wants to bring to Jefferson County.

of her position at the Jefferson Extension Office, as she is currently meeting with the county's citizens and producers to find out what Jefferson County needs from Sprague's expertise. Sprague will use the information gathered to develop her own, unique plan of action as the Agricultural Agent that Jefferson needs.

"I want to stay active in the community so I can increase agricultural knowledge," said Sprague.

One of the programs Sprague wants to offer will involve using her knowledge in Entomology to offer in-field diagnosis for farmers experiencing insect problems with their crops and assist them in discovering a fix.

With members of the community providing input, some of the other

programs Sprague plans to start will be current issue workshops (such as water issues, new pests, weed identification and gardening), pesticide trainings, a Master Gardener program (of which Jefferson's Extension office once had, but has since been ceased), and a stronger 4-H Livestock Program. The latter option Sprague felt strongly about.

"I would not be here if I had not

been exposed to [livestock] when I was younger," said Sprague at the Kiwanis meeting. She is still taking program input from the community, and welcomed the Kiwanis to offer their own suggestions. During her visit, Sprague also answered questions related to Citrus Greening, due to her knowledge and study of the subject while at the IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center.

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OBITUARIES

Franklin Curtis Blow



Franklin Curtis Blow, 72, died Wednesday, March 21 at Tallahassee Memorial Health Care after suffering a fall at his home. He was born in Nashville, TN, September 2, 1945, to Mary Blow Whatley and Curtis Blow.

A 1963 graduate of Jefferson County High School, he earned a BS in Business Administration at The Citadel followed by a two-year stint in the Army where he served as a tank company commander.

Following Army service, Blow spent 17 years as a training supervisor for New York Life Insurance. In recent years he was a respected Monticello business owner. He was committed to his community and held a number of offices over the years including serving as President of the Kiwanis Club, three terms as President of the Chamber of Commerce and was chair of the Economic Development Council at the time of his death.

Additionally, he served on several boards including the Chamber, Capital City Bank, Kiwanis Club, EDC, Tourist Development Council, and The Sons of Confederate Veterans Major Pickens Bird Camp. He was a member of First United Methodist Church.

He was predeceased by his son, Corbitt, mother Mary Blow Whatley, father Curtis Blow, and stepfather J.C. Whatley.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia Blow; daughter, Catherine Morgen, Atlanta, GA; granddaughters, Ella and Chloe Morgen; sister, Donna (Roger) Champion; stepdaughters Andrea Mollick and Jennifer (Greg) Osburn, Lakeland, FL.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held 10 a.m. April 28 at First United Methodist Church with a reception to follow in the family ministry center.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Kiwanis Club of Monticello, P.O. Box 160 Monticello, FL 32345; or to First United Methodist Church Youth Program, 325 West Walnut St. Monticello, FL 32344.

Storytime at the Library



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, March 8, 2018

Every Thursday, children aged three to seven are invited to the story time hour at the Jefferson County R.J. Bailar Public Library from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Youth Services Librarian Courtney Nicolou holds an engaging hour of stories, rhymes, songs and arts and crafts for the children who come to participate. Then, every Tuesday at 10 a.m., Baby Story Time is held for infants and toddlers under the age of two. Every week, a new book, with new experiences, songs and fun is available, free, to the county's children.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo by Ashley Hunter, March 22, 2018

Librarian Courtney Nicolou (center) watches while Lily (left) picks out her pom-poms to create a fluffy caterpillar and Jake (right) uses glue to construct his caterpillar at the Thursday, March 22 Story Time at the library.

Books and crafts at library Story Time

Ashley Hunter, ECB Publishing, Inc.

Stories about animals and spring, fuzzy caterpillar crafts and a silly song and dance session filled the children's room at the Jefferson County R.J. Bailar Library on Thursday, March 22.

Courtney Nicolou, the Youth Services Librarian, hosts a twice-weekly story time session at Jefferson's local library; one on Tuesday for infants and one on Thursday for children aged three through seven.

Nicolou reads aloud stories, dances and sings with the children, and arranges fun crafts that are themed around her stories for the day.

Both Story Times begin at 10 a.m., and last for roughly an hour.

The next Infant Story Time will be on Tuesday, April 3 and the next Children's Story Time will be on Thursday, March 29, and will be Easter-themed.

Sunrise Easter Service
 Wacissa United Methodist Church
Previously in the Williams' residence, now in the Chapel across the street from Wacissa United Methodist Church.
April 1, 2018 7 a.m.

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Spring cleaning? Maximize your garage storage

Statepoint

Most people are pressed for garage space, regardless of the size of their house, from DIYers overwhelmed with tools to moms searching for places to store holiday decorations.

Toter, a leading manufacturer of carts, cans and containers for use in a wide range of home and work waste management and storage solutions, is offering the following tips for making more of precious garage space.

- **Keep trash in its place:** To keep trash and odors contained, select a mobile trash cart with a tight-fitting lid that's compatible with your haulers' pickup requirements and comes with a warranty. Some manufacturers also offer cart and can liners and deodorizers to keep your garage smelling fresh.

- **Invest in a multi-purpose job box:** Most people tend to have the wrong size toolbox for their needs. Consider the shape, capacity and compartments needed for your tools. Rolling options are great for work done only at home, while a job box may be better for those who do work elsewhere. If portability is important, look at lighter-weight options. New plastic job boxes, such as the Toter HardHead, combine the strength, durability and security of a large metal box with enhanced maneuverability.

- **Build up, not out:** Ceiling storage racks are an excellent way to use what would otherwise be dead space. Many racks are designed to fit directly above the area where an automatic door goes up and down. Peg boards for tools and stackable totes are also good choices.

- **Choose multipurpose storage:** Needs can change over time, so invest in storage that can be used for a variety of items in multiple ways. For example, large, durable totes can hold lawn gear, tools or camping equipment.

- **Think mobility:** Being able to move containers within the garage is important. However, the ability to move them into your vehicle and hit the road quickly also makes life a lot easier. Consumers will get the most mileage from durable, impact-resistant plastic containers. These can cost a bit more upfront, but will stand the test of time.

- **Protect items:** Moisture and pests cause problems in even the cleanest garage. Look for durable storage containers with tight-fitting, critter-resistant lids.

- **Categorize:** Assign and color-code dedicated areas for each type of item—tools, decorations, lawn equipment, etc.—to avoid the hassle of searching.

- **Allow room to grow:** While it can be tempting to stuff every square inch, try to leave room for future additions. To ensure everything deserves the space it's occupying, do a yearly purge of unneeded or unused items. Your local classifieds page is a great way to sell obsolete belongings for cash, or if you're more technologically savvy, Craigslist can be useful.

For more information on finding the right storage solutions for your needs, visit toter.com/storage-solutions.

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Trying to find something to do for Easter?

Ashley Hunter
ECB Publishing, Inc.

a.m., the Easter Parade (Main St.) at 10:30 a.m., and an Easter Egg Hunt (Commercial Bank on W. Jefferson St.) at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, March 28: Worship at the First Presbyterian Church (located at 290 E. Dogwood St.) during the Community Holy Week Services. Rev. Sean Vickers (First Baptist Church of Monticello), will give the welcome and offertory, Rev. R.C. Griffin will bring the message and the Children's Choir will perform special music. Lunch will be served. Service begins at 12 p.m.

Saturday, March 31: Children can hunt for eggs, get their face painted, visit with the Easter Bunny, create sand art, and play on a bounce house at the Annual Country Market and Craft Fair on Saturday. Meanwhile, adults can shop from over 50 local vendors and enjoy live music and delicious food. The event is located at 2522 Gamble Rd., in Monticello. The fair lasts from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Thursday, March 29: The Jefferson County R.J. Bailar Library be hosting a special Easter-themed children's Story Time at 10 a.m. With three books focusing on Easter, a handprint bunny craft and a small egg hunt in the library's garden, it'll be a ton of fun!

Saturday, March 31: A community egg hunt, free picnic lunch, games, face painting and prizes is on the venue for the event hosted by Transforming Life Church. The event will start at 10:30 a.m., and is geared towards children who fall between the ages of toddler-fifth grade. The church is located at 1206 Springfield Rd., in the Lloyd area.

Thursday, March 29: The Community Holy Week services continue at the First Presbyterian Church (located at 290 E. Dogwood St.) with Dr. David Wimberly (First United Methodist Church) giving the welcome and offertory, Father Jim May will deliver the message and special music will be performed by Cole Vickers. Lunch will be served. Service begins at 12 p.m.

Sunday, April 1: A community Easter egg hunt will be held at 1 p.m. at the Jefferson County Teen Center.

Friday, March 30: Good Friday marks the last of the Community Holy Week services, which will be held at the First Presbyterian Church (located at 290 E. Dogwood St.) with Rev. Sean Vickers (First Baptist Church of Monticello) giving the welcome and offertory and Chaplain Gus Spanos (Jefferson Correctional Institute) providing the message. Special music will be provided by The Fulford Family and Buddy Entzminger. There will be no lunch on this Good Friday. Service starts at 12 p.m.

Sunday, April 1: Celebrate Easter at the First Baptist Church (located at 325 W. Washington St.) with a coffee bar starting at 9:30 a.m., a Bible Study at 9:45 a.m., a special worship service at 11 a.m., and afterwards, free Easter family portraits and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.

Saturday, March 31: The 28th Annual Spring Fling and Auction in Boston, GA will include an arts, crafts and flea market and auction, as well as various Easter-related activities. Easter events include the Easter Bonnet Contest (Watt Park) at 10

Sunday, April 1: Mt. Ararat AME Church, located off South Waukeenah Highway, will host its 7th Annual Easter Fashion Show on Sunday, April 1. The Easter Sunday morning will begin with church school at 9 a.m., followed by the Easter Fashion Show at 10 a.m. The program will include Easter speeches, skits, dances, trivia and the like. The public is invited and encouraged to participate. Following the speeches, young and old will showcase their Sunday best outfits during the fashion show. An Easter Egg Hunt will follow the Fashion Show.

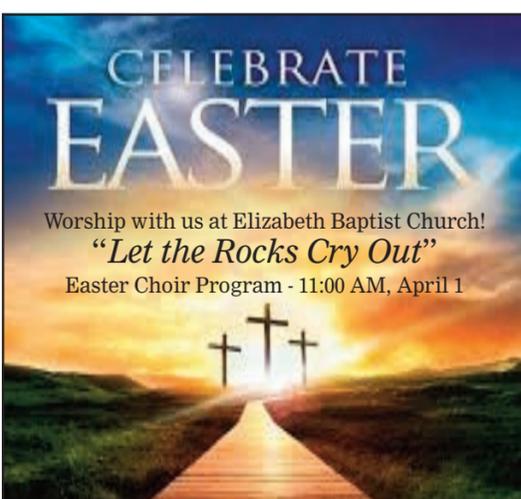
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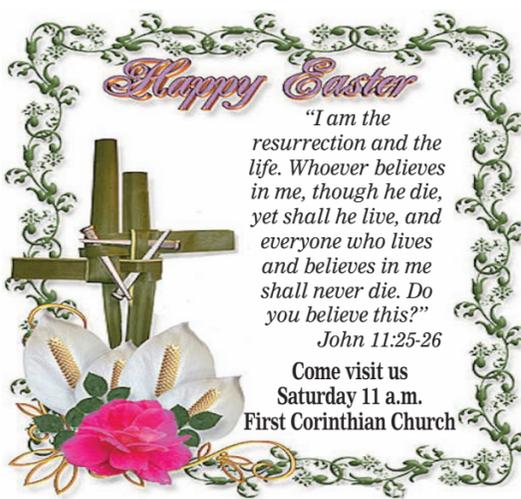
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How bunnies hopped into Easter

Story Submitted

Easter is now the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, but the seasonal chocolate eggs and the bunny who delivers them are nowhere to be found in scripture. The exact origins of the Easter bunny are clouded in mystery. One theory is that the symbol of the rabbit stems from pagan tradition, specifically the festival of Eostre—a goddess of fertility whose animal symbol was a bunny. Rabbits, known for their energetic breeding, have traditionally symbolized fertility.

Eggs are also representative of new life, and it's believed that decorating eggs for Easter dates back to the 13th century. Hundreds of years ago, churches had their congregations abstain from eggs during Lent, allowing them to be consumed again on Easter. According to *history.com*, in the 19th century Russian high society started exchanging ornately decorated eggs—even jewel encrusted—on Easter.

But, how did the Easter Bunny begin delivering eggs on American shores? The theory with the most evidence is that the floppy-eared bearer of candy came over with German immigrants.

According to some sources, the Easter bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called

"Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws." Their children made nests in which this creature could lay their colored eggs. Eventually, the custom spread across the US and the fabled rabbit's Easter morning deliveries expanded to include chocolate and other types of candy and gifts, while decorated baskets replaced nests. Additionally, children often left out carrots for the bunny in case he got hungry from all his hopping. Bunnies aren't the animal traditionally associated with Easter in every country. Some identify the holiday with other types of animals, like foxes or cuckoo birds.

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The Perry-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce announces that the 16th Annual Florida State Bluegrass Festival and Chili Cook-off Event at Forest Capital State Park in Perry will be held April 5 through April 7th with a truckload of Moon Pies hitching a ride from Chattanooga Tn. to be given out free to the crowd on Saturday by our Moon Pie Princesses! Headlining the event will be Nothing Fancy, Mountain Faith, Lonely Heartstring Band, Dave Adkins, Adventures of Annabelle and much more! In addition to this powerhouse line-up, we will have a free Kids Fun Zone, Arts and Crafts, all kinds of food vendors

including seafood, BBQ and much more. What started out as a one-day event with a few hundred attendees is now a nationally recognized three day event with thousands in attendance from all over the United States!

There will be talented entertainers filling the park with music all three days, a Chili Cook-off event, where competitors will be competing for over \$1,000 in cash prizes, food vendors, arts and crafts items, Moon Pie Eating Contest, and free Moon Pies! Best of all, the entry fee is only \$20 for a weekend three day pass in advance and \$25 at the gate (specially priced tickets for local residents available)! In addition to all that, ticket holders can attend any one of many free music

workshops held throughout the park in the areas of mandolin, banjo, fiddle, dobro, and bass.

The Chili Cook-off event is very popular. Contestants can enter to win cash prizes, trophies, and bragging rights. For those who do not wish to enter, you can have the opportunity to purchase a cup for only \$5 and eat all the chili you wish! But wait, there's more. Saturday, the Moon Pie Princesses will be there to give out free Moon Pies to the audience!

Showtimes start on Thursday at 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. Friday things will get started at 1 p.m. and will end at 9 p.m. Saturday the entertainment will begin at 12 p.m. and will continue through the day until 10 p.m. The event will take place at Forest Capital State Park in Perry on US Hwy 19 South.

So, come out to the Music Capital of the South and get your feet wet to the sound of Bluegrass & Country music! Expect plenty of parking lot picking and fun-filled singing to the sounds of bluegrass.

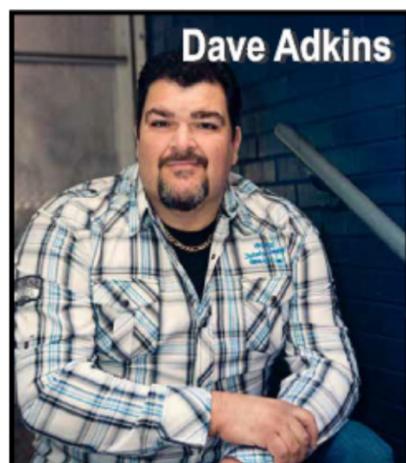
For more information about the 16th Annual Florida State Bluegrass Festival event or the Chili Challenge, call the Chamber office at 584-5366 or go to floridastatebluegrass.com.

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16th Annual Florida State Bluegrass Festival

April 5-6-7, 2018 & CHILI COOK-OFF!!

Forest Capital State Park Highway 19 South - Perry, FL



Featuring...

Nothing Fancy, Mountain Faith, Lonely Heartstring Band, Dave Adkins, Pure & Simple, Adventures of Annabelle and much more...
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TICKETS: Thurs-\$5.00 Fri-\$15.00 Saturday-\$20.00

Three Day Pass: \$20.00 advance \$25.00 gate!

Music, Free Music Workshops, Arts & Crafts, Food Vendors, Chili Cook-off, Moon Pies, Kid's Fun Zone & More!

INFO & CAMPING: 850-584-5366

www.floridastatebluegrass.com

www.Facebook.com/florida-state-bluegrass

MONTICELLO

BETHPAGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

379 Bethpage Road Monticello, FL
(850) 997-0967
Moderator Rev. Dr. Issac Manning Jr., Pastor
"Greater Is Coming"
Sunday School @ 10:00 a.m. (2nd, 3rd and 4th) Sundays
1st Sunday @ 9:30 a.m. - Early Morning Worship Service
Morning Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.
(2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays)
Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m. B.U.G.S. Program -
"Building Upon Gospel Standards"

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

285 Magnolia St • Monticello • 997-2165
www.cbeflorida.org
Dr. David E. Walker, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45 AM
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM
Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM

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
Worship Service.....6:00 PM
Wednesday
Choir Practice.....6:00 PM
Fellowship Meal.....6:45 PM
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study.....7:10 PM

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

US 19 South at Cooper's Pond Road
(850) 997-1166
Minister Steve Cordle

Sunday Bible School.....10:00 AM
Worship Hour.....11:00 AM
Wednesday
Bible Study7:00 PM

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

425 North Cherry Street • Monticello • 997-4116
www.ChristChurchMonticello.com
Email: christchurch425@yahoo.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

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

Shawn and Bethany Grosvenor, Pastors

Sunday School.....9:45 AM
Morning Worship.....10:45 AM
Student Life Group.....4:30 PM
Tuesday Evening
Mens & Ladies Bible Study 6:00 PM
Saturday
Spanish Church Services.....7:30 PM

ELIZABETH BAPTIST CHURCH

4124 Bassett Dairy Rd • Monticello • 997-8444
Email: secretary@ebmonticello.com
website: www.ebmonticello.com

Pastor, Robert Dennison

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

325 West Washington Street
Monticello (850) 997-2349
www.fbcmonticello.org
Pastor Sean Vickers

Sunday School.....9:45 AM
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
Children's Church - Ages 4-6 & 7-12.....11:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 PM
Wednesday Youth Group/Service.....6:15 to 7:15 PM
Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 PM
-Nursery for all services-
Adult Choir Practice Wednesdays7:00 PM
Church/Family Supper (Sept-May) Wednesdays 5:00 PM
Women's Prayer Group, third Monday.....6:30 PM
Community LLL Meeting, fourth Tuesday.....10:00 AM
Outreach/Visitation, Thursdays.....10:00 AM

FIRST CORINTHIAN CHURCH

955 Lemon St./ P.O. Box 1112, Monticello,
(850) 545-2039
sonnyjohnjr@aol.com
Pastor John Jones

Sabbath Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
Wednesday/Friday Bible Study.....6:30 PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

325 W. Walnut Street • Monticello
Pastor John Hicks 997-5545
www.monticelloFUMC.org
jandkhicks@aol.com

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

290 East Dogwood Street • Monticello • (850) 997-2252
R.C. Griffin, III, Pastor

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

From the Pulpit...

Resurrection Eggs, An Easter Story

Stephen was one of those special youth who touched my life. He was energetic. He was a leader. He had an open heart for the Lord, and he loved helping make things happen in the youth group. And if



Pastor John Hicks
First United Methodist Church

that wasn't enough, he had a cute older sister my age. I couldn't have asked for much more at the time as a single young minister.

Around Easter, God blessed me with a program that Stephen really took to heart. I gave everyone an empty Leggs container (the ones shaped like eggs), and challenged them to go find something that symbolized new life and place it in their "egg". We ended up with flowers and insects and all kinds of offerings. Afterwards, I showed them an empty egg, and shared with them about the tomb being empty and how that meant new life for us all.

Stephen liked the illustration so much that he started handing out empty eggs at school, sharing with the recipients about the empty tomb and its meaning. He called his eggs "resurrection eggs".

Then, Stephen came out of remission. In six weeks, I saw a healthy, energetic young man become a puffy, lethargic mass. Although the cancer affected Stephen's body, it did not affect his spirit. He still had a positive outlook and still loved to share resurrection eggs with those around him.

Stephen eventually slipped into a coma and was admitted to the hospital. One day as I was heading to the church, I got the inkling to stop at the hospital to see Stephen. As I went up to the floor, I met Stephens' dad, who, with tears in his eyes, shared, "John, my son is dying."

With my heart in my throat, I entered Stephen's room. Stephen was in a pre-natal position coma, making whimpering sounds like a little puppy. Not knowing what else to do, I held Stephens' hand and started to pray. I don't know the time frame, but I suddenly noticed that the whimpering had stopped. I looked up and saw Stephen looking at me. I will never forget his look or what he told me:

"John, I'm going to be with Jesus. Take care of my mom and dad."

A short while later, Stephen did go to be with Jesus, but his words of assurance stayed in my heart. The church was filled to overflowing with students and young people giving testimony after testimony about how Stephen's faith had touched their lives.

Many came with the resurrection eggs that Stephen had given them. One of the resurrection eggs was even placed in his coffin. Stephen's body was placed in the earth, but Stephen's spirit had already been claimed. He had gone to be with Jesus.

If you ever happen to be in Sandy Springs, Georgia, stop by North Springs United Methodist Church. There you will find a Dogwood tree blossoming with new life during the Easter Season. At its base is a plaque remembering Stephen Haight. It's a tribute to a young man who touched many lives not only with his resurrection eggs, but with his resurrection faith.

Because the tomb is empty our lives can be full. Because the tomb is empty, we can go forth as people brimming with the resurrection love of God.

Live for the risen Christ and let Christ live in you. And remember, when the day comes, as people with resurrection faith we can claim and proclaim with full assurance, "I'm going to be with Jesus!"

CHURCH NEWS NOTES

debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com OR (850) 997-3568

March 26-30

Passion Week Services will be held at noon, Monday-Friday, at First Presbyterian Church. This is a county tradition when all churches come together to remember Christ.

March 28-30

Saint Phillip AME Church, 08 Phillip Road, will hold Holy Week at 7 p.m. nightly. "Praising God for His Goodness" and bringing the Message to the attending congregations will be: Preacher Gracie Dickey, Preacher Nikita Wiggins and Preacher Tracy Jimenez. For more information call (850) 997-4226. Rev. J.W. Tisdale, pastor.

March 29

Community Lenten Caravan, raising funds to assist the Clergy Family Ministry and District Benevolent Fund, will travel to Concord African Methodist Episcopal Church. Pastor Chester Brown and his congregation will host the service. The service will be centered around prayer and fasting as congregations take a journey to Resurrection Sunday.

March 29

AA meeting at 8 p.m. on Thursdays at Christ Episcopal Church annex. For information call

(850) 251-0278. Father Jim May, church pastor.

March 30

Greater Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church will hold a Good Friday Service on Friday, March 30 at 7 p.m. The evening program, "The Seven Last Words at Jerusalem The Cross" will feature seven speakers. All are invited to attend. Rev. Melvin Roberts, pastor. Call (850) 997-4375 for more information.

March 30

Christ Episcopal Church Food Share distribution from 9 to 11 a.m. usually on the last Friday at 425 North Cherry Street. Father Jim May, church pastor.

April 1

Mt. Ararat AME Church located off South Waukeelah Highway will hold its 7th Annual Easter Fashion Show. The program will be this Sunday, starting with church school at 9 a.m. The Easter fashion show will follow at 10 a.m. The program will include Easter speeches, skits, dances, trivia, etc. The public is encouraged to participate. Following the speeches, young and old will be showcasing their Sunday best outfits during the fashion show. The public is welcomed to participate.

Following the program, there will be an Easter egg hunt. Rev. Raynetta Pandley is the pastor. (850) 980-2726.

April 1

First Baptist Church will celebrate Easter on Sunday beginning at 9:30 a.m. with a Coffee Bar; 9:45 a.m. Bible Study for all ages; and at 11 a.m. a Special Morning Worship Service followed with free family portraits and free Krispy Kreme in a family, friendly environment. Rev. Sean Vickers, pastor.

April 1-6

A Spring Tent Revival, themed "Remember and Worship God", scripture Luke 1:54, will begin on Resurrection Sunday at Nathan's Field, 6755 Veterans Memorial Drive in Miccosukee, with a Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. hosted by speaker, Elder Tracy Davis, with the Greater St. Marks P.B. Church in Tallahassee. All other speakers are at 7 p.m., also at Nathan's Field. April 2-3 speaker will be Prophetess Theresa James, from Atlanta, Georgia. April 5 speaker will be Elder Kevin Williams from Tallahassee. April 6-7 speaker will be Rev. Ronald Rackley, Sr., pastor at Faith and Worship Ministries. For more information about this event contact Evangelist Maggie Patterson at (850) 274-4467 or (850) 216-0517. All are invited to attend one or all of the services.

April 2

AA meeting at 8 p.m. on Mondays at Christ Episcopal Church annex, 425 North Cherry Street. For information call (850) 251-0278. Father Jim May, church pastor.

MEMORIAL M.B. CHURCH

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

Sundays

Sunday Church School (Every Sunday).....9:30 AM
Sunday Worship (2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays)..11:00 AM
Youth Worship (2nd Sunday).....11:00 AM

Wednesdays

Prayer Meeting/Bible Study.....7:00 PM

NEW HOPE CHURCH OF GOD

415 East Palmer Mill Rd • Monticello • 997-1119
www.newhopecog.net

Pastor Dr. E. Bob Kuschel
"The Sunday Place To Be"

Sunday School.....10:00 AM
Worship Service.....11:00 AM
Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 PM

OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

7369 Boston Hwy. Monticello
(850) 997-1596

Pastor David During

Sunday Bible Study.....10:00 AM
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM
Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible & Prayer Meeting.....7:00 PM

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Interesting facts about Holy Week

Story Submitted

Holy Week is the week before Easter, a period which includes the religious holidays of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Here's what you should know about the days that commemorate the Passion of Christ:

1. Holy Week observances likely began in Jerusalem in the earliest days of the church, though the term first appears in the writings of fourth century bishops, Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, and Epiphanius, bishop of Constantia. Holy week does not include Easter Sunday.
2. The first recording of a Holy Week observance was made by Egeria, a Gallic woman who made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land about 381 A.D. to 384 A.D. In an account of her travels she wrote for a group of women back in Spain, Egeria describes the Palm Sunday she observed in Jerusalem: "all the children who are [gathered at the top of the Mount of Olives], including those who are not yet able to walk because they are too young and therefore are carried on their parents' shoulders, all of them bear branches, some carrying palms; others, olive branches. The bishop is led in the same manner as the Lord once was led."
3. Because of the difficulty in some parts of the world of procuring palms for Palm Sunday, leaves from yew, willow, olive, or other native trees are frequently used. The Sunday was often designated by the names of these trees, as Yew Sunday, or by the general term, Branch Sunday.
4. An archaic and infrequently used name for the Wednesday before Easter is "Spy Wednesday," named for Judas, who became a spy for the Sanhedrin.
5. Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday.

The term "Maundy" is derived from the Latin word "mandatum," meaning commandment. The term refers to the commandment given by Jesus at the Last Supper: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." (John 13:34). The historical origins of the "good" in Good Friday remain unclear, though some etymologists believe the term "good" is an archaic form of "holy."

6. In Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions, Holy Saturday commemorates the "harrowing of hell," the time between Jesus' Crucifixion and His Resurrection, when Christ is believed to have descended into hell. Some Protestants, however, don't believe that Scripture warrants believing the claim, found in the Apostle's creed, that "[Christ] descended into hell." As John Piper says, "there is no textual basis for believing that Christ descended into hell."

7. In Medieval Europe, Christians would abstain from eating eggs and meat during Lent. Eggs laid during that time were often boiled to preserve them and were given as Easter gifts to children and servants. Some traditions claim the Easter egg is symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus, with the shell of the egg representing the sealed Tomb and cracking the shell representing the Resurrection. Christians in the Middle East and in Greece painted eggs bright red to symbolize the blood of Christ.

8. The Christian scholar Bede (673-735 AD), known as the Venerable Bede, claimed in his book, *De Ratione Temporum*, that Easter was named after Eostre, a pagan goddess of the Saxon people in Northern Europe. Later scholars, however, claim that the term derives from the Anglo-Saxon word "oster", meaning "to rise" or for their term for the Spring equinox, "Eostre."



ECB Publishing Inc Photo By Debbie Snapp, March 24, 2018
Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church sponsored a very successful "Clothing Giveaway" on Saturday morning for the Jefferson County community. So successful, that very little was leftover by morning's end. Pictured looking over the articles of clothing is Melissa Hinton. Seated on the truck tailgate, from left to right, are: Deacon Charles Gilley and Rev. Ernest Bruton, pastor of Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church, located at 555 Fulford Road. Call (850) 673-7226 for more information.

The real meaning of Easter

Story submitted

So what if the Easter bunny wins the hearts of children everywhere? So, why not strike "Easter vacation" from the vocabulary of our schools and substitute "Spring Break"? What difference does Easter make anyway? It makes a lot of difference to those who are in touch enough with reality to take life and death seriously. It made a lot of difference to a very real woman named Mary. Let me tell you her story.

Mary had the heart-wrenching honor of washing the dried blood from Jesus' lifeless body as two other followers prepared the tomb that was cut into Jerusalem's cold limestone. Mary wept and remembered as she washed. She had been born to luxury, heiress to a textile fortune, a native of Magdala, a town along the coast of Galilee. "Little good it did me," said Mary. Money had brought the opposite of happiness. She looked back at her teen years as a blur of painful, compulsive acting out. Her parents had thrown up their hands in despair, she recalled. She recollected the gnawing fear and self-loathing that ate at her very core. She could remember the caring boldness in Jesus' penetrating eyes as he had confronted the demons that tormented her and commanded them to be gone forever. That had been the last of the frantic, distraught Mary. A gentle, peace-filled Mary had taken her place, until today.

Today she had seen her Lord die an excruciating death, his body hanging limp from the nails driven through his hands and feet, suspended from a cross like a common criminal. Her heart caught in her throat as she remembered, wept and washed away the caked blood with her tears. She wept too, as she watched the men lift Jesus' corpse onto the tomb's carved ledge, and roll a massive stone across the doorway. Was all her hope for nothing? What of all the thousands of diseased bodies he had healed, and the broken lives he had restored? What would become of the promises of the Kingdom of God?

But early Sunday morning she was back at the tomb to finish anointing his body. When she arrived, the tomb stood open, stone pushed to the side, ashes of the Roman guards' watchfire still smoldering. "How can they be so cruel?" she cried, as she ran to tell the apostles. But, it wasn't cruelty that rolled away the stone that Easter morning. It was the powerful hand of God as Jesus Christ stepped forth, brimming with Life. Mary saw him, mistaking him for the gardener. But there was no mistaking his familiar voice. "Mary," said the powerful Savior. She fell at his feet, tears of grief melting into tears of joy. "Rabboni," said Mary, as she looked into his face, saying, "Teacher."

Yes, Easter bunnies still capture the hearts of children and schools talk about Spring Break, but you and I know what really happened on Easter. In an instant, history changed forever, because where the human mortality rate had once held steady at 100 percent, now it skipped a beat as the Savior of all mankind stepped out of the death statistics into life. Death is the last word no longer for Jesus' followers. Life is.

"Believe in Buddha," some still insist amid the marketplace of the world religions. "Confucius," say the Chinese. "Mohammed," cry the Muslims. "Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh," shout his followers, and on it goes. "Jesus," Mary would tell us, "He changed my life." Millions around the globe would echo, "Mine, too. He touched my life, too." For while religious leaders have come and gone, the fact remains:

only one stepped forth from the tomb. Only one has risen from the dead. Only one has conquered death. Only one offers the promise of eternal life to those who follow him. "I am the resurrection and the life," said Jesus. "He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

So why do Jesus' followers gather in churches on Easter morning? To show off their Easter finery? God forbid. Rather, they gather to celebrate the victory of Life over death and help their children and grandchildren share their faith that Jesus is alive. Most importantly, they gather to declare that Jesus Christ is Lord indeed!

MONTICELLO

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

ST. PHILLIP A.M.E. 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

MONTICELLO

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690 Cypress Street Monticello (850) 997-4375
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Dr. Melvin Roberts, Pastor

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 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.

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1287 South Jefferson Street • 997-RGCC (7422)

www.restoredglory.org

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Get Moving Womens Fitness & Fellowship, Monday.....6:00 PM
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 Thursday Church Service.....7:00 PM
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4543 Waukeelah Hwy • 264-0802

www.sardismumc.org

Pastor Steve Lenzo

pastor@sardismumc.org

Worship Service9:30 AM
 Sunday School To Follow
 Tuesday Bible Study.....6:30 PM

LLOYD

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of LLOYD

124 St. Louis Street • Lloyd • 997-5309

Pastor Jered Day

www.fbclloyd.net • fbclloyd1@embarqmail.com

Sunday	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Praise & Worship
	4:59 pm	Choir
	5:00 pm	TeamKID
	6:00 pm	Youth
	6:00 pm	Praise & Worship
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Family Supper
	6:30 pm	Youth Potter's
		Wheel (Grades 6-12)
		Music Missions and More (Children)
	6:45 pm	Worship on Wednesday
2nd & 4th Monday	6:00 pm	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Crafty Ladies Ministry
2nd Thursday	11:00am	Lloyd Silver Saints
3rd Thursday	5:30pm	W W Diners (Widows/Widowers)
3rd Friday	6:00pm	Brotherhood

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 Celebration
 Children's Church
 Wednesday.....7:00 PM
 Adult Bible Study
 TLC Kid's Club
 Ascend Youth Group
 * Connect Groups - 2nd & 4th Sunday Evenings of the month

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Deadline for Friday's Paper 3 p.m. on Wed.

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850-342-0244
Jefferson County Humane Society

Legal Notices

NOTICE

The Jefferson County Tourist Development Council announces their monthly meeting that will be held on April 2, 2018 at 10:00 am at the county Annex on Walnut St. Monticello, FL 32344 3/28,30,c

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

In accordance with Section 865.09, Florida Statutes NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of: "HAGAN LEGACY JEWELS" mailing address of 285 SOUTH MARVIN ST, MONTICELLO, FL 32344 located in Jefferson County, Florida Owner intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Owner: TEQUILA D. HAGAN Dated this 28th day of MARCH, 2018 3/28

NOTICE OF SURPLUS SELL:

INVITATION TO BID FOR PURCHASE OF SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY

Per FL Statute: 125.35 (1)(c)

JEFFERSON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE BUILDING
275 N. Mulberry St., Monticello, FL 32344

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners is now accepting sealed bids to surplus sale the Extension Office Building, (Formerly the Jefferson County Health Department), located behind the Monticello Post Office.

- Specifications:
- Parcel# 00-00-00-0360-0000-0671
 - Land Area: 0.327 Acre
 - Built in 1968
 - Heated Square Footage 5,236 / Total Square Footage Under Roof 6,105

*****The building will be sold AS IS.** Power is on and water is available for inspection purposes. To inspect the inner building please contact the Jefferson County Road Department, Diana Bullock, Christina Lashley or Parrish Barwick at 850/997-2036 or 850/342-0287.

Sealed Bids will be accepted until 5:00 PM Friday, April 13 2018; at 1484 S. Jefferson St., Monticello, FL 32344. Attention Parrish Barwick, Jefferson County Coordinator.

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any and all sealed bids. Individuals submitting bids shall bear the entire cost of preparation and presentation of bids responsive hereto and the County shall not be liable for any costs incurred in preparing any bid. 2/23,28, 3/7,14,21,28, 4/4,11

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSAL
RFQ #2018030118-01

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER
1484 S. Jefferson St., Monticello, FL 32344

Jefferson County will select a Restore Act Grant Consultant to provide consultant services associated with grant writing, administration, technical support, application, monitoring and post-grant requirements of the Restore Act to Jefferson County and all Treasury guidelines and federal grant regulations and those additional grant consulting services required of the professional with the Restore Act as required by Jefferson County and the U.S. Treasury.

Proposals from the qualified parties will show the selected consultants ability to provide general guidance and support to Jefferson County staff and advise the commission and staff regarding the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast (RESTORE) Act of 2012.

Tasks and expectations of grant consultant services are defined within the complete Request for Proposals (RFQ) available from the County Coordinator, Parrish Barwick at 1484 S. Jefferson Street, Monticello, Florida 32344; or from the Jefferson County Web Site www.jeffersoncountyfl.gov.

The County, at its sole discretion, intends to award a contract to the party deemed to offer the best qualifications, value and probability of success in administration, consulting and facilitating Jefferson County's grant writing program, monitoring and implementation of the various components of each grant sought and secured through the RESTORE Act.

Sealed Bids will be accepted until 5:00 PM Friday, April 13 2018; at 1484 S. Jefferson St., Monticello, FL 32344. Attention Parrish Barwick, Jefferson County Coordinator.

*****The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any and all sealed bids.** Individuals submitting bids shall bear the entire cost of preparation and presentation of bids responsive hereto and the County shall not be liable for any costs incurred in preparing any bid. 3/9,16,21,28,4/4,11

Monticello News

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Spay/Neuter Now – Before Kitten Season



- Cats have a 63-day (nine-week) gestation period.
- Spring kittens are being conceived right now!
- Prevention is key with Trap-Neuter-Return.

Alley Cat Allies alleycat.org/BeatTheHeat

Kitten Season is when kittens are born at a rapid rate in spring and summer. You can prepare and "beat the heat" if you spay and neuter cats before warm weather.

www.ItsMeoworNeverTally.com

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Hint: Each of the nine blocks has to contain all the numbers 1-9, and each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

Read Your Local Papers Online

Just a reminder to everyone that you can read the actual *Monticello News* and *Jefferson County Journal* newspapers online.

The online edition of the newspaper (called an e-edition) is available not only on computers, but also on iPads, Kindles, other tablets, iPhones and Android phones.

A one-year subscription to just the e-edition is only \$30 per year, or can be purchased in conjunction with the actual newspaper subscription, also. The online e-editions become available for viewing every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

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COMMUNITY CAT

ALSO KNOWN AS: Outdoor Cat, Stray Cat, Alley Cat, Feral Cat, Street Cat, Barn Cat, and Tomcat.



Outdoor community cats and pet cats are the same species—*Felis catus*—the domestic cat.

Studies show outdoor cats are as **healthy** as pet cats and can have the same life span.

"Feral" describes behavior—feral cats are wary of people and live on their own outdoors.

An **ear tip** is the universal symbol to identify a neutered and vaccinated cat. The top 1/8 inch of the cat's left ear is removed during surgery.

Community cats are **not adoptable** because they are not socialized to humans.

More than 40% of Americans have cared for an outdoor cat.

Cats live **everywhere**.

Cats have lived outdoors alongside humans since **before the pyramids**.

Outdoor cats live in family groups called **colonies**.

Cats are **bonded** to their environments and colonies.

More than 70% of all cats who go to a shelter are killed there.

For community cats, that rises to **virtually 100%**.

Removing community cats **doesn't work**. Catching and killing is ineffective, outdated, and cruel.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the only humane, effective approach to care for community cats. Cats are **spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and eartipped** and then returned to their outdoor home.

Alley Cat Allies Learn more about community cats at alleycat.org/GetInformed.