

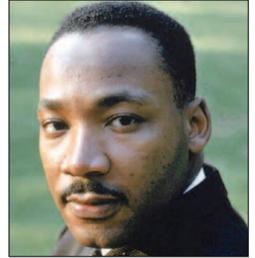
Mayo Free Press



Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 20, 2014

'I have a dream ...'

There will be no school Monday, Jan. 20 for Lafayette County schools in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



Vol. 125, No. 45 USPS 334-600 THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2014, Lafayette County, Florida 1 SECTION 16 PAGES 50c

Saturday storm downs trees, power lines

No injuries reported in county

By **Joyce Marie Taylor**
 joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

A violent storm system passed through the North Florida region on Saturday, Jan. 11, bringing with it severe thunderstorm

warnings and even tornado warnings for Suwannee and Hamilton counties.

The system crossed over Lafayette County around 3 p.m., according to Lafayette County Sheriff Brian Lamb, bringing rains and high winds that

SEE SATURDAY, PAGE 11A



The town of Mayo cleared the roadway at Lafayette Apartments after the storm passed through.



This tree near Lafayette Apartments took out power lines. -Photos: Joyce Marie Taylor

State Surgeon General promotes healthy weight

By **Joyce Marie Taylor**
 joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

Florida State Surgeon General John Armstrong has been visiting all the health departments in the state and he stopped in at the Florida Department of Health-Lafayette County recently to chat with personnel and listen to their concerns and answer questions.

Staff prepared fresh fruits and vegetables and homemade banana nut bread for Armstrong's visit and he applauded them for thinking healthy.

"The really cool thing about our state is that every community has something going for it," said Armstrong of all the health departments he has visited throughout the state. "You really pick up on that."

Lafayette Health Department Administrator Pam Blackmon, who also serves Suwannee County, recalled the last time she saw Armstrong, which was immediately after Tropical Storm Debby devastated the area in 2012.

"We had to open up offsite for a month," said Blackmon. "We operated out of one of the schools because the road (Nobles Fer-

ry) to the health department was flooded."

Lafayette County Commissioners Gail Garrard and Earnest Jones, along with many of the health department staff, including now retired dentist Stanley Jones, gathered for an informal meeting with Armstrong to discuss health issues, including the challenges rural counties face when providing healthcare for residents.

Armstrong's objective for his visits is to listen to concerns and try to factor them into a master plan across the state to ensure there are enough resources.

"I'm also putting a spotlight on the top public health threat that we face in Florida, which is our weight challenge," said Armstrong. "We're not alone. It turns out there are 49 other states and the District of Columbia facing the same challenge."

What sets Florida apart, Armstrong said, is that the state is willing to address the situation in a unique way that focuses on empowering communities.

Blackmon said addressing healthy weights for all citizens is part of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Lafayette County.

"You, as leaders here in this community, have a great oppor-



(L-R) County Commissioners Earnest Jones and Gail Garrard, State Surgeon General John Armstrong, Lafayette Health Department Administrator Pam Blackmon and Environmental Health Director Mike Mitchell. -Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

SRWMD partners with county to improve water quality in Suwannee River

Submitted by SRWMD

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) and Lafayette County are working cooperatively to improve water quality by reducing pollutant and sediment loads from entering the Suwannee River.

Referred to as the Lantana Road Water Quality Improvement Project, the project will reduce sedimentation issues occurring on Lantana Road off of Hwy 27 in Lafayette County. Lantana Road is a dirt road that connects with the Patrician Oaks Boat Ramp. Runoff from the road flows directly into the river, causing road and bank erosion.

The project will prevent roughly 400 cubic feet or two dump truck loads of sediment from going into the Suwannee River annually. The project



A portion of Lantana Road that connects with the Patrician Oaks Boat Ramp in Lafayette County. During rain events the sediment from the road directly flows into the river.

SEE SRWMD, PAGE 11A



SEE STATE, PAGE 11A

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BETTERING OUR COMMUNITIES: First Federal and employees give \$66,498 to local agencies

This year, First Federal Bank of Florida employees donated \$33,201 to local community agencies through First Federal's employee contribution program, First Federal Way. The \$33,201 donation facilitated a match of the same amount by First Federal for a total of \$66,498 contributed to community agencies. Through First Federal Way, employees elect to contribute a portion of their paycheck to one or more participating non-profit agencies. At the end of each year, First Federal matches the total contribution and awards it to the selected agencies.

First Federal Bank is proud of our generous, compassionate employees. Our employees continued to give back to their communities this year, despite a weak economy. For some First Federal employees like Amanda Smith, she feels blessed that we can support our community organizations which return such happiness and value to so many. Other employees like Sally Huggins and

Lindsay Lee, believe it is a privilege to give back to the community and are proud of First Federal's matching donation which enables their contribution to be more than they could give on their own.

At a recent check presentation, Keith Leibfried, President and CEO of First Federal, expressed gratitude to the different agencies for all the dedicated services they provide to our community. "I am also grateful to the First Federal employees who generously shared their hard earned income and to First Federal's Board of Directors for authorizing a match of our employees," Leibfried said. "Most importantly, I am grateful to the loyalty of our customers who enable us to be such a good community partner."

First Federal Bank of Florida offers a comprehensive portfolio of products and services for personal and business customers, and is committed to helping local communities flourish. Founded in 1962,



First Federal Way agency representatives, First Federal executives and employees. Agencies represented are American Red Cross; ARC North Florida; Boy Scouts of America; CARC; Christian Service Center of Columbia County; Columbia County Senior Services; Take Stock in Children/FGC; Guardian Ad Litem (Voices for the Children), Habitat for Humanity Columbia County; Happy House; Heritage Parks & Gardens; Haven Hospice; Homeless Services Network of Suwannee Valley; Lake City Humane Society; Love, Inc.; March of Dimes; Pregnancy Care Centers of Lake City & Live Oak; Suwannee County Parks & Recreation; Suwannee Valley 4C's; Suwannee Valley Humane Society and Vivid Visions. Agencies not pictured are the American Cancer Society; Children's Home Society; Salvation Army and Suwannee County Animal Shelter.

First Federal has 20 Island, Bonifay, Bradenton, Graceville, Jasper, Lake Marianna, Mayo, Sarasota branches located in Amelia Chipley, Dowling Park, City, Live Oak, Macclenny, and Yulee, Florida.



Wanee 10th Annual Music Festival tickets on sale now

This festival held at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park features the Allman Brothers and many, many other worldwide known music groups.

The 10th Anniversary of the Wanee Music Festival April 10-12, 2014, will soon be here and tickets are now on sale at \$195 per person. Artists to be announced soon for this huge celebration of music at the

Allman Brothers' annual music festival.

This event draws thousands of music lovers from all over who enjoy three days of the best of the best in music on the grounds of the beautiful Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park (SOSMP) in Live Oak. Don't forget to save the date for Wednesday, April 9, 2014, for Wanee Wednesday Happy Hour to get the festival started.

Early bird tickets sold out quickly. The next price level tickets are on sale. Prices will go up again before the festival so grab your tickets now for yourself or for your loved ones. Go to waneefestival.com,

tix@musictoday.com or call the SOSMP at 386-364-1683, email spirit@musicliveshere.com or go to www.musicliveshere.com for tickets and more information.

If you would like to make reservations for RV parking, cabins, primitive camping or camper parking for the Wanee Music Festival or the many other upcoming events at the SOSMP, call 386-364-1683 or email spirit@musicliveshere.com or the SOSMP's website at www.musicliveshere.com.

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

Bluegrass Gospel Concert



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**Kentucky Sleepy Hollow Band
Jack and Judy Tomlin
And More...**

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Where: Beth Haven Baptist Church

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For More Information: (386) 292-5124

**All is welcome! Tell your family,
tell your friends.
You don't want to miss this event!**

Rispoli graduates basic military training

Air Force Airman 1st Class Anthony C. Rispoli graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

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

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

Rispoli is the son of Michele Rispoli of Mayo and Thomas Rispoli of Lake City.

He is a 2011 graduate of Trenton High School.



SIS community yard sale

Saturday Jan. 18 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at:
Suwannee County Fair Ground Exhibition Hall
1302 11th Street (CR136) SW
Live Oak, Fla. 32064

Inside booths for shopping, interested in a booth for \$10 contact Kathy Wood 386-647-4700.
BBQ chicken and rib dinners available 11 a.m. until we run out.
No entry free for shoppers.

Diffie, Kershaw, Tippin to perform at FGC

LAKE CITY, FLA. – The new year kicks off with a bang as three country music legends perform at Florida Gateway College on Jan. 24.

The Roots and Boots Tour, featuring Joe Diffie, Sammy Kershaw, and Aaron Tippin, will take place in the Howard Conference Center for an unforgettable Friday night performance. Tickets for the concert are still available.

The show is sponsored by Shands Lake Shore Regional Medical Center and CMS Professional Staffing, Inc.

The trio of musicians has combined for 16 gold and platinum albums and 42 top ten singles, and this January

performance will feature more than just the music you've come to love - the trio, on-stage together throughout the show, will also share stories from their lives and careers.

During the past 20 years, Diffie, Kershaw, and Tippin have been some of country music's hottest acts, though their paths to fame have taken different roads.

An Oklahoma native, Diffie signed with Epic Records in 1990, and between then and 2004, he charted 35 songs on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart, including five number one singles: "Home," "If the Devil Danced (In Empty Pockets)," "Third Rock from the Sun," "Pickup

Man," and "Bigger than the Beatles."

The Louisiana-born Kershaw overcame several adversities in life, including drugs and alcohol, to become one of country music's most recognizable stars. He had more than 25 singles enter the Billboard Hot Country Songs Top 40 chart, including the No. 1 hit, "She Don't Know She's Beautiful." Other hits include "Queen of My Double-Wide Trailer" and "I Can't Reach Her Anymore."

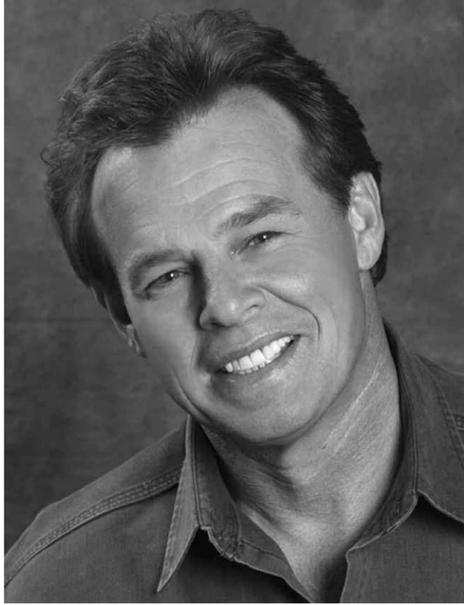
Originally a songwriter, the Florida native Tippin hit it big in 1990 with his debut single, "You've Got to Stand for Something," which became a popular anthem for American soldiers fighting in the Gulf War. In his career, Tippin has charted more than 30 singles, including "There Ain't Nothin' Wrong with the

Radio" and "Kiss This."

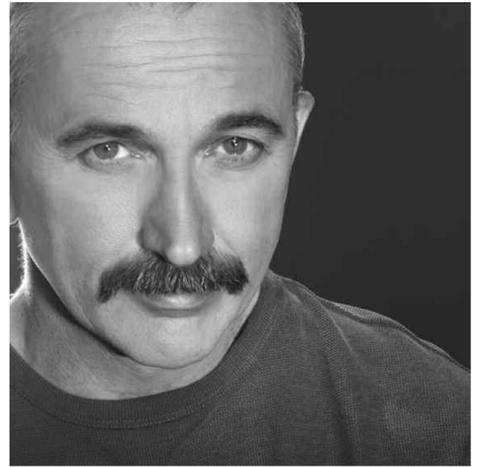
Tickets can be purchased by calling (386) 754-4340 or by visiting www.fgcertainment.com.



Joe Diffie



Sammy Kershaw



Aaron Tippin

Carlos Lopez-Cantera is Lt. Governor

MIAMI – Governor Rick Scott announced Tuesday that he is appointing Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Carlos Lopez-Cantera as Lieutenant Governor. Gov. Scott said Lopez-Cantera would use the next few weeks to transition from his current role and begin serving as Lieutenant Governor of Florida on Feb. 3.

Governor Scott said, "Carlos Lopez-Cantera will be a major part of our agenda to build an

opportunity economy in Florida. Carlos has two daughters, like I do, and he is focused on how we can transform our economy so we aren't just creating jobs, we are creating careers and opportunities that will be here for our children and our children's children. I am confident that we took the right amount of time to find the right person to serve as Florida's Lieutenant Governor. Carlos' leadership experience will make him a vital part



Carlos Lopez-Cantera

of ensuring the passage of our \$500 million tax cut package this year. And his business experience and expertise in cutting taxes and government regulations will support small business growth and success."

Carlos Lopez-Cantera said, "I am honored to have been chosen by Governor Scott to serve Floridians as their Lieutenant Governor. I look forward to leveraging my experience with small businesses and govern-

ment tax reform to help further Governor Scott's mission of economic growth and job creation."

Carlos Lopez-Cantera was elected as the Miami-Dade Property Appraiser in 2012. He previously served eight years in the Florida House. As a legislative member, he chaired the Committee on Business Regulation and the Government Affairs Committee, and served as Majority Whip from 2009-10

and as Majority Leader from 2010-12. He is a licensed realtor and has worked in real estate for 15 years and is also the president of a small business. Lopez-Cantera is a graduate of Miami-Dade Community College (1994) and the University of Miami (1996) with a degree in Business Administration. Born in Spain and raised in Florida, he and his wife Renee reside in Miami with their two young daughters, Sabrina and Sofia.

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First Federal Bank contributes to the Suwannee Valley Humane Society

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

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

"I am grateful to the loyalty of our customers who share in our mission to provide support to our communities," said Keith Leibfried, President and CEO of First Federal. "It is

through their commitment to First Federal that we are able to donate to these organizations that provide valued services to our communities. We are hopeful that our contributions will inspire other businesses and individuals to also contribute to these important worthwhile projects."

At First Federal we believe that banking with us is an investment in you. For over 50 years First Federal has been committed to building vibrant communities through the support of education, sports, the arts and improving the quality of life for all. Since its inception in 2010, First Federal has given over \$108,379 to local agencies through the Community Rewards Program. This is in addition to the thousands of dollars and volunteer hours that First Federal and its employees give each year.

If you are interested in



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

helping support your community through the Community Rewards Program, stop by your local First

Federal branch or our call customer care center at (386) 362-3433 to enroll your debit card. If you are

an organization that is interested in participating in the Community Rewards Program, please visit our web-

site www.ffsb.com and click on the Contribution Requests learn more picture.

Lafayette District Schools will be closed on Monday, Jan. 20

Attention parents of Lafayette High School students:

Valentine's Day will be here before long and we just wanted to remind you of a few things about deliveries to Lafayette High School.

Valentine's Day deliveries must be made between

12:15 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. No deliveries will be accepted after 1:30 p.m.

No glass containers (no exceptions)

No large balloons (no exceptions)

Please put the student's last period class on the envelope.

Please be sure that the

student is actually on campus during the last class period of the school day. We have a lot of students that are on Coop and a lot who are dual enrolled at college.

Thanks for your cooperation in this matter. Any questions, please feel free to call the school at 386-294-1701.

AARP Driver Safety Class

AARP is offering a Driver Safety Class for seniors at the Lafayette County Public Library on CR 51 on Wednesday, Jan. 22 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with a half hour for lunch. Please bring a sack lunch with no red drinks.

Defensive driving techniques will be taught, aimed at keeping you safe on the road. The impact of aging on driving, as well as current and new rules of the road in Fla. will be reviewed. There are no tests. The certificate of completion is good for a discount on your vehicle insurance for three years.

Drive safer with confidence, longer. Registration is required. Please call 386-330-2276.

Crowe - Young marriage announcement



Stephanie Crowe - John Young IV

Clarence and Wanda Crowe of Live Oak, Fla., announce the marriage of their daughter, Stephanie Suzanne Crowe, to John Dow Young IV, son of John and April Young of Mayo, Fla.

The couple was married at the groom's family home on July 13, 2013.

Stephanie holds a master's degree in

psychology from the University of Phoenix and is employed with the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches. Dow is a pre-med student at Keiser University studying occupational therapy.

The couple resides in Bartow, Florida.

A private reception will be held for family and close friends.

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School Lunch Menu

January 20th - January 24th, 2014

DATE	LAFAYETTE ELEMENTARY		LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL		
	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	A LA CARTE
1/20 Mon.	Martin Luther King Holiday	Martin Luther King Holiday	Martin Luther King Holiday	Martin Luther King Holiday	
1/21 Tues.	Cereal Crackers Milk Applesauce Yogurt Trix Pop Tarts	Turkey Sandwich Lettuce, Dill Pickles Tater Tots Applesauce Milk Chocolate Pudding	Cereal Crackers Milk Applesauce Yogurt Trix Pop Tarts	Turkey Sandwich (Turkey Corn Dog) Lettuce, Dill Pickles Sliced Tomatoes Tater Tots Applesauce Milk, Sweet Potato Pudding	
1/22 Wed.	Cereal Crackers Milk Juice Breakfast Pizza	Vegetable Beef Soup Toasted Salad Sallines Peanut Butter Sandwich Pineapple Tidbits Milk	Cereal Crackers Milk Juice Breakfast Pizza	Vegetable Beef Soup (Burrito) Pizza Toasted Salad, Sallines Peanut Butter Sandwich Pineapple Tidbits Bananas Milk	
1/23 Thurs.	Cereal Crackers Milk Orange Juice Sausage Patty Biscuits	Chicken Pot Pie Steamed Broccoli Diced Peaches Milk Chocolate Chip Cookies	Cereal Crackers Milk Orange Juice Sausage Patty Biscuits	Chicken Pot Pie (Ham & Cheese Sandwich) Steamed Broccoli Canned Salsa/Ranch Dressing Diced Peaches, Apples Milk Chocolate Chip Cookies	
1/24 Fri.	Cereal Crackers Milk Bananas French Toast Sticks Syrup	Stuffed Crust Pizza Sweet Potatoes California Blend Veggie Fruit Salad Milk	Cereal Crackers Milk Bananas French Toast Sticks Syrup	Stuffed Crust Pizza (Toasted Salad) Ranch Dressing Sweet Potatoes California Blend Veggie Fruit Salad, Fresh Fruit Milk, Chocolate Pudding	

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Lunch and Breakfast are served at Lafayette Elementary and High School each day.
Varieties of Milk choices are available at both schools each day. Allergen High School menus are in parentheses.
Menus are subject to change due to availability of goods. 844143

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College Placement Tests

Monday Thursday at 5 p.m. (by appointment):
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TABE tests

Monday - Thursday at 5 p.m. (by appointment):
TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) at NFCC Testing Center (Bldg. #16), Madison. TABE is required for acceptance into vocational/technical programs. Photo ID required. To register please call 850-973-9451.

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Deadline January 27, 2014 12:00 PM

OPINION

Complexities that are cast upon us

Dwain Walden
The Moultrie
Observer



A woman in Toronto gave birth to twins. One was born in 2013 and the other was born in 2014. Lindsay Salgueiro was due to give birth on Jan. 19 but Mother Nature played a trick on her. And now just imagine that these kids will go through life having to explain that a matter of 38 seconds put them in two different years. It's very fortunate that one wasn't born in the cab just prior to crossing the state line on the way to the hospital.

And you may say that it doesn't really matter, but wait until one day when they have to factor such an occurrence against some government bureaucracy.

I have first-hand experience of such. You see my mother was a Walden before she married my father. And no, we're not from Alabama.

So when I was a teenager and got a public job, I had to have a Social Security number. So I filled out the paperwork which asked for my mother's maiden name. Apparently someone in the Social Security administration had never heard of two people with the same last names getting married. They asked me to refile and put my mom's "maiden" name. They even explained to me what "maiden" meant.

So I resent the application and made a little note that the information was correct. They sent it back with a note that said, "No. We need your mother's name before she married your father."

So this time I wrote a narrative of how such could occur. And I drew a family tree and attached it. Of course I couldn't just let it pass without some levity so I drew a tire swing in the family tree. I added a few knot holes and a couple of squirrel nests. Actually I think it may have been anatomically correct in that regard. Anyway, I got my Social Security card.

Now after all these years, I've discovered that I do not have a valid birth

certificate. I have a "document of live birth" but apparently that is not official, and so now I have to prove that I was born and that I have not been a figment of someone's imagination all these years.

I have no idea how my mom's maiden name will play out in this scenario. I might ask them if they still have that picture of my family tree.

So I got to thinking. Maybe I'm not real. Maybe I am just a figment. If the government isn't convinced that I was born and that I exist, then maybe I should go with that. If I don't exist then I shouldn't be paying taxes. If I don't exist, how would they prosecute me?

I know, I'm being facetious. I'm pretty sure that I'm for real. I've had gout and kidney stones. Also I took algebra in high school and college. And you can't feel that much pain if you don't exist.

It's kind of ironic that to renew my driver's license, apply for Medicare and Social Security, I will need an official birth certificate. Yet, when they wanted to send me to Vietnam, all I had to do was show up. Go figure!

Now back to those two kids. They are girls, and one is always going to be referred to as "little sister." One will be proud to be the oldest until they get to age 30, and then the younger one can play the 38-second trump card. Not only that, but the younger one came in a pound lighter than her sister. Weight and age are two big issues for females, I have learned.

The news story did not relate the names of the two girls. I just hope that the parents name them something they can actually spell by the time they get to the third grade and that their first names are what they intend to call them.

I don't even know why we have to have a middle name. The only time it's needed is when your mama is mad at you and screams at you from the back porch. And later when you are announced to come on stage and receive your high school diploma.

And life goes on!

Dwain Walden is editor/publisher of The Moultrie Observer, 229-985-4545. Email: dwain.walden@gafnews.com.

Sallie Lou Koon 90th Birthday

Please join our family on this joyous occasion when our mother, grandmother and great grandmother Sallie Lou Koon celebrates her 90th birthday on Jan. 19, 2014 from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Mayo Community Center Mayo, Florida
Your love is a treasured gift, we request no other.

Lafayette County Schools keep our students and community safe

Staff completes Incident Command Training

Submitted by: Becky Sharpe, Safe Schools Coordinator

Staff from Lafayette High School, Lafayette Elementary School and the District Office completed Incident Command System Training in November, along with staff from Lafayette County Sheriff's Office, Public Works and Emergency Management.

The training was funded through special funds received by the Lafayette County Emergency Management Office. The group completed three days of face to face training, as well as four online courses.

The Incident Command System (ICS) is a widely applicable management system designed to enable effective, efficient incident management by integrating a combination

of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications operating within a common organizational structure.

ICS is a fundamental form of management established in a standard format, with the purpose of enabling incident managers to identify the key concerns associated with the incident—often under urgent conditions—without sacrificing attention to any component of the command system.

It represents organizational "best practices" and, as an element of the Command and Management Component of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), has become the standard for emergency management across the country.

ICS consists of procedures for controlling personnel, facilities, equipment and

communications. It is a system designed to be used or applied from the time an incident occurs until the requirement for management and operations no longer exists

As a system, ICS is extremely useful; not only does it provide an organizational structure for incident management, but it also guides the process for planning, building and adapting that structure. The training received in ICS will be very beneficial for our schools in coordinating with other agencies in the event of an incident on campus or in our community.

The training proved to be very valuable to all agencies involved and has already prompted other safety meetings between Lafayette County Schools, Emergency Management and the Sheriff's Office. The partnering agencies will continue to work to promote a healthy environment in our schools and community.

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Country music starts Friday at Music Park

The Chris Tyler Band and The Lost Southern Boys Band to visit

Two new bands will play Friday and Saturday at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park (SOSMP) in Live Oak. The Chris Tyler Band and The Lost Southern Boys will bring their brands of country when they take over the Music Hall for a rocking good time.

Playing Friday, The Chris Tyler Band of Jacksonville is a high energy band playing modern country, rock and blues. Nashville recording artist Christ Tyler's great vocals are said to be unequalled in the Jacksonville area club scene. Chris and his two lead vocalists ad to the band's superb playing. Drums and bass in the band are among the best. Band members are Josh and Woodie Berlin, drums and bass R.J. Wilson - keys, Mike Torelli - guitar, Charlie Dennie - guitar and banjo. Chris and the band recently released its self-titled CD, Chris Tyler. Chris wrote five of the songs on the CD. Chris fell in love with country music in high school, later working at a

country dance club as a DJ and often singing with bands that came to play. He now works at a country radio station while playing gigs with his band on the weekend. Come out and give this band a listen.

The Lost Southern Boys of Valdosta will hold down the hatches Saturday, Jan. 18, rocking and rolling through the night. LSB has played rock and blues for nearly 20 years, sharing the stage with Molly Hatchet,

Blackfoot, Charlie Daniels, .38 Special, Confederate Railroad, The Kentucky Headhunters, The Georgia Satellites, Bad Company and the Southern Rock All-stars to name a few. The band has played Biker Festivals from Bainbridge to Daytona to the Run for the Sun in Savannah to Full Throttle parties in Tampa and insists they are never stopping. The band plays Southern and classic rock, blues and original music.

Band members include Luke Smith, Bob Miller and Paulie Delmar. They record on South Mouth Records. Their influence? God, their mother and John Moses Browning! Sounds like a night of music to remember.

SOS Café and Restaurant in the Music Hall will be open and ready to serve you delicious food during this event and the full-service bar will be open. Doors to the Music Hall open at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday for dinner, music begins at 8 p.m. Open all day Saturday including a breakfast buffet.

If you would like to make reservations for RV parking, cabins, primitive camping or camper parking for the weekend at the SOSMP, call 386-364-1683, email spirit@musi-



Chris Tyler

cliveshere.com or go to www.musicliveshere.com. The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park is located at 3076 95th Drive, Live Oak.



The Lost Southern Boys Band

NFCC to hold open auditions for Alice@Wonderland Jan. 18

MADISON, Fla. — North Florida Community College is looking for talented actors, actresses and backstage technicians of all ages to audition and volunteer for its Community Theater production of Alice@Wonderland, which places a 21st century spin on Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland. Open auditions will be held Saturday, Jan. 18 at NFCC's Van H. Priest Auditorium at 10 a.m.

This modern retelling of Alice in Wonderland has all of the characters you know and love, including the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit and the Queen

of Hearts. The story is laid out in traditional style, only Alice is distinctly contemporary, complete with cell phone in hand. Full of references to text messaging and social media, the play imagines a present-day Alice encountering the Wonderland so many of us treasure. A sharply told, crisply paced ride, this quality adaptation has been praised for its humor, modern style and appeal to both children and adults.

Auditions are open to community ages 5 and up. For more information, contact Denise Bell at (850) 973-9481 or belld@nfcc.edu.

Jim Stafford to perform Jan. 20 at 7 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the Local United Way of Suwannee Valley

Jim Stafford was raised in Winterhaven, and still resides there when he is not on the road or performing in his own theatre, The Jim Stafford Theatre, in Branson, Mo.

Jim Stafford wrote and recorded his first chart-making song, The Swamp Witch, produced by his boyhood friend Kent LaVoie a/k/a Lobo in 1974. He followed with a gold single, Spiders and Snakes, which stayed on the American pop charts for 26 weeks. The hits just kept coming and included My Girl Bill, Wildwood Weed, and the wonderfully satirical Cow Patti, written for the Clint Eastwood movie Any Which Way You Can, in which Jim appeared.

Jim launched his television career with The Jim Stafford Show on ABC in 1975. His numerous television appearances included music specials, variety shows, and talk shows. He co-hosted the popular prime-time show Those Amazing Animals with Burgess Meredith and Priscilla Presley. Jim also hosted 56 episodes of Nashville on the Road and made 26 appearances on the Tonight Show. In 1987 and 1988 Jim was a regular performer and head writer/producer for the Emmy-nominated Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour. He has also worked with Joan Rivers, Tina Turner, Sammy Davis Jr., Bruce Springsteen, Glenn Campbell, Gallagher and many others.

Jim wrote many of the songs for which he is famous and has brought his inimitable style to several movie soundtracks. He received a gold record for his work in the Disney movie The Fox and The Hound and writes for other popular artists

such as his Can't Get The Hell Out of Texas recorded by George Jones and Jerry Reed. Recently, Jim has written and recorded such songs as Layenda Pipeline, Don't Be Chicken When It's Time To Crow, Talk That Guitar and more. He has released his second classical guitar album Somewhere In Time and recently released another album Don't Tell Mama I'm A Guitar Picker.

Jim's first love has always been live performance. This love brought him to Branson, Missouri, where he owns a theater and entertains visitors year long. The singer, songwriter, comic genius, and entertainer extraordinaire is self-taught on guitar, fiddle, piano, banjo, organ, harmonica and the human brain; he might bring any of them into play at any moment. During his show Jim combines hysterical comedy with masterful performances on the classical guitar as well as with heartwarming stories of the human spirit. Critically acclaimed as the "Victor Borge of the Guitar," Jim creates hilarious antics from everyday life, taking laughter to a new art form.

Jim is proud to be performing this concert for such a worthy organization as the United Way of Suwannee Valley, which serves the residents of Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette and Suwannee counties.

Please join him for a special night of music, comedy and giving to the United Way. Tickets are only \$25 and can be purchased at the United Way of Suwannee Valley. The United Way office is located at 325 NE Hernando Ave., NW, Lake City, Fla. The phone number is 386-752-5604.

United Way of Suwannee Valley is a community impact and fundraising organization which, utilizing volunteers on all levels, advances the common good by identifying unmet community needs and seeking to alleviate those needs through United Way of Suwannee Valley initiatives and the funding of 22 affiliated health and human service agencies.



Volunteers needed

Learn how to be a SHINE volunteer in your community. SHINE volunteers offer free counseling and assistance to Florida Seniors and those with disabilities, on topics related to

Medicare, Medicaid, long term care planning, prescription drug assistance, supplemental insurance and more. Volunteers are needed in Suwannee County. Comprehensive three

day training will take place in Lake City on March 25-27. Costs for transportation are reimbursed and meals provided. Call 1-800-262-2243 for information and application.

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TheUntz.com to host Silent Disco at AURA 2014

AURA is thrilled to announce TheUntz.com will host the Silent Disco at AURA Music & Arts Festival Feb. 14-16 at Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park (SOSMP) in Live Oak, Fla! Some phenomenal artists will keep the beat bumping into the wee hours, so come prepared ready to get down.

The stacked Silent Disco line-up includes Luke Miller of Lotus (aka Luke the Knife) and his combination of funk, disco and indie dance; as well as members of the Crunchay Jacksonville crew - bass champion Vlad the Inhaler and brothers Sir Charles and Zak the Blak (Zach Weinert of Greenhouse Lounge). In addition, we're excited for the debut of ZwangBang (Scotty Zwang of Dopapod), Tallahassee's Elliot Mess, Philly's Double D, mainstay UDNPRTY plus Beat Thief Inc., Semantiks, Scotty Solomon and Don McCon, all

raging beats till the early morning. Start resting up now, it's sure to be an insane dance party all weekend long!

Since its humble beginnings in Brooksville, Fla., AURA has become one of the premiere multi-day boutique music events in the Southeast US, attracting fans from around the country. Now comfortably at home at the famed Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park in Live Oak, Fla., AURA comes to life in the midst of 800 acres of Spanish moss-draped oak and cypress trees along the Suwannee River and utilizes one of the most beautiful natural amphitheaters in the country only made more awe-inspiring by AURA's attention to sound and lighting production.

Celebrating its fifth anniversary, AURA's 2014 line-up features a variety of music genres but always stays true to its live electronic roots with headliners Lotus,

Papadosio and Conspirator. Also taking the stage at AURA is Zoogma, The Werks, The Revivalists, Particle, The Heavy Pets, Future Rock, Marco Benevento, Mike Dillon Band, Kung Fu, Dopapod, Stokeswood (including a Tribute Set to Hall & Oates), Superhuman Happiness, Start Making Sense: A Tribute to the Talking Heads, Earphunk, Juno What?!, Twiddle, Brock Butler and Jimkata, many which will play two sets throughout the weekend.

AURA will also host its first official on-site pre-party in its five-year history. Kicking off the event Thursday, Feb. 13, fans are invited to get settled in at SOSMP a night early and enjoy music from three of

Florida's finest bands in the scene - The Heavy Pets, Greenhouse Lounge and The Funky Nuggets.

AURA 5 will feature top-tier live painters, an interactive arts village, yoga & meditation and inspiring workshops. To join the wait list for cabins, golf cart rentals and RV hook-ups, please contact Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park at 386-364-1683. For GA and VIP tickets visit www.AURAMusicFestival.com.

The SOSMP is located at 3076 95th Drive, Live Oak, Fla, 32060, 4.5 miles south of Interstate 75 and 4.5 miles north of Interstate 10 off US 129. Go to www.musicliveshere.com for more information about the SOSMP.

Lafayette Health Care Center Annual Christmas Banquet

Residents and their guests enjoyed the annual Christmas banquet held on the evening of Dec. 12, at Lafayette Health Care Center. There were tables set up inside the main lobby with hors d'oeuvres to welcome nearly 100 guests who joined residents to dine and listen to the entertainment provided.

Roast pork loin, oven

roasted red skin potatoes, honey glazed carrots and assorted desserts were served for dinner. There was music in three rooms for the residents and their guests. The entertainers were Maisie Wilson, Shawn Johnson, Ken Pert, Evan Spangler, Lawrence Bryan, Tim Bryan and Isaac Bryan.

The LHCC staff wish to thank all of the people

who attended the evening at LHCC and assisted in providing some holiday cheer for all.

A special thanks to Lillian Underwood who assisted in decorating for the evening and to Margaret Croft, Wendy Bash and Keesha Davis who assisted staff also to provide table service to all of the approximate 150 people participating.



Danette Turner and Helen Irvin.



Weldon Finley and Emily Finley.



(L-R) Lawrence Bryan, Tim Bryan and Isaac Bryan.



Piano, Shawn Johnson; guitar (in front of piano) Ken Pert; guitar (on right) Evan Spangler. Courtesy photos

Social Security column Spouses have a significant benefit

By Fancy Bannister
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Social Security can be an important financial asset for married couples when the time comes to apply for retirement benefits. In many cases, one spouse may have earned significantly more than the other, or have worked for a longer span of years. Or it could be that one spouse stayed home to do the work of raising the children or caring for elderly family members while the other focused on a career.

Regardless of your situation, Social Security will look at all possibilities to make sure both spouses receive the maximum benefit possible.

Even if you have not paid Social Security taxes, it is likely you will be eligible to receive benefits on your spouse's record. If you did work and pay into Social Security, we will check eligibility based on your work record and your spouse to see which amount is higher.

You can apply for spouses benefits the same way that you apply for benefits on your own record. You can apply for reduced benefits as early as age 62, or for 100 percent of your full retirement benefits at your "full retirement age." You can find your full retirement age, based on your birth year, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm.

The benefit amount you can receive as a spouse, if you have reached your full retirement age, can be as much as one-half of your spouse's full benefit. If you opt for early retirement, your benefit may be as little as a third of your spouse's full benefit amount.

If your spouse has already reached full retirement age but continues to work, your spouse can apply for retirement benefits and request to have the payments suspended until as late as age 70. This would allow the worker to earn delayed retirement credits that will mean higher payments later, but would allow you to receive your spouse's benefit.

You can also apply for spouse benefits based on the earnings record of an ex-spouse or deceased spouse if you were married for at least 10 years. Spouses can consider a number of options and variables. We make it easier to navigate them. A good place to start is by visiting our benefits planner at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners. Take note of the "Benefits As A Spouse" section.

If you are ready to apply for benefits, the fastest, easiest, and most convenient way is to apply online! You can do so at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline.

Whether you receive benefits on a spouse's record or your own, rest assured we will make sure you get the highest benefit we can pay you. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov.



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Renee Poole with her mom, Eleanor Preston

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God's new years desire for us



By Hugh G. Sherrill
ems-hugh43@comcast.net

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

The most important resolution we can make is to serve God better in the coming year. My prayer is that we all strive to do what His Word says we ought to do. Paul, writing to the Galatians said, "I say then: walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16 NKJ). The Galatians were noted for their impetuosity, fickleness and love for new and curious things. Does this not sound like the people of America today? We are a nation of people who act without thinking; doing things on impulse; and we certainly have a love for new things, especially in the electronic line. It seems we are never satisfied.

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

How do we as Christians win this war? It's simple. The side that wins is the side that we feed the most. Its sad today that many Christians feed the carnal or fleshly side more than the spiritual side. Paul says in verses 19-21 that the work of the flesh are evident. That means

they are clear for all to see. They are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery (the abuse of prescribed medication), hatred, contentions, jealousies, outburst of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murderers, drunkenness, revelries. Some think that their lives as a Christian are not seen by anyone; but I assure you they are. They are visible for all to see.

We must feed the Spirit in us to win the war. Verse 22-23 speak of the fruit of the Spirit. Notice that fruit is not pleural. One can't just pick and choose which he want to have. We must have them all. They are love. Love is the characteristic word of Christianity. Love can only be known by its action. 1 Cor. 13:8 says "Love never fails." Joy - "to abound more exceedingly." John 15: 11b Jesus said "I am come that your joy may be full". Peace - "a harmonious relationship between men." Patience or long-suffering "to bear with"; (thank God for His patience and long-suffering toward us). Kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. All these characteristics are noticeable in a Spirit-filled Christian.

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

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

Florida Dairy Youth Ambassador

Shelbi McCall of Mayo is the 2014 Florida Dairy Youth Ambassador. She was selected during the Florida Junior All-Breeds Convention, which was held at the University of Florida on January 4-5.

With this honor, McCall will travel extensively throughout Florida making public appearances and promoting the Florida Dairy Industry. During her travels she will meet with state officials, hold dairy cooking classes, meet with children on the importance of consuming their three a day dairy nutrition requirements, as well as attend

various events throughout the state. She will also travel to national competitions as a member of the Florida Dairy Quiz Bowl and Judging Teams.

Growing up in an agricultural community, McCall found a passion for the industry at a young age. She began showing dairy cattle at the age of eight, and has competed in dairy quiz bowl and judging events for many years.

In addition to being selected as Ambassador, McCall also placed first in the State Public Speaking Contest, Intermediate Division.



Shelbi McCall, 2014 Florida Dairy Youth Ambassador. Courtesy photo

LifeSouth Community Blood Centers January Blood Drives

Day	Date	Location	Time	Information
Thursday	January 16	Hardee's Live Oak	9 am to noon	
		Columbia Correctional	10 am to 6 pm	
		Shands Live Oak	1 pm to 6 pm	
Friday	January 17	Columbia Correctional	7 am to 5 pm	
		Cancer Care of North FL	10 am to 4 pm	
		Harvey's	4:30 pm to 7 pm	
Saturday	January 18	Thriftway Mayo	10 am to 5 pm	
		Empire Tattoo	1 pm to 8 pm	
Sunday	January 19	Dairy Queen	10 am to 4 pm	Small Ice Cream Cone
		Winn Dixie Lake City	11 am to 2:30 pm	
		Circle Cross Cowboy Church	3 pm to 6 pm	N FL Livestock Market
Monday	January 20	Hardee's Lake City	9 am to 1:30	Downtown
		Hungry Howie's Live Oak	11 am to 6 pm	Small Pizza or Sub
		Fish & Wildlife Office	2 pm to 5 pm	Lake City
Tuesday	January 21	Dairy Queen	9:30 am to 11:30 am	
		Lake City Correctional	11 am to 6 pm	
		Suwannee Health Care	Noon to 5 pm	
Wednesday	January 22	Windstream	9 am to 12:30 pm	
		Lake City Correctional	Noon to 7 pm	
		Suwannee Valley Electric	1:30 pm to 6 pm	
Thursday	January 23	Cheek & Scott	11 am to 6 pm	Live Oak
		Baker Correctional	11 am to 7 pm	
		PCS - Swift Creek Chemical	8 am to 4 pm	
Friday	January 24	Baker Correctional	11 am to 7 pm	
		Walmart Live Oak	11 am to 5 pm	
Saturday	January 25	Olive Garden	11 am to 7 pm	Discount Coupon
		First Christian Church	8:30 am to 1:30 pm	
		Walmart Live Oak	11 am to 5 pm	
Monday	January 27	Lake City Mall	2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	
		Walmart Lake City	11 am to 6 pm	
		VA Domiciliary	11 am to 5 pm	
Tuesday	January 28	S&S White Springs	Noon to 6 pm	
		Hardee's Live Oak	11 am to 6 pm	
		Hardee's Lake City	11 am to 4 pm	
Wednesday	January 29	UPS Distribution	4:45 pm to 7:45 pm	
		Florida Forestry	10 am to 1:30 pm	
		Hamilton Courthouse Annex	11 am to 5 pm	
Thursday	January 30	Lake City Mall	2 pm to 4:30 pm	
		Parkview Baptist Church	5 pm to 7:30 pm	
		Hamilton Correctional	11 am to 5 pm	
Friday	January 31	Burger King Downtown	11 am to 6 pm	Lake City
		Tractor Supply Lake City	9 am to 12:30 pm	
		Florida State Prison	11 am to 6 pm	
		Hamilton Correctional	3 pm to 9 pm	

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HEART MATTERS

By Angie Land

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

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

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

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

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

Give Thanks!

Angie

Heart Matters is a weekly column written by Angie Land, Director of the Family Life Ministries of the Lafayette Baptist Association, where she teaches Bible studies, leads marriage and family conferences and offers Biblical counseling to individuals, couples and families. Contact Angie with questions or comments at angieland3@windstream.net

Florida Trail Association Suwannee Chapter meetings

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, except in July and Aug., at the Suwannee River Water Management District Office, from 7-9 p.m. The SRWMD office is located on US 90 and CR 49, two miles east of Live Oak. The public is cordially invited to attend. The mission of the FTA is to develop, maintain, promote and protect a continuous public hiking trail the length of the state of Florida, called the Florida National Scenic

Trail, and other side and loop trails, together called the Florida Trail System. Further, they are dedicated to educating the public by teaching appreciation for and conservation of the natural beauty of Florida, and to provide opportunities for hiking, camping and other outdoor experiences.

For further information, you may contact the Chapter Chair, Irvin Chance, at andachance@msn.com or by phone at 386-330-2424.

The First Baptist clothes closet

Invites you to their clothes closet. We are located at 515 SW 5th St. (the old red barn that was Cheryl's Buffet). It is open the first and third Thursday of every month from 8 a.m. until noon.

The clothing is free and ranges in sizes from newborn to plus sizes for men, women and children.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program

Freedom from your hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Something doesn't

feel quite right? Are hurts from the past haunting you? Do you feel like your life is out of control? Are you tired of making the same mistakes over and over again? Does it seem like certain habits have taken control of your life? Join us at Melody Church every Friday night! Fellowship/dinner at 6 p.m., group discussion at 7 p.m. Visit Melody Church at 10046 US HW 129 in Live Oak, call 386-364-4800, or call Greg Player at 386-688-1454 for more information.

Doxie Derby coming to Lake City

It will be a case of "have dachshund will run" at the Columbia County Doxie Derby on Feb. 22 in Lake City. The event, which will be held at the Columbia County Fairgrounds, includes races sanctioned by the "National Dachshund Races" based in Finlay, Ohio. The CCDD champion will earn a place at the starting gate in Ohio on Sept. 27.

The event, co-sponsored by Covenant Pet Trust, Inc. and D.A.R.E., includes sanctioned races, fun-races, non-racing contests, vendors and rescue organizations who will have pets available for adoption.

According to Pam Taylor, co-founder of Covenant Pet Trust, "It is a race, but it's also a chance to have some great fam-

ily fun, promote humane treatment of animals, provide an opportunity to meet and potentially adopt a new family member and to raise money for several charities."

Entry fees for specific races are set aside for specific charities: "Race for Rescue" will benefit the Lake City Humane Society; "Race for King Sam the Doodle" will benefit LoveyLoaves a very special rescue for animals with special needs; "Pets for Patriots Race" benefits Pets for Patriots and so on. Altogether, seven 501(c)(3) organizations will receive funds.

For information about the event, or vendor space, to register for races or for directions, call 386-288-1339 or visit covenantpettrust.org.



Doxie Roxie.

'Water for Nature, Water for People'

Submitted

"Water for Nature, Water for People" is a phrase that embodies the purpose of the Suwannee River Water Management District (District). And it is our motto for good reason. It represents a delicate balance that we take very seriously.

The District employs both resource management and regulatory measures to ensure that our water resources are protected, and that there is an adequate water supply for reasonable and beneficial uses.

Resource management measures include implementing and encouraging water conservation, offsetting groundwater withdrawals with alternative sources such as reclaimed water, recharging the aquifer with clean water to increase water levels and flows in springs, rehydrating wetlands and ponds, improving water quality, and data collection and analysis. Regulatory measures include minimum flows and levels (MFLs) and our permitting programs.

During the past fiscal year, the District worked with agricultural producers and local governments to reduce water use through improved efficiency and water conservation. These partnerships

resulted in an estimated groundwater water savings of 9.74 million gallons per day (mgd). Nearly half of the groundwater savings occurred in the Santa Fe River Basin.

The District also conducts projects such as the recently initiated the Middle Suwannee River and Springs Restoration and Aquifer Recharge project that will rehydrate ponds and wetlands, enhance surface water storage and enhance aquifer recharge to benefit agricultural water supply and spring flows along the Middle Suwannee River.

Establishing MFLs is a science-based process to ensure water availability for the present and future and to prevent significant harm to the area's natural resources. The District is committed to establish MFLs on its priority water bodies by 2016. The priority water bodies include our rivers, first magnitude springs and second magnitude springs on publicly-owned lands, and large lakes. Currently the District is establishing MFLs for the Lower Santa Fe River, Ichetucknee River, and associated Priority Springs.

A common misconception is that water use permits are granted with little evaluation or consideration of our natural resources. This is simply not

the case. Water use permit applications are evaluated to ensure existing legal users are protected, to ensure the use is reasonable and beneficial, and to ensure the use is in the public interest. During the last fiscal year the District upgraded its assessment tools which greatly improved the application evaluation process.

Very few water use permit requests are new applications or for new water use. The majority of the requests are for transfers and modifications, and these frequently do not involve additional or "new" water. For example, last fiscal year the District allocated only 19.17 mgd of "new" water use throughout our 15 county area. And although this may sound like a lot, it is actually less than 2 percent of the permitted water allocation District-wide. Net water allocations within the District actually declined in two counties, Levy and Alachua.

The District has been tasked with managing water resources to protect the health of springs, rivers, and the aquifer while ensuring adequate water supplies are available for all reasonable and beneficial uses. That is an awesome responsibility which we are fully engaged and committed to upholding.

Stay healthy when the sick season of sneezes and sniffles arrives

The cold weather brings with it a season of smiles, the first snowfalls and, unfortunately, cold and flu outbreaks. While everyone else is suffering, there are ways you can make it through the season unscathed.

It is estimated that a billion people across North America will succumb to the cold virus this year, says Medline. Considering there is no cure for cold and flu viruses, prevention remains a person's best option at fending off cold and flu. There are different precautions to take that can help protect you against getting sick or at least reduce the frequency and severity with which cold and flu strikes.

Although there is no magic pill to take that will prevent you from catching a cold or the flu, there are ways to improve your odds.

* Wash your hands the right way. Washing your hands frequently remains the single-best way to keep viruses and bacteria that can make you sick from infiltrating the body. Washing your hands for at least 20 seconds can effectively remove any dirt, grime and invisible invaders.

* Skip antibacterial products. Because colds and the flu are the result of viruses, which are different in behavior and structure from bacteria, they will not be killed off with the use of antibacterial products. What you may succeed in doing is killing off any beneficial bacteria on your hands as well as creating resistant bacteria that form with over-use of antibiotics and antibacterial products.

* Get the flu shot. There is no vaccination to prevent the common cold, but there are immunizations that can help reduce your risk of getting the flu or help minimize its severity. Doctors' offices, clinics and even pharmacies all offer annual flu shots.

* Use sanitizer on items around the house. Surfaces that are frequently touched by all members of the household should be wiped down with a disinfectant product. A bleach-and-water solution is an effective sanitizer. Surfaces to sanitize include phones, doorknobs, light switches, remote controls, computer keyboards, faucets, toys, and countertops.

* Avoid sick people. KidsHealth.org states that flu viruses and colds can travel up to 12 feet (from a sneeze or cough). Steer clear of anyone exhibiting symptoms, especially someone who is frequently sneezing or coughing.

Parents should keep children home from school if they are sick. Do so until symptoms subside so as not to infect others.

* Use a sanitizer product. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advise that when hand-washing is not readily available, a good way to kill germs is to use an alcohol-based sanitizer lotion. While not as effective as washing hands in warm, soapy water, sanitizing products can be used in a pinch while you're on the go.

* Cough into your sleeve. Rather than coughing or sneezing into your hands, do so into the crook of your elbow since this area rarely touches anything else.

* Skip the buffet lunch. Buffet-style offerings are convenient and offer variety, but they are also a breeding ground for illnesses. These foods may have been sneezed or coughed on. Also, the serving spoons have been touched by dozens of people.

There are many different ways to avoid getting a cold or the flu this season. Diligence is one of the keys to staying germ-free.



The elderly are more at risk for serious side effects from the cold and flu

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Day Mailbox

By: Mary M. Santerfeit

Memory Lane



Our family has never had an experience with a fire. Last Thursday morning at 1:30 a.m. this all changed. I received a text message from my daughter, Laurie Rice, that her son, our grandson and his family, had lost their home and everything in it. We have been in shock

since that day. They had about five minutes to get out after the fire was discovered. The Lord sure saved this family of five.

Our grandson, Trey, came in from his job at 1:30 a.m. and took off his shoes and shirt. His wife said she could not understand why it was so hot near the fireplace when she only had a small fire. About that time Trey looked down the hall and saw what appeared to be a bright light coming from their 4-year-old daughter, Victoria's room. He went to take a look and found that fire was all round her bed. he said it was like someone was holding the fire back until he could get their little girl. We praise the Lord and his guardian angels for being in that room and in their house. He grabbed Victoria up and yelled to his wife, Sarah, to get the other two children. Which she did. After they placed the children in the car they started back in the house. They never made it back in. The roof was

already caving in. All this took place in ten minutes or less.

The news spread fast. I am sure many of you have been through this type situation. If you have not. I can testify we in the South are blessed with the greatest people in the world. Our telephones began to ring with people wanting to help out. A few hours ago this family lost all their earthly goods. Today, three days later, they have had a place to live donated to them, they have had furniture, clothes, gift cards for furniture stores and for grocery stores, donated to them. Help has come from miles away and other states. This family, with the help of God and precious friends, they will get their home back together. We are and will continue to praise the Lord for His blessings. Thank you for your prayers, love and concern.

It Happened Back Then

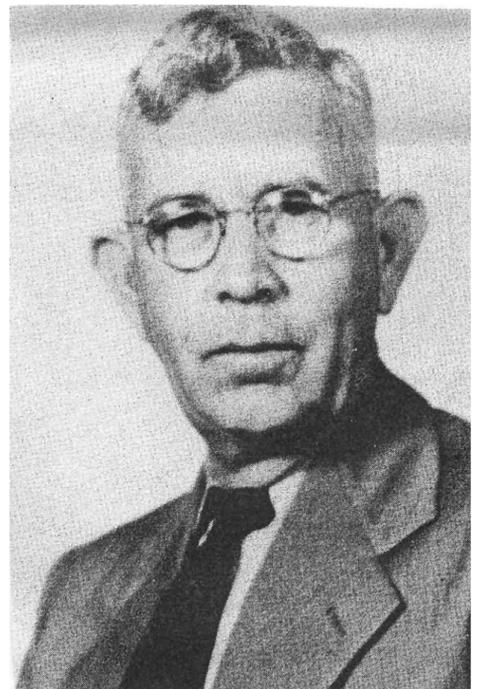
Jan. 16, 1883 U.S. Civil Service established as merit system.

Jan. 16, 1920 18th Amendment to U.S. Constitution (prohibiting alcoholic beverages) goes into effect.

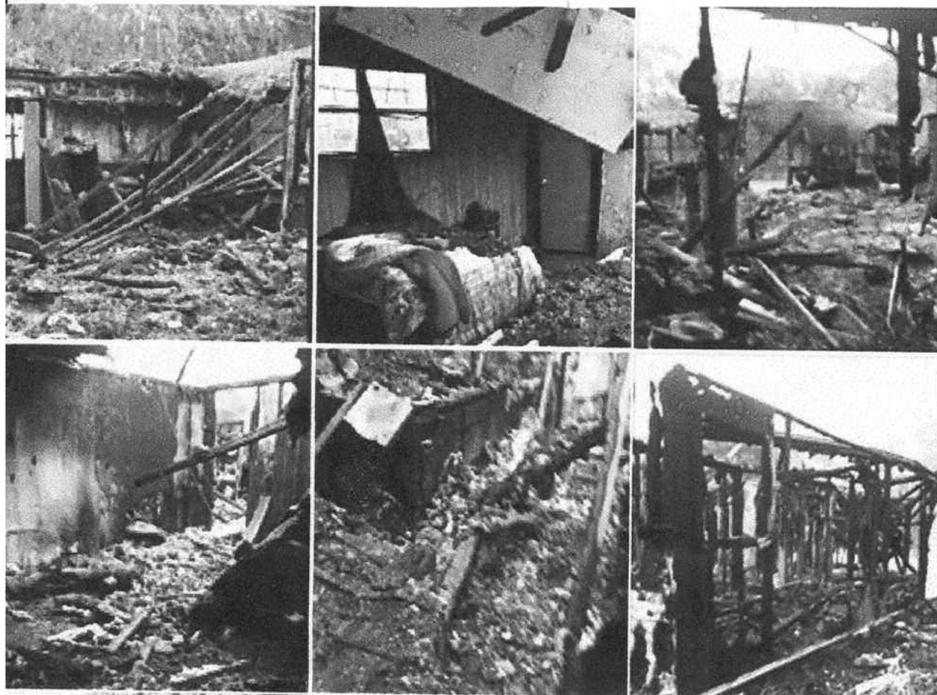
Jan. 16, 1944 Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower takes command of Allied Invasion Forces.

Born This Day

Jan. 16, 1908 Ethel Merman
Jan. 16, 1911 Dizzy Dean



County Superintendent L.R. McCallum.



Former LHS student, Trey Rice, and his wife Sarah lost their home due to a horrible fire. The home was located in Boyd, west of Perry.



Lafayette High Principal Eldridge Collins.



Rice home destroyed by fire in Boyd.

At NEAA in Lake City, FL

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Volunteer advocates needed

Florida's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers to join its corps of dedicated advocates who protect the rights of elders who live in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family care homes. The program's local councils are seeking additional volunteers to identify, investigate and resolve residents' concerns. Special training and certification is provided.

All interested individuals who care about protecting the health, safety, welfare and rights of long-term care facility residents -- who often have no one else to advocate for them -- are encouraged to call toll-free 1-888-831-0404 or visit the program's website at <http://ombudsman.myflorida.com>.

Bryan Morgan
Recruitment Manager
Department of Elder Affairs
Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
988 Woodcock Rd, Suite 198
Orlando, FL 32803
850-510-3920 (cellular)
407-228-7752 (office)
407-228-7754 (fax)
morganb@elderaffairs.org

Saturday storm downs trees, power lines

Continued From Page 1A

caused several tree limbs to fall across the county, as well as downing some trees.

"On SW Malone St. at the Lafayette Apartments, a large tree fell across the road taking down power lines and breaking a cable television pole," said Lamb. "When the cable television pole broke, it landed on a parked truck at the apartments causing damage to the truck."

Lamb said the lines landed across several vehicles that were parked at the apartments. One vehicle was occupied with three adults and three small children, he said.

"The lines were deemed to be free of electricity and moved, so the occupants could exit the vehicle," Lamb said.

As soon as the power

lines were repaired, the tree was removed from the roadway by the town of Mayo.

Another tree, Lamb said, fell on SW Grace-land Rd. causing road blockage that a local resident was able to move, in order to clear the roadway. On SW CR 534 another local resident used his equipment to move a tree out of the road.

Yet another tree came down across SW Independence Rd. blocking the roadway and knocking down fences, Lamb continued. The tree was removed by the road department.

Additionally, a power line was knocked down on U.S. 27 East near the Fourth District Community Center. Tom Tuckey from Suwannee Valley Electric estimated 1,135 customers were without power from Saturday's storm in Lafayette County.

SRWMD partners with county to improve water quality in Suwannee River

Continued From Page 1A

will also benefit the aquatic environment by improving water quality, reducing the sediment load, and preventing shoreline erosion.

The project will provide 0.4 acres of water quality treatment by constructing stormwater swales along the road to capture, reduce the velocity, and treat the stormwater runoff. This will allow the sediment to settle out in the swales and aid in reducing erosion of the shoreline. The banks on both sides of the boat ramp will be stabilized to reduce the bank erosion which will also lead to reduced sediment in the river. Workers will also seed and mulch the site.

The District is providing \$36,875 in cost-share funds to Lafayette County to assist with the \$40,875 project through its Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) cost-share program.

"We appreciate the District's assistance with reducing sediment erosion into the Suwannee River," said Project

Manager and Lafayette County Public Works Director Scott Sadler. "The Patrician Oaks Boat Ramp is a popular spot for the public to access the Suwannee River and the project is much needed."

"The District is pleased to partner with Lafayette County in a project that will improve the water quality of the Suwannee River," said District Executive Director Ann Shortelle.

The District has set aside \$1.5 million annually over a four year period to provide funding assistance to local governments for water conservation, alternative water supplies, flood protection, ecosystem restoration, and water quality improvement projects through its RIVER program. During the first year, 14 local governments partnered with the District, which reduced groundwater use by an estimated 160 million gallons of water per year and prevented an estimated 15 tons of nitrates from entering water resources, among other benefits.

State Surgeon General promotes healthy weight



Retiring dentist Stanley Jones chats with State Surgeon General John Armstrong. -Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

Continued From Page 1A

tunity to set the example and direct attention to this," said Armstrong.

Weight-challenged people, he explained, live sicker, die younger and threaten the livelihood of families.

"The costs of health-care are extraordinary," he added. "It ultimately gets really personal. We're talking about people missing birthdays, missing graduations and

missing anniversaries."

In today's modern world, Armstrong said, to have life expectancy numbers go down because of weight issues is unfathomable.

"Who knew that was going to happen in the new millennium?" he rhetorically asked. "Six out of 10 babies born today in the state of Florida will be obese or overweight before graduating from high school. That's not a future that

any of us wants for our kids."

Armstrong said the state's obesity rate has tripled over the last 25 years, going from 12 to 36 percent. By reshaping community environments to concentrate on healthy eating and living habits, Armstrong said making healthy choices will be easier, but it won't happen overnight.

"It's just a matter of doing it over time, day

in and day out," he said.

Many in the room agreed that food portion control is the key to keeping a healthy weight.

"We want to be the healthiest weight state in the nation," said Armstrong. "That's our goal, to be number one. Right now we're number 12. When we started this initiative only a year ago we were number 19."



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Statewide Classified Ad for Week of 01-15-14 - 01-22-14

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beneficiary, family member or caregiver, SHINE, a volunteer program under the FL Dept of Elder Affairs, provides you with free, unbiased and confidential information. For assistance, please

call the Elder Helpline at 1-800-262-2243 to have a volunteer return your call or come see us at: Fri, Jan. 17 10 a.m.-Noon Branford Public Library Wed, Jan. 22 1:30-3:30 p.m. Lifestyle Enrichment Ctr (Lake City)

Trail of Hearts

The Arc
North Florida

Annual Benefit Ride

Advocacy and Services Provided for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



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

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

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

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

If you would like to participate as a rider:

REGISTER ONLINE <http://www.arcnfl.com/ride>

* early entry get entered into a Walmart gift card drawing!

* you can fill out the registration form online

* you can pay via PayPal by credit card, echeck or paypal

* you can fill out the form, print it and send it in with a check or money order

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

Mayo Legals

AGENDA LAFAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP JANUARY 21, 2014

TO: Lafayette County School Board FROM: Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools SUBJECT: School Board Workshop, January 21, 2014 in the School Board Administration Building beginning at 5:00 p.m.

NEFEC Staff to make presentations:

- (1) SEEC (Sustainable Educator Evaluation and Compensation Project) Expansion
- (2) Florida Learns STEM Scholars

School Board to discuss:

- (3) ROTC Program 01/16

AGENDA LAFAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 21, 2014

TO: Lafayette County School Board FROM: Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools SUBJECT: Regular School Board Meeting, January 21, 2014 in the School Board Administration Building beginning at 6:00 p.m.

PRAYER: School Board Member PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Superintendent of Schools

- CALL TO ORDER
- ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS
 - Student of the Month
 - LHS Discipline Report
- CITIZEN INPUT

The Lafayette County School Board will hear any citizen who wishes to address the Board, on a one time basis, pertaining to a relevant topic. If the Board wishes to hear more about the topic, that topic will be scheduled for a future Board meeting. Each speaker is limited to three minutes and the time dedicated to this topic will not exceed twenty minutes.

VI. CONSENT ITEMS

- Personnel: (1) Approve requests for family medical leave (2) Approve requests for "illness in the line of duty" leave
- Approve request for Melba Adams to attend school in Suwannee County for the 2014-2015 school year
- Approve request for Noah Leake to participate in the dual enrollment program at NFCC

VII. ACTION ITEMS

- Approve 2013 School Safety and Security Best Practices Report
- Public Hearing-(6:30 p.m.): Approve as advertised. Revisions/updates to various school board policies based on legislative changes and to reflect editorial, grammatical, and citation edits

- Approve request from Lafayette County Board of County Commissioners for use of the LHS Gym for the youth basketball program each Saturday from Jan. 11 through March 15, 2014
- Approve fundraising request: LHS Volleyball-Car wash, Aug. 2014; Volleyball Camp, July 2014; Signs
- Approve PERT Grant Application
- Approve bills for payment
- Approve budget amendments

VIII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Principal's Monthly Financial Report on Internal Funds
- Purchase Orders
- Financial Statement

ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT, FOR SUCH PURPOSE, HE OR SHE MAY NEED TO INSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

01/16

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 3RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

CASE NO.: 12-39-CA

HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR MASTR REPERFORMING LOAN TRUST 2005-2, Plaintiff,

vs.

Brian N. Lamb Sheriff, Lafayette County

By: Donna Dennis Adm. Assistant 01/16, 23, 30, 02/06

Mayo Legals

BENJAMIN L. MASSEY; et. al., Defendants.

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Resetting Foreclosure Sale dated the 3rd day of December, 2013, and entered in Case No. 12-39-CA of the Circuit Court of the 3RD Judicial Circuit in and for Lafayette County, Florida, wherein HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR MASTR REPERFORMING LOAN TRUST 2005-2 is the Plaintiff and BENJAMIN L. MASSEY, DONNA L. MASSEY A/K/A DONNA L. REID and UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. The Clerk of this Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the NORTH FRONT DOOR OF LAFAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, FLETCHER & MAIN STREET, MAYO, FL 32066, 11:00 A.M. on the 14th day of February, 2014, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

THE SOUTH HALF (S 1/2) OF BLOCK 38, KNIGHT'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF MAYO, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK "A", PAGE 3 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

TOGETHER WITH A FLEETWOOD DOUBLEWIDE MANUFACTURED HOME 2004 FTWD GAF1407A5204F221 90673348 AND GAF1407B5204F221 90673486

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.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Individuals with a disability who require special accommodations in order to participate in a court proceeding should contact the ADA Coordinator, 173 N.E. Hernandez Avenue, Room 408, Lake City, FL 32055, (386) 719-7428, within two (2) business days of receipt of this notice to appear. Individuals who are hearing impaired should call (800) 955-8771. Individuals who are voice impaired should call (800) 955-8770.

Dated this 4th day of December, 2013.

(Court Seal) RICKY LYONS Clerk Of The Circuit Court

By: /s/ Hannah Owens Deputy Clerk

01/16, 23

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a writ of Execution issued in the County Court of Lafayette County, Florida, on the 12th day of November, 2013, in the cause wherein Hector Franco is the plaintiff and Margarito Lucio is the defendant, being case number 13-27-CC, in said Court, I, Brian N. Lamb, as Sheriff of Lafayette County, Florida, have levied upon all the right, title, and interest of the defendants in and to the following described personal property to-wit:

2006 GMC Z71 4X4 Pickup Truck VIN # 2GTEK13T461252438

I shall offer this property for sale, at The Lafayette County Sheriff's Office front steps, 231 NW Monroe Ave., Mayo, State of Florida, on February 20, 2014 at 10:00 A.M. or as soon thereafter as possible. I will offer for sale all the said defendant's right, title and interest in the aforesaid personal property, at public auction and will sell the same, subject to taxes, all prior liens, encumbrances and judgments, if any to the highest and best bidder for CASH IN HAND. The proceeds to be applied as far as may be to the payment of costs and the satisfaction of the above described execution.

Brian N. Lamb Sheriff, Lafayette County

By: Donna Dennis Adm. Assistant 01/16, 23, 30, 02/06

/s/ Robert Edwards

Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools 01/02, 09, 16

Mayo Legals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The District Board of Trustees of North Florida Community College will hold its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the NFCC Board Room, NFCC, 325 NW Turner Davis Dr., Madison, FL. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by writing: NFCC, Office of the President, 325 NW Turner Davis Dr., Madison, FL 32340. For disability-related accommodations, contact the NFCC Office of College Advancement, 850-973-1653. NFCC is an equal access/equal opportunity employer. 01/16

PUBLIC NOTICE

The District School Board of Lafayette County will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room of the Lafayette County District Administration Building, 363 N.E. Crawford Street, Mayo, Florida 32066 for the purpose of amending various school board policies based on legislative changes and to reflect editorial, grammatical, and citation edits. (The School Board approved for advertisement of a Public Hearing at their regular meeting on December 17, 2013.)

Authority for amending and adopting policies and forms is found in Article IX, Section 4(b), Constitution of the State of Florida and in Florida Statutes 1001.41.

The following policies will be considered for revision:

- CHAPTER II-SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATION No. 2.05-Board Meetings
- CHAPTER III-SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION No. 3.06-Safe and Secure Schools No. 3.10-Flag Display and Pledge No. 3.12-Public Information and Inspection of Records No. 3.25-Background Screening for Contractors
- CHAPTER IV-CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION No. 4.013-Academic Acceleration No. 4.017-Early High School Graduation
- CHAPTER V-STUDENTS No. 5.101-Bullying and Harassment No. 5.15-Administration of Medication
- CHAPTER VI-HUMAN RESOURCES No. 6.113-Responsibilities of School Bus Operators No. 6.37-Professional Ethics No. 6.39-Report of Misconduct
- CHAPTER VIII-AUXILIARY SERVICES No. 8.03-Inspections No. 8.14-Automotive Equipment No. 8.21-Transporting Students in Private Vehicles
- CHAPTER IX-SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS No. 9.03-School Reports

A. Name of person presenting the proposed policies: Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Lafayette County Schools. Date of Approval by Board for Advertisement: December 17, 2013.

B. Explanation of the purpose and effect of school board policies: Provide policies required by Florida Statutes (F.S.) State Board of Education Administrative Rules (S.B.E.R.) and other controlling regulations; and to provide policies for matters for which it appears prudent for the orderly operation of the school system.

C. A summary of the proposed policy revisions is as follows: Policies necessary for the effective operation and general improvement of the school system for the District School Board of Lafayette County, Florida.

D. Economic impact of the proposed policies: None

School Board Policies may be examined at the District School Board Office at 363 N.E. Crawford Street, Mayo, Florida between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.



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2014 CHEVROLET CRUZE_{LS} \$17,399



2013 CHEVROLET SONIC \$16,495



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Sports



Lafayette County's news source since 1888. We're proud to serve!

Lafayette sports round-up



The 2014 Lafayette High Soccer Team Seniors were recognized Friday night between games.



Lafayette's Brycen Lee (11) goes up for the shoot over the Branford defender. The boys defeated Branford 50-49 in the game played in Mayo on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014.



Micah Byrd drives the baseline for the Hornets in the games against Branford on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014.



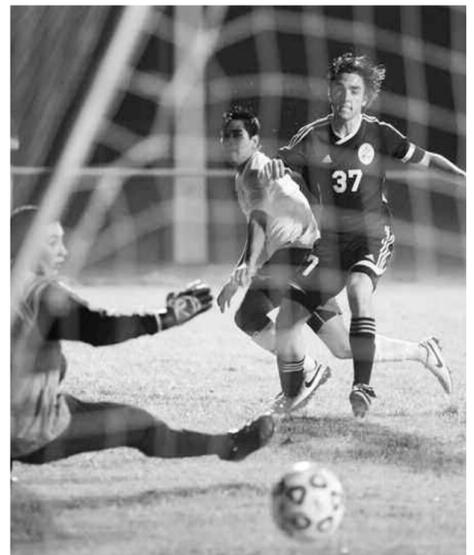
With strong defense by the Lady Hornets, they defeated the Branford Lady Bucs at home 68-40.



Lafayette's Teyonna Blake (24) takes control of the tip-off and the Lady Hornets when on to win 68-40 over Branford.



Lady Hornet Haley Fowler with the pass up court during the Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2013 win over the visiting Branford Lady Bucs.



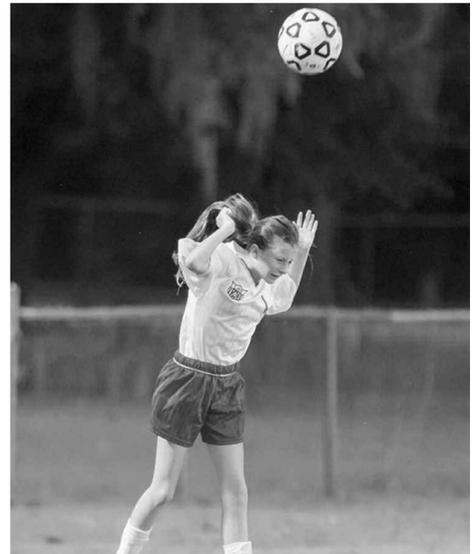
Lafayette senior Josue Diaz scores in the 6-1 win over John Paul II High on Friday, Jan. 10, 2014.



Picking up the assist on the penalty kick, Lady Hornet Courtney Monroe and her teammates defeated John Paul II 3-2 last Friday.



Lafayette High senior Dustin Hart heads towards the goal in the 6-1 win over visiting John Paul II High on Friday, Jan. 10, 2014.



Lafayette's Kearston Archer with the header during the Friday match against John Paul II High. The Lady Hornets finished their regular season with the home win and began district play on Monday, Jan. 13 in Tallahassee.

- Photos: Jack Howdeshell

Sports



FWC NEWS:

Releasing Florida's biggest TrophyCatch earns angler bling and ultimate bragging rights

Bass anglers in Florida have more reasons than ever to practice catch-and-release. To help encourage the angling public to document and release largemouth bass, 8 pounds or larger, a program called TrophyCatch rewards participating anglers for their environmental stewardship with a range of fishing-related prizes, including the first ever championship ring.

TrophyCatch is the conservation/angler rewards component to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Black Bass Management Program.

The biggest bass legally caught, properly documented and released in Florida waters in 2013 earned one lucky Florida tourist an award fit for a true champion – a ring with some bling! The American Outdoors Fund TrophyCatch Florida Champion's Ring is made by the same company that makes rings for Super Bowl, World Series and Bass Master Classic champions. It also has the winning angler's name as well as the weight and date of the winning catch engraved on it, so there is no mistake about who has bragging rights to the biggest bass of the season.

At a presentation made at Bass Pro Shops in Orlando, the American Outdoors Fund TrophyCatch Florida Champion's Ring was awarded to Bob Williams from Alloway, N.J. While on a Florida fishing vacation in February 2013, Williams booked a trip on Rodman Reservoir with bass fishing guide Sean Rush from Trophy Bass Expeditions. It

was a bitter cold morning in Florida with temperatures in the low 20s, and neither Williams nor Rush could have fathomed how the day would unfold. After casting a live shiner around a cluster of lily pads, the New Jersey angler hooked and landed the fish of a lifetime, a 13-pound, 14-ounce largemouth bass.

Rush, a seasoned Florida fishing guide, immediately put the giant fish in an aerated live well and called the TrophyCatch hotline: 855-FL-TROPHY (358-7674). The FWC immediately dispatched TrophyCatch coordinator KP Clements as well as biologists Allen Martin and Dan Dorosheff to document and celebrate the catch and release of Williams' fish.

The first year of the TrophyCatch program required FWC staff or volunteers to verify a Hall of Fame-caliber catch that was 13 pounds or heavier. The new requirements for the second year of competition are for a photo of the entire bass on a scale where the weight can be read. Williams received approximately \$1,000 in prizes for releasing his Hall of Fame catch, and he has watched the TrophyCatch website intently since February to see if the fish would hold up as the biggest of the season. Bigger fish were reported, but none were verified, meaning Bob Williams would earn his place in Florida's Bass Fishing Hall of Fame as the first ever TrophyCatch Champion.

Williams recently returned to Florida to receive his award and go on another bass

fishing trip with his favorite guide, Rush. After being awarded the American Outdoors Fund TrophyCatch Florida Champion's ring, Williams praised the program as a great way to promote environmental stewardship and ensure great bass fishing in Florida for generations to come.

Launched in October 2012, TrophyCatch was created as a way to document the number of trophy-class largemouth bass caught in Florida while providing valuable data to fisheries biologists to help them determine which management practices are working best and to promote the safe handling and release of trophy-class bass. It is important to release these trophy fish so they may continue to breed and pass their DNA on to future generations. Over time, the act of releasing these trophy-class fish, along with good management practices, should result in an improvement in the overall quality of Florida's freshwater fisheries.

It's no secret that fishermen like to brag about their catches, and even though TrophyCatch is considered a conservation program first, those with a competitive spirit treat it like a year-long tournament for the ultimate bragging rights to the biggest bass caught, documented and released in Florida every year.

In the inaugural TrophyCatch season, thousands of resident and visiting anglers registered for TrophyCatch and many of them caught big bass, documented them for the FWC and released them to thrive in the

same bodies of water where they were caught. Every qualifying bass submitted earns registered anglers TrophyCatch rewards.

Visit TrophyCatchFlorida.com to register and become eligible for a random drawing for a Phoenix bass boat powered by Mercury, and to submit your trophy Florida bass for rewards, including competing for this year's TrophyCatch ring. Don't forget to like TrophyCatch on Facebook and check out the YouTube channel – TrophyCatch Florida http://youtu.be/fm_6RNh-2g4 – where you can see a video of the awards presentation.

The American Outdoors Fund is committed to conservation as well as creating, enhancing and supporting programs that provide, improve or enhance opportunities for veterans, first responders, children and families to experience the fun, healthy, educational and therapeutic value outdoor recreation provides.

Through documentary, educational, instructional and experiential programs and events, the American Outdoors Fund helps guide and facilitate outdoor recreational opportunities across America and promotes and supports initiatives that inspire others to do the same.

Keith Allen provided the material for this release. He is founder of the American Outdoors Fund, which has been a partner to TrophyCatch since before the program began in 2012. Contact him at kapro@mac.com.

JANUARY "FISH BUSTERS' BULLETIN"

Crappie anglers enjoy a happy new year



By Bob Wattendorf

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

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

Crappie eat crustaceans, insects and small fishes. A bright, 1/16-oz. to 1/8-oz. jig or Hal-flies will produce once they are inshore. If they are schooling offshore,

drift Missouri minnows or grass shrimp below a float, with a #4 hook and small split shot. Depth is key, as crappie school at the same level, so experiment until you find the right depth.

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

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

Lake Talquin (8,800-acre reservoir, west of Tallahassee)
Lochloosa Lake (5,705 acres, between Gainesville and Ocala)
Lake Weir (5,685 acres, south Marion County)
Lake Griffin (10,000 acres, Lake County)

Lake Monroe (9,406 acres, near Sanford)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lake Istokpoga (28,000 acres, near Sebring)

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

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

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

Black History Month contests

Gov. Rick Scott and First Lady Ann Scott invited K-12 students to participate in the 2014 Black History Month art and essay contests. Students, parents, teachers and principals have also been invited to nominate full-time African-American educators in elementary, middle or high schools for the Black History Month Excellence in Education Award.

Governor Scott said, "This month is a great opportunity for Florida students to learn about the significance of Black History to our nation's fabric. The 2014 Black History Month contests will provide our students with a chance to enhance their educational experience and encourage them to become better leaders."

First Lady Ann Scott said, "The Black History Month art and essay contests will allow Florida students the opportunity to express their creativity and learn more about what makes Florida such a unique and special place. I encourage Florida students and teachers to participate. I would also like to thank Ms. Rose Jefferson for being the featured artist for this year's Black History Month."

The student contests focus on the theme "Dr. Martin Luther King's Dream:

50 Years in Action." Students are asked to respond to how they are influenced and inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Information about the contests and Florida's Black History Month is available on Florida's Black History Month website, www.FloridaBlackHistory.com.

This year's Black History Month featured artist is Rose Jefferson. She was born in Alexandria, Louisiana and grew up in Houston, Texas. She pursued her passion for painting and drawing after her mother passed away in 1999. Her artwork has been exhibited mostly in the southeast and she currently resides in Melbourne, Florida.

About the student contests

Art Contest for Grades K-3 – The Black History Month art contest is open to all Florida students in grades K-3, and two winners will be selected.

Essay Contest for Grades 4-12 – The Black History Month essay contest is open to all Florida students in grades 4 through 12. Three winners will be selected: one elementary student (grades 4-5), one middle-school student (grades 6-8), and one high school student (grades 9-12). Win-

ners will receive a four-year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

About the Excellence in Education award

Governor Scott's annual Black History Month Excellence in Education Award Contest is open to all African-American, full-time educators in an elementary, middle or high school in Florida. Three winners will be selected: one elementary (K-5) teacher, one middle school (6-8) teacher and one high school (9-12) teacher.

All entry forms and guidelines for the contests can be found at www.FloridaBlackHistory.com.

Contest entries and nominations

Student Contests and Educator Nomination forms must be mailed to:

Volunteer Florida
Attention: Black History Month
3800 Esplanade Way
Suite 180
Tallahassee, FL 32311

All entries must be mailed to Volunteer Florida and postmarked on or before Jan. 31, 2014.

For additional information about Florida's Black History, contests and other related events, please visit www.FloridaBlackHistory.com.

SRWMD develops partnerships with electrical companies

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) is currently working with electric companies throughout its 15-county region to provide electrical consumption data that will be used to determine agricultural water use.

The District requires monitoring and reporting of groundwater and surface water withdrawals for new, renewed, and modified permits. The requirement applies to permitted withdrawals from wells with an inside diameter of 8 inches or greater and to surface water pumps with an outside diameter of 6 inches or greater.

The District is pursuing an innovative, cost-efficient means to obtain accurate water use data from agricultural producers. Agriculture is the largest permitted water use in the District. The water use data is critical to plan for future water supplies and manage water resources.

Agricultural producers electing to participate in this program will authorize the participating electric utility to provide electrical consumption meter data for each water pump. The District will then be able to accurately determine the water use.

Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., and another cooperative have signed agreements with the District to allow for the transmittal of electrical data, following customer authorization to release the data. These partnerships provide essential data that will enable the District to assess water use without additional costs to our agricultural producers and save our taxpayers money.

The District is presently working with other electric companies to obtain this vital information in a cost-ef-

ficient manner. Once the other companies partner with the District to share the electrical data, agricultural producers in those service areas will be able to participate in the monitoring requirements while avoiding additional costs to provide the data through other methods.

"We are happy to provide electrical consumption data to the District to enhance its water use moni-

toring program," said Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., Chief Financial Officer Eddie Thomas.

"We appreciate the leadership of Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., in partnering with the District to provide us this information, which is the most cost-effective method to collect accurate water use data," said District Executive Director Ann Shortelle.

Interested in having your teeth straightened?

The UF Orthodontic Research Clinic is looking for participants for an orthodontic study. Two screening visits are needed to determine eligibility. Qualified participants must be able to come to the clinic for nine visits in 12 weeks.

You may be eligible if:

- You are between 18 and 40 years old.
- You are in good general medical and dental health.
- You have all your upper front teeth with some that are crooked.
- You have most of your upper back teeth.
- You have not smoked within the last six months.
- You do not take daily pain medications, estrogen or medications for osteoporosis or other medication that may interfere with tooth movement.
- You are available to come to the research clinic for nine appointments over 12 weeks.
- You are not pregnant.

Eligible participants will receive an oral examination and will have one tooth moved slightly during the study. At the conclusion of the study, participants will be treated with either braces or clear aligners at no cost. If interested, please call the UF Orthodontic Research Clinic at (352) 273-7960 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or visit the study's website for more information.

<https://ufhealth.org/research-study/effect-accelent-aura-orthodontic-tooth-movement-aligners>



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