

Suwannee Democrat

132nd Year | No. 056

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75 CENTS

Serving Suwannee County since 1884, including Live Oak, Wellborn, Dowling Park, Branford, McAlpin and O'Brien

CNHI names Buckner top designer



Democrat staff also honored for digital storytelling

LIVE OAK — Tasked with designing eye-catching pages, Aimee Buckner's work in 2017 caught the attention of CNHI's judges.

Buckner, a page designer for the Suwannee Democrat, Jasper News and Mayo Free Press, was named the Designer of the Year in the annual Best of CNHI contest for Division III. CNHI, a subsidiary of Raycom Media, is the parent company of the North Florida papers.

Buckner's winning entries included a front page following the inaugural Party in the Pines at Bienville Plantation in White Springs as well as three sports

pages from Democrat editions.

One of the sports fronts kicked off the paper's look back at the Suwannee Bulldogs' four straight state championships from 1987-90. Another featured prominently the Lafayette-Branford rivalry and battle for "The Helmet."

"We're fortunate to have a talented graphic artist like Aimee on our team," group editor Jamie Wachter said. "It's great to see others take notice of the work she does in presenting our stories in an appealing way."

In addition to the individual honor for Buckner, the Democrat, News and Free Press also won for Innovation in Digital Storytelling for its North Florida's 2017 High School Football Road Map. The interactive story map took readers on a week-by-week preview of the prep football season, featuring the top games of the season for the Suwannee Bulldogs, Branford Buccaneers, Hamilton County Trojans and Lafayette Hornets.

"It was a fun little way to help get our digital readers, as well as our-

selves, ready for the football season," Wachter said.

The judging panel included eight CNHI editors and news executives, handing out Newspaper of the Year, Magazine of the Year, Public Service Awards and honors in seven individual categories as well as digital work for breaking news, social media and video.



Aimee Buckner



PHOTO: JESSIE R. BOX

Suwannee Correctional Institution's K-9 team lets a little boy pet the dog.

RIVEROAK shows off different career opportunities



MORE ONLINE

To see related video, visit our website at suwanneedemocrat.com

BY JESSIE R. BOX

jessie.box@gafnews.com

LIVE OAK — RIVEROAK Technical Col-

lege held Career Day with more than 40 booths on Wednesday for students and adults.

There were booths for different local businesses, organizations, law

SEE RIVEROAK, PAGE 7A

Heritage Square master plan draft nearing completion



MORE ONLINE

To see related video, visit our website at suwanneedemocrat.com

BY JESSIE R. BOX

jessie.box@gafnews.com

LIVE OAK — As he works on completing its master plan draft, Jon Sewell said Heritage Square potentially could become

an entertainment district in Live Oak.

Sewell, a project manager with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., told the Community Redevelopment Agency at its Tuesday meeting that the top seven priorities the citizens listed at the community outreach

SEE HERITAGE, PAGE 7A



PUBLIC NOTICES

THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

Page 5B

SPORTS: Four SHS wrestlers move on to state championships

Page 1B



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Letters may be mailed, faxed or emailed to our office. All letters are read. Not all letters are published. Letters may be edited to fit available space. The editor should not alter the writer's point of view. Well written letters require less editing. Keep it to the point, an ideal range is 150 to 200 words. Please include your name, address and day and evening phone numbers for verification. Letters MUST be signed. Letters to the editor can be limited to one letter per quarter per individual.

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Suwannee County Part of "The Original Florida"

State & Region

'I really thought I was going to die'

Dalton students say they knew this was no drill

BY CHRIS WHITFIELD

[chriswhitfield@
daltoncitizen.com](http://chriswhitfield@daltoncitizen.com)

DALTON, Ga. — Wesley Caceres thought he was going to die.

The Dalton High School junior had been through drills before at the school, and experienced last week's increased police presence after a threatening note was found.

But on Wednesday when the school was put on a threat lockdown with students huddled in classrooms and other hiding places after a teacher fired a bullet through a window, Caceres talked to his mother, thinking he was going to die.

"I was just like I was going to die today," he said. "I really thought I was going

to die. I thought it was a real shooting and we were all going to die. I had no imagination that it would be a teacher with a gun. I was on my way to business class and all we heard is 'Code Red! Code Red! Lockdown!'"

Caceres and other students were shepherded into the nearest classroom. He said students have been taught to hide, and to seek cover behind desks and to keep quiet. But, he said, he took a call from his mother and whispered his way through the conversation.

"We were whispering and I told her I couldn't talk, but she was asking me questions and finally I told her I would call her job when I was OK," Caceres said. "I wasn't really scared until I talked to my

mom. I was in the corner of the room and wondering what ... was going on. We have had threats about a shooter, and I was like, 'Man, are you playing games again?' I am just trying to get out of here and go home."

Last Thursday, five or six extra police officers were on campus in addition to the school resource officer who is normally there after the discovery of the threaten-



MATT HAMILTON | DALTON DAILY CITIZEN-NEWS

Buses evacuate students from Dalton High School on Wednesday.

Devanshi Patel said wasn't easy.

"Everyone ran," Patel said when



Randal Davidson

the evacuation call came. "I was scared. I didn't know what was going on, but I didn't think it was a drill. It was real and we knew it. But you never expect it to happen, especially with it being a teacher."

While police isolated Davidson in his classroom, the decision was made to evacuate students. Plans called for the removal of the students to the Dalton Convention Center. Access to the campus was cut off and parents began to flood into the convention center shortly after the evacuation plan was decided upon. The task of moving roughly 1,800 students was begun. All students and staff were evacuated, leaving only law enforcement officials at the school after Davidson had been taken into custody.

While school staff and law enforcement personnel tried to make the reunions at the convention center as smooth as possible, it still was a time-consuming process of matching up each student with a parent. Parents were complimentary of the response.

"We thank God that nobody got hurt," Bartoo said. One female student twisted her ankle in the evacuation.

Interim Superintendent

Don Amonet

said Dalton

High School

will be closed

today

and classes will resume

on Friday.

Amonet

said

four

counselors

at the

school

and a

school

social

worker

will be available

for

students

and

staff,

as well as

other

response

personnel

who are

planned

for by

system

officials

in the event of

traumatic

events.

Few of the students who

were going about

their day

in other parts of the school

knew much

when the "Code

Red"

call came.

One student said he knew it was serious.

"We went under lockdown

and I was sitting in the gym

at the time," freshman

Corey Patterson

said. "All of

a sudden over the intercom

you hear 'Everyone needs to

leave.'

You need to get some-

where and get safe.'

They

locked us in the locker room

and then they called for an

evac (evacuation)."

Several students, school

staff and police officials

agreed Dalton

High School

was well-prepared

for such a situation.

Even before the shoot-

ing

in Parkland, Fla., on Val-

entine's Day, school offi-

cials

had run a "threat lock-

down"

drill, according to Bartoo.

He said that after the initial

shock of what was happening

on Wednesday, students and

staff responded exactly as

they had been drilled to do.

"If there is a lockdown,

they are instructed to get kids

into a classroom and lock

the door and turn out the light

and out of the line of sight of

windows," Bartoo said. "You

do what you are trained to

do."

For the students, that meant

following the instruc-

tions of the teachers and trying

to be calm, which fresh-

man

do."

"It just continues to press

the urgency of the issue,"

Carpenter said. "And it's never

more important than when

it's your community."

Jill Nolin, who covers

the Georgia Statehouse for

CNHI's newspapers and

websites, contributed to this

story.

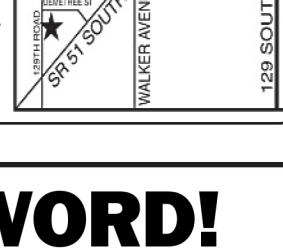
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Remembering Suwannee

Looking back to Oakhurst's addition

Suwannee County's history, like the rest of the world, has its moments of prejudice. Ideas and attitudes now seen as archaic or racist were the norm for many years, even when advertising otherwise normal business transactions. Today is one such case.

The Oakhurst Addition to Live Oak was a subdivision platted in 1906, dividing up part of the old White (presumably John F. White) Estate south of downtown Live Oak. In preparation for the opening sale of lots on Thursday, October 18, 1906, several articles were run in the Suwannee Democrat to garner attention. The following is an excerpt from one of them:

"OAKHURST is a real estate proposition that merits the consideration of the home seeker and the investor. It is just five minutes' walk from the business heart of Live Oak. It stretches immediately up against the choicest residential section of the city. It has a frontage of nearly a quarter of a mile on Ohio Avenue, the Euclid of this thriving metropolis (this was when Live Oak was the first largest city in the state, EM). The handsomest homes in Live Oak lead up to its very border. Its environs are strictly white. Its restrictions will preserve this feature. It is high up and commands a charming view of the city. Its natural advantages are being supplemented by extensive improvements. Live Oak is now built solidly to Oakhurst and

must spread out over this new home section as she moves forward along the path of progress. Owing to these things Oakhurst is a proposition that can never be paralleled in Live Oak. It is a rare opportunity for the homeseeker to secure a site upon which to begin a home of his own. Its splendid situation and advantages taken in conjunction with the present remarkable growth of Live Oak and the steady advance of her reality value make it a proposition that the investor should grasp."

"The easy terms offered bring Oakhurst property within the reach of every ambitious man."

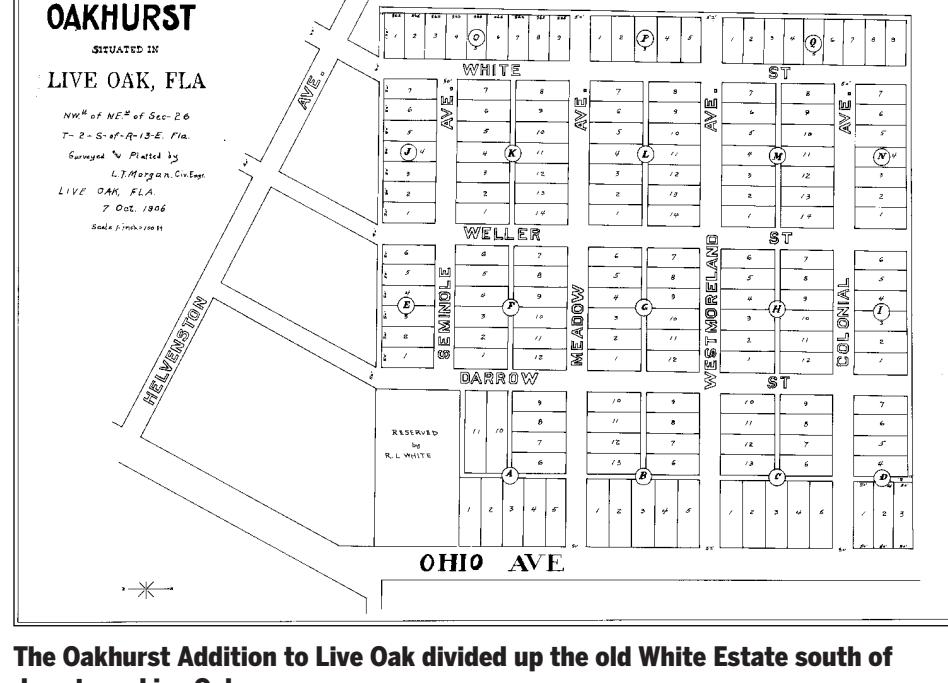
"The prices will be such that you cannot fail to make money by buying Oakhurst lots."

The article continues by saying:

"Oakhurst represents a busy scene. The property is being cleared and leveled, streets are being laid out and graded, entrance pillars erected, a tile walk installed along Ohio Avenue, the entire length of the property and other improvements under way, which will make Oakhurst, one of the choicest Residence properties in Florida."



ERIC MUSGROVE



The Oakhurst Addition to Live Oak divided up the old White Estate south of downtown Live Oak.

Potential buyers were offered 20 percent down and 5 percent per month with an interest rate of 6 percent on deferred payments. The West Virginia Land Company, operating out of the First National Bank Building (now Hal Airth's Office), was especially proud to add in large letters below the article, that "No lots to be sold or transferred to Colored people." Such were the attitudes of the time, found in

many cities across the United States.

Many citizens purchased property in the new subdivision once the sale of lots commenced on October 18, 1906. Today, without race restrictions, the Oakhurst Subdivision continues with a variety of home and business owners.

More history next week!

Eric Musgrove can be reached at erictm@suwgov.org or 386-362-0564.

Pam Tillis added to Jam lineup

Texas singer Johnson also to perform



Pam Tillis.

time winner, a nine-time Academy of Country Music Award nominee, a two-time Grammy award winner and six-time Grammy nominee, and an American Music Award nominee. Most recently she was a two-time IBMA nominee and one-time winner.

As a songwriter, Pam's songs have been recorded by respected names throughout all genres of music, she's a recurring guest on the TV show Nashville, performed an extended run on Broadway in New York in Smokey Joe's Cafe and is a proud member of The Grand Ole Opry. In 2017 she released a new album, Love's Truckstop, toured with Terry Clark and Suzy Boggus on the Chicks with Hits Tour and the Grits and Glamour Tour with Lorrie Morgan as well as touring with her own Acoustic Trio and full band.

When Johnson's album Cowboy Like Me debuted in the Top 10 on the Billboard Country Albums chart in January 2014, Nashville took notice.

"I got a lot of 'Who is

this kid?'" Johnson said. "I love that. That was a new horizon. And I'm gonna work to make sure people know exactly who I am. I'm a God-fearin', hard-working, beer-drinkin', fightin', loving' cowboy from Texas."

"That's about it" Johnson grew up in tiny Sesbaptopol, an unincorporated community on the Trinity River that's never exceeded 500 residents. At a young age, Johnson was given the tools to eventually work in the clubs across the lake from where he grew up, though his official education was grounded in the church. His father played the drums for their congregation and that was likewise the first instrument that young Cody picked up. Now, he's touring the US, playing country music and has recorded several more albums.

Tickets for the Suwannee River Jam may be purchased at www.suwanneeriverjam.com, at www.musicliveshere.com or at the nearest S & S Food Store.

Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners

Judicial Annex

218 Parshley St. SW

Regular meeting
6 p.m., Tuesday

Approval of minutes

■ Minutes of the Feb. 20 regular board meeting

Consent agenda

■ Approval of payment of processed invoices

■ Approval of Contract Renewal with Johnson Controls, in the lump sum amount of \$11,508.36, for maintenance of chillers located at the Suwannee County Jail, budgeted item

■ Approval of amended Interlocal Agreement creating the North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team

■ Approval of Task Order with Darabi & Associates, Inc. for Consulting Engineering Services associated with Air Curtain Permit renewal

■ Approval to waive building permit fees for the re-roofing of McAlpin Community Center

■ Approval of Subordination Agreement for Thomas Cundiff, State Housing Initiatives Partnership program clients

■ Approval of contract with Mannington Commercial for flooring at Extension office utilizing NJPA competitive bid contract, budgeted item

■ Approval of Tourist Development Council recommendations

■ Approval of Storage Tank Liability Warranty renewal

■ Declare miscellaneous equipment "surplus" and authorize sale of same from the Road Department

■ Authorization to place a Quilt

Agenda

Square on the Douglass Center property

■ Authorization to construct Tire Loading Ramp at the Landfill. Budget impact: Estimated in-house expense \$15,000 for materials, to be funded from Solid Waste reserves

■ Authorization to receive Team Florida Marketing Partnership Co-Op marketing and communication funding in the amount of \$5,000

■ Authorization to lease seven (7) 670G Deere motor graders from Beard Equipment, Co. utilizing Florida Sheriffs Contract FSA17-VEH15.0, budgeted item

■ Appoint Seana Gentry to the Suwannee County Historical Commission to complete the unexpired term of Al Johnson, and extend the appointment until September 30, 2020

■ Authorization to purchase multiple pieces of computer equipment

Staff reports

■ Greg Scott, Parks & Recreation Director / Airport Manager

General Business

■ Discuss Tourist Development Council's recommendation for County Commission to update their website to be more user-friendly — Alvin Jackson, Economic Director

■ Discuss, with possible Board action, potential dates and agenda items for a workshop with the City of Live Oak

■ Discuss, with possible Board action, any issues associated with Water or Waste Water Plant at I-75 / CR 136 interchange — Randy Harris, County Administrator

Public comments

■ Items not listed on the agenda

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Planning meeting scheduled for Easter Sunrise Service

WHITE SPRINGS — A planning meeting is scheduled for March 8 for the White Springs community's 51st annual Easter Sunrise Service.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at the White Springs United Methodist Church's

Fellowship Hall. All White Springs area churches are encouraged to attend the meeting.

The service will be held Sunday, April 1, at 7 a.m. at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center's Carillon Tower East Lawn.

Suwannee Living

BES student hopes for understanding after Parkland school shooting

BY ALEXIS SPOEHR

alexis.spoehr@gafnews.com

BRANFORD — Following the recent school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Branford Elementary School student Laila Arnold talked to the Suwannee County School Board about the importance of students needing to understand one another.

Arnold opened the school board's meeting Tuesday night at Branford High School with her remarks about trying to better oneself and being understanding.

"The Bible says 'Happy are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding.' Proverbs 3:13," Arnold said. "Yes we are blessed, blessed with a beautiful school, those who volunteer their time to help the teachers. I am blessed to have parents and grandparents who support and love me to be the very best I can be."

"We have a lot of crazy stuff going on this world and our state here in Florida. Perhaps it is those people who do not have teachers like I have. Parents and grandparents like I have. Maybe they don't have people who really care about them, I don't know the answers. What I do know is that I want to learn, I want to lead, I want to have understanding and I want all of us to be happy."

That message was well received by the board.

"To the first young lady with the opening remarks, it couldn't have been said better," board member Ed da Silva said. "You are right on with what is going on in the state of Florida and we all know what is happening on the news down in South Florida."

"You are right we are blessed up here and I want to thank you for reminding us of that."

BES student Madysen Sikes followed Arnold with a prayer before Kelsea Corbin led the pledge of allegiance.

The board held a public hearing to discuss a revision to the pledge of



PHOTO: ALEXIS SPOEHR

Laila Arnold, President of the BES Student Council, speaking of understanding one another to make a better world.

allegiance and solemnizing message for the meetings in Branford that was approved during the regular meeting.

The revision was to move the school site to move to Branford High School for the October meeting so the school site is responsible for the solemnizing message after the pledge of allegiance. In their policy it states that they have to have Branford High School and Branford Elementary School be in charge of the message on the day the meetings are held in Branford.

The board also held a hearing on the final review of additions and revisions to the SCSD Elementary Student Progression Plan for 2017-18 school year which was also approved during the meeting.

Director of Facilities Mark Carver brought forth the contract agreement between SCSB and Architects RZK, Inc. for the new administration/district office building. Architects RZK

will be handling the design/professional engineering and architectural services for this project.

According to the agreement, the new single-story building will be around 18,500 square feet. The total cost for design and construction will be \$174,750.

Also during the meeting, Superintendent Ted Roush recognized the Branford High School Beta Club from their State Contest. James Corbin, Wyatt Eakins, Destiny Fenell, Dawson Hall, Ginger King, Ann Marie Kuczynski, Luke Ramsey, Leah Trice, Alivya Ward and Barrett Young.

The school board also approved for the clinical education agreement between the Practical Nurse Education Program at RIVERA Technical College, and Smith & Sorenson, LLC. The agreement allows the students to work at Rising Oaks Assisted Living for their clinical hours that are needed.



Chloé Verdegem and Alexandria Jackson with one of the coats the Youth Advisory Council collected during its recent coat drive.

YAC collects coats for those in need

LIVE OAK — The City of Live Oak Youth Advisory Council has recently completed a coat drive as its community service project.

YAC members, with the support of the Suwannee Primary School, Suwannee Elementary School, Suwannee Middle School, Suwannee High School and the Live Oak Police Department, started collecting coats at these locations, and concluded the coat drive after a month of collections.

The YAC members were able to collect 212 coats of varying sizes and designs. The members have since sorted the coats, and the ESE class at Suwannee High School has graciously volunteered to wash the coats.

YAC members will be taking the washed and sorted coats to Love INC of Suwannee County, and the coats will be distributed to individuals in need from there. Many additional items were collected as well and have also been donated to Love INC.

The Youth Advisory Council is in its fourth year of operation, and is led by John Gill, City Clerk, and Mary Jackson, Deputy Clerk.

YAC members would like to thank the community for all the coats that were donated, as well as the Live Oak City Council and city businesses for their continued support of the group. Group members are Dylan Bailey, Jennifer Delgado, Jasmen Garling, Alexandria Jackson, Maggie Reaves, Brendan Richard, Cara Seaman, and Chris Snyder.

Community calendar submissions

aimee.buckner@gafnews.com

**Profitable events must go through our advertising department. Calendar submissions are published within space availability and are not guaranteed consistency.*



TO ALL TRADESMEN & SERVICE PROVIDERS:

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for more information on how to place a small ad (that's the "small package") to appear in all 3 of our publications which means the opportunity for your ad to be seen by approximately 4,600 potential customers (and that's the "big things").

Tobacco Rd Band added to SOSMP's weekend lineup

LIVE OAK — The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park's weekend lineup has changed but the fun and music won't.

With the Michael Miller Band having to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances, Tallahassee's Tobacco Rd Band was added to perform Saturday night. Tobacco Rd Band has played the Music Hall numerous times to great accolades. This band was formed by Eric Durrance, a CMT artist and co-writer of Jake Owens' top 10 single "Eight Second Ride." The band's hit song, "Stiff Drink," received accolades from country radio and fans as the band opened for Josh Turner, Jake Owen, Justin Moore, Jason Aldean, Cole Swindell, Brantley Gilbert and many more top country artists. It's smash hit, "That's Country," produced after teaming up with Colt Ford in the studio to record, has kept this great band on the move.

Treble Hook Band will start the weekend off today with country, Southern rock and other genres of music. The young band recently added several new members to enhance its music for fans. From Lake City, Treble Hook plays many venues in North Florida and takes the stage Friday.

Doors to the Music Hall at the SOSMP open at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The music runs from 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is free.

Help offered for dementia family caregivers

LIVE OAK — A free training program for family members caring for persons with dementia is coming to the Live Oak Public Library.

Elder Options, the Mid Florida Area Agency on Aging, is sponsoring The Savvy Caregiver Training Program which is open to the public. The classes will run from 10 a.m. to noon on seven consecutive Wednesdays beginning March 7.

The Savvy Caregiver Program is an evidence-based workshop, shown to reduce stress, increase knowledge

and provide new skills for dementia caregivers. The program is designed for people caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease or some other disease which causes dementia.

To register for the program, call the program coordinator, Johnnie Jones at 352-692-5277 or email savvy@agingresources.org. You may also visit the website, www.agingresources.org/savvy-caregiver-for-families/, for additional information and to register online.

The library is located at 1848 Ohio Ave. S.

Carothers obtains goal by publishing book

BY JAMIE WACHTER

jamie.wachter@gafnews.com

LIVE OAK — Christmas came early last year for Kasey Lynn Carothers.

In late November, the Mayo native had her first book, *The Creepy House Down Spooky Lane*, published by AuthorHouse.

"From my house to the road is a half-mile," Carothers said last week during a book signing at the Live Oak Public Library. "I ran the whole entire time. I didn't know I could run that fast. I saw the UPS guy."

"It was like Christmas."

That joy from finally holding her published book came after six months of writing, seven months of getting it published and years of waiting to pursue that passion, to obtain her goal.

Carothers said she has always loved writing and that she has a really good imagination, which helped craft the 92-page fiction book.

"It was one of my main goals when I grew up that I wanted to write, to be an author," she said. "I just decided that if I show (my children) that I can put my mind to my goal and my dreams and finish it, they can do the same thing. If I give up on my dreams and goals, they're going to do the same thing because I did."

"But I proved to them that anything is possible."

It certainly hasn't been easy.

A single mother of six children — five daughters

and one son — the 2002 Lafayette High School graduate had to find time to write (while her children were

asleep or at school, she said) and overcome naysayers, who didn't believe she actually would or could publish a book.

Those critics became fuel for her fire to become an author.

"I have a lot of people saying that if you write, you're taking time away from your kids," she said. "You're never going to get anything done with it. You're never going to reach your goal. You're never going to do it. I got tired of hearing people tell me I wasn't going to do it, so I put my mind to not listening to everybody else and just go do it."

"So, I quit listening to everybody and I finally got it published."

She's not stopping there, either. She said her third story — her first two are combined into *The Creepy House Down Spooky Lane* — has already been sent to the publisher. That book, "Who's There?", will conclude the mystery surrounding Lacey Moore and Sarah O'Steen from the current book.

The two teenage friends that grew up together in a small town have a history project to do. As they try and figure out what they should choose as the subject of their project, they stumble into a mystery. Discovering a new surprise in every turn of events, the girls get a history lesson of their own.

THE CREEPY HOUSE DOWN SPOOKY LANE



While Carothers hails from a small town herself in Mayo, she said the entire story is fiction although the majority of the Lafayette County Sheriff's Office makes an appearance.

"If I ever write about my life, it's going to be longer than that," she said, adding that she has since found out there is a Lacey Moore in Hatchbend.

"A lot longer."

The book that she did write, while not as long, is available on Amazon, and Google Books as well as the AuthorHouse website. Carothers said she wants feedback so she can continue to improve as a writer.

So far, she's even heard one criticism.

"There's only been one person that has had something negative to say, 'Y'all eat too much in the book,'" Carothers recalled. "That's what she said. 'Don't look for the kids, who are lost, y'all are at home eating.'

"Well, we're from the south, we eat. We love to eat. Welcome to down south."

Around the Banks

The downside to all this technology

We really can learn something each day if we give ourselves the chance. This past week, I learned something from a group of fourth graders. I did it out of curiosity.

Out of a class of more than 20 students, I asked several questions:

"How many of you know any hand clapping games and rhymes? Two hands were raised.

How many of you know any jump rope rhymes? Looks from the students at me like a "tree full of owls." I pressed on. "You've never heard 'Cinderella dressed in yellow went upstairs to kiss her fellow. Made a mistake and kissed a snake. How many doctors did it take? One, two, three.'" Again, blank stares. Three hands were raised.

Any of you out there ever shot marbles or played a game of marbles? Blank stares. No hands were raised.

Any of you ever played "Red Rover, Red Rover." Three hands went up, but, upon closer examination they didn't have a clue about the game.

Anyone out there ever play a game of jacks? Not one hand was raised.

Anyone out there ever see a deck of cards for "Go Fish" or "Old Maid." Maybe a couple of hands were raised.

I have a news flash for you folks. A great deal of the concern I have regarding some of our younger people is two-fold.

1. Everything is instantaneous on a computer and so many of the popular computer games played by some children for hours on end involve violence and folks killing each other.

2. Children are not learning to creatively and cooperatively play children's games.

In fact, because of incessant assessment designed to discredit education and educators, creativity, if anything is being stymied. I am concerned about that especially since the parameters of that testing are being determined by a state board of education that is appointed and not elected; many of whom have never worked in a day in a classroom, but they know what's right for us and for our children, and they are running local school systems or attempting to run them by doing something that causes a lot of children to commit suicide, bullying. If they can't get their way, they bully, and they do it to those who are most vulnerable and most needy.

Point all the fingers you want, but children need time for creative play and that means me independent from an I-Pad and a computer screen. They have a place in this world, and they are a part of life, but they should not

be life.

The Florida Department of Health is more and more concerned with the onset of juvenile diabetes and earlier onset of morbid childhood obesity. I am convinced that the great appeal of technology to our children who sit or lie supine on the bed and move their fingers more than their arms or legs is a major contributory factor to this. I don't know that the Florida Legislature's push for recess is going to do it either. I can see the little darlings sitting along a covered walkway, I-pads in hands and fingers clicking. In the dark ages, when I was teaching and being a principal and the late Mr. Hal M. Worth held a recess each morning, our children RAN and PLAYED and had a good time. They didn't want to come back in. They were busy running and playing.

Want to see something truly pathetic and amusing. Go to any fast food restaurant or about any business except the bank and then pray for a teller over the age of 40 and let the computers go down and ask folks to make change for you doing the simple math in their heads. Pretend a purchase is \$4.37 and hand them a \$10.00 bill and if the computer is down, watch them. They will have a look on their face like a rooster trying to lay an egg.

Well, enough of that. They tell me we are producing some of the most brilliant folks ever. Maybe so. You name me a Nobel Prize winner for literature or anything of significance in the written word in this nation for the past two decades.

Nora Roberts, Danielle Steele, Stuart Woods, James Patterson, Clive Cussler, some of these, are better writers than others, and, to their credit, at least folks are reading them.

Write the authors of the "The Great Gatsby," "The Sun Also Rises," "The Good Earth," "The Yearling," "The Grapes of Wrath," "Absalom Absalom," "All the King's Men," "Atlas Shrugged," "Other Voices, Other Rooms" and "Their Eyes Were Watching God."

I will bet you, it would put more than 90 percent of recent college graduates to their trumps to answer the question for you. Who wrote these books. When I graduated in 1980, at least 90 percent could have an-

swered off the top of their heads.

Want to see some more deer in the headlight looks. Ask them now, no Google, no computer:

Ask them how many Supreme Court Justices we have and for long they serve?

Ask how many United States Senators are from each state and to name the ones from Florida?

Since its Black History Month, ask children of all races, not just African Americans "who the first African American was ever elected to the United States Congress?" Ask them who wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin?" Ask them who Mary McLeod Bethune was and what school she established and where it's located? No google. See who knows.

Watch their faces.

We are teaching a lot of technology and the Titans of Industry of today are Bill Gates, Michael Dell, Mark Zuckerberg, the late Steve Jobs, and on and on we go. They are great and have brought us a long way, they have put information from around the world at our fingertips, made it easier to access

information, created a way students can take some classes on line, made it easier for parents to give over their parenting responsibilities to technology, and, without the aid of technology fixed it so that roughly half of the folks in the nation under the age of 21 can't, without referring to Google or some other research engine, tell you, three of the signers of the Declaration of Independence or who wrote it.

It has made it easier to write and submit this newspaper article, and it has cut down on the amount of time student's work on research papers now. In fact, I wonder, other than surfing the net if there's much reason for research.

It has filled the daily news with who has had e-mails sent to the wrong places or who knew about it, and if the Russians or Chinese are using our e-mail to spy on us and what the President is "Tweeting."

Gosh, I wonder what would happen in the world if for five days, all the computers went down, I will just bet you those running the world would not be the millennials, they would be 45 or over.

We really have come a long way. I will close in relating this, a local law enforcement official related to me about three years ago, that more than 38 crimes had been solved in a certain community, because those who committed the crimes would write to their friends on Facebook and told them where

they are and, oh, one more thing, if you want to make sure your child is a proficient reader, Accelerated Reader, and I wish I had come up with that concept. I wouldn't be writing this article. Of course, "AR" ends in elementary school. No more trophies six axe handles high for passing tests at home or school, no more AR books, and on shelves at public libraries and in other place across the nation, the great books of the Western World, the pillars on which western civilization was built, the classics are discarded or not checked, they are not Accelerated Reader, and they are not Danielle Steele, and there's access to plenty of "shoot em up" video games where children sit transfixed for four and five hours at a time, and they either must have a Foley Bag or a bladder the size of an elephant, as they rarely if ever rise once they commence.

I have always been a people watcher. I am loving our spring weather, and I have just checked out two books, one is "My Antonia" by Willa Cather, and the other is "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. I am getting AARP Cards now, but I will still try and do my part for the sake of literacy. I am glad to see Art being offered at Hamilton County High School, and you keep fighting the good fight Amanda Lakefield, White Springs, my neighbor, who is a wonderful artist and a student at Hamilton County High School. You keep fighting the good fight and inspiring others, as you have inspired me. A lot of our young people inspire me and, to their credit, a lot has happened to them and not necessarily "for them." I still have faith in the creativity of so many of our wonderful young people who are playing music, writing, painting, and creating wonderful new ideas and ideals, but, unlike a former colleague of mine who is a good person but not the BEST educator in the world, I don't think everything of value for an education runs through computer fibers and wires. Of course, that was his thing. It isn't mine. He could talk hours about computers and programming, but this person had a hard time with displaying human empathy and understanding. You don't get much warmth of that from an I-Pad either. A brilliant individual, and a repository of technological knowledge, but, on this wasn't true, this individual exuded all the warmth of a cobra.

From the Eight Mile Still on the Woodpecker Route north of White Springs, wishing you all a day filled with joy, peace, and, above all, lots of love and laughter.

Religion

Heart Matters

Search for the lost, and celebrate their return

The parable of the Prodigal Son is perhaps one of the most familiar stories in the Bible. It has long been the focus of many Sunday School lessons and sermons about how God's forgiveness is waiting for a person who has strayed from their faith, if only they will return to Him. This message is without a doubt THE message of the Bible. God absolutely wants those far from Him to know that He loves them and longs for them to return.

And yet, Jesus told this story for another purpose. It seems that a group who considered themselves very close to God had a problem with how Jesus was spending His time:

"Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying 'This man received sinners and eats with them.' "(Luke 15:1-2)

The Pharisees and scribes were the religious leaders of the day, tending to all things spiritual. They knew which prayer to say when, which i to dot and t to cross. They knew the answers to the hard questions about what was right or wrong, and they worked hard to get it right. So, it is easy to understand their frustration when Jesus shows up and spends most of his time hanging out with sinners.

In true fashion, Jesus answered their complaint with a series of parables. This time about a lost sheep, a lost coin and a lost son. With the lost sheep and

lost coin, He points out the desire to celebrate we feel over finding something that was lost. We can all relate to the elation of finally finding lost keys, lost wallet or anything necessary and valuable after an exhaustive search. In fact, the sheep and the coin had this in common: both were found by someone diligently searching.

But then we come to the prodigal. Take a closer look at the story in Luke 15:11-24. Something was lost, something is found, and then a celebration follows. Much like the sheep and coin, except the prodigal found his way back to the Father. We often miss that because the music is loud and the feast is joyous. But then we hear a complaint. The older brother who has stayed at home and taken care of the fields is not celebrating that his wayward brother has come home. After all, he has been the one working hard to take care of everything while he was off having fun. Sound familiar? The Pharisees and scribes sound a lot like older brothers.

Many of us may relate to how the older brother and the religious leaders felt. Maybe we have felt the same resentment over sacrificing to do the right thing while others seem to be having



ANGIE LAND

such fun doing the wrong things. What changes everything here is the view of the Father about those "right things." Is doing the right thing checking off the list or checking with the Father's heart? Yes, the younger brother wasted his portion, but the portion that was left consumed all the older brother's time and energy. He was taking care of his inheritance, when perhaps his father wished he would go look for his brother. Isn't that what Jesus did? He came looking for us, and I am so thankful.

Jesus' message to the religious leaders was subtle but clear. Our inheritance from our Father is eternal life. It is a gift and cannot be earned by working hard to do everything right. God's heart is that we value it enough to search for those far away from Him and celebrate being found. Because every heart matters.

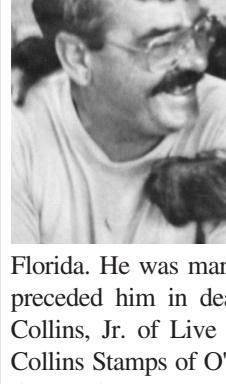
Blessings,
Angie

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.

OBITUARIES

Robert James Collins, Sr.

Aug. 3, 1941 - Jan. 28, 2018



Robert James (Bobby) Collins, (aka James Clyde Louis III) 76, of O'Brien, Florida, entered into eternal rest on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at Gainesville Health Care Center in Gainesville, Florida after a long illness.

Robert was born on August 3, 1941 in Boston, Massachusetts, the son of the late Lee Roy and Marjorie Merrithew Collins of O'Brien, Florida. He was married to Patricia Buchner Collins whom preceded him in death. He had 3 children, 1 son Robert Collins, Jr. of Live Oak, Florida, and 2 daughters Crystal Collins Stamps of O'Brien, Florida and Angela Collins (pre-deceased).

Robert served in the military at Alexandria Air Force Base in Alexandria, Louisiana prior to the beginning of the Vietnam War. He became a member of Boilermakers Union Local #433 in Tampa, Florida working until injured and retiring in 1982. He enjoyed being with family and friends and his dogs Sierra and Grimm. He also enjoyed fishing bass tournaments with the Gainesville Bass Masters, Florida Gators Football and playing Florida Lottery Scratch Off tickets. Robert was well known in the Branford, Florida area and will be greatly missed by family and friends.

He is survived by his daughter Crystal Collins Stamps and her husband Paul of O'Brien, Florida; Grandson Troy Revels of O'Brien, Florida; son Robert Collins, Jr. of Live Oak, Florida; brother William R. Collins and wife Gayle Cowart Collins of O'Brien, Florida; sister Karen Fuquay and husband Kenny of Fanning Springs, Florida; niece Teresa Collins Ayres and husband Jim of O'Brien, Florida; niece Deborah Collins Strickland and husband Tim of Keystone Heights, Florida; nephew Clint Barrineau of O'Brien, Florida; nephew Kenny Sparrow of Gainesville, Florida; nephew Michael Sparrow of Bronson, Florida; and nephew Andrew Hanner of Gainesville, Florida. Robert also leaves behind many other loving family members.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Haven Hospice Center of Palatka.

Harris Funeral Home & Cremations, Inc., Live Oak, FL is in charge of all arrangements.

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE

"Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

Psalm 73:25-26 NIV

THE FIRST AMENDMENT:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

SERVING SUWANNEE COUNTY SINCE 1884



A
PAGE 6

Opinion

Billy Graham: Neither prophet nor theologian

WASHINGTON — Asked in 1972 if he believed in miracles, Billy Graham answered: Yes, Jesus performed some and there are many "miracles around us today, including television and airplanes." Graham was no theologian.

Neither was he a prophet. Jesus said "a prophet hath no honor in his own country." Prophets take adversarial stances toward their times, as did the 20th century's two greatest religious leaders, Martin Luther King and Pope John Paul II. Graham did not. Partly for that reason, his country showered him with honors.

So, the subtitle of Grant Wacker's 2014 book "America's Pastor: Billy Graham and the Shaping of a Nation" (Harvard University Press) is inapposite. When America acquired television and a celebrity culture, this culture shaped Graham. Professor Wacker of Duke's Divinity School judges Graham sympathetically as a man of impeccable personal and business probity.

Americans respect quantification, and Graham was a marvel of quantities. He spoke, Wacker says, to more people directly — about 215 million — than any person in history. In 1945, at age 26, he addressed 65,000 in Chicago's Soldier Field. The 1949 crusade in Los Angeles, promoted by the not notably devout William Randolph Hearst, had a cumulative attendance of 350,000. In 1957, a May-to-September rally in New York had attendance of 2.4 million, including 100,000 on one night at Yankee Stadium. A five-day meeting in Seoul, South Korea, in 1973 drew 3 million.

Graham's effects are impossible to quantify. His au-



GEORGE
F. WILL

diences were exhorted to make a "decision" for Christ, but a moment of volition might be (in theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer's phrase) an exercise in "cheap grace." Graham's preaching, to large rallies and broadcast audiences, gave comfort to many people and probably improved some.

Regarding race, this North Carolinian was brave, telling a Mississippi audience in 1952 that, in Wacker's words, "there was no room for segregation at the foot of the cross." In 1953, he personally removed the segregating ropes at a Chattanooga crusade. After the Supreme Court's 1954 desegregation ruling, Graham abandoned the practice of respecting local racial practices. Otherwise, he rarely stepped far in advance of the majority. His 1970 Ladies' Home Journal article "Jesus and the Liberated Woman" was, Wacker says, "a masterpiece of equivocation."

The first preacher with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame was an entrepreneurial evangelical who consciously emulated masters of secular communication such as newscasters Drew Pearson, Walter Winchell and H.V. Kaltenborn. Wielding the adverbs "nearly" and "only," Graham, says Wacker, would warn that all is nearly lost and the only hope is Christ's forgiveness.

Graham frequently vowed to abstain from partisan politics, and almost as frequently slipped this self-imposed leash, almost always on behalf of Republicans. Before the 1960 election, Graham, displaying some cognitive dissonance, said that if John Kennedy were a true Catholic, he would be a president more loyal to the Pope than to the Constitution but would fully support him if elected.

SEE BILLY, PAGE 9A



RUSHING IN TO SAVE PEOPLE FROM AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

Digital

Dialog

Publix in Live Oak project

When we wrote about the Publix proposed on the north side of town at 72nd Trace, our readers had mixed feelings:

Ray Carpenter Noooo! I love the publix. It's so nostalgic.

Kim Jandle Yes! This is great news, now everything I need will be on one end of town. Plus I-10 travelers will have another place to shop.

Jennifer Harrell Lopez I don't want to have to drive all the way to I-10 for groceries! And I love Publix and shop there 90% of the time!

Laura Barclay Fortunately, Save A Lot and Winn Dixie are still available, and no where near I-10.

Leigh Ann Cannon Although it's not as convenient I heard they plan to include a pharmacy and it's a bigger store so there will be a greater selection!!!

Barbara Fitch This is great news as the current Publix is sooooooo outdated. Hopefully they will carry more upscale products as well. Publix is my all time favorite grocery store.

Amy Paramore Noooo! I like where Publix is now!

Helen Tarr Bispham Woo hoo. Can't wait for Publix on the north side.

Tammie Boutell Well this sucks! Pretty soon there won't be anywhere for us on the south side to shop! I can't stand Winn Dixie and Save a Lot isn't much better!

To Submit Letters

The Suwannee Democrat welcomes letters from readers on matters of public interest, with the following guidelines:

- Letters must contain your full name, address, daytime phone number and city of residence. Only your full name and city of residence will be published with the letter.
- Letters must reflect issues of current interest to the general public and be concise.
- Management has the right to refuse any material it believes does not meet stan-

dards of publication.

You can email letters to nf.editorial@gafnews.com fax them to 386-364-5578

or mail them to: Letters to the Editor
Suwannee Democrat
P.O. Box 370, Live Oak, FL 32064

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Members of the Suwannee Democrat editorial board are Jeff Masters, Publisher, and Jamie Wachter, Editor. Masters and Wachter are joined on the board by community members Jim Holmes, Bruce Kemmerer and Otha White Sr.

From Page One



PHOTOS: JESSIE R. BOX

Members of law enforcement show off the K-9 training.

RIVEROAK

Continued From Page 1A

enforcement, military, firefighters and colleges.

"We are thrilled with the participation, the variety of organizations and level of support from the community," said Tracy Henderson, event coordinator and Adult Basic Education teacher.

Students could visit the booth of programs offered at RIVEROAK including brick and block masonry, building con-

struction technology, cosmetology and patient care technician.

Students from Suwannee, Hamilton and Lafayette counties were also able to get guided tours of the different programs offered at RIVEROAK.

"We are so pleased that the local schools were able to work student visits into their schedules," said Henderson.

"We are appreciative and thankful for the support of our community and our area schools. We are thankful for all state agencies involved in ensuring this was a successful event," said Mary Keen, Director of RIVEROAK.



Ameris Bank representatives speak with RIVEROAK students Wednesday.



Representatives from Jacobs Engineering, formerly CH2M, were at Career Day.

Gala

Continued From Page 1A

gala, platinum was incorporated into the event and dinner including the decoration and meal, which featured a Platinum Pear Salad.

Throughout the evening there were silent auctions, giveaways and raffles.

Guests were also able to bid on trips to Greece, Isle of Capri, Ireland, Costa Rica and more.

Following dinner, the Citizen of the Year and Trailblazer Award winners were announced.

Trannie Lacquey was named the 2017 Citizen of the Year Award. As her daughters grew up, she was always volunteering at school events and even became the girls basketball coach when no one else volunteered.

She then donated her coach salary to a family in need.

Lacquey joined the Branford Rotary Club in 2003 and Shelterbox in 2006.



The band Paradise performs at the Chamber Gala.

PHOTO: ROB WOLFE PHOTOGRAPHY



Len Stapleton was recognized as the 2017 Board Member of the Year.

Heritage

Continued From Page 1A

meeting earlier in February appears to reflect the interest in an entertainment district.

"I was blown away," Sewell said of the event, which had approximately 70 people in attendance.

He added he was expecting 15 to 20 people to attend.

"It tells us that your community is engaged in itself

and willing to invest in it," Sewell said.

Heritage Square encompasses the area between U.S. Highway 129 on the west, Duval Street on the north, Mussey Avenue on the east and the railroad on the south.

"We had 100 percent positive feedback and that is almost unheard of for a project like this," Sewell said.

Among that feedback were the top seven priorities: restaurants, bars or food trucks; retail shops;

performing arts stage; trailheads and bike trail facilities; green space; interactive learning displays and outdoor exhibits; and a regional stormwater facility.

Sewell said creating a green space would be a low-cost and easy project to do while developing Heritage Square.

The next step is to create a concept plan and a draft master plan.

Sewell said the concept plan will have three dif-

ferent options with slight variations for the board and will include the potential of Amtrak coming to Live Oak.

Sewell expects to present it to the board within a month.

Facade Grants

The CRA approved to increase the project cap amount to \$16,000.

According to George Curtis, the city's director of planning/zoning and development, participation has been lower than

past years.

The board approved one facade grant later in the meeting and that is the only grant applied for this fiscal year.

The previous cap amount was \$10,000 with a payout of \$7,500.

Now the cap amount will be \$16,000 with a payout of \$12,000.

Curtis said this increase would only be for this fiscal year.

Property appraisal

The CRA approved the

request to get an appraisal for the property located at 324 Duval Street NE.

Curtis said the property owner has shown interest in selling the property.

He said the property is across from the 406 on Duval.

According to the CRA's land acquisition policy, the board cannot offer more than an appraised value amount unless satisfactory explanation and board approval is provided.

School Beat



PHOTO: TJ VICKERS

The inaugural SHS NJROTC Orienteering team poses with coach Kleinsmith.

SHS NJROTC has launched orienteering team

BY TJ VICKERS

Every element of the Navy's JROTC Program was designed with the purpose of developing young leaders.

Orienteering was included in SHS's curriculum years ago with the hopes of developing their own leaders. Although orienteering has been taught part of the NJROTC Academic Curriculum for several years, this year the Suwannee High School NJROTC seadogs decided to take the lessons learned

in the classroom and apply them in the field by creating an orienteering team.

Orienteering began in Scandinavia as a way to increase physical fitness among people. As years and decades passed, it evolved into not only an essential tool for navigation and travel, but has become the thrilling sport within the JROTC Community.

Many of the Cadets have taken an immediate love for the event and they always strive to bring a competitive, yet sportsmen-like, attitude to every compe-

tition. The team has attended one "Orienteering Mini-Camp" and one orienteering competition thus far. They are scheduled to participate in at least three additional competitions before the year is over. Even though they are first-year team, the team is doing exceptionally well; most placing within the top 50 percent at each of the two events.

This year's orienteering team is commanded by Cadet Keaton Chavers and the charter members include Cody Blackburn,

Brianna Carver, Richard Corrales, Laura Corrales, Alexia Cash, Destiny Davis, Timothy Gibbone, Robert Heflin, Casey Howard, Kade Humphries, Robert Kearce and Thomas Powell.

The team would like to give a special thank-you to the Lake City Walmart for awarding them a \$2,000 grant through the Walmart Community Grant Program, which enabled the team to purchase most of its initial camping and training gear needed to start the program.



PHOTO: SUBMITTED
Olivia Bruening (left) pictured with Al Herndon (right).

Brick by Brick: RIVEROAK Builds Success

BY TJ VICKERS

Olivia Bruening is currently a student in the building construction program at RIVEROAK Technical College, having already completing the masonry program at RTC.

Bruening joined the masonry program two years ago and fell in love with masonry instantly.

"Masonry is not only a profession; it is also a work of art," Bruening said.

During her time in the masonry program, Bruening competed in multiple regional and state competitions. She placed first at the state of Florida's SkillsUSA Championship in masonry and was able to represent RIVEROAK and the state of Florida at the SkillsUSA National Championship held in Louisville, Kentucky.

"If it was not for the skill and guidance shown by the instructors at RIVEROAK, I would have never made it this far," she said.

Bruening placed 10th out of 30 students nationally.

Bruening knows the life lessons she is learning at RTC will last her a lifetime.

"RIVEROAK has not only prepared me for a career in masonry, but RTC has developed me into a hard and persistent worker," Bruening said.

SCSD crowns spelling bee champion

BY TJ VICKERS

The Suwannee County School District held its district-wide spelling bee Jan. 19 in the board meeting room.

Six students represented their school as the "school champion." The school champions who participated in the district spelling bee were: Taylor

Smith, Branford High School; Saige Sanchez, Suwannee Middle School; Primaya Johnson, Suwannee Intermediate School; Ashlyn Blalock, Branford Elementary School; Isabella Baldwin, Melody Christian Academy; and Cassie Clay, Westwood Christian School.

After 25 rounds of spelling words,

Baldwin outlasted Smith to win the district spelling bee.

Baldwin and Smith will represent Suwannee County at the regional spelling bee on March 9, held at the Florida Theatre in Jacksonville. The start time for the regional spelling bee is to be announced. The regional spelling bee will air live on Channel 4.



PHOTO: TJ VICKERS
District spelling bee contestants pictured with John Olson, far right.

Branford High students place at BETA Convention

BY TJ VICKERS

Branford High School went to Orlando on Jan. 12-13 to take part in the BETA Club State of Florida Convention.

BHS had five students place in the top state level:

Barrett Young — First in Agriculture Division 1,

Alivya Ward — Second in Water Color or category of Visual Arts,

AnneMarie Kuczynski-Rinard — Second in Painting of Visual Arts,

James Corbin — Third in Agriculture Division 2,

Luke Ramsey — Third in Division 1 History.

These students will go on to represent BHS at the National BETA Convention on June 17-20, 2018.

BHS BETA Club sponsor Dawn Eakins says they will be hosting fundraisers to get the students to the national convention.

SES Student Leads School in Service Project

Suwannee Elementary School second-grade student Lilly Wachter recently led SES in a service project for her local Girl Scout troop.

Wachter provided supplies for students in every class to make two Valentines for children in hospitals and adults in nursing homes.



PHOTO: SUBMITTED
Suwannee Elementary School student Lilly Wachter with Valentines from her Girl Scout service project.

School Beat

RIVEROAK sends students to SkillsUSA competition

BY TJ VICKERS

RIVEROAK Technical College (RTC) students took part in the Florida Region 2 SkillsUSA Conference held at Florida State College in Jacksonville on Feb. 9.

In total, RTC had 15 students place first, second, or third.

Seven RIVEROAK students placed first:

- Ezra Woloszyn — Carpentry,
- Justin Cunningham — Collision Repair Technology,
- Dylan King — Culinary Arts,
- Melinda Polbos — Culinary Arts (Baking),
- Nick Wallace — Culinary Arts (Restaurant Service),
- Jeremy Baush — Welding,

• Tanner White — Welding.

RIVEROAK also had seven students place second:

- Jakob Holub — Carpentry,
- Dalton Tannehill — Collision Repair Technology,
- Carlos Romulo — Collision Repair Technology,
- Brandon Miller — Culinary Arts,
- Abraham Woloszyn — Electrical Technology,
- Garrett White — Welding,
- Colton Crews — Construction Wiring.

Jeffrey Creamer placed third in Auto Service Technology.

Students finishing in first or second place advance to the state of Florida's SkillsUSA competition held in Pensacola from April 30 to May 2.



RIVEROAK students pose with their instructor, Derwin Bass, before heading off to SkillsUSA.

Billy

Continued From Page 6A

Graham's dealings with presidents mixed vanity and naivete. In 1952, he said he wanted to meet with all the candidates "to give them the moral side of the thing." He was 33. He applied flat-

terly with a trowel, comparing Dwight Eisenhower's first foreign policy speech to the Sermon on the Mount and calling Richard Nixon "the most able and the best trained man for the job probably in American history." He told Nixon that God had given him, Nixon, "supernatural wisdom." Graham should have heed-

ed the psalmist's warning about putting one's faith in princes.

On Feb. 1, 1972, unaware of Nixon's Oval Office taping system, when Nixon ranted about how Jews "totally dominated" the media, Graham said "this stranglehold has got to be broken or this country is going down the drain."

He also told Nixon that Jews are "the ones putting out the pornographic stuff." One can reasonably acquit Graham of anti-Semitism only by convicting him of toadying. When Graham read transcripts of Nixon conspiring to cover up crimes, Graham said that what "shook me most" was Nixon's vulgar language.

ous and wonderful" that the victims were in heaven and would not want to return.

Graham, Wacker concludes, had an attractively sunny personality and was "invincibly extropective." This precluded "irony" but also "contemplativeness."

George Will's email address is georgewill@washpost.com.

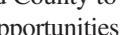
Rant & Rave

Continued From Page 6A

join City Hall. Otherwise, the citizens are to blame.



Is the current Publix closing before the new one opens? I hope not.



I agree with the Rant about the City, there really is no excuse for the City and County to not be able to work together. Employment opportunities benefit us all. Please stop making it good for the few and make it good for the many.



Ted, what we goin' to do to keep "our" schools safe.



Guns don't kill people, people kill people. But crazy people should never have the ability to own a gun. EVER



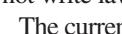
With the City elections forthcoming, I say vote for the Council, Mayor and Clerk candidates that will vote to eliminate the foolish CRA. The CRA has proved to be one of the worst ideas and programs in City of Live Oak history. It needs to be abolished.



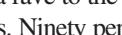
In answer to the person interested in recycling glass & plastic, Suwannee County doesn't recycle either of those. Indeed a shame! The two items that can be recycled, as other States do, are only filling up the landfill at a rapid rate.



Citizens of the County, you must stop blaming the NRA for the tragic death of those 17 students and teachers. You must realize that the Second Amendment to the Constitution was not just for your self protection in your home or on the job. It was designed by the Founders of this Country as a means of self protection against a tyrannical Government, to protect your Rights against a Monarchy or a Dictatorship. Do a bit of research into the history of the Countries that forcibly took the firearms used by the people for self protection. Over 50,000,000 people died for personal gain by unscrupulous politicians. Better reconsider what you wish for. It may come back to bite you, or take your freedom.



Our governments do not write laws to 'allow' or 'permit' citizens to do anything! The current Bill(s) in the Florida Legislature will simply REMOVE some current prohibitions regarding the carrying/possession of weapons.



I would like to send a rave to the person that suggested we recycle plastic and glass. Ninety percent of my trash is plastic. And I know how to recycle it. Everywhere that I've ever lived, we recycled. Suwannee County, it's behind time.

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PHOTO: TJ VICKERS

The Suwannee High NJROTC air rifle team has the most members this year since it began in 2013.

SHS NJROTC air rifle team staying busy

BY TJ VICKERS

The Suwannee High NJROTC Rifle Team has been very busy this year. It has competed in both air rifle postal meets and shoulder-to-shoulder events.

The postal matches were Eastside High school, Association of Aviation Ordinance and the Secretary of the Navy.

The shoulder to shoulders were Gainesville High School and the Area 7

State Championships with one more to go March 24 at Vanguard High School. According to Master Sergeant (MSgt) Doug Aukerman, this is the third consecutive year they have gone to the state championships.

Team members include Brittany Hernandez (Team Commander), Cody Blackburn, Levi Bass, Cameron Harrison, Dustin Martinez, James King, Timothy Tappen, Tyler Moore, Keaton Chavers, Cindy Ciniceros,

Emerald Powell, Devonae McCarthy and coaches MSgt Doug Aukerman and assistant coach Jeremy Smith.

MSgt. Aukerman says this has been the most the SHS JROTC program has ever had on a team since the air rifle team started in 2013.

MSgt. Aukerman thanks their sponsors: NRA for a \$5,100 grant, Walmart Corp. and the Sons of American Legion Post 779 in Old Fort, Pennsylvania.

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2011 CHRYSLER 200	2013 HONDA CIVIC	2016 HYUNDAI GENESIS	2010 HYUNDAI GENESIS	2010 MAZDA 6
2012 MERCEDES C250	2015 TOYOTA CAMRY	2014 TOYOTA CAMRY	2013 BUICK ENCORE	2013 CADILLAC ESCALADE
2014 CADILLAC SRX	2014 CHEVY EQUINOX	2015 CHEVY CITY EXPRESS	2015 CHEVY SUBURBAN LTZ	2013 CHEVY TAHOE LT
2015 CHEVY TAHOE LTZ	2012 CHEVY TAHOE LTZ	2014 CHEVY TRAVERSE	2013 CHEVY TRAVERSE	2013 CHEVY TRAVERSE
2014 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY	2015 DODGE DURANGO	2014 DODGE DURANGO	2015 DODGE JOURNEY	2012 FORD EDGE
2015 FORD EDGE SEL	2015 FORD ESCAPE	2015 FORD EXPLORER XLT	2015 FORD TRANSIT	2013 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 4X4
2015 JEEP WRANGLER	2006 JEEP WRANGLER	2007 GMC ACADIA	2008 GMC YUKON DENALI	2016 BMW X3
2014 FIAT 500L	2014 HONDA CRV	2016 HONDA PILOT EX-L	2015 HYUNDAI SANTA FE	2015 INFINITI QX80
2008 LEXUS RX 400 HYBRID	2014 NISSAN JUKE NISMO	2016 NISSAN ROGUE	2015 NISSAN ROGUE	2008 NISSAN XTERRA
2014 TOYOTA PRIUS	2015 TOYOTA 4RUNNER	2016 TOYOTA 4RUNNER	2015 TOYOTA SEQUOIA	2014 CHEVY 1500 LTZ 4X4
2015 CHEVY 1500 CREW 4X4	2014 CHEVY 1500 CREW LT	2013 CHEVY 1500 CREW 4X4	2014 CHEVY 1500 CREW 4X4	2007 FORD F-150 LARIAT
2014 FORD F-350 CREW 4X4	2015 FORD F-350 CREW 4X4	2014 RAM 1500 CREW 4X4	2007 RAM 1500 QUAD 4X4	2013 RAM TRADESMAN
2016 RAM 2500 CREW 4X4	2016 RAM 5500 CREW 4X4	2007 TOYOTA TACOMA	2006 TOYOTA TUNDRA CREW 4X4	2007 TOYOTA TUNDRA

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Sports

Section B

■ SUWANNEE DEMOCRAT/LIVE OAK

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2018

Four SHS wrestlers move on to state championships

BY MIKE JONES

michael.jones@gafnews.com

LIVE OAK — The numbers are impressive for the Suwannee High School wrestling program — 14 different state champions who have combined for 23 individual state titles.

The Bulldogs are hoping to increase those numbers as they send four wrestlers to Kissimmee for the FHSAA Class 1A State Championships today and Saturday.

Freshmen Xander Kirkland and Timothy Jolicouer, junior Terrell Williams and senior Chase Clark qualified through a regional meet and will have the opportunity to compete for a state title.

"All four have a really good chance at placing," said second-year Suwannee coach Logan Register. "Xander, Chase and Terrell have been pretty steady,

pretty dominant the entire year. Timothy had a little slower start, but he keeps getting better and better. That's why I think he is going to shock a lot of people."

Kirkland and Jolicouer are also vying for another impressive feat — they are trying to become the first freshmen in school history to earn a state championship.

Kirkland, who competes in the 106-pound weight class, took home the district championship and the Class 1A-Region 1 title. He won his last two matches at the regional tournament by pin.

"Xander Kirkland, all season long has shown a lot of heart," Register said. "He wrestles very aggressive. That's where I feel he will have the edge."

Kirkland is focused on keeping the same routine that has led to plenty of success. He spoke about

SEE WRESTLERS, PAGE 3B



PHOTO: MIKE JONES

Timothy Jolicouer, Xander Kirkland, Chase Clark and Terrell Williams are looking to add their names to Suwannee's wall of state champions.



PHOTOS: MIKE JONES

Skylar Redish is greeted by teammates after a home run.

Madison County hands Suwannee its fourth straight loss

BY MIKE JONES

michael.jones@gafnews.com

MADISON — It's been a puzzling start to the season for the Suwannee High softball team.

Even with a starting lineup full of proven seniors and talented underclassmen, the Bulldogs have struggled through the first three weeks.

That carried over into Tuesday's contest at Madison County as the Bulldogs made seven errors and were limited to three hits in a 4-3 defeat — their fourth straight loss to begin the regular season.

"We're struggling a little with the bat and defensively," said Suwannee coach Jeff Smith. "We've made too many mistakes in every game we've played."

"We'll come back. We've got a few younger ones who are going to help us, just have to get some more experience. Some of our other ones get some confidence back."

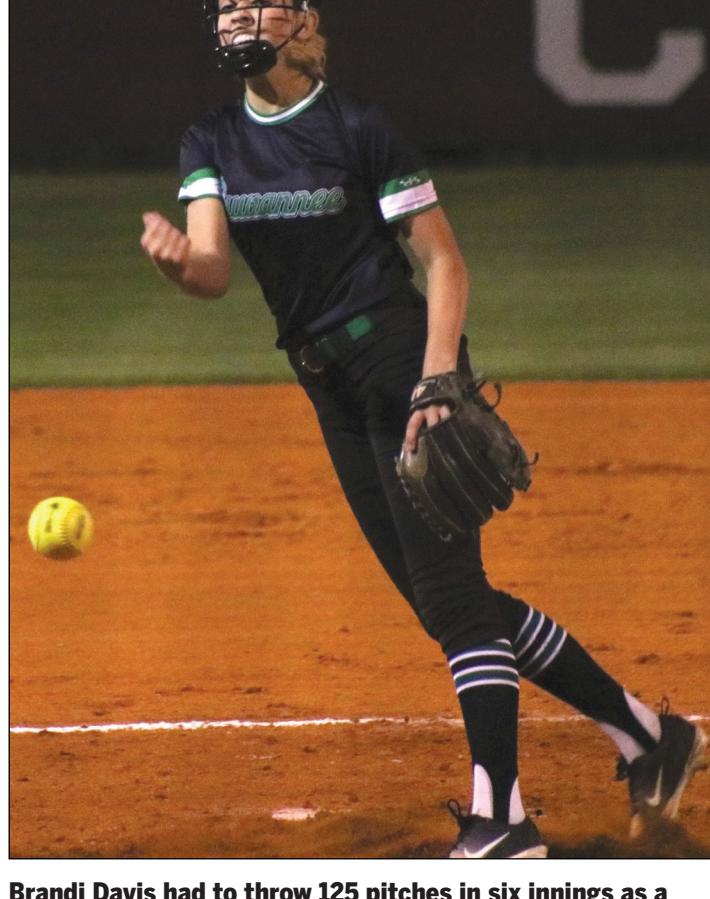
Madison County (5-0) pitcher Reese Rutherford, who is a perfect 5-0 this season with five complete games, held Suwannee scoreless until the top of the sixth when Skylar Redish hit a three-run homer to get the Bulldogs back in the game.

After two MCHS errors kept the inning alive, Redish's opposite-field blast brought Suwannee within one run at 4-3.

Rutherford went on to retire the next four hitters to seal the win.

SHS pitcher Brandi Davis escaped some early trouble to keep the game scoreless through three innings. Suwannee made four errors in the first three frames, but Davis got out of two bases-loaded jams.

MCHS plated the first run of the game in the fourth inning after Laila Dickey ended an 11-pitch at-bat with an RBI



Brandi Davis had to throw 125 pitches in six innings as a result of seven errors. She gave up two earned runs and seven hits.

double to score McKenzie Miller. Madison County scored two runs in the fourth and two more in the fifth. Only two of those runs were earned.

"We've got to cut down on the errors so we don't give them more at-bats," Smith said. "Brandi's pitching is starting to come around. She's starting to find her groove a little better. I

think we're going to be a tough team by the end of the season."

Suwannee ended its losing streak Wednesday and also picked up a district win by defeating Bolles 5-0.

UP NEXT: Suwannee will look to turn things around with plenty of reps and game action in the Santa Fe Tournament in Alachua today and Saturday.

						R	H	E
Suwannee	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Madison	0	0	0	2	2	0	-	4

Hitting

Croft — 1-3, double
Redish — 1-3, home run, 3 RBIs
Davis — 1-2

Scott places second in Suwannee Invitational

BY MIKE JONES

michael.jones@gafnews.com

LIVE OAK — The Suwannee High gymnasium was packed on Monday as the Bulldogs hosted 12 teams for the Suwannee Invitational Weightlifting Meet.

In a competitive field, SHS senior KJ Scott took second place in the 219-pound weight class. Scott bench-pressed 300 pounds and lifted 245 pounds in the clean and jerk for a total of 545 pounds.

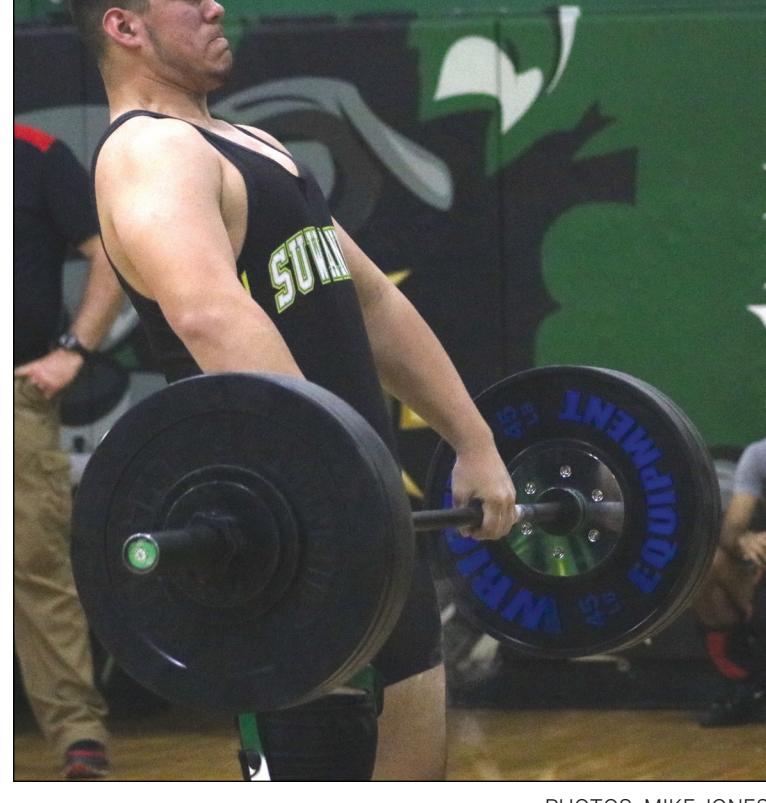
Even as the temperature continued to rise inside the gym — the air conditioning was not working on Monday — competitors did not slow down during the three-hour event. Baker County emerged as the team champion and Citrus High placed second.



KJ Scott took home a second-place medal for the 219-pound weight class.



Scott competes in the clean and jerk.



PHOTOS: MIKE JONES

Taylor Torres in action at the Suwannee Invitational.

Community Calendar



Community Calendar FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Presidents' Day</i>
25	26	27	28			

Share Your Blanche Stories

We are looking for people to share their or their family stories and pictures about the Blanche Hotel. We hope to include former employees, guests, event attendees and businesses that were located in the Blanche Building. The interviews will be videotaped and the photos scanned. All participants will receive a free e-book version of the book, "The Blanche A History" when it is published in the fall. Check out our website: <http://TheBlancheAHistory.websandblogsforwriters.com> to scheduled a time at the Columbia Co. Public Library on Mon. or Tues. from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in March or April.

Hamilton County GED/Adult Education

The Hamilton County GED/Adult Education School is now accepting new students. For more information, please call 386-792-6611.

Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation and Education

Narconon reminds families that the opiate problem in the U.S. is continuing to worsen and it's more important than ever to know and understand the signs and symptoms of an opiate overdose.

To learn more about how to identify the signs and symptoms of opiate abuse, go to: <http://www.narconon-suncoast.org/blog/how-to-recognize-signs-of-an-opiate-overdose.html> Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today for free screenings or referrals. 877-841-5509

Mar. 2

"Fried Chicken Friday"

"Fried Chicken Friday", Friday, March 2, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church, located at 145 SW Sweetbreeze Drive, Lake City (386-752-3807) – take US-90 West past Harvey's Supermarket.

Dinner includes: Fried Chicken, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Roll & Brownie. Children half price. **Takeout available.**

Mar. 3

March Gathering of the SongFarmers

The March Gathering of the SongFarmers of the Suwannee River Valley will be Saturday, March 3, 7-9 p.m., at St. James Episcopal Church, 2423 SW Bascom Norris Drive, Lake City, 32025. Acoustic jam style format. Musicians, friends and families welcome. No charge. For additional information, contact Skip Johns at 386-344-2906 or visit the Suwannee River Valley SongFarmers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/songfarmersoftthesuwanneerivervalley/>

Mar. 3

Super Saturday: Open House and Free Application Day

North Florida Community College invites the public to its Super Saturday: Open House and Free Application Day event on Saturday, March 3 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. All are invited. Highlights of the day include an academic and student resource expo in the Colin P. Kelly Fitness Center, campus tours, scholarship drawings, financial aid application assistance, and opportunities to explore NFCC degree and certificate programs. INFO: www.nfcc.edu/super-saturday or (850) 973-9407

Mar. 6

Brunch Recipe Swap

Noon-1 p.m.

Bring in your favorite brunch dish and your recipe to share with others.
Suwannee River Regional Library
386-362-2317

Mar. 7

Savvy Caregiver Training

10 a.m.-Noon

Savvy Caregiver is a free, seven-session training program designed for caregivers who serve family members and friends with any form of dementia (i.e. Alzheimer's). The goal of Savvy is to increase knowledge and skills to lessen caregiver stress and improve levels of care.

For information, or to register contact Johnnie Jones III at (352) 692-5277 or by e-mail at jones@agingresources.org. Pre-registration is required.

Suwannee River Regional Library

Mar. 7

NFCC Site Review

North Florida Community College will host a site review for initial accreditation of its associate and baccalaureate nursing programs by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) on Wednesday, March 7. The public is invited to meet the ACEN site visit team and share comments about NFCC's associate and baccalaureate nursing programs in person or in writing. MORE INFO at <https://www.nfcc.edu/about-nfcc/public-announcements/index> or call (850) 973-9428.

Mar. 8

Military History in Suwannee County

Noon-1 p.m.

Learn about the military history of Suwannee County with County Historian Eric Musgrove. Suwannee River Regional Library
386-362-2317

Mar. 10

New York Day Celebration

New York Day, for all who have lived anywhere/anytime in New York State and guests, will be held at the new Sal's Downtown, 297 N. Marion Ave., Lake City. A variety of specialty pizzas by the slice or whole, hot and cold sandwiches, calzones and stromboli will be available to order. Wine, beer, soft drinks and delicious desserts will also be available.

Tony Buzzella will entertain throughout the afternoon. There will also be door prizes, a 50/50 drawing, and a NY trivia game.

A registration charge will be collected at the door. We will need a firm headcount so Sal's can prepare. Please reply by Monday, March 5 to Vern Lloyd 397-3113, Maureen Lloyd 397-0598, Sue Tuell 961-5190 or vernmo@comcast.net.

Mar. 10

Pancake Breakfast

Pancake Breakfast, Sat., March 10, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church, located at 145 SW Sweetbreeze Drive, Lake City (386-752-3807) – take US-90 West past Harvey's Supermarket. **Takeout available.**

Mar. 10

"Hometown Heroes" Softball Tournament

The second "Hometown Heroes" Take the Field Against Domestic Violence softball tournament will be held on March 10 at 10 a.m. The tournament will be held at the First Federal Sports Com-

plex, 1201 Silas Drive, Live Oak, FL. Admission fees apply.

Concession food and drinks will be sold, and all proceeds will benefit Suwannee County's domestic violence shelter.

Mar. 14

Knitting Class

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Learn how to knit, purl, cast on, and bind off.

Please bring needles and yarn.

Taught by Debra Barney

Suwannee River Regional Library

386-362-2317

Mar. 14

Straw Bale Beds Workshop

2 p.m.

Learn about gardening with straw bale beds.

Presented by Suwannee County Master Gardeners.

Suwannee River Regional Library

386-362-2317

Mar. 15

Herbs in the Landscape Workshop

Noon-1 p.m.

Learn about gardening with herbs. Presented by

Suwannee County Extension Agent, Carolyn Saft

Suwannee River Regional Library

386-362-2317

Mar. 21

Crocheting Class

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Learn how to crochet. Please bring needles and

yarn.

Taught by Debra Barney

Suwannee River Regional Library

386-362-2317

Mar. 24

Annual "Share Saturday"

New Hope Baptist Church announces its annual "Share Saturday" for March 24 from 8 a.m. until

noon. This is the church's gift to the community as every item is free. There will be clothes of all sizes, toys, household goods and other items.

New Hope is located at 6592 N.W. 48th Street, Jennings, 1 mile off State Road 6 West. The public is invited to attend. Please note: this event will not begin until 8 a.m.

Mar. 28

One for the Money Book Club

2:00-3 p.m.

Join us to discuss One for the Money by Janet Evanovich. Copies available for checkout at the front desk.

Suwannee River Regional Library

386-362-2317

Apr. 14

60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Gala

The North Florida Community College Foundation has an elegant night of dinner, dancing, entertainment and reminiscing planned for its 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Gala (student scholarship fundraiser) on Saturday, April 14. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, contact the NFCC Foundation at 850-973-9414 or foundation@nfcc.edu. To make seating and table reservations: (850) 973-9414 or www.ticketsource.us/nfcc.

Apr. 20

John McEuen and The String Wizards to Perform

The NFCC Artist Series presents John McEuen and The String Wizards on Friday, April 20 at 7 p.m. at Van H. Priest Auditorium. Join Grammy-award winning host John McEuen (founding member of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band), with his banjo, guitar, fiddle and mandolin, and The String Wizards on an incredible journey interwoven with music, stories and memories of the iconic 'Circle' album including Dirt Band favorites and hot bluegrass.

Tickets: (850) 973-1653 or www.ticketsource.us/nfcc.

Apr. 21

Annual Fitness Run

NFCC's annual Fitness Run is set for April 21 in conjunction with the Madison County Florida Down Home Days festival. 5-K Run/Walk begins at 8 a.m. One-mile Fun Run/Walk begins at 9 a.m. Proceeds from this event will support Relay for Life. Register at www.nfcc.edu/fitness-run or contact Tyler Cooley at (850) 973-1639.

Apr. 27 & 28

The Curious Savage Performance at NFCC

The NFCC Sentinel Upstage Players (Community Theatre) presents The Curious Savage on Friday & Saturday, April 27 & 28 at 7 p.m. at Van H. Priest Auditorium. In this comedic production, the eccentric Mrs. Savage is left 10 million dollars by her late husband and wants to make the best use of it. Her wish is to use the money to help others realize their dreams, but her grown step-children will do anything to keep her from squandering away "their" money. With the help of Mrs. Savage's new friends, she leads the stepchildren on a merry chase, and learns the true meaning of family in the process. Tickets: (850) 973-1653 or www.ticketsource.us/nfcc.

May 22

Monthly Meetings

History of Suwannee County

Presented by County Historian Eric Musgrove

Jo Kennon Public Library

10655 Dowling Park Dr.

Live Oak, FL 32064

1st Thursday of the month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

386-658-2670

McAlpin Community Club meeting

The McAlpin Community Club meetings are held on the second Monday every month at 9981 170th Terrace in McAlpin. A covered dish dinner is served at 6 p.m. with the meeting beginning

at 7 p.m.

Find them on Facebook by searching 'McAlpin Community Club.'

For more information, contact Susan Fennell at 386-688-1267 or s.fennell@windstream.net.

Seed Library and Gardening Workshop

Presented by Master Gardener Rhonda Lepper

Jo Kennon

Community Calendar

Continued From Page 2B

including blueberry pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, grits, bacon, orange juice and coffee. Located at the Wellborn Community Association Building 1340 8th Ave. Wellborn, FL. For pricing and other information, call 386-867-1761 or visit us online on Facebook or www.wellborncommunityassociation.com. Come join us for great food and help benefit the Wellborn community.

Taylor County Beekeeping Club meeting

Taylor County Beekeeping Club meets the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Taylor County IFAS center: 203 Forest Park Dr. Perry, Fla. 32348 www.facebook.com/tcbeeclub tacabeekeepers@gmail.com

WoodmenLife monthly member meeting, bring a dish

WoodmenLife monthly member meeting is held on the first of every month. Located at 1339 SR 47 in Lake City. RSVP with your local WoodmenLife representative Kristen Hunt at 386-688-7942.

"Singspiration" at Suwannee Church of the Nazarene

Every 5th Sunday, the church will host a "Singspiration"—a night where members of the congregation sing, read poems, share testimonies, etc. Want to participate? Visit the church, or call at 386-397-2309, to be added to the list. The more participation, the longer it goes. Afterwards, there will be snacks and refreshments in the fellowship hall. The church is located at 18763 SE CR 137 in White Springs, FL 32096

The Florida Gateway Bee Club meeting

The Florida Gateway Bee Club meets at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Suwannee Valley Agriculture Center located at 8202 CR 417, Live Oak.

Professional and hobby beekeepers are welcome, as well as anyone with an interest in learning about honeybees.

San Juan Mission Catholic Church public Rosary

The community is invited to join San Juan Mission Catholic Church, 304 SE Plant Ave, Branford, for the public Rosary on the first Saturday of every month at 9 a.m. The community will pray for religious freedom, traditional moral standards and freedom of conscience.

The Suwannee Chapter, Florida Trail Association meetings

The Suwannee Chapter, Florida Trail Association holds its monthly meetings on the second Monday, 7-9 p.m. at the Suwannee River Water Management District, 9225 CR 49, Live Oak, corner of US 90 and CR 49, 2 miles east of Live Oak. Programs and activities available, and public is welcome.

For more information, call 386-776-1920 or visit SuwanneeFloridaTrail.org.

Disabled American Veterans

Chapter 126, Suwannee Memorial

Meets the first Tuesday of each month at the hall in John Hale Park, 215 East Duval St., Live Oak. Disabled veterans and their spouses are encouraged to attend and join.

Suwannee Republican Executive Committee

Meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., Live Oak City Hall
101 White Ave SE
Contact Sherri Ortega 386-330-2736 for more information.

www.suwanneegop.com

Suwannee County Republican Executive Committee

Live Oak City Hall, 101 White Ave SE, Live Oak
Meets first Thursday, 7 p.m.
www.suwanneegop.com

Suwannee Valley 500 Club

Third Saturday of each month, Suwannee Valley 500 Club will meet at 1 p.m. at Thunder Alley, located at 1605 S. Ohio Ave., Live Oak. 386-364-7778.

Clothes Closet open donations

The Jasper First Methodist Church is accepting donations of clean and gently used items of clothing for children, women and men to be offered in the monthly Clothes Closet. The Clothes Closet is open to everyone on the fourth Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Christmas and Thanksgiving months the schedule is subject to change). All items are offered free of charge. For more information call 386-792-0904.

*The Clothes Closet will be closed due to the Christmas holiday on December 16.

Suwannee County Historical Commission

The Suwannee County Historical Commission meets on the third Thursday of the month at 3:30 p.m. at the Suwannee County Historical Museum

(old Freight Depot) on Ohio Avenue in Live Oak. Meetings are open to the public.

Public rosary - first Friday

Join St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church for the public rosary every first Friday of the month at 3 p.m. The church is located at 928 Howard St. West. Contact Sheri Ortega at 386-364-1108 or Paul Schmitz at 386-362-5710 for more information.

MOAA-Military Officers Association of America

The Suwannee River Valley Chapter of MOAA meets monthly (September through June) in Lake City. All active duty, retired, and former military officers of all services, including Reserve and National Guard, and spouses/guests are welcome. For information and reservations call Mo Beccnel (386)755-0756 or Steve Casto at (386)497-2986. The Suwannee River Valley Chapter, founded in 1990, is one of over 400 MOAA chapters around the world.

Suwannee County Riding Club

Bob Holmes Arena, Live Oak
We have roping events on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Sign ups at 7 p.m. and rides begin at 8 p.m. Speed events are held on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. Sign ups begin at 6 p.m. and rides begin at 7 p.m. We ride from the fourth weekend of January until November with the exception of March where we have no rides. If you have any questions contact Brittney Smith at 386-688-1482.

Recipe Swap

Suwannee River Regional Library
1848 Ohio Ave. S, Live Oak
1st Tuesday of the month, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Bring in a favorite recipe or dish, meet other foodies, and exchange ideas. Call 386-362-2317 for Featured Recipe of the Month

Christian Singles

Meet every other Saturday at 5 p.m. Call for more information: 386-623-5810, 386-288-0961, 386-438-3394.

Branford Camera Club

Hatch Park Community Center
403 SE Craven St. Branford
Meets 3rd Thursday with an occasional exception
386-935-2044 or 386-590-6339

Critter Corner

Suwannee County Animal Shelter
11150 144th St., McAlpin, Fla.
(approx. 8 miles South off Hwy 129). If you are missing a pet or would love to adopt a pet, please come see us. Animals can be viewed Monday-Friday 9-1 and Saturday 9-12. Volunteers and transporters are desperately needed; Tues.-Sat., 9-9:30 a.m., see Ms. Norma Spay/Neuter 386-208-0072

Suwannee County Seniors Free Breakfast and Lunch

Suwannee River Economic Council's Senior Center
1171 Nobles Ferry Road NW, Live Oak. Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Breakfast- 8:30 a.m./Lunch- 11:30 a.m. (make reservation for lunch by 9:30 a.m.) Bingo: (Wednesdays) 10 a.m. Meeting/Service: (Fridays) 10 a.m. 386-362-1164

First Baptist Church of Live Oak Clothes Closet

515 SW 5th Street, 1st and 3rd Thursday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. (The Old Red Barn)

Suwannee Valley Branch NAACP-Unit #5137

PO Box 6105, Live Oak, FL 32064
President: Alonzo Philmore

Triumph The Church & Kingdom of God in Christ, 410 Taylor Ave. SW off of 7th St.

1st Monday each month, 7 p.m.

Email: a1101st@comcast.net

386-205-9132

American Legion Post 107

10726 142nd St., Live Oak
Off of Hwy 129 S, post is 1 mile on the right.

Meets 1st Thursday at 12 p.m. 386-362-5987

Social Sewing Club

Center Ave., off of 7th St.
2nd and 4th Tuesday

For more information: 386-362-4062

Live Oak Garden Club

1300 11th St. SW, Live Oak
3rd Friday of each month, 11 a.m.

liveoakfloridagardenclub.com

386-364-4189

'Stars Widow Group'

Antioch Baptist Church

5203 CR 795, Live Oak, FL

4th Monday, 10:30 a.m.

386-362-3101

Suwannee Amateur Radio Club

1st Tuesday, social at 6:30 p.m., regular meeting at 7 p.m.

North of I10 & US Hwy 129, Live Oak. Call for exact location and directions.

www.suwanneearc.org

don't want my nerves to get the best of me."

Kirkland will face Logan Kordner (Astronaut High School) in the first round. If Kirkland wins, there's a possibility of a very interesting matchup in the second round with another state-ranked wrestler in Chase Gillis (52-5).

Gillis and Kirkland faced off in December

with Kirkland winning that match.

Jolicouer, who has come on strong late, was a fourth-place finisher at regionals. He'll be wrestling for the 126-pound title. His first-round matchup will be a tough one against Tampa Prep's Ben Buhler.

Clark placed third in regionals and was Suwannee's lone senior to ad-

386-249-3616

Live Oak Art Guild

Suwannee River Regional Library
1848 Ohio Ave. S, Live Oak
Meets 1st Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Judith Adams-386-776-2675

Suwannee Democratic Executive Committee

Live Oak City Hall
101 White Ave. SE, Live Oak
Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m.

Suwannee County Bassmasters

Poole Realty Inc
127 E. Howard St., Live Oak
Meets 1st Tuesday, 7 p.m.
386-688-0978 or 386-590-2885

Save the Cats of Live Oak

Help needed at the shelter with feeding and cleaning Monday through Sundays. Help is also needed within the city limits with feeding several cat colonies Monday through Sundays. Items always needed are food, litter and reusable items for the thrift store located at 217 W. Howard St. downtown. For more information, contact 386-364-1006 or 407-748-0396.

The Arc North Florida

Recycle with us
We recycle cardboard, name brand ink cartridges, laser toners, working cell phones w/charger, digital cameras, GPS, MP3, and laptops. 386-362-7143 ext. 0

Book Club for Adults

Suwannee River Regional Library
1848 Ohio Ave. S, Live Oak
Meets 4th Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m.
Join us to discuss our latest read!

386-362-2317

Lunch & Learn - History of Suwannee County

Presented by County Historian, Eric Musgrave
Suwannee River Regional Library
1848 Ohio Ave. S, Live Oak
Meets 2nd Thursday of each month from 12-1 p.m.

Bring your lunch & learn about our historic county!

386-362-2317

Weekly Meetings

Savvy Caregiver Training at Jo Kennon Library

Jo Kennon Public Library
10655 Dowling Park Dr.
Live Oak, FL 32064
Are you caring for someone with dementia?
Become a Savvy Caregiver! This training is presented by Elder Options and is designed for caregivers who assist persons with dementia and Alzheimer's. Join them for these free classes each Tuesday, 1-3 p.m. for seven weeks, February 6-March 20. To register, please call Johnnie Jones III at 352-692-5277.
386-658-2670

Savvy Caregiver Training at Suwannee Regional Library

Savvy Caregiver is a free, seven-session training program designed for caregivers who serve family members and friends with any form of dementia (i.e. Alzheimer's). Training begins Wednesday, March 7. It will be held at the Suwannee River Regional Library, 1848 S. Ohio Ave., in Live Oak. Sessions are from 10 a.m. until noon. Space is limited to the first 15 who register.
For information, or to register contact Johnnie Jones III at 352-692-5277 or by email at jones@agingresources.org. Pre-registration is required.

Bridge Club seeking players

Monday Bridge Club meets every Monday at 5:30 p.m. at a local restaurant in Live Oak. Club needs players. Contact Diana at 904-254-8923 for details.

Grace Lutheran Church hosting educational prayer classes

Would you like to learn more of Jesus?
Do you have questions about the Christian faith?
Are you going through a difficult time and seek God's council?
Classes starting soon, those who attend can do so to fit their schedules best. Different class times will be available.
Please contact Pastor Doug Priestap at Grace Lutheran Church
Live Oak, 386-364-1851 or gracelutheranlive oak@gmail.com

Children's Table Food Distribution

The Children's Table Food Distribution will be at Peace Baptist Church, 7794 S. Hwy. 27, Branford, FL each Wednesday between 2:00-2:30. Bring a large laundry basket or other container to put food in.
Donations will be accepted.
For further information, 386-935-4681

Beginners AA meeting

Beginners AA at Dowling Park meets Monday-Wednesday-Saturday, 7 p.m. at "The LightHouse" 23595 CR 250, Live Oak, 32060 For more information call 305-407-0895. www.LiveOakAA.com

vance. He said he's gained confidence by defeating some of the other state qualifiers this season.

For Clark, that confidence is a huge factor as he prepares for his final high school wrestling matches.

Suwannee Democrat CLASSIFIEDS

Want to place a classified after hours?

IT'S EASY!

1. Go to suwanneedemocrat.com
2. Click on Classifieds
3. Click on "Place an Ad"
4. Choose heading (type of ad you're placing)
5. Choose package
6. Create your ad!

Special Notices

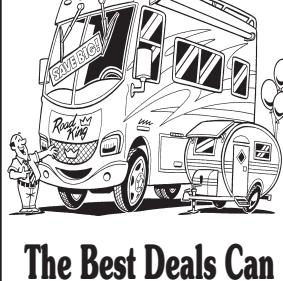
DEADLINES FOR CLASSIFIED & LEGAL LINE ADS:

FOR WEDNESDAY SUWANNEE DEMOCRAT NOON FRIDAY PRIOR

FOR FRIDAY SUWANNEE DEMOCRAT 9:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY PRIOR

FOR THURSDAY JASPER NEWS NOON FRIDAY PRIOR

FOR THURSDAY MAYO FREE PRESS NOON FRIDAY PRIOR



The Best Deals Can Be Found Here In the **CLASSIFIEDS**

TO ALL TRADESMEN & SERVICE PROVIDERS:
Haven't you always heard the old saying "Big things come in small packages"?

Well, this is the idea behind the new Tri-County Service Directory coming soon to the classified pages of the Suwannee Democrat, The Jasper News & the Mayo Free Press!

Call 386-362-1734 X102

for more info on how to place a small ad (that's the "small packages part") to appear in all 3 of our publications which means the opportunity for your ad to be seen by approx. 4600 potential customers (and that's the "big things" part).

CALL TODAY!

General Help Wanted

CASUAL RECREATION AIDE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT

This is a casual/seasonal position to work on an as-needed basis, and will report to the Parks and Recreation Coordinator or designee. Positions will remain open until filled. Applications may be obtained at the Suwannee County Administrative Services Department, 224 Pine Avenue, Live Oak, FL 32064, (386) 364-3410. The Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners is an equal employment opportunity employer that does not discriminate against any qualified employee or applicant because of race, color, national origin, sex, including pregnancy, age, disability, or marital status. Spanish speaking individuals are encouraged to apply. All applicants are subject to pre-employment physical. Successful completion of a drug test is a condition of employment.

EE/AA/V/D



Job Hunting?
Find It In The Classifieds

DAY CAMP COUNSELORS SUWANNEE COUNTY RECREATION

The Suwannee Parks and Recreation Department is seeking applicants for casual/seasonal position(s) as Day Camp Counselors. Positions will remain open until filled. Applications are available online at suwcounty.org, at the Suwannee County Building Department, 224 Pine Avenue, Live Oak, FL 32064, (386) 364-3407 or Public Works, 13150 80th Terrace, Live Oak, FL 32060, (386) 364-3400. The Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners is an equal employment opportunity employer that does not discriminate against any qualified employee or applicant because of race, color, national origin, sex, including pregnancy, age, disability, or marital status. Spanish speaking individuals are encouraged to apply. All applicants are subject to a pre-employment physical. Successful completion of a drug test is a condition of employment. Failure to successfully test free of illegal or controlled drugs will result in non-employment of the applicant for a minimum of 1 year.

EE/AA/V/D

General Help Wanted

Lifeguards and Senior Lifeguards Suwannee County Recreation

The Suwannee Parks & Recreation Department is seeking applicants for casual/seasonal position(s) as Lifeguards and Senior Lifeguards. Positions will remain open until filled. Applications are available online at suwcounty.org, at the Suwannee County Building Department, 224 Pine Avenue, Live Oak, FL 32064, (386) 364-3407 or Public Works, 13150 80th Terrace, Live Oak, FL 32060, (386) 364-3400. The Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners is an equal employment opportunity employer that does not discriminate against any qualified employee or applicant because of race, color, national origin, sex, including pregnancy, age, disability, or marital status. Spanish speaking individuals are encouraged to apply. All applicants are subject to a pre-employment physical. Successful completion of a drug test is a condition of employment. Failure to successfully test free of illegal or controlled drugs will result in non-employment of the applicant for a minimum of 1 year.

EE/AA/V/D

NURSES NEEDED

at Correctional Facilities! Centurion of FL is seeking RNs & LPNs to work in Jasper, FL. We offer three 12 hour shifts/week, rotating weekends. Shift available is 6p-6a. Offering competitive pay & great benefits! Apply online at: www.mhmcareers.com or call Amy at 850-299-2436 for more info. Email resume to amy@mhmcareers.com

Park Maintenance Worker I

Suwannee Parks & Recreation

The Suwannee Parks & Recreation Department is seeking applicants for Fulltime and Part Time/Seasonal position(s) as Park Maintenance Worker I. Applications are available online at suwcounty.org, at the Building Department, 224 Pine Avenue, Live Oak, FL 32064, (386) 364-3407 or Public Works, 13150 80th Terrace, Live Oak, FL 32060, (386) 364-3400. This position is open until filled. The Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners is an equal employment opportunity employer that does not discriminate against any qualified employee or applicant because of race, color, national origin, sex, including pregnancy, age, disability, or marital status. Spanish speaking individuals are encouraged to apply. All applicants are subject to a pre-employment physical. Successful completion of a drug test is a condition of employment. Failure to successfully test free of illegal or controlled drugs will result in non-employment of the applicant for a minimum of 1 year.

EEO/AA/V/D

General Help Wanted

RNs OR LPNs

Lake Park of Madison Rehab Center in Madison, Florida is seeking Full Time and Part Time RN or LPN staff nurses for our 7 pm to 7 am shift. If nursing was a calling for you and you exemplify professionalism and leadership with excellent communication and documentation skills, please consider joining our 5 star Deficiency Free team where your skills will be acknowledged, appreciated and rewarded. Apply in person or send resume to:

rgarner@maximushg.com

EE/AA/V/D

Professional

North Florida COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Madison, FL: Positions available - Program Data Manager, Director of Advance Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, HVAC Equipment Specialist. See www.nfcc.edu for details.

Agriculture

I PAY YOU THOUSANDS \$\$\$ TO HUNT DEER OR DOVES ON YOUR PROPERTY 850-443-0482

Educational

CNA CLASSES

Nursing Assistants are in GREAT demand! Quest Training offers nurse taught classes. No GED required if age 18 yr. Day and Evening classes available. (386)362-1065

CLASSIFIEDS ARE IN

Yard/Estate Sales

FREE GARAGE SALE KIT WITH AD

STOP BY THE SUWANNEE DEMOCRAT OFFICE 521 Demorest Street, SE Live Oak, FL AND PLACE YOUR GARAGE (YARD, ESTATE, OR MOVING) SALE AD IN TWO EDITIONS OF THE SUWANNEE DEMOCRAT TO RECEIVE A FREE GARAGE SALE KIT*

*Kit contains:
3-11"X13" Signs
1- Pre-Sale Checklist
1- Tipsheet for a Successful Sale
1- Sheet of Price Stickers

16013-1

Hay for Sale

FOR SALE: VERY GOOD PERENNIAL PEANUT HAY Approx. 500-lb rolls. \$85 per roll-cash at the farm. Hank Sheddan, Live Oak, FL 386-590-1827 hws332@yahoo.com

Household Goods

FOR SALE Washers \$95 ea, Dryers & Stoves \$75 ea. All in good cond. Call 678-617-5560, 386-792-3956 or 386-965-6767.

Misc Merchandise

For Sale: Poulan 42" Riding Mower. Almost new! \$900.00 Call (386)688-9310

Professional

North Florida COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Madison, FL: Positions available - Program Data Manager, Director of Advance Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, HVAC Equipment Specialist. See www.nfcc.edu for details.

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16013-1

Land/Acreage

FIVE ACRES
Gorgeous Country Setting. Owner Finance, No Down. \$29,900. Only \$307/mo. 352-215-1018 www.LandOwnerFinancing.com

ONE ACRE PAVED ROAD FRONTAGE

Beautifully Wooded, Owner Finance, No Down. \$14,900. Only \$153/mo 352-215-1018 www.LandOwnerFinancing.com

TEN ACRES O'BRIEN, FL

Paved Rd, well & culvert. Owner financing. NO DOWN \$69,900. \$613/mo 352-215-1018 www.LandOwnerFinancing.com

Autos

RUN YOUR TRUCK OR AUTO FOR SALE AD FOR 4 WEEKS FOR JUST A LITTLE MORE THAN THE PRICE OF 1 WEEK:

1 WEEK REGULAR RATE: \$25.83
4 WEEK SPECIAL RATE: \$30.90

This special rate gets you 8 issues of the Suwannee Democrat, 4 issues of The Jasper News & the Mayo Free Press plus 8 days online!!!

ADD A PHOTO FOR ONLY \$10.50 MORE

CALL NOW TO GET YOUR AD STARTED 386-362-1734 X102

LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME?



FIND IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TODAY!!

-FOR RENT-



GREAT RATES FOR NICE LOOKING RENTALS WATER, SEWER, AND GARBAGE INCLUDED. NO PETS.

386-330-2567

**FIND IT
IN THE
Classifieds**

Worship Directory

We invite you to WORSHIP with us!

ADVENT CHRISTIAN**BIXLER MEMORIAL
ADVENT CHRISTIAN**

Advent Christian Village, Dowling Park

Dr. Timothy Setzer

SUNDAY

Morning Worship 9:45 a.m.
Christian Education Hour 11:00 a.m.
Youth Group 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

49067-1

**FIRST ADVENT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**699 Pinewood Drive
(386) 362-1802

Rev. Tim Carver, Pastor

SUNDAY

Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 10:30 am
Youth Group & Sword Seekers Group following school

49075-1

**MCALPIN ADVENT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**17214 89th Rd • McAlpin, FL
243-0381

Rev. Robert Osburn

SUNDAY

Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:45 am

Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 pm

We invite you to come worship with us.

49099-1

BAPTIST (SOUTHERN)**ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH**5203 County Road 795
362-3101 - Church

Rev. David McKeithen

SUNDAY

Sunday School 9:45 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am

Evening Worship 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Service 7:00 pm

49100-1

**CLAYLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH**11409 193rd Road
Live Oak, FL 32060

Pastor Bill Lawhon

SUNDAY

Sunday School 9:45 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am

Children's Church during morning worship

Evening Worship 6:30pm
(for children, youth)**WEDNESDAY**Evening Service 7:00pm
Keepers of the Faith 6:30pm(Nursery provided only
Sunday morning service)

49127-1

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF DOWLING PARK**

"Sharing the Joy of Jesus"

Rev. Shawn Johnson - Pastor

11274 235th Lane

(In Dowling Park on Hwy. 250)

Live Oak, FL 32060

(386) 658-2360 or (386) 658-3715

E-Mail: fbcdp@hotmail.com

www.dowlingparkbaptist.com

SUNDAY

Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:45 am

Evening Bible

Exploration Services 6:00 pm

• Nursery Available all Services

• Pre-K to 2nd Grade Junior Church

conducted during 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship Service

WEDNESDAY

Mid Week Prayer Service 6:30 pm

Free Meals for Seniors

We are a meal site for the Suwannee River Economic

Council. Free meals are served for seniors over the age

of 60 in the church Fellowship Hall Monday thru Friday

from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM. For more information or to

sign up, please contact us at 386-658-2360

49110-1

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

401 West Howard Street

Live Oak, FL 32064

Phone: 386-362-1583

Fax 386-364-6478

Email: firstbaptistchurch@fbcliveoak.org

www.fbcliveoak.org

Rev. Phillip Herrington, Senior Pastor

Rev. Steve Switzer, Pastoral Care/Administration

Rev. Alan Lott, Music and Worship

Rev. Ryan Vermilyea, Students Education

Mrs. Debbie McCall, Preschool/Childrens Coordinator

SUNDAY

Early Worship 8:30 am

Sunday School 9:45 am

Morning Worship 11:00 am

Discipleship Training 6:00 pm

Evening Worship 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

AWANA 6:00-8:00 pm

RUSH - Youth 6:00-8:00 pm

Midweek Prayer 6:00-7:30 pm

49113-1

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Matthew McDonald

Youth Pastor: Scott Connely

14364 140th St., Live Oak, FL 32060

386-776-1010

email address: friendshipbco@windstream.net

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:45 am

Worship Service 11:00 am

(Children's church during Morning Worship)

Discipleship Training 5:00 pm

(Women's Bible Study, Men's Bible Study, Youth

Discipleship, Children's Choir)

Evening Worship 6:00 pm

Howard Street Dry Clean

Quality Laundry and Dry Cleaning

• Same Day Service •

705 West Howard Street

Live Oak, Florida 32064

(386) 364-5211

49233-1

THE VILLAGE ATTIC**SELF STORAGE** in Dowling Park

Climatized/Insulated/Fenced

386-688-7488

“Everyone needs an Attic”

49228-1

Worship Directory**We invite you to WORSHIP with us!****ADVENT CHRISTIAN****BIXLER MEMORIAL
ADVENT CHRISTIAN**

Advent Christian Village, Dowling Park

Dr. Timothy Setzer

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49067-1

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Youth Group & Sword Seekers Group following school

49075-1

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CHRISTIAN CHURCH**17214 89th Rd • McAlpin, FL
243-0381

Rev. Robert Osburn

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Mid Week Prayer Service 6:30 pm