



Our office will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2018 in honor of the Memorial Day holiday. We will reopen Tuesday, May 29 at 8 a.m.

Honoring Memorial Day

Weekend Edition — May 25, 2018

Monday, May 28

Suwannee Democrat

132nd Year | No. 080

Visit us online at suwanneedemocrat.com

75 CENTS

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

SCSD announces graduation backup plans

LIVE OAK — With inclement weather expected this weekend, the Suwannee County School District is preparing to alter the graduation schedules for Branford and Suwannee High Schools, if necessary.

According to Superintendent of Schools Ted Roush, Branford's graduation will be held at 8 p.m. today, as scheduled.

However, commencement exercises could be moved inside to the BHS gymnasium from Buccaneer Stadium should weather conditions dictate.

According to the National Weather Service, there is a 70 percent chance of precipitation today and a 60 percent chance tonight.

If the graduation is moved in-

doors, seniors will be given a ticket allocation, as determined by the school administration, for guest attendance, per the district's release.

Suwannee High's graduation is currently scheduled for 8 p.m. Saturday at Paul Langford Stadium.

Both the time and location are

SEE SCSD, PAGE 7A

Birthday treat

Hoffman, 102, plays piano for party

BY JAMIE WACHTER

jamie.wachter@gafnews.com

DOWLING PARK — Surrounded by family, friends and fellow Dacier Manor residents, Marjorie Hoffman gave her well-wishers a treat for her 102nd birthday Wednesday afternoon.

Hoffman joined friend Joan Wittman at the piano in the dining area and tickled the ivories for six duets.

"Isn't she wonderful?" Wittman told the audience.

Wittman said Hoffman told her two months ago that she had been a piano player, setting the birthday performance into motion.

Wittman picked up a few songbooks and they proceeded to practice.

"She told me yesterday that these are kind of simple, I think we should get something more difficult," Wittman said. "So I told her next week

SEE BIRTHDAY, PAGE 7A



Marjorie Hoffman blows kisses to her friends and family after they sang 'Happy Birthday' to her.



Hoffman and Wittman celebrate after playing one of their duets Wednesday.



PHOTOS: JAMIE WACHTER
Marjorie Hoffman and Joan Wittman play a duet Wednesday during Hoffman's 102nd birthday party.



Marjorie Hoffman celebrated her 102nd birthday Wednesday with her son Paul and granddaughter Janie Moore.

Jefferson urges SHS grads to be thankful for gifts, abilities

BY JESSIE R. BOX

jessie.box@gafnews.com

LIVE OAK — Rev. Tommie Jefferson urged Suwannee High's graduating class to be thankful Wednesday night.

The guest speaker at Suwannee's Baccalaureate service Wednesday, Jefferson kept coming back to the graduates trusting in the Lord.

"The Lord will take care of you," said Jefferson, the pastor at New National Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

He said after receiving graduation gifts, thank you notes will be written but sometimes people forget to say thank you to the Lord.

He said the Lord has given each graduate gifts and abilities.

"Class of 2018, some of you will go off and do dynamic things in life but you must remember where your gift



PHOTO: JESSIE R. BOX

The guest speaker was Rev. Tommie Jefferson of New National Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

came from," Jefferson said.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Daniela Padilla. The invocation was led by Blake Tedder. Logan Martin welcomed the guests to Baccalaureate. Alex Mares sang "Amazing Grace."

Pastor Tim Carver of First Advent Chris-

SEE JEFFERSON, PAGE 7A

Sauerman tells BHS graduates to follow passion, take risks

BY MIKE JONES

michael.jones@
gafnews.com

BRANFORD — As an experienced world traveler who has lived in many different places, former Branford High School teacher Elaine Sauerman is not averse to taking risks.

She was the guest speaker at Branford High's Baccalaureate service Wednesday where she encouraged the 2018 graduating class to follow their passion and take risks.

"Look at the big picture, see where your passion fits in," Sauerman said. "This may require you to travel to new places, meet new people or even explore the world abroad. Remember there may be only one earth, but the cultures and the experiences are endless."

Sauerman spoke about her own experiences and



PHOTO: MIKE JONES
Baccalaureate speaker Elaine Sauerman speaks to the 2018 Branford graduating class.

the impact they made on her life.

"As a risk taker myself, I've moved many times and moved places," Sauerman said.

"Each place offered an opportunity — tasting new food, experimenting different smells, music, ways of life. Most importantly, different points of views."

"One important life

SEE SAUERMAN, PAGE 7A

Page 5B

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW



Suwannee High School's Best of 2017-18



Page 1B

2011 FORD ESCAPE XLS @ LIVE OAK STORE ONLY



\$8,959

www.suwanneedemocrat.com