



Resolution Asks That Workforce Groups Not Be Overly Amended

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

Based on the presentation of Sheryl Rehberg, executive director of the North Florida Workforce (NFW), the Jefferson County Commission has taken a stand against proposed legislation that would, among other things, remove local control of the workforce organizations.

The commissioners' resolution was in response to Gov. Rick Scott's proposal to change the composition and operation of workforce boards under the Workforce Board Accountability Act.

As Rehberg explained it to the commission on Thursday, Jan. 5, the main objection that the Florida Workforce Development Association (FWDA) finds with

the Governor's proposal is that it would remove local control of the workforce organizations and potentially politicize the selection of the boards' chairs and directors.

"No one is against accountability," Rehberg said. "We recognize that missed expenditures anywhere hurt the program and the public trust everywhere. We reject, however, several threads that are at the base of this legislation."

She said that among the proposed legislation's objectives were to impose a cap on the number of members who could serve on the workforce boards; make it so that the chairs and directors of the workforce boards would serve at the pleasure of the Governor; and require state review of the workforce organizations' budgets.

At present, Rehberg said, the number of board members was variable and dependent on the will of local county commissions, which appointed members as they saw fit to address needs in their respective communities.

As for the budget, she said it was developed by staff and approved by the workforce board, with the full knowledge of the various county commissions making up the umbrella consortiums.

Rehberg said the Governor's proposal would remove this local control. And having the workforce boards' chairs and directors serve at the pleasure of the Governor was not only contrary to federal law, but it would inject politics into the process, she said.

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ARBULU FORMALLY ANNOUNCES FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOL



Dear Jefferson County Friends and Neighbors,

After serious consideration, I am pleased to declare my candidacy for Superintendent of Jefferson County Schools because our community needs strong, skilled leadership to raise the level of school district performance. My executive experience will enable the district to achieve a full spectrum of educational opportunities for all school-aged children in the county, and to lend support to the community's efforts towards economic growth for high-level jobs creation.

As your Superintendent, I welcome the challenge of reaching academic excellence and together, we will achieve this seemingly unattainable goal through the delivery of superior teaching systems, and a culture of personal and organizational accountability, in other words - we will create a new "normal". Under my administration, stakeholder collaboration will be the keystone of this transformation. Within my first 90 days in office, I will submit a strategic plan to the community that will outline the district's short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals. The plan will include specific, measurable, objectives that link to timelines and milestones. Concurrent with this work, we will embark on a comprehensive review of all current operations, procedures and practices to determine areas where we can effect immediate improvements.

My goals are straightforward:

- To implement a highly rigorous academic magnet program for university bound students
- To develop a true vocational program
- To create organizational and financial efficiencies
- To insure employee development, job satisfaction and organizational ownership
- To be an educational resource for home school families
- To lead by example

By statute and by practice, the School Board has primary responsibility in two areas - finance, and policy development. During my first term as your School Board Member, my accomplishments to date include:

- District Financial Health - The dramatic reversal of the school district's financial emergency required the collaborative effort of the School Board, the Department of Education and the Financial Oversight Committee. The general fund balance forward as of June 2011, is well in excess of required 3% minimum, and it represents an approximate increase of 250% over fiscal year 2008-2009 deficit. It is important to note that this was also a period of significant revenue decline.
- Charter School - The School Board approved the closure of the charter school for failure to meet its contractual obligations.
- Policies - All School Board policies were updated for legislative compliance and school improvement. The board approved many new and amended policies to support school academic improvement as well as to insure student health, safety and welfare.

In addition to my official duties as your School Board Member, I have a long record of service to this community including the Monticello Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, the Jefferson County Legislative Committee, July 4th Celebrate America Committee, the Education Foundation and the Economic Development Council. Along with these organizations, I have volunteered my time in support of community events such as the Watermelon Festival, Altrusa Bed Race, and Southern Music Rising.

Our children, their hopes and dreams, their thirst for knowledge, and their genuine curiosity about the world inspire my energy and drive. They deserve better - and for too long now we have failed to deliver the education they deserve - that the community deserves. This is a condition that cannot continue and will not continue under my leadership.

For success, our community must have a take charge, experienced chief executive officer to lead our school district into the future and to create permanent sustainable solutions to the school district's problems. We need a person with demonstrated success and commitment to education, a leader who can take the reins and begin to work on day one.

My friends, my head and my heart belong to this community and to our children. Thank you for your continued support and I ask for your vote for Arbulu for Superintendent of Jefferson County Schools. Remember - A+ begins with Arbulu - for our children and our future. Contact Marianne Arbulu by email: m_arbulu@msn.com or telephone: (850) 528-5758.

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Marianne Arbulu, Republican, for Superintendent of Jefferson County Schools.

SCHOOL BOARD REINSTATES EARLIER FIRED BUS DRIVER

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

It turns out that School Board Members Shirley Washington and Sandra Saunders were right not to have voted for the dismissal of a school employee who was accused by his su-

pervisor of bringing alcohol on a school bus.

Acting on the recommendation of School Superintendent Bill Brumfield, plus the advice of attorneys, the Jefferson County School Board on Monday evening, Jan. 9, voted 3-2 to reverse its earlier ter-

mination decision and reinstate the employee.

"Our attorney and another attorney said we should hire him back," Brumfield said, adding that was all that he had been advised to say about the matter.

School Board Attorney Opal Williams af-

firmed Brumfield's statement. She said the board's choice was to vote the superintendent's recommendation up or down, absent any discussion.

Even so, enough was said to give the impression that the terminated employee had approached an attorney, and that the administration found itself facing potential litigation and the likelihood of losing the case because of a lack of adequate documentation to support the alleged incident.

Which lack of documentation was precisely why Washington and Saunders voted against the termination on Nov.

Please See **SCHOOL BOARD** Page 3



City Officials Drop Proposed Moratorium On Internet Cafes

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

Like their county counterparts who shied away from the thorny issue, city officials have decided to drop their proposed moratorium on Internet gaming cafes and let the legislators have a go at addressing the matter.

City Clerk Emily Anderson confirmed on Wednesday, Jan. 18, that the Monticello City Council had decided to drop the moratorium idea, after a first reading of the proposed ordinance was postponed in early November.

At the time, the council's intention was to hold a workshop and further explore the idea, be-

fore proceeding with action. That workshop never came to be, however, and Anderson said the council ultimately decided to wait and see what the Legislature did in the current session.

The proposed ordinance that city officials were contemplating called for a 180-day moratorium on Internet gaming cafes.

The ordinance, modeled on that of the City of Chattahoochee, was initially championed by then Mayor John Jones, who has apparently since cooled to the idea.

The City of Chattahoochee last year imposed a 180-day moratorium on Internet cafes to allow its staff time to analyze the implications of these businesses, rela-

tive to parking, traffic, setbacks and concurrency requirements, among other considerations.

Until now, Florida lawmakers have declined to take up the cafes, but it's expected that they may do so in the current session. Meanwhile, many cities and counties - including Leon County - have implemented some form of regulation of the businesses.

Internet gaming cafes ostensibly allow people to purchase time on the Internet, which time comes with credits that that the users can utilize to play video sweepstakes games. Sweepstakes winners are then paid in cash.

Please See **CAFES** Page 3

Year In Review, Inside today's edition!

2011

IN REVIEW

Local Marching Band Sets Sights On Savannah Parade

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

The next venue for the Jefferson County Community Marching Band could well be the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, GA, provided the group is able to raise the nearly \$3,000 that it will require for transportation and accommodations.

Band founder/director Derrick Jennings told the News that the band's approval to participate in Savannah's 188th St. Patrick Day Parade arrived on Jan. 9. He said the parade is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, in downtown Savannah.

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Viewpoints & Opinions

COMMUNITY COLUMN

THE PAINFUL FACE OF A PRISON CLOSING

by Hines Boyd



On January 12, the news that Jefferson Correctional Institution had been selected for closing washed over the community like an economic tsunami. Literally overnight, the struggling little county was faced with the loss of its largest employer.

Jefferson County will take an estimated \$19 million hit as the prison closing ripples through the local economy! In Dade or Broward or Hillsborough or Charlotte, a prison closing isn't even a blip on the screen, but here it's devastating—and it doesn't make sense.

JCI is a specialty prison known as a "Psyche 3" institution, one of only a few in the state. Over sixty percent of JCI's inmates are on psychotropic drugs. For a specialty institution, JCI's per diem cost of \$51.12 is among the lowest in the system. Yet JCI has the highest proportion of Psyche 3 inmates of any prison. In fact, it's the "go to" institution for Psyche 3 inmates when no one else will take them.

JCI employees are particularly proud of the fact that, despite its high risk population, it is one of the few prisons that has never had to call in a rapid response team to deal with out-of-control prisoners. There's an uncommon culture of mutual respect between prisoners and corrections officers, no doubt a reflection of the culture of this small rural community.

Monticello, the county's only incorporated town, is known far more for its quaintness and charm than its nearby prison, though. During the past year, its downtown face has been badly scarred by the closing of

several decades-old local businesses. Edenfield Hardware on the courthouse circle succumbed to competition from the big box stores in nearby cities. The town's only clothing retailer, Milady's, closed when its customers, many of them dependent on questionable state jobs, quit buying. Jackson's Drugstore, a downtown icon for over 100 years, closed when insurance plans shunned independent drugstores by requiring that their customers buy only from contracted chains or mail order houses. Now this!

Late Friday, the day after the closing announcement, local leaders planned a strategy session to discuss their response. That strategy session turned into a full blown community gathering attended by more than 100 people, many of them JCI employees. There was anger, tears, fear, and lots of questions.

A mom who works at JCI worried that she would have to uproot her kids from their extended family and sell her home to find a job somewhere else. The county's Solid Waste Director wondered how she could continue her recycling program which depends on prison labor. The Health Department Director told how she contracts with the prison to provide HIV medications and other services. If the prison leaves, her budget will take a big blow, possibly creating more job cuts.

Then there were the questions of, "Why us?" Several prisons in large south Florida communities have already been targeted for privatization. Their employees are already scheduled for dis-

ruption. "Why not them? We do a better job anyway," was the question. "Besides, those employees would have an easier time finding a good job near their home."

Good question! It's a well-known fact that prisons in large metropolitan areas have higher employee turnover rates than rural prisons. They have more trouble getting and keeping good employees simply because there are better job options in these areas of rather vigorous and concentrated economic activity.

We hope that the DOC and Governor's office will reassess their system for cutting back on prison employees. Because of their so-called "special attributes," numerous low scoring prisons were passed over to get to JCI. We think JCI has a lot of attributes, including lower operating costs, which were simply ignored by the scoring system.

Closing higher cost prisons in metropolitan areas makes much more sense than closing prison in rural communities like Jefferson County that depend heavily on these jobs. If personal pain and community hardship were factors in DOC's formula for closing prisons, we would not be fighting to defend our county's largest employer and, for many of our citizens – their livelihood.

Hines Boyd is the chairman of the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners. He wrote this opinion column for the Tallahassee Democrat and Jefferson Journal.

Drop A Note To
Debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com

The Antioch Missionary Baptist Church family will celebrate the 6th Anniversary of their Pastor/Teacher Tony O. Graham on Sunday, January 22. The celebration will begin at 11 a.m. with Rev. Rodney Stewart and the Greater Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church of Lloyd presenting the program. At 3 p.m. Rev. Dr. Craig P. Riley, Sr. and the Greater Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church of Tallahassee will render the service. If you cannot attend, continue to pray for this pastor and his family. The church is located at 708 Lance Drive in Perry. Sis. Jurleen Clayton is the pastor's aide and committee chairperson. Contact Paula Graham at 850-561-2941 or paula.graham@famuc.edu for more information.

A Sweetheart Candlelight Dinner will be held as a fundraiser for the Jefferson Senior Citizen Center and its programs. The affair is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, February 10 at the Willow Pond Plantation in Monticello. The evening will feature music, live entertainment and a cash bar. The cost is a \$25 donation. For ticket information and

updated information, contact Mary Ann Van Kleunen at 850-997-3986.

A Zumba Party fundraiser, sponsored by Altrusa Monticello, will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 23 at the American Legion Otto Walker Post 49 on South Water Street in Monticello. Ticket cost is \$10; sold in advance or at the door. This fundraising event is to stock the local food banks with nonperishable food items. Partygoers are encouraged to also bring canned goods to the party. For more information about this exciting event contact Pat Cichon at 850-997-7441 or Jan Williams at 850-728-1867.

The Opera House Stage Company announces the establishment of the 'Colin Rolfe Scholarship for the Arts', which will assist individuals of all ages to study the art form of their choice. Amounts ranging from \$100 to \$500 will be available to adults and children to study music, singing, dance, acting, writing, painting or sculpture. Applicants may plan to attend a college or university, or they could take private lessons. Applications will be accepted twice a year and the current deadline

is January 31. For more information, or to obtain a copy of the application, email to Sittinonaporch@yahoo.com or call 850-997-4010 or 850-728-1867.

The Legislative Committee believes the decision to close JCI can be reversed, but it will take the concern and efforts of many. Chris Doolin, a lobbyist working on behalf of Jefferson County, sends this following information. He says calls from the community will be helpful. So, in your conversation include these talking points: Jefferson County is a 'fiscally constrained' county; the county is located in a 'rural area of critical economic concern'; the county has low per capita income, low taxable values, low wages, high poverty rate and the like; JCI is the county's largest employer, accounting for approximately six percent of available jobs in the county; the loss of prison population and JCI employees will affect redistricting and revenue sharing; and the evaluation process did not take into account these and other 'special attributes'. Make your calls now to Governor Scott at 850-488-4441, Senate President Mike Haridopolis at 850-487-5229 and House Speaker Dean Cannon at 850-488-1450. Contact Jefferson County Legislators Representative Leonard Be-mbry at 850-488-7870, 405 House Office Bldg.; Senator Charles Dean at 850-487-5017, 302 Senate Office Bldg.; Senator Bill Montford at 850-487-5004, 208 Senate Office Bldg.; and Representative Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda at 850-488-0965, 1001 The Capitol. Let the politicians know that you object to the closing of JCI.

ST'INGERS

*All Stingers are printed anonymously, however the News staff reserves the right to not print offensive material.

"WHY IS WINN DIXIE ALWAYS OUT OF MY FAVORITE RASPBERRY PILLS-BURY TOASTER STRUDEL???"

"FOX NEWS: We deceive ~ You believe."

"Hey White Kid, if you don't deserve credit then how come you were boasting about getting around the Sunshine Law?"

EMAIL YOUR STINGERS TO:
MonticelloNews@embarqmail.com

CHURCH NEWS NOTES

JANUARY 20

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

JANUARY 21

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church will host a Women's Conference at 11 a.m. on Saturday at 1702 Thompson Valley Road in Lamont, with the theme 'Stepping Up: Women of Destiny'. For additional information, contact Rev. Cassandra Brockman, pastor, at 850-997-3308 or email to friendshipvalley@yahoo.com

JANUARY 21

Refuge in Aucilla, at 63 Tinnell Road, will hold a Candle Light Solo Service at 6 p.m. on Saturday. All

solos are welcome. Contact Minnie Greene at 850-997-3033. District Elder Tony Lane, pastor.

JANUARY 21

Greater Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church will host a Gospel Sing at 6 p.m. on Saturday. Many choirs and groups will render songs. Rev. Dr. Melvin Roberts, pastor. For more information contact Chairman Shay Harris at 850-879-6292 or Lois Graham at 850-556-8614.

JANUARY 22

St. Phillip AME Church will host the second annual Howardite Service at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Calling all Howardites, Graduates, Administrators, Teachers, Retirees, Affiliates and Friends to come and share an exciting and spirit-filled service with others. The dynamic preacher will be Rev. James Mack,

pastor at Saint Rilla Missionary Baptist Church. For more information contact Gloria Cox at 850-879-4425. Rev. JW Tisdale, pastor.

JANUARY 25-29

Union #2 Jefferson County Ministers/Deacons/Home Mission Societies will convene with Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (Drifton Highway) at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday for Union Bible Study. The Union will continue at 11 a.m. on Saturday with the Union Leadership Conference. Union Worship Services will begin at 9:45 a.m. with Sunday School. All member churches and interested friends are invited to attend. For more information, contact Union Reporter Mary Blake at 850-241-6822.

JANUARY 26

Bible Study every Thursday at the Lloyd Woman's Club at 7 p.m. Join with Elder Linda Ross for an evening of Christian faith. For more information contact her at 850-322-3424.

JANUARY 27

'Sunday Drive', 'The Nehrorns' and 'LifeSong' in a gospel music concert Friday evening at Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park in Madison. Admission is free for this WinterFest, but a love offering will be received during the concert. For more information, call 850-464-0114 or visit www.lifesonggospel.com

JANUARY 27, 28

Second Harvest Food Program, together with the churches of New Bethel AME, Elizabeth MB, Hickory Hill MB, Mt. Pleasant AME and Philadelphia MB, will provide food to anyone needing assistance including the needy, infants and the elderly. This is done monthly with distribution from 9 to 10 a.m. usually on the fourth Saturday at the New Bethel AME Church located at 6496 Ashville Highway. Volunteers are also welcome to come on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. to help bag the food packages. Contact Nellie Randall at 850-997-5605 or 850-997-6929 to volunteer or for more information about this program.

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Senior Staff Writer



CLASSIFIED AND LEGAL ADS

Deadline for classifieds is Monday at 3:00 p.m. for Wednesday's paper, and Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. for Friday's paper. Deadline for Legal Advertisement is Monday at 3:00 p.m. for Wednesday's paper, and Wednesday at 3 p.m. for Friday's paper. There will be a \$100 charge for Affidavits.

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Out-of-State \$52 per year

From Page One

MainStreet Monticello Updates

During the Monday, December 12 meeting of MainStreet Monticello Florida, Board Members and interested guests discussed the most recent Downtown Christmas Festival and noted that there were three times as many vendors this year. A few suggestions for the 2012 Christmas event included the asking of business cards from the festival vendors; the distribution of goodie bags/swag bags containing local merchandise to those vendors; placing similar vendors in different locations; increasing the amount of Christmas decorations and to raffle Christmas trees during the event; preventing vendors from

entering the festival area with their vehicles after the designated set-up time; possibly extending the festival to two days, Friday and Saturday; adding a snow pile for kids to play in; and have a Victorian or historical theme next year. The agreement between the Monticello/Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce and MainStreet Monticello concerning the food and arts/crafts vendors for the 2012 Watermelon Festival has been finalized. MainStreet has decided that it will not be undertaking the job of procuring the vendors for the event. The Old Jail House renovation and cleanup was completed

in December and the restoration grant has been resubmitted for January consideration. MainStreet will purchase a subscription to a grant database for Project Manager Ann Holt. Bobbie Golden was approved as a new board member to MainStreet Monticello Florida. MainStreet selected Wag the Dog Too as Outstanding Business Christmas Window Display and will recognize them with a Certificate Award. It was decided to move forward with the pursuit of a business directory Kiosk for downtown Monticello. Holt will represent MainStreet and speak to City Council at the January

meeting. Holt mentioned the possibility of a First Floridian's Academic Archaeological Conference this year at the Monticello Opera House. She has applied for a grant for this conference. It will include reserved (\$70/ticket) and free seats. She is also applying for a \$100,000 Rural Enterprise grant. The grant requires the participation of a bank; Farmers & Merchants Bank or Capital City Bank may be possible candidates for financial support. For more information about this meeting or to volunteer your time and efforts for Monticello, contact Margie Stern at mstern3409@aol.com

Cafes

continued from page 1

Opponents hold that the cafes are no more than gambling dens, as no one truly frequents the establishments to check their email or Facebook accounts or conduct online research. Proponents counter that sweepstakes and game promotions are legal under Florida law and say these activities are not the cafes' mainstay; rather, the Internet time is the draw, and the prizes are bonuses that people get for buying the time, they said.

Marching Band

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"It will take at least \$2,967 to move the band from Monticello to Savannah," Jennings said. "This includes the overnight stay, dinner and the bus fare." He said each parade participant would receive a gift at the end of the 3.2-mile long course. Dating from 1813 — 80 years after General James Oglethorpe founded the city — the parade today is the second largest in the United States. The event typically lasts about three hours and features more than 350 units, including several military divisions, numerous award-winning bands, and the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales. Two weeks of religious and cultural celebrations normally precede the parade. These traditional events include the investiture of the grand marshal, the greening of the fountain in Forsyth Park, the Celtic Cross Mass and Ceremony, and the Sergeant William Jasper Green Ceremony.

Jennings said the effort to raise the necessary funds for the band's trip and stay in Savannah was starting right away, with March 1 set as the deadline for the collection of all the fees. Any questions about the group or donations may be addressed to Jennings by calling (850) 459-3490 or emailing derrick.jennings36@yahoo.com. Made up of youths ages 10 and up, the Jefferson County Community Marching Band has been in existence a little more than a year. The idea for formation of the group came to Jennings when he noticed that many musically talented kids were choosing to forego participation in the school band program. "Basically, they wanted to do things other than perform at football games," Jennings said. It occurred to him that if could engage the kids in music, the activity could serve as a source of community entertainment and also give the kids direction and keep them out of

trouble, he said. Today, the group numbers more than 50 youths, including a dance squad that performs to the band's music. Thus far, Jennings — a Monticello city employee — has been funding the effort on his own and directing the kids during his spare time on evenings and weekends. The group rehearses regularly at the Martin Luther King Center and the Clifford Brown Park on the south side of town. On a related note, Joy and Bill Hopkins — recognizing that the band is in short supply of instruments — recently donated a bass baritone, baritone horn and trumpet to the group. Aside from wanting the kids to benefit musically from donation, as well as not having the instruments simply collecting dust in their attic, the Hopkins wanted to issue a challenge to the community to donate instruments or money to help the kids realize their potential. That challenge still stands.

School Board

continued from page 1A

14. It was the two's argument at the time that all the board had were accusations and the supervisor's word, but no bona-fide proof to go on. "It was all hearsay," Washington said Monday evening. "That was my reason for not voting for the termination. This is somebody's livelihood that we're talking about." Saunders agreed. "It's not that we don't care about the children; we do," Saunders said. "But if we don't know, we just don't know. And we don't know. On the other hand, I have proof of other things that go on, and nothing happens. So what do we do? We care, but you've got to know. It can't just be speculation." School Board Members Ed Vollertsen and Charles Boland, who voted against the reinstatement,

argued that it was irresponsible to bring back the employee, given the seriousness of the charge. They asked: If the supervisor's word couldn't be believed, whose word could be believed? It undermined the supervisor when his recommendation was ignored, Boland said. "We're taking away his authority when we bypass his recommendation," he said. But Brumfield allowed at one point that the supervisor had not properly documented the alleged incident. Sheriff's Deputy and Resource Officer O. J. Sloan effectively summarized the situation. "It all boils down to a lack of procedures and documentation," Sloan said, speaking as the parent of Jefferson County

Middle High School student. "If you don't document and show what leads up to the incident, you have nothing. We dropped the ball, that's the bottom line. Until we develop procedures, we'll be back here again. So let's just eat it up and move forward." Dr. Melvin Roberts, the district's human resources officer, allowed that the procedures existed; the problem, he implied, was that the procedures hadn't been followed. School Board Chairwoman Marianne Arbulo nonetheless called for a workshop to review the procedures and create appropriate ones if necessary. Until procedures were established and followed, the district would continue to experience problems, she said. The School Board ter-

minated the bus driver's employment on Nov. 14, based on the recommendation of Brumfield and Transportation and Facilities Supervisor Freddie Hightower. Per Hightower's testimony at the Nov. 14 meeting, the store attendant who had allegedly sold the employee the beer had expressed a willingness to testify as to the truthfulness of the allegation that the driver had twice purchased beer and carried it onboard a school bus. Hightower also offered that the bus's camera had videotaped the driver climbing aboard the vehicle and depositing a bagged item behind the driver's seat, although the contents of the bag could not be determined. The bus driver contested the charges, saying he knew better than to bring alcohol on a school bus, as it would jeopardize his commercial driver's license. His parting words to the School Board at the Nov. 14 meeting, upon the board's vote to terminate his employment, were that he "would be getting a lawyer."



Central Church of Christ
US 19 South at Cooper's Pond Road
997-1166
Carl Desmartin, Minister
Sunday:
10 AM Bible School
11 AM Worship Hour
Wednesday:
7 PM Bible Study

Isaiah 53:1-2
Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? (2) For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

Come and worship with us! (John 4:24)

Workforce

continued from page 1A

"The Legislature will not get unbiased opinions from the field if local leaders fear reprisals because the Governor was not 'pleased' with what was said," Rehberg said. Moreover, she said, Congress had said that it wanted the system to be "locally controlled, nimble and flexible." "Those concepts mean that there must be room for local decision making," Rehberg said. "Local decision making means that occasionally, decisions will be made that are not those that you and I might make. That flexibility, however, must be there." She said the FWDA rejected the argument that the legislation was important to the main issue facing the state, which was job growth. "The local boards have nothing to do with generating employment," Rehberg said. "In fact, we are prohibited by law from engaging in employment generating activities. While accountability is important, it is not part of a job growth agenda. Things like international trade, expanding our seaports, access to capital, governance predictability and a comprehensive energy policy are important job growth issues. The local board train people and fill jobs created by the private sector." She noted that the US Chamber of Commerce had rated the North Florida Workforce as number one in the nation, and that the latter used its federal dollars efficiently. "We have consistently met and exceeded the outcome related goals negotiated by the state with the federal government," Rehberg said. "There is no service delivery reason for a statewide

cap and it will interfere with the inclusionary decision making envisioned by the law." The resolution that commissioners adopted supports legislative actions that aim to strengthen the fiscal accountability of the state's workforce system, but it underscores its support for the roles and authorities of the chief local elected officials and regional workforce boards. The resolution urges the Legislature to recognize that under the current system of check and balances, North Florida's Workforce has been acknowledged to be one of the leading programs in the country and has been the recipient of numerous national awards for innovation and work accomplished. The resolution further notes that gubernatorial involvement in the selection of board officers and their removals, as well limiting the size of the boards and calling for state oversight of the budgets, would substitute state level control over local elected officials' control. In conclusion, the resolution supports actions that promote the transparency of financial transactions and encourage the integrity, efficacy and accountability of the workforce system, but urges that state governance not be substituted for local governance. Finally, the resolution support the retention of authority by local elected officials and regional workforces to select their boards' chairs and their chief executive officers, as well as to determine the size of the local boards, the removal of board members and the makeup of budget, "which authorities have allowed local regions to be effective and nimble in meeting the needs of our local economy."

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TAX SERVICE

A Refund Anticipation Loan (RAL) is a loan secured by your tax refund and is offered by Republic Bank & Trust Company to qualifying applicants, and is available to Assisted Refund (AR) customers. If approved for a RAL, a Finance Charge and Credit Investigation Fee will be deducted from the loan amount and customer will receive \$1,500 net proceeds. RAL proceeds are available within 24 hours of IRS acceptance. A Tax Refund Administration Fee and other fees may apply for the AR, and will be deducted from the customer's tax refund. Visit your tax preparer to learn about all filing and product options, including obtaining your refund without a loan and at no additional cost. Most offices are independently owned and operated.



GATEWAY CINEMA 7

**15023 Hwy. 19 South
Thomasville, Georgia
229-226-6060**

**MOVIE TIMES
ARE GOOD THRU**
Dates of
January 20 - January 26

Haywire (PG)
Friday-5:25-7:40-9:55
Saturday-1:25-3:05-5:25-7:40-9:55
Sunday-1:25-3:05-5:25-7:40
Mon-Thurs-7:40
NO PASSES

Joyful Noise (PG13)
Friday-4:10-7:00-9:50
Saturday-1:15-4:10-7:00-9:50
Sunday-1:15-4:10-7:00
Mon-Thurs-7:00
NO PASSES

Beauty & Beast (PG13)
Friday-7:30
Saturday-1:00-3:10-7:30
Sunday-1:00-3:10-7:30
NO PASSES

Beauty & Beast 3D (PG13)
Friday-5:30
Saturday-1:25-3:15
Sunday-1:25-3:15
Mon-Thurs-7:45
NO PASSES

Contraband (PG13)
Friday-4:05-7:15-9:45
Saturday-1:10-4:05-7:15-9:45
Sunday-1:10-4:05-7:15
Mon-Thurs-7:15
NO PASSES

Underworld: Awakening (R)
Friday-5:20-9:40
Saturday-5:20-9:40
Sunday-5:20
Mon-Thurs-7:30
NO PASSES

Underworld: Awakening 3D (R)
Friday-7:45-10:05
Saturday-5:30-7:45-10:05
Sunday-5:30-7:45
NO PASSES

Devil Inside (PG13)
Friday-5:40-7:50-10:00
Saturday-1:20-3:30-5:40-7:50-10:00
Sunday-1:20-3:30-5:40-7:50
Mon-Thurs-7:50

Red Tails (PG)
Friday-4:20-7:05-9:50
Saturday-1:30-4:20-7:05-9:50
Sunday-1:30-4:20-7:05
Mon-Thurs-7:05
NO PASSES



All new high back seats and even more renovations on the way!

Jefferson County Living

Remembering The "Good Ol' Days"

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Many times the older people in different communities throughout the country will reminisce about the days gone by and what life was like back in the "good ol' days." County resident John Finlayson, 84, recently reminisced about his earlier days of living in Monticello.

"I was born in a house on East Pearl Street, across from where the Woman's Club is today," said Finlayson. "Dr. Brinson came out to the house and delivered me. The lot the Woman's Club sits on used to be our ball field."

He added that his earliest memories of living in Monticello were in the early 1930's. "Roosevelt beat Hoover in the election. His theme song was Happy Days Are Here Again and every time you turned on the radio they were playing Happy Days Are Here Again," he said. "I was a child of the Great Depression, which was remarkable in itself. There were two main things. The first was people helped one another. Everybody was hard up and no one felt bad about it. The other thing, it was completely safe in the local area. Every one knew everybody else, so if you did something wrong, your mom and dad would get you."

"My best buddy was Tippy Shuman. It was so safe before we were old enough for school, we could walk anywhere in Monticello," he recalled.

"We would walk from East Pearl to West Washington Street out to the Dixie Hotel. It was across from where Dr. Sledge's house is today. The hotel was run by Ms. Moline and they were famous for their food," Finlayson said. "Bella was the cook at the hotel. Tippy and I would go around to the back door at the kitchen and Bella would give us anything in there that we wanted to eat."

"Ed Bailey was the town marshal and he rode a big gray horse," he said. "Tippy and I were shooting off some firecrackers at the Sinclair filling station, where the Brickhouse is now and the marshal got after us on the horse. We would climb a fence and he couldn't get over it so he had to go around then we would climb another fence. He knew who we were, but it scared us to have him coming after us on that big gray horse," said Finlayson.

"There were hardly any tractors on the farms. The definition of a farm was a man, a mule and 40 acres," Finlayson added. "There were numerous grocery, hardware, clothing and all sorts of local stores. Saturday was a real big day in town. The farmers would hitch their mules to the wagon and come to town. They parked the wagons on the block where El Rancho Grande is now," he recalled. "Tippy and I and the whole gang would hitch a ride into town on one of those mules and wagons. The streets were



John Finlayson

crowded with people. US-90, which was one of the few paved roads and there was a wagon road next to the paved road for the wagons to travel on.

"At the theater there was always a cowboy picture with a serial. In the serial they would go off a cliff every week and keep you in suspense until the next week when you would find out they jumped off before it went over. (That could be where the term "a cliff-hanger" came in.)

Friday nights, mom would parch a bunch of peanuts and put them in little bags. We would go out and compete with CA Fulford and Son. As soon as we all had a dime in our pockets, we would go to the picture show and would eat the rest of those peanuts. A soda water was a nickel.

"It was \$500 for a new Chevrolet automobile," he said. "We had two car dealers. AE Cooper ran the Chevrolet dealer on the southeast corner of the courthouse and Joe Pate owned the Ford dealer, which was where the First

Baptist Church fellowship hall is now.

"All doctors made house calls and all merchants knew their customers," he recalled. "Forest Brown, who ran Braswell's store, knew his customers. If you wanted to buy a gift, he knew their size. You would tell him who and he would know the size. Annie Arndt was the telephone operator. You would just pick up the phone and she would connect you. She also knew when people were not going to be home and where they were going to be and connect you there. She always knew where everyone was. I still remember our old phone number, it was 52R," he said. "If it was a business phone there was a 'B' behind the number and if it was a residential number, there was always an 'R' after the number."

"There was about a dozen of us boys that hung out and played together in the east end of town," said Finlayson. "My dad called us the East End Terrors because we used to get into a lot of mischief. There were no juvenile delinquents back then, just mischievous boys. We would go fishing at Tub Hole Branch off the country club and catch little fish out there. Sometimes we picked blackberries and sold them by the pint, door to door. We would ramble the woods looking for wild plums or any wild fruits we could find. We would raid the watermelon patches and the commercially grown Tsatsuma orange fields. We ate

those. That was the best oranges there were. They were shipped by the box-car loads from here, both the Tsatsumas and watermelons were big crops here. In the later part of the 1930's, we had some real bad freezing years and it killed all the Tsatsumas pretty much," he recalled.

"There was a spur line from Drifton to the depot at the corner of Pearl and Railroad streets, where the NAPA is now. They ran the freight train to the depot and Monticello Milling every day. The train was called the Dummy," he said. "Ustus Blair was the freight agent and he later became the Clerk of Courts. The agent would sometimes let us ride the train and blow the whistle for us."

"In 1935 my daddy got a job at the Extension Office and we moved to Pensacola. I lived there from the third grade on," he recalled. "I joined the Navy July 21, 1945 because I wanted to go whip up on the Japanese. Three weeks later, they quit. It wasn't the bomb that made them quit, they heard I was coming for them," he added.

"Daddy discovered Pensacola Bahia grass and we planted some on our farm here," said Finlayson. "When I was old enough, in the summer I would come back here by train to work the farm. I stayed on the farm with the Boyd family. I finished my agricultural training at the University of Florida and came back to the farm in 1950 and went into partnership with my dad."

"I noticed that the definition of farm had changed drastically. There were a lot less mules and a lot more tractors," he added. "The historians got it all wrong. The people left to work somewhere else and they were replaced by tractors. The tractors didn't run the people off. There were a lot more automobiles. People went further from home so they could be anonymous. When someone is anonymous they do things they wouldn't do when they are known, so the safety decreased and the danger increased."

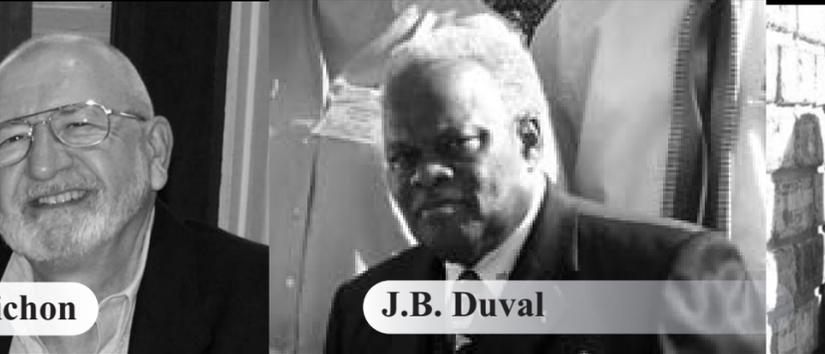
"The REA (Rural Electrical Administration) brought electricity, running water and indoor plumbing to the farm," said Finlayson. "They had started paving rural roads in the 1960's and also got rural telephone service. Entertainment in the 1930's was the picture show, and Amos and Andy, Lum and Abner and Ma Perkins, which was the first soap opera ever and they were sponsored by Oxydol, were on the radio. In the 1950's we had Pug's Drive-In on the Ashville Highway. A few people got televisions and the only station was out of Jacksonville so the picture always had a lot of snow in it. Nowadays, we have satellite, HDTV, not to mention, computers and smart phones. It's been really interesting to watch the change," Finlayson concluded.

It's no wonder why people like to sit and remember the "Good Ol' Days!"

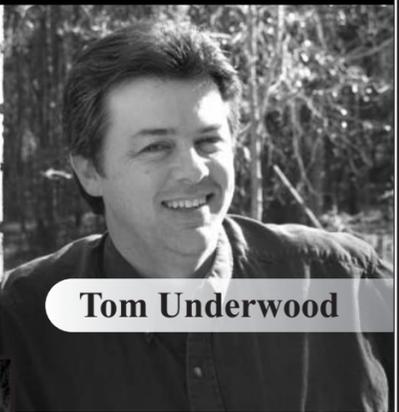
Brynwood provides Short Term Rehabilitation Services, Respite, Long-Term and Hospice and is privileged to have local pastors minister to spiritual needs.



Pat and Ron Cichon



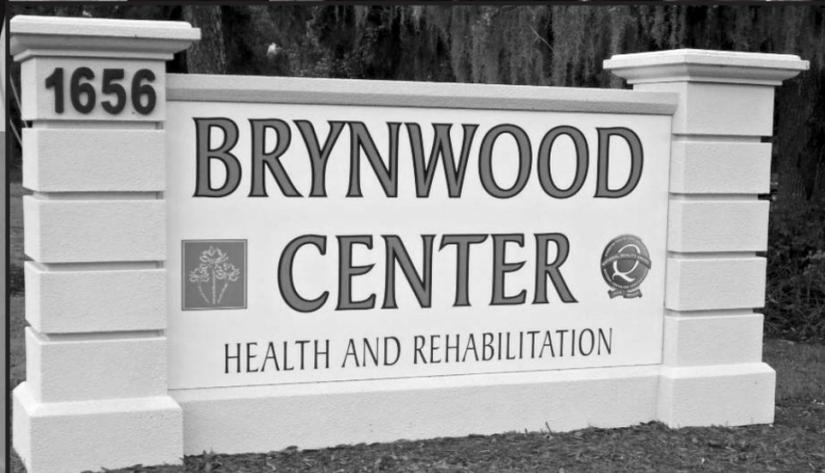
J.B. Duval



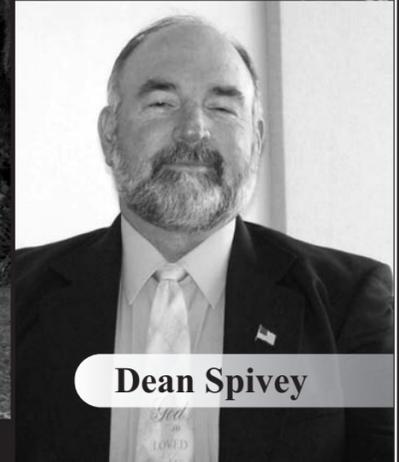
Tom Underwood



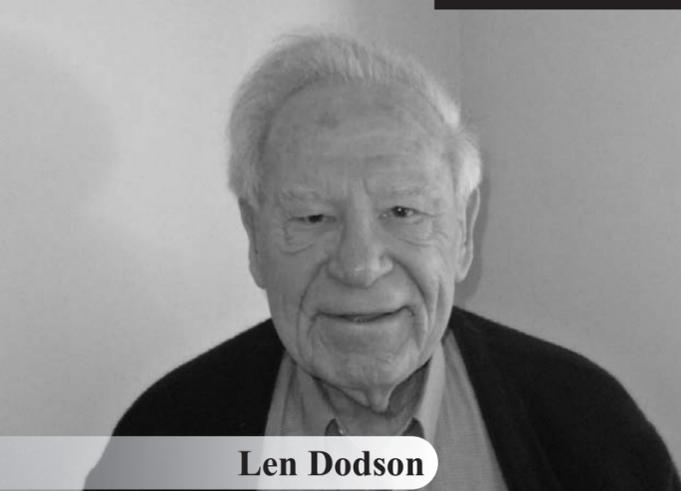
Barbara Frazier



1656 SOUTH JEFFERSON STREET
MONTICELLO, FL 32344
(850) 997-1800



Dean Spivey



Len Dodson



John Dodson



John Jones

Brynwood Center - over 116 dedicated and compassionate employees, contributing to quality care delivered in Monticello. For short-term rehabilitation to long-term skilled nursing care, we are a community of caring.

Jefferson County Living

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY 20
Town Hall Meeting to which the public is invited and encouraged to attend regarding the closing of the Jefferson Correctional Institute. The Teamsters Union along with other local and state officials will

be present. The meeting will be held on Friday at 4 p.m. at the Greater Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, located at 690 Cypress Street, in Monticello. Rev. Dr. Melvin Roberts, pastor. For more information about this meeting,

contact Barry Graham at graham1021@embarq-mail.com

JANUARY 20
Monticello Jamboree begins at 7 p.m. every Friday evening at 625 South Water Street, just three blocks north of the American Legion Otto Walker Post 49. For questions or concerns contact Curtis Morgan at 850-933-8136 or Bobby Connell at 850-445-0049. There are doorprizes, cold soft drinks and snacks.

JANUARY 21
Learn how to build a greenhouse using reclaimed materials for under \$100 on Saturday at the Golden Acres Ranch. Bobbie Golden and the Camellia Garden Circle will sponsor the program for community residents. Instructor for this workshop will be a professor from FAMU. Such things as old doors and windows will be used. There will be no charge and Bobbie will provide the materials to build a greenhouse on her property. To participate in this workshop, contact her at 850-997-6599.

JANUARY 21
Road CRU Car Club meets at 5 p.m. every third Saturday on North Cherry Street in front of the Rare Door restaurant. There is a 50/50 drawing and lots of door prizes. Everyone is welcome to join the activities and see some awesome cars. Contact Ray Foskey at 850-997-0607 for more information.

JANUARY 21
Dixie Community Center in historical Dixie, GA is open on the first and third Saturday nights for an evening of music and dancing with live local bands.

Free line dance classes begin at 5:30 p.m. with the fun to follow at 7 p.m. For more information contact Kenneth Price at 1-229-263-7231.

JANUARY 21
Backyard Farm is hosting a 'meet-up' with a potluck lunch on Saturday, from 1 to 4 p.m., at 1276 Cherry Tree Road, in Jefferson County. The event is free to the public and open to all. Go to www.farmerpam.com for directions and more information. No registration is required. Bring your favorite covered dish item to share and your own drinks.

JANUARY 21
Panhandle Area Council of the American Business Women's Association quarterly meeting, hosted by the Silver Dome Chapter. Beginning at 12 p.m. with a buffet luncheon followed by a full agenda of informative topics. Highlights of the meeting will include networking, door prizes and a silent auction. Everyone in attendance will receive a goodie bag of items from area businesses. For more information and directions to the event contact Von Holmes at 850-893-2771 or vonholmes47@yahoo.com or Doris Maloy at 850-656-7456 or maloy87@comcast.net. The meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn at 3333 Thomasville Road. There will be NO Silver Dome Chapter business meeting this month.

JANUARY 21-23
Quilt and Fiber Arts Exhibition at the Jefferson Arts. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on

Wednesdays and Saturdays, or by appointment, and is located at 575 West Washington Street, in downtown Monticello. Call 850-997-3311 for more information. There is no charge and the gift shop will be open.

JANUARY 23
Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Group is held 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month at First United Methodist Church in the Family Ministry Center on West Walnut Street in Monticello. A light lunch will be served. This is a free monthly program. Call the Alzheimer's Project at 850-386-2778 for more information or 850-997-5545 for directions.

JANUARY 23
Zumba Party fundraiser sponsored by Altrusa Monticello 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday at the American Legion Otto Walker Post 49 on South Water Street in Monticello. Ticket cost is \$10; sold in advance or at the door. This fundraising event is to stock the local food banks with nonperishable food items. Partygoers are encouraged to also bring canned goods to the party. For more information about this exciting event contact Pat Cichon at 850-997-7441 or Jan Williams at 850-728-1867.

JANUARY 23
Al-Anon meetings are held at 8 p.m. every Monday at the Anglican Church, 124 Jefferson Avenue in Thomasville, GA. For information go to www.al-anon.ala.teen.org

JANUARY 23
AA women's meetings are held on Mondays at 6:45 p.m.; AA meetings follow at 8 p.m., at the Christ Episcopal Church Annex, 425 North Cherry Street. For more information, call 850-997-2129 or 850-997-1955.

JANUARY 23
MainStreet Speaker Series will present Tonya McClure. She is a housing administrator for the Tallahassee Lenders' Consortium. She will explain the new "Down Payment Assistance" program available to help low-income families in Monticello and Jefferson County. Her goal this evening is to help the buyer to realize their dream of home ownership. MainStreet Speaker Series is a monthly program held on the third Monday Program Manager Anne Haw Holt chooses the program presenters and topics for the informational value to the residents of Jefferson County. She may be contacted at 850-997-5110 or ahholt@ahholt.com for information on upcoming programs or if you are interested in a specific topic. MainStreet Speaker Series will begin at 6:30 p.m., it is free and is held at the Wirick-Simmons House on North Jefferson Street in downtown Monticello. The public is invited to attend and encouraged to ask questions. For information about MainStreet Monticello Florida meetings and events call 850-445-1390 or go to www.mainstreetofmonticello.org

Obituaries

MAXINE BLACK

Maxine M. Black, age 70, passed away on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 in Cairo, GA.

She was a native of Ohio. She lived in Georgia for the last 25-years. She was a member of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary and an activist for the American Cancer Society Relay For Life.

A visitation/viewing will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at the Whiddon-Shiver Funeral Home in Thomasville, GA. (1-229-229-5621)

Maxine is survived by her daughter Charlotte (Martin) Scheese, of Monticello; her daughter Amy (Virgil) Castleberry, of Cairo; her son Eric Black, of Cairo; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Her husband Raymond Eugene Black preceded her in death.

HAROLD LAMAR DAVIS

Harold Lamar Davis, age 71, a delivery manager at Lowe's, passed away on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, in Tallahassee, FL.

A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 20, 2012, at the Roseland Cemetery on East Madison Street, in Monticello, FL.

The family will receive friends on Thursday evening, January 19, 2012 at Beggs Funeral Home Monticello Chapel (850-997-5612,) 485 East Dogwood Street in Monticello (beggschmonticello@embarq-mail.com)

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 241 John Knox Road, Suite #100, Tallahassee.

Harold was a native of Monticello and was living in Tallahassee. He had also lived in Little Rock, AR., Birmingham, AL., Jacksonville, FL. and Tampa, FL. He loved sailing, reading, painting and building furniture. He was of Catholic faith and a member of the Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas Moore in Tallahassee.

Harold is survived by his wife Elizabeth Ann Davis of Tallahassee; two sons William Andrew Davis of Tallahassee and James Edward (Allie) Davis of Tampa; one brother Clarence Edward (June) Davis of Havana, FL; two sisters Joan D. (Birney) Lynn and Jhan D. (Jim) Reichert of Monticello; and one grandson Andrew Dalton Davis.

Willie M. Odom Murray

Willie Mae Odom Houston Murray, 64, of Monticello went to be with the Lord on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012. Services will be 11 a.m. Sat. at Memorial Missionary Baptist Church with burial in Springfield Cemetery, Lloyd. Viewing is Fri. 2-7 p.m., with Eastern Star rites at 7 p.m. at TILLMAN OF MONTICELLO 850-997-5553. Born in Madison, Mrs. Murray was a lifelong Monticello resident, graduating in Howard Academy's Class of 1966. A retired nursing assistant, she was a member of Welaunee M.B. Church, C.H. Henry Chapter 20, Order of Eastern Star and Solomon Court No. 86, Heroines of Jericho.



Cherishing precious memories are her: daughters, Anjanette (Ronald) Fletcher, Altheria Johnson and Lena Odom; grandchildren, Brittany Farris, Deshara and Dezondria Broxie; great-grandchild, Joseph Ballard, Jr.; brothers, John (Martha) Odom and Jack Odom; sisters, Jennie Mae (Joe) Simmons, Savannah (Earnest) Bellamy, Fannie O. Ricardo, Lilly Odom and Isabella Odom; along with a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Mrs. Murray was predeceased by her parents, Willie and Ossie Belle Douglas Odom; and sister, Josephine O. Jones.



AUTOMATIC RENEWAL FOR AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATIONS

A reminder from Angela Gray, Property Appraiser

Owners who have not had any recorded changes in ownership this past year will have their Agricultural Classifications automatically renewed. No action is necessary by owners.

Properties are reviewed on a minimum 5-year cycle. If you are no longer using the lands for bona fide Agricultural purposes, you are required to notify the Property Appraiser to have the classification removed.

BEWARE: It is unlawful to give false information for the purpose of continuing to receive Agricultural Classification of Lands.

For further information call the Jefferson County Property Appraiser's Office 997-3356 or visit jeffersonpa.net.

In Loving Memory

SILAS "SC" JORDAN
September 9, 1924 - January 15, 2002

Daddy your time was not measured by the years that you lived ~ but by the deeds that you did ~ and the joy that you gave ~ and each day as it came it brought a chance to love to the fullest ~ leaving nothing undone that would brighten the life or lighten the load of some weary traveler lost on life's road ~ so what does it matter how long you may have lived ~ if you lived it unselfishly giving.

Miss you, but will see you one day, your wife Willie B. Jordan and family, Joann Edwards, Mary Miller, Florette Jones, Blondie Bennett, Silas Jorda Jr, Sandra J. Miller, Lora Ann Downey and Lawanda Bell



Main Street Monticello Speaker Series Presents

Tonya McClure

At the Wirick-Simmons House #1 Pearl Street, Monticello, FL
Monday - January 23, 2012, 6:30 PM

Refreshments provided----Everyone is invited

Ms. McClure is a Housing Administrator at Tallahassee Lenders' Consortium (TLC). She will explain a new "Down Payment Assistance" program that can help low-income families in Monticello and Jefferson County realize their dream of home ownership.

For more information: Anne H. Holt Main Street Monticello Florida HYPERLINK mailto:Ahholt@ahholt.com Ahholt@ahholt.com 850-576-0721

2011 Big Bend Hospice
Tree of Remembrance

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR HOST SITES

Farmers & Merchants Bank, Capital City Bank, Carrie Ann & Co. Catering, Rosemary Tree

The following people have been remembered or honored at the Trees of Remembrance in Jefferson County.

| Making the Gift | In memory / honor of |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Charity S. Ackerman | Reba B. Schierhorst |
| Charity S. Ackerman | Edwin C. Schierhorst |
| Edith Adams | Danko |
| Edith Adams | Paul |
| Bailar, Friedel & Dick | Mutti |
| Bailar, Friedel & Dick | Fritz |
| B. Bard | Jim Bard |
| Lottie Berry | Bill Berry |
| Jerry and Henry Etta Boatwright | Lottie Aman |
| Jerry and Henry Etta Boatwright | Maggie Boatwright |
| Nancy H. Bono | Mary Ruth "Poppy" Revell |
| Polly C. Brown | Forrest Brown |
| Hazel M. Bruce | Charles J. Bruce, Jr. |
| Frances Chain | Richie and Mark |
| Barbara Culbreath | Jeanne Tapley |
| Barbara Culbreath | Betty Crowder |
| Barbara Culbreath | Thelma Council |
| Barbara Culbreath | John C. Council |
| Barbara Culbreath | Daphne Culbreath |
| Barbara Culbreath | Hugh Culbreath |
| Daniel | Judy Kennedy Peel |
| Daniel | Iris Lee |
| Rowena Daniel | Melvin Daniel |
| Stephen Demott | Catherine Fraser |
| Sandra Gavins | George W. Miller |
| Harold D. Given | Mary Ellen Given |
| Jewell L. Hagan | Bill Hagan |
| Marceline Hamilton | Buddy Charon |
| Marceline Hamilton | Bruce Wagner |
| Marceline Hamilton | Cynthia Wagner |
| Betty Hill Russell | S. Hill |
| David and Brenda Hobbs | Roy Gray |
| David and Brenda Hobbs | Amos Hobbs |
| David and Brenda Hobbs | Jimmy Gray |
| Gerald and Virginia Hodges | Harvey Hodges |
| Gerald and Virginia Hodges | Pauline Hodges |
| Gerald and Virginia Hodges | Emice O. Hamilton |
| Gerald and Virginia Hodges | Royce Hamilton |
| Sandy Hosford | Nancy Hosford |
| Ray Hughes Family | Mary Hughes |
| Mel and Erma Huls | Jessica |
| Mel and Erma Huls | Corey |
| Mel and Erma Huls | Zoe |
| John Hryncin | Cheryl Hryncin |
| Dorothy P. Lewis | Paul R. Lewis |
| Dorothy P. Lewis | Mark E. Lewis |
| Mary McCullion | Thomas A. McCullion, Jr. |
| Eleanor and Jack McCutcheon | Evelynn Canning |
| Eleanor and Jack McCutcheon | James Canning |
| Eleanor and Jack McCutcheon | Bill Murphy |
| Eleanor and Jack McCutcheon | Peg Murphy |
| Jeanie B. Metzger | Ernie Brinkley |
| Jeanie B. Metzger | Mable Brinkley |
| Pat Powell | Joe Carico |
| Pat Powell | Helen Carico Morton |
| Elise A. Principato | Charles H. Frick |
| Barbara Sheats | Angela Hastings |
| Barbara Sheats | Jaque Langsford |
| Barbara Sheats | Ruth Bray |
| Aimee Brewer-Smith | Jerome Smith |
| Sally and Brenda Thompson | Edgar Thompson |
| Walt Wager | Susan V. Wager |
| Susan Ward | Violet Dornier |
| Susan Ward | Vern Dornier |
| Susan Ward | Carole Roberts |
| L. Gary Wright | Concetta Valentini |
| L. Gary Wright | Bert R. Wright |

Big Bend Hospice
206 N Mulberry Street | Monticello, Florida 32344
850-997-2827 | 800.772.5862 | www.bigbendhospice.org

Jefferson County Living

COMMUNITY AGENCIES WORKING FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY

The next meeting of the Jefferson County Community Coalition will be held on Tuesday, January 31 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Jefferson County RJ Bailar Public Library in Monticello, the Community Meeting Room. Call the library at 850-342-0205 or 850-253-5400 if further directions are needed.

Agenda items will include agency sharing, a Whole Child Technical Forum and a program on the upcoming 'Healthy Smart Day' event presented by guest speaker Catie McRae/FDLRS.

Those in attendance to represent their agencies at the November 29, 2011 meeting of the JCCC meeting were Tonya Bell, Deveda Bellamy, Michael Curtis, Donna Hagan, Travis Hart, Edna Henry, Cindy Hutto, Antonio Johnson, Annie Jo Martin, Chastity McCarthy, Monticello Police Chief Fred Mosley, Kevin Ogden, Sandy Porras-Gutierrez, Isabel Rush, Cheron Thornton, Craig Wilson and Jason Zauder.

Agencies represented at the November meeting were the Jefferson County Health Department, Leon County Health Department, Healthy Start Coalition, Jefferson County Schools, Whole Child Tri-County, Department of Children and Families/ACCESS, 2-1-1 Big Bend, Monticello Police Department, Department of Health/Tobacco Prevention, American Cancer Society, Senator Charles Dean's Office, Leon County Court Administration and Ability 1st.

Should you have any questions concerning this or any other shared services meetings of the JCCC, contact Cindy Hutto at cjhutto@healthystartjmt.org or call her at 850-948-2741.

Chamber Business Expo Saturday

The Chamber Business Expo 2012 will open to the public at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 21 at the Monticello Opera House; in the courtyard and in the banquet hall until 3 p.m. This Expo will give area companies an opportunity to meet and greet the public; share information; demonstrate product and promote business. Attendees will learn more about products and services each business provides. There will also be some great door-prizes, coupons and discounts.

This year's Expo features businesses from Quitman, GA., Thomasville, GA., Tallahassee, FL., Lloyd, FL., and Monticello, FL. business owners and entrepreneurs.

The Chamber Business Expo 2012 offers a

terrific line-up of exhibitors including Capital City Bank, COSTCO, Workforce, Covenant Hospice, County Health Department, Jefferson Arts, MadCo, Layer Upon Layer, Monticello Pizza Kitchen, Carrie Ann & Co, Johnston's Meat Market, Brynwood Center, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Whole Child Healthy Start, Monticello Health & Fitness, Express Computer, Aairus Audio & DJ Entertainment, Tourist Development Council, Beltone Hearing Care, Brenda Sorenson, EA, PS Art, Big Bend Hospice, NFCC, County Humane Society, Monticello News, MyLiteracy.com, Griner Chevrolet, Team Ford, Mark Wright - photographer, Jamie's Fit-Works, Kathryn McCord, Neal Barnhart - face

painting and caricature sketches, Tallahassee Auto Club, the Buddy Guy from Buddy's Home Furnishings and several more.

Contact Chamber Director Melanie Mays at 850-997-5552 or go online at info@monticellojeffersonfl.com for more information. Admission tickets and Chance Drawing tickets are available now for pick up at the Chamber. Tickets are \$3 in advance, \$5 at the door and children under 12 are FREE! The public will receive five Chance Drawing tickets with each paid admission ticket. Extra Chance Drawing tickets may be purchased for \$1 each or six tickets for \$5. This is a great way to support the Business Expo and the Chamber of Commerce, even if

you aren't able to attend or have your own booth. "Our events are only as good as those who support them," says Mays.

The Chamber meets on the first Tuesday of each month at noon.



Arbor Day Celebration

Join with other local residents for a Florida Arbor Day Celebration beginning at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 20 at the Oakfield Cemetery on the Waukeelah Highway.

Members of the Monticello Garden Club will plant three commemorative Dogwood trees in honor of recently lost loved ones.

Celebrating Arbor Day is one of the requirements for Monticello to maintain its status as a Tree City USA participant, which it has done for 23-years in a row.

Come join in celebrating Florida Arbor Day in Monticello and in Jefferson County.

Lions Serve Pancakes And Sausage Saturday

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Jefferson County Lions Club will be serving pancakes and sausage on Saturday, January 21 at the Monticello Pizza Kitchen, on East Dogwood Street.

The breakfast will be held from 8 to 10 a.m. and each \$5 ticket donation will include the



chance to win a door-prize.

Breakfast will also include orange juice or coffee and will be served by a smiling Lions Club member.

All the funds raised from this event will go towards eyeglasses for a local resident. Bring your old eyeglasses to

donate and receive another chance to win a doorprize.

For more information about this event, or about how you can get involved with the local Lions Club, contact Lion Jessie Carpenter at 850-656-8615 or 850-264-1336.

What Do Lions Do? They Serve!

MainStreet Speaker Series

The Main Street Monticello, Florida Speaker Series will present Tonya McClure at the Wirick-Simmons House, 1 Pearl Street, on Monday, January 23, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided and the community is invited to attend.

McClure is a housing administrator for the Tallahassee Lenders' Consortium. She will explain the new "Down Payment Assistance" program available to help low-income families in Monticello and Jefferson County. Her goal this evening is to help the buyer to realize their dream of home ownership.

For more information about this and other events offered by Monticello MainStreet, contact Project Manager Anne H. Holt at ahholt@ahholt.com or 850-576-0721.

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Rev. Cassandra Brockman, Pastor
850-997-3308

Women's Conference
Saturday, January 21, 2012
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Theme: Stepping Up – Women of Destiny

Our mission is to encourage every woman to become a woman that God can use in her home, church, workplace and community in a way that would bring glory to God. Guest speaker will be Pastor William Alexander of Tallahassee, FL. Pastor Alexander is a highly respected and powerful teacher of the Word of God. He is also the author of Brosis – The God-kind of Food. For additional information, please contact Rev. Cassandra Brockman @ 850-997-3308 or email friendshipvalley@yahoo.com.

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Sports

LADY WARRIORS TAKE TWO OF THREE

FRAN HUNT

ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy Lady Warriors took victories in two of the past three games to now stand 7-9 on the season.

The game against Jefferson County on January 3 was cancelled.

The Lady Warriors faced off against Franklin January 5 and the Lady Warriors downed their opponent for a 34-23 win.

Ashli Cline bucketed for nine points, stayed on the board to snag 22 rebounds and she had one steal.

Sunnie Sorensen targeted for 13 points and had five rebounds.

Pamela Watt netted for four points, had three rebounds and two steals.

Brooke Kinsley netted for three points and had one steal.

Vicki Perry bucketed for five points, had five rebounds and one steal.

Alexis Burkett had three rebounds.

Aucilla faced off against Munroe January 6 and the Lady Warriors came out with a 33-24 victory.

Cline targeted for 15 points, had 12 rebounds for a double-double and two steals.

Kinsley netted for two points and had six rebounds.

Perry bucketed for 11 points, snagged six rebounds and two steals.

Watt scored five points, four re-

bounds, three assists and five steals.

Sorensen had eight rebounds.

Shelby Witmer had three rebounds and one steal.

Burkett had three rebounds.

The Lady Warriors hit the hardwood against Chiles and Aucilla was slammed for a 63-39 loss.

Sorensen bucketed for nine points and had seven rebounds.

Cline targeted for nine points, had seven rebounds and one steal.

Witmer scored two points, with three rebounds and one steal.

Kinsley netted for four points and had six rebounds.

Perry scored one point and had three rebounds and one steal.

Watt targeted for 14 points, had three rebounds, three assists and six steals.

Burkett had two rebounds.

Lauren Demott had two rebounds.

The Lady Warriors return to the court and square off against John Paul II, January 19, home; Munroe, 6 p.m., January 20, away; St. Francis, 5:30 p.m., January 24, home; Wakulla, 6 p.m., January 26, away; and wrapping up the regular season, Providence, 10:30 a.m., January 28, home.

The District Semi-finals will be held, 5 p.m. or 7 p.m., January 31, location to be determined; and the District Championship will be held 7 p.m., February 3, location to be determined.

Tallavana Skims Warriors By Four

FRAN HUNT

ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

When the Aucilla Christian Academy varsity warriors hit the hardwood and faced off against Tallavana January 9, Tallavana skimmed the Warriors by four points for a 45-41 victory.

As a team, the Warriors netted 12 of 41 attempts from the field, hit three of 10 attempts from the three-point zone and bucketed eight of 16 attempts from the free-throw line for 41 points. They had seven assists, nine offensive and 25 defensive rebounds for a total of 34 rebounds, with 10 block/steals and 26 turnovers.

Individually, Tyler Jackson missed two attempts from the field, missed one shot from the three-point zone and hit one of three attempts from the free-throw line for one point. He had one offensive and one defensive rebound for a total

of two rebounds, with two block/steals and three turnovers.

Jared Jackson netted two of seven attempts from the field for four points. He had two offensive and nine defensive rebounds for a total of 11 rebounds, with one block/steal and one turnover.

Bradley Holm bucketed one of two attempts from the field and missed one attempt from the free-throw line for two points. He had one offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of three rebounds and one turnover.

Hans Sorensen netted two of six attempts from the field, hit two of four attempts from the three-point zone and targeted four of five attempts from the free-throw line for 14 points. He had three assists, two offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of four rebounds, with three block/steals and eight

turnovers.

Cody Ledford missed one attempt from the field and had one defensive rebound.

Jay Finlayson netted two of seven attempts from the field and hit one for four attempts from the three-point zone for seven points. He had one assist, one defensive rebound, one block/steal and seven turnovers.

Corey Burrus bucketed three of seven attempts from the field and missed one attempt from the three-point zone for six points. He had two assists, six defensive rebounds and two turnovers.

Josh Funderburke netted two of nine attempts from the field and three of seven attempts from the free-throw line for seven points. He had one assist, three offensive and three defensive rebounds for a total of six rebounds and two turnovers.

The Warriors hit the hardwood against John Paul II January 13 at 7:30 p.m., away; Highland, January 17 at 7:30 p.m., home; John Paul II, January 19 at 7:30 p.m., home; Munroe, January 20, 7:30 p.m., away; Tallavana Christian, January 30 at 6:30 p.m., home; and Branford, January 31, 6:30 p.m., away.

JV WARRIORS SCALP TALLAVANA

FRAN HUNT

ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy junior varsity Warriors scalped Tallavana, 48-18 on January 9 to now stand 5-3 on the season.

As a team the young Warriors bucketed 17 of 36 attempts from the field, hit four of 18 attempts from the three-point zone and netted two of two attempts from the free-throw line for 48 points. They collected 13 assists, 22 offensive and 31 defensive rebounds for a total of 53 rebounds, with 7 block/steals and 14 turnovers.

Individually, Brandon Holm hit one of one attempt from the field and missed four attempts from the three-point zone for two points. He had six assists, five offensive and six defensive rebounds for a total of 11 rebounds, with two block/steals and three turnovers.

Casey Demott bucketed three of six attempts from the field and hit two of two at-

tempts from the free-throw line for eight points. He had one assist, five offensive and seven defensive rebounds for a total of 12 rebounds, with one block/steal and four turnovers.

Carson Nennstiel targeted two of three attempts from the field for four points. He had one assist, two defensive rebounds and one block/steal.

Ricky Finlayson hit one of one attempt from the field and missed one attempt from the three-point zone for two points. He had two assists, two defensive rebounds, one block/steal and one turnover.

Braden Mattingly netted one of four attempts from the field and sunk three of five attempts from the three-point zone for 11 points. He had one assist, two offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of four rebounds, with one block/steal and one turnover.

Timmy Burrus targeted five of 10 attempts from the field and missed two at-

tempts from the three-point zone for 10 points. He had two assists, five offensive and four defensive rebounds for a total of nine rebounds, with one block/steal and two turnovers.

Austin Bentley sunk three of six attempts from the field for six points. He had five offensive and five defensive rebounds for a total of 10 rebounds, with three turnovers.

Bryce Sanderson hit one of five attempts from the three-point zone for three points and he had two defensive rebounds.

Tyler Zimmerly sunk one of five attempts from the field and missed one attempt from the three-point zone for two points and he had one defensive rebound.

The JV Warriors return to the hardwood against John Paul II, January 19 at 5 p.m., home; Munroe, January 20 at 5 p.m., away; Maclay, January 26 at 4 p.m., home; Tallavana Christian, January 30 at 5 p.m., home; and Branford, January 31 at 5 p.m., away.

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1/18, 20, c.

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10/22, rtn, c.

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Tri-County Electric Cooperative has an opening for a full-time Apprentice Lineman in our Madison Office. The candidate is required to have a minimum of three years experience in power line construction and maintenance. The candidate must also have a Class A. Commercial Drivers License and live no more than 30 miles from the Madison warehouse location at 2862 West US 90. The Cooperative offers competitive salary and benefits. Tri-County is an EOE and DFWP. Please send resume and completed Tri-County Employment Application Form, which is available at any TCEC office or online at www.tcec.com, before January 31, 2012 to:

Stephanie Carroll
Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
2862 West US 90
Madison, FL 32340
1/11-1/20/12, c.

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Legals

MEETING NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Tri-County Electric Cooperative scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2012 has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 7:00 p.m., in the board room at the cooperative's headquarters office building located at 2862 West US 90, Madison, Florida. 1/20, 25/2010, c.

Notice of Public Meeting

Engineering firm Preble-Rish will be hosting a meeting open to public input on the master park planning at the headwaters of the Wacissa River. The meeting will be held at the Wacissa Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Wacissa on Saturday, January 28 at 10 AM 1/20,25/2012, c.

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF: CASE NO.: 09-54-PR
 BURL J. ISOM DIVISION: Probate
 Deceased.

V.
 ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR BENEFICAIRES WHO MAY HAVE A RIGHT TO CLAIM ANY INTEREST OR CLAIM TITLE TO LOT 399.

PETITION FOR QUIET TITLE AS TO LOT 399 JEFFERSON COUNTY, FLORIDA. PARCEL NUMBER 10-2N-4E-0000-0050-0000

COMES NOW, the Personal Representative of the Estate, Marguree Isom, by and through her undersigned attorney and Petitions this Court to quiet title as to lot 399. As grounds for this Petition, the Personal Representative alleges as follows:

1. This is an action to quiet title to real property located in Jefferson County, Florida that exceeds \$15,000.00 in value.
2. Venue is properly in Jefferson County, Florida due to the property being located in Jefferson County, Florida.
3. The decedent, Burl J. Isom, passed away owning real property in Jefferson County, Florida formally described as:
 Section 10 Town 2N Range 4E Subd
 Blk Legals 5 Acres Lot 399
 Lot 39RO607700
 Parcel Number: 10-2N-4E-0000-0050-0000

As required by Fla. Statute §65.011

4. Burl J. Isom, deceased, has owned the aforesaid property since 1925. Burl J. Isom has held title to and paid taxes, raised his family on the property since approximately 1925. There appear to be no recorded deed in the public records of Jefferson County, Florida memorializing the decedent's interest.

5. No one has asserted an adverse right, estate, title, lien or interest in or to the property or any part thereof. The Isom family has been in open and continuous possession of the property since 1925.

6. In addition to Burl J. Isom raising his family on the aforesaid property. His son, James Isom, raised his family on the said property as well.

7. The Personal Representative, Marguree Isom is the granddaughter of Burl J. Isom via affidavit filed with the Probate Court stating that she has resided on the property with her father. (Attached here as Exhibit A). Only pursuant to a purported sale of the property, did she learn of the missing deed. The Court awarded even with the absence of a deed the property to Burl Isom Estate per Order dated March 23, 2011. (Attached here as Exhibit B). Nevertheless, two (2) title insurance companies would not underwrite title due to the none existence of a deed, either quitclaim or warranty deed, in the name of Burl J. Isom, notwithstanding this Court's corrective Order Deed as to Lot 399 dated March 23, 2011.

8. The Estate of Burl J. Isom has a colorable title to bring an action to quiet title (Barclay v. Robert C. Matt & Co., Inc., 985 So.2d53, 54 (Fla. 4th DCA 2008)) due to the Decedent's long term open, continuous, uninterrupted possession of the property for (25) twenty-five or more years.

9. Burl Isom and his decedents have paid property taxes when due over the past 25 years.

10. Thus, because Burl J. Isom, deceased, and his decedents have possessed property (Lot 399) manifest weight of the evidence is sufficient to show that he and his family have owned property (Lot 399) with a presumed right to sell or convey the property (Jones Boat Yard, inc. v. Jones, 728 So.2d 364, 365, (Fla. 3d DCA 1999)).

11. This Court can issue an order to quiet title to property of the estate of Burl J. Isom.

WHEREFORE, the Personal Representative requests that:

1. This honorable Court issue an order declaring that the Estate of Burl J. Isom and his decedents are entitled to exclusive possession and ownership of Lot 399 as described herein above.
2. This honorable Court issue an Order and declare that the Estate of Burl J. Isom is the owner of the property in fee simple, and is entitled to quiet and peaceful possession, the right to alienate, convey and sell Lot 399 as described herein above.
3. This honorable Court issue an order that permanently enjoins any and all persons from asserting an adverse claim to the Estate of Burl J. Isom's title to the property.

The above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Marguree Isom, Personal Representative
 The Estate of Burl J. Isom

Respectfully submitted,
 Kaydell Wright-Douglas, Esquire
 Kaydell Wright-Douglas, Esquire
 FBN: 139930
 The WrightBuilding
 110 North Armenia Avenue
 Suite A
 Tampa, FL 33609
 Telephone: (813) 254-4623
 Facsimile: (813) 251-5373
 Attorney for Personal Representative

1/20, 27/2012, c.

NOTICE

The JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD hereby notices that one or more School Board Members may be in attendance at a retirement reception for Gloria Heath, Title I Director, to be held at the District Offices at 575 S. Water Street, Monticello, Florida on Friday, January 27, 2012 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be no business conducted at this reception. 1/20/2012, c.

NOTICE OF EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL REPORT (EAR) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS AND THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENTS

Jefferson County Board of County Commission will hold a public hearing to adopt the Jefferson County proposed ERA based Comprehensive Plan Amendments on **February 2, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.**, or as soon thereafter as such matter may be heard, in the courtroom of the Jefferson County Courthouse Annex located at 435 West Walnut Street, Monticello, Florida. The meeting may be continued as necessary.

JEFFERSON COUNTY, FLORIDA BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-091511-01

AN ORDINANCE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; ADOPTING EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL REPORT AMENDMENTS TO THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR PURPOSE; AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TITLE PAGE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS; AMENDING CHAPTER 1: FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 2: TRAFFIC CIRCULATION ELEMENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 3: HOUSING ELEMENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 4: UTILITIES (SANITARY SEWER, SOLID WASTE, DRAINAGE, POTABLE WATER AND NATURAL GROUNDWATER AQUIFER RECHARGE) ELEMENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 5: CONSERVATION ELEMENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 6: COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 7: RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 8: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 9: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT; ADOPTING EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL REPORT BASED AMANEMDNTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR COPY ON FILE; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

From the Florida "Government in the Sunshine Manual", page 36, paragraph c: Each board, commission, or agency of this state or of any political subdivision thereof shall include in the notice of any meeting or hearing, if notice of meeting or hearing is required, of such board, commission, or agency, conspicuously on such notice, the advice that, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings, is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

1/20/2012, c.

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The Jefferson Journal Fish & Game Feeding Chart

How to use: the major and minor feeding times for each day are listed below. The major feeding times are the best for the sportsman and last about 2 hours, the minor feeding times can also have good success, but last only about 1 hour.

*The Week of January 20, 2012 through January 27, 2012
Major Feed Times are marked by an asterisk (*)*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Friday, January 20 2:30 AM *8:45 AM 2:55 PM *9:10 PM | Saturday, January 21 3:25 AM *9:40 AM 3:50 PM *10:10 PM | Sunday, January 22 4:20 AM *10:30 AM 4:40 PM *10:55 PM | Monday, January 23 5:10 AM *11:20 AM 5:30 PM *11:45 PM |
| Tuesday, January 24 6:00 AM *12:10 PM 6:20 PM | Wednesday, January 25 *12:40 AM 6:50 AM *1:00 PM 7:20 PM | Thursday, January 26 *1:30 AM 7:40 AM *1:50 PM 8:10 PM | Friday, January 27 *2:20 AM 8:30 AM *2:30 PM 8:50 PM |



LEGENDS OF THE CROW

By Jessica Basham

It's not a typical winter morning in Florida. Most of the state is 70 degrees and it's January! Everything outside is brown, bare and dull. The only noise is the rustling of leaves and the coo of morning doves. Then, loud and clear in the distance I hear the caw of a crow.

As the morning continues, other crows join and the lone call becomes chatter. Are they telling each other about a nearby predator or laughing about something funny? These all-jet-black birds (from beak to feet) are crafty, intelligent, social creatures that live in family groups.

Crows, ravens and other black-plumaged birds are often seen as dark, scary or mysterious. However, there are many positive legends about these clever birds that people don't know. In many Native American legends crows are messengers to the gods and carry prayers. Ravens, a species similar to the American crow but much larger in body and beak, are impor-

tant legends of the English Crown. They are as famous as the Tower of London. Legends say if the ravens ever leave the Tower, it and the monarchy will fall.

Despite the legends, good or bad, American crows are extremely social birds and congregate in flocks, sometimes by the hundreds. They say there is power in numbers, and this is true for these birds. Often when a predator such as an owl or hawk appears, crows will attack and harass the offending animal until it leaves the area.

Once at a local lake I witnessed these actions firsthand. The day was sunny and quiet when suddenly the loud, distinctive caw of crows interrupted the silence. It was borderline annoying, but then I saw the reason for their ranting. A beautiful Cooper's hawk glided through the air and into a nearby tree. The noise was almost deafening as the crows took on the hawk.

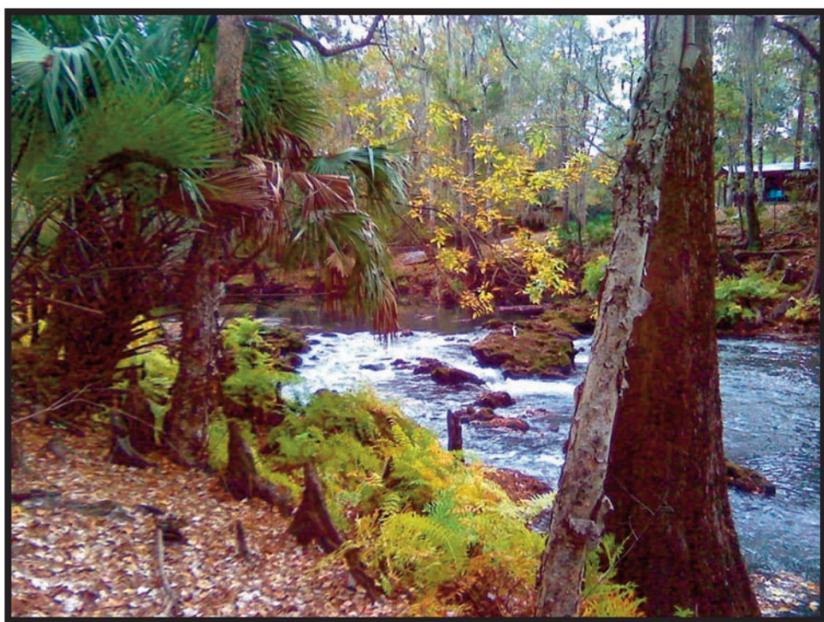
This often misrepresented bird is a good problem-solver and has been

known to make tools from twigs and other objects to forage for edible treats such as worms, grain, seeds, nuts and berries. Crows are omnivores and also enjoy small mammals, eggs, clams and mussels from oceans or lakes.

While crows are found in Florida year-round, the best places to see them is an open space that offers a few trees to perch in and a reliable source of food. This is almost anywhere: fields, parks, lakes, backyards and near bodies of water.

Learn more about American crows and other birds by downloading the free iPhone application "Nature Viewing Along the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail" (other platforms coming soon) or by visiting floridabirdingtrail.com. Click on "Birding Resources" in the left-hand menu to take part in the "Wings Over Florida" program and learn about the FWC's Junior Birder Program. You can also download a copy of the Bird Detective checklist.

Contact Jessica.Basham@MyFWC.com



Property overlooking the Aucilla River in Jefferson County where the District has purchased a conservation easement.

Conservation Easement Will Protect Water Resources On The Aucilla River And Walker Spring

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) has purchased a conservation easement on more than 167 acres of land on the Aucilla River in Jefferson County. The easement, purchased from Chris and Kristine Layman, will require the land to remain in its natural state and condition in order to protect water resources.

The conservation easement will provide 71.73 acres of springs protection, 90.5 acres of sur-

facewater protection, 167 acres of floodplain protection, and 3,085 feet or 0.58 miles of river frontage protection.

"We commend the Laymans for partnering with the District to protect our natural resources," said Melanie Roberts, the District's director of mission support. "Not only will this easement provide a buffer for the Aucilla River, it will protect a freshwater spring and floodplain and wetland forests."

The purchase was completed using Florida Forever funding in the amount of \$251,000 or \$1,500 per acre.

A conservation easement is a perpetual agreement that leaves the basic ownership and management of property with the land owner but permanently restricts the use and alteration of the land. The District currently protects more than 124,000 acres of water resource lands using this tool.

2012 DCP/ACRE Sign Up Begins January 23

Monticello, Florida, January 18, 2012 - USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Jefferson/Leon/Wakulla County Executive Director Mark Demott reminds producers enrollment for Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program or the traditional Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) begins January 23 and runs through June 1.

"Farmers in Jefferson, Leon & Wakulla, who are interested in enrolling in these programs need to add this important deadline to their list of

'must do' jobs," Demott said. "Producers should contact the local county office to set up appointments."

Annual contracts are required to be signed to receive program benefits. All signatures of producers receiving a share in DCP and ACRE payments are required by June 1, 2012.

For more information about DCP and ACRE programs or other FSA programs, contact your county FSA office and visit the FSA website at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

3 Florida Panthers Die In Early 2012, After 24 Deaths, 32 Births Documented In 2011

Florida panthers are off to a rough start in 2012, with three deaths documented by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Last year, 24 Florida panther deaths were recorded, but FWC biologists also observed 11 radio-collared females giving birth to 32 panther kittens. Overall, the known number of newborn panthers in 2011 appears to have offset the known number of panther deaths.

Today, an estimated 100 to 160 adults of this federally endangered species live in Florida. Panthers almost disappeared from the wild in this state when their numbers fell to fewer than 30 in the 1970s. Since then, their population has been increasing.

Collisions with vehicles continues to be the greatest source of human-caused mortality to this long-tailed cat that can weigh up to 160 pounds and grow to 6 feet or longer.

Already, in just the first week of 2012, there were two documented deaths of panthers hit by vehicles on highways in Collier County, where the greatest concentration of panthers in the state is

found. The third fatality was caused by a fight with another panther. Among the 24 documented panther deaths in 2011, nine deaths, or more than a third, were due to collisions with vehicles.

"Florida panther deaths are most often the result of one of two things: collisions with vehicles or aggression from other panthers," said Kipp Frohlich, head of the Imperiled Species Management Section at the FWC. "We can't control panthers fighting when they are defending their territory; that is a part of nature. But we can do something about human-caused panther mortalities."

"People who slow down and drive carefully in rural areas, especially where panther crossings are identified, can make a difference in conservation of this endangered species. It is especially important to slow down and keep a careful lookout at dawn or dusk, when panthers are most likely to be on the move," Frohlich said.

The FWC continues to work with many partners to conserve and increase habitat available to panthers on both public and private lands. This is a critical step to ensuring the survival of panthers, the official state animal of Florida.

People are encouraged to report sightings of an injured or dead panther by calling the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) or #FWC or *FWC on a cell phone. Another option is texting Tip@MyFWC.com (standard usage fees may apply).

For more information on Florida panthers, go to www.floridapanther.net.

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