



WAUKEENAH FERTILIZER EMPLOYEE BEATEN AND ROBBED

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

A Waukeelah Fertilizer employee was severely beaten and robbed Wednesday morning as he attempted to open the gate to get in.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) reported that on Wednesday, January 25, at approximately 6 a.m., JCSO responded to Waukeelah Fertilizer in reference to an armed robbery.

The victim of the armed robbery sustained severe head injuries during the robbery and was transported to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, where he was admitted to ICU. A Waukeelah Fertilizer employee later reported to the News that the victim had sustained fractures to all the facial bones, a skull fracture and was suffering from a brain bleed.

Investigators advised that deputies are currently following some leads in the case.

With the investigation being very early on, JCSO is not releasing any further information at this time, but as developments are made, updates will be forthcoming.

JCSO is requesting that anyone who was in the area of Waukeelah Fertilizer on the morning of Wednesday, January 25, between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 6:15 a.m., who has any information pertaining to the robbery, to please call (850) 997-2023 or visit the JCSO website at www.jefferson-countysheriff.com or text JCSOTIP information to 274637.

All information received through the website or text will be anonymous.

SECOND SUSPECT ARRESTED IN NAPA BURGLARY

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The two suspects in the May 11 burglary at the NAPA Auto Parts store, located at the corner of Railroad and Dogwood streets, were arrested, the first, less than a week after the offenses were committed and the second, just recently.

MPD reported that on the morning of May 11, officers were summoned to investigate the burglary of the NAPA store. Investigators discovered that a shed, located adjacent to the store and a bike trail, had been broken into and an air tank had been stolen.

A chain link fence surrounding the back of the business had also been cut open. In an open bay area at the rear of the store, approximately 35 used automotive batteries were stolen.

In addition, two delivery trucks had been entered and ransacked. Captain Roger Murphy and Officer Josh Bullock investigated and documented the crime scene.

Please See **NAPA** Page 3

MAN SENTENCED FOR TRAFFICKING METHAMPHETAMINE

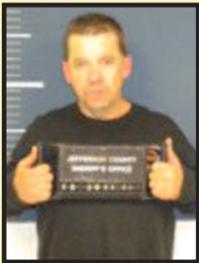
FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

A man arrested for trafficking methamphetamine in 2010 was sentenced this week and ordered to serve time for his crime.

Paul Stokes, 44, of Perry, FL was sentenced in court January 23 to serve 36 months in the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) on the charges of possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell; trafficking in methamphetamine; and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Recapping the case, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested two men December 1, 2010 and charged them with felony trafficking in methamphetamine, following a routine

Please See **TRAFFICKING** Page 3



Paul Stokes

Local School District's 66th Place Ranking Rankles Superintendent

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

School Superintendent Bill Brumfield is calling the recently released state ranking of school districts that places Jefferson County near the very bottom of the list "unfair and a disservice to the community."

Brumfield is referring to the Florida School District Rankings report that the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released on Monday, Jan. 23. The report ranks Jefferson County 66 out of the state's 67 districts, based on its score of 441 points, or C grade, as derived from the cumulative scores of Jefferson County Middle/High School (JCM/HS) students on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

The only district to score lower was Madison County, which was ranked at 67 with 411 points, or D grade.

All told, 30 of the state's 67 school districts received As, 22 received Bs, 12 received Cs and Madison's was the only D.

Brumfield said the rankings were based solely on the FCAT scores and didn't take into account other compo-

nents, such as dual enrollment. The rankings also didn't take into account the improvements that the school had made in recent years nor that it had gone from an overall D grade the previous year to a C grade this year, he said. Nor did the rankings take into account the disadvantages that rural districts faced in comparison to the larger urban districts, he said.

"We could have done better, but we did good," Brumfield said. "We've still have ground to go, but I'm proud of what we've done. We've made great strides in the last several years."

Brumfield's wasn't the only one to voice concern about the rankings. Others who have voiced similar concern include Senator Bill Montford, a former Leon County schools superintendent and current head of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, and Big Bend educators.

Montford and these others argue that the rankings don't reflect factors such as poverty and a community's economic vitality, which play into a school system's success.

The latter argument was echoed by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) in a

Please See **SCHOOL** Page 3



COUNTY COORDINATOR'S ROLE TO BE PUT ON EXAMINATION TABLE

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

The future role and function of the county coordinator's office will be the focus of a Jefferson County Commission workshop scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30, in the courthouse annex on Water Street.

The impetus for the workshop is the planned retirement of County Coordinator Roy Schleicher, who has announced his

Please See **COORDINATOR** Page 3

POSSIBLE GLIMMERS OF HOPE MAYBE VISIBLE IN PRISON FIGHT

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

Picture hundreds of signs around the courthouse circle and all alongside U.S. 90 carrying the message "JCI Means Jobs" and "Right Idea, Wrong Location," all the while that the Governor and legislators are being inundated with like messages via emails, tweets and other social media.

These were some of

the ideas and strategies discussed Monday evening by a group of business people trying to figure ways of fighting the proposed closing of Jefferson Correctional Institution (JCI) and the resulting loss of 177 jobs — a decision calculated to have a \$33 million negative impact on the community.

Indeed, the proposed closing of the prison has galvanized the community as no other issue

has in recent times. What's more, the efforts appear to be having some effect, if the guarded statements of some community leaders are any indication. A few of these individuals, at least, are reporting possible glimmers of hope relative to the fight to keep the facility open.

Among the many who have addressed the Governor's office and/or House and Senate subcommittees in recent

days to argue the county's case are members of the Jefferson Legislative Delegation, the Jefferson Legislative Committee, Jefferson County constitutional officers and the county's two hired lobbyists.

Speaking on the issue this week, State Representative Leonard Bembry, Commission Chairman Hines Boyd, Economic Development

Please See **PRISON** Page 3

Ninth Annual Kelsi's Hot Chocolate Sale

KRISTIN FINNEY
A Special From Greene Publishing, Inc.

As the temperature drops and the new year begins, it is that time again for Kelsi's Hot Chocolate Sale. This is the 9th Annual Hot Chocolate Sale hosted by the Reams sisters. Their sale is raising money for Cystic Fibrosis, a disease that has directly affected their family when it was learned as an infant that the youngest sister, Abby, had the disease. Her sisters, Kelsi, decided to have a fundraiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation so she could help other children and adults struggling with the disease. Throughout the nine years of fundraising the girls have raised over \$20,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

This year's sale will begin at

8 a.m. and last until 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28. It will be held at Scott Realty in Greenville. Join-

ing the girls at the sale that day will be Claudia Warner from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.



The Reams girls will be hosting a hot chocolate fundraiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation on Saturday, Jan. 28. Pictured left to right: Kelsi, 15, Chloe, 10, and Abby, 9.

BUILDING PERMITS STEADY, BUT VALUATIONS GO DOWN

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

Building permits remained relatively high in December, compared with the previous month, but the associated fees — and valuations in particular — plummeted.

Figures released recently by the Jefferson County and City of Monticello Building Inspec-

tion and Contractor Licensing Department show that the city and county issued a combined 41 permits in December, compared with 49 permits in November.

The figures show the combined 41 permits generated \$4,780.74 in fees, compared with \$7,306.73 in November. Of the 41, the city issued six and generated \$349, and the county issued 35

and generated \$4,431.74.

A breakdown of the permits shows 37 were for repairs and additions, two for mobile home installations and two for miscellaneous activities related sheds, barns and such.

The valuation for residential permits was zero, compared with \$506,016 in November; it was \$169,459 in Decem-

ber 2010.

The commercial valuation was also zero, compared with \$227,000 in November; it was \$380,287 in December 2010.

And the valuation for other permits (a category that includes additions, re-roofs and non-residential structures, was \$343,359, an

Please See **PERMITS** Page 3

Viewpoints & Opinions

Letters To The Editor

Letters to the Editor are typed word for word, comma for comma, as sent to this newspaper.

SUPT. WRITES GOVERNOR ABOUT PRISON CLOSING.

Dear Governor,
When taking the office of Superintendent of Schools for Jefferson County, I made a promise to the community that I would do everything within my power to bring a district which carried a \$688,816.29 deficit to a 3% fund balance. We have worked extremely hard and have struggled to get back on our feet, but by the end of my second year in office we obtained our goal.

As a small, rural district, we rely heavily on FTE funds received by the state for students in the classroom. We have watched out funding steadily decline since fiscal year 07/08, and we have just received work that we will lose another \$300,000.00 based on our third calculation FTW counts.

All this brings me to the point of my letter to you today. If the Jefferson Correctional Institute closes, we stand to lose 25-30 students. This calculates to another

cut of around \$2000,000.00. That equals two teacher positions. This type of scenario creates a domino effect; less students, less buses, less bus drivers, etc.

When I looked at the list of prisons slated for closure, I had to wonder if any committee members seriously considered the devastating blow something like this causes within a small, rural and economically depressed county. There is a seriously disproportionate loss of jobs compared to population. The closing of the prison in Jefferson County will affect all the business owners and government entities of Jefferson County, but most of all it will affect all the families that call Jefferson County, "home."

Please reconsider and keep Jefferson correctional Institute open.

Respectfully,

William E. Brumfield
Superintendent of Schools

COUNTY COORDINATOR OFFICE NEEDS CHANGE

Does our county need a County Coordinator who micro manages our department heads? What we do need is someone who can help our county get back on track economically. Why don't we take most of the money we're spending on the county coordinator's office and use it to hire an experienced professional with a proven record of helping communities like ours grow new

businesses. That's what we really need in our county.

Next Monday, January 30, at 6 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex, the County Commission is holding a workshop to kick off the process of reviewing the County Coordinator's position. We need to have citizen input and get it right this time.

I asked some questions about our county budget and found out we spend about \$150,000 per year to run the County Coordinator's Office. I also found out that most of our county's administrative functions never left the Clerk of Court's office. The Clerk still does most all of our finance work, personnel/payroll work, budgeting work, information technology work and several other critical administrative functions. Actually, that doesn't leave much for the Coordinator to do, other than being a secretary for the County Commission. We don't need to spend \$150,000 for that! To be sure I wasn't missing something, I talked to many of the de-

partment heads. Almost all say they could get along fine without the County Coordinator. Several say they could get along better. All they need is a little support now and then and this can be done at regular commission meetings. We have good department heads who can answer to the board directly.

Our county is in an economic crisis. Our only effort at economic development is an underfunded EDC office with a part time employee. We need to keep doing what the EDC is doing trying to attract outside employers to Jefferson County. However, we've been doing nothing to support the development of home grown businesses. We need to change that. Make this Coordinator's office into "a friend of business" type of office that helps and aids in developing local businesses.

Come Monday night (6 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers) and tell our commissioners what you think.

Buddy Westbrook
Westbrook Real Estate

READER FOLLOWS UP ON "SAND BOX AND REDISTRICTING"

This is to follow up on my last letter about the sand box and redistricting. I was told by some of my friends that I needed to check my facts so that is what I set out to do. I have spoken with Tom Love, Johnnie Abron, George Cole, Marty Bishop, and two members of the joint redistricting committee (one from each board). I am also ordering documents from the US District Court regarding the lawsuit that obligates our county to redistrict in a certain way (no one seems to know precisely what that is). I still do not have all of the information I want, but I can say this: Unspoken truths were the biggest problem that plagued the redistricting process and the claim that the attorneys did not have time to research the issue is plain untrue. It took me less than an hour to search the inter-

net and find US Dept. of Justice redistricting guidelines, a Florida Supreme Court finding from 2002 citing federal case law and several of the specific US Supreme Court cases cited. (These indicate that while less than a 10% population deviation is strongly preferred, there can be exceptions.) Fingers have been pointing unfairly at Johnnie Abron as being the main source of the "erroneous" map issues when fingers should be pointing elsewhere as well. And this may come as a surprise, but I do agree with Hines Boyd about one thing. That is all I can say until I get all of the information I seek and I hope that my next letter can be of assistance when we do actually complete the redistricting.

Kate Calvin

MLK Center Thanks Everyone For Making Event A Success

The Martin Luther King Center extends its sincere appreciation to each of the following individuals for their contributions in helping to make the First Annual Christmas Educational and Fun Program a major success: County Tax Collector Lois Howell-Hunter, city Commissioner Idella Loggins Scott; County Appraiser Angela Gray; County Judge Robert "Bobby"

Plaines; County Clerk of Court Kirk Reams; the Reverend Dr. Melvin Roberts and the Greater Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church; Mr. Ian Williams of the San Francisco 49'ers, and Burger King.

Again our sincere thanks to each of you. Your contributions helped to make several local children's holiday period much brighter!

Jefferson Prison Closure

Dear Editor,
What a "political pickle" we find ourselves in?! We operate a really cost effective prison, yet it

is on the chopping block. Has anyone asked "why"? Well here's some of the reasons.

We say we're conservative but we elect liberal legislatures over and over. Rep. Leonard Bembry and Senator Al Lawson are the current crop. Then the state is short on money and the Republican-led legislature "rewards" the liberal Dems with job losses in their districts.

Next, poor ol' economically distressed Jefferson County coughs up taxpayer money for a Republican lobbyist to go do the job our Legislature delegation should be doing. What are we paying Bembry and Lawson to do? AND why are we hiring 2 lobbyists, one of which is already supposed to be working for small counties like ours? Are we paying the Doolin chap twice?

If our Legislative delegation were doing their job, they would have stopped this prison closure idea before it ever became public. But no, they're AWOL. Bembry is out grubbing for money so he can go for a higher pay grade in Washington D.C. Lawson is waiting for a higher pay grade at FAMU or in Congress. So while they are planning their next political career moves, us home folks are losing jobs.

What's the lesson we should learn? This next election we need to be smarter by electing Legislatures that have the backbone and clout to stand up for us - and not use us as a stepping stone to further their political ambitions!

Mike Brown,
Monticello

Why Close Prisons?

It is a shame to see our elected leaders begging the Legislature, the Department of Corrections, and the Governor not to cut JCI and rip the guts out of what little economic stability Jefferson County has left. As Hines Boyd so eloquently put it in his well written article in the Jefferson Journal and the Tallahassee Democrat the county can ill afford to lose a facility that employs 177 people and is the largest employer in the county. However, I think it is obvious that the pleas are falling on deaf ears. Our State leaders do not care. There is a need for about 100,000 beds and the system has about 115,000. Therefore some prisons have to be closed. Based on the analyses of the Department of Corrections, JCI and other small county prisons need to be closed. No matter the economic impact. No matter that 177 families will be adversely impacted. These prisons need to be closed and that is just the "way the cookie crumbles." It is a matter of numbers.

What will happen to the 177 families? Well, some will undoubtedly get jobs at other prisons. Some will land other jobs. Maybe the new jobs will not be as good as the old but they will at least have a job. But in most instances, I surmise, the former employees will have to file for unemployment. They will be wards of the State. They also will probably apply for and receive food stamps. We taxpayers will pay for the decisions of State leaders. So the net gain to the taxpayer is probably nothing. The decisions might even cost us money.

In the final analysis our State leaders will have accomplished little or nothing. They have converted productive employees into folks dependent on the public dole. They have severely impacted a number of poor counties. They have matched the number of beds to the number available beds. But what happens if the need for beds increases by an increase in crime? Do we now construct more prisons or award lucrative contracts to private prison contractors? The decisions to close JCI and other prisons are short sighted to say the least.

Amber McClellan
Ambermc@centurylink.net

Deb's Notes

Drop A Note To

Debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com

From the Heart of Sopchoppy Recording Studio, WFSU and other sponsors, bring 'From The Heart Music Hour', a two-night event, back to the Monticello Opera House. It's a fifth helping of awesome music by regional singers and songwriters, and some national stars too. The format is the same each evening, doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the music begins in the banquet hall at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be available to purchase from Carrie Ann & Co while you enjoy happy hour with drinks from the bar. At 7:30 p.m. everyone heads upstairs for the live taping from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Music on the grand stage is all-original and is put together and edited for the show to air on WFSU TV in the spring. You could find yourself on the air! The evening finishes up with the after party from 10:30 p.m. to 12 a.m. in the banquet hall. Check out the talent and grab your seat by reserving now at 850-997-4242.

The Jefferson Correctional Institute is scheduled to close. For those of you unfamiliar with this facility, it's the largest employer in the county. The affects of the closure will be far-reaching if it passes. Help in an effort to reverse this horribly detrimental plan. One county commissioner equated the job loss to Jefferson County as that of Disney World closing to Orange County. Here's how you can help. Make calls to the Governor's Office and to legislative offices: Governor Scott 850-488-4441, Senate President Mike Haridopolis 850-487-5229 and House Speaker Dean Cannon 850-488-1450. Jefferson County Legislators: Representative Leonard Bembry 850-488-7870, Senator Charles S. "Charlie" Dean 850-487-5017, Senator Bill Montford 850-487-5004 and Representative Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda 850-488-0965. Important talking points: Jefferson County is a "fiscally constrained" county, located in a "rural area of critical economic concern", with low per capita income, low taxable values, low wages, high poverty rate, etc. JCI is our largest employer, accounting for approximately six percent of available jobs in the county. Loss of prison population and JCI employees will affect redistricting and revenue sharing. The evaluation process did not take into account these and other "special attributes". Any assistance is greatly appreciated.

Cheron Thornton, community representative for the American Cancer Society Jefferson County Relay For Life mentions that this year's 18-hour event will be held on May 4 and 5 at the old JCHS track, off Tiger Lane. She has been emailing interested persons so as to meet and discuss how to move this event along. "Just a quick update, I have asked someone to work with us to find leadership for the event and will be meeting with a past leader of the event on Friday (today) to discuss getting some additional help with moving the event to success. In the meantime, we have to start working together with getting the community involved and ready for the Relay For Life event. Support is still needed on committee. I thank each of you for your willingness and commitment to fight this disease. It's time for us to get all of Jefferson County to see what we all already see... that cancer is an insatiable monster that has to be stopped. Currently the best way to eventually stop it is by supporting the organization that does more than any other organization in the world in the fight against cancer. Through the American Cancer Society's education, advocacy, service and research efforts we save lives everyday and it is all possible because of the grassroots Relay For Life events held throughout the world. Let's make this event a success. Please call me with any questions or concerns at 850-322-2308.

STINGERS

"I'm gonna' vote for Mitt Romney's proclaimed 'Constitutional Expert', per the ABC Debate!"

"When I see the commercials on television for the horse-track arena in Gretna, I'm glad it's not here!"

"Make Your Vote Count Tuesday!"

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

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From Page One

School

continued from page 1

press release reiterating the organization's "commitment to high accountability measures that are comprehensive, transparent and take into account all the factors that play a role in the educational achievement of students."

The FADSS called the ranking of school districts based solely on FCAT scores a disservice to the students, parents, teachers, administrators, other educators, and the communities at-large.

"The public school system is a microcosm of the communities they serve, and not all schools and school districts are equal in terms of funding, economic vitality, poverty levels, etc. — all factors that play a significant role in the success of the public school system," the FADSS release states. "Florida su-

perintendents have always been focused on the ultimate goal of educational success for every student; however there are substantial economic and fiscal hurdles that continue to undermine that goal."

The FADSS said it was encouraged by the Governor's expressed willingness to explore the multiple factors that affect educational achievement.

"We look forward to working with the Governor and all stakeholders in taking a comprehensive look at all of the factors that impact student performance in order to gain a more complete and accurate assessment to affect real and substantive change in terms of increasing student achievement throughout the state," FADSS President Ronald Blocke is quoting saying.

Per the FDOE, the districts' numerical rankings are based on each school district's total points, as derived from students' FCAT scores. Districts are awarded a point for each percent of students in the district who were enrolled for the full year and who scored on grade level or higher on the FCAT and made annual learning gains (800 possible points).

The total score is the sum of the percent of students scoring at Level 3 or higher for FCAT Reading, Mathematics, and Science; scoring at Level 4 or higher on the FCAT Writing essay; plus the percent of students who made learning gains in reading and mathematics and the percent of the lowest 25 percent of students who made learning gains in reading and mathematics.

Coordinator

continued from page 1

plan to step down at the end of June. Schleicher has since been urging the commissioners to better define their expectations for the office and commit these expectations to writing preparatory to hiring a new coordinator.

"You need to decide on a job description, the minimum qualifications and salary range," Schleicher told commissioners on Thursday evening, Jan. 19. "If you don't nail it down, it's going to fall off the wall... If you're not going to pay more than \$55,000, what I'm being paid, you need to tell applicants that upfront. And you need to put these things down in writing so there are no surprises."

Already, there has

been talk on the commission of redefining the coordinator's role to give it more of an economic development function. That argument possibly received a boost on Jan. 19 from a group of concerned citizens who called on the commission to take a more active role in fostering economic development and commit more county resources to the endeavor.

Speaking for the group at the commission meeting was Jack Carswell, who offered that the community was possibly headed for an economic meltdown.

"Our county's economy seems to have reached a crisis stage," Carswell said, citing as ev-

idence declining property values, a sinking tax base and the numerous empty buildings in downtown Monticello — a situation exacerbated by the announced prison closing.

Carswell by and by got to the point of his presentation: this community found itself in an economic malaise "without an economic strategy in place to meet the challenges."

He said it was the intention of the group he represented to conduct research and eventually return to the commission with an economic development strategy that was "action-oriented, broad-based, comprehensive and highly coordinated, with specific first steps, with a

way to measure our progress, and a detailed mechanism to take us forward."

In the interim, he offered for consideration a set of recommendations that he said would likely be in the final product, based on their successful implementation in other communities.

The recommendations ranged from formation of a 10-member committee of seasoned business people to offer advice on economic matters and sound economic strategies; to establishment of a small, annually funded community chest that civic organizations could apply to in order to supplement their own financial efforts on behalf

of the community; to development of a theme or brand for the use of retail space in the heart of downtown Monticello; to the publication of a magazine by the Chamber of Commerce to promote the community.

But the recommendation that appeared to gain instant traction with some on the commission was the one calling for the coordinator's office to be redefined to give it more of an economic development function and that it be "funded and staffed to carry out this mission."

Commissioners praised the overall merits of the proposal and scheduled it for further discussion and exploration at the next joint meeting of

the commission and Economic Development Council (EDC), scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 13, in the commission's room.

In the interim, the commission invited the group to present its ideas on the coordinator's role at the Jan. 30 workshop.

Trafficking

continued from page 1

traffic stop.

Investigator Logan Wilcox reported that on December 1, 2010 at approximately 10:04 p.m., Investigator Jerry Blackmon and himself were patrolling on South Salt Road and they observed a white Chevrolet SUV traveling at a high rate of speed.

Wilcox also reported that the vehicle did not have a tag lamp and had an improper Florida tag. The deputies stopped the vehicle and identified the driver as Thomas L. Cruce, 27, of Perry, FL, and the passenger as Stokes.

While talking with Cruce and Stokes, Wilcox noted that they were acting very nervous. Wilcox asked if he could search the vehicle for any drugs or weapons and both Cruce and Stokes stated that he could search.

Blackmon and Wilcox located 24 grams of Methamphetamine and Methamphetamine paraphernalia inside of the vehicle.

Based on the evidence Cruce and Stokes were arrested and charged with possession of Methamphetamine with intent to sell; trafficking in Methamphetamine; and possession of drug paraphernalia. A total bond of \$75,500 was set on each man.

Stokes bonded out of the County Jail December 6, 2010. Cruce bonded out of jail March 21, 2011.

Cruce is still awaiting trial.

As for his read of the Governor's possible response, Bailar was noncommittal. "The Governor's office seems to be saying, 'You have made these points and we may want to revisit them if only to get a better view of the implications,'" he said.

Boyd, who along with Conley, Reams, and lobbyists Chris Doolin and Wendy Bitner met with the Governor's senior staff on Monday, said he was encouraged by the developments.

"They understand the numbers," Boyd said of the Governor's staff. "The fact that the closing would place inordinate economic pain on our county is getting traction."

He said the other point that the group emphasized to the Governor's staff was that JCI was a model prison with an extremely low recidivism level, a tribute to the humane culture of its rural workforce.

The prison, moreover, served as a pilot program for 12-hour shifts, an experiment that saved the FDOC nearly \$200,000 in overtime pay over a year, and which program the department now planned to implement statewide to projected savings of millions.

The point, Boyd said, is that none of these factors entered into the decision to close the prison.

"The message is getting across," he said. "It's resonating with the Governor's people."

NAPA

continued from page 1

On Friday, May 13, a witness in the case came forward and asked to speak to Murphy and Lt. Mack Norton, after reading an article in the *Monticello News* the previous evening. The witness said he read in the newspaper about the burglary, which listed the theft of the batteries. The witness said on May 11 he was contacted by a man named Brandon Freeman, 25, of Monticello, who asked him to haul some car batteries to the recycle center for him. (The witness is known to often gather and transport recyclable items to the recycle center.) The witness agreed to haul the batteries because he also had some items to sell. The witness met with Freeman and a second suspect, Travis J. Scott, 30, of Jefferson County, at Freeman's apartment. Freeman's girlfriend was present. The batteries were stored in Freeman's living room. The men loaded the batteries, approximately 30, on the truck and drove them to the recycle center in Madison.

At the center, Freeman sold the batteries. During the trip, the Scott asked the witness if he wanted to buy an air tank and the witness declined the purchase.

The following evening, the witness was reading the *Monticello News* article and discovered that the batteries and the air tank were stolen. The witness told a friend, who called Freeman's girlfriend to inquire if she knew the items were stolen. Shortly afterward, Freeman contacted the witness, inquiring who he told about the batteries. Freeman implied someone saw "them" during the burglary and he named the man who saw them.

After receiving this tip from the first witness, MPD Chief Fred Mosley located the second witness, who agreed to provide a statement. The second witness stated that around 5:30 Wednesday morning, May 11, he was walking to work utilizing the bike trail. He walked past the NAPA store and about one block later, he noticed two men standing in the shadows near the shed by the NAPA store. The witness said he believed the two men must have been hiding when he initially passed the store, just seconds before he had not seen them standing there.

On May 16, Murphy interviewed Freeman's girlfriend, who was rather evasive when he

inquired about the batteries and she attempted to create an alibi for Freeman, however, she could not explain how the batteries appeared in her apartment overnight. She did state that the second suspect was at their residence the next day and assisted in loading the batteries.

Later the same day, Murphy and Norton interviewed Freeman. He initially denied any involvement in the crime and could not explain how the batteries arrived in his apartment. During the interview, Freeman eventually admitted driving the Scott to the scene, watching him enter the fenced area and returning a short time later, where the second suspect had stacked the batteries.

The two loaded the batteries in Freeman's girlfriend's car and drove them back to his apartment, where they placed them. Freeman claimed not to know what happened to the air tank. Freeman claimed the Scott was alone, however, the second witness originally identified by Freeman to the first witness, reported seeing two men by the shed. On Friday morning,

May 13, MPD assisted and re-

ceived assistance from the Madison County Sheriff's Office. MCSO Investigator Tina Demotis went to the recycle center, located the batteries, photographed them and obtained a copy of the receipt bearing Freeman's signature accepting payment for the batteries.

The batteries were returned to the NAPA store.

Freeman was arrested May 16 and charged with burglary of a structure, bond set at \$10,000; burglary of a conveyance, bond set at \$10,000; grand theft, bond set at \$5,000 and violation of probation (VOP) on the charge of grand theft. Freeman remained at the County Jail January 24, held without bond on the VOP charge.

Scott, 30 was arrested January 10 on an outstanding county warrant for his arrest charging with burglary of a structure; burglary of a conveyance; grand theft; and violation of probation on the charge of fleeing or attempting to elude law enforcement officers. A total bond of \$32,000 was set and he remained in the County Jail January 24, held without bond on the VOP charge.

Prison

continued from page 1

Director Julie Conley and Legislative Committee spokesman Dick Bailar all expressed varying degrees of hope.

Bembry said he, Representative Michelle Rehwinkel-Vasilinda, Senator Bill Montford and Senator Charles Dean met with the Governor's senior staff on Tuesday afternoon to press the county's argument for the removal of JCI from the closure list.

Bembry said in their arguments, the several legislators cited the potentially devastating impact of the closure on Jefferson County's economy as well as the county's designation as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC).

Bembry said the Governor's staff listened to the expressed concerns for about 45 minutes and it was his belief that progress had been made and that some cracks had possibly appeared in the determination to close the prison.

"I think we made some cracks," he said.

At the same time, Conley, Bailar, Reams and other members of the Jefferson Legislative Committee were appearing before the Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Subcommittee to argue the county's case.

"If the Senators' reaction to our concerns and the other information presented can be considered hopeful, then yes, there's a glimmer of hope," Conley said.

She said that in particular Senator Mike Fasano, who chairs the subcommittee, had spoken with the group following the hearing and expressed his support for the removal of JCI from the list.

"He said to us that he would support JCI being taken off the hit list," Conley said.

But Fasano also advised the group that the decision ultimately rested with the Governor, she said.

Bailar, who spoke before the Senate subcommittee on Tuesday and again on Wednesday morning, was more guarded in his comments.

He offered that lawmakers in both the House and Senate subcommittees appeared to be sympathetic and supportive of Jefferson County's plight.

"Both have spoken strongly in favor of us," Bailar said. "They felt the selection criteria was flawed, if not misdirected. They noted the lack of transparency and were surprised that legislators were not brought into the decision or that local officials' input was not considered."

But as far as the Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC) was concerned, the department remained resolute in its decision to close the facility, notwithstanding whatever economic pains the closing would cause, Bailar said.

Which pointed again to the Governor as the ultimate arbiter, he said.

As for his read of the Governor's possible response, Bailar was noncommittal.

"The Governor's office seems to be saying, 'You have made these points and we may want to revisit them if only to get a better view of the implications,'" he said.

Boyd, who along with Conley, Reams, and lobbyists Chris Doolin and Wendy Bitner met with the Governor's senior staff on Monday, said he was encouraged by the developments.

"They understand the numbers," Boyd said of the Governor's staff. "The fact that the closing would place inordinate economic pain on our county is getting traction."

He said the other point that the group emphasized to the Governor's staff was that JCI was a model prison with an extremely low recidivism level, a tribute to the humane culture of its rural workforce.

The prison, moreover, served as a pilot program for 12-hour shifts, an experiment that saved the FDOC nearly \$200,000 in overtime pay over a year, and which program the department now planned to implement statewide to projected savings of millions.

The point, Boyd said, is that none of these factors entered into the decision to close the prison.

"The message is getting across," he said. "It's resonating with the Governor's people."

Permits

continued from page 1

increase over the \$267,111 recorded in November and the \$239,592 recorded in December 2010.

Meanwhile, the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department issued five permits and collected \$680 in December, compared with eight permits and \$2,581.45 collected in November. In December 2010, the department issued eight permits and collected \$5,214.13.

The planning department collected a total of \$110.02 in fire and ambulance impact fees in December, compared with \$2,668.19 in November. In December 2010, the department collected \$220.04 for the two impact fees.

Jefferson County Living

Kelly Criswell Spreads Her Wings

KRISTIN FINNEY
A Special From Greene Publishing, Inc.



Flying is something that not many people have the bravery or ability to do. Kelly Criswell, however, does not fit into that mold. She has loved flying since she was little. "I have always dreamed of being a pilot," she explained. And it is that love of flying that pushed her to get her private pilots license.

She told her dad that she was interested in flying and he had a family friend take them up in his plane. "I was hooked from there on out," Criswell explained, "My mom's dad passed away about five years ago. He was in the air force and wanted to be a pilot but was colorblind so he couldn't fly for the military. He always wanted one of his kids to learn how to fly."

After graduating from Lincoln High School in 2008, Criswell went on to receive her Associate in Arts from Tallahassee

Community College. She then moved to Jacksonville to attend the college for aviation. She received her flight training from Sterling Flight Training in Jacksonville. When asked what the steps were in getting a private pilots license, Criswell explained, "My flight training was done in three stages which were basically pre-solo (learning maneuvers like stalls and steep turns and how to land the plane), then cross country flights (which aren't really cross country, they're just flights over 50 nautical miles), and then solo time, and finally taking the check ride to get your license."

While she does not have her own plane, Criswell is able to rent one from the school. She rents

a DA-20 and flies out of Craig Airport. She has logged 10 hours of solo flying time, making solo trips to Lake City, Flagler and Brunswick.

The hardest part of getting a private pilots license, according to Criswell, "was mustering up the courage to do my solo flights. That probably sounds bad but I would get so nervous before solo flights, until I was actually in the plane and rolling, and then I was fine. Also, there is a lot of ground school where you're not actually flying.

It was like a foreign language to me at first." But her fear of solo flights has eased with time. So much so in fact, that the one trip that she would like to pilot but hasn't had a chance to yet would be a solo flight at night. "I would love to do that, it's so beautiful at night."

Criswell's favorite part of having her own private pilots license is, "Definitely getting to see the world from the sky." Her advice to anyone interested in getting their own private pilots license would be to, "Make sure

this is something you really want to do, because it takes a lot of time and dedication, and a lot of money." She then explained what it takes to get one, "I went through a college, but you can take flight lessons at an airport or somewhere that offers flight lessons. Also, you need to obtain a third class medical certificate."

Kelly Criswell is the daughter of Marty and Karen Criswell. She has one little brother who is 14 years old. "I have an awesome family," stated Criswell.

FREE SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 31

Fran Hunt
ECB Publishing Staff Writer

The third free local class for smoking cessation will begin next Tuesday and run for a six-weeks period, held every Tuesday night, 6 p.m. at the Jefferson County Health Department.

The course is developed by ex-smokers for those who wish to become ex-smokers.

The course provides a plethora of informative information including how to identify the triggers of the smoking habit, how to deter from those triggers, and how to begin detoxifying the body prior to the actual quit date and beginning usage of free Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) which includes patches, Commit lozenges and nicotine gum

for the first month.

The course NRTs are all funded by the state and was provided through a partnership of Florida Health Educators Centers (Florida AHEC), Florida Department of Health, Quit Smoking Now, and Quitline (1-877-822-6669).

Class participants also learn how to not fail by beating themselves up if a brief failure has resulted, how to avoid weight-gain after quitting, developing healthy eating and utilizing the habit of exercising, how to keep from reaching for the cigarettes through strictly force of habit, and so much more healthy

beneficial information.

Florida Big Bend Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Smoking Cessation Consultant Preston Mathews kicks each class off with an inspiring reading on the Carbon Monoxide (CO) Monitor and take a reading from everyone in the class, which serves the purpose of participants actually being able to see the results of their efforts to date.

Mathews often has participants talk about their goals, speaks of the medical problems caused in both men and women due to smoking, the many poisons contained within

cigarette smoke and the effects of those we love around us who do not smoke as a result of the second hand smoke they breath every day due to our habit.

Each participant is also provided with a water bottle, stress ball, and learn of the importance of drinking a large amount of water to help purify and detoxify the system as we were preparing for the actual quit date.

To enroll in the class and for further information contact Preston Mathews at 728-5479 or email at pmathews@bigbendahec.org.

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Stiff and Locklar to Wed

Doug and Dawn Stiff of Monticello, Florida are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Brittani N. Stiff to Robert M. Locklar, son of Milton Locklar of Bowling Green, FL and Leslie Locklar of Wauchula, FL.

Brittani graduated from Jefferson County High School, received, her AA from Florida State University, her BA from University of North Florida and will graduate with her doctorate in physical therapy at the end of April 2012.

Robert graduated from Aucilla Christian Academy and served in the Marine Corps for four years. He was deployed twice, once to Afghanistan. He works for Winn Dixie Corp. in Jacksonville, FL, where they live.

They will be married in a civil ceremony that will be held in the gardens at the home of the Bride's parents on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at 6:00 in the evening. The ceremony will be performed by the Sheriff, David C. Hobbs.

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Tallahassee Memorial Family Medicine Monticello

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Jefferson County Living

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY 27

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 27

Havana Nights 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Friday at the Capital City Country Club to benefit programs of Kids Incorporated of the Big Bend. Sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting Judie Miller at 850-414-9800x104 or jmiller@kidsincorporated.org. Enjoy an evening of live music, dancing, gaming and a silent auction; for \$50 per person.

JANUARY 27-28

From The Heart Music Hour is back again Friday and Saturday with another fabulous episode at the Monticello Opera House. They've yet again scheduled great talent for both nights. Culminating in the Saturday night stage show with 'Hits & Grins' featuring Steve Dean, Bill Whyte and Lisa Shaffer. The format is the same; the party starts downstairs with food available for purchase, this time from a familiar local caterer, Carrie Ann & Company. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., Happy Hour 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., stage show 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. and the After Party lasts till midnight. This episode includes 'The Currys', the 'Sarah Mac

Band' and the list goes on and on. Contact the MOH for tickets now at 850-997-4242 or go to monticellooperahouse.org

JANUARY 28

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 30

Martin Luther King Community Center meets 6 p.m. on the last Monday of each month at the MLK Center. Contact Charles Parrish at 850-997-3760 for more information.

JANUARY 30

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.alateen.org

JANUARY 30

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 31

AA classes are held every Tuesday at 8 p.m. for those seeking help. The classes are held at the Harvest Christian Center, 1599 Springhollow Road. Contact Marvin Graham, pastor, at 850-212-7669 for more information.

JANUARY 31

Jefferson County Shared Services, an entity of the Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison & Taylor Counties meets at 9:30 a.m. on the last Tuesday of each month at the Jefferson County Bailor Public Library. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this very informative community meeting. This is an opportunity for agencies to share services. 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. For more information about these meetings, or to be a speaker at any of these meetings, contact Cindy Hutto, business manager, at cjhutto@healthystartjmt.org or 850-948-2741. Community Agencies Working for Jefferson County.

FEBRUARY 1

Jefferson Arts Gallery business meeting is held on the first Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the gallery at 575 West Washington Street in downtown Monticello. (No meeting in August) Become a member! Get involved! Be there!

FEBRUARY 1

Monticello Kiwanis Club meets every Wednesday at noon at the Jefferson Country Club on the Boston Highway for lunch, a program and a meeting. Contact President Rob Beshears at 850-997-5054 for more information.

FEBRUARY 2

You may qualify for assis-

tance through the Capital Area Community Action Agency Weatherization Assistance Program. The program reduces heating and cooling costs by improving the energy efficiency of the home. Contact Annette Wilson at 850-997-4104 for an appointment from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first Thursday at Union Hill AME Church. Homes in Jefferson County are needed for weatherization. Or, contact Pat Hall or Melissa Watson at 850-997-8231 for additional information, and other services currently being offered. This is free to the client.

FEBRUARY 2

Business Community Prayer Breakfast will be held at 7 a.m. on Thursday at a local location and the program will offer a speaker. Bring a non-perishable food item for the community food pantry. Come and bring a friend. Serving begins at 6:45 a.m. The program will conclude at 8 a.m. If you have names for the prayer list, email them to Coordinator L. Gary Wright at lgwright39@embarqmail.com or call 850-997-5705 or 850-933-5567 for more information. This fellowship and promotion of Christian values continues because of your participation. Bobby Brown will be guest speaker to the meeting held this month at the Jefferson Country Club on the Boston Highway.

FEBRUARY 2

Crackle Painting At OHEC

Crackle Painting with folk artist Janet Moses 10 a.m. Saturday, January 28 at the One Heart Earth Center, 450 West Madison Street. Reserve now, as space is limited.

Welcome artists and everybody wanting to learn the art of Crackle Painting, a three-step process and a technique that can be used on furniture, cabinets and wood.

Moses is a widely known and respected folk artist, whose work has been purchased by two United States Presidents.

Call OHEC at 850-997-7373 or go to www.oneheartearthcenter.org for more information.

AA meetings are held weekly at 8 p.m. on Thursday at the Christ Episcopal Church annex, 425 North Cherry Street. For more information call 850-997-2129 or 850-997-1955.

FEBRUARY 3

Ashville Area Volunteer Fire Department meets 6:30 p.m. on the first Friday of each month at the fire station. Contact John Staffieri at 850-997-6807 for more details.

FEBRUARY 3

Rotary meets at 12 p.m. on Friday at the First Presbyterian Church in the fellowship hall for lunch and a meeting with a program and speaker. Contact President John Lilly at 850-342-0187 for more information.

FEBRUARY 4

Lions Club members will hold a yard sale from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday in the Monticello News parking lot. To make a donation or to rent a space (\$10 donation) contact Lion Jane at 850-997-3392 or just come by on Saturday and setup or drop off.

FEBRUARY 3

Stress Management For Women Webinar on Friday from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Chamber. Learn how to beat stress-caused tension, frustration and fatigue, and change forever the way you manage your active, vigorous agenda. This webinar is free for Chamber members and their employees. You must make your reservation by Wednesday, February 1 to 850-997-5552, or the webinar will be canceled.

FEBRUARY 4

Covenant Hospice is actively seeking sponsors for its signature fundraiser, 'A Chocolate Affair'. The third annual event will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday at the University Center Club, located in FSU's Doak Campbell Stadium. For more information, contact Lydia Claire Brooks at lydiacloire.brooks@cove-nanthospice.org or call 850-701-0137.



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11 AM Worship Hour
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Isaiah 53:5-6

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. (6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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

Obituaries

THELMA ISOBEL FINNEY

Thelma Isobel Finney, age 95, of Monticello, FL passed away on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at the Cross Landings Health and Rehabilitation Center in Monticello.

Visitation will take place at Allen and Allen Funeral Home in Thomasville, GA on Sunday, January 29, 2012 from 1 to 2: p.m. Services will follow at 2 p.m. Rev. Sam Pickenpaugh will officiate. Interment will be in the Fredonia Cemetery.

Mrs. Finney was born on May 3, 1916 in Eckhart Mines, MD to Arthur and Emma Broadwater Eisentrout. She attended God's Bible School in Cincinnati, OH where she met and married the love of her life Rev. G. Charles Finney, who predeceased her. Together they pastored churches in Greensboro, PA; Bethesda, Steubenville, Cleveland, East Palestine, Columbiana, Greentown and Ellet, OH; Dover, NJ; New Philadelphia, OH; St. Petersburg, New Port Richey and Monticello, FL for the

Church of the Nazarene. They also did evangelistic work and filled the pulpit occasionally in Thomasville. She was a member of the Church of the Nazarene in Thomasville and was church pianist until 2004. She was an extraordinary musician all of her life. She and her husband were the founding pastors of the Church of the Nazarene in Monticello.

She is the mother of Carolyn Holt, Mt. Juliet, TN and Nikki (Marilyn) Shepherd, Monticello. She also leaves behind five grandchildren Erik Holt (Gina,) TN; Kim Constantaras (Stas,) TN; Scott Holt and David Brumfield, Monticello; and Kristi Cooksey (Jessie,) Tallahassee; and nine great-grandchildren Erin and Ricky Holt; Terry, Alex and Joshua Constantaras; Jeremy and Cecillee Holt; and Caroline and Ella Cooksey.

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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 Nellie Kay Akins, 64, recently reminisced about her earlier days of living in Monticello.

In the earlier days, doing the laundry was quite a chore. "The first thing we did, the kids would keep the wood chips and small pieces of wood on the fire burning beneath an old black wash pot and we boiled the clothes. Then we had a number three tin wash-tub. We used a rubbing board and potash soap to clean our clothes and hung them straight on barbwire because we had no clothespins. Then we had to use the smoothing (cast iron) iron to iron the clothes. It was heated on the wood burning stove," she recalled.

She added that cooking and baking were done in cast iron pots and skillets on the wood-burning stove. "We used corn cobs and wood for the fire.

"We took bathes in the laundry tub and we would warm water on the stove to bathe in," she said. "We used Irish

potatoes and baking soda for deodorant afterward," she added.

"We used shucks to mop our floors clean and sometimes rags and potash soap were used," said Akins. "We got our water from a well and many times when we pulled up the bucket, we pulled up snakes, frogs and lizards in the bucket. To bring the water back to the house, we had one bucket on our head and one in each hand," she recalled.

"We slept on a moss and shuck mattress and there were five or six to the bed," said Akins. "Every three months or so we would have to re-stuff the mattress and it better not be lumpy, mama didn't put up with a lumpy mattress in the house." She added that in those days, there were no backaches from the mattress; the backaches didn't come in until cotton did.

"We drank our water out of peanut butter and mayonnaise jars and we took our lunch to school in a lard bucket," she said. Akins then began

talking about all of the different foods they ate. "For our lunches we had fatback, sweet potatoes and cornbread and sometimes we had overly-burnt biscuits and syrup. We ate harmony grits and took the husks to make cornbread. We ate catfish and black fish two or three days, three times a day; you couldn't do any better. We used to eat coon, opossum, clabber-milk and bread, chitlins, chicken feet, ox tails, chicken necks, pig ears, hog head cheese, liver pudding and even the brain," she said.

"We had a smoke house and would cure the hog we killed once a year. We would hand-grind the sausage and it was packed into the intestines for a casing. People would also give us deer meat. We ate alligator, birds, wild ducks and we would go out to the chicken coop and ring a chicken neck off, pluck it and mama would make a big pot of chicken and rice. We never went hungry," Akins said.

"We washed our



Nellie Kay Akins

dishes in a big pan and used potash soap for wash powder," she recalled. "A white rag and baking soda were used to clean our teeth.

"We used lard cans for our sitting chairs, sometimes we sat on the floor. We used cardboard to fan with. We used an outhouse and for paper, we used newspaper, cob or moss," she said.

"We used a safety pin to hold a bow in our hair," she added. "We used hog lard for hair grease and we used a brown paper bag to roll up our hair.

"Before we went to school we had to pick cotton and milk the

cows," she said. "After school we had to eat, work in the field, feed the hogs, clean and we did our homework by kerosene lantern and we would work until the last flicker of light when we were out of kerosene. In the winter months we made quilts to stay warm," Akins recalled.

"My mama made our dresses from the old printed flour sacks. They were pretty and we were really proud of them. We wore brogans and had only one pair. There were times that we had to go to school barefoot because our shoes were wet. Our socks were mismatched, but that wasn't uncommon then, you wore what you had.

"We walked to Sunday school. There was a single heater in there and the people would warm up and then go sit down. It was always cold during the sermon and some people brought quilts to wrap in during the service because it was so cold," she said.

"I remember picking cotton for 10 cents a pound and peanuts for

\$1 a bushel," she added. "It sure was hot in the fields. She added that she began working at the age of 13 for \$3 per day, cleaning houses and babysitting.

"On Saturday we went into town on the mule and wagon," Akins said. "We would jump out before going on to the Rat Row. Mama would tell us to be home before the sun goes down.

"Nowadays the young people tell me that it was not hard times when we were coming up. They are blessed and live in some good times, where everything is handed to you at the push of a button," said Akins. "If I could turn back the hands of time, I would," she concluded.

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

If you would like to sit and reminisce about the "Good Ol' Days" with Fran, call 997-3568 or email franhunt@embarqmail.com for an appointment.

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OLLI OFFERS CLASSES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at The Florida State University, which provides learning activities for persons over 50 who want to continue their education in a stress-free environment with no exams, is offering three courses at North Florida Community College's Green Industries Institute in Jefferson County as part of its spring offering of classes.

Classes meet two hours each week for six weeks, beginning on Thursday, February 9. Sign up deadline is January 31.

"Our partnership with NFCC/Green Industries allows OLLI to expand its reach to Jefferson County, providing an opportunity for persons throughout the area to continue learning in an informal and collegial setting with people of their own age," said OLLI President Susan Yelton.

Classes to be offered at NFCC/Green Industries are: *Harlem in the Jazz Age: Exploring Improvisation as an American

Phenomenon, taught by Dr. Madeleine Hirsiger-Carr of Tallahassee Community College. The course will use literature, music and the arts to examine the results of cultural contact in Harlem during the Roaring Twenties.

*Hands-on Organic Gardening for Early Spring, taught by Claire Mitchell, Green Industries Institute Sustainable Agriculture Programs manager. Participants will get practical outdoor experience as well as classroom instruction leading to their best spring garden ever.

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Persons seeking additional information or to sign up for the spring semester should call OLLI at 644-3520 or 644-7947, email at taaronson@fsu.edu or go to www.lli.fsu.edu

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Henry, Rommel Ingram, Julio Martinez, Alexiua Miller, Kai Morris, Jamie Murray, Maiya Randall, Tris Replogle, Jakiya Robinson, Terrence Sweat, Ryan Walker

3rd Grade:

Elijah Bellamy, Jayden Burns, Caroline Flynt, Matthew Steen, Khloe Jennings

4th Grade:

Damarius Alexander, NyQena Alexander, Tristan Craig, Grant Crumitie, Elizabeth Crego, Ariyanna Ellison, James Flynt, Aaliyah Martin,

Tremeine Robinson, Allen Washington, Zarian Wiggins

5th Grade:

Tanja Chavis, Yunijha Cooper, Mark Prevatt, Terrence Mosley, Alic Troutman, Aysia Womack

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Meeks, Emma Moore, Jonathan Moore, Sharneisa Mosley, Paradise Mills, Jaila Mitchell, Arleja Nealy, Anthony Newbon, Wade Segoe, Tykora Thompson, Justice Walker, Aliria Williams

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Logan Lamb, Kumeriyanna Livingston, Alaina Massey, Tranexia Moore, Taelyn Ransom, Elvonte Sperdutos, Raleigh Spinosa, Keshawn Thomas, Jasmine Tovar, Taniah Whitfield, Azaria Williams, Samaria Zeigler

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The Jefferson County Bailor **PUBLIC LIBRARY HAS A PART TIME POSITION AVAILABLE.** Duties include assisting customers with job searches, resumes, unemployment filing and other e-government services. Application available on county website or at the library. For more information call 342-0205. 1/25, 27, c.

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Legals

NOTICE

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners will hold a workshop pertaining to the County Coordinator's position on Monday, January 30, 2012 at 6 PM at the Courthouse Annex.
1/27/2012, c.

NOTICE

The JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD met in emergency session on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the District Office located at 575 S. Water Street, Monticello, Florida. The purpose for the meeting was to ratify a resolution regarding the closure of the Jefferson Correctional Institute. Any questions regarding this meeting may be directed to the District Office at (850) 342-0100.
1/27/2012, 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: BURL J. ISOM Deceased. CASE NO.: 09-54-PR DIVISION: Probate

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
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.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF NELLIE MAE MITCHELL, Deceased. Case No. 09-82-PR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Nellie Mae Mitchell, deceased, whose date of death was December 11, 2008, is pending in the Circuit Court for Jefferson County, Florida, Probate Division under probate file no. 09-82-PR, the address of which is Jefferson County Courthouse, 1 Courthouse Circle, Monticello, FL 32344. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of the first publication of this notice is January 27, 2012.

R. Bruce Warren
Attorney for Personal Representative
WHITEHURST, BLACKBURN & WARREN
809 South Broad Street Thomasville, GA 31792 (229) 226-2161 Gladys Roann Personal Representative P.O. Box 524 Monticello, FL 32345
1/27,2/3/2012, c.

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CHURCH NEWS NOTES

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 27

Memorial Missionary Baptist Church Mission Ministry will hold a Fish Fry on Friday, in the church fellowship hall, beginning at 11 a.m. until the fish is gone. The meal will be your choice of mullet or brim with cole slaw and baked beans for a donation of \$7.00; sandwiches will cost a donation of \$5.50. For more information contact Rev. Joretha Sloan at 850-997-2705.

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.lifesong-gospel.com

JANUARY 27

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 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.

JANUARY 29

Mt. Pleasant AME Church and Rev. Maryetta Cromartie will host Fifth Sunday Missionary Worship with New Bethel AME Church/Rev. Jimmie F. Dickey, and Philadelphia AME

Church/Rev. David Williams at 11 a.m. For more information contact Nellie Kay Akins at 850-997-3242.

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 3

Monticello Church of Christ, 475 South Jefferson Street, is hosting a Gospel Meeting with guest speaker Ben Liggin, from Panama City, FL. The Meet will begin on Sunday at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and at 5:00 p.m.; and continuing Monday through Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Call 850-201-1509 or 850-997-2028 for more information.

FEBRUARY 1, 15

EaglesWings, a ministry of outreach, serves the community on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The food pantry is located at the First Presbyterian Church on East Dogwood Street. Volunteers are always welcome to hand out food items and to donate non-perishable food items. Call and leave a message for JoAnne Arnold at 850-997-2252 or go to eagleswingsmonticello@yahoo.com or www.firstpresbyterianmonticeool.org

FEBRUARY 2

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.

FEBRUARY 4

Cherry Lake First Baptist Church will host a Bluegrass Gospel Benefit/Sing on Saturday, from 6 to 8 p.m., featuring Calvary Bluegrass and other local talent. This benefit is to help Victor Strawder with his medical bills. A Love Offering will be collected. For more information contact Jane Moore at 850-929-9990.

FEBRUARY 4

Gospel Fest in the old JCHS auditorium Saturday beginning at 6 p.m. Emcee Detroit Live will introduce the evening's featured guests: Min. Febe & The Chosen Ones; Bright Side Gospel Singers; Mother Graham & The Gospel Joy Singers; Thessalonians; New Bethel AME Church; Apostle & Favor and so many more. This evening of gospel music is free,

though donations will be accepted. For more information contact CP Miller III at 850-251-2194.

FEBRUARY 5

Central Baptist Church will host the singing ministry of 'New Tradition' on Sunday, beginning at 10:30 a.m. with a Morning Worship Service. Dinner will be served to all in the church fellowship hall after the service. For more information contact Pastor Daryl Adams at 850-251-0129 or Dan Morris at 850-251-3296.

FEBRUARY 5

Greater Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate Family and Friends Day at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday. All are invited to glorify God on this blessed occasion. Elder Chester Brown III and the Shady Grove Primitive Baptist Church #1 of Tallahassee will render the service. Contact Rev. Melvin Roberts, pastor, at 850-997-4375 for more information. The church is located at 690 Cypress Street.

FEBRUARY 8

St. Phillip AME Church will host a February Mid-Week Praise & Worship Service beginning Wednesday after the first Sunday in February, with a Praise Service at 6:45 p.m. and Worship Service at 8:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 10

New Hope Church will host a Blood Drive from 12 to 6 p.m. on Friday in the Winn Dixie Plaza. A free lunch will be served to all donors. For more information contact Mary at 850-948-8232.

FEBRUARY 12

Sunday of Silence will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every second Sunday of each month at One Heart Earth Center. It's a non-denominational time of stillness and reflection. A vegetarian lunch is offered at noon; served and eaten in silence. Gentle Hatha Yoga will begin at 10 a.m. with instructor Joy Moore. Mats are provided. OHEC is located at 450 West Madison Street in downtown Monticello and is a non-profit 501c3 public charity. Donations appreciated and are tax deductible. For more information contact Sallie Worley at oneheartearthcenter@embarqmail.com or 850-997-7373.



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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 27, 2012 through February 3, 2012
Major Feed Times are marked by an asterisk (*)*

Friday, January 27 *2:20 AM 8:30 AM *2:30 PM 8:50 PM	Saturday, January 28 *3:00 AM 9:10 AM *3:25 PM 9:40 PM	Sunday, January 29 *3:50 AM 10:00 AM *4:10 PM 10:25 PM	Monday, January 30 *4:35 AM 10:45 AM *4:55 PM 11:10 PM
Tuesday, January 31 *5:25 AM 11:35 AM *5:45 PM	Wednesday, February 1 12:00 AM *6:10 AM 12:20 PM *6:30 PM	Thursday, February 2 12:45 AM *6:50 AM 1:00 PM *7:20 PM	Friday, February 3 1:30 AM *7:35 AM 1:45 PM *8:10 PM

MORE KIDS IN THE WOODS OPENS THE DOORS TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Nearly 500 kids from three area schools braved the great outdoors during a week-long U.S. Forest Service event known as More Kids in the Woods hosted at the Beau Turner Youth Conservation Center (BTYCC) in Lamont, Fla.

The U.S. Forest Service partnered with the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) to co-sponsor the More Kids in the Woods event attended by students from Fort Braden Middle School, Jefferson High School and River Springs High School.

"This was really natural for us because it dovetails into our outreach mission," said Brian M. Zielinski of the NWTF. "It's a great opportunity to expand our hunting heritage theme and a great way to reach youth in the Tallahassee area."

The five-day outdoor event consisted of archery and BB gun ranges, a wild turkey education station, a forestry station, and a wildlife interpretive information station with 100 students attending each day. In addition, the Florida Forest Service demonstrated a prescribed burn at the end of each day.

"I have learned so much about the woods," said Maria Joyner a student at Fort Braden Middle School. "I thought I knew a lot before, but I learned about wildfire and longleaf pine. It's amazing!"

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) oversees the outdoor learning center at BTYCC which hosts many outdoor initiatives each year. Other State and Federal agencies participating in this event included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Forest Service.



Natural Resource Manager Carl Petrick of the National Forests in Florida looks on as a high school student sets his sights on the archery range. Nearly 500 students from area schools attended the More Kids in the Woods event held January 9-13, 2012.



Education Coordinator Kelly Langston of the Beau Turner Youth Conservation Center instructs a student from Jefferson High School on the archery range. The More Kids in the Woods event was attended by students from Fort Braden Middle School, Jefferson High School and River Springs High School.

"There's been an emphasis by the Forest Service to develop this grant called 'More Kids in the Woods,' as a way to encourage children to learn more about the natural world and to experience outdoor activities along with exposing them to a variety of career paths in natural resources," said Natural Resources Manager Carl Petrick of the National Forests in Florida.

More Kids in the Woods evolved as a result of a decline in outdoor activities among children. Today kids are more technology savvy and nature plays less of a role in their lives. With this in mind, partnerships were developed between the U.S. Forest Service, American Recreation Coalition and the National Forest Foundation to proactively support and promote a common belief that children need to be connected to nature.



Maria Joyner a student at Fort Braden Middle School accesses her accuracy at the BB gun range with a NWTF range instructor. Nearly 500 students from area schools attended the More Kids in the Woods event held January 9-13, 2012.



The Florida Forest Service demonstrates a prescribed burn as students from Jefferson High School observe from a distance. After the fire was extinguished the students were given a guided tour of the area and were able to ask questions of firefighters and Forest Service personnel.

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