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Florida's Keystone County

50¢ 46¢ + 4¢

Friday, February 3, 2012

SUPPORTERS ENGAGED IN FULL COURT PRESS TO SAVE PRISON

LAZARO ALEMAN

ECB Publishing

Senior Staff Writer

If Gov. Rick Scott has a heart, it was bound to have gotten a tug on Wednesday, when four busloads of Jefferson County Elementary School (JES) 4th and 5th grade students traveled to the capitol with hand-written letters addressed to the state's chief executive, urging him to spare their parents' jobs.

The idea of JES Principal Valarie Thompson, the outing was intended to serve a dual

purpose: show support for the community effort to spare Jefferson Correctional Institution (JCI) from closing and also give the kids a chance to participate in government day at the capitol and see firsthand the Legislature at work.

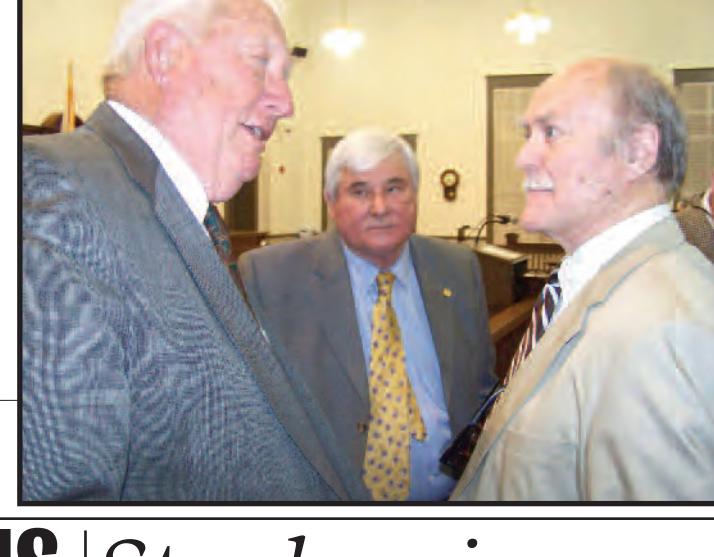
Thompson said the idea came to her following the legislative delegation hearing in the courthouse on Monday evening. She said that hearing

JCI employees and their families tell about the disruptions and hardship that the prison closing would cause them, she had been inspired to have the children tell in their own words what the prison closing would mean to them.

Typical of the letters, which were wholly unedited, were those of Aaliyah Martin, Maggie Kellogg and Mark Prevatt —

Please See PRISON Page 3

Senator Charles Dean and Representative Leonard Bembry talk with Dick Bailar prior to Monday evening's hearing in the courthouse. From left to right are Dean, Bembry and Bailar.



JEFFERSON COUNTY REPUBLICANS FAVOR GINGRICH OVER ROMNEY

LAZARO ALEMAN

ECB Publishing

Senior Staff Writer

As everyone must know by now, Mitt Rom-

ney won the Florida Republican presidential primary on Tuesday, Jan. 31, statewide getting 46 percent of the votes to

the 32 percent that went to his chief rival, Newt Gingrich.

Those percentages translated statewide into

771,842 votes cast for Romney and 531,294 cast for Gingrich, with Rick Santorum receiving 222,248, or 13 percent, and Ron Paul receiving 116,776, or 7 percent.

That, however, wasn't the case in Jefferson County, where a majority of Republican voters chose Gingrich over Romney.

Results released by the Jefferson County Elections Office on Wednesday morning

Please See REPUBLICANS Page 3

Looking For Leap Year Babies

Are you a grownup but still seven years old because your birthday only comes around every four years? Will you have to wait until you can al-

Please See

LEAP YEAR Page 3



City Street Closings Set For Coming Bike Races

LAZARO ALEMAN

ECB Publishing

Senior Staff Writer

The Monticello Police Department (MPD) is alerting Monticello downtown businesses and residents to be prepared for the closing of certain streets and increased pedestrian and cyclists traffic on Sunday, Feb. 12.

"Please be advised that the Monticello City Council has approved an application for the closure of several downtown streets on Sunday, Feb. 12, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. for bicycle races," reads a memo that the MPD is circulating around town.

The streets that the MPD identifies for temporary closure are the south-bound lane of North Jefferson and West Washington, North Olive and West York streets. The MPD advises that adjacent streets will also be affected by the diverted traffic.

More than 200 out-of-town bicyclists and spectators are expected for the 3rd annual Seminole Cycling Classic, a two-day racing event that is scheduled to take place the weekend of Feb. 11-12 in areas of Monticello and Jefferson County.

Sponsored by the FSU Cycling Club and featuring races of various lengths and endurance, the southeast collegiate competition is expected to draw participants from around the region and possibly even other southeastern states.

The races will run both Saturday and Sunday, take place on three designated courses (one in the city and two in the county), and involve different classes and categories of male and female racers.

For more information about the club or event, contact Jack Tomassetti at 904-415-3833 or jactomassett@gmail.com.

3,2,1... BIKE RODEO!

Jefferson County Kids BIKE RODEO and RACE!

MONTICELLO NEWS PARKING LOT
180 West Washington Street, Monticello, FL
RODEO: 10:00am RACE: 11:15am

On SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12th, bring your kid to the FREE!!! Jefferson County Kids Bicycle Rodeo to learn important bicycle skills to keep them safe on the road. We'll go over important skills such as Helmet Fit, Traffic Mix, Rock Dodge, and Shoulder Check. We will provide bicycles and helmets, or you can bring your child's own bicycle and helmet. After the rodeo, we'll do a quick bike race around a closed course in downtown Monticello.



The Monticello News

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Local Weather

Fri

2/3

73/56

Cloudy skies with a few showers later in the day. High 73F.

Sat

2/4

79/55

Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 50s.

Sun

2/5

78/49

A few thunderstorms possible.

Tue

2/6

74/52

A few thunderstorms possible. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 50s.

Wed

2/7

71/50

Mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 50s.

the Employee of the Year," he said as he handed her the plaque.

An apparently stunned and tearful Roberts thanked Brumfield and those standing around him. As fellow employees watched from the front office, all the while applauding the announcement.

Roberts was also presented with orange and blue balloons, one congratulatory metallic balloon all attached to orange and blue ribbons and a dozen white roses, adorned in green berries, "ting-ting" and orange and blue ribbons.

The applause of fellow employees continued as Roberts stepped into the main office and cameras began to flash. Roberts, all the while, was wearing a grin as big as that of the Cheshire cat.

Of Roberts, the nominating committee said, "We submit to you that Mrs. Stephanie Roberts would be an excellent selection for this honor."

"Mrs. Roberts has worked in the Jefferson County school district for 26 years. She goes above and beyond the call of duty working extra long hours at school and at home making sure that all reports, payroll and everything is completed and turned in on time."

"She worked at Jefferson Elementary School as a

Please See ROBERTS Page 3



"After being named the District Employee of the Year, JCMHS Bookkeeper II Stephanie Roberts gladly displays the plaque, flowers and balloons she received during the announcement."

Viewpoints & Opinions

CHURCH

NEWS

NOTES

FEBRUARY 4

Bethpage Missionary Baptist Church Mission Ministry will hold a Bake Sale/Yard Sale/Fish Fry from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. For more information and directions contact the church at 850-997-0967.

FEBRUARY 4

Monticello Church of the Nazarene will hold its monthly Clothing Giveaway from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday at 1590 North Jefferson. There is clothing for everyone, young/old, big/small!

FEBRUARY 4

Cherry Lake First Baptist Church will host a Bluegrass Gospel Benefit/Sing from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, 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 on Wednesday after the first Sunday in February, with a Praise Service at 6:45 p.m. and Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 9

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 10

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.

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

From Page One

Prison

three students whose parents work at JCI. The three wrote about seeing their parents stressed out and crying because of the likely loss of their jobs, and they asked the governor to put himself in their places and consider how he would feel as a kid if he was suddenly uprooted and forced to say goodbye to friends and loved ones and move to a new place.

At the same time that the kids were boarding the buses for Tallahassee, many others from the community—including JCI employees, elected officials and community leaders—were also headed for the capitol to attend an important House appropriations committee hearing on the prisons closing.

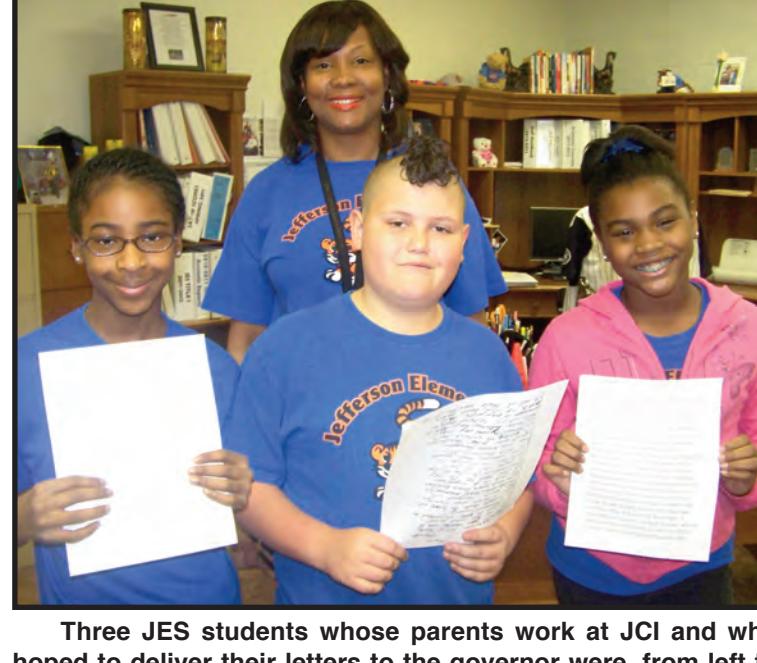
Indeed, if the effort to save JCI from closing isn't successful, it won't be because of a lack of trying.

On Monday evening, before an overflowing crowd at the courthouse, Representatives Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda and Leonard Bembry and Senators Charles Dean and Bill Montford urged the community to stay engaged and continue the onslaught of calls and emails to the governor's office and the Legislature. No matter if the latter were expressing frustration that the emails and calls were of a form, the pressure was having an effect, Vasilinda said.

"They are listening to the numbers of what's coming across," she said. "Continue your email onslaught and continue your calls."

In their recap of their earlier meeting with the Governor's chief of staff and other key staff to get JCI removed from the closure list, the four legislators said they had argued firmly and passionately on behalf of the county and made the case that the issue was greater than simply closing a prison, it was essentially dooming an entire community.

"You better start preparing a recovery plan," Montford said he told the governor's staff. "Because this will be worst than a hurricane; this will be an economic tsunami. I don't believe the state can afford the savings that they're



Three JES students whose parents work at JCI and who hoped to deliver their letters to the governor were, from left to right, Maggie Kellogg, Mark Prevatt, and Aaliyah Martin. With them is JES Principal Valarie Thompson, whose it was to have the students write the letters.

projecting."

Bembry said the four had tried to point out the human cost of the decision. He said he took the JCI closure as somewhat of a personal affront, given that Jefferson County was a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC).

Having been one of the lawmakers to vote in support of putting the economic development effort in the Governor office, Bembry said he found it

disingenuous that the same of-

fice would now target JCI for

closing, knowing the county's

RACEC status. He urged the

community to remain united

and involved and ask that as

many people as possible at-

tended the coming House ap-

propriations hearings, where

he said four amendments

would be introduced to take

JCI off the closure list.

"We need to stay united and show that we have resolve and that we won't accept anything less than success," Bembry said.

Vasilinda said the four of them had been passionate, assertive and professional in their plea to the governor's staff. She said the group had basically underscored two points: one was that Jefferson County deserved mercy as an outlier county, insofar as the state's selection criteria for prison closures; and the second was that the decision was

"penny wise and pound foolish".

She said she had personally invited the governor to visit Jefferson County and hear the people's stories, but the latter had declined the invitation.

"But continue the email onslaught and letter writing so that even if this effort doesn't work, you will know that you did everything you could," Vasilinda said.

Breaking from tradition,

the legislators immediately

opened the hearing to public

comment, rather than hearing

from the elected officials first.

The list of speakers, mostly JCI employees or their relatives, included Paula Pierce, Jerry Loggins, Latonah Martin, Patricia Butler Hayes, Steve Mann and Sam Rutherford.

Pierce, whose husband works at JCI, said she didn't understand why the governor didn't come and face the people whose lives he was affecting. His decision was taking away six percent of her household income, she said. Was she supposed to get rid of one of her three children in the interest of downsizing? No, what it meant was that her family would have to eat less and go out less, she said.

"It affects me a lot," Pierce said of the JCI closing.

Borrowing from the Tigers



ECB Publishing Inc., Photos by Laz Aleman, Feb. 1, 2011
JES 4th and 5th graders board school buses early Wednesday morning for their daytrip to Tallahassee.

football team's slogan, Loggins called JCI an "uncommon place", meaning that it was special and different from other incarceration institutions. He talked of the family bond that existed among the workers, a theme echoed by others of the JCI employees.

He said that many JCI employees had dedicated 20 and 30 years to the job. He himself had only made lieutenant recently, after years of service. And now they were being tossed out without any guarantee of another job, he said. Even those with job offers, the jobs were far away and entailed them starting at the bottom of rung again, he said.

"It's a crying shame that Jefferson County people have to go through this," Loggins. "We have a lot of officers who are single parents. Who will take care of their children if they go to another prison?"

Martin offered that she was one of the parents that Loggins mentioned. As the single mother of three daughters, she was the family's sole breadwinner, she said. She had chosen to get a job and not go on welfare because she had pride and dignity and wanted to teach her daughters those same values, she said. But now she went to bed every night wondering if she would soon be one of those people who didn't have a job or health insurance, she said.

She wasn't asking for a handout, Martin said. She was asking for the opportunity to

work. She asked the legislators to keep her face in mind when they continued to fight for the sparing of JCI.

"I refuse to believe that there's nothing that can be done," she said.

Hayes questioned why the state was continuing to build more prison beds elsewhere, when it was shutting JCI because of a supposed decline in the prison population. She questioned also how JCI employees were supposed to pick up and move to new locations or commute long distances to other prison jobs, given the costs involved.

"Most of us are making \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year," she said. "We're not in the ivory tower of a central office making \$100,000."

Rutherford said he didn't see how a private company could operate a prison more inexpensively than JCI, given the budget cutting that the facility had experienced. He said staff currently cut bars of soap into eight pieces to save costs, the inmates had to fashion underwear out of old sheets, and the staff grew vegetables to supplement the inmates' diets. Not to mention that prison's average vehicle had about 300,000 miles, he said.

"There's no way a private company can run a prison for 7 percent less than we are doing it," Rutherford said. "We have 700 inmates on drugs. Those medical expenses are going to follow them wherever they go."

Roberts

Para Pro for Kindergarten through fourth grades and Media Assistant. She received her Child Development Associate and worked for several years in Pre-K and became the Lead Teacher of her Pre-Kinder-garten class.

"Upon the request of Dr. Norton, she accepted the position of Data Entry Clerk and worked as Guidance Receptionist/Secretary at JCHS. She later became JCHS Secretary II, then Bookkeeper II of Jefferson County High School and Howard Middle School. She became the bookkeeper of Jefferson County Middle High School and works in that capacity currently," they added.

"She always has a warm and friendly smile to let you know



Caught at work behind her desk Monday morning, JCMHS Bookkeeper II Stephanie Roberts, left, was surprised by Superintendent Bill Brumfield, right, among many others, to the announcement, "Congratulations, you are the District Employee of the Year."

that you are welcome and will do all that she can to help you get to where you want to go and get the information that you need. She is very proficient and meticulous in her position. She always has time to stop and help accommodate students, parents, coworkers and anyone that seeks help, regardless of what she is doing. She has a very pleasing personality and works in any capacity needed.

"She is a member of the We laune Missionary Baptist Church, where she is the president of the Deaconess Ministry, the coordinator of the Health Ministry, sings in the choir and also works on the Kitchen Committee. She is very active in her church and in her community," they concluded.

Leap Year

continued from page 1

most draw Social Security to celebrate your Sweet 16 party? We want to hear about it.

This newspaper is interested in doing stories on leap year babies. Is your birthday on Feb. 29? If it is, then give us a call at (850) 997-3568. We are looking forward to those leap year youngsters from 0 to 25 (0-100).

We would like to feature your story in a special Leap Year section in our Feb. 29 issue of *Monticello News*.

INAUGURAL NORTHEAST SOUL FOOD FESTIVAL

KRISTIN FINNEY

A Special From Greene Publishing, Inc.

Car shows and soul food and gospel, oh my! On Friday, February 17, and Saturday February 18, HottCoffey Records and the On The Rise TV Show will be bringing a festival of epic proportions to Madison County. The festival is being held at the Madison County Recreation Center, located at 320 SW Arnold St. in Madison.

There will be live performances by Tank on Paint, Ceeje the Kid, Essence Green, Rashonda Denton and many more. There will be a cake auction and car show during the festival. There will also be live celebrity entertainment, gospel shows and official parties. There will also be plenty of soul food for everyone to enjoy.

Not only are Madison residents invited to the festival, those in the surrounding counties are as well. There will be a chance that those who attend

could end up on TV thanks to FMN Live Productions.

"Our main focus is trying to get the community together as a whole to come out and have a good time. We are inviting everyone in all of the surrounding areas to join us. We might even have some people coming from Jacksonville and Miami area. The main purpose of this is trying to help support the recreation center by trying to remove some of the financial burdens that they have. Also, we are trying to have fun. I have invited some prominent members of society to try to expand the effort," said Clifford Brown, who is helping put together the event.

You can visit the website at youtube.com/Ddj5starstunna or myspace.com/DJPrinceofJville. You can also call Diddy Coffee for registration information and vendor info. The number is 904-576-2568. You can also call Clifford Brown at 904-654-1428.

Republicans

continued from page 1

showed that Gingrich received 440 votes here, or 41.50 percent of the votes cast, to Romney's 322 votes, or 30.37 percent.

Meanwhile, Rick Santorum received 216 votes here, or 20.37 percent, to come in third place, and Ron Paul received 75 votes, or 7.08 percent.

Jefferson County has 9,261 registered voters, 6,243 of whom are Democrats, 2,193 Republicans and 825 identified as 'others'.

If Jefferson County Republican voters were not in step with the majority of their fellow Republicans across the state in favoring Gingrich, they were in step with most neighboring counties and others of the smaller, rural counties across the state in their choice.

The statewide tabulations show that 33 of Florida's 67 counties favored Gingrich over Romney, including Franklin, Gadsden, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla in the Big Bend area.

Florida being a winner takes all state, Romney's victory assured him the state's 50 delegate votes for the August nominating convention in Tampa. It requires 1,144 delegate votes to win the GOP nomination. Romney now has 87 delegate votes to Gingrich's 26. Santorum has 14 and Paul has four.

It's estimated that Romney spent \$15 million in support of his campaign to secure the Florida victory.

The contest next heads to Nevada, Colorado and other western states.

Jefferson County Living

HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS HELPS BUSINESS OWNERS

The Heartland Payment Systems is the nation's fifth largest payments processor and a FORTUNE 1000 company publicly traded on the NYSE. Heartland has selected Tallahassee as the singular market to launch its upcoming merchant education campaign and recruitment initiative, virtually ensuring a boost to the local economy.

Heartland representative Moriah Murphy, a local resident and well-known entrepreneur and business advisor, would be available to speak with you and offer further insight into this initiative. She has worked with the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, founded the Florida Association of Beauty Professionals, co-owned a small craft beer company and worked as a consultant for a leading insurance carrier.

Helping business owners increase their bottom lines is one of Heartland's initiatives. Whether they realize it or not, many business owners are falling victim to paying hidden and inflated credit/debit card processing fees. Processing is generally among one of a merchant's highest expenses but the processing ecosystem is inherently complex, making monthly statements and true costs difficult to decipher.

As a vocal merchant advocate and founder of the Merchant Bill of Rights (www.MerchantBillofRights.org), Heartland has made it its mission to educate business owners about payment processing and how they can reduce their out-of-pocket costs.

This is particularly timely in light of the recently implemented Durbin Amendment that lowered debit card 'swipe' fees in an effort to reduce card acceptance costs for merchants. Heartland has pledged to pass 100 percent of all fee reductions on to its merchants, while

many other processors are not crediting merchants at all with the savings. On average, Heartland anticipates this will cost business owners at least \$1,000 per year, not including the cost of other 'junk' fees. Exposing these profit drainers will help local merchants significantly improve their bottom lines and help encourage the infusion of additional capital into the local economy.

Murphy can speak to these points in more detail and provide actionable tips to help local business owners protect their profits and boost their bottom lines.

As Heartland ramps up its merchant education campaign locally, it plans to hire a team of qualified sales professionals to serve as trusted payment processing and business consultants for merchants throughout the area. Named in the 'SellingPower Magazine' as the 'Best Companies to Sell For' from 2009-2012, Heartland is looking to leverage the area's highly educated workforce and further increase the positive growth in employment rates that the area has recently been experiencing.

To help build awareness around these initiatives, Heartland has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to support a six-week advertising and marketing blitz that launched on February 1. This includes print advertisements, transit, television and radio advertisements, billboards, digital marketing, social media and more. This will not only help Heartland spread the merchant campaign and recruitment messages, but also provides a significant capital investment to support your local economy.

If you are interested in speaking with Murphy or any of Heartland's merchants in the area go to evoluck@vault-communications.com or call 610-455-2752 or 301-785-4306.

FSYR Receives Donation From MGC



ECB Publishing Photo By Debbie Snapp, January 19, 2012.

Monticello Garden Club members made a generous donation to Jefferson County Sheriff David Hobbs for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund. The FSY Ranch is a 501c3 non-profit residential child and family services organization founded by The Florida Sheriffs Association in 1957. Its mission is to prevent juvenile delinquency and develop strong, lawful, resilient and productive citizens who will make a positive contribution to their communities for years to come. Pictured from left to right are: Debbie Bailey, Magnolia Circle member; Anne Mara, MGC president and Founders Circle member; Isabelle de Sercey, Camellia Circle member; and Sheriff David Hobbs.

Girl Scouts Launch ToGetHerThere

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) announce the launch of ToGetHerThere, the largest, boldest advocacy and fundraising cause dedicated to girls' leadership in the nation's history. The multiyear effort will seek to create balanced leadership, the equal representation of women in leadership positions in all sectors and levels of society, within one generation. A comprehensive new

research study, ToGetHerThere: Girls' Insights on Leadership, commissioned by GSUSA in partnership with GfK Roper, reveals that while girls are generally optimistic about their futures, they still see glass ceilings in today's society that will get in the way of achieving their leadership potential. The study, based on a telephone survey of 1,000 girls ages eight to 17, found for example that close to three in five girls think that a woman can rise up in a company but will only rarely be put in a senior leadership role. Additionally, more than one-third of girls say they wouldn't feel comfortable trying to be a leader and almost 40 percent are not sure they're cut out to be a leader.

On Tuesday, January 31, in New York City, Girl Scouts kicked off ToGetHerThere with a panel discussion at the TimesCenter featuring female leaders across a number of industries including finance, media, nonprofit and sports. At this time, Girl Scouts will further share the findings of ToGetHerThere: Girls' Insights on Leadership.

Following the panel discussion at the TimesCenter in New York City, on Wednesday, February 1, Girl Scouts hosted an event on Capitol Hill in the Cannon Caucus Room, focusing on the ToGetHerThere cause as an advocacy program for girls. Girl Scouts will be asking Congressional leaders to join them in supporting efforts to foster leadership in all girls, both nationally and in their respective constituencies.

Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls, with 3.2 million girl and adult members worldwide. Girl Scouts is the leading authority on girls' healthy development, and builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. The organization serves girls from every corner of the United States and its territories. Girl Scouts of the USA also serves American girls and their classmates attending American or international schools overseas in 90 countries. For more information on how to join, volunteer or reconnect with, or donate to Girl Scouts, call 800-GSUSA-4-U or visit www.girlscouts.org

Girl Scout Cookie Sales Have Begun

Area Girl Scouts plan to make this cookie season their best yet! Each scout has set a goal... to knock on 100 doors during pre-order sales, in celebration of '100 Years Of Girl Scouting!' The more doors knocked on, the more cookies sold!

The scouts will also be taking photos with their customers and car-



rying handmade signs showing how many cookies they've sold to date. So, keep watch and buy Girl Scout cookies this year from your favorite Girl Scout!

The selection of cookies this season includes: Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs, Do-Si-Dos, Trefoils, Dulce De Leche, Thank U Berry Munch and Savannah Smiles.

We
Don't
Monkey Around
when it comes to
Sweet Deals

February 10

*We will be having a
Valentines Day Page*

Call Glenda at
The Monticello News
at 850-997-3568



\$5

for a basic

Valentine.

Ask about
Our BIGGER
customized
Valentines!

LOVE

**BE
MINE**

FOREVER

**Tell Your
Valentine
how much
they mean to
YOU.**

**APPLY FOR AGRICULTURAL
CLASSIFICATION BEFORE
MARCH 1, 2012**

A reminder from
Angela Gray, Property Appraiser

Agricultural Classification must be applied for the first year after property is sold or transferred from one owner to another.

If there are any changes in the use of the property it is important to notify our office.

Pursuant to Florida Statutes 193.461(3)(a), "... Only lands which are used primarily for bona fide agricultural purposes shall be classified as agricultural. "Bona fide agricultural purposes" means good faith commercial agricultural use of land."

Apply by visiting the Property Appraiser's Office at 480 W. Walnut St. between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri. For further information or appointments call the Jefferson County Property Appraiser's Office

997-3356 or visit jeffersonpa.net.

Jefferson County Living

COMMUNITY

CALENDAR

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 4

'Let's Make Valentines' workshop at Winn Dixie for area children, while their parents shop, from 12 to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Everything needed will be supplied.

FEBRUARY 4

'Train the Trainer Tobacco Prevention Education' at St. Phillip AME Church from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Community and church health ministers are invited to attend. Participants to this training event are encouraged to take the word of tobacco prevention back to their churches, groups, organizations and the like. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 to 9:45 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. For more information and directions, contact Gloria Cox, Community Health Educator for tobacco prevention education and cessation at 850-879-4425.

FEBRUARY 4

Celebration of African American Art Exhibition at the Jefferson Arts. An opening reception with complimentary appetizers and beverages will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday in the gallery. Contributing artists of these various mediums in-

clude: Austin Brown, Penny Hackett, A.R. Harvey, Zaid Haynes, Akinlana Lowman and Eluster Richardson. 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. This exhibition will run through February.

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 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 lydia-claire.brooks@covenanthospice.org or call 850-701-0137.

FEBRUARY 4

'A Timeless Dance With My Father' tickets are now available for the second annual Father/Daughter Dance sponsored by the Chi Upsilon

Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The dance will be held on Saturday, at the Tallahassee Community College Workforce Development Banquet Hall, 444 Appleyard Drive from 5 to 9 p.m. Call 850-566-3872 or go to pinkakasion-events@gmail.com to purchase tickets.

FEBRUARY 4, 18

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.

FEBRUARY 5

VFW Post 251 meets 5 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at the Learning Center on Marvin Street for a meeting. Contact Commander Ned Hill at 850-339-5524 for more information.

FEBRUARY 6

VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 251 meets 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at Memorial MB Church. Contact President Mary Madison at 850-210-7090 for more information.

FEBRUARY 6

Sons Of The American Legion (SAL) meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in the Otto Walker Post 49 on South Water Street in Monticello. For more information contact District III Commander Buddy Westbrook at 850-997-2973.

FEBRUARY 6

MainStreet of Monticello, Florida Board Meeting is held at 5 p.m. on the first Monday of every month at the Cherry Street Commons on South Cherry Street. Contact Margie Stern at 850-445-1390 for more information. For more information about the third Monday Main Street Speaker Series

contact Anne Holt at 850-997-5110 or aholt@aholt.com Come to hear about updates and projects that MainStreet has been working on.

FEBRUARY 6

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

FEBRUARY 6

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.

FEBRUARY 7

Monticello Woman's Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month at noon at the clubhouse on East Pearl Street for lunch and a meeting. Contact Club President Ethel Strickland at 850-997-3382 for more information.

FEBRUARY 7

grams at the Jefferson Elementary School and adult literacy classes at the Library.

New members are always welcome to the noon luncheon meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at the Jefferson Senior Citizens Center. For more information contact Diane Westbrook at 850-997-2973.

FEBRUARY 7

Jefferson County Lions Club meets at 1 p.m. on the first Tuesday and at 5 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Monticello Pizza Kitchen on East Dogwood Street. For more information contact Lion Debbie at 850-997-0901, leave a message.

FEBRUARY 7, 16

Jefferson County Lions Club meets at 1 p.m. on

Nobody's Perfect Altrusa Preview Party

On Thursday, February 9, Altrusa of Monticello will present a special preview of the Opera House Stage Company's romantic comedy 'Nobody's Perfect'. The evening will begin with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and refreshments at 6 p.m. at the Monticello Opera House. The show will be presented in the downstairs reception area at 7 p.m.

The play's characters are Leonard, a nerdy statistician, who writes a romantic novel. A feminist publishing company is interested, but only if the

book was written by a woman. His solution is to put on a dress and become his own Aunt Lulabelle. The deception seems to work, until Leonard falls in love with the editor, Harriet. Then he has to be Leonard, the potential boyfriend, and Lulabelle, the aunt, sometimes in the same moment. Things get even more difficult when Leonard's feisty daughter and eccentric father figure out what he's up to.

Ticket cost is \$20 per person and may be purchased from any Altrusa member or by contacting

Jan Williams at 850-728-1867. There will also be a 'One Dollar' raffle for the fabulous Fabio to be taken home with someone.

Altrusa of Monticello is a civic organization focusing on literacy and education. Proceeds from fund raising events support annual scholarships, the Jefferson County Bailar Public Library, Jefferson Senior Citizens Center, local food pantries and the 4H Club. Members have also participated in numerous volunteer activities including reading pro-

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.

Perhaps you sent a floral piece if so we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.

Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts we thank you so much whatever the part.

The family of our Dear Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, Sister, Cousin and Friend, The Late Willie Mae Houston-Murray, finds healing in God's tender love and embrace in knowing others remembered and cared.

Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

The Family of the Late

Willie Mae Odom Houston-Murray

GATEWAY CINEMA 7

15023 Hwy. 19 South
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229-226-6060

MOVIE TIMES ARE GOOD THRU

Dates of

February 3 - February 9

Woman in black (PG13)

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*9:30

Saturday-1:15*4:10*7:00*9:30

Sunday-1:15*4:10*7:00

Mon-Thurs-7:00

NO PASSES

Man on a ledge (PG13)

Friday-4:00

Saturday-4:00

Sunday-4:00

Wed-Thurs-7:30

NO PASSES

One for the money (PG13)

Friday-5:20*7:35*9:45

Saturday-1:25*3:15*5:20*7:35*9:45

Sunday-1:25*3:15*5:20*7:35

Mon-Thurs-7:35

NO PASSES

The Grey (R)

Friday-4:10*7:15*10:00

Saturday-1:10*4:05*7:15*10:00

Sunday-1:10*4:05*7:15

Mon-Thurs-7:15

NO PASSES

Underworld: Awakening (R)

Friday-7:30

Saturday-7:30

Sunday-7:30

Mon-Thurs-7:30

NO PASSES

Underworld: Awakening 3D (R)

Friday-9:40

Saturday-1:05*9:40

Sunday-1:05

NO PASSES

Chronicle (PG13)

Friday-5:10*7:10*9:20

Saturday-1:00*3:10*5:10*7:10*9:20

Sunday-1:00*3:10*5:10*7:10

Mon-Thurs-7:10

NO PASSES

Red Tails (PG13)

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

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WHO: KIDS WHO LIKE BIKES!

WHAT: Free Kids Bicycle Safety Rodeo and Bicycle Race!

WHERE:

MONTICELLO NEWS PARKING LOT
180 W. Washington St. Monticello, FL

WHEN: Feb. 12, 2012. Rodeo begins at 10 AM, and the race begins at 11:15 AM





VARSITY WARRIORS BASEBALL SCHEDULE

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The schedule has been released for the Aucilla Christian Academy varsity baseball team. The roster will be forthcoming.

Action begins when the Warriors hit the diamond against Florida High, 4 p.m., Febru-

ary 9, at Rickards; Rickards, 7 p.m., February 10, away; Mayo, 5 p.m., February 14, away; FAMU, 4 p.m., February 15, home; Maclay, 4 p.m., February 17, away; Hamilton County, 5 p.m., February 20, away; Wewahitchka, 4 p.m., February 21, home; and John Paul II, 6 p.m., February 24, away.

March sees the Warriors squaring off against Leon JV, 4:30 p.m., March 1, away; Bell, 1 p.m., March 2, home; Brookwood, 4 p.m., March 6, home; FAMU, 5 p.m., March 8, away; Lanier County, 5:30 p.m., March 15, away; Mayo, 4 p.m., March 16, home; Munroe, 6 p.m., March 20, away; Wewahitchka, 6 p.m., March 29, away;

and John Paul II, 4 p.m., March 30, home.

In April Aucilla faces off against Franklin County, April 3, away; Maclay, 4 p.m., April 5, home; Hamilton County, 4 p.m., April 9, home; Lanier County, 4 p.m., April 12, home; Munroe, 4 p.m., April 13, home; Franklin County, 4 p.m., April 17, home; Florida High, 6:30 p.m., April 19, away; and wrapping up the regular season, Madison County, 7 p.m., April 20, away.

The Baseball Districts will be held at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., April 24, home; and the Baseball Championship will be held 4 p.m., April 26, home.

Drew Sherrod is coaching the Warriors this year.

LADY WARRIOR'S SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The schedule has been released for the Aucilla Christian Academy varsity Lady Warriors softball team. The roster will be forthcoming.

Action begins around the diamond against St. Francis, 4 p.m., February 6, away; Rickards, 6 p.m., February 10, away; North Florida Christian, 4 p.m., February 13, home; Maclay, 4 p.m., February 14, home; FAMU, 5 p.m., February 17, away; Mayo, 7 p.m., February 20, away; John Paul II, time to be announced, February 24, away; and Branford, 4:30 p.m., February 28, away.

March sees the Lady Warriors taking to the diamond against St. Francis, 4 p.m., March 1, home; Rickards, 4 p.m., March 5, home; Maclay, 3:30 p.m., March 6, away; and John Paul II, 4 p.m., March 30, home.

Aucilla faces off against North Florida Christian, 4 p.m., April 3, away; Mayo, 4 p.m., April 5, home; and wrapping up the regular season, Hamilton County, 5 p.m., April 12, away.

The Softball Districts will be held at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., April 17 at Munroe; and the Softball Championship will be held 6 p.m., April 19 at Munroe.

Coaching the Lady Warriors this year is Becky Lauth.

JV Lady Warriors Softball Schedule

The schedule has been released for the Aucilla Christian Academy junior varsity Lady Warriors softball team. The roster will be forthcoming.

Action begins around the diamond against Florida High middle, 6 p.m., February 7, away; Madison Central,

4:30 p.m., February 9, home; Rickards, 4 p.m., February 10, away; North Florida Christian middle, 4 p.m., February 13, home; Maclay, 4 p.m., February 14, home; Munroe, 4 p.m., February 17, away; Mayo, 5 p.m., February 20, away; Hamilton County, 4 p.m., February 21, home;

Florida High middle, 4:30 p.m., February 3, home; North Florida Christian middle, 4 p.m., February 28, away; Madison Central, 5 p.m., March 5, away; and wrapping up the season, Munroe, 4 p.m., March 9, home.

Coaching the young Lady Warriors this year is Danny Deason.

ACA JV Baseball Schedule Released

The schedule has been released for the Aucilla Christian Academy junior varsity Warriors baseball team. The roster will be forthcoming.

Action begins around the diamond when the JV's face off against Maclay, 4 p.m., February 14; home; Thomasville Christian, 4:30 p.m., February 17, home; North Florida Christian, 11 a.m., Febru-

ary 18, away; Mayo, 4 p.m., February 20, away; Florida High, 4:30 p.m., February 23, home; Wakulla middle, 4 p.m., February 24, home; Thomasville Christian, 4:30 p.m., March 1, away; and wrapping up the season, Wakulla middle, 4 p.m., March 2, away.

Coaching the JV Warriors this year is Sean Carson.

JV Warriors Trounce Tallavana

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy junior varsity Warriors trounced Tallavana January 30 for a 61-27 victory to now stand 9-5 on the season.

As a team the young Warriors netted 20 of 47 attempts from the field, bucketed three of 11 attempts from the three-point zone and targeted 12 of 19 attempts from the free-throw line for 61 points. They collected 14 assists, 21 offensive and 29 defensive rebounds for a total of 50 rebounds, with 11 block/steals and 25 turnovers.

Individually, Brandon Holm netted four of eight attempts from the field, hit one of one attempt from the three-point zone and netted one of two attempts from the free-throw line for 12 points. He had three assists, two defensive rebounds, three block/steals and four turnovers.

Casey Demott bucketed five of seven attempts from the field and sunk two of two attempts from the free-throw line for 12 points. He had

two assists, four offensive and eight defensive rebounds for a total of 12 rebounds and a double-double, with two block/steals and four turnovers.

Carson Nennstiel bucketed two of four attempts from the field, missed one attempt from the three-point zone and hit one of two attempts from the free-throw line for five points. He had three assists, three offensive and three defensive rebounds for a total of six rebounds, with two block/steals and two turnovers.

Ricky Finlayson netted one of three attempts from the field, missed two attempts from the three-point zone and hit one of one attempt from the free-throw line for three points. He had four assists, one block/steal and six turnovers.

Bryce Sanderson netted two of three attempts from the field, missed two attempts from the three-point zone and bucketed two of two attempts from the free-throw line for eight points. He had three offensive and three defensive rebounds for a

total of six rebounds, with one block/steal and one turnover.

Tyler Zimmerly netted two of two attempts from the field for four points. He had two defensive rebounds, one block/steal; and one turnover.

DJ Wilkinson hit one of six attempts from the field, bucketed two of five attempts from the three-point zone and hit one of two attempts from the free-throw line for nine points. He had three offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of four rebounds and two turnovers.

Gatlin Nennstiel missed four attempts from the field and netted four of eight attempts from the free-throw line for four points. He had two assists, three offensive and three defensive rebounds for a total of six rebounds, with four turnovers.

Sam Hogg targeted three of 10 attempts from the field for six points. He had five offensive and seven defensive rebounds for a total of 12 rebounds, with one block/steal and one turnover.

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2/1,3, pd.

Help Wanted

MECHANIC - PAY GRADE
23 - RANGE \$20, 280 - \$32,074; (\$9.75 - \$15.42)

Jefferson County Road Dept. will accept applications for Mechanic starting Feb. 1, 2012 to end Mar 1, 2012. Must have valid Class "A" Florida driver's license, high school education or equivalent, 4 years experience in the truck/automotive repair field.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND ABILITIES:

- Knowledge of construction, assembly, adjustment and maintenance of a wide variety of auto, truck, maintenance and construction equipment.
- Knowledge of all types of shop tools.
- Knowledge of rules and regulations pertaining to mechanic shop operation.
- Ability to follow directions.
- Mechanical Aptitude
- Ability to repair diesel motors and pumps.
- Ability to repair small engine equipment 2 cycle & 4 cycle.
- Ability to diagnose the defects of worn or broken parts on engines.
- Ability to perform tune-ups; electrical, brake, air conditioning and cooling system, exhaust system repairs; front end and clutch repairs; pumps and related equipment maintenance.
- Skill in applying methods and techniques in the use of automotive or diesel repairs.

OPERATOR 2 - PAY GRADE
24 - RANGE \$21,944 - \$33,675; (\$10.55 - \$16.19)

Jefferson County Road Dept. will accept applications for Operator 2 starting Feb. 1, 2012 to end Mar. 1, 2012. Must have a valid Class "A" Florida driver's license, high school education or equivalent, 2 years experience.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

- Knowledge of principles and methods of operating heavy construction type equipment.
- Knowledge of practices, methods and materials used in public works constructions and maintenance activities.
- Knowledge of rules and regulations pertaining to safety and operation of equipment.
- Ability to make minor repairs and adjustments to equipment and detect problems with equipment.
- Ability to perform manual work.
- Ability to follow and understand written and oral instructions.
- Skill in cleaning and maintaining equipment.
- Skill in operating medium to heavy equipment.
- Skill in the use of hand and power tools.

2/1-3/1, c.

Wanted

Small enclosed **UTILITY TRAILER**, reasonable call 997-3505 (Lois)

1/25, tfn, nc.



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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

LDM Community Development Corp. also known as LDM Academy located at 3377 Jim Lee Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32301 announces its participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Child Care Food Program, which is a federally funded program that reimburses child care providers for serving nutritious meals and snacks to enrolled, eligible children. Meals will be available at no separate charge to all participants enrolled at the center listed above, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

2/3/2012, c.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Jefferson County Planning Commission will hold its regular monthly meeting on February 9, 2012 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will consist of general business.

The meetings will be held in the Courthouse Annex located at 435 West Walnut Street in Monticello, FL. The meeting may be continued as necessary.

Information concerning the meeting is available at the Jefferson County Planning Department, 445 W. Palmer Mill Road, Monticello, FL. 32344, Telephone 850-342-0223. 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.

2/3/2012, 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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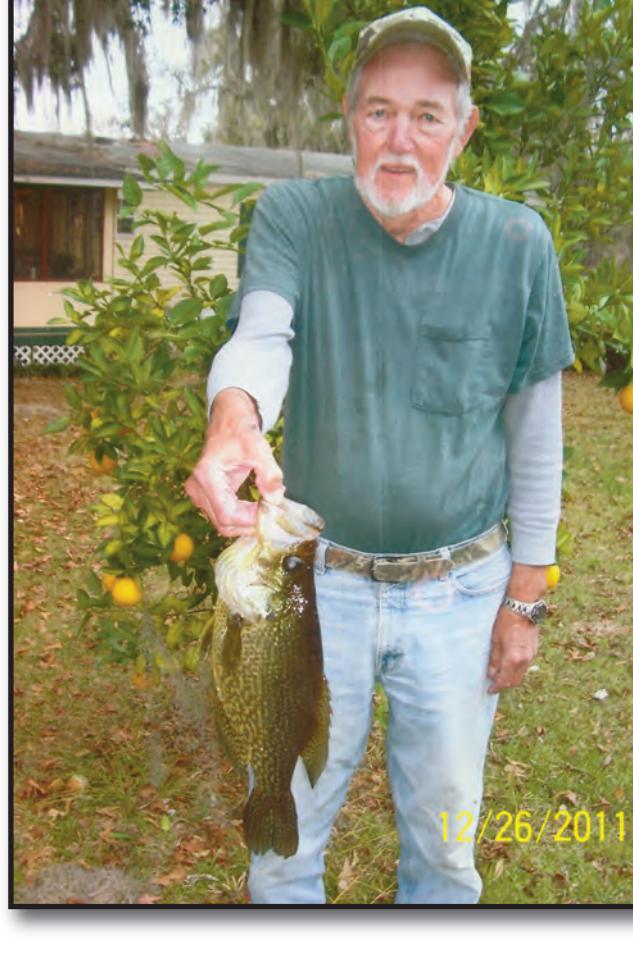
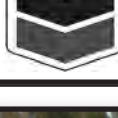
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12/26/2011

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Cory Brooks caught this two and a half pound Speckled Perch at Lake Miccosukee in front of Reaves Fish Camp, using a bold minnow for bait.

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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 February 3, 2012 through February 10, 2012
Major Feed Times are marked by an asterisk (*)*

Friday, February 3	Saturday, February 4	Sunday, February 5	Monday, February 6
1:30 AM	2:15 AM	3:10 AM	3:55 AM
*7:35 AM	*8:25 AM	*9:30 AM	*10:00 AM
1:45 PM	2:35 PM	3:40 PM	4:10 PM
*8:10 PM	*8:50 PM	*9:40 PM	*10:25 PM
Tuesday, February 7	Wednesday, February 8	Thursday, February 9	Friday, February 10
4:40 AM	5:30 AM	*12:20 AM	*1:10 AM
*10:50 AM	*11:50 AM	6:30 AM	7:20 AM
5:00 PM	5:50 PM	*12:50 PM	*1:30 PM
*11:20 PM		6:55 PM	7:50 PM

Spring Planting is Near:

**JOIN THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION IN FEBRUARY
AND RECEIVE 10 FREE REDBUD TREES**

Here's an ideal way to get into the mood for spring planting: Join the Arbor Day Foundation and receive 10 free trees to plant when the weather turns warm.

Every person from Florida who joins the Arbor Day Foundation in February 2012 will receive 10 free Eastern redbud trees.

"Redbuds will add beauty to landscapes across Florida for years to come," said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. "They will also add to the proud heritage of Florida's 160

Tree City USA communities.

For more than 30 years, Tree City USA has supported community forestry across Florida, and planting these lovely redbuds will add to this important tree-planting tradition."

The 10 free Eastern redbud trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6 to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or

they will be replaced free of charge.

Arbor Day Foundation members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's colorful bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book, which contains information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE EASTERN REDBUD TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by February 29, 2012, or visit arborday.org/February.

FWC Kicks Off 2012 Commission Meetings In Havana

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will meet Feb. 7-9 in Havana to discuss several fish-and-wildlife issues, starting with an afternoon workshop Tuesday, Feb. 7, on marine fisheries stock assessments. The Commission will not be taking action on specific regulatory issues that day.

The Feb. 7 workshop starts at 1 p.m.; regular sessions Feb. 8-9 start at 8:30 a.m. at the Florida Public Safety Institute Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy, 215 Academy Dr., Havana. All meetings are open to the public.

The stock assessment workshop will provide the Commissioners an opportunity to discuss and share ideas about state and federal marine fisheries stock assessment processes.

On Wednesday, Feb. 8, Commissioners are expected to take final action on king mackerel and Gulf of Mexico gag grouper management efforts. They will also look at three marine fisheries and two boating draft rules.

Federal fishery management groups are working on a gag grouper rebuilding plan in the

Gulf of Mexico. New Gulf of Mexico gag grouper federal management efforts include setting the recreational season to July 1 through Oct. 31 and decreasing the commercial minimum size limit from 24 inches to 22 inches. Commissioners will decide whether to adopt similar changes in state waters at the meeting.

Commissioners will also take action on a proposed amendment that would allow commercial harvesters taking king mackerel in southwest Florida to land them in Collier County when waters off the county are closed to harvest.

A change in oyster management proposes a seven-day commercial oyster harvest week in Apalachicola Bay. If the Commission approves this, the change could be adopted without additional public hearings.

Another proposed modification would allow Tampa Bay commercial shrimp permit holders to transfer their permits to other commercial harvesters.

A third marine fisheries change, this one on roundscale spearfish, proposes amending state billfish management efforts to coincide with recent federal management changes.

Proposed

changes include removing roundscale spearfish from a list of prohibited billfish, adding it to the minimum size limit for white marlin and adding roundscale spearfish to the state's billfish possession limit.

Division of Marine Fisheries Management staff will also present reports on federal fishery management actions and will review federal fishery management tools such as catch shares.

Regarding boating issues, FWC staff will present proposed amendments to enhance safety. The amendments would create slow-speed, minimum-wake zones in specific areas of Monroe and Volusia counties.

On Thursday, Feb. 9, the Commission will recognize FWC Officer of the Year Duane North, who works in Volusia County. North will also be honored by Shikar-Safari at the meeting.

After that, Commissioners will discuss the FWC's plan to manage and conserve Florida black bears for future generations, now that the state's bear population has increased from as few as 300 in the 1970s to an estimated 3,000 today. The draft Florida Black Bear Management Plan was released on Nov. 10, 2011, and is available online at

MyFWC.com/Bear. Members of the public and stakeholder organizations have contributed more than 2,500 comments and suggestions on how to improve the draft bear management plan.

No final action on the draft, or proposed bear conservation measures, will be taken at this meeting. However, staff will seek approval to advertise a proposed draft rule that would prohibit the take of black bears unless authorized by Commission permit and direct staff to provide technical assistance to landowners and regulatory agencies in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts to bears. A separate proposed amendment would remove the black bear from the list of state-designated Threatened Species.

Anyone requiring special accommodations to participate in the meeting should advise the FWC at least five days prior to the Feb. 7 meeting by contacting the FWC's Office of Human Resources at 850-488-6411. If you are hearing- or speech-impaired, contact the FWC using the Florida Relay Service at 800-955-8771 (TDD) or 800-955-8770 (voice).

To see the full agenda, go to MyFWC.com/Commission.

Can You Find Carlos?



Carlos Ackles is picking oranges for his Papa Clyde... starting from the top of the tree.