



Company Offers County Curbside Garbage Pickup

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing Senior Staff Writer

A waste management company that has been making overtures to city and county staff for some time to get the community's garbage pickup business finally got to make its pitch directly to the Jefferson County Commission on Tuesday, Jan. 8.

Joel Thornton, a salesman for Waste Pro, told the commission his company could provide curbside garbage pickup for every city and county resident for under \$20 monthly.

Thornton character-

ized the county's present mode of garbage collection via the collection centers as antiquated, inefficient and costly. He called curbside pickup the best, easiest and most efficient method.

Thornton promised a seamless transition from the city and county's present operations to Waste Pro's operation. What's more, no city or county employees would lose their jobs, he said. In fact, Waste Pro would absorb every city and county employee currently involved in garbage collections at equal or better salaries, he said.

"Nobody will lose a

job," Thornton said. "If you have equipment, we can buy it from you."

Thornton described Waste Pro as a \$400 million company that operates in seven states, including Florida, and that currently serves Leon, Liberty and Wakulla counties, among others in the region.

"We just picked up Marianna," he said. "We're picking up places all the time. We cut our teeth on municipalities. We have a reputation. Seventy percent of our customers are municipalities. I know change is scary. I'm here to ascertain and address

your concerns if you're serious about going to curbside pickup."

He said Waste Pro employed a model that took into account fuel, labor and such costs and could devise a program tailored fit for Jefferson County's requirements.

Thornton shied away from the word privatization, saying it wasn't a good term for the business relationship that Waste Pro was proposing.

"You're still the bosses," Thornton said. "We work for you. It's just a different mechanism."

He said if the county was interested, he would willingly sit down with

staff and officials and hatch out the details and make it "as black and white and clear as possible."

In response to a question from Commissioner Betsy Barfield, Thornton said the basic curbside service entailed only the pickup of household garbage and recyclables. It didn't include construction and demolition debris (C&D), hazardous materials or yard trash, he said.

In response to a question from Commissioner Hines Boyd, Thornton said Waste Pro didn't cherry pick customers when it came to the curb-

side service, no matter the length or condition of a road or scarcity of houses on it, within reason.

As to whether the company could provide the service for the \$175 annual assessment that county residents were currently paying, it was calculated that the company's monthly charge would actually come out closer to \$225 annually.

But the up side, Thornton countered, was that the county would be out of the garbage business and its accompanying headaches and liabilities.

Please See GARBAGE Page 3A

18 Wheeler Overruns Courthouse Lawn



Photo courtesy of Commissioner Hines Boyd, Jan. 8, 2013

An 18-wheeler trying to negotiate a much narrower courthouse circle on Tuesday evening because of ongoing environmental cleanup work adjacent the BP station and Opera House got hung up on the inner curbside, forcing traffic to be diverted to other streets. It was quite a doing to get the tractor-trailer going again.

Woman Charged With Grand Theft Auto

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing Staff Writer

A woman was arrested and charged last week with grand theft of a motor vehicle, after taking a man's vehicle without his permission.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office reported that on January 3, Deputy Justin Norman was dispatched to a Waukeelah Highway residence in reference to a stolen car. Upon arrival, the deputy met with the female complainant and the male victim.

The complainant said that the night before, Monica Hall, 49, of Tallahassee, the victim and herself, were at the victim's residence in Tallahassee, watching TV.

Hall and the victim started arguing and Hall took the keys to the victim's car and drove away.

The complainant said that the victim then called the Leon County Sheriff's Office to report the car stolen.

The victim stated that Hall took the car keys out of the complainant's purse and took the car without his permission.

Hall stated that she did take the car without the victim's permission, but the keys were laying in the seat when she got in. She said she drove it to the Waukeelah Highway residence, that night after dark.

At that time, Deputy Norman placed Hall under arrest for grand theft motor vehicle.

Deputy Robert Hall contacted Leon County Sheriff's Office and was advised to release the vehicle over to the victim, without processing.

Hall was transported to the Jefferson County Jail and booked on charges.

Bond was set at \$5,000 and she remained at the County Jail January 8.



Monica Hall

Minimum Wage Increases

JACOB BEMBRY
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Florida was one of 10 states to increase its minimum wage on Jan. 1.

While the federal minimum wage remains at \$7.25 per hour, the mandated minimum for the Florida is \$7.79 per hour.

Other states that increased their minimum wage at the beginning of the year include:

- Arizona — \$7.80 per hour
- Colorado — \$7.78 per hour
- Missouri — \$7.35 per hour
- Montana — \$7.80 per hour
- Ohio — \$7.85 per hour
- Oregon — \$8.95 per hour
- Rhode Island — \$7.75 per hour
- Vermont — \$8.60 per hour
- Washington — \$9.19 per hour

This year's minimum wage increase is one-third what the increase was last January. It went up 36 cents an hour on Jan. 1, 2012. This year, it increased by only 12 cents.

The State of Washington maintains the nation's highest minimum wage.

City Gets Checks Totaling \$5,000+

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing Senior Staff Writer

The city made out well on Tuesday night, Jan. 8, in terms of unexpected revenues in the form of two checks from the Florida League of Cities.

Or more specifically, the two checks came from the League-administered Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (FMIT), which provides workers' compensation, liability, and auto, property and health insurance to member municipal governments.

FMIT representative Tom Conley presented the two checks, which totaled \$5,345, one from the property insurance side of the program for \$3,087 and the second from the safety/prevention side for \$2,258.

Please See CHECKS Page 3A

County Man Charged With Fleeing And Eluding

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing Staff Writer

A county man was arrested and charged last week with fleeing and eluding after refusing to pull over for a routine traffic stop.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office reported that on January 3 at 6 p.m., Investigator Jerry Blackmon and Investigator Logan Wilcox were patrolling on Tram Road when they observed a red pickup truck traveling east on Tram Road. The tag on the vehicle was expired.

Investigator Wilcox activated the lights and siren to stop the vehicle.

The vehicle continued east on Tram Road, traveling at speeds ranging from 53 miles per hour to 65 miles per hour. The vehicle went about five miles without stopping.

At one point, Investigator Wilcox drove in the oncoming lane next to the pickup truck and the driver still would not stop.

Once the vehicle got near the Leon County line, the vehicle slowed down and pulled over.

The deputies exited their patrol vehicle with their weapons drawn, ordered the driver out of the vehicle, and placed the driver, who they identified as Cleveland Plummer, Jr., 39, of Jefferson County, into handcuffs.

Plummer repeatedly told the deputies that he did not see the lights or hear the siren. He stated that his radio was on and he could not hear the siren over the radio. Investigator Wilcox noted that when Plummer exited his vehicle, the radio was not on. Investigator

Please See PLUMMER Page 3A



Cleveland Plummer

Progress Energy Provides Food For Area Seniors



ECB Publishing Photo By Debbie Snapp, January 7, 2013.

Progress Energy came through once again with a \$500 donation for the Jefferson Senior Citizens Center to provide food to area residents in need. Progress Energy Foundation Representative Bobby Pickels delivered the check to JSCC Director Bobbie Krebs on Monday afternoon.

City Gets Offered A Pyrex Museum



This is a no.1938-8, an 8" round casserole. Can you imagine what the table set with these serving pieces must have looked like in the 1920s and 1930s? Even the poorest people must have felt rich when using these pieces for both cooking and serving.

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing Senior Staff Writer

Most people undoubtedly are aware of Depression glass — a clear or colored translucent glassware of marginal quality originally that was distributed free or at low cost in the 30s and 40s and that today is considered a rare and coveted collectible that can

Please See PYREX Page 3A

Index

Viewpoints	2 Sections	16 Pages
Jeff. Co	2-6	Outdoors
School	6	Classifieds
Sports	7	Legals
		B Section
		Year In Review

7	Fri 1/11	78/63	☁
8	Sat 1/12	80/62	☁
8	Sun 1/13	81/62	☁
8	Mon 1/14	81/61	☁
7	Tue 1/15	80/59	☁

Local Weather

Considerable cloudiness. High 78F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.	Considerable cloudiness. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 60s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 60s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 60s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.
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Jefferson County Living



Letters To The Editor

Letters to the Editor are typed word for word, comma for comma, as sent to this newspaper
-All submitted Letters must be 600 words or less -

Guns Dont Kill People, People Kill People!!!

To the Editor:
If guns kill people then: Pencils misspell words; Cars make people drive drunk; and Spoons make Rosie O'Donnell Fat!
When Obama comes for YOUR GUNS, Please feel free to give him/them your bullets!
911 EMERGENCY? Call or Use 911 Average 911 response time; around (10) Minute's; If YOU have a Gun! Average 911 response time 2 SECONDS! GET IT?
GUN CONTROL! Works great if you're the one who controls the guns!
WE CANNOT REPLAY HISTORY! But we sure can learn from it! If every Jewish and Anti-Nazi family in Germany had owned a Mauser Rifle, twenty rounds of ammunition and the will to use it; ADOLF HITLER, would be only a little known footnote to the History of the Wiemar Republic Aaronzelmar, instead of 59 million people killed by him and his gang.
WHAT? My alarm tells me you are in "My House". My gun tells me you will "Not be for long!"
GUNS DON'T MAKE you A KILLER! Killing makes you a killer. You can kill someone with a bat or car. But no one is trying to ban you from driving to the baseball game.
JUST REMEMBER! If you heard my shot, YOU were not the target!

Jim Julian

JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIME BEAT

All information is printed as taken from the Jefferson County Sheriff's office. All Suspects Should Be Considered Innocent Until Proven Guilty In A Court Of Law

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Monica Hall, 49, of Tallahassee, was arrested January 3 and charged with grand theft of a motor vehicle. Bond was set at \$5,000 and she remained at the County Jail January 10.

Cleveland Plummer, Jr., 39, of Jefferson County, was arrested January 3 and charged with fleeing and eluding and possession of marijuana less than 20 grams. A total bond of \$5,500 was set and he bonded out of jail January 5.

Edward Clarence Ware, 50, of Largo, FL,

was arrested January 5 and charged with driving under the influence, possession of cannabis less than 20 grams, and possession of drug paraphernalia. A total bond of \$1,500 was set and he bonded out of jail the same day.

Linda Payton, 50, of Chattahoochee, FL, was arrested January 5 and charged with violation of probation on the charge of grand theft; and three counts of violation of probation on the charge of uttering a forged instrument. Bond was withheld and she remained at the County Jail January 10.

Willie Buddy Scott, 62, of Lamont, was arrested January 6 and charged with simple battery. Bond was set at \$5000 and he bonded out of jail the same day.

Carl A. Desmartin, 32, of Jefferson County, was arrested January 6 and charged with aggravated battery, domestic. Bond was set at \$1,500 and he bonded out of jail the following day.

Lenny Musselwhite, 56, of Lloyd, was arrested January 7 and charged with violation of domestic violence injunction. Bond was set at \$100 and he bonded out of jail the same day.

Brian Wayne Ivey, 40, of Jefferson County, was arrested January 7 and charged with violation of domestic violence injunction. Bond was set at \$100 and he bonded out of jail the same day.

Wilbur Lee Ellis, 29, of Jefferson County, was arrested January 7 and charged with battery, domestic. Bond was set at \$1,000 and he bonded out of jail the following day.

Corey Martice Hatchett, 27, of Jefferson County, was arrested January 7 and charged with violation of probation on the charge of possession of cocaine; and violation of probation on the charge of introduction of contraband into a county jail Bond was withheld and he remained at the County Jail January 10.



Dear Friends and Family,
The Clark Family would like to express our sincere gratitude for your thoughtfulness during our time of bereavement.
Thank you so much for your kind words, your generous gifts, and most of all

for your friendship with our sister/aunt Ruth Clark,
Knowing you really care means a lot to our family. May God continue to bless and keep you is our prayer.

Sincerely, Helen Johnson and the Family of Ruth E. Clark

A Day Of Hope



DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

A Day Of Hope is a gospel extravaganza fundraising event for the Refuge Church Aucilla Florida. The evening event will begin at 6 p.m. on Saturday, January 12, at the Jefferson County High School auditorium on South Water Street in Monticello.

The community is encouraged to attend this hand-clapping, joyful singing event filled with motivational speakers,

praise-dancing, and other exuberant performers including the Walker Sisters from Greensboro, 730AM Radio Host Rev. Carl McBride, and Latonya Bennett from Moultrie Georgia.

For more information and advanced ticket sales, contact Event Chairperson Sis. Essie Presha or Co-Chairperson/Director of Community Relations Tequila Hagan at 850-668-5602 or 850-997-1300. Ticket cost is \$15.

Your support will make a difference! Community Partnership Sponsor: Hagan & Bradwell Funeral Service of Monticello, 175 North Railroad Street. Refuge Church Aucilla Florida Pastor Tony Lane.

Unity Day At Memorial MBC

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Memorial Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate its Unity Day program at 11 a.m. on Sunday, January 13; with special guests Rev. James Mack and the St. Rilla Mission-

ary Baptist Church of Lloyd congregation.

Start the new year out by showing love for one another, and God will be well pleased. Come and fellowship together.

For more information call (850) 878-9613, anytime after 5 p.m. The

church is located on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Monticello. Rev. JB Duval, pastor. Sis. Teresa Duval, chairperson. Sis. Minnie Mathews, co-chairperson.

Dinner will be served after the program.

ACS Relay For Life KickOff Friday

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

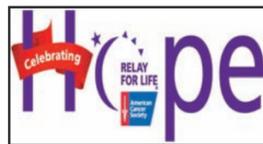
The 2013 American Cancer Society Relay For Life Jefferson will kickoff this Friday, January 11 at the Jefferson Country Club, located at 748 Boston Highway in Monticello.

The Kickoff Chicken Trazzini Dinner is a fundraiser for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Team. The meal will include sides and drinks for a \$10 donation. To-Go dinners may be picked up as early as 5:30 p.m.

The evening meal and program will begin at 6:00 p.m. with live music by 'Southern Satisfaction' and lots more fun. There is no charge for this kickoff event.

There will be a silent auction at this time, with some really nice items up for bid. Items include wine glasses, photography shoots, a hunting trip, a more. Any extra money raised will be used for 'team' drawings.

Join with others in Jefferson County and save lives. This will be the time to pay your \$100 Team Registration Fee so your team can start its Relay Fundraising. Contact Event Chairperson Dana Lastinger at 850-508-2174 or aucilla90210@aol.com for



more information. If there is something you would like to donate to the auction, contact Lastinger. SEE YOU THERE!

There is a contest to vote for your favorite theme for this year. At this time it's a tie between 'Hunting for a Cure' and 'Marga-Relayville'. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/2013-Jefferson-County-Relay-for-Life/125068474282993> to cast your vote now. Also, take time to visit www.relayforlife.org/jeffersonfl.

Major Alan Lamarche announces the donation of a fishing excursion to the Jefferson Relay For Life donated by Plantation Security. A Kids Half Day Fishing Trip in the Gulf will be auctioned during the RFL KickOff event.

This package is for four participants, only the kids can fish, adults can bait hooks and take off fish; fishing will take place at Shell Point in Wakulla County aboard a 25' May Craft Cabin Boat with a 300 HP Yamaha motor; four-hour round trip in Apalachee Bay; guaranteed to catch fish, catch/release primarily, take home enough for supper; must have good weather conditions and calm seas; mutually agreeable fishing date, short notice confirmation or cancellation may be required.

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MOVIE TIMES
ARE GOOD THRU
Dates of
January 11 - January 17

Gangster Squad (R)
Friday-4:15-7:00-10:00
Saturday-4:15-7:00-10:00
Sunday-4:15-7:00-10:00
Mon-Thurs-4:15-7:00-10:00

A Haunted House (R)
Friday-4:30-7:15-10:15
Saturday-4:30-7:15-10:15
Sunday-4:30-7:15-10:15
Mon-Thurs-4:30-7:15-10:15

Jack Reacher (PG)
Friday-4:15-7:00-10:00
Saturday-4:15-7:00-10:00
Sunday-4:15-7:00-10:00
Mon-Thurs-4:15-7:00-10:00

Zero Dark Thirty (R)
Friday-5:00-8:30
Saturday-5:00-8:30
Sunday-5:00-8:30
Mon-Thurs-5:00-8:30

Texas Chainsaw (R)
Friday-4:45
Saturday-4:45
Sunday-4:45
Mon-Thurs-4:45

Django Unchained (R)
Friday-5:00-8:30
Saturday-5:00-8:30
Sunday-5:00-8:30
Mon-Thurs-5:00-8:30

Parental Guidance (PG)
Friday-4:30-7:15-10:00
Saturday-4:30-7:15-10:00
Sunday-4:30-7:15-10:00
Mon-Thurs-4:30-7:15-10:00

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Emerald Greene
Publisher/Owner

LAZARO ALEMAN
Senior Staff Writer



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Jefferson County Living

Garbage

continued from page 1A

Thornton found a supporter in County Coordinator Parrish Barwick, who views curbside garbage pickup as a positive move for the community. Barwick said residents currently didn't call for the service because it wasn't an option, just as people hadn't called for, or appreciated, indoors plumbing and lighting until these were available. But once people started receiving curbside garbage pickup service, they would never want to go back to the present system, he said.

"It's a quality of life and a service issue," Barwick said, adding that he was always for improving the services to residents and, that in all honesty, the current service the county provided was very little and highly priced.

He urged the commission to consider the proposal and review the appropriate data at the least.

"You're not deciding to do it," Barwick said. "You're deciding whether

you want to use the service."

But Phil Calandra, a retired businessman who has worked closely with the Jefferson County Solid Waste Department in the past on a voluntary basis, presented an opposing viewpoint.

"This is outsourcing," Calandra said, adding that he had had much experience with the practice in his past career. "Whatever you've heard, this is privatization."

Calandra said outsource providers routinely promised the world initially, but once the honeymoon was over, the contract's fine print ruled and cost increases were inevitable.

"You have to be realistic," Calandra said. "What you've heard is a sales pitch."

He cited tonnage figures from the Solid Waste Department's current garbage and trash collections, including disposed tires, C&D and hazardous materials.

His point, Calandra

said, was that if the county went with the curbside service, Waste Pro would only pick up the household garbage and recyclables, leaving the county to still be responsible for the cost of pickup for the other categories.

Moreover, once the city and county operations were disbanded, momentum and inertia — combined with the difficulty of switching back — would ensure continuation down the outsourcing path, he said.

City Manager Steve Wingate likewise expressed concern that once the collection containers were eliminated, much trash would again end up in the woods.

The commission thanked Thornton for his presentation and said it would take the matter up for consideration. No specific date was set for workshop, however; and as Barwick stated at the onset, the commission had yet to hear from Waste Management Inc. and other possible competitors.

Pyrex

continued from page 1A

fetch a high price.

Think of Pyrex as the next Depression glass. Introduced by Corning in 1915 as a heat and chemical resistant glass that made for superb kitchenware, Pyrex quickly became a part of the American culture and today also is a collectible.

Enter Jefferson County residents Linda and George King, who not only have been collecting Pyrex kitchenware for years, they have an online Pyrex Museum that can be accessed at www.polaris.net/attic/PyrexMuseum.htm. And now the Kings want to donate their entire collection to Monticello, should the city be interested in accepting the offer.

George King approached the Monticello City Council with his offer on Tuesday evening, Jan. 8.

"We're curators of an online museum," King introduced himself. "We'd like to find a permanent home for it."

King said that since 1995 he and his wife had operated an Internet business that initially sold antique glass and then had also started selling Pyrex glassware.

"Pyrex is a vital part of our history," King said. "So we opened a Pyrex Museum online about 10 years ago. It's a rare thing. We're looking for a home for it. I'd like to donate it to the city on a permanent loan basis."

King said most of the pieces in the collection were pre-1950s and several dated much earlier. He said such a museum in the city might prove a popular draw for visitors, who would then likely patronize the local shops and restaurants.

"A lot of people are interested in Pyrex," King said. "We've sold tons of Pyrex products."

In addition, he said, the museum received a great many online visitors.

"If the city is interested, we'll give it to the city on a permanent loan basis," King reiterated, adding that he wasn't seeking any money and knew for fact that other communities would more than welcome the opportunity to acquire the collection. It was his preference, however, that the collection be showcased in Monticello, he said.

Mayor Idella Scott thanked King for the gracious offer and said the city would definitely get back to him with a response.

Featured on the Kings' online museum are a variety of vintage Pyrex glassware, including loaf pans, bean pots, utility pans and a several etched and mounted casseroles from before WWII and earlier. The collection is divided by categories into virtual "rooms", with each piece capable of being enlarged and containing some information about it.

†† Obituary ††

EARNEST BUFORD SIMS

Earnest Buford Sims, age 90, of Marianna, FL, passed away on Monday, January 7, 2013 at Jackson Hospital in Marianna.

A native of Jackson County, he was retired from the U.S. Postal Service. Buford was in the U.S. Army Air Corp and loved to fish. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Marianna.

He was predeceased by his parents Rodie and Issac Sims and his wife Martha Pooser Sims.

Buford is survived by his son Richard Michael Sims (Charlotte) of Monticello, FL.; three grandchildren Amy Templeton (Tim,) Steven Sims (Shireen,) and Jill Richardson (Brad.) He is also survived by 10 great-grandchildren and many other relatives.

A funeral service was held at 10 a.m. CST on Thursday, January 10, 2013 at the James & Sikes Funeral Homes in Maddox Chapel in Marianna, with Rev. Cap Pooser officiating. Visitation was held one hour prior to the funeral service.

Memorials can be made to Covenant Hospice, 4215 Kelson Avenue, Suite E, Marianna, FL. 32446.

Plummer

continued from page 1A

Wilcox attempted to turn the volume up on the radio, and there was little to no sound.

He asked Plummer if he had anything illegal inside of his vehicle, and Plummer stated that he did not. Investigator Blackmon asked for consent to search the vehicle and Plummer gave

his consent.

Investigator Wilcox located a small clear bag, approximately one gram, of a green leafy substance, inside the armrest of the vehicle. The substance was field tested and tested positive for marijuana.

Monticello Towing was contacted and the

vehicle and Plummer were transported to the County Jail, where he was booked and charged with fleeing and eluding and possession of marijuana less than 20 grams.

A total bond of \$5,500 was set and he bonded out of jail January 5.

Checks

continued from page 1A

Playing on the theme of the just past Epiphany celebration, Conley quipped that he was no wise man, but he nonetheless came bearing gifts.

"The city is a long-time member of our insurance program and we're returning premiums," Conley said, noting that this made the fifth year that the League was returning monies to its members.

The monies, he said,

came from the savings the organization had realized during the past year, in light of the absence of hurricanes.

The other check was in recognition of measures the city was taking to promote safety, he said, praising Monticello Deputy Clerk Patti Claiborne in particular for her part in the safety promotion effort. He said the \$2,258 was to be used for the purchase of safety equipment.

The Florida League of Cities is the official voice of the state's municipal governments, representing more than 400 cities, towns and villages. The organization was founded in 1922 and is based on the belief that local self-government is the keystone of American democracy, per the League's website.

A Board of Directors composed of elected municipal officials governs the organization.

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Drop A Note To
Debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com

Hey, and don't miss the Zumba Party on Monday evening. It's an annual fundraiser the Jefferson County food pantries, sponsored by Altrusa Monticello. The party will begin at 6 p.m. on January 14 at the American Legion Otto Walker Post 49 on South Water Street in Monticello. Ticket cost is just \$10; sold in advance or at the door. Partygoers are encouraged to also bring canned goods to the party. For more information about this exciting event contact Andie Jerger at 850-997-1653 or Linda Benedict at 850-997-0137.

The 2013 Chamber Chili Challenge has been scheduled for Friday, February 22, at the Monticello Opera House. So, consider entering your favorite chili in the contest; let Chamber Director Melanie Mays know as soon as possible so she can get you signed up and ready to go. Make it more of a challenge this year by competing against another person or group. An example would be for the Rotary to compete against the Kiwanis, or the Lions to compete against Altrusa. Plan to make it fun and exciting. The more entries the more competition, and of course, more

chili tasting for the community guests and the participants. Let's get in the spirit of the challenge! Individuals are encouraged to compete for great prizes. Chamber members should try to sell at least two tickets each for this annual event.

Look for exciting new classes and workshops at the Chamber... free to Chamber members. Learn how to design your own Website; how Google docs can make your life worth living; how to design ads for publications... just to name a few. Check with the Chamber to find out more by calling 850-997-5552.

The Florida Historic Capitol Museum will host a grand opening of its new exhibit featuring more than 30 maps and prints, spanning over 500 years, on loan from the private Fisher Collection on Thursday, January 17, from 5 to 8 p.m. To find out more about this free event, contact Alma P. Hubbard, director of external relations at 850-487-1902 or hubbard.alma@flhistoricalcapitol.gov or www.flhistoricalcapitol.gov. Navigating New Worlds: Identity, Perception, & Politics in Florida.

Jefferson Community Band Seeking Donations



DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Jefferson Community Band has been invited to participate in the 189th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16, in Savannah, Georgia; and Band Director Derrick Jennings has accepted.

"The children had a wonderful time last year," says Jennings. "We are very pleased to have been invited and we look forward to representing Jefferson County once again."

The parade will kickoff at 10:30 a.m. on its 3.5-mile marching route. This is one of Savannah's largest annual events. Thousands of spectators and visitors are expected each year; to admire the 300+

floats and other participating acts in the parade, and to tour the city and shop in Savannah.

The Jefferson Community Band has been busy locally, marching in parades and practicing new routines. They participated in the JCMHS Homecoming Parade and Half-Time Show; the first Jefferson County Veteran's Day Parade; and they performed during the Downtown Monticello Christmas Celebration.

The band participants have been holding fundraising events to help with the funding of any expenses they incur... transportation, uniforms, and the like. To make a donation to the Jefferson Community Band, contact Jennings at 850-342-8015 or 850-212-9629.



RELAY FOR LIFE



You Are Invited To Kick Off The
2013 Relay For Life
Jefferson County

Date: Friday, January 11, 2013

Location: Jefferson Country Club
748 Boston Hwy Monticello, FL

Time: Dinner starts at 6pm



Join us and **SAVE LIVES** by registering your team for the 2013 Relay For Life Jefferson County

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department will provide chicken tetrazzini dinner for a donation of \$10

Live Band & Food

See You There!!

Contact your 2013 Relay Event Chair,
Dana Lastinger (850) 508-2174
or email to: aucilla90210@aol.com

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Jefferson County Living

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com or 850-997-3568

January 12
Half-N-Half Four Band at the Dixie Community Center at 7 p.m. on Saturday nights for music and dance. Refreshments and good fellowship are available during intermission. For more information contact Kenneth Price at 1-229-263-7231. DCC is a nonprofit organization.

January 12
Martial Arts classes 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays in the Memorial Missionary Baptist Church fellowship hall. Contact Diane Hall at 850-264-1195 for more information.

January 12
Scarlet O'Hatters meet on the second Saturday of the month at a location of their choosing for a luncheon meal and program. For more information about the Red Hat Society contact Queen Mum Pat Muchowski at 850-997-0688 or Mary Cremeans at 850-997-3153.

January 12-30
Intricate Threads exhibit at Jefferson Arts Gallery. This display of fiber and quilts may be viewed by the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The Arts is located at 575 West Washington Street in downtown Monticello. For more information about the Arts call 850-997-3311 or go to info@jeffersonartsgallery.com or www.jeffersonartsgallery.com.

January 13
Camellia Garden Circle of the Monticello Garden Club meets on the second Sunday at 2 p.m. every month.

The afternoon begins with a brief business meeting followed by a program. Members bring a treat or beverage to share. Contact Chairman Jane Davis at 850-997-4320 or email her at jkdeercrossing@aol.com for more information. This first meeting of the new year will be at the home of Carmen Zengel.

January 14
Big Bend Horseman's Association meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday at Green Industries Institute for a brief program and meeting. This is an open horse club for all breeds. Everyone is welcome. Go to www.bigbendhorse.com for more information.

January 14
Zumba Fitness fundraiser hosted by Altrusa Monticello on Monday at the American Legion Otto Walker Post 49 on South Water Street in Monticello. The party will begin at 6 p.m. Ticket cost is just \$10; sold in advance or at the door. This fundraising event is to stock the local food banks with nonperishable food items. Partygoers are encouraged to also bring canned goods to the party. For more information about this exciting event contact Andie Jerger at 850-997-1653 or Linda Benedict at 850-997-0137.

January 14
Al-Anon meetings are held at 8 p.m. every Monday at the Anglican Church, 124 Jefferson Avenue in Thomasville. For more information go to www.alanon.alateen.org.

January 14
AA meetings are held every Monday 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 15
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 15
Parent Involvement Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. every third Tuesday at the District Office on Water Street. Contact Vicki Boland vicki.boland@jeffersonschoolsdistrict.org.

January 15
Jefferson County Lions Club meets at 1 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of every month at the Brick House Eatery, in the community room. Guest speaker will be Earlene Knight. For more information about this organization and its fundraising efforts, contact Lion Debbie at 850-997-0901; leave a message.

January 16, 23, 30
Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region will see customers at its 1145 East 2nd Street location every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Contact Community Partnerships Director Molly Lord at 850-274-1335 or mlord@elcbigbend.org for additional information.

Church News Notes

debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com or 850-997-3568

January 12
StoryTime Ministry is held from 1 to 2 p.m. every other Saturday at the Jefferson County Bailer Public Library. For more information contact First United Methodist Church Ministry Chairman Barbara Hobbs at 850-523-1813.

January 16
First Presbyterian Church will host EaglesWings, a ministry of outreach, serving the community on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome to distribute food items and to donate non-perishable food items. Call and leave a message for JoAnne Arnold at 850-997-2252 or go to eaglewingsmonticello@yahoo.com or www.firstpresbyterian-monticello.org.

January 18
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 20
New Bethel AME Church will host its annual Men and Women's Day program at 11 a.m. on Sunday. Join the church family as they honor their senior members, age 70+; in conjunction with the Chi Upsilon Omega Chapter of AKA and VFW Post 251 as they recognize WWII and Korean War veterans in a

Celebration of Christian and Military service. Bishop Anthony Webster is guest speaker. For additional information, contact Ned Hill at 850-562-6235. Rev. Jimmie F. Dickey, pastor.

January 25
Nazarene Church Skate Night for children and adults is held from 6 to 8 p.m. on the last Friday evening of every month. Light snacks and soft drinks available.

January 25, 26
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 Randell at 850-997-5605 or 850-997-6929 to volunteer or for more information about this program.

January 27
Mt. Pleasant Ministries will celebrate its church anniversary during 4th Sunday Service at 11 a.m. Rev. Norman Clary will be speaker and the Mt. Moriah Church family will be in charge of the service. All are invited to attend.

February 2
Nazarene Church Clothing Giveaway from 9 to 11 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month.

February 12
Sons of Allen of the Union Bethel Circuit meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7 p.m., rotating between the Elizabeth and Union Bethel AME churches; encouraging young men and older males to come be part of the meetings. If you have any questions, contact President Leman Ulee at 850-274-6268.



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Jefferson County Living

School

Computer Classes At Library Maxed Out



ECB Publishing Photos By Debbie Snapp, December 5, 2012.

Winter Computer Classes at the RJ Bailar Public Library have been filled to the max.



Computer class participants receive certificates of completion.

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Jefferson County RJ Bailar Public Library has been holding free computer classes for some time now; but more recently the classes have been filled to the max! It seems like everyone wants to learn basic computer skills... grandparents, stay-at-home moms, employees, and employees.

Instructor Deanna Ramsey will teach area residents computer topics such as computer basics, digital photography, Excel, genealogy, organizing your computer files, Outlook, PowerPoint, Windows7, Word, and more. She also makes herself available for technology help.

The classes have been such a hit that the library will hold classes every month, with 'Computer Basics Simplified' scheduled for January 22 to 31, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 to 11 a.m., in the computer lab.

Build your foundation for all computer tasks by learning the fundamentals first. These are slow and steady computer classes for those who need to learn the basics at an easygoing pace. This upcoming class will teach participants to turn on the computer, use the mouse, open and use a program, and save a file.

Discover what you can do on the Internet, from mapping directions, using e-mail, or finding a job, and how to do it safely. Become comfortable and stressfree while using the computer.

The January class is a total of six-sessions at two hours each session. Registration is required, so call now to 850-342-0205.



Instructor Deanna Ramsey teaches computer classes and technology help at the RJ Bailar Public Library.

Dessie S. Jones Named 2013 School-Related Employee Of The Year

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Tuesday, January 8, began as every other day in the Jefferson District Office, but with one difference, it was the day for the presentation and announcement of which of the four nominated candidates for 2013 School-Related Employee Of The Year, would officially be named the winner.

Each of the candidates eagerly awaits word and they continue as usual with their morning duties.

Meanwhile at the District Office, Human Resources Analyst Shirley Gilley was plotting the surprise announcement.

Earlier in the morning, she advised Dessie S. Jones, MIS senior operator at the School Board Office, who was also one of the four nominees for the award, that they were leaving at 11 a.m. to go to the winner's place of employment to make the presentation. She then went about her usual routine, until just before 11 a.m.

Gilley gathered together about 20 or so of Jones' co-workers and had them hide in the workroom, just off of the front office and near the front door. Also in the group of those hiding were Superintendent Al Cooksey with the winner's plaque in hand, School Board member Shirley Washington,



ECB Publishing photos by Fran Hunt, January 8, 2013 Superintendent Al Cooksey, right, and 2013 School-Related Employee of the Year Dessie Jones, left, pose together for photos.

and School Board member Sandra Saunders.

Once Gilley had everyone gathered, she gathered the plaques to be presented to the nominees, making Jones think it was the plaque for the winner. She also grabbed a set of keys to one of the vehicles and she began harping at Jones. "We have to take two vehicles. Hurry up! We're going to be late. The van is parked out front."

Jones zipped past the workroom, not noticing the gathered crowd inside, and she was almost out the front door when Gilley grabbed her by the arm and turned her around and into the workroom, where, in unison, everyone yelled, "Surprise!"

Jones was surprised to say the least, as she burst into tears of joy. She

quickly turned around to leave the room, but Gilley nudged her back inside and brought her a tissue.

Cooksey, then presented Jones with the plaque and congratulated her, after which, he advised that she began as a paraprofessional 24 years earlier and how she had progressed up the ladder in her career. His quick wit and sense of humor had everyone in the room in stitches.

The 2012 School-Related Employee of the Year Stephanie Roberts, presented Jones with a dozen beautiful red roses, adorned with greenery, gold tinsel, and a red and white ribbon.

After many photos and congratulations, the crowd began to filter out of the room, and it was back to work as usual.

Thank You!

The Office of Federal Programs wishes to extend our most gracious appreciation to Superintendent Al Cooksey, Jefferson County School District Office Staff, the Jefferson County School District School Food Service Department, the *Monticello News*, the Rotary Club and all others who made donations towards our "Feed a Family for the Holidays" campaign. Through your unselfish contributions, we were able to provide baskets for three families in our community, a true expression of what the holiday season is all about.

Again, we thank you and value your continued support of our efforts to make excellence the standard for Jefferson County Schools.

Jefferson County School District
Office of Federal Programs
(Tammy McGriff, Vicki Boland and Edna Henry)

JCMHS Celebrates Literacy Week

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Jefferson County Middle High School students will celebrate Literacy Week, January 14 - 18, with a variety of books and themes.

On Monday the students will 'take the lead and read' with a million minute marathon. Together they will read for a schoolwide 30-minutes. And, they will get in tune to the 'Good Morning' television show 'Name That Book Quiz' contest.

On Tuesday the middle school students will 'take the lead and read' with guest speakers and by decorating their first period classroom doors. And, they will again get in tune to the 'Good Morning' television show 'Name That Book Quiz' contest.

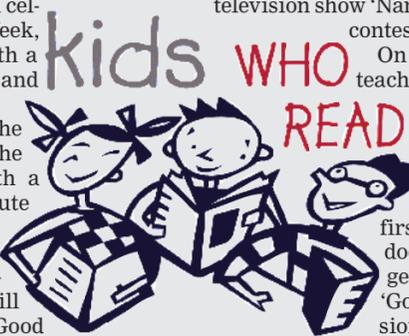
On Wednesday the high school stu-

dents will 'take the lead and read' with guest speakers and by decorating their first period classroom doors. And, they will get in tune to the 'Good Morning' television show 'Name That Book Quiz' contest.

On Thursday the teachers will 'take the lead and read' by dressing as favorite book characters and by decorating their first period classroom doors. And, they will get in tune to the 'Good Morning' television show 'Name That Book Quiz' contest.

On Friday everybody in the whole school will 'take the lead and read' by enjoying popcorn and a good movie together. The decorated doors will be judged and the winners will be announced.

What a great week to 'Celebrate Literacy' by reading and sharing together at JCMHS.



Menus For January 2013
Jefferson County Schools

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Mon., Jan. 14	Tues., Jan. 15	Wed., Jan. 16	Thurs., Jan. 17	Fri., Jan. 18
Pop Corn Chicken	Taco over Chips With Cheese Lettuce, Tomatoes, Salsa & Sour Cream	Hamburger on Bun	Chicken Tetrazzini	Sloppy Joe
Sweet Potato Tots	Black Beans	Oven Fries	Broccoli or Peas	Salad Choices
Fruit	Fruit	Fruit	Fruit	Fruit
Biscuit	Oatmeal Muffin Square	Milk	Hot Roll	Milk
Milk	Milk		Milk	

SATURATION POINT.
Saturated fat (in foods like meat, butter, cheese, and cream, among others) is unhealthy in the large doses that many of us eat, and trans fat isn't safe at any level. That's why the meals we serve average 10% or less calories from saturated fat, and every item contains zero grams of trans fat per serving.

EAT BETTER. PLAY HARDER. LIVE HEALTHIER. LEARN EASIER.
WELLNESS IS A WAY OF LIFE!

TMH Physician Partners, Monticello announces the retirement of Judy Kleynen, ARNP effective January 4, 2013.

Our practice remains fully staffed to continue providing comprehensive health care for our patients and their families.



Judy Kleynen, ARNP

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Outdoors

Panhandle Blue Crab Trap Closure Starts Jan. 5

Recreational and commercial blue crab harvesters in certain areas of the Panhandle must remove their blue crab traps from the water before Jan. 5, the first day of a 10-day trap closure. This closure will give groups authorized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) the opportunity to identify and retrieve lost and abandoned blue crab traps from the water.

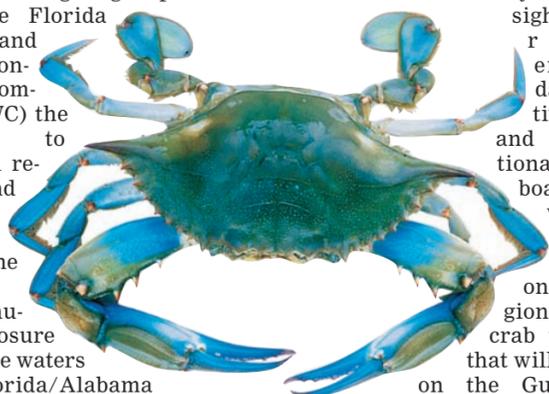
The January trap closure includes state waters from the Florida/Alabama state line through the Franklin/Wakulla county line. Waters of the Ochlockonee River and Bay are not included in this closure.

Traps can be placed back in the water Jan. 15. Until then, blue crabs may be harvested with other gear, such as dip nets and fold-up traps. Blue crab harvesters may also use standard blue crab traps during the closure if the traps are attached to a dock or other

private property. Lost and abandoned blue crab traps are a problem in the blue crab fishery, because they can continue to trap crabs and fish when left in the water. They can also be un-

sightly in the environment, damage sensitive habitats and pose navigational hazards to boaters on the water.

The closure is one of three regional, 10-day blue crab trap closures that will occur in 2013 on the Gulf coast of Florida. Coastal waters from Broward through Pasco counties will close to traps July 10-19, and waters from Hernando through Wakulla counties, including all waters of the Ochlockonee River and Bay, will close to traps July 20-29. There are six regional closures total: three in even-numbered years on the east coast and three in odd-numbered years on the west coast.



FWC Recognizes Lawmakers For Their Efforts To Enhance Outdoor Opportunities

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recognized state Sen. Charles Dean and former Rep. Leonard Bemby for their efforts to pass a bill earlier in the year making it easier for landowners to accommodate the public and still have liability protection.

The bill, signed into law by Gov. Rick Scott, amends Florida Statute s. 375.251.

"I want to take the lead in saluting Sen. Dean and former Rep. Bemby for carrying the ball across the goal line," said Commissioner Brian Yablonski. "They are warriors for our youth hunting and fishing efforts."

The changes, which went into effect July 1, provide limited liability protection to landowners who



Senator Dean and Representative Bemby

enter into a written agreement with the state to make their land available for outdoor recreation.

Another component protects landowners from liability when they open their property up to any person, at no charge, primarily for hunting, fishing and wildlife-viewing activities. The landowner must provide written or posted notice of the liability protection.

These enhancements

make it easier for landowners to host events such as a day-long youth hunt or a weekend fishing derby. That makes it more enticing for kids – and adults – to enjoy Florida's great outdoors.

Sen. Dean and former Rep. Bemby presented the Commission with copies of the original signed bills.

For more information about youth opportunities, contact Rae Waddell at Rae.Waddell@MYFWC.com.

AUTOMATIC RENEWAL FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

A reminder from Angela Gray, Property Appraiser

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

BEWARE: If an owner allows an automatic renewal to occur and does not legally qualify for the exemption, there are severe penalties and a tax lien can be imposed on the property any year or years within the prior 10 years a person illegally received the homestead exemption benefit. Penalties include taxes exempted, plus a penalty of 50% of the unpaid taxes for each year and 15% interest per annum.

For further information or to report Homestead Fraud call 997-3356 or visit jeffersonpa.net.

Sports



Escambia Drops Warriors

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy varsity Warriors hit the hardwood against Escambia on December 20, and the Warriors were dropped for a 64-54 loss, to now stand 6-5 on the season.

As a team, Aucilla netted five of 25 attempts from the field, bucketed 13 of 32 attempts from the three-point zone, and dropped in one of two attempts from the free-throw line for 54 points. They collected 13 assists, 17 offensive and 26 defensive rebounds for a total of 43 rebounds, with seven block/steals and 34 turnovers.

Individually, Braden Mattingly missed two attempts from the field and targeted three of five attempts from the three-point zone for nine points. He had four assists, four offensive rebounds, one block/steal, and six turnovers.

Jared Jackson bucketed four of eight attempts from the field for eight points. He had three offensive and five defensive rebounds for a total of eight rebounds, with one block/steal and one turnover.

Brandon Holm missed four attempts from the field and missed one attempt from the three-point zone. He had two offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of three rebounds, with one block/steal and six turnovers.

Ricky Finlayson missed three attempts from the field, and netted four of 11 attempts from the three-point zone for

12 points. He also had one assist, four defensive rebounds, and one block/steal.

Hans Sorensen netted one of two attempts from the field, and missed one attempt from the three-point zone for two points. He had two assists, five offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of seven rebounds, with 10 turnovers.

Jay Finlayson missed one attempt from the field and bucketed six of 13 attempts from the three-point zone for 18 points. He collected six assists, one offensive and six defensive rebounds for a total of seven rebounds, with three block/steals and 11 turnovers.

Casey Demott netted two of five attempts from the field, missed one attempt from the three-point zone, and dropped in one of two attempts from the free-throw line for five points. He also had two offensive and eight defensive rebounds for a total of 10 rebounds.

Action continues against Brookwood, January 8 at 7:30 p.m., home; Tallavana, January 10 at 7:30 p.m., away; Melody Christian, January 11 at 7:30 p.m., home; Tallavana, January 14 at 7:30 p.m., home; John Paul II, January 17 at 7:30 p.m., home; Munroe, January 18 at 7:30 p.m., away; Franklin County, January 22 at 7:30 p.m., home; Altha, January 24 at 6 p.m., away; Mayo, January 29 at 6:30 p.m., away; and Liberty County, January 31 at 6:30 p.m., away.

Wrapping up the regular season, the Warriors square off against Mayo, February 1 at 6:30 p.m., home.

JV Warriors Trounce Munroe

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy junior varsity Warriors hit the hardwood against Munroe on December 14 and the JV Warriors trounced their opponent for a 50-26 victory, to now stand 3-4 on the season.

Wes Smyrniotis led the Warriors scoreboard, targeting for a whopping 29 points.

Eric Hutsell netted for seven points.

Carson Nennstiel scored four points.

Cole Schwab had two points. Sam Hogg netted for four points. Tyler Zimmerly scored four points.

Action continues against Malone, 5 p.m., Jan. 12, here; John Paul II, 4:30 p.m., Jan. 14, here; Altha, 5:30 p.m., Jan. 15, here; John Paul II, 4:30 p.m., Jan. 19, there; Altha, 6 p.m., Jan. 21, there; Munroe, 5 p.m., Jan. 22, there; Branford, 4 p.m., Jan. 25, here; and winding up the season, Branford, 4 p.m., Feb. 2, there.

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

Psalms 95:1-6
Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! (2) Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! (3) For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. (4) In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. (5) The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. (6) Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

Who Won?

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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 11, 2013 through January 18, 2013
Major Feed Times are marked by an asterisk (*)

Friday, January 11 4:40 AM *10:40 AM 4:55 PM *11:20 PM	Saturday, January 12 5:30 AM *11:50 AM 6:00 PM	Sunday, January 13 *12:20 AM 6:30 AM *12:50 PM 7:10 PM	Monday, January 14 *1:20 AM 7:30 AM *1:45 PM 8:00 PM
Tuesday, January 15 *2:20 AM 8:30 AM *2:40 PM 8:55 PM	Wednesday, January 16 *3:10 AM 9:20 AM *3:30 PM 9:45 PM	Thursday, January 17 *3:55 AM 10:05 PM *4:20 PM 10:35 PM	Friday, January 18 *4:45 AM 10:55 AM *5:10 PM 11:25 PM

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DEADLINE FOR FRIDAY PAPER 3:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAYS



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LAWN VACUUM - Brinly LVS-33BHK PolyVac System . Asking \$500. Call 997-3505 and ask for Debbie. 7/6, tfn, nc.

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BORDER COLLIE Blk/white with 1 blk. ear. Lost Jan 8, on Pearl St. Call 997-0835 after 8pm. 1/11,16,nc

Found

20LB BEAGLE MIX. dog, Tan & White. Found near E. Washington St. Call City Hall 342-0291. 1/11,16,nc

Wanted

J.C. LIONS CLUB is looking for 12" Tires with rims for their Lions trailer. Reasonable cost. Call 997-0901 11/9,tfn,nc

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NOTICE
In accordance with Florida Statue a public auction will be held on **January 12, 2013 at 10:00 A.M.**
For: 2002 Ford VIN # 1FMZU63E2UA90509
To be sold AS IS for towing and storage charges, conditions and terms at auction. Stewart's Towing 175 South Jefferson St. Monticello, FL 32344
Phone: 850/342-1480

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING:
The District Board of Trustees of North Florida Community College will hold its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the NFCC Board Room, NFCC, 325 NW Turner Davis Dr., Madison, FL. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by writing: NFCC, Office of the President, 325 NW Turner Davis Dr., Madison, FL 32340. For disability-related accommodations, contact the NFCC Office of College Advancement, 850-973-1653.
NFCC is an equal access/equal opportunity employer. 1/11/13

NOTICE OF MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
The Monticello City Council will conduct a workshop on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss administration of city revenues, including the city propane tax, and other monetary and operational functions of the city. The meeting will take place at Monticello City Hall, 245 S. Mulberry Street.
Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to participate should contact City Clerk Emily Anderson at 342-0292 or eanderson@my-monticello.net. 1/11/13

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<p>Convenience Store with Gas Extra office/shop included</p> \$600 per month	<p>9.5 acres East of Aucilla River Fencing, porches, outbuildings</p> \$89,000

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2012 Brings A Dawning Of Economic Recovery

LAZARO ALEMAN
*ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer*

2012 was a year largely dominated by an easing but yet potent national recession and the contentious ideological politics of a presidential election. More compelling at the local level, however, was the threatened closing of Jefferson Correctional Institution and possible loss of 177 jobs. This latter threat united and galvanized the community -- all to good effect ultimately.

Other noteworthy happenings of the year included the city's receipt of \$5 million worth of federal funding for con-

struction of a new sewage treatment plant; the county's approval of a \$4.4 million bond for the paving of some 40 miles of dirt roads; the planned location or relocation here of four new businesses; completion of the first phase of the Water Street ecological park and the further award of another \$200,000 in state funding for the project; and the community's hosting of the First Floridian; First American Conference, an archeological event that drew prominent experts from several related fields and had national, if not international, implications.

Following is a detailed, month-by-month account of the year.



January



ECB Publishing Photo by Laz Aleman, Jan. 3, 2012
Outgoing Mayor John Jones hands the gavel to incoming Mayor Idella Scott.

County Attorney Buck Bird's contract is renewed. The contract calls for Bird to receive an annual retainer of \$26,260, the equivalent of a commissioner's salary, plus \$175 hourly for services not specifically identified in the contract.

The Jefferson County Commission makes a series of citizen appointments to critical committees and advisory boards.

Staff identifies various problems and needed upgrades at the Jefferson County Recreation Park.

A parade is scheduled for Jan. 7 to honor the Tigers football team's win of the state championship and to raise money for the purchase of commemorative rings for the players.

The county becomes the focus of an \$85,000 study with the aim of formulating a bicycle and pedestrian master plan for the community.

Property Appraiser Angela Gray

hears from the Florida Department of Revenue that Jefferson County will be reimbursed nearly \$600,000 for tax revenues lost as result of Amendments 1 and 4.

The Monticello City Council votes Councilwoman Idella Scott as mayor and Councilman Tom Vogelgesang as vice mayor.

Property Appraiser Angela Gray announces she will seek a second term.

The 112-year-old family operated Simpson Nurseries acquires the former Apron Factory/Flea Market building on US 19 South for its new shipping dock.

The Jefferson County Commission rejects the earlier approved new district map, putting the onus on the School Board also to reject the map or keep it and create a situation where different districts exist for the two elective bodies.

The Jefferson County School District appeals the "D" grade that the state assigned Jefferson County Middle High School.

The Monticello City Council approves land-use changes that pave the way for possible construction of a Family Dollar store at the corner of US 19 and Cherokee Street.

The Monticello Park Committee reports to city officials on the group's latest doings relative to development of the proposed park on Water Street.

In a 3-2 vote, the Jefferson County School Board follows the County Commission on the redistricting issue and rejects the earlier approved district map, setting the stage for a repeat of the redistricting process in 2013.

Law-enforcement agents arrest 18-year-old Brandon L. Whyte and two mi-

nors for a rash of burglaries in the Aucilla Shores area.

The Florida Department of Corrections announces plans to close Jefferson Correctional Institution effective April 1, putting in jeopardy 177 jobs in the county.

Sponsors announce that the 3rd annual Seminole Cycling Classic, will be held in Jefferson County the weekend of Feb. 11-12.

A proposal to change the rules for the approval of bed-and-breakfast inns fails to get the Monticello City Council's approval.

The Jefferson Legislative Committee calls an emergency meeting to address the planned closing of Jefferson Correctional Institution and devise some kind of plan and strategy to save the facility.

Dixie Plantation hosts the 117th Continental Field Trials, a two-week competition that showcases some of the best bird dogs in the country.

The 32nd annual Martin Luther King parade draws more participants and spectators than in years past.

Several more individuals pre-qualify for elective public offices, including a number of incumbents.

Based on the presentation of Sheryl Rehberg, executive director of North Florida Workforce, the Jefferson County Commission takes a stand against proposed legislation that would, among other things, remove local control over the workforce organization.

District 4 School Board Member Marianne Arbulu formally announces her intention to seek the School Superintendent position.

The Jefferson County School Board reinstates a bus driver who was termi-

nated earlier for allegedly bringing alcohol on a school bus.

City officials drop a proposed moratorium on Internet cafés.

Members of a local community marching band sets its sights on participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, GA.

The community rallies to save the prison, with the Jefferson County Commission voting to hire two professional lobbyists to fight the closure and multiple meetings being held around town.

Fire Rescue Chief Mark Matthews restructures his department in a small way to allow him more time to supervise the shifts.

Consultant mining expert Randy Hatch gives the commission a status report of his activities at the county's rock mine.

The US Post Office announces a stamp rate increase effective Jan. 22.

School Superintendent Bill Brumfield calls a newly released ranking of school districts that places Jefferson County Middle High School next to last on the list "unfair and a disservice to the community."

Jefferson County Sheriff's Department deputies continue following leads in the case of a Waukeena Fertilizer employee who was severely beaten and robbed at the job site.

Monticello Police Department officers arrest a second suspect in the NAPA Auto Parts store burglary. He is Travis J. Scott.

Building Inspector W.O. Bullock reports that building permits are steady, but that valuations went down during December.

February



ECB Publishing Photo by Laz Aleman, Jan. 30, 2012
Representative Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda holds a 'JCI Means Jobs' sign while speaking with local businessman Dennis Pitts prior to Monday evening's legislative delegation hearing.

The proposed closing of Jefferson Correctional Institution dominates the public hearing that the legislative delegation holds here to hear about the community's concerns.

An afternoon fire destroys the two-story house of Dottie and Joy Taylor on Main Avenue in the county, despite the response of multiple firefighting units.

The Big Bend Horseman's Association and Jefferson County Commission come to an understanding that will allow the former group to call the College Park horse arena home.

Property Appraiser Angela Gray alerts property owners with Save Our Homes protected homesteads to prepare for a possible rate increase on their property taxes.

Authorities report that Brandon L. Whyte, an 18-year-old county resident arrested for a string of burglaries in the Aucilla Shores area, faces additional charges.

Supporters of Jefferson Correctional Institution pull all the stops to keep the prison from closing, including an email and letter writing campaign to state officials and repeated visits to the Capitol.

Jefferson County GOP voters favor Newt Gingrich over Mitt Romney in the Republican presidential primary, casting 440 votes for Gingrich versus 322 for Romney. Romney nonetheless wins the state.

The Jefferson County School District

names bookkeeper Stephanie Roberts its Employee of the Year, making her eligible for the statewide designation.

The Monticello Police Department alerts city businesses and residents that certain streets will be closed briefly on Feb. 12 for an intercollegiate bicycle-racing event.

In The Shadows, a male pointer owned by Carl Bowman and handled by Robin Gates, wins the all-ages category, along with a \$10,000 purse at the 117th Continental Field Trial at Dixie Plantation.

The Jefferson County Solid Waste Department is awarded the Veolia environmental stewardship award for its recycling program.

Two professional lobbyists hired by the county to prevent the closing of Jefferson Correctional Institution report that they are making headway in their effort and urge the community to remain involved.

Keystone Tours, a locally grown ecotourism outfit, begins offering day outings and hikes to remote areas of the county.

The House of Representatives approves a budget that continues to fund Jefferson Correctional Institution, giving local officials hope that if the Senate approves a similar measure, the prison will be spared from closing.

The Jefferson County Commission approves a final version of the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map and forwards these to the state, preparatory to implementation of the two documents.

The Tallahassee Lenders' Consortium, a regional group that provides free housing services to low-income families, reports receipt of a \$300,000 grant to expand its services in the area.

Consultant mining expert Randy Hatch reports to county officials that the county-owned mine near Goose Pasture is a veritable asset, with the potential for turning a profit.

Jack Carswell reports to the Monticello City Council about a newly hatched plan to restore and redevelop a group of historic buildings in the downtown district, with the former Jackson's Drug Store to be the project's anchor.

The building inspector reports that building permits went up in January, compared to the previous month, but he attributes the bulk of the increased activity to home repairs and additions.



Solid Waste Department Director Beth Letchworth and staff are presented the Veolia environmental stewardship award for the department's recycling efforts on behalf of the environment.

Organizers report the start of preparations for the 5th annual Southern Music Rising Festival, set for April 20-21.

The Florida Senate budget committee votes to include money in its budget for the Jefferson Correctional Institution, assuring the continued operation of the prison, barring the Governor's veto of the measure.

Organizers of the two-day intercollegiate bicycle race here report that the event was a success and say they plan to stage the event here again next year.

The Jefferson Economic Development Council puts forth a proposal calling for the commission to set aside a significant amount from the recurring fiscally constrained money that the county receives to attract businesses and spur jobs creation.

Commissioners prepare to address unsafe buildings again, instructing Planning Attorney Scott Shirley to brief them on the existing rules for the condemnation of unsafe buildings.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department offers \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the armed robbery and beating of an employee at the Waukeena Fertilizer Company.

Jerry Lee Goodman, a 46-year-old Monticello man, is killed when he is struck by an SUV as he was walking

alongside US 19 on the north part of town.

Two representatives of Florida's Great Northwest, an organization dedicated to promoting business opportunities and economic development, talks to the local economic development group about what it takes to attract and retain businesses.

Longtime newspaper publisher Tommy Greene, known as "the man in green" and a veritable legend in Madison and surrounding counties, dies of natural causes at age 73.

A group of about 25 legislators' spouses, children and other family members tour several farms in the county and get acquainted with agricultural issues, part of a goodwill and public relations effort promoted by the Jefferson County Farm Bureau.

Dr. Dallas Garrett, a retired business developer, talks to the Chamber of Commerce about his successful business incubation programs in other parts of the country and how the same success could be achieved here.

Algeletha Mitchell, a biology teacher at Jefferson County Middle/High School, is named Teacher of the Year for the Jefferson County School District.

The Suwannee River Water Management District reports low rainfall levels during January, making for the continuation of the drought.

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March

Two plans surface for the restructuring of the Road Department and the paving of roads, one put forth by a three-member committee and the second by the department head.

Local school officials applaud the Florida Department of Education's decision to back off some of the more controversial proposals affecting the grades the state assigned schools as a consequence of students' performances on the FCAT and other standardized state tests.

County officials take up a proposal that calls for adopting new hiring procedures for use by all department heads to ensure a more formalized and standardized hiring process.

The word comes from the two professional lobbyists that the county hired to save the prison. The word is that Jefferson Correctional Institution has dodged the bullet and been funded for another year, maybe longer.

Dr. Anne Holt, program manager for Main Street Monticello, reports receipt of a \$10,000 grant for the 1st Floridians Conference, to be held in the fall.

Jefferson County's participation is requested in a regional partnership led by the water management districts, that aim of which partnership is to examine the region's dwindling water supply and come up with solutions to remedy the growing problem.

Jimmy Alford Foy Jr., a Quitman man, is arrested and charged with battery of his girlfriend over her allegedly liking her dog better than him.

The number of potential candidates to pre-qualify for public offices grows to 19, even though the election is still some eight months away.

County officials learn that procedures are already in place to address unsafe buildings, per the

presentation of Planning Attorney Scott Shirley.

The annual audit of the City of Monticello finds that the city's finances are in order, although state revenues are down.

The Chamber of Commerce holds its 3rd annual Chili Challenge cook-off in the Monticello Opera House, with the proceeds going to help the organization.

The Monticello City Council approves the request of the Monticello Park Committee to reapply for a \$200,000 grant to take the Water Street Park to its next level of development.

UF/FAMU extension agent Covey Washington, with the Jefferson County Extension Office, reports to the Monticello City Council on a plan to revive the old Roostertown Community Garden.

County officials schedule another workshop to redefine the role of County Coordinator Roy Schleicher, whose retirement is scheduled for June 30th.

The Economic Development Council reveals that it is courting a company in the renewable energy field, or more specifically, a biomass operation that converts wood products into other forms of energy.

Main Street Monticello announce it will resume its fundraising for the restoration of the old jail, only it is changing the format and location of the event, calling it an "Artisans and Growers Day" and holding it at Johnston's Meat Market on US 90 West.

The building inspector's reports that building permits in February returned to their normal levels, following a sharp spike the previous month.

County commissioners take another step forward on the rock mine, both extending the service contract of consultant mining expert Randy Hatch and authorizing



ECB Publishing Photos By Debbie Snapp, March 9, 2012

JCI Sgt. Jerry Loggins, Gloria Ham and George King display signs thanking the community for its support in helping save their jobs.

ing him to look for a dragline for possible purchase, as well as for buyers for the mine's products.

A County Commission workshop to consider the restructuring of the Road Department makes little headway, with the board at odds over which of two plans to pursue.

The Monticello City Council indicates that it may consider implementation of an incentive program to reward employees who save the city money.

The Northwest Florida Water Management District reports that its recently implemented program of electronic permitting of water wells is proving popular.

County officials adopt a resolution urging the Governor to veto a House Bill that critics say will shift the costs of Medicaid to local taxpayers.

State Representative Leonard Bemby offers reflections on his accomplishments during the just completed legislative session.

School officials talk up a new state initiative that aims to promote the study and integration of science, technology, engineering

and math in the schools as a way of preparing students for expected job increases in these fields in the not too distant future.

The Suwannee River Water Management District reports that rainfall levels remained low in February.

A citizen-initiated proposal to increase the salary of the high school's football coach surfaces at the March meeting of the Jefferson County School Board.

Monticello police arrest 35-year-old Teree Ara-Kasheen Dunlap, of Tallahassee, and charge him with battery of his girlfriend.

County officials adopt a resolution thanking the Governor and other key state officials for their part in sparing the closing of the Jefferson Correctional Institution.

Two more individuals pre-qualify for elective offices, bringing to 21 the total number of candidates seeking public offices.

Dr. Anne Holt, of Main Street Monticello, presents commissioners with a framed photo of an early 1900s architectural drawing of the A-Building as a way of inspiring officials to complete the building's restoration.

County officials set in motion the process to hire a small business development expert on a consultant basis by approving the advertisement for such an individual.

Rachel McKenzie Pinto, 18, of Lake City, is killed in a single vehicle accident on the interstate when the pickup truck she is a passenger in overturns.

The Legislature approves changes to the regional workforce boards that are more moderate than those originally proposed.

County officials move to update the Code of Ordinances Book, a mere two years after the last update.

A national study gives Florida state government a C- in terms of transparency and accountability, ranking it in 18th place out of the 50 states.

Local outdoorsman Charlie Ward gets his own hunting/fishing/cooking show on Dish TV and Direct TV.

The Jefferson County Community Marching Band gets to participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Savannah, GA.

April

The Governor approves a bill shifting Medicaid costs to taxpayers, despite the strong opposition of the Florida Association of Counties and Jefferson County.

The Jefferson County Election office reports that 23 candidates are vying for local public offices.

The Monticello-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce announces the second annual Flea Across Florida, a 272-mile long yard sale.

Daniel R. Brown, a 24-year-old Jefferson County man, is arrested for an incident allegedly involving road rage.

County officials indicate that they may give churches a break when it comes permits and the associated fees for additions and upgrades.

In a town hall meeting at the Jefferson County courthouse annex, Congressman Steve Southerland's message is one of urgency and frustration relative to the goings on in Washington D.C.

The county's planners consider a site plan for a proposed communications tower to be placed on piece of conservation area at the juncture of U.S. 98 and SR-59 near the coast.

Monticello city officials consider a plan that would reward city employees who propose or implement cost-saving measures in their respective areas.

Jack Carswell, a member of a group seeking to reinvigorate the downtown area, tells the Monticello City Council that the project is proceeding on schedule.

The Florida Highway Patrol attributes early morning glare as a contributor in a two-vehicle accident on U.S. 19 that resulted in minor injuries to two Jefferson County residents.

Jefferson County becomes a voting member of the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency, a group charged with developing a transportation master plan for the region.

Carl Gallups, a 1973 graduate of Jefferson County High School and a former Sheriff's deputy here, authors a book airing his conservative views.

Some five months after county officials approved the plan, dredging begins on the Wacissa River to create a small canal to allow boaters access to the deeper part of the river.

Jefferson County residents are afforded an opportunity to participate in a virtual conference featuring state and national leaders speaking on a host of green topics, including clean energy, economic development and green communities.

Chakavia L. Brit, a 19-year-old Monticello resident, is killed when she loses control of her SUV and it strikes several trees.

School Superintendent Bill Brumfield transfers Jefferson Elementary School Principal Valerie Thompson to the Adult School for untold reasons. For once, the School Board doesn't challenge the decision.

Jeremy Brown, Tigers' head football coach at Jefferson County Middle High School, tenders his resignation, the latest to do so, indicative of general malady in the district.



Health Department Director Kim Barnhill

Kim Barnhill, director of the Jefferson and Madison Counties Health Department, is named Florida Outstanding Woman in Public Health 2012, an annual award presented by the College of Public Health at the University of South Florida.

County officials set a workshop to review the responses of two business development experts who respond to the commission's advertisement for an economic development expert.

The Monticello-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce announces that the Miss and Teen Miss Watermelon Queen pageant will be held June 9.

The Jefferson County Planning Commission makes short work of approving a cell tower in a conservation area.

The Florida Association of Counties challenges a state approved law that the association claims puts taxpayers "on the hook for millions in state Medicaid accounting errors."

John Grosskopf, president of North Florida Community College, reports that Jefferson County Middle High School students attending the college are doing as well as their counterparts from others of the college's drawing area.

Firefighters quickly put out a small electrical fire in the Rosemary Tree Café.

County officials up a workshop to review the role of the county coordinator and determine if changes are necessary.

The Jefferson County Commission approves proclamation urging water conservation, in keeping with April being water conservation month and in light of the continuing drought.

Sponsors of the annual Southern Music Rising Festival remind residents that the 5th annual festival kicks off on the weekend.

Fire Rescue Chief Mark Matthews applies for two grants that aim to add a new ambulance and refurbish another one, putting the department in better shape.

Richard Finlayson, principal at Aucilla Christian Academy, hails a bill signed by the Governor that expands Florida's tax credit scholarship for low-income students.

County officials approve an interagency agreement that makes this community eligible for a \$30,000 grant to plan a sidewalk extension on the east side of town.

Two Monticello women are injured when their vehicle collides with a semi rig on U.S. 27. The two women are 64-year-old Barbara Plummer and 61-year-

old Rosa Plummer.

The Jefferson County Commission votes to hire Dr. Dallas Garrett to help nurture small business development here.

Jefferson County planners get a refresher course on policy, procedure, protocol and process, compliments of Planning Attorney Scott Shirley.

County officials report that they expect to have in hand in the coming month for review a draft of a newly revised ordinance that aims to provide a framework for the abatement of nuisance and unsafe buildings and properties.

The Jefferson County and City of Monticello Building Inspection and Contractor Licensing Department reports that building activity remains lackluster.

Tigers head football coach Jeremy Brown changes his mind and takes back his resignation, after a talk with School Superintendent Bill Brumfield and an outpouring of support from the community.

Organizers of the 5th annual Southern Music Rising Festival call the event a mixed success, given a rainstorm that snuffed out much of festivities early Saturday afternoon.

The Jefferson County Commission holds a workshop to explore the county coordinator's hiring and firing authority, vis-à-vis the board and the department heads.

The City of Monticello and the engineering firm of George and Associates Consulting Engineers part ways on reportedly amicable terms after a long relationship.

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May

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity reports that Jefferson County's unemployment rate dropped in March, reflecting a similar drop in the state's jobless figures.

Four more candidates pre-qualify for public office, bringing the total number of local officer seekers to 29.

Main Street Monticello announces plans for a Roaring 20s/30s theme party to raise funds for the restoration of the old jail.

Mine consultant Randy Hatch tells county officials it's time to decide whether the county plans to keep operating the quarry or sell it. The Suwannee River Water Management District reports that March was another hot, dry month.

A fundraiser by the Jefferson County Bailor Public Library staff at the Honey Lake Plantation exceeds expectations, drawing more than 300 participants and raising about \$10,000 for the library.

Sheriff's deputies arrest a 23-year-old Tallahassee man, Eddie James Brown, after a routine traffic stop reveals that he is a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

Alan Wise, the county's consultant engineer, informs the Jefferson County Commission that the section of Waukeena Highway between U.S. 27 and SR-59 will get resurfaced, but not to the extent that commissioners wanted.

Florida Farm Bureau officials and others in the agricultural community are jubilant to learn that the U.S. Department of Labor won't pursue regulations that would have prevented children from working on farms.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement releases its annual Uniform Crime Report, which shows that the total number of violent crimes has dropped statewide.

The Jefferson County Commission winnows the number of applicants for the county coordinator position from 15 to eight and ranks each in order of preference preparatory to interviewing the top choices.

A 27-year-old county man, Samuel Pascheo Deras, is arrested and charged with DUI following a two-car crash.

The Jefferson County Commission issues a proclamation honoring Walker and Sons Farms Inc., recognized as the number one dairy in the state for its production of high quality milk.

The number of seekers for local public offices goes up to 31 as the deadline for declaring nears.

Following their review of the document, the Jefferson County Commission sets the unsafe building abatement ordinance for a public hearing.

The City of Monticello reads to sign an agreement with two new engineering firms. One is Preble-Rish Inc., and the second is Mittaur and Associates out of Orange Park, Fl.

Officials indicate that local voters may get an opportunity in November to decide if new and existing businesses that create job here should get a tax break.

The Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency schedules a workshop to solicit public input on a bicycle, pedestrian master plan that it is in the process of developing.

The Big Bend Horseman's Association plans a ribbon-cutting ceremony and horse show at the College Park Arena, signaling the inauguration of the three-year-old facility.

Dr. Dallas Garrett, newly hired small business program director, reports to the Jefferson County Commission that he's on the job and recruiting clients, with 18 clients already recruited as of his 10th day on the job.

Economic Development Director Julie Conley reports that a recently formed ad-hoc committee is making headway in fashioning a list of recommendations to address long and short-term solutions to the impediments to economic development.

Pyrotechnic maestro Wallace Bullock reports that the Fourth of July fireworks show will proceed, weather permitting; and that a committee has begun raising funds for the event.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office issues an alert to warn residents of a rash of burglaries.

The map redistricting of the previous December returns in the guise of a threatened lawsuit from Concerned United People and its

members.

County officials weigh whether to join the suit against the state filed by the Florida Association of Counties in challenge to the dictates of recently approved legislation that shifts the burden of Medicaid costs to counties.

Congressman Steve Southerland visits with constituents here at a community fish fry.

Domenick Bellavigna, a 39-year-old Greenville man, is seriously injured when his motorcycle strikes a vehicle on the Waukeena Highway.

Commissioners formulate a public property naming policy that they plan to implement to ensure fairness, consistency equity in the naming of public properties.

Notwithstanding occasional spikes and plunges in the reported building permits issued, the level of construction activity remains relatively steady and lackluster.

A majority of the Jefferson School Board agrees to stick with the decision to rescind the December vote on the redrawn district map, almost assuring initiation of a threatened lawsuit.

The old jailhouse fundraiser for the restoration of the historic building proves a success, especially as word circulated that the project had been awarded a \$26,000 state grant.

Faced with poor scores and a backlash across the state, the Florida Department of Education lowers the passing grade on the writing portion of the FCAT test, pleasing such officials as School Superintendent Bill Brumfield.

State Representative Leonard Bembry applauds the Governor for signing of a bill that Bembry sponsored to protect from liability landowners who open their properties to the public for recreational purposes.

The Suwannee River Water Management District reports that the dry, hot weather continues across the district.

After repeated votes, the Jefferson County Commission deadlocks on the choice for a new county coordinator, as visions and politics clash.

Representatives of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission announce a



ECB Publishing Photo by Laz Aleman, May 3, 2012

District 4 Commissioner Betsy Barfield last Thursday recognized Walker and Sons Farms Inc. with a proclamation naming May 7-13 as Milk Producers Week. The proclamation honored the business, which was recognized statewide in 2011 as the number one dairy in the state for the production of quality milk — supposedly the third time the dairy has won the award. Picture from left to right, front row, are Sheri and Frances Walker. In the back row are Douglas Walker, Sonja Walker, Ronnie Walker, Tyler Raker, Jeremy Walker, Barfield and Robert Walker.

planned drawdown of Lake Miccosukee to ensure the revitalization of the lake.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity reports that the unemployment picture continues to improve across the state, including Jefferson and Madison counties.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission plans a party at the head of the Wacissa River to celebrate the river's designation as National Recreation Trail finalist, along with Aucilla and Econfina rivers.

Kevin Audrey Boland, a 29-year-old Jefferson County man, is arrested and charged with threatening a woman and a deputy.

Barbara Tharpe, a 66-year-old Tallahassee woman, receives minor injuries in a one-vehicle accident on Tram Road.

Antonio Jackson, a 34-year-old Jacksonville truck driver, is charged with causing a three-vehicle accident on I-10.

True to their word, a group of citizens file a lawsuit to force the Jefferson County Commission and Jefferson County School Board to return to the December 2011 approved district map.

Patrons of the Monticello Opera House hear at the annual members' meeting and dinner that the 122-year-old institution is not only doing well financially, it is ac-

tually thriving.

The Sheriff's Department reports that a Waukeena Fertilizer employee who was severely beaten and robbed continues to recuperate from the January attack, with the suspect still at large.

Jefferson County officials decide to join the Florida Association of Counties in its suit against the state over the Medicaid issue, in only in spirit.

Three years after being approved for funding under a state program, it's announced that the portion of Watermill that's paved will be resurfaced.

Staff from the Florida Department of Transportation gives officials here an update on the I-10 master plan to improve different section of the interstate.

The Florida Department of Education paves the way to prepare the public for the release of FCAT reading and math scores that are lower than expected.

County officials submit three more roads to the Florida Department of Transportation as candidates for road improvement funding. The three are Big Joe, St. Augustine and Pineywood roads.

Plans continue to solidify for a planned archeological conference here, to be called the First Americans, First Floridians Conference, an effort spearheaded by Main Street Monticello.

June

Representatives of the North Florida Broadband Authority get a testy reception from residents anxious to get the service and convinced that the project hasn't progressed much from the previous year.

The Suwannee River Water Management District issues a water shortage order, effective June 13, in recognition of low water levels because of the continuing drought.

County officials set a workshop to try to break the impasse over the selection of a new county coordinator.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department begins utilizing Nixle, an email and text message based broadcast notification system.

The Jefferson Commission sets a workshop to explore whether to impose mandatory septic tank inspections.

Some five months after officials committed \$45,000 to have a consultant firm evaluate the county's fire and landfill special assessments, the firm reports its findings, which argued for changing the fees.

Various state and local offices begin urging hurricane preparedness in recognition of the start of the tropical storm season.

Main Street Monticello announces that a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution on different modes of travel through the ages will be coming to the Monticello Opera House in the fall of 2013.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission begins the drawdown of Lake Miccosukee as part of a plan to revitalize the 6,100-acre lake.

Lucious Charles Lingo, a 22-year-old Lamont man, is injured in a single-vehicle accident.

Renee Clark, 33, of Monticello, is critically injured in a single-vehicle accident when she loses control of her car.

The City of Monticello moves forward to secure a \$6.2 million federal loan/grant for construction of a new sewage treatment plant.

City of Monticello officials give the green light the demolition of the fire damaged building that formerly housed the Rare Door Restaurant.

Jefferson County commissioners finally settle on Parish Barwick as the new county coordinator.

EBC Publishing goes digital with its first e-edition newspaper.

The legal fees begin to mount in the redistricting suit



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo by Emerald Greene, June 2, 2012

Vying for the title of the Miss Watermelon Queen are, left to right: Ashley Hebert, Sara MacDonald, and Michaela Metcalfe.

filed against the Jefferson County Commission and the School Board by four citizens who want the 2011 redrawn district map adopted.

Micheala Metcalfe is crowned Miss Watermelon Queen and Caroline Yaun is crowned Teen Miss Watermelon at the traditional annual pageant held in conjunction with the Watermelon Festival.

Kessler Construction, of Monticello, is recognized for construction of a green building.

First-term Commissioner Hines Boyd announces his plan to seek reelection.

The court sets a hearing date for the lawsuit arising out of the redrawing of the county's district map and the County Commission and School Board's subsequent rescission of the decision.

New water use restrictions imposed by the Suwannee River Water Management District in response to the low water levels caused by the drought go into effect.

Officials ante up and have the county contribute \$5,000 to the fundraising effort to ensure the Fourth of July fireworks display and celebrations go forward.

Eric May, an inmate at Jefferson Corrections Institution, is charged with escape after he walks off the property without permission.

Fire destroys a house on Chancey Road in the county, leaving its occupant homeless and devoid of everything he

owned.

The City of Monticello signs leases authorizing the North Florida Broadband Authority to install equipment at certain of the city's structures in order to help facilitate high-speed Internet connectivity in the area.

County officials act in short order to facilitate the way for the Harrell Nut Company to locate a pecan-shelling plant the industrial park that will supposedly create up to 180 jobs over time.

The Jefferson County Commission okays a contract for the new coordinator, at the same time upping his salary to \$68,900.

The Jefferson County School Board shoots down a proposal from School Superintendent Bill Brumfield to name the high auditorium on Water Street after Kelly Kilpatrick, a popular former high school principal here.

Tropical Storm Beryl brings little relief to the area's drought conditions, despite dumping much rain.

Following on the heels of Beryl, Tropical Storm Debby causes widespread flooding and damage in areas of the county.

A judge in the redistricting lawsuit hears arguments from attorneys for the plaintiffs and the Jefferson County Commission and School Board and promises to render a decision as soon one or two days.

County officials continue wrestling with the setting of new landfill assessment fees, ultimately deciding to delegate the matter to the new coordinator.

P.S. Art, a local manufacturing company that produces framed art and mirrors, reports that it is faring well despite the recession and is expecting sales to top \$5 million.

Former County Coordinator Roy Schleicher bids the office farewell and retires.

A management team assigned to Jefferson County Middle High School because of its previous poor performance reports on the efforts undertaken during the last year to improve the school's standing.

Different parts of the county report damaged roads, power losses and other negative aftereffects in the wake of Tropical Storm Debby.

An ad-hoc committee appointed to evaluate the county's economic development efforts reports its findings to the Jefferson County Commission.

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July

The judge in the map redistricting complaint postpones a decision, essentially leaving it to voters to decide the matter.

The traditional Fourth of July fireworks display and celebrations are held in the Tigers football field on Water Street.

The Florida Department of Education thwarts the appointment of Nancy Whitty as the elementary school principal, citing her alleged lack of experience for the position. Rains from Tropical Storm Debby result in the development of a 48-foot deep sinkhole in the southern part of the county.

Tyler Bruce Ranew, a 23-year-old South Florida man attending FSU, is arrested and charged with transporting ecstasy when a deputy stops him for a routine traffic violation.

Tometha Lewis, a Monticello woman, is charged with forging two checks in excess of \$18,000.

Commissioners set a workshop to discuss how the county will handle the repair of the many roads damaged by Tropical Storm Debby.

The Monticello City Council waives the water and sewer connection fees and the related development systems fee in order to facilitate the Harrell Nut Company's move to the industrial park.

Caitlin Harrison, a Jefferson County teen, readies to compete in the Miss Florida USA Pageant.

The Jefferson County Commission approves \$13,000 for the design and permitting of a new concession stand at the recreation park, part of the continuing upgrades of the facility.

The Chamber of Commerce schedules two candidates' forums before the primary, giving the public a chance to hear the candidates' views on the issue.

Commissioners give indications that they will back off from mandatory septic tank inspections.

Dr. Dallas Garrett, director of the Small Business Development Program, proposes establishment of a small business incubator to the city and county officials. State House Representative Leonard Bemby requests that the Governor expedite assistance to counties dealing with an infestation of mosquitoes in the wake of Tropical Storm Debby.

A routine school personnel matter turns messy when the superintendent's appearance gets delayed and School Board allows affected personnel to voice their grievances. The Jefferson County School Board joins other school boards across the state in calling for changes to the FCAT testing.

The Jefferson County Property Appraiser's office announces that based on the preliminary tax roll, property values show a decline in the city.

At the request of the Economic Development Council, the city and county governments adopt separate resolutions in support of an application to Enterprise Florida for funding the industrial park.

Senator Bill Montford attends a 'Beat the Heat' political rally sponsored by the Jefferson County Democratic Party at the Monticello Opera House.

The first political forum sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce for candidates in the School Superintendent and District 5 County Commission races attract a full house.

After years of debate and false starts, the Jefferson County Commission adopts an unsafe building abatement ordinance that targets dangerous and unsightly structures. The Jefferson County School Board ap-



Photos Courtesy of AJ Studios Photography
Caitlin Harrison of Jefferson County will be competing for the title of Miss Florida USA 2013 this week. The Miss Florida USA pageant will be aired on Saturday, July 14 on WTLH Fox 49 at 7 p.m.

proves a dress code for the middle and high school, with the new rules set to go into effect in the fall.

In an effort to give the community a better understanding and appreciation of the function of the prison, Warden Chris Douglas, of Jefferson Correctional Institution, invites the community and the media to tour the facility.

Jefferson County, through the Jefferson County Tourism Development Council, joins a six-county alliance whose purpose is to promote the spread of wildflowers along the county's roadways as a means of attracting naturalists and their dollars.

The Chamber of Commerce's second sponsored forum highlights candidates in

the Districts 1 and 4 School Board races and the District 1 County Commission race.

The Jefferson County Commission readies to sign leases that would allow the North Florida Broadband Authority to install its equipment on the county's elevated structures to allow for the transmission of broadband signals.

Various nonprofit and civic groups appear before the Monticello City Council during the budget preparation process to request financial assistance for their organizations.

The City of Monticello meets the deadline for completion of the first phase of the Water Street Park, in terms of the various improvements that the community had to accomplish as part of a \$200,000 state grant.

J. Joshua Cox, a Tallahassee diver, drowns on the Wacissa River during a diving outing at a popular diving spot known as Big Blue.

Jefferson County Middle High School gets a new management company, when the School Board replaces the contract with the Kentucky-based Educational Directions with one with NCS Pearson, a Minnesota-based corporation.

The Economic Development Council announces plans to promote a business tax relief measure that it wants voters to approve in the November elections.

Congressman Steve Southerland's staff visit the county for a couple of hours to avail residents an opportunity to voice their concerns and identify projects they might want to see pursued.

Clerk of Court Kirk Reams rolls out a new case maintenance system, called Clericus, which is supposed to increase efficiency and move toward a paperless office environment.

August

Florida's jobless rate remains fixed at 8.6 percent, while the rates in Jefferson and Madison counties go up.

County officials commit to seeking an \$800,000 loan to construct a building and so pave the way for American Hunter Inc., a Tallahassee-based company, to relocate to the industrial park.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department arrests David Whyte in connection with a series of burglaries in the Aucilla Shores area.

Selina Williams, a county woman, is charged with insurance fraud after she allegedly fakes a slip and fall incident at a local grocery store.

Heavy rains result in a series of auto crashes in the county, mostly on the interstate and none resulting in fatalities.

John Lilly, head of the Jefferson County Extension Services, expresses a desire to move his operation west of town, on property occupied by the Green Industries Institute.

The poor attendance of planners at Planning Commission meetings continues to be an issue, as the group sometimes fails to get a quorum because of a lack of attendees. County officials reaffirm their vote to place a tax abatement referendum on the November ballot.

City and county officials hold a joint workshop to explore the idea of establishing a small business incubator here.

School Superintendent Bill Brumfield announces more changes at the elementary and high schools, with Dr. Gwen Coverson assuming the principalship at the elementary school and Assistant Principal Loretta Holmes stepping up to become the high school principal.

A bill sponsored by State Representative Leonard Bemby to spare senior affordable housing communities from having to undergo costly, duplicative and unnecessary state inspections goes into law.

Commissioner Hines Boyd continues to push for a resolution that would commit the commission to reduce the landfill assessment fee.

The Suwannee River Water Management District gets a new director; she is Dr. Anne Shortelle.

Clerk of Court Kirk Reams offers that budget workshops thus far have accomplished 'jack squat', a comment that doesn't particularly endear him to some commissioners.

The American Legion Post 49 holds a joint flag disposal ceremony with Cub Scout Pack 628 to show the public the proper way of disposing of worn, tattered and unserviceable United States flags.

The Jefferson County Commission schedules a workshop to decide which of two companies will it select to administer the county's

housing program, a key component in a restructuring of the program.

County staff continues working with officials from federal agencies in an effort to secure federal funding for the repair of roads damaged by Tropical Storm Debby in late June.

The Jefferson County Elections Office reminds citizens that two of five local offices up for election will be decided in the primary.

Jefferson County Health Department Director Kim Barnhill gets tapped to become chief of staff for Florida Sturgeon General and Florida Health Department Secretary John Armstrong.

Tourist Development Council Coordinator Nancy Wideman reports that ideas abounded at regional conference held to promote the conservation and awareness of wildflowers as a potential tourism draw and economic development tool.

Figures released by the Jefferson County and City of Monticello Building Inspection and Contractor Licensing Department show that building activity remains sluggish.

Sheriff David Hobbs makes a forceful case for a budget increase to his department during a commission's budget development workshop.

County Commissioners cut \$400,000 from proposed expenditures and move closer to balancing the budget during a particularly productive workshop.

The Monticello City Council votes to contribute \$500 to help sponsor the First Floridians; First Americans conference.

The City of Monticello approves an extra fee on the sale of cemetery lots.

Clark Gordon Goodman, a central Florida man, is charged with a felony involving the purchase of an estate here.

Matthew Bowman, a Jefferson County resident, is charged with stealing the wiring at two locations.

The primary culls the political field, with Stephen Walker emerging as the new District 5 commissioner and Larry Halsey emerging as the new District 4 School Board member.

The 8th annual D'oeuvres for the Brain and Soul fundraiser sponsored by Dr. Wesley Scoles and company far exceeds expectations, in terms of the amount raised.

The Property Appraiser's office gets an additional \$20,647 in funding from the commission for the extra administrative costs the operation incurs in processing the fire and landfill assessments.

The commission awards Guardian the contract to administer the county's housing program.

The Florida Department of Education releases the results of its investigation regarding erasures on the FCAT test at Jefferson Elemen-



Supporters of HB-249 attended the bill-signing ceremony held by Gov. Rick Scott at the capitol recently. Included in the standing group are Janegale Boyd, second from left, and Rep. Leonard Bemby, fourth from left. Gov. Rick Scott is sitting at the table.



ECB Publishing Photos By Debbie Snapp, August 4, 2012.

American Legion Post 49 and Cub Scout Pack 628 held a joint flag disposal ceremony on Saturday afternoon.

tary School.

The new judge in the map-redistricting case sets another hearing for early September.

The buildings housing the city government and police functions of the City Monticello are designated historical structures.

The Jefferson County Health Department issues a mosquito-borne illness advisory after a man is Leon County is diagnosed with West Nile virus.

The latest unemployment figures indicate the jobless rate has increased slightly in the state, as it did for Jefferson and Madison counties.

Jordon Wess Whiddon, a Tallahassee man, is arrested on an outstanding warrant for several charges, including driving under the influence.

The drawdown of Lake Miccosukee remains on schedule, despite a Tropical Storm Debby and a series of thunderstorms that dump

much rain in the area.

County officials report that the county's budget is about ready for public viewing, following a series of productive workshops.

County commissioners continue to debate the fate of the rock mine, meaning whether to continue operating or selling it.

The Jefferson County Commission votes to increase the funding for the economic development effort.

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September

Commission Chairman Hines Boyd calls a workshop for reevaluation of the use of the fiscally constrained money, which he says should be budgeted differently.

Despite Tropical Storm Debby and other subsequent storms, the Suwannee River Water Management District finds that water level remain low across the region.

The Property Appraiser office reports that TRIM, or Truth in Millage Notice, notices have been mailed to all property owners in the county.

The Monticello Park Committee announces receipt of another \$200,000 grant for development of the Water Street Park.

The Monticello City Council selects the Jacksonville-based WBC Industrial Construction Company to construct the city's new nearly \$5 million sewage treatment plant.

Almost five years after the start of a FEMA sponsored floodplain remapping project with nationwide implications, the Northwest Florida Water Management District reports that the results for the local area are about to be released.

The elections office reminds residents that five local elective offices remain to be decided in the general election, notwithstanding the results of the primary.

Two attorneys representing the Florida Association of Counties tell county officials that Jefferson County stands to receive millions from the BP's oil spill and that a consortium is being formed to pursue the money.

The Monticello City Council holds the first of two public hearing on the tentative budget and millage rate, without a single citizen showing up.



Flea Across Florida was another great success this year.

Laticia Ann Slaughter, a 34-year-old Taylor County resident, is seriously injured when a vehicle strikes her as she is walking alongside U.S. 27 in Jefferson County.

Local officials express hope that although Main Street Broadband is out of the picture insofar as providing the last-mile connectivity locally, another last-minute provider will step up to the plate and provide the service.

Building Inspector Wallace Bullock lets it be known that the issuance of a building permit to the Harrell Nut Company is being delayed not by his office, but by "a technical bureaucratic glitch" at the state level concerning a licensing issue.

Nearly two and a half years after Jefferson County Middle High School is

awarded a solar powered system to reduce its energy consumption, the system is finally installed.

The Building Inspection Department reports that repairs and addition continue to far outstrip other building activity, evident of a continuing depressed economy.

Jefferson County applies for a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant to rehabilitate 10 or so substandard houses.

Another Flea Across Florida is scheduled across the area. The event is billed as the longest yard sale in Florida, stretching from Live Oak to Pensacola.

Leonzo Walker, a 20-year-old Monticello man, is seriously injured when his vehicle collides with an 18-wheeler on Labor Day.

Former County Commissioner Fred Williams, who served 12 years on the Jefferson County Commission and 14 on the Planning Commission, dies of natural causes at age 74.

Circuit Court Judge Mark E. Walker determines that the ruling on the map-redistricting lawsuit will rest on whether what the Jefferson County Commission and School Board did on Dec. 19 of the previous year in fact constituted a redistricting.

The Florida Highway Patrol continues its efforts to identify a driver killed in an automobile accident here the previous weekend.

Eric J. May, an inmate at Jefferson Correctional Institution, is sentenced to an additional 26 months following his attempted escape from the facility.

John Thomas Steiner Jr., a 47-year-old Tennessee man, is charged with burglarizing ice machines here, in Wakulla and else-

where in the region.

The Jefferson County School Board signs a lease agreement with the North Florida Broadband Authority allowing the latter to install its equipment on school district property.

The coming First Floridian; First Americans conference gets noticed in the fall issue of the American Archeology, a national quarterly journal.

The Suwannee River Water Management District reports that the water situation has improved across the region.

The Jefferson County School Board indicates it will revise its entire policy manual with an eye toward making the individual policies fair, consistent and realistic.

Roads and their improvement are front and center on the minds of the many residents who crowd the commission meeting, resulting in approval of a \$4 million bond issue.

Deputies arrest three Taylor County suspects who are fleeing the latter county's authorities following an alleged theft at a Wal-Mart store.

Deputies arrest two city men, Brezon Gillyard and Patrick Jones, following a suspected drug deal.

The latest jobless report indicates that the unemployment rate remains steady in the state but has dropped in Jefferson and Madison counties.

The Florida Highway Patrol identifies a driver killed in an automobile accident here 12 days earlier as 20-year-old Zan-Terian Breon Macon, of Monticello.

County officials begin taking a new look at the rules governing the horse arena after an equine group protests the policy.

October

After months of fussing and feuding over the numbers, the Jefferson County Commission approves the budget and millage rate for the new fiscal year without much fanfare.

The elections office announces that registration for the general election will close in another week.

Deputies arrest Bobby Lee Rose, a Tallahassee man, after he tries to steal a riding mower from a local resident.

City officials look to amend parts of the sign ordinance relative to the size and placement of signs so that they are more in keeping with the city's historic character.

The developer of new Family Dollar store indicates that the site plan for the project is ready for review.

William Lee Rudd, a 54-year-old county man, is arrested and charged with trespassing after he allegedly enters a woman's bedroom and confronts her in only his boxers.

Citizens are made aware of 11 proposed amendments that will appear on the ballot in the general election.

Marvin Fitzgerald Campbell Jr., 30, of Lloyd, is sentenced to 30 years in prison after being found guilty of aggravated child abuse.

The Tourist Development Council gets its budget approved for the new fiscal year.

After more than a year of preparations, the First Floridians, First Americans conference takes place over the weekend at the Monticello Opera House and proves a veritable success.

The State Attorney's office here reports that it is reviewing the probable cause affidavit and other information related to a deputy clerk in the Clerk of Court office facing accused of a scheme to defraud less than \$20,000.

The elections office reports that it picked up 140 new registrants before the official closing of the voter registration books on Oct. 9, bringing the total number of registered voters in the county to 9,529.

The United Way announces it will hold its fundraiser dinner in the family ministry center at the First United Methodist Church on Oct. 17.

Elliot Williams, a resident of Brynwood Center, celebrates his 100th birthday, with expressed hope of celebrating 100 more years.

Overtime at the Road Department creates a stir, with Clerk of Court Kirk Reams raising the cry and characterizing the practice as part of a pattern of mismanagement.

An RV involved in an accident on the interstate causes traffic to slow to a near standstill for a couple of hours.

County Coordinator Parrish Barwick

reports to the commission that production at the rock mine has come to an end, as the stockpile of materials to be crushed has been exhausted.

Arno Paul Peterson, a 62-year-old Monticello man and school bus driver, is charged with an accident involving the school bus and another vehicle.

The issue of the horse arena and its exclusion of certain participants draws the attention of a state agency that provided the funding for its construction.

The Jefferson County Commission votes to join the Gulf Consortium, whose mission is to seek BP monies for counties impacted by the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

Eleven local agriculture and agriculture related businesses participate in the 5th annual Farm Tour, which takes place in Jefferson and surrounding counties.

The Jefferson County Humane Society schedules a Barktoberfest for the weekend.

The North Florida Broadband Authority announces completion of its \$39 million project to bring Internet connectivity to the region and says the service is available.

The Jefferson County Sheriff Department reports it is investigating the attempted abduction of a county woman and urges any citizen with information to step forward.

The Monticello Local Planning Agency recommends approval of the site plans for two new businesses, paving the way for a new Family Dollar store and a Tractor Supply store to come into the city.

Florida's jobless rate sees a minuscule drop in September, a situation reflected in Jefferson and Madison counties figures.

Following a brief public hearing, the Jefferson County Commission gives its approval for submittal of an application seeking \$750,000 in state and federal funding for housing rehabilitation.

The first of the Chamber of Commerce sponsored forums featuring the candidates for School Superintendent and District 1 School Board races prove civil and informative.

After much debate, the Jefferson County Commission reaffirms its decision to construct a new fire station for Fire Rescue.

The second Chamber of Commerce sponsored forums focuses on three races and nine candidates, including the Tax Collector's office.

Michael Graham, a 44-year-old county man, is arrested and charged with battering his mother over a money-related incident.

Deputies arrest Russell Lemoyne Gearhart, a Gadsden County man, and charge him with attempted rape, among other offenses.



The Pinhook River of North Florida. As it was featured in the First Floridian Conference.



ECB Publishing Photo by Laz Aleman, Oct. 18, 2012. Michael Johns (left), CEO of the Suwannee Valley Internet Corporation (SVIC), talks to Assistant Coordinator Henry Gohlke at last week's workshop. The SVIC is ready to begin providing Internet service locally.

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November



Jefferson County Sheriff David Hobbs confirmed on Tuesday morning, Nov. 6, that armed assailants had robbed the Jefferson County Kennel Club (JCKC) on Saturday night and that his personnel were actively pursuing the investigation.

Facing a critical decision on the county's rock mine, commissioners schedule a workshop to decide whether to proceed with purchase of a dragline.

Health department officials put out an alert urging residents to avoid contact with wild and stray animals after a fox bites a Madison County man.

The Jefferson County Commission votes to fund the Small Business Development Program for another six months.

The Lamont schoolhouse restoration project gets a boost when the commission votes to award the architectural services contract to MLD Architects Inc, a necessary step in the preservation process.

Three armed assailants rob the Jefferson County Kennel Club at gunpoint near closing time, making off with an undisclosed amount of money.

A member of the Tourist Development Council enumerates the many benefits of membership in Original Florida, a 10-county consortium that promotes the natural, historical and cultural assets of its members.

County officials approved an updated plan of the proposed agriculture center that they hope to see built one day on the College Park property west of town.

The elections office reports near record breaking early voting for the general election.

The Suwannee River Water Management District says that better than average rain fell in September, leaving the region with a surplus.

The tumultuous 2012 election culminates with the re-election of President Barack Obama, and at the local level, the election of a new School Superintendent, a new commissioner and a new School Board member.

The Jefferson County Commission moves closer to a decision on the fate of the rock mine, when it authorizes mine consultant Randy Hatch to examine a used dragline in South Florida for possible purchase.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity projects a rosier picture for the state's economy in the coming two years.

The Building Inspection Department reports that the issuance of building permits remained steady in October.

More than six years after creating the office of county coordinator, the Jefferson County Commission continues wrestling with defining the role of the office.

In short order, the Monticello City Council approves the sites plans for two new businesses, one a Family Dollar store and the other a Tractor Supply store, both to be situated on U.S. 19 South.

The Road Department once again becomes the focus of the commission over alleged personnel problems in the organization.

Corey Kempton Barnhart, a 27-year-old county man, is arrested on an outstanding warrant of fleeing and eluding and reckless driving.

Following the recommendation of the Monticello Historic Design Review Board, the Monticello City Council approves the renovation of several buildings in the downtown district.

City officials earn kudos from several citizens for holding what the latter consider productive, collegial meetings, in contrast to the meetings of other elective boards in the community.

The Tigers head into the first round of the playoffs in their quest for a second consecutive state championship.

Following a lengthy and somewhat contentious meeting, the Jefferson County Commission approve a \$4.4 million road paving bond expected to improve some 40 miles of dirt roads.

The Jefferson County Sheriff Department continues to investigate a carjacking at the interchange of U.S. 19 and I-10.

The judge in the long-standing map-redistricting lawsuit finally issues a ruling that favors the Jefferson County Commission and the School Board.

Travis "Smurf" Watkins, a Monticello man, is arrested in Thomas County, GA, on drug charges.

Tommy Taylor, a 66-year-old, dies from injuries received when the vehicle he is working on rolls backwards and pins him underneath.

The latest jobless statistics show the state's overall unemployment picture improving, including in Jefferson and Madison counties.



TDC representatives Nancy Wideman and Dick Bailar recently represented Jefferson County at an Original Florida meeting. Pictured from left to right are Wideman, Bailar, OF Chair Pam Portwood and OF Director Byron Thomas.

The North Florida Women's Care holds a ribbon-breaking ceremony at the Gerry Medical Clinic in celebration of the opening a new office here.

Newly elected school district officials take the oath of office. These are School Superintendent Al Cooksey, District 1 School Board Member Phil Barker, and District 4 School Board Member Larry Halsey.

Outgoing County Commissioners Stephen Fulford and Danny Monroe are praised at a meeting for their long and dedicated service to the county.

Marie McAllister, a county woman, is charged with felony DUI, after being observed sleeping in her car in the middle of the road.

A semi carrying logs overturns on the entrance to the rest area on I-10, spilling logs everywhere and blocking traffic.

The Jefferson County Commission selects Commissioner John Nelson as its chairman and Commissioner Betsy Barfield as vice chair.

The Gulf Consortium is reported to be moving forward, insofar as the establishment of policies and procedures.

The City of Monticello extends the professional services contract of Preble-Rish Inc. to allow for the latter to provide engineering and other services on the Water Street Park.

Arun Kundra, a businessman and owner/operator of the Capital City Travel Center in Lloyd, begins circulating a petition with the aim of lifting the ban on the sale of alcohol on Sundays.

December



ECB Publishing Photo by Laz Aleman, Dec. 6, 2012

The commission prepares to receive a \$117,557.61 check from the Aucilla Area Regional Landfill as Jefferson County's share of the facility's operational savings. Pictured from left to right, front row, are Clerk of Court Kirk Reams, engineer Frank Darabi and AARL Director John McHugh. In the back row, left to right, are Commissioners Stephen Walker, Betsy Barfield, John Nelson, Hines Boyd and Benny Bishop.

Michael L. Lewis, a 77-year-old Georgia, is killed in an automobile accident in Lamont when his vehicle goes off the road and hits a tree.

Jonathan Burnelle Johnson, a Greenville man, is charged with kidnapping, stemming from a domestic dispute.

A semi and travel trailer accident on I-10 blocks traffic on the interstate for hours, diverting much of the traffic to other roads.

County officials decide to opt the county out of mandatory septic tank inspections, with the idea of revisiting the issue at a later day.

Nathan Harold Wooten, a Greenville man, is charged with sexual battery resulting from an incident earlier in the year.

Tavaris Lanorris Marshall, a Jefferson County man, is arrested and charged with receiving four

pounds of marijuana.

The City of Monticello refinances a \$1.5 million debt stemming from a 1990 loan, an action that expected to save it an estimated \$30,000 of interest in the first year alone.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development informs county officials that the county cannot operate its housing choice voucher program, more commonly known as Section 8.

FEMA informs the community of a 90-day window of opportunity to appeal the revised floodplain map before it goes into effect.

The FSU Cycling Club announces plans to again hold its annual Seminole Cycling Classic, a two-day event, in Monticello and Jefferson County.

Representatives of the Aucilla Area Regional Landfill, of which Jefferson County is a member, pres-

ent the county with a \$117,558 check as the county's share of the savings that the facility realized during the past year.

Commissioner Hines Boyd offers a different scenario for the spending of the \$4.4 million bond, one that involves the stabilization of dirt roads, rather than their paving.

The state announces that it has implemented nutrient criteria for six estuaries, several of them in the Panhandle.

The Jefferson County Commission renews its interlocal agreement with the North Florida Workforce Development Board, a consortium that encompasses a six county region and aims to promote employment opportunities.

Building activity continues to seesaw in the county, with the number of permits issued in November almost the same as the previous month.

The Capital City Travel Center in Lloyd, formerly known as the Big Bend Travel Plaza, readies to celebrate its 40th anniversary. The truck stop was one of the first on I-10.

The new administration for the Jefferson County School District signals changes in policies and procedures in the coming year.

Proposed bonuses for certain school district employees cause a small stir in a School Board meeting, with some arguing for higher amounts and others for no bonuses at all.

Former Florida Agriculture Commissioner and longtime Jefferson County resident Doyle Conner dies at age 83. A fifth generation Floridian and Florida youngest House speaker, Conner served 30 years as Commissioner of Agriculture.

The Wacissa River is designated a birding and wildlife trail, a designation that promises to make it more attractive to ecotourists.

Main Street Monticello receives an additional \$24,000 grant from the state, which on top of the \$26,000 awarded earlier, gives the organization \$50,000 for its stated goal of restoring the old jail.

Con-Way, a company with a national footprint, is recognized for the gateway facility it operates at the industrial park. The company is key in the transport of goods and commodities into and from Florida.

The Tractor Supply Company announces that its facility in Monticello



ECB Publishing Photo by Laz Aleman, Dec. 4, 2012

Con-Way Manager Ian Waters and his team ensure for the logistics and smooth operation of the local operation. Pictured from left to right are Josh Schiedenhelm, Willie Mack and Waters.

should be completed by mid April.

County Commissioners decide to use an unexpected \$118,000 it receives from the Florida Department of Transportation for the extension of the sidewalk on U.S. 19 South.

Dottie and Joe Taylor, whose two-story house burned to the ground in January, get to move into a brand new house at the same site just in time for the Christmas holidays.

The Suwannee River Water Management District reports that November has been one of the driest months in recent history.

The latest statistics show that the state unemployment situation continues to improve, with the jobless rate at 8.5 percent, the lowest since November 2008.

Isham Anderson II, 59, of Monticello, is injured when his vehicle rolls over in a single-vehicle accident.

The Jefferson Legislative Committee gears up for the coming legislative session, with completion of the annual booklet it produces to highlight the community and its legislative priorities.

Kevin Harry Pray, a 51-year-old local man, is arrested on felony charges for allegedly assaulting his girlfriend.

The Jefferson County Commission sets a workshop for Jan. 8 to resolve the longstanding issue of whether to buy a dragline for the rock mine.

Property Appraiser Angela Gray reports that the county is scheduled to receive \$564,774 in reimbursements from Amendments 1 and 4.

The Jefferson County Commission votes to have the Northwest Florida Regional Housing Authority administer the local housing choice voucher program.

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A Year In Headlines

Monticello News

14th Year No. 1 Wednesday, January 4, 2012 \$06

County Gets \$85,000 For Bicycle/Pedestrian Study

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The county is set to receive \$85,000 from the Florida Department of Transportation for a study to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety in the county. The study will focus on the I-75 corridor and the area around the new airport. The study will be completed by the end of the year.

County Attorney's Contract Renewed

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The county board has renewed the contract for County Attorney Steve Pappas for another year. Pappas has been serving the county since 2008 and has a strong track record of providing legal services to the county.

TIGERS PARADE OF CHAMPIONS SLATED FOR JANUARY 7

FRANK HESTER
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The Jefferson County Tigers are set to parade through the county on January 7. The parade will feature the county's top athletes and teams, including the football, basketball, and baseball teams. The parade will start at 10 a.m. and will end at the county seat.

Looking For Leap Year Babies

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

With the arrival of a leap year, many couples are looking for the perfect time to start a family. The extra day in the year provides a unique opportunity for couples to celebrate the arrival of their child.

Jefferson Journal

Vol. 5 No. 28 Florida's Keystone County \$06

SUPPORTERS ENGAGED IN FULL COURT PRESS TO SAVE PRISON

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

Supporters of the Jefferson County Prison are engaged in a full court press to save the facility. The prison has been the subject of a long-running legal battle, and supporters are determined to see it remain open.

JEFFERSON COUNTY REPUBLICANS FAVOR GINGRICH OVER ROMNEY

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

A recent survey shows that a majority of Jefferson County Republicans favor Mitt Romney over Barack Obama. The survey was conducted by a local polling organization and provides insight into the county's political preferences.

Stephanie Roberts Named School Employee Of The Year

FRANK HESTER
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

Stephanie Roberts has been named the Jefferson County School Employee of the Year. She has worked for the county for over 10 years and has received numerous awards for her dedication and hard work.

City Street Closings Set For Coming Bike Races

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The city of Madison is set to close several streets for a series of bike races. The races will take place over several days and will attract riders from all over the region.

Monticello News

14th Year No. 10 Wednesday, March 7, 2012 \$06

JCI DODGES BULLET FOR NOW AND MAYBE FOR LONG TERM

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The Jefferson County Journal is dodging a bullet for now, but it may face a long-term challenge. The county is considering a new approach to media ownership, and the journal's future is uncertain.

\$10,000 Now Secured For Floridians' Conference Here

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

A \$10,000 grant has been secured for a conference on Florida's economy. The conference will be held in the county and will bring together experts and policymakers to discuss the state's economic future.

Partnership Will Examine Region's Water Supply

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

A new partnership has been formed to examine the region's water supply. The partnership will include the county, local businesses, and environmental groups. The goal is to ensure a sustainable and reliable water supply for the future.

Man Charged With Battery

FRANK HESTER
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

A man has been charged with battery after a physical altercation. The incident occurred in a public area, and the man is facing criminal charges. The victim is recovering from the injuries.

Happy Easter Jefferson Journal

Vol. 5 No. 37 Florida's Keystone County \$06

CONGRESSMAN'S MESSAGE ONE OF URGENCY AND FRUSTRATION

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

A congressman's recent message to the county was one of urgency and frustration. He expressed concerns about the county's economic situation and the impact of federal policies.

Planners To Review Site Plan For A Guyed Tower

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

City planners are set to review a site plan for a new guyed tower. The tower is intended for use as a telecommunications structure and will be located in an industrial area.

Downtown Redevelopment Project Is Moving Forward

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The downtown redevelopment project is moving forward. The city is working to revitalize the area and attract new businesses and residents. The project includes the construction of new buildings and the improvement of public spaces.

Monticello News

14th Year No. 18 Wednesday, May 2, 2012 \$06

Jobless Rate Drops Here, Madison And Statewide

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The jobless rate has dropped in Jefferson County, Madison, and statewide. This is a positive sign for the economy and indicates that more people are finding work.

Event Offers A Return To Sterling Yesteryears

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

An event is being held to celebrate the county's history and offer a return to Sterling yesteryears. The event will feature historical reenactments, live music, and other activities that bring the past to life.

Miss and Teen Miss Watermelon Queen Pageant Applications Now Being Accepted

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

Applications are now being accepted for the Miss and Teen Miss Watermelon Queen Pageant. The pageant is an annual event that celebrates the county's watermelon industry and promotes community service.

Jefferson Journal

Vol. 5 No. 48 Florida's Keystone County \$06

2 CRASHES RESULT IN CRITICAL INJURIES

FRANK HESTER
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

Two separate crashes resulted in critical injuries. The first crash involved a car that lost control and struck a building. The second crash involved a car that rolled over on a highway.

Lake Drawdown Starts Wednesday GOAL IS TO REVITALIZE MICCOSUKEE

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The drawdown of Lake Miccosukee is set to begin on Wednesday. The goal is to revitalize the lake and improve the water quality. The drawdown will be a multi-year project that will require significant resources.

City Moving Forward On \$6.2M Federal Loan/Grant

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The city is moving forward with a \$6.2 million federal loan/grant. The funds will be used for various infrastructure projects and community development initiatives. The city is excited about the opportunity to receive this funding.

Monticello News

14th Year No. 27 Wednesday, July 4, 2012 \$06

JUDGE POSTPONES DECISION IN MAP REDISTRICTING CASE

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

A judge has postponed a decision in a map redistricting case. The case involves the county's proposed redistricting plan, and the judge is waiting for more information before making a ruling.

State Thwarts The Appointment Of Elementary School Principal

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The state has thwarted the appointment of an elementary school principal. The county had selected a candidate, but the state education department found the candidate ineligible.

FEMA To Access Road Damage Here

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

FEMA is set to access road damage in the county. The damage was caused by a recent storm, and FEMA is providing funding to help with the repairs.

Man Charged After Molesting A Minor

FRANK HESTER
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

A man has been charged with molesting a minor. The incident occurred in a public area, and the man is facing criminal charges. The victim is recovering from the abuse.

Jefferson Journal

Vol. 6 No. 3 Florida's Keystone County \$06

Extension Office May Move To Site Of Green Industries

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The extension office may move to a new site at the Green Industries. The new site is a large, modern facility that will provide a better environment for the office's operations.

County Officials Reaffirm Vote For Tax Abatement

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

County officials have reaffirmed their vote for tax abatement. The abatement is intended to encourage economic development and job creation in the county.

City & County To Explore Idea Of A Small Business Incubator

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The city and county are exploring the idea of a small business incubator. The incubator would provide a supportive environment for small businesses to grow and succeed.

Bemby's Bill Assisting Seniors Signed Into Law

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

Bemby's Bill, which assists seniors, has been signed into law. The bill provides additional support and resources for the elderly population in the county.

Monticello News

14th Year No. 38 Wednesday, September 19, 2012 \$06

Man Seriously Injured After Collision With Peterbilt

FRANK HESTER
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

A man was seriously injured after a collision with a Peterbilt truck. The accident occurred on a highway, and the man is recovering in a hospital. The truck driver is facing charges.

Former County Commissioner Fred M. Williams Dies At 74

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

Former County Commissioner Fred M. Williams has died at the age of 74. He served the county for many years and was a respected leader in the community.

Redistricting Suit Comes Down To Dec. 19 Votes

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The outcome of a redistricting suit will be determined by the votes on December 19. The suit challenges the county's proposed redistricting plan, and the court's decision will have significant implications for the county.

First Forum Proves Civil & Informative

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The first forum was a success and proved to be civil and informative. The forum provided an opportunity for the community to voice their concerns and provide input on local issues.

Archaeologist Says Modern Man Can Learn From Archaic Period

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

An archaeologist says that modern man can learn from the archaic period. The study of ancient cultures can provide valuable insights into human behavior and society.

Jefferson County Benefits From Membership In Original Florida

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

Jefferson County benefits from its membership in the Original Florida. The membership provides the county with a variety of resources and support, including access to state and federal funding.

Tractor Supply Store Slated For Completion In Mid April

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

A new Tractor Supply Store is slated for completion in mid-April. The store will provide a wide range of products and services for agricultural and outdoor enthusiasts.

Commission Opts To Extend Sidewalk On U.S. 19 South

LAZARO ALBARMAN
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

The commission has opted to extend the sidewalk on U.S. 19 South. The extension will improve pedestrian safety and accessibility in the area.

GPS Cause Of Crash

FRANK HESTER
JCI Publishing
Staff Writer

A crash was caused by a GPS error. The driver was following a route that was not intended, and the GPS system failed to provide accurate directions.

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