

Jefferson Journal

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Amendment 4 kicks in

Lazaro Aleman
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Sixteen former felons here have applied to restore their voting rights as of late Wednesday, Jan. 9 – the day after Florida's Constitutional Amendment 4 kicked into effect.

Elections Supervisor Marty Bishop expects that more individuals with former felony convictions will likely be applying for the restoration of their voting rights in the coming days and weeks.

Bishop said he couldn't say exactly how many individuals in Jefferson County might be eligible for the restoration of their voting rights. His best guess, he said, was based on a report for the last two years, which put the number at about 60 people.

But that number, Bishop said, didn't take into account individuals who had convictions from years earlier and whose rights hadn't been restored by the Clemency Review Board.

"It could be a heap more," Bishop said.

Amendment 4, which Florida voters overwhelmingly approved by 64 percent last

See AMENDMENT 4 on 3A

County approves bike trail

Lazaro Aleman
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Three weeks after County Commission Chairwoman Betsy Barfield introduced the idea of converting a former railroad easement into an 11-mile scenic trail from US 90 to the Georgia line, the board unanimously approved the concept.

Barfield had plenty of support for her idea from the many bicyclists and nature enthusiasts who crowded the commission chamber on Thursday evening, Jan. 3. The only objection to the idea came from one of the landowners alongside the trail-to-be, and this individual's objection was more focused on the notification process than on the actual trail.

Barfield introduced the topic by reiterating some of her statements from the Dec. 20 meeting, when she first broached the subject. She told how the idea had arisen from the last Dirty Pecan, an annual bicyclists' event here; how she had been in talks for the last year with Duke Energy, which owns the easement; and how the project had fallen into place only three weeks earlier.

She then introduced fellow biking enthusiast Rick Zelznak, who gave an overview of the proposed trail, calling it an opportunity for economic development, given the growing interest in travel and bicycling.

He said the trail will be 8 to 12 feet wide, resting on a gravel bed that will be elevated four feet above the surrounding land, and spanned 11 miles, from US 90 west of town to the Georgia line.

The trail, Zelznak said, will be divided into four segments. He described the first as running from US 90 north to West Lake Road, the second from West Lake Road to Lake Road, the third from Lake Road to Georgia Forks, and the fourth from Georgia Forks to the Georgia line. He said some segments were already rideable and others would require work to remove debris and vegetation.

Zelznak said the county would be responsible for the trail's safety and liability. It was also

See BIKE TRAIL on 3A



2018
B Section

ECB Publishing, Inc. looks back at 2018 in our YEAR IN REVIEW

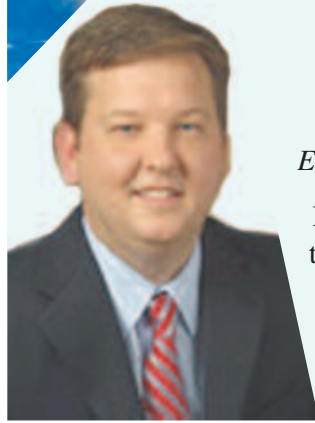
Lazaro Aleman
ECB Publishing, Inc.

In keeping with tradition, ECB Publishing is taking a look back at the stories and events

that shaped the lives of Jefferson County residents in the year 2018.

These stories, arranged by month and summarized in a couple of sentences, are found in Section B.

They document all the news stories that were reported on the front pages of the *Monticello News* and *Jefferson Journal* throughout the last year, ranging from celebratory to tragic.



Jefferson Fire Rescue Record number of calls

Ashley Hunter
ECB Publishing, Inc.

With 2018 now complete, and 2019 well upon us, the Jefferson County Fire Rescue (JCFR) has released the information pertaining to their department's call volume throughout the twelve months of 2018.

The information, sadly, is not heartening.

According to JCFR's Derrick Burrus, the EMS service responded to the highest number of EMS calls in the department's history.

Meanwhile, 2018 marked the highest intake of fire-related calls within the last 10 years for the fire rescue.

Throughout 2018, EMS responded to a total of 2,832 calls, while the fire rescue responded to a total of 607 calls.

Residents of Jefferson County are reminded to employ safe tactics in their home to prevent the occasion of a fire.

• Test the smoke alarms in your

home on a monthly basis and replace alarms that have become old or outdated.

• Keep your stove and oven clean to prevent food and grease buildups that could catch fire.

• Maintain the electrical cords that you have around your house and make sure to regularly inspect the outlets to which they are plugged in. Electrical cords can cause heat, so be careful to not run them under a rug or other flammable materials for a prolonged period of time.

• Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking. Never leave a cooking surface unattended. If you have to be gone for a length of time, make sure everything is turned off and cooled down before you leave.

• Inspect your home's heat source regularly, an annual inspection will reduce your risk of fire. Change the filters regularly to avoid a build-up of dust and lint that can catch fire.

• If you use space heaters, inspect them before and after each

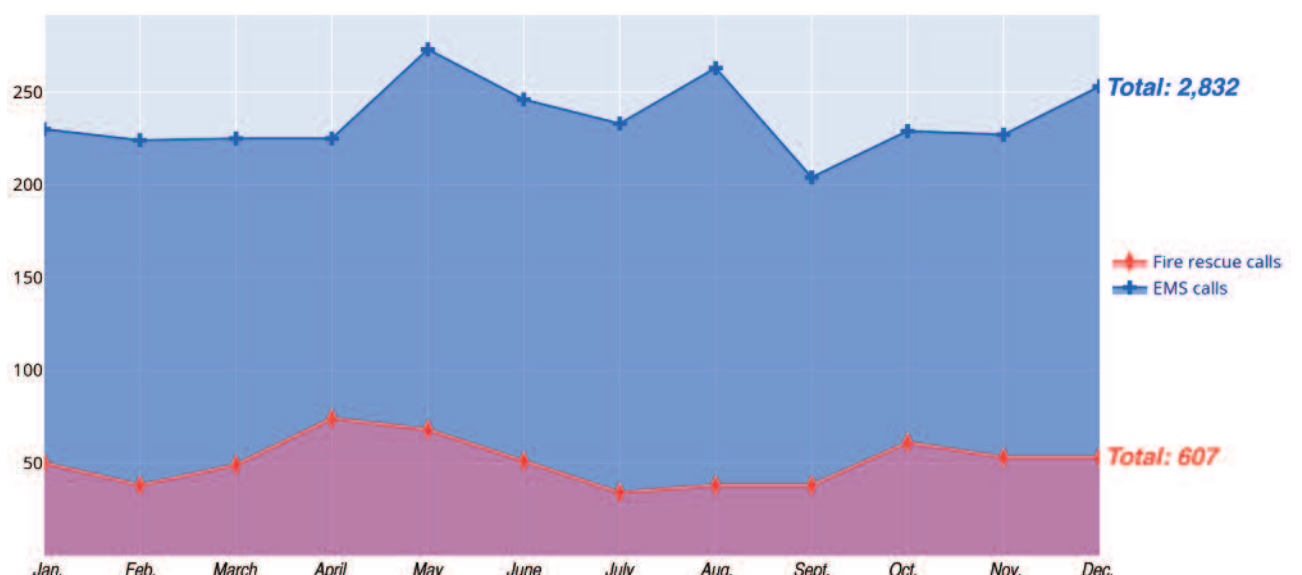
use and place them at least three feet away from anything combustible.

• Be careful when using candles in your home. Keep them away from combustible or flammable items and be sure to extinguish them before leaving or going to sleep.

• Use your home's fireplace responsibly and give ashes plenty of time to cool before disposing of them. Always place fireplace ash in a dedicated metal container that isn't used for any other household refuse.

• Keep fire extinguishers handy within your home, especially in rooms that pose a higher threat of fire such as the kitchen and laundry room. Make sure everyone in the home knows how to handle the equipment and put out a fire.

While 2018 might have been a record-setting year for the Jefferson County Fire Rescue, 2019 does not have to be if the residents of the county work to practice safety in their everyday lives.



VIEWPOINTS
OBITUARIES
COMMUNITY NEWS
TV THIS WEEK
FOOD, FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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SECTION B

Did you know?

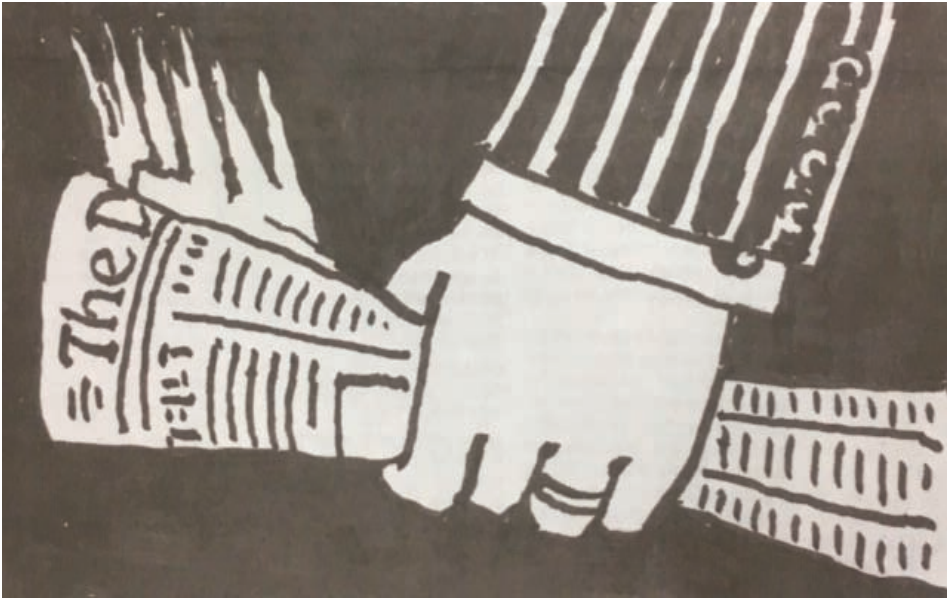
An average person will spend 25 years asleep in their lifetime.

Weather for this weekend

Fri 61° 42°
Sat 68° 55°
Sun 71° 46°

Passing Parade

by Nelson Pryor, Guest Columnist



The War on Truth Spreads

There are those who continually downplay the effectiveness of President Donald Trump. But despite their frowns, the economy keeps rolling along. One remembers Larry Summers, the nationally recognized “big man on campus”, in economics, who said, on May 23, 2017, that to believe that a 3% growth in the U. S. economy is possible is to “believe in the tooth fairy.”

Winston Churchill

There are leaders who can put things in perspective. Such a leader was Churchill. One memorable moment was when he addressed the WW II concerns of Philippe Petain of France.

Within three weeks, Petain had claimed, England would have her neck “wrung like a chicken”. Addressing the Canadian Parliament, Churchill said he had earlier warned everyone that, if necessary, England would fight alone. (And not give up like the French.) And as to Petain’s remarks, and his dismissal of England’s WW II chances, Churchill added, you can see we are some chicken! Some neck! (to great applause) 12/31/1941 New York Times 6 “Prime Minister Churchill’s Address to Canadian Parliament.”

Media fit to be tied

The news media, of course, has the potential to create the bad news it seems to want. But, try as hard as they can, they have been trumped. They just are beside themselves with the latest jobs report that over all, employers added more jobs in 2018 than they did in 2017, at a monthly

average of 220,000. The “Congress passed a big corporate tax cut that essentially bathed a sizzling economy in lighter fluid.” January 5, 2019 New York Times 1. “Fed’s Approach and Jobs Data Excite Wall St.”

More than three percent wages, which for months only inched up, have begun to pick up more quickly. December’s year-over-year increase, hit 3.2 percent. The Times story said: “The recovery has gone on for so long that it has finally begun to benefit the lowest-paid workers, who have seen the biggest gains.”

Stellar Showing

President Trump is excited about the books that have been written to promote: Make American Great Again.

The December 1, 2018 *New York Times* 1&A ran the titles. Books like: Sebastian Gorka’s *Why We Fight: Recovering America’s Will to Win*, Stephen Moore’s *Trumponomics: Inside the America First Plan to Revive Our Economy*, Judge Jeanine Pirro’s *Liars, Leakers, and Liberals*, Gregg Jarrett’s *The Russian Hoax, the Illicit Scheme to Clear Hillary Clinton and Frame Donald Trump* and Sean Spicer’s *The Briefing, Politics, the Press, and the President*.

“Democrats are playing political games,” Sara Huckabee Sanders, the White House press secretary, said on December 20, “and they have to decide whether or not they hate the president more than they love this country.”

The war of words continues!



Ways to embrace aging in this youth-obsessed culture

By Lisa Fields

When you look in the mirror and expect to see a younger version of yourself but, instead, someone with worry lines and crow’s feet stares back, it can be disheartening. Because our culture values youth and beauty over age and experience, you may have unknowingly convinced yourself that getting older means you’ll soon be marginalized and obsolete. What can you do to feel empowered and relevant instead?

The key is changing your mindset, allowing yourself to embrace a positive attitude toward aging and staying active in the ways that matter to you.

“When people say they want to be younger, what they really mean is they want to be more like they were, physically, when they were younger,” says Ellen Langer, professor of psychology at Harvard University, who studies the ways people’s attitudes toward aging affect their mental and physical health. “Despite what people say, few people want to give up all the experience and growth they’ve accumulated over the years.”

The following are some ideas on how you can embrace aging in this youth-centric culture:

Let Go of Outdated Notions

Don’t identify with outdated stereotypes about older adults. Just because you’ve hit a milestone birthday doesn’t mean you shouldn’t be active or involved anymore. Today, people stay in the workforce longer and take better care of themselves than previous generations did.

Decades ago, more people were secretive about their ages. Today, many older adults feel comfortable enough embracing their years to let their hair go gray, demonstrating that their life experience is an asset, not something to be ashamed of.

Adjust Your Attitude

Research has confirmed the long-held belief that you’re only as old as you feel. Studies have shown that as people age, they identify less and less with their actual ages. Feeling more youthful can have protective effects against

depression, dementia and more.

Feeling able is an important factor. Researchers have found that older people who are healthy and active say they feel younger than they are, while younger people with chronic health conditions say they feel older than they are.

Liking how you look helps, too. In one study, women who said they felt younger after they’d gotten their hair done looked younger to independent observers; they also experienced decreases in their blood-pressure levels.

Pop Culture Icons Provide Examples

Today, Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen, Lily Tomlin, Morgan Freeman and Robert DeNiro star in films and TV series emphasizing their advanced years, but not as dowdy grandmas or grumpy old men. They’re showing that older adults can be sexy, strong and in charge of their lives. Bruce Springsteen, Rod Stewart, Stevie Nicks and Cyndi Lauper still command concert stages, proving that you can be relevant — and a rock star — when you’re older.

Have Young and Old Friends

People with friends from different generations tend to feel younger than those whose friends are all their age. Younger friends may help you try new things or challenge long-held beliefs. Older friends can serve as role models for aging gracefully.

Notice the World Around You

Being mindful can help you improve your mental and physical well-being. You don’t need to meditate to reap the benefits; just spend more time being in the moment.

Find Your Passion

Whether you enjoy gardening, swimming or spending time with your grandkids, embracing what’s important to you can help you feel more youthful.

Lisa Fields is a writer who covers psychology and health matters as they relate to the workplace. She publishes frequently in WebMD and Reader’s Digest.



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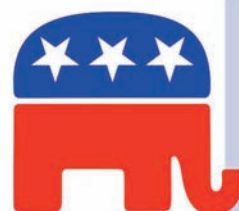
The Jefferson County Republican Party

would like to invite you to our next meeting on

January 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Monticello Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Bldg.
(420 W. Washington Street in Monticello, Florida)

We have invited the **three announced Republican Candidates** who have filed to replace **Rep. Halsey Beshears**. Rep. Beshears has accepted a position in the Governor Ron DeSantis administration as the next Secretary of the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulations.



The Republican Candidates are:

Jason Shoaf, Port St. Joe
Ralph Thomas, Crawfordville
Mike Watkins, Panacea

Please come out and meet the Candidates.

If you have any questions, please contact **Chairman Colin Barton**

850.728.3858 colinabarton@gmail.com

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Contact us with your comments...

If you have any questions or concerns, call us at 850-997-3568 or visit our website at www.ecbpublishing.com

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 Award Winning Newspaper

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This newspaper reserves the right to reject any advertisement, news matter, or subscriptions that, in the opinion of the management, will not be for the best interest of the county and/or the owners of this newspaper, and to investigate any advertisement submitted.

All photos given to *ECB Publishing, Inc.* for publication in this newspaper must be picked up no later than 6 months from the date they are dropped off. *ECB Publishing, Inc.* will not be responsible for photos beyond said deadline.

CLASSIFIED AND LEGAL ADS

Deadline for classifieds is Monday at 3:00 p.m. for Wednesday's paper, and Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. for Friday's paper. Deadline for Legal Advertisement is Monday at 3 p.m. for Wednesday's paper, and Wednesday at 3 p.m. for Friday's paper.

There will be a \$10⁰⁰ charge for Affidavits.

AMENDMENT 4

from page 1

November, went into effect on Tuesday, Jan. 8. The amendment automatically restores the voting rights of individuals with felony convictions if they meet certain stipulated requirements.

Those requirements are that the individual have completed all the terms of their sentences, including parole or probation. The amendment does not apply to individuals convicted of murder or sexual offenses. The latter must have their cases heard individually by the Clemency Review Board.

Bishop said that to register, individuals have simply to come to the elections office and fill out the voter registration card. His office will then forward the information to the Division of Elections in the Florida Department of State, and it's up to the latter to do the research and determine if the applicant meets all the requirements, he said.

"We're going to process whoever comes," Bishop said. "It's up to the state to decide if they meet the criteria."

The change in the law resulted from the efforts of religious, social justice and civil liberties groups, which pushed for the second-chance measure. Florida was of a few remaining states that didn't restore voting rights to convicts after the completion of their sentences.

Despite passage of the amendment and that election officials are proceeding with the registrations, however, some issues remain.

One is that the state and courts have yet to clarify what constitutes "all the terms" of a sentence. It's reportedly unclear at this point if ex-offenders with outstanding court costs not ordered by a judge as part of the sentence can register to vote. The amendment also doesn't define which crimes constitute sexual offenses.

Experts says the burden is on the state to do its due diligence and remove from the rolls any individuals who are determined to be ineligible.

Governor Ron DeSantis, before taking office this week, said last month that he wanted to postpone implementation of Amendment 4 until lawmakers had a chance to review it when the Florida Legislature convened in March. That idea, however, received immediate pushback from advocates of the amendment, including the Florida League of Women Voters and the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida. The two organizations maintain that the measure was designed to be self-implementing, which is the interpretation that elections supervisors across the state are following.

The new law has the potential to affect about 1.4 million former, nonviolent felons across in the state.

To register to vote, individuals are urged to visit their local elections office or go online at registertovoteflorida.gov.

BIKE TRAIL

from page 1

important, he said, that the surrounding landowners have access across the trail.

Zelznak put the county's cost at \$20,000 for the first year and another possible \$20,000 in the second year. He said the money would go to strengthen the bridge trestles and install directional signage, railings, bollards and the like. He said volunteers would largely maintain the trail.

Roger Hawkes, of the bicycle shop and brewery Hubs and Hops in Thomasville, GA., spoke of the economic benefits to small towns that incorporated biking trails into their communities.

"These communities have seen turnarounds in their economic growth because of the people that the trails bring in," Hawkes said.

He described Jefferson County's clay roads as an invaluable asset that especially appealed to bicyclists.

"The beauty of this county is well known in the bicycling community," Hawkes said, adding that Jefferson County had the potential to become the gateway to a network of other trails across the region and the state, affording it a national reputation in the bicycling world.

He cited the Monticello Bike Festival and the Dirty Pecan as examples of events that were already earning the county a reputation in the bicycling community.

Rick Ashton, a Tallahassee resident and recognized figure in the biking world, said he had been bicycling Jefferson County clay roads for more than 40 years and described them as some of the best around.

"You have an awesome opportunity to enrich the lives of your constituents," Ashton said. "This could bring an economic boost to Jefferson County. It will bring nature lovers from all over."

The trail also, he said, had the potential to access hundreds of miles of relatively traffic-free clay roads, which were increasingly appealing to bicyclists.

"The fastest growing segment of bicycling is off-road biking," Ashton said. "More and more bicyclists are riding off-road bikes because of safety issues. They enjoy the scenery and lack of traffic."

Barfield explained that the trailhead would be at the annex complex on Water Street, where water and bathrooms were readily available. The idea, she said, was to place the bicyclists in town to encourage them to patronize the local eateries and other

establishments. The route, she said, would then take them around the courthouse circle, north on US 19 to Lake and then West Lake roads to the trail.

Others that spoke in support of the trail called it an investment, an asset and a draw to the community. They encouraged the commissioners to approve the measure. A few asked if the trail would be opened to hikers and horse riders. It would, was the answer.

David Ward alone expressed concern. As one of the proposed trail's adjoining property owners, Ward questioned whether the public notice of the proposal had been sufficient. He characterized it as less than adequate. Ward said he wasn't necessarily opposed to the trail, but he thought that it deserved more public discussion and consideration.

"I'm not coming here in opposition," Ward said. "But I've spoken with several of the other landowners who were not aware of this issue coming up tonight. A lot of people may want to have input on this."

Barfield, however, argued that the agenda item had received the proper public notice, a position that the board's attorney affirmed.

"I'm not here in opposition," Ward reiterated. "But we have people who want to study this. They (adjoining landowners) have hunting that goes on. They've got liability issues."

Commissioner J.T. Surles agreed. Although he supported the project overall, he had concerns, he said.

"I feel like there are unanswered questions," Surles said. "I like to hear from the Sheriff and EMTs on this."

Barfield, however, pressed for a vote. She noted that the item had been properly noticed and had even appeared on the front page of the local newspaper. If there was pushback from the surrounding landowners, the board could revisit the issue, she said. But she felt that the timing and the possibility that Duke Energy might change its mind on the agreement demanded that the county act on the offer expeditiously.

Commissioner Eugene Hall still had concerns about the adequacy of the public notice. But assured by the attorney that the notification had been proper, he relented. Surles too accepted Barfield's compromise of holding a subsequent workshops to address any concerns that the adjoining landowners might have.

When the vote finally came, the board voted unanimously to approve the trail.

Florida makes progress in opioid war

Lazaro Aleman, *ECB Publishing, Inc.*

The bad news is that opioid addiction is still high in Florida. The good news is that since awareness of the opioid crisis was spotlighted in in 2010, the Sunshine State has made the most progress nationally in curbing opioid sales.

This according to a recent report from *ConsumerProtect.com* titled "The States With The Most Opioid Sales", compiled from data generated by the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). The DEA tracks the sale of two main variants of prescription opioids: oxycodone (oxycontin and percocet) and hydrocodone (Vicodin and Norco).

The report ranks Florida 17 out of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia, for the most opioid sales per capita in 2017, with sales of 29.4 kilograms per 100,000 people. Tennessee topped the list with the highest opioid sales in 2017 – 44.3 kilograms per 100,000 people. Oklahoma and Nevada followed, making the top three in opioid sales.

The District of Columbia, meanwhile, ranked the lowest at 10.6 kilograms per 100,000 people. It was followed by Minnesota and Illinois. The national average in 2017 for sales of opioids was 24.4 kilograms per 100,000 people.

Overall opioid sales reportedly peaked in 2011, after tripling in the years between 2000 and 2011, going from 10.6 kilograms to 33.9 kilograms per 100,000 people respectively during the period. And although it's now down 28 percent nationally from the 2011 peak, the national average of 24.4 kilograms is still double what it was in 2000, according to ConsumerProtect.

Florida, meanwhile, had the largest drop in opioid sales between 2010 and 2017, going from 77.0 kilograms per 100,000 people to 29.4 kilograms per 100,000 people respectively, a 68-percent decrease. The Sunshine State, however, ranked 42 out of the 50 states plus the DC in terms of the growth of opioid sales between 2000 and 2017, going from 16.9 kilograms per 100,000 people to 29.4 kilograms per 100,000 people respectively, a 74.4-percent increase.

Kansas had the largest increase in opioid sales during the 17-year

period, going from 7.9 kilograms per 100,000 in 2000, to 28.4 in 2017 – a 259.1-percent increase. And the District of Columbia had the least increase in opioid sales during the period, from 7.5 in 2000, to 10.6 in 2017, a 42.3-percent increase.

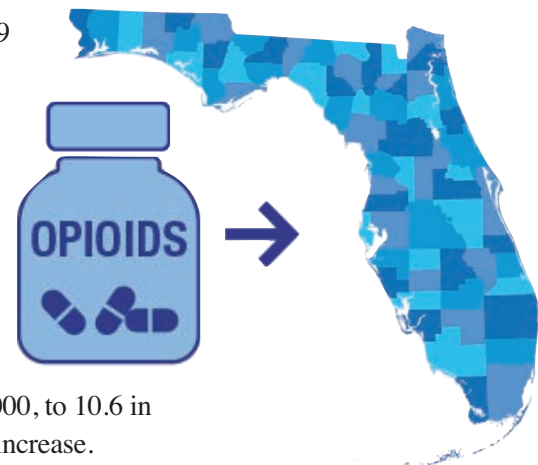
In a written piece accompanying the study – authored by ConsumerProtect Editor-in-Chief Michael Bennett and titled "The States with the Most (and Least) 'Legal' Opioid Sales" – it identifies drug overdose, often due to the abuse of opioids, as the new leading cause of deaths among Americans 50 and younger, surpassing automobile accidents and heart disease.

"What's perhaps most shocking about the crisis," Bennett writes, "is its cause is widely considered to be the overuse and over-prescription of legal painkillers, namely oxycontin. Today, opioid use has expanded beyond prescription narcotics to illegal (and oftentimes deadly) drugs like heroin and fentanyl."

"We found," Bennett continues, "that the current rate of opioid sales was mostly uncorrelated with drug overdoses today. However, we found a much stronger relationship between past sales in 2010 and current levels of overdoses. Put differently, where 'legal' sales of prescription opioids were high in the past, today we see their consequences in the form of drug overdoses."

The study posits that although further analysis is needed, it points to a positive relationship between past legal opioid sales and fatal drug overdoses in 2016 (the most recent year the data is available).

Writes Bennett, "the data provides some credence to the thesis that legal sales of prescription drugs in the past helped hasten the dramatic crisis going on today."



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com OR (850) 997-3568

January 11
Transforming Life Church Assembly of God, 1206 Springfield Road in Lloyd, will host a 'Night of Worship' on Friday at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and experience the manifest presence of God as He is honored with praise and worship. TLC is known for its powerful presence-driven worship backed by an incredible band of musicians and singers. For more information about this event and the church, visit transforminglifechurch.com or call (850) 997-8527. Pastors Tim and Beverly Buchholtz.

January 11
Monticello Jamboree Band and friends perform at 7 p.m. on Fridays at 625 S. Water Street. Join for dance music, door prizes, soft drinks and snacks. This is a nonprofit charitable event; donations are accepted. For more information contact Darlene Aldrich at (850) 556-5218.

January 11
Rotary meets at 12 p.m. on Fridays at the Jefferson Senior Citizens Center for a meeting, program and lunch. For

more information contact President Matt Coniglio at (850) 566-0271.

January 12
Saint Phillip AME Church, 08 Phillip Road, will host a program honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King, 'Keeping the Dream Alive' at 5 p.m. on Saturday. Guest preacher will be Rev. Kevin Johnson, pastor of St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church in Tallahassee. Church Pastor J.W. Tisdale, (850) 291-6938.

January 12
Wolf Creek Pet Adoption Center will be attending the 7th annual Take Me Home Pet Adoption event at the North Florida Fairgrounds on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Are you looking for a new, four-legged family member for your home? Wolf Creek will be just one of 13 different animal rescues presenting their center's cutest cats and

friendliest dogs. Those who aren't interested in adopting can find lots of other things to do during the event, as there will be various pet-related vendors, a blood drive, food trucks and dog sports. The event will be held at 441 E. Paul Russell Road, in Tallahassee.

January 12
Youth aged 18 and under are invited to the Jefferson County Public Library's Glow Party on Saturday afternoon. The library invites the young people of Jefferson County to help them kickoff 2019 with a blast! There will be music, pizza, dancing, bubbles and tons of glow-in-the-dark fun! The Jefferson County Library is located at 375 S. Water Street.

January 12
Monticello Homestead Exchange will be returning on Saturday, for the first time in 2019! Various farm and homestead related vendors will be set up at the Monticello Tractor Supply Company from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vendors will be selling eggs, livestock, homemade goods, plants and more. There will be a raffle, and new vendors are always welcome. No yard sale items will be allowed.

January 12
Scarlet O'Hatters of the Red Hat Society meet at 11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday at a location of their choosing for a program of fun and games and a luncheon meal. Contact Queen Mum Sherry Burnard at (850) 997-6298 for more information.

January 12, 16
Jefferson Arts 'Designs in Fabric & Fibers' show will continue to be on display in the Gallery through January 30 at 575 W. Washington Street in downtown Monticello. The exhibit

features antique and new quilts, creations in handmade paper and woven fibers. The Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays or you may call (850) 997-3311 for an appointment, jeffersonartsgallery.com.

January 13
Mt. Pleasant AME Church, 125 Groover Road, will host A Dollar Day Worship Experience titled 'Giving Back To Him' on Sunday at 11 a.m. Guest Preacher Rev. David Williams and the Philadelphia AME Church will be in charge of the Morning Worship Service. Rev. Eric D. Grayer, pastor. (850) 997-5588.

January 14
Hiram Lodge No. 5 Freemasons meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday at 235 North Olive Street. Call (850) 933-2938 for more information.

January 14
Palmer Place Book Club meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday at Palmer Place for discussion of its most recently read book. Contact Abi Hudson at (517) 290-8506 or kissamolly@yahoo.com or b53clayton@aol.com for more information. All are welcome to join for the discussion, to help select the next book, and to suggest authors.

January 14
Kate Dilworth Scott Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy meet at 12 p.m. on the second Monday. Membership is open to women who are lineal descendants of men and women who served honorably in the service of the Confederate States of America, or gave Material Aid to the Cause. For more information contact Pat Cichon at (850) 228-4633.

January 14
Boy Scout Troop 803 meets at 7 p.m. on Monday nights at The Eagle's Nest on S. Water Street, for boys ages 10 to 18. For more information contact Troop Leader Bear Register at (850) 519-3955.

OBITUARIES

Keveonte Morris



Keveonte Jarvaris Morris, age 6, of Monticello, FL, passed away on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, January 12, at Bethpage Cemetery. Viewing and visitation is from 3 to 7 p.m. on Friday, January 11, at Tillman Funeral Home of Monticello. A victim of Addison's disease and epilepsy, Keveonte attended CSI in Tallahassee. He enjoyed everything noisy, especially motorcycles and music. Cherishing his love are his parents, Clint and Kimberly Jordan Morris; siblings, Kalea Johnson, Kenisha, Zaiman, Clark Mitchell, Jr. and Clint Morris, Jr.; grandfather, Thomas Williams; beloved godmother, Yolonda Nealy and numerous other relatives and friends.

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Jan 12: Monticello Homestead Exchange

Debbie Snapp
ECB Publishing, Inc.



The Monticello Homestead Exchange will be held this Saturday, January 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Tractor Supply on South Jefferson Street.

Vendors will have farm-related items for sale and for trade, such as fresh eggs, chickens, rabbits and other farm animals. Also, fresh baked homemade goods, handmade items, plants and the like will be on display and for sale or trade. Vendors are always welcome and to set-up is free. For vendor information contact Roger Snider at (954) 263-5636 or find him on Facebook. There will be a raffle. Monticello Homestead Exchange is held every other month on the second Saturday at Tractor Supply.

Spaghetti dinner with your sweetheart

Ashley Hunter
ECB Publishing, Inc.

The Monticello Woman's Club invites all sweethearts to join them for a special, served spaghetti dinner on February 14, Valentine's Day. What says amoré more than a traditional and beloved dish that originates from romantic Italy?

Enjoy a delicious spaghetti course, without having to bother with washing dishes or clearing away the table afterwards.

Tickets for this dinner will be \$8 for adults, and if you want to make it a family outing, then tickets will be \$5 for children between the ages of 4-10

(3 and under are free). The dinner will start at 5 p.m. and will last until 7 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at the United Country Monticello Realty office, located at 380 S. Jefferson Street.

The dinner will be hosted at the Monticello Woman's Clubhouse, located at 975 E. Pearl Street.

Only 160 tickets will be sold, so the sale will be conducted on a first-come-first-serve basis; to ensure that you and your sweetheart have a spot reserved for you on Valentine's night, purchase your tickets early!

Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Spaghetti fundraiser coming in February

Ashley Hunter
ECB Publishing, Inc.

The first day of February is one that spaghetti-lovers will want to mark on their calendar!

The Jefferson Senior Citizens Center will be holding a spaghetti fundraiser on Friday, February 1.

Spaghetti dishes will be served to those who purchased tickets prior to the event.

This special luncheon fundraiser will help the senior center continue to

provide engaging activities, helpful products, and impactful services to the senior citizens of Jefferson County.

The luncheon will last from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be held in the dining area of the senior center.

To purchase your tickets, contact any senior center board member, or visit the center at 1155 N. Jefferson Street (across from the Fred's department store).

For more information, call the Jefferson Senior Citizens Center at (850) 342-0242.

What is the women's club "Collect"?

Ashley Hunter
ECB Publishing, Inc.

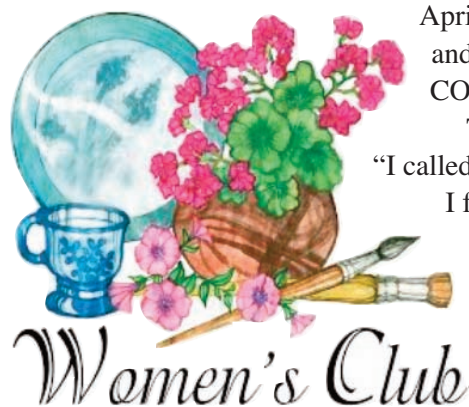
The Collect is a prayer of the day, created in April of 1904 by a women's club member and high school principal in Longmont, CO.

The author, Mary Stewart said: "I called it a 'Collect For Club Women' because I felt that women working together with wide interests in large ends was a new thing under the sun, and that perhaps they had need for a special petition and meditation of their own."

Now over 100 years old, The Collect is spoken aloud before the

meetings of women's clubs around the nation, continent and globe. "This binds us to women's clubs around the world," said Monticello Woman's Club President Dianne Braren during the meeting of the Monticello club members on Tuesday, January 8. "It binds us to clubs of different races, religions and cultures... this is what we believe."

*Keep us, oh God, from pettiness;
let us be large in thought,
in word, in deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding
and leave off self-seeking.
May we put away all pretense
and meet each other face to face,
without self-pity and without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgement
and always generous.
Let us take time for all things;
and to grow calm, serene, gentle.
Teach us to put into action
our better impulses,
straightforward and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize it is
the little things that create differences,
that in the big things of life we are at one.
And may we strive to touch and to know
the great, common human heart of us all.
And, oh Lord God, let us forget
not to be kind!*



Ageless Grace returns to Senior Center in 2019

Ashley Hunter
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Those who enjoyed the 2018 Ageless Grace classes will be excited to hear that the classes, again instructed by Marghi McClearn, will be returning to the Jefferson Senior Citizens Center in 2019!

Last year, the fitness and health classes proved to be extremely popular.

The classes will be held on multiple Thursdays throughout January and February, the first class of 2019 was held on Thursday, January 10.

The classes continue on January 17, 24, 31 and February 7.

Each session will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will end around 11:15 a.m.

Those who attended previous classes held at the senior center are aware of the brain and body fitness exercises that enhance physical skills and the healthy longevity of the body and mind.

For newcomers, Instructor McClearn will walk everyone through the easy-to-perform exercise routines.

Each step is easy, and can be completed while remaining seated in a chair and are designed after everyday movements; in addition, the program helps activate the analytic, strategic and kinesthetic, memory and creative functions of the brain.

Whether you plan to return to the class or this will be your first time, the class will be a lot of fun and help its attendees feel more free, confident and agelessly graceful.

The Jefferson Senior Citizens Center is located at 1155 N. Jefferson Street, across from the Fred's Department Store.



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Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board met for community update



Debbie Snapp
ECB Publishing, Inc.

The Jefferson County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and interested parties met in December to discuss changes coming in the new year, grants review, performance and cost reports and the agency's involvement during Hurricane Michael.

During and after Hurricane Michael, the agency assisted with critical aid outside its eight-county designated area. Because of the mass destruction and devastation, agencies from across the state were called in to help wherever needed with mobilization to medical care facilities.

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and the Jefferson County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board are coordinated by Big Bend Transit (BBT). BBT is a specialized transportation service for transportation disadvantaged persons.

Services offered by BBT include assisting riders in boarding the vehicle, if necessary; providing seat-belts for the rider; waiting five minutes for the rider; return trips will be made within an hour of the requested time and accessible formats and advanced purchase of coupons/tickets are available upon request. Some restrictions include no smoking, eating or drinking on the vehicle and riders must have the ability to carry their own personal items.

At this time BBT is seeking residents of Jefferson County who are interested in forming a Vanpool. Vanpooling will save riders wear-and-tear on their vehicles, fuel, and is good for the environment.

For more information about BBT call (850) 997-1323 or the Florida Relay Service at (1-800) 243-4160 for TDD access.

The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 14 at the Commission annex, located at 435 W. Walnut Street. For questions and concerns contact Kwentin Eastberg at (850) 488-6211 x105 or email keastberg@thearpc.com.

Photo Submitted, December 6, 2018

The Jefferson County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board members met recently to discuss changes coming in the new year. Pictured, from left to right, are: Citizen Advocate/User Everlena White; Shawn Mitchell and Robert Adams, with Big Bend Transit; Vice Chairman John R. Nelson, Sr.; Pam Beck, with the County Health Department; Amie Bounds, with the Agency for Health Care Administration; and Anthony H. Jennings, with the Workforce Development Board. Not pictured, but in attendance, was Kwentin Eastberg, a member of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council Staff.

Bring them home: find your four-legged friend at weekend adoption fair

Ashley Hunter
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Each year in the United States, approximately 6.5 million animals enter animal shelters around the nation.

Frequently, animals are turned over to shelters due to the animal encountering health problems or life choices made by their owners (such as a move or change in their employment).

Owners may turn their pets into shelters because the animal grew larger than the owner expected or the pet needed behavioral training that the owner couldn't handle.

Despite the millions of animals that are turned into shelters, looking for a new pet in a shelter is not the primary source of adoption for prospective pet owners.

According to the ASPCA, dog owners are more likely to purchase their pet from a breeder before they adopt from a shelter.

Unlike dogs, however, cats are most frequently adopted from shelters or taken in from friends or family members.

The sad news is that around 1.5 million shelter animals are euthanized each year, and no-kill shelters remain packed with cats and dogs – many times, the influx of animals causes cats and dogs being packed together in order to provide shelter to strays, drop-offs and turn-ins.

On Saturday, January 12, however, area pet shelters and adoption centers will join together to hold the 7th annual Take Me Home pet adoption event.

Jefferson County's Wolf Creek Pet Adoption Center will be one of 13 animal rescue groups that will be present at the event in order to help match prospective owners up with their newest four-legged family addition.

This event will include more than just adorable cats and dogs who are looking for forever homes – if you are already an owner and want to spend time browsing pet-related vendor booths or enjoy a festival environment (complete with food trucks!), this will be a fun event to just turn out to and enjoy supporting an event that seeks to do good for the strays and shelter pets of North Florida.

This event has drawn hundreds of visitors and boasts that over 50 percent of the presented shelter animals find homes by the end of the festival.

In addition to food and vendors, there will be a Barn Hunt dog competition show, spay/neuter vouchers will be available and the mobile blood bus will be present during the festival.

The adoption event will take place at the North Florida Fair Grounds (located at 441 E. Paul Russell Road, in Tallahassee), and will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

For more information about

this event and to see which animal rescue organizations and groups will be attending, visit the Take Me Home website at takemehomepetadoption.com.



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CRIME BEAT

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Antonio Wyche, 28, of Monticello, FL; arrested Monday, Dec. 24; charged with violation of probation (VOP) – sale of cocaine, heroin with 1,000 feet of a school. No bond amount or released date listed.

Keith Ray Matthews, 29, of Monticello, FL; arrested Monday, Dec. 24; charged with driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR) knowingly; resisting officer without violence; and possession of synthetic cannabis, 3 grams or less. Bond set at \$7,000. Released same day.

Antoine Lamont Watson, 39, of Monticello, FL; arrested Monday, Dec. 24; charged with domestic battery by strangulation and battery, touch or strike. Bond set at \$2,500. No release date listed.

Jacob Nikolas Kohloff, 37, of San Pedro, CA; arrested Monday, Dec. 24; charged with trespassing, notice on posted land. No bond amount listed. Released on following day.

Dennis John Libonati, 67, of Homosassa, FL; arrested Monday, Dec. 24; charged with failure to register motor vehicle and possession of ammunition by state felon. Bond set at \$250. No released date listed.

Chauncey Craig Jones, 59, of Tallahassee, FL; arrested Monday, Dec. 24; charged with DUI, blood alcohol or drugs. Bond set at \$2,500. Released on following day.

Jennifer Nicole Pantin, 39, of Miami, FL; arrested Saturday, Dec. 22; charged with introduction of contraband into correctional facility; possession with intent to distribute synthetic cannabinoid; possession with intent to distribute marijuana; possession of controlled substance without prescription, oxycodone; and possession of schedule 4 narcotic, alprazolam. Bond set at \$5,000. Released on following day.

Jonah Ferchid Blair, 18, of Tallahassee, FL; arrested Friday, Dec. 21; charged with burglary of unoccupied structure unarmed, and grand theft, more than \$300, less than \$5,000. No bond amount listed. Released on following day.

Sairam Nalla, 18, of Tallahassee, FL; arrested Friday, Dec. 21; charged with burglary of unoccupied structure unarmed, and grand theft, more than \$300, less than \$5,000. No bond amount listed. Released on following day.

Torian Stacey Plummer, 23, of Tallahassee, FL; arrested Thursday, Dec. 20; charged with DWLSR with knowledge. Bond set at \$1,000. Released same day.

Earl Newbon, 61, of Monticello, FL; arrested Tuesday, Dec. 18; charged with DWLSR and failure to register motor vehicle. Bond set at \$500. Released same day.

Steven Delliott Morris, 39, of Monticello, FL; arrested Monday, Dec. 17; charged with dealing in stolen property; failure to appear (FTA), burglary of a dwelling; FTA, possession of a burglary tools; FTA, resisting officer without violence; resisting officer without violence; burglary of vehicle or other conveyance; burglary to unoccupied dwelling unarmed; and grand theft, more than \$300, less than \$5,000. Bond set at \$10,000. No release date listed.

Shardre Levon Bouie, 19, of Monticello, FL; arrested Monday, Dec. 17; charged with trespassing property, structure or conveyance and resisting officer without violence. Bond set at \$250. Released same day.

Duane Calvin Humphries, 58, of Monticello, FL; arrested Friday, Dec. 14; charged with marijuana possession, less than 20 grams. Bond set at \$500. Released on following day.

Scott Edwin Imbrunone, 37, of Tallahassee, FL; arrested Friday, Dec. 14; charged with VOP, grand theft; and 17 counts of VOP, criminal mischief. No bond amount or release date listed.

Matthew Dewayne Scott, 32, of Monticello, FL; arrested Friday, Dec. 14; charged with writ of attachment, child support. Bond set at \$2,500. Released same day.

Teresa Lee Safford, 66, of Monticello, FL; arrested Thursday, Dec. 13; charged with FTA, public affray. Bond set at \$100. Released same day.

Julio Adrian Baza Torres, 30, of Lee County, FL; arrested Thursday, Dec. 13; charged with marijuana possession, not more than 20 grams; drug equipment, possession and or use; and drug equipment, possession and or use. Bond set at \$500. Released same day.

Matthew Bass Sullivan, 30, of Fort Myers, FL; arrested Tuesday, Dec. 11; charged with DWLS, knowingly; grand theft of motor vehicle; grand theft, more than \$300, less than \$5,000; and possession of controlled substance without prescription. Bond set at \$2,500. No release day listed.

Zachary Scott Christian, 43, of Monticello, FL; arrested Tuesday, Dec. 11; charged with possession of firearm by a convicted felon; possession/sale of controlled substance (meth); and possession of drug paraphernalia/equipment. Bond set at \$10,000. Released same day.

Justin Farrell Woody, 35, of Tallahassee, FL; arrested Tuesday, Dec. 11; charged out-of-county warrant, Leon. Bond set at \$5,000. Released same day.

Alex Leonard, 34, of Monticello, FL; arrested Monday, Dec. 10; charged with aggravated battery with a weapon. No bond amount or release date listed.

Mark your calendars: Infant, toddler and family events at the library

Ashley Hunter
ECB Publishing, Inc.

In November, the Jefferson County Public Library began hosting two similar events for infants/toddlers and for children between the ages of 3-11.

through the new year!

The ABC Infant and Toddler Events are held once a month, on Tuesdays from 10-11 a.m. The youngest library visitors will be able to play with toys, sing songs, be read to and more.

The ABC Family Events (for children between the ages of 3-11) are held on Monday evenings. This once-a-month event will begin at 5:30 p.m. and last until 7:30 p.m.

Parents and children alike can have fun through books, games and more while enjoying the food provided by the library.

Both events are completely free.

The scheduled ABC Infant/Toddler events for 2019 will be held on February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, and June 4.

The scheduled ABC Family events for 2019 will be held on January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, and June 3.



For parents and families who have enjoyed the books, games, toys and fun activities will be excited to hear that the events will continue on

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Pictures from the PAST

FUTURE HOME CHURCH OF CHRIST

Photo Courtesy of floridamemory.com
Future site of the Monticello Church of Christ - 1930's - Monticello, Florida

THIS WEEK AT THE MOVIES

The best of 2018

By Paul Hall

The game has been changing in Hollywood for years. Upstarts like STX, Roadside Attractions, A24 and Annapurna Pictures have joined the big distributors like Buena Vista, Warner Bros., Universal and the rest to form a number of quality films to consider for a year-end list. With the recent addition of Amazon and Netflix to the production and distribution space, there are more movies than ever to sift through to come up with the best releases of a given year. But, as film-critic law dictates, a list must be created, so here goes.

First, let's acknowledge some films I really liked that didn't quite break into my top 14. (Why 14? Why not?) Animated films like *Incredibles 2* and *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*; documentaries like *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* and *Free Solo*; dramas like *The Front Runner*, *Widows* and *Beautiful Boy*; comedies like *Mary Poppins Returns*, *Vice*, *Blockers*, *Game Night* and *Tag*; and other great releases from *Black Panther* to *Hereditary* and from *Sorry to Bother You* to *Ben Is Back*. I had to cut my list somewhere. So, without further ado, the list and some random comments:

14. *Destroyer* — Nicole Kidman like you've never seen her before.
13. *First Man* — Visuals and sound are amazing.
12. *The Hate U Give* — Emotionally charged, amazingly acted.
11. *Boy Erased* — Lucas Hedges, Russell Crowe and Nicole Kidman (again!) are wonderful.
10. *Science Fair* — My favorite doc this year.
9. *Searching* — Unique delivery and totally caught me off guard. PLUS John Cho!
8. *Mission: Impossible – Fallout* — Delivers the best action work every time.
7. *Avengers: Infinity War* — The last 15 minutes flipped me upside down.
6. *BlacKkKlansman* — Spike Lee delivers a powerful film.
5. *Crazy Rich Asians* — My favorite comedy this year, a breath of fresh air.

4. *Eighth Grade* — Heartbreaking and full of passion.
3. *A Star Is Born* — I'm gaga for Gaga, and Cooper rocks.
2. *Roma* — Great sound usage in a quiet, stunning and absolutely amazing achievement in film.
1. *Green Book* — A total package movie. Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen work so well together that they make this film special.

So, there is my list for the year. The top four films could be interchanged – I could wake up tomorrow and make any of them my favorite of the year. In fact, see all four to start with as you catch up on the best of 2018. You won't be disappointed.

Also, put your own list together – it's actually fun to look back at all you've viewed over the past year. And do me a favor, don't miss the 24th Annual Critics' Choice Awards on Jan. 13 on The CW; check your listings for the channel number in your area. It will feature the best in film and television from 2018. I am a voting member in the film branch because of my work in other media and would be honored if you see what my 300-plus colleagues and I have voted for as the best of the year.



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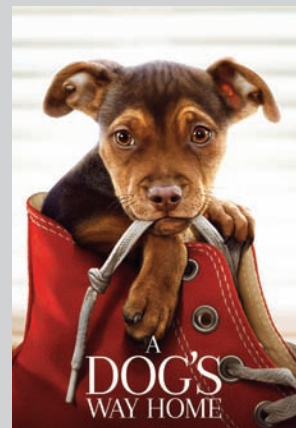
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NEW THIS WEEK



A Dog's Way Home

Rated PG

Stars: Ashley Judd, Jonah Hauer-King and the voice of Bryce Dallas Howard
Director: Charles Martin Smith

From the author of *A Dog's Purpose* comes the tale of Bella, a dog who becomes a part of Lucas' life. When she is separated from Lucas, Bella sets out on a journey to find her longtime friend.

Replicas

Rated PG-13

Stars: Keanu Reeves, Alice Eve, Emily Alyn Lind
Director: Jeffrey Nachmanoff

A tragic accident leaves William without his family – until he takes the next step in human cloning to bring them back to him.



The Upside

Rated PG-13

Stars: Kevin Hart, Bryan Cranston, Nicole Kidman
Director: Neil Burger

Dell is unemployed and has a criminal record. Desperate for a job, he meets Phillip, a wealthy quadriplegic who needs an assistant. The opposites attract, creating a unique relationship.

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ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, January 5, 2019

Quilts, needlepoint, woven items, jewelry, silks and more are all currently on display at the Jefferson Arts Gallery. Most of the displayed pieces are on sale, and every piece is unique and handcrafted.

Fibers and Fabrics: Jefferson Arts Gallery displays uncommon art

Ashley Hunter
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Until Wednesday, January 30, the Jefferson Arts Gallery will be displaying the fiber and fabric arts of some of Jefferson County's most talented locals and gallery members.

This special gallery show opened on Saturday, January 5, with a special meet-and-greet from 2 to 4 p.m.

The opening was an opportunity for artists to mingle with art-lovers, share experiences, and enjoy the sweet treats and refreshments provided by the art gallery.

One of the many artists who have pieces on display is Michelle Wheeler, whose pieces are the unforgettable tatted jewelry.

Tatting is a knotting technique that originated in the 19th century. Wheeler's jewelry draws from historical elegance, with pieces that resemble Celtic crosses, lacy beadwork, mandalas and more.

Intricate and elegant, each of Wheeler's pieces are one of a kind and Wheeler has been creating her tatted jewelry for seven years.

During the opening of the gallery, Wheeler modeled one of her own pieces – an elegant but noticeable black tatted necklace which drew praise and attention.

Another artist who mingled with guests over desserts was Alice Cappa.

For over 40 years, Cappa has created beautiful woven clothing, though Cappa's interest as a creator began while she was still a young girl in school.

"I did crafts in school," said Cappa, adding that she was given her first loom when she was very young.

From there, her talent and passion for loom-work grew, and Cappa finally held her first show in the 1980s.

Today, Cappa continues to weave her beautiful clothing pieces together, and also strives to pass her knowledge on to the next generation by holding demonstrations in schools.

While Cappa raises sheep and processes her own wool yarn (which is also for sale at the Jefferson Arts Gallery), Cappa's clothing pieces are



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, January 5, 2019

Michelle Wheeler was just one of the many very talented artists who have their creations on display during the Fiber and Fabrics show at the Jefferson Arts Gallery. Wheeler creates tatted jewelry through a knotting technique which incorporates cotton threading and beads together to create elegant lace jewelry.

made from cotton yarn in order to provide a clothing piece that is cool, comfortable and practical for the Southern United States temperatures.

To see Cappa and Wheeler's pieces, among many others that include quilts, needlepoint, silks and more, visit the Jefferson Art Gallery during the month of January.

The gallery is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., although special openings can be arranged by appointment by calling the gallery at (850) 997-3311.

The Jefferson Arts Gallery is located at 575 W. Washington Street, and is on Facebook at JeffersonartsgalleryJAG as well as on their website at jeffersonartsgallery.com.



Will you be visiting the Jefferson Arts Gallery to view the collection of fine art fibers and fabrics? If so, be sure to sign the guest book! The signatures left on the guest book help the gallery receive grants, which allow them to continue showcasing local art and creators.

Palmer Place Book Club to read *The Heist*

Ashley Hunter
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Fall into the world of stolen art, the sphere of international spies and the realm of assassins with the Monticello Palmer Place Book Club.

Throughout January, the club will be reading Daniel Silva's 2014 novel *The Heist*, and they invite fellow book lovers to venture through this novel alongside them.

The Huffington Post called the novel "magnificent," and Silva's writing has been called emotional, phenomenal and page-turning.

For those who enjoy old-fashioned spy stories, those who love danger with a dash of intrigue, or fans of Jack Ryan and Jason Bourne should find that this tale is exactly what they are looking for.

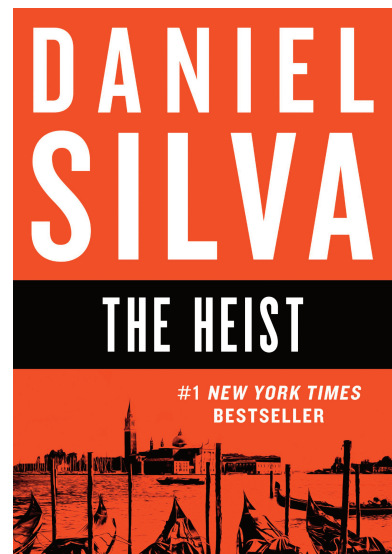
The Palmer Place Book Club meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of every month. This month the meeting will be held on January 14.

During this upcoming meeting, the club members will share food and drink while discussing *The Heist* and deciding on what to read during the month of February.

The club invites book lovers and reading enthusiasts to come and discuss books, select upcoming reads or suggest authors.

For more information about the club, contact Abi Hudson at (517) 290-8506 or kissamolly@yahoo.com.

The club meets at the historic Palmer Place house.



About *The Heist*:

"A fallen spy Gabriel embarks on a daring gambit to recover the Caravaggio and learn the identity of the collector. His search will take him on an exhilarating hunt—from the shimmering boulevards of Paris and London to the gritty criminal underworlds of Marseilles and Corsica, and finally to a small private bank in Austria where a dangerous man stands guard over the ill-gotten wealth of a brutal dictator. At his side is a brave young woman who survived one of the worst massacres of the twentieth century. Now, with Gabriel's help, she will be given a chance to strike a blow against a dynasty that destroyed her family."

"Sometimes the best way to find a stolen masterpiece is to steal another one..."



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, January 5, 2019

Alice Cappa is an artist who has been creating her fiber art since the 1970's. Cappa raises sheep and processes her own wool, but her woven creations are cotton-based, due to the comfort and practicality of wearing cotton clothing.

Monticello Opera House presents

Featured Program

Monticello Acting & Dance Co. presents... **Beehive - THE 60's MUSICAL** Created by Larry Gallagher Directed & Choreographed by Melanie Mays

Jan 11-27
Friday & Saturday:
Doors/Dinner/Show
6:30/7:00/8:00
Sunday:
Doors/Lunch/Show
12:30/1:00/2:00
Tickets are \$22 with optional \$20 meal

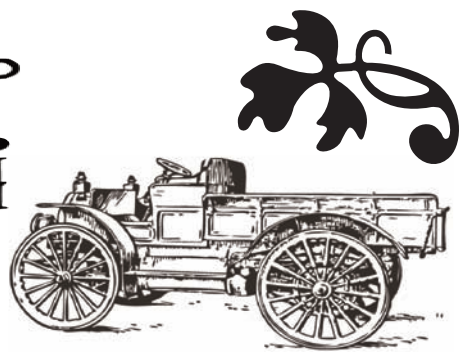
Upcoming Shows



Check back every Friday to see what's next!

Call 850-997-4242 for details and tickets or buy your tickets at www.MonticelloOperaHouse.org

WAY BACK WHEN



January 11, 1939

Fred Mahan offered to provide roses for planting two miles in each direction from the courthouse. 71 families canned 7336 quarts of fruits and vegetables during 1938. **Frank Peolt** was installed as president of the **Kiwanis Club**.

January 11, 1959

Mrs. Cecil Stover was installed as president of Jefferson County Homes Demonstration Council. Serving with her for the year are **Mrs. David Walker**, **Mrs. Josie Braswell**, **Mrs. B.L. Clyaton**, **Mrs. Ben Buzbee**, **Mrs. Audrey Casey**, and **Mrs. V.K. Watson**. Safety awards were awarded at a dinner given for Florida Power Corporation employees, and a special recognition was given to **Ralph Norman** and his men for a 33-year safety record.

January 11, 1969

Eleanor Hawkins officially took office in the office of Clerk of Circuit Court. **C.J. Reams** was seated as a new member of the School Board and **L.G. Morris** was re-elected chairman of the board, while **Norman Hartsfield** was named chairman of the board for the county commission.

January 11, 1979

The first order of business at the most recent City Council meeting was Judge **Charles Anderson** swearing in the newly re-elected members, **Eddie Miles** and **Vaughn Evans**. The **Aurthur Watson Industrial Park** on US 19 South has been expanded more than nine acres after a purchase by the **Jefferson County Industrial Development Corporation**.

January 11, 1989

Army Reserve Private **Darrell Kinsey**, son of **Donald and Juanita Kinsey** of Monticello, has graduated from the ammunition specialist course at the U.S. Army Missile and Munition Center and School, Redstone Arsenal, AL. Private **John Odom, Jr.** joined nearly 5,000 for Gordon, GA soldiers returning home for the holidays through an annual departure program called "Operation Exodus." The holiday break evidently had little affect on the performance of the **Tiger Boys' basketball team** as Jefferson picked up two back-to-back wins, lifting its record to 5-5.

January 13, 1989

The first baby of 1989 to be born to a county mom appears to be **Keith Ray Mathews**, son of **Paula and Don Mathews** of Lloyd, born January 2, 1989.

January 8, 1999

Lamier Rashawn Parks celebrated his first birthday. He is the son of **Crystal and Larry Parks III** of Tallahassee, FL. **Lee Kennedy**, who recently resigned as Aucilla Christian Academy's head football coach, says he accomplished his two goals of keeping the team together and strengthening it. Red Cross Disaster Service Director **Chris Floyd** advises citizens to prepare for the year 2000 and the "Y2K" technology problem, which is most simply stated as the problem existing because of programmers who used a two-digit entry code for dates, rather than a four-digit entry code.

January 13, 1999

Figures released recently by the **Monticello Police Department** show a marked decrease in the number of violent crimes reported in the vicinity of the **Roostertown Community Garden**. **Jefferson County High School** boys basketball team bounced back after a loss to Florida High to upend Perry last Friday, winning with a ten-point lead.

January 14, 2009

Newly appointed Councilman **George Evans** took the oath of office prior to the City Council meeting on Tuesday, as Judge **Bobby Plaines** administered the oath. **Jorja Marie Martin** celebrated her first birthday on January 12, 2009. She is the daughter of **Tiffany Reams** and **Jessie Martin** both of Monticello. Army Spec. **Karsharhonda Ganzy** and Army Reserve Private **Shanice Brooks** have graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC.

80 YEARS ago 1939

60 YEARS ago 1959

50 YEARS ago 1969

40 YEARS ago 1979

30 YEARS ago 1989

20 YEARS ago 1999

10 YEARS ago 2009

People making History

Charles Darwin



Map of the H.M.S Beagle's voyage

Charles Darwin was born on February 12, 1809 at the Mount House, in Shrewsbury. His father was a doctor. His mother died when he was eight years old. Charles had one brother and four sisters.

Up to the age of eight, Charles was taught by an older sister. He then began school. From his earliest years, Charles Darwin was interested in natural history. However he was a poor scholar.

He went to Edinburgh University to study medicine but he left after two years. His father decided he should be a clergyman so Charles Darwin then went to Cambridge University.

Charles Darwin left Cambridge University in 1831. The same year, he signed up to sail, without pay, as a naturalist on a ship called the HMS Beagle. Its captain was Robert Fitzroy and it sailed on December 27, 1831.

In February 1832, the HMS Beagle reached Brazil. They stayed in Brazil until July 1832 then sailed to Montevideo. Darwin spent three years in different parts of South America collecting specimens. Then in September 1835, the HMS Beagle sailed to the Galapagos Islands.

Charles Darwin was surprised to learn the local people could tell by looking at a tortoise which island it came from. Darwin also studied finches. Each island had a different species of finch. Later Darwin came to the conclusion that all were descended from a single species of finch. On each island the finches had diverged and become slightly different.

In December 1835 Charles Darwin visited New Zealand and Tahiti. In January 1836 he reached Australia. The beagle then sailed to Mauritius and South Africa before sailing north into the Atlantic. Finally the Beagle arrived at Falmouth on October 2, 1836 and two days later Darwin arrived in Shrewsbury.

Charles Darwin then wrote several books about his voyage. The first was *Journal of Researches*, which was an account of his voyage. He also wrote *Coral Reefs*, which was published in 1842, *Volcanic Islands* (1844), and *Geographical Observations on South America* (1846). Darwin gained a reputation as a brilliant geologist.

Meanwhile Charles Darwin was influenced by a geologist called Charles Lyell. In 1830 he published a book called *Principles of Geology*. In it Lyell proposed a theory called uniformitarianism. He believed that rocks and the landscape were formed over vast periods of time by very slow processes. However Lyell did not believe that one species of animal could change into another.

Charles Darwin disagreed. By 1836 he believed that species of animals could change. In July 1837 Darwin began to write notes about his theory. He called his notes *The Transmutation of Species*.

In October 1838 Darwin thought of a way in which one species could change into another. He noticed

that individual members of a species vary. Furthermore all animals are competing with each other to survive. If the environment changed in some way, say if a new, faster predator appeared, then any herbivores that could run slightly faster than other members of its species would be more likely to survive and reproduce. Any herbivores that ran slightly slower than most would be more likely to be eaten. Slowly a new, faster herbivore would evolve. This was later called the survival of the fittest.

Meanwhile on November 11, 1838, Charles Darwin proposed to his cousin Emma Wedgwood. They married on January 29, 1839. As well as getting married, Darwin was becoming more and more famous as a scientist. On January 24, 1839 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society.

Darwin's first son was born on December 27, 1839. Altogether he had 10 children.

For years Charles Darwin studied nature looking for evidence to support his theory. For much of that time he suffered from ill health.

Then in 1858 Charles Darwin received a letter from Alfred Russel Wallace. It turned out that Wallace had independently devised a theory of evolution by natural selection.

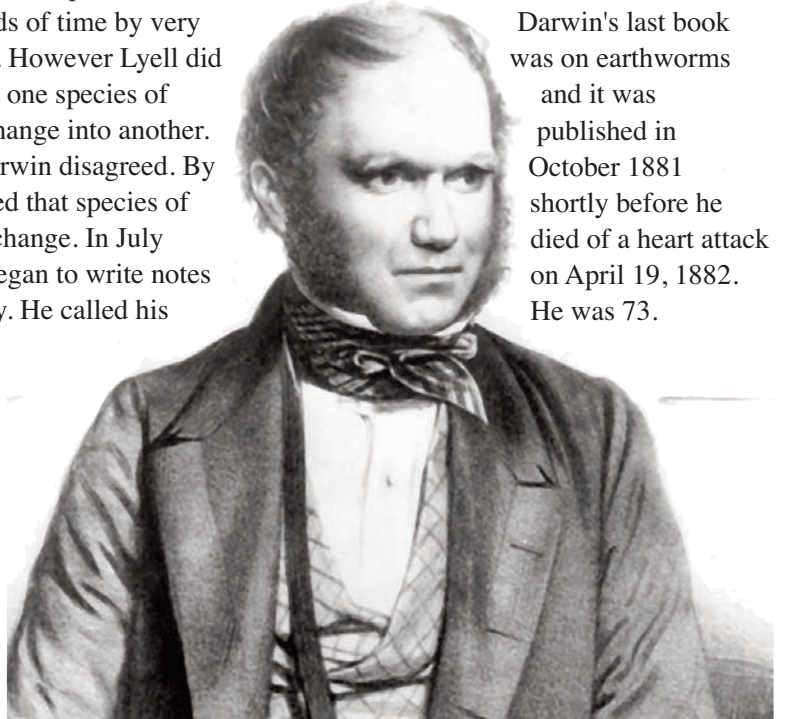
Therefore Wallace's work and Darwin's theory were both presented to a scientific society called the Linnaean Society on July 1, 1858. The two men's work was also published in the society's journal.

Darwin was now galvanized into publishing his theory. So his monumental work, *The Origin of Species* was published on November 24, 1859. It proved to be a bestseller. However Darwin's book also caused some controversy.

In 1860 T. H. Huxley (a supporter of Darwin) had a public debate with Darwin's opponent Bishop Wilberforce (known as 'Soapy Sam'). The bishop was defeated and gradually the theory of evolution was accepted by most people.

Charles Darwin published 10 more books after 1859. Six were about botany, one was about earthworms. Only three were about evolution. One of these was *The variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication* (1868). He also published *The Descent of Man* in 1871. In it he explained his ideas about the evolution of man. In 1872 Darwin published *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*.

Darwin's last book was on earthworms and it was published in October 1881 shortly before he died of a heart attack on April 19, 1882. He was 73.



Monticello News

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Updated statewide abundance estimate for the Florida manatee

Story Submitted

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) accomplished an important conservation goal by publishing the results from the second statewide population estimate of the Florida manatee. Results from the 2015-2016 manatee abundance survey suggest there were between 7,520 and 10,280 manatees in Florida, totals higher than an earlier abundance estimate suggested. This exciting news contributes to the conclusion that conservation measures implemented by the FWC and its partners continue to create an environment that allows the manatee population to recover.

This survey represents an important benchmark achievement in research and conservation of Florida manatees by describing the level of uncertainty surrounding the population estimate and accounts for limitations that can be caused by environmental conditions, such as sea surface roughness, as well as the ability for observers to detect manatees under various conditions. The latest approach uses updated survey information collected in 2015-2016 and makes several advancements over the earlier estimate of abundance published by the FWC and collaborators in 2015.

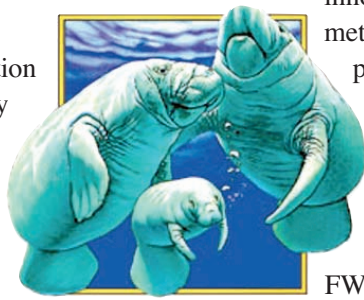
A single measure of the population, such as this estimate, is not sufficient to evaluate the status of a species. For FWC researchers and partners to accurately estimate population growth rates over time, multiple sources of information, such as manatee abundance, survival rates and reproductive rates, will be combined within a population model.

FWC will maintain its research and monitoring efforts of the manatee population and essential habitat using innovative, rigorous, scientific methods to better understand population resilience as well as susceptibilities.

While there was an elevated level of manatee mortality in 2018 due to watercraft and red tide, the FWC remains committed to continuing important conservation work that enables wildlife and resource managers, and the public to better understand and conserve Florida's state marine mammal.

You can show your support for manatees by purchasing a manatee license plate at BuyaPlate.com and a manatee decal through your local tax collector's office or at MyFWC.com/ManateeSeaTurtleDecals. Funds from the license plate and decal support manatee research and conservation.

To report a dead or distressed manatee, call the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline at (888) 404-FWCC [3922].



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

Danielle Sprague
Jefferson County Extension
Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent
(850) 342-0187 • dsprague@ufl.edu

Dicamba use changes in row crops

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has extended the registration of dicamba for over-the-top use of weed control in transgenic cotton and soybean now through 2020. Dicamba products approved for use on dicamba-tolerant crops include Engenia, XtendiMax, and FeXapan. In addition to the announcement, new restrictions were revealed that will be integrated into product labels. As always, it is extremely important that growers read the label and understand the changes regarding product use.

Only restricted use pesticide applicators with a Private, Public or Commercial pesticide license and the Row Crop category will be allowed to purchase or apply dicamba products on dicamba-tolerant crops. That means authorized purchasers on an applicators license will not be able to buy or apply these products (which can be done for other products). Everyone must now have their own license if they wish to buy or apply these products registered for use on dicamba-tolerant crops.

In order to obtain a pesticide license, an individual will need to pass both the CORE and necessary category exam (Private or Row Crop) with a score of 70 percent or higher.

- Private and Public Applicator Licenses - \$100
- Commercial Licenses - \$250
- An individual may add the Row Crop category to their existing commercial license for no cost by pass the exam with a score of 70 percent or higher.

Exams are administered at the Extension Office but please call ahead to schedule. The Jefferson County Extension Office is offering a pesticide license exam preparation class on January 30 at the Extension Office, located at 2729 W. Washington Hwy in Monticello. The CORE and Private Applicator/Row Crop Exam will be administered after each corresponding session. Those already holding a pesticide license can earn seven Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) (four in the CORE category and three in the Private/Row Crop category) by attending the full day training. The training will begin with registration at 7:45 a.m. The cost of the training is \$20 for those taking exams and \$10 for those attending for CEUs. To register and pay online, visit jeffpesticidettraining.eventbrite.com. For more information or to register by phone, contact Danielle Sprague at (850) 342-0187 or dsprague@ufl.edu.

In addition to having a restricted use pesticide license, applicators who intend to purchase or apply XtendiMax, Engenia or FeXapan will also be required to attend a statewide mandatory dicamba training. The statewide dicamba training is scheduled for March 20, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Jefferson County Extension Office. The training will address updates to product labels such as the post-emergence application window, number of applications, buffer zones, sensitive areas, application hours, record keeping, spray solution pH, and more. For more information, contact Danielle Sprague at (850) 342-0187.

Experiencing delayed harvest due to wet conditions?



The RMA might not be well known... but with 272 million acres at stake, maybe it should be.

Story Submitted

Extremely wet or snowy conditions have delayed harvest for a number of farmers nationwide. In some cases the moisture content is so high the crop cannot be physically harvested with normal harvesting equipment. With the end of the insurance period on December 10, for most spring planted crops, farmers need to know actions they can take with regards to their crop insurance coverage.

Farmers should contact their agent to discuss more time to attempt to harvest so claims can be settled based on harvested production. Your approved insurance provider may allow additional time to harvest when the following conditions are met:

- You give timely notice of loss to your crop insurance agent;
- Your approved insurance provider determines and documents that the delay in harvest was due to an insured cause of loss;
- You demonstrate to your

Risk Management Agency,
US Dept. of Agriculture



approved insurance provider that harvest was not possible due to insured causes; and

- The delay in harvest was not because you did not have sufficient equipment or manpower to harvest the crop by the end of the insurance period.

More information on requesting assistance due to delayed harvest is available on RMA's website.

Veterans Among Us

Army Veteran Ed Gifford

United States Army Veteran Ed Gifford entered into military service in 1977 through the Army ROTC program at the University of Akron, Ohio where he received a Regular Army Commission in the Infantry and a bachelors degree in Marketing. He served 18 years on active duty and 13 years in the Army Reserves. He retired from the service in 2007; he was able to go back on active duty as a retiree twice, the first time in 2009 to Qatar and Kuwait and the second time to Afghanistan in 2011 where he finally retired with a total of 31 years of service.

While on active duty he has been stationed in Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Germany, Qatar (off the tip of Saudi Arabia), Kuwait and Afghanistan, with deployments to Panama, Honduras and Bahrain. During his time in service he held all the standard jobs of an Infantry Officer in addition to teaching Army ROTC and holding senior level staff and teaching positions. Gifford was born in France, where his father was stationed as a surveyor in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He was raised in Ohio where he met his wife Cheryl while he was attending college.

He and Cheryl relocated to the Lloyd area in 2017 to be closer to their oldest son; they have two grown sons, the youngest still living in Ohio. Gifford is a member of the American Legion Post 49 here in Monticello, the Tallahassee Rifle Pistol Club and the Tallahassee Rose Club. He enjoys woodworking and refinishing furniture. Cheryl is an artist and spends time at the Jefferson Arts. Thank you for your service! Your service made a difference!

Proudly shared with you thanks to:

GEORGIA-FLORIDA AVIATION SEARCH TEAM
(850) 545-2358

Are you interested in becoming a Big Bend Hospice Volunteer?

Ashley Hunter
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Big Bend Hospice is a community-driven and volunteer dependant hospice provider that serves Jefferson County, as well as Gadsden, Franklin, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla counties.

While the hospice program employs nurses and individuals to provide expert health care,

bereavement care, compassion, and companionship, Big Bend Hospice (BBH) also relies on volunteers who dedicate their free time to assisting those in pain, nearing the end of their lives, or to provide hope and encouragement to families.

On Saturday, January 19, from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., BBH will be hosting a special volunteer information session to help potential volunteers learn more about what is involved in becoming a volunteering partner with BBH.

Hospice volunteers are influential as they help provide companionship, a veteran support system, socialization, relief for caregivers, aid in the BBH office, and working hands during special BBH events. Volunteers may also assist in running errands, helping with transportation, vigil care, and bereavement support.

The special volunteer session will be held in Tallahassee at BBH's Elaine Bartelt Building, located at 1723 Mahan Center Blvd.

In order to attend, interested parties must RSVP.

For more information or to RSVP, contact BBH's Volunteer Department at (850) 878-5310.



New Year's Resolution: Quit Tobacco

Kimberly Allbritton

Jefferson County Health Department
Administrator, FDOH – Jefferson and Madison
(850) 342-0170 • JeffersonCHD@flhealth.gov



This article is for anyone out there who currently uses tobacco products. Tobacco products include cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff and vaping e-cigarettes. We know you have heard all of the reasons you should not use tobacco, and the purpose of this article is not to lecture you about why you should quit. We want to inspire you to quit and offer some assistance if you want to quit.

Before this article was written, we reached out to former tobacco users in Jefferson and Madison counties to find out why they decided to quit. One leader in the faith-based community stated that he quit because he was tired of smelling like smoke and knew he needed to quit for himself and others around him. Several others quit because they were diagnosed with a tobacco-related health issue. A health department employee quit because she watched several family members pass away from tobacco-related cancers and was finally afraid. One young lady, Kristin McCoy, decided to quit because she wanted to be healthy, wanted her future children to be healthy, and was tired of relying on cigarettes every hour.

All of the people who talked with us have tried multiple times to quit. The vast majority of people who have quit tobacco were unsuccessful the first time. Do not get discouraged if this is your situation. If you currently use tobacco, we encourage you to reach out to those you may know who have quit to get suggestions for how they did it. Listed below are some suggestions that may work for you.

Set a target date to quit and create a plan for yourself. Try not to pick a date when you know you will be stressed out or will be in a situation that will tempt you to use tobacco.

Let friends and family know you are planning to quit. Let people close to you know how they can help you to be successful.

Get rid of anything around you associated with tobacco use. Look around your house, car and place of business for tobacco-related items. Do not keep an emergency stash of tobacco "just in case."

Make a list of reasons you want to quit. Keep the list

with you for those times you are tempted to use tobacco.

Identify "triggers" that tempt you to use tobacco. Make a list of everything that makes you want to use tobacco. This can be events, situations and feelings. Then write down how you plan to deal with those triggers.

Identify places that can help you quit tobacco. This can be support groups, online services, phone apps, your physician, among others.

Celebrate victories along the way. Plan to celebrate milestones such as one week or one month without tobacco and reward yourself.

If this doesn't work the first time, give yourself a little time and plan a new quit date. Take a look at what made you start using tobacco and make a plan to address it with your next quit attempt.

We can help you. The Florida Department of Health has partnered with Big Bend Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) to offer cessation classes and nicotine replacement therapies such as patches, gum and lozenges at no cost to you. Class times are listed below for Jefferson County. Call (850) 224-9340 to register. Big Bend AHEC staff will help you develop your quit plan and offer encouragement along the way.

Jefferson County Classes

Jefferson Senior Citizens Center

1155 North Jefferson Street
Monticello

1st Thursday of the month
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Jefferson County R.J. Bailar Public Library

375 Water Street
Monticello

3rd Tuesday of the month
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Jefferson County Department of Health

1255 West Washington Street
Monticello

1st Thursday of the month
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Talk with Big Bend AHEC staff to see if there is an alternative if you want to join a class and these do not work for you. There are also telephone and online options by calling (1-877) U-CAN-NOW [1-877-777-6534], or by going to the website quitnow.net/florida. Make a plan today and quit for the reasons that are important to you.

Transitions offers free support to people with a life-limiting illness and their caregivers



Story Submitted

When Mary Still's husband, Albert, started showing signs of dementia, she knew she could no longer leave him at home alone.

Albert has health problems including congestive heart failure and diabetes that often make it difficult for him to leave the house. He also becomes anxious when his wife is away.

"If I move, he moves," Mary said. "I think he's afraid I'm going to desert him, but I would never do that. We've been married 53 years."

Mary found herself in a predicament that many caregivers experience: she had no time for herself. She couldn't make it to her own medical appointments or go to church on Sundays.

"And I'm a person who goes to church every week," she said.

Mary and Albert felt somewhat isolated in their Woodville home. Mary, who is 78, was born on the property and still tends to the roses her grandmother planted. She was a volunteer at Woodville Elementary for 13 years but had to give that up when Albert's health declined. The couple has a peaceful life with family members nearby who help as much as they can, but Mary needed a break.

Things began to improve after someone during one of Albert's frequent hospital stays mentioned Big Bend Hospice. Mary called BBH and learned that Albert wasn't eligible for Hospice, but there was another program that could help, the Transitions Program.

Mary Dyal, a trained Transitions volunteer, now stays with Albert while his wife goes to physical therapy and to church services.

"I've been dealing with shoulder pain from a car accident for a long time," Mary Still said. "I should have been going to physical therapy before, but it's difficult to get people to stay with (Albert). Now, I have all the confidence in the world that I can leave him. I know he's going to be safe."

Transitions offers free support for individuals who have a life-limiting illness but are not yet eligible for Hospice care and their caregivers. Social workers provide resource linking and assistance in coping and decision-making. Trained volunteers provide companionship, respite care, assistance with errands and transportation.

The program has been a lifesaver for the Stills. They've developed a special bond with Dyal.

"We hang out, watch TV and talk about fishing," Dyal said during one of her recent visits with Albert.

The two were watching Animal Planet while Mary was at physical therapy.

"He's my buddy," she said.

"And she's all right with me," Albert said as he relaxed in a recliner.

Dyal began volunteering for Big Bend Hospice after her husband received end-of-life care at Margaret Z. Dozier Hospice House. She also lives in Woodville, just down the street from Albert and Mary.

"She calls to check in on us and makes sure we're OK," Mary said. "She's a very concerned person."

The Transitions program also connected Mary to caregiver training through Big Bend Hospice's partnership with the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving. The training has helped her communicate better with Albert and cope with challenges such as his restlessness at nighttime.

"It's been a blessing," she said of Transitions. "It's just like family."

For more information about Transitions, contact Bobbie Massey, LCSW and Transitions Manager, at (850) 878-5310 or bobbie@bigbendhospice.org.



Stephanie Jenkins inspires HOPE as a BBH Aide. She helps patients at the Margaret Z. Dozier Hospice House with personal care and helps promote a healthy patient environment. BBH inspires hope – one family at a time. If you have questions about Hospice, call (850) 878-5310.

What is Transitions?

Transitions is a Non-Medical Support Program for individuals facing a serious illness with a prognosis of a year or less

Transitions can provide:

- Expert resource referrals
- Caregiver Support
- Guidance in understanding complex medical decisions
- Volunteer Services to assist with companionship, brief periods of respite and running errands
- Bi-Weekly Wellness Calls
- Specialized Valor Ceremonies honoring Veterans enrolled in the Transitions Program

If you would like to know more please contact us
(850) 671-6036 or (850) 878-5310

Transitions is a program that is provided at no cost to the client and is funded by Big Bend Hospice, grants, Big Bend Hospice Foundation and donations.



Does vaping make it harder to quit smoking?

Metro Editorial

More people in the United States are addicted to nicotine than any other drug, states the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Smokers become dependent on cigarettes for various reasons, not the least of which is the addictive properties of nicotine.

According to longitudinal data from the National Population Health Survey in Canada, approximately 20 percent of adult daily smokers, 18 years and older, who had quit in the past two years resumed smoking within the next two years. The CDC says quitting smoking may require several attempts before quitters can successfully put smoking behind them. Factors such as withdrawal symptoms, stress and weight gain compel many people to light up after quitting.

Some people may feel that e-cigarettes can help them gradually kick their tobacco habit. And thanks to the variety of flavors and styles of vapor-based nicotine delivery systems, it seems more people are vaping because they believe it to be less dangerous than traditional smoking. But the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education at the University of California indicates smokers who vape are 28 percent less likely to ditch traditional cigarettes despite believing they are cessation aids. And they still may be putting their health in grave risk. The American Lung Association says there are

hundreds of brands of e-cigarettes on the market and none of them have been evaluated by the FDA for safety.

Because vaping is largely in its infancy, there are no long-term studies of its health implications or its efficacy in regard to helping smokers quit. However, much of the available evidence suggests that vaping may only be marginally better than using tobacco cigarettes. Analysis from the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco suggests that people who vape every day may double their risk of having a heart attack than those who do not vape or smoke (compared to triple the risk with smoking tobacco). Also, according to the Bloomberg School of Public Health, researchers found that the aerosol particles that vapers breathe contain some of the same toxic metals and metallic elements found in conventional cigarettes, including cadmium and nickel. Potentially unsafe levels of several other dangerous substances, such as arsenic, chromium and manganese, were also found.



Another cause for concern is the propensity to abuse e-cigarettes, or taking much more than is recommended. Vapers may be consuming very high levels of nicotine per day without realizing how much they are inhaling. A 2014 study showed wide-ranging nicotine levels and inconsistencies between listed and actual nicotine levels, according to the ALA.

E-cigarettes are a controversial subject. More research is required to determine their health risks and their potential to help people quit smoking altogether.

Five tips to shed those pounds in the New Year

StatePoint Editorial

Maybe you want more energy, or perhaps you want to lose weight and keep it off for good. Whatever your goals, a new year means a fresh start to become the best version of yourself. Here are five tips from Nutrisystem experts to get your scale moving in the right direction and support your long-term health.

1. Skip “diet”

drinks: Of course, you know not to order the regular cola with your meal, but you figure the lower-calorie diet version is an okay choice. Not necessarily. One recent review of research found that artificial sweeteners often used in diet drinks may not be as beneficial for weight management as intended, and that drinking them regularly may be linked to an increased body mass index. If you want something fizzy, opt for seltzer with lemon or lime. But if you can't stop dreaming of that diet soda, it doesn't have to be completely off-limits. Just try to cut back. Moderation is key!

2. Drink more

water: Every part of your body needs water to work properly. When you don't get enough, your body can't perform normal functions, which can drain your energy. More fatigue means less physical activity. Plus, mild dehydration is often masked as hunger -- prompting you to grab a snack when all you really need is water. Nutrisystem experts recommend drinking at least eight, 8-ounce glasses daily.

3. Slow down:

It takes 20 minutes for the “I'm full” signals from your stomach to reach your brain. When you inhale your food, it's much easier to eat more than your body really needs. One review of 23 studies found that fast eaters were about twice as likely to be obese, compared to slow eaters. To help slow down, take smaller bites, chew 10 to 15 times and put your fork down between each bite.

4. Don't eyeball

portions: “The super-sized meals at restaurants have given us a skewed view of proper portion size,” says registered dietitian for Nutrisystem, Courtney McCormick. Even if you're tracking your food intake with an app or food journal, overestimating portions can sabotage progress. McCormick's



solution: Measure portions – not forever, but for a while at the start. Doing so will help you get a visual of what portions should actually look like. You may also consider eliminating some of the guesswork with a program, such as Nutrisystem, that offers pre-portioned, nutritionally-balanced meals.

5. Reduce stress:

Stress can cause your body to burn calories more slowly, which could lead to weight gain, according to a study. Plus, stress

increases hormones that stimulate appetite, and the foods you'll crave for comfort tend to be high in fat and sugar. Help manage stress with deep breathing, meditation, exercise, hanging out with friends or listening to music.

More tips on jump-starting your weight loss goals can be found at nutrisystem.com. With these tips for the new year, you'll be on the road to realistic weight loss achievement and have more energy for your day-to-day life.

Doctor recommended New Year's resolutions

Story submitted

With the new year upon us, you may be looking for resolutions that will help to keep you and your loved ones healthy and happy in the year ahead.

To help you start the year off on the right foot, experts at the AMA are offering recommendations to help you determine where you can make the most impactful, long-lasting improvements to your health.

• **Be more physically active:** Adults should do at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity.

• **Know your blood pressure numbers.** Visit LowerYourHBP.org to better understand your numbers and take necessary steps to get your high blood pressure -- also known as hypertension -- under control.

• **Talk with your doctor about tobacco and nicotine use and quit.** Declare your home and car smoke-free to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.

• **Manage stress.** A good diet and daily exercise are key ingredients to maintaining and improving your mental health, but don't hesitate to ask for help from a friend or mental health professional when you need it.

The lifestyle choices you make now will have long-lasting impacts. So, this new year, prioritize your long-term health by forming great habits.

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Prediabetes and high blood pressure can be managed: What to know

StatePoint Editorial

Even as chronic diseases like prediabetes and high blood pressure touch more and more Americans, physicians are urging patients to keep in mind that early detection is key, and that chronic disease can often be managed with lifestyle changes.

“To confront our increasing chronic disease burden, patients must be aware of their risk for type 2 diabetes and hypertension,” says Barbara L. McAneny, M.D., president of the American Medical Association (AMA). “To prevent both of these chronic diseases, awareness and action are key.”

As part of the effort to empower Americans to confront chronic disease, the AMA offers the following guidance.

Prediabetes

While prediabetes -- the precursor to type 2 diabetes -- has serious health implications, people who are at risk can take steps to reverse the condition and prevent or delay type 2 diabetes through lifestyle changes like weight loss, healthy eating and increased physical activity. Unfortunately, not everyone is even aware they are at risk. Eighty-four million people in the U.S. are living with prediabetes, and of those that have it, 90 percent are unaware, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The AMA urges patients to find out their risk by taking a one-minute online test at DoIHavePrediabetes.org. In addition to the risk test, the site contains other resources and links. Developed as part of a first-of-its-kind joint national prediabetes awareness

campaign launched in 2016 by the AMA, Ad Council, CDC and the American Diabetes Association, the campaign has helped hundreds of thousands of Americans learn their risk of developing type 2 diabetes. The campaign website also features lifestyle tips and links to CDC's National Diabetes Prevention Program, which connects visitors to a registry of CDC-recognized programs across the country.

Hypertension

“With nearly half of all adults in the U.S. now living with high blood pressure and at increased risk of heart attack and stroke, more Americans should be monitoring their blood pressure levels and taking quick action to get their high blood pressure, also known as hypertension, under control,” says Dr. McAneny.

Unfortunately, there are often no signs or symptoms of high blood pressure, which is why it is often referred to as the “silent killer.” If left untreated, the condition damages the blood vessels and increases the risk for heart attack, stroke and other serious conditions.

To help understand and manage your blood pressure numbers, visit LowerYourHBP.org, a site launched by the American Heart Association, American Stroke Association, and the AMA in partnership with the Ad Council. The site helps raise awareness of the life-altering consequences of uncontrolled high blood pressure and motivates people to work with their doctors on developing and committing to a treatment plan.

By being proactive and knowing your risks, you can take control of your health.

Three common diabetes myths debunked

StatePoint Editorial

While a lot of people think they have a handle on diabetes, this serious disease is actually rather complex.

Here are three common diabetes myths – debunked with the help of Nutrisystem Certified Diabetes Educators (CDEs) and Courtney McCormick, dietitian for Nutrisystem.

Myth: I'm a healthy weight, I can't get diabetes.

Fact: Although there's a clear connection between being overweight or obese and developing type 2 diabetes, genetics and other lifestyle factors can also play a role.

Prediabetes can sometimes be an early-stage development of type 2 diabetes, and its risk factors (other than weight) include:

- Polycystic ovary syndrome:

Fairly common in women, stay attuned to symptoms such as increased hair growth, weight gain and an inconsistent menstrual cycle.

- Older age: Prediabetes risk increases after age 45, according to the Mayo Clinic.

- Family medical history: A family history of blood sugar-related health complications increases prediabetes risk.

- Gestational diabetes: Women who experience gestational diabetes (diabetes developed during pregnancy) are more likely to develop prediabetes. Additionally, if your baby weighed more than nine pounds at birth, you're at greater risk, according to the Mayo Clinic. Men, aren't off the hook. This increased risk extends to the children of women who had gestational diabetes.

- Inadequate sleep: Certain conditions causing sleep disruptions can be a recipe for insulin resistance.

Myth: People develop diabetes because they eat too much sugar.

Fact: Although consuming excess calories can contribute to being overweight, which is associated with

type 2 diabetes, sugar is not the singular cause of diabetes. Type 1 diabetes is the result of genetics and additional unknown factors and type 2 diabetes is the result of a combination of genetics and lifestyle factors.

Myth: If I have diabetes, I can't have carbs or dessert.

Fact: Generally speaking, individuals with diabetes can follow the same healthy diet recommended for the general public and can even enjoy sweet treats in small portions on special occasions.

Carbs are a necessary part of a healthy meal plan. Just pay attention to portions. Optimal carbohydrate counts will vary by person, but the American Diabetes Association recommends starting with 45-60 grams per meal, and tweaking depending on how your body responds.

Some good carbs to consider? Whole grain breads, pastas, rice and cereals, plus starchy vegetables like potatoes, peas and corn. Fruits, beans, milk and yogurt also count toward daily carbohydrates. On the Nutrisystem D plan, which is designed for people living with type 2 diabetes, milk and yogurt are considered “PowerFuels,” even though they provide some carbohydrates. Many people are advised to enjoy these foods with fruit to prevent nocturnal hypoglycemia.

It's important to have a good understanding of the risks, causes and precautions associated with diabetes. Although preventative measures can't be taken against type 1 diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association, research suggests that you can lower your risk for type 2 diabetes by 58 percent by:

- Losing seven percent of your body weight
 - Exercising moderately 30 minutes a day, five days a week
- Eat well, be well and know your risk factors for diabetes.

Health & Wellness CALENDAR

debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com OR (850) 997-3568

Mondays/Thursdays/Saturdays/Sundays

AA meeting at 8 p.m. on Monday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, at the Christ Episcopal Church Annex, 425 North Cherry Street. For more information call (850) 251-0278.

Mondays

Breastfeeding Support Classes at 11 a.m. on Mondays at the Jefferson County Health Department, 1255 West Washington Street. For more information call (850) 342-0170.

Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays

AA meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Lloyd Woman's Club, Old Lloyd Road. For more information call (850) 251-0278.

*Fourth Mondays

Alzheimer/Dementia Support Group meets at 2

noon on the fourth Monday at the RJ Bailar Public Library. Alzheimer's Project, Inc., a non-profit organization, extends a warm supportive welcome to caregivers. Any questions or comments may be relayed to Rural Outreach Manager Stephanie Pollack at 850-386-2778 or visit alzheimersproject.org. This is a free monthly program offering a time of sharing and learning with each other. Bring another caregiver with you.

Tuesdays

Flab-To-Fab weight loss support group meets on Tuesday at the Monticello Health & Fitness Center, 760 East Washington Street. Weigh-in begins at 4:30 p.m. with guest speakers discussing healthy topics. This support group is free of charge to anyone; donations are accepted. For more information contact Coordinator Chelsey McCoy at (850) 342-0170.

Tuesdays

AA meeting at 8 p.m. on Tuesday for those seeking help. The class is held at the Harvest Christian Center, 1599 Springhollow Road. Contact Marvin Graham, pastor, at (850) 251-0278 for more information.

Third Tuesdays

Tobacco Free Florida Group Meeting from 5 to 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday at the Jefferson County R.J. Bailar Public Library. Learn how to develop a successful quit plan. Learn to live without tobacco. Help is free! Call toll-free 1-877-848-6696 or locally at 850-224-1177 or bigbendahec.org to select a program that will benefit you.

First Thursdays

Tobacco Free Florida Group Meeting from 1 to 3 p.m. on the first Thursday at the Health Department annex, 1255 West Washington Street. Learn how to develop a successful quit plan. Learn to live without tobacco. Help is free! Call toll-free (1-877) 848-6696 or locally at (850) 224-1177 or bigbendahec.org to select a program that will benefit you.

Fridays

Monticello Jamboree Band performs music for dancing every Friday night at 7 p.m. at 625 South Water Street. Everyone is welcome to come dance, listen to some of the finest music, enjoy doorprizes, soft drinks, snacks, and just enjoy a good time with neighbors and friends. This is a nonprofit charitable event. Donations are accepted. For questions or concerns contact Darlene Aldrich at (850) 556-5218.





ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, December 20, 2018
Sherry Baker, with the Sickle Cell Foundation, was one of the speakers at the Women's Health Social that was held at the Jefferson County R.J. Bailar Public Library on Thursday, December 20.

Ashley Hunter
 ECB Publishing, Inc.

On Thursday, December 20, a Women's Health Social was held at the Jefferson County R.J. Bailar Public Library by two health workers who serve the people of Jefferson County.

The event was hosted by Tonya Bell, a certified community health worker with the Healthy Start Coalition, which served Jefferson, Madison and Taylor counties.

The second speaker was Sherry Baker, with the

Health Social raises awareness for women's health issues

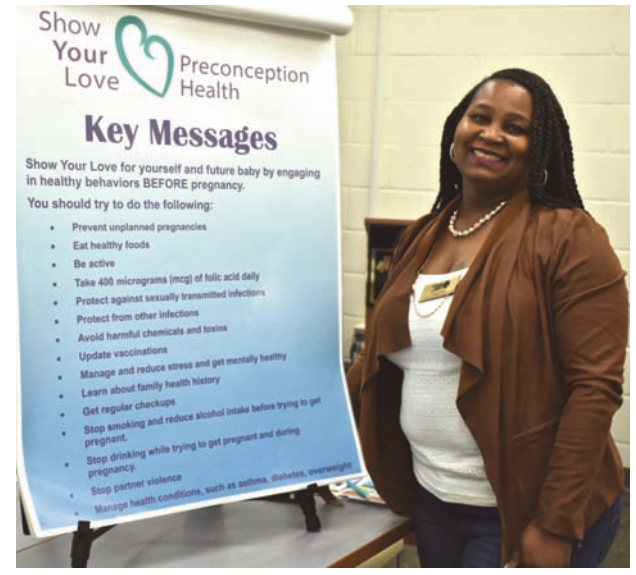
Sickle Cell Foundation. Baker spoke briefly at the event about what exactly Sickle Cell is, symptoms, treatments and more.

Baker also debunked common myths regarding Sickle Cell, such as the misconception that the rare disorder is a sexually transmitted disease that can be spread between partners.

Afterward, Bell addressed the women who attended the health social and provided information about various health-related interests that pertain to women and infant children.

The topics that Bell discussed were relevant to a wide variety of women regardless of their ages, walks of life, or current health.

These health socials are commonly held by Bell in order to educate the women in the community about various ways that they can stay



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, December 20, 2018
Tonya Bell, a certified community health worker unto the Healthy Start Coalition, was the event organizer for the Thursday, December 20 Women's Health Social. Bell shared information that pertained to the health of young and old woman alike and provided advice on ways to stay healthy.

healthy and care for their families.

These socials also serve as ways for women to learn more about the outreaches and programs that the Healthy Start Coalition provides to the women and families in Jefferson, Madison and Taylor counties.

Stay tuned with your local community newspaper for advertising of future Women's Health Socials in the upcoming year.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, December 20, 2018

After the social, attendees were able to take home various free health and fitness items, such as meal portion plates, informational pamphlets, barrier contraceptives and more.



Eating disorders are not as rare as you think they are

Metro Editorial

Millions of people are affected by eating disorders, which can be life-threatening illnesses. The National Eating Disorders Association says there has been unprecedented growth of eating disorders over the last 20 years, and research into this medical condition continues to be under-funded.

The pressures to remain thin and fit continue to be profound and problematic, spurring new generations of people to develop poor body image perceptions and behaviors.

Eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia nervosa are perhaps well known, but the "eating disorder" classification also encompass other conditions. These can include binge eating, avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder, or ARFID, and "diabulimia," which is a deliberate insulin underuse in people with type 1 diabetes for the purpose of controlling weight.

To shed further light on these often hidden

conditions, here are some eye-opening statistics and information, courtesy of data culled by both NEDA and the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD).

- At least 30 million people of all ages and genders suffer from an eating disorder in the United States.

- Cardiovascular impairment is one of the primary symptoms of eating disorders, as consuming fewer calories than one needs can break down muscles in the body - including the heart.

- Purging depletes the body of important chemicals called electrolytes, which play a role in maintaining heartbeat and muscle contraction.

- Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness.

- Food restriction and purging by vomiting interferes with the ability of the stomach to empty normally, which can affect the digestion of nutrients. This can lead to bacterial infections, blocked intestines from undigested food and

bloating.

- Binge eating can cause the stomach to rupture, leading to potentially life-threatening circumstances.

- Both malnutrition and purging can cause pancreatitis, an inflammation of the pancreas.

- ARFID goes beyond "picky eating." Children do not grow out of it and frequently become malnourished because of the limited variety of foods they will consume.

- About 38 percent of females and 16 percent of males with type 1 diabetes exhibit behaviors indicative of eating disorders.

- Based on diagnostic interview data from the National Comorbidity Survey Replication, the average age of onset for binge eating disorder was 21 and 18 for both bulimia nervosa and anorexia nervosa.

Anyone with a loved one who they suspect has an eating disorder should contact a family physician for immediate assistance.

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915 sq ft Commercial Office Building; downtown Madison; Shelby Ave; across from the courthouse and post office. Call Emerald at (850) 997-3568 11/23_rtn.nc

SERVICES 
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HELP WANTED
Positions available at **North Florida Community College**, Madison FL: Executive Assistant to the President; Registered Nurse (Faculty); Maintenance Worker; Coordinator of Recruitment; See www.nfcc.edu for details. 1/9-25.c

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Hint: Each of the nine blocks has to contain all the numbers 1-9, and each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **G M Mitchell**, the holder/s of the following Tax Sale Certificate has filed said Tax Certificate for the Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Certificate Number and year of issuance, the Description of the property, and the Name in which it is assessed as follows:

File Number: 18-000078-TD
Certificate Number: 101 Year of Issuance: 2015
Description of Property: 00-00-00-0350-0000-0069
Lot 6 Northern Addition
ORB 181 PG 264
Site Address: 1340 Suzanna St

Name in which assessed: Edith Wilson
All of said property being in the County of Jefferson, State of Florida. **This property when sold may be subject to the current year taxes.**

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the Jefferson County Courthouse, North Steps on **January 23, 2019 at 11:00 A.M.**

Kirk Reams
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Jefferson County, FL
BY: Sherry Sears, Deputy Clerk 12/21,28,1/4,11

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **G M Mitchell**, the holder/s of the following Tax Sale Certificate has filed said Tax Certificate for the Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Certificate Number and year of issuance, the Description of the property, and the Name in which it is assessed as follows:

File Number: 18-000077-TD
Certificate Number: 100 Year of Issuance: 2015
Description of Property: 00-00-00-0350-0000-006D
Lot 6 Northern Addition
ORB 181 PG 264
Site Address: 1340 Suzanna St

Name in which assessed: Edith Wilson
All of said property being in the County of Jefferson, State of Florida. **This property when sold may be subject to the current year taxes.**

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the Jefferson County Courthouse, North Steps on **January 23, 2019 at 11:00 A.M.**

Kirk Reams
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Jefferson County, FL
BY: Sherry Sears, Deputy Clerk 12/21,28,1/4,11

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **G M Mitchell**, the holder/s of the following Tax Sale Certificate has filed said Tax Certificate for the Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Certificate Number and year of issuance, the Description of the property, and the Name in which it is assessed as follows:

File Number: 18-000061-TD
Certificate Number: 481 Year of Issuance: 2013
Description of Property: 18-1N-4E-0111-000B-0110
2.37 Acres Lots 11 & 12 Blk B Christmas Acres
ORB 610 PG 534
Site Address: 1475 Noel Dr

Name in which assessed: Steve Thompson
All of said property being in the County of Jefferson, State of Florida. **This property when sold may be subject to the current year taxes.**

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the Jefferson County Courthouse, North Steps on **February 11, 2019 at 11:00 A.M.**

Kirk Reams
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Jefferson County, FL
BY: Sherry Sears, Deputy Clerk 1/4,11,18,25

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

IN RE: ESTATE OF
LINDA ROBINSON HARTMANN,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (summary administration)

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:
You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of LINDA ROBINSON HARTMANN, deceased, File Number 2018CP000088, by the Circuit Court for JEFFERSON County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is One Courthouse Circle, Monticello, Florida 32344; that the decedent's date of death was September 18, 2018; that the total value of the estate is \$19,865.96 APPROXIMATELY and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:

Name	Address
TERESA COOPER WARD	P. O. Box 1125, Tallahassee, FL 32302
KATHERINE G. ROBINSON-MATTHEWS	104 MOHAVE RD, CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:
All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this Notice is January 11, 2019.

Attorney for Person Giving Notice: Teresa Cooper Ward
FBN 343692
Attorney for Petitioner
P. O. Box 1125
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 544-5171
teresacooperward@gmail.com 1/11,18

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Jefferson County School Board held an Emergency Meeting, Monday, January 7, 2019, at 6:00 pm at the Jefferson County District Office located at 1490 W. Washington St. Monticello, FL 32344. The meeting was held to review documentation for the upcoming Financial Emergency Board Meeting, to be held on January 9, 2019, in Tallahassee, Florida. 1/11

NOTICE

Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Planning Committee to meet on Friday, January 18, 2019. The Jefferson County LMS Planning Committee will meet at 10 AM at the Jefferson County Emergency Management Office. The County encourages any interested citizens and business owners to attend and provide input. The Committee guides the preparation of the Jefferson County LMS, which serves as a plan to reduce the community's long-term risk for protecting people and the property from the affects of natural disasters and to build a safer and stronger community. 1/11

NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE 2019

January 24, 2019
February 28, 2019
March 28, 2019 (Franklin County)
April 25, 2019
May 23, 2019
June 27, 2019 (Walton County)
July 25, 2019
August 22, 2019 (Escambia County)
September 26, 2019 (4:00 p.m.)
October 24, 2019
November 14, 2019 (Gulf County)
December 12, 2019

*All meetings are scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m., at District Headquarters, 81 Water Management Drive, Havana, Florida 32333, unless otherwise indicated. 1/16

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that **G M Mitchell**, the holder/s of the following Tax Sale Certificate has filed said Tax Certificate for the Tax Deed to be issued thereon. The Certificate Number and year of issuance, the Description of the property, and the Name in which it is assessed as follows:

File Number: 18-000058-TD
Certificate Number: 983 Year of Issuance: 2013
Description of Property: 20-2N-7R-0000-0160-0000
SE ¼ OF SE ¼
ORB 659 PG 502
Site Address: S Quitman Hwy

Name in which assessed: W Mark Land
All of said property being in the County of Jefferson, State of Florida. **This property when sold may be subject to the current year taxes.**

Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the Jefferson County Courthouse, North Steps on **January 23, 2019 at 11:00 A.M.**

Kirk Reams
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Jefferson County, FL
BY: Sherry Sears, Deputy Clerk 12/21,28,1/4,11

NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS

Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners will receive sealed bids from any qualified person, company or corporation interested in constructing:

WACISSA SPRINGS IMPROVEMENTS – PHASE II

This project includes boardwalk construction and sedimentation removal.

Plans and specifications may be obtained at Dewberry, 101 N. Monroe Street, Suite 710, Tallahassee, Florida, 32301, and (850) 354-5187. The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes.

Bids will be received by JEFFERSON COUNTY at the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners, Clerks Office, 1 Courthouse Circle., Monticello, Florida 32344, (850) 342-0218 until **11:00 AM (EST) on January 23, 2019**. Bids will be publicly opened at **11:05 AM (EST) on January 23, 2019**. All Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Sealed Bid – WACISSA SPRINGS IMPROVEMENTS – PHASE II".

Completion date for this project will be 60 days from the date of the Notice to Proceed presented to the successful bidder.

Liquidated damages for failure to complete the project on the specified date will be set at \$200.00 per day.

Please indicate on the envelope **your company name**, that this is a **sealed bid**, and the **bid number**. **The original bid plus two (2) copies should be included.**

Hard copies of the Plans and Specifications will be \$50.00 per set and is non-refundable or electronic copies may be requested via email at jbxaxley@dewberry.com at **no charge**. Checks should be made payable to DEWBERRY.

The County reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid, to accept and/or reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid that in their judgment will be in the best interest of the County.

If you have any questions, please contact Josh Baxley via email at jbxaxley@dewberry.com. 1/4,1/11

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850-342-0244
Wolf Creek Pet Adoption Center
jeffersonhumane.org

Take Me Home North Florida Pet Adoption Event
Starting Saturday at 10 AM at the North Florida Fairgrounds
Come see tons of adoptable pets from all over North Florida!
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2018

Year in Review

Watterson Journal

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Top national news of 2018

January

California legalizes recreational use of Marijuana. California joins Nevada, Oregon, Colorado and six other states, including Washington, D.C.

Alabama wins the 2018 National Championship, marking the team's 17th national title. Alabama is scoreless against the Georgia Bulldogs until winning 26-23.

Thousands are sent into a panic after the **Hawaii Emergency Management Agency accidentally sends a ballistic missile alert** on Jan. 13, later found to be a false alarm. The employee who sent the alert, after thinking the drill was real, was fired.

February

World-renowned evangelist Billy Graham, 99, passes away on Feb. 21, 2018. Graham filled many stadiums and arenas, preaching the good news about Jesus Christ and leading millions to the Lord.

On Feb. 5, 2018, the **Philadelphia Eagles earn the team's first Super Bowl victory**, after beating the New England Patriots, 41-33.

A high school shooting leads to 17 deaths in Parkland, FL. Nikolas Cruz, 19, was apprehended and identified as a suspect in what is called the deadliest high school shooting in United States History.

March

Physicist Stephen Hawking dies at the age of 76 on March 14, 2018, after a long battle with ALS for more than 50 years. Hawking is known for his work in studying black holes.

The Florida House of Representatives approves a gun and school safety bill, creating a program to arm teachers and make School Resource Officers a mandatory position in schools in Florida, as well as raising the age to buy firearms from 18 to 21. The bill passed 67-50.

April

Former First Lady Barbara Bush, 92, passes away at her home on April 17, 2018. Bush was the wife of President George H.W. Bush and the mother of President George W. Bush and Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

Pretty Woman actor Richard Gere ties the knot in April with Alejandra Silva. The ceremony is private, as well as their relationship throughout the years.

Actor Bill Cosby is found guilty in a retrial of three counts in regards to an aggravated sexual assault, which allegedly occurred in 2004.

May

North Korea releases three American detainees before the anticipated summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

It was a **royal wedding for actress Meghan Markle**, who becomes the Duchess of Sussex after tying the knot with Prince Harry on May 19, 2018. The wedding receives a numerous amount of views on television and many celebrities attend the wedding.

Santa Fe High School, in Texas, is the place of a school shooting, which claims the lives of eight students and two teachers on May 18, 2018. Thirteen others are injured.

June

The Big Bang Theory actress Kaley Cuoco marries Karl Cook, an equestrian, on June 20. The engagement began in December of 2017.

On June 24, 2018, **Saudi Arabia lifts a ban that restricted woman from driving.**

Japan lowers the age of adulthood on June 14, 2018, allowing the civil code to state that 18-year-olds will be allowed to marry without their parents' consent.

July

California's Yolo and Napa counties see the state's largest wildfire, which is sparked by a poorly-installed electric livestock fence. The fire scorches 90,288 acres and destroys 20 structures before being contained.

On July 19, a **duck boat sinks on Table Rock Lake, near Branson, MO.** The boat sank with 31 people on board, leaving 17 dead. High winds from a nearby storm are blamed for the tragedy.

Actor David Hasselhoff unites with Hayley Roberts in Holy Matrimony on July 31, in Italy.

August

Apple becomes the first American publicly-listed company to reach \$1 trillion in value. The increased valuation is partly due to the company's increased software and services revenue.

Arizona Senator John McCain dies after a lengthy battle with brain cancer. McCain was the Republican nominee for president in his unsuccessful bid against Barack Obama in the 2008 election.

September

Singer Aretha Franklin's funeral is held in Detroit, attended by Stevie Wonder, Ariana Grande and Bill Clinton. The service includes a procession of 140 pink Cadillacs.

Amazon becomes the second US company worth a trillion dollars. Amazon joins Apple on the prestigious list of top-grossing companies.

Comedian Bill Cosby is sentenced to 3-10 years in jail for the 2004 sexual assault of Andrea Constand. More than 50 women have accused Cosby of similar sexual misconduct.

October

A report released in October, reveals that **more than 80,000 Americans died of the flu** during 2017-2018 winter. This was the highest death rate in ten years, according to US health officials.

The first exomoon, a moon which is outside the solar system, is discovered. The moon is 8,000 lightyears away and is the size of Neptune. It is discovered by astronomers at Columbia University.

259 people have died taking selfies since 2011, according to a study published in October in *The Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care.*

US unemployment figures hit the lowest level since 1969. The Department of Labor reports the rate of unemployment has dropped to 3.7 percent.

President Trump's ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, says she is resigning at the end of the year. President Trump later nominates United States Department of State Spokesperson Heather Nauert to fill the position.

November

In US Midterm elections, **Democrats retake control of the House of Representatives** after eight years. The Senate Republican majority grows slightly after the election.

CNN correspondent Jim Acosta has his White House clearance revoked after continuing to question President Trump during a news conference.

The Camp Fire, the deadliest fire in California history, starts at Plumas National Forest and spreads in Butte County, destroying the town of Paradise. More than 13,000 buildings are destroyed and 88 people are killed.

An elevator falls 84 floors at the John Hancock Center, in Chicago. All six people survive and are unharmed.

Actress Sondra Locke passes away at the age of 74 due to breast and bone cancer. Locke starred in numerous films along with her former husband, Clint Eastwood.

Spider-Man creator Stan Lee also passes away in November, at the age of 95. Lee helped Marvel Comics to become a multi-billion-dollar movie empire.

December

Comedian Kevin Hart steps down as host of the 2019 Oscars after old homophobic comments resurface. Hart had already apologized for the comments and refused to do so again.

The US observes a national day of mourning for former US President George H.W. Bush as he lies in state at the Capitol Rotunda, in Washington.

A strong winter storm hits the US southeast, killing three and leaving hundreds of thousands without power. Over 1,000 flights are canceled due to the storm.

A report by Reuters states that US pharmaceutical company, **Johnson & Johnson, knew for decades their talc was contaminated with asbestos.** The company faces over a dozen lawsuits over their product in 2019.

Actress Penny Marshall passes away at the age of 75. *The Laverne and Shirley* co-star dies from complications from diabetes.

Top health stories in 2018

And here are the top health headlines in 2018, as compiled from the Berkeley University's Wellness Report and *Healthline.com*, with the stories ranging from the good – approval of the first cannabis-derived drug to treat debilitating seizures in children, to the bad, including declining U.S. life expectancy and rising STD rates and the opioid epidemic.

This from Berkeley University: Menu labeling regulations developed under the Obama administration as part of the Affordable Care Act go into effect nationally in May. The regulations require that calories be posted on menus, menu boards, or other signage.

A trans fat ban also goes into effect in June. It requires that manufacturers and restaurants stop using partially hydrogenated oils, the source of dangerous artificial trans fats in their products.

Cannabidiol (CBD), which is derived from marijuana or hemp but unlike its psychoactive cousin tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), doesn't get users high, explodes in popularity, with many claiming to use it for health reasons.

New cervical cancer screening: New screenings guidelines issued by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) in August says that women can safely opt to skip the Pap test and instead get an HPV test, which detects "high-risk" types of the human papillomavirus that cause most cases of cervical cancer.

STDs continue to rise, even in babies: Nearly 2.3 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were diagnosed in the U.S. in 2017, according to data released by the CDC in September.

U.S. life expectancy in decline, driven by overdoses and suicides: In late fall, the CDC reports that its latest data show that U.S. life expectancy has declined over the

past few years, calling it a "troubling trend" that is largely driven by deaths from drug overdose and suicide.

And the following from healthline.com:

Women's health: Several diseases appear to be rising among women, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which contributed to first lady Barbara Bush's death in April.

Health experts report that **alcohol-related cirrhosis deaths** among women has also spiked in recent years, attributed to increased alcohol consumption among females. And researchers in June reported a new type of heart attack that primarily strikes women, caused by blocked arteries. Heart disease, in fact, is the number one killer of women in the United States.

Cancer in general and specific to women was another health concern in 2018. New developments in breast cancer research indicated that some treatments for breast cancer could create heart health issues for some women, such as abnormal heart rhythms, damage heart cells, or weaken the heart muscle.

In addition, another study released in June recommended that fewer women with the most common type of breast cancer be treated with chemotherapy. They recommended that women instead be treated with radiation, surgery, and hormone therapy.

Diabetes: As an indication of the extent of the disease, the CDC in September released information that more than 30 million people in the United States have diabetes. Yet, it's estimated that more than 7 million people aren't even aware they have the ailment.

Moreover, the longer a person goes undiagnosed, the more severe their symptoms and health problems. Having type 2 diabetes can raise the risk of developing cardiovascular disease. In fact, adults with diabetes are two

to four times more likely to die from cardiovascular disease.

HIV: Preventing and treating HIV was another top story in 2018. In January, Florida health officials announced a program to provide free HIV treatment for all residents by the end of the year.

The plan called for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to be available to individuals at no cost in all 67 county health departments in the state. PrEP is promoted as a revolutionary medicine that prevents the transmission of HIV. If taken correctly, PrEP reduces the risk of infection in individuals by 92 percent.

Flu: The flu season hit at the beginning of 2018 and didn't let up. In early January, CDC officials reported widespread flu illnesses already in 36 states. A few weeks later, health officials said the strength of the flu had already created regional shortages of antiviral medications.

Opioid epidemic: The opioid epidemic showed little signs of slowing down in 2018, with the CDC reporting in March the death of 42,249 people from opioid-related overdoses in the US, more than the 40,200 deaths attributed to car accidents. That led to a year worth's of debate over the effectiveness of prescription painkillers and whether opioids are over-prescribed.

E-cigarettes: e-cigarettes was another news item in 2018, with Juuling one of the hottest topics, especially among by teenagers, who latched onto the brand. These particular e-cigarettes are vaped from a device that looks much like a USB drive. Juul, however, carries double the nicotine of others brands.

Not only are the Juul devices easily concealed, but FDA officials warn that Juul and other e-cigarette brands marketed to young adults are beginning to reverse the decades-long trend of lower smoking rates among teens.

January 2018

Alex Leland Risley, of Jacksonville, is arrested here and charged with burglary and other offenses after he breaks into the combination Wendy/Sunoco fuel station at the I-10 and US 19 interchange.

Florida lawmakers contemplate a bill that would raise the legal age for buying tobacco products to 21. Other states with similar laws are Hawaii, California, New Jersey, Maine and Oregon.

Despite the best efforts of firefighters, a fire destroys a house on Old Lloyd Road, leaving the family homeless. Fortunately, no one was

county resident, is arrested and charged with multiple offenses stemming from the theft of his neighbor's possessions.

The Monticello City Council and Jefferson County Commission adopts separate resolutions supporting renaming the VA Clinic in Tallahassee after local hero Sgt. Ernest "Boots" Thomas.

Mike Joyner, a former county resident and longtime law-enforcement officer, has a statewide award named after him in recognition of his many years of undercover work.

The 2018 election gets off to an early start, with four candidates pre-qualifying for office as the New Year begins.

Willie Minton, an 82-year-old local man, is injured in an auto accident at the intersection of US 90 and Old Lloyd Road. Minton is charged with running a stop sign/failure to yield the right-of-way.

The budget, environment and healthcare are among the top 10 issues facing the Florida Legislature in the 2018 session, set to begin Jan. 9.

The trial of suspended Clerk of Court Kirk Reams begins. Reams is charged with petit theft for giving his former girlfriend a county-owned computer for her personal uses without authority.

Terrell Jackson, a 20-year-old Monticello resident, is sentenced to four years in prison for various crimes, including burglary, auto theft and dealing with stolen property.

The Monticello City Council instructs its attorney to draft an ordinance for consideration that would allow for the sale and consumption of alcohol outside restaurants and similar businesses.

Monticello Police Department officers respond to a call of gunshots in the southeast part of town and find two men injured, one whom subsequently dies at the hospital.

Lujean Johnson, a 69-year-old Monticello woman, dies in a single-car accident on US Highway 90 when she loses control of her car and it goes off the road and hits a concrete culvert and a tree.

A dog that became lost from its owner and involved in an icy accident on I-10 eventually reunites with the owner, thanks to word-of-mouth on Facebook and the Wolf Creek Pet Adoption Center.

A six-member jury finds Clerk of Court Kirk Reams not guilty of petit theft after 20 minutes of deliberation. Reams' job, however, remains in limbo, pending Florida Senate action.

In a press conference, Dr. Dan



Photo Submitted

Monticello Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Junior Leadership Class enjoy an airboat ride on the Wacissa River.

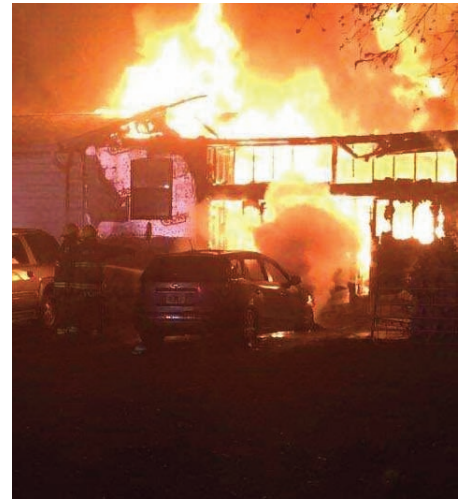


Photo Submitted

Firefighters worked tirelessly to extinguish this house fire in Lloyd, FL.

injured.

Local resident and FSU football player Jared Jackson is presented the Walk-On Athlete of the Year Award in recognition of his performance on the football field on behalf of the Seminoles.

Dewberry engineer Rob Davis informs local officials that the state expects the county to maintain the landscaping at the I-10/US 90 interchange, which project the state funded.

Circuit Court Judge Gregory Parker, of the Third Judicial Circuit, is appointed to conduct the trial of suspended Jefferson County Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

A monster winter storm assails North Florida with a wintry mix of icy rain, sleet and actual flurries of snow, making for scenes not seen in Monticello since the last snow nearly 30 years earlier.

County officials consider using some of the \$14 million in BP money that the county is slated to receive to buy Malloy Landing for recreational purposes.

Mitchell Lamar Eure, a 25-year-old



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Debbie Snapp, January 24, 2018

Firefighters put out a fire at a dairy farm on Bassett Dairy Road.

Jernigan, head of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, reports that the flu season may be peaking.

The Monticello Police Department identifies the victim of a shooting incident as 42-year-old Antreval Green, of Monticello.

Ciara Yvette Lee, a 27-year-old Monticello woman, is sentenced to 24 months in prison for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

John Tyler Hughes, a 23-year-old Leon County man, is arrested for more than 20 grams of a controlled substance when he is stopped on a traffic violation.

Monticello gets a new mayor and vice mayor. The former is Councilman John Jones, and the latter is Councilman George Evans.



John Jones

The architect overseeing the restoration of the A-Building reports that the work is only about half done and has cost \$3,851,970 in grants and county funding so far.

Sheriff Mac McNeill is officially appointed as the 911 coordinator by the Jefferson County Commission.

City and county officials schedule a joint workshop to discuss economic development and how they might move forward together.

The Florida Department of

Transportation modifies the county's wildflower management plan to more accurately reflect the reality on the ground.

A national survey finds that Florida wouldn't fare that badly should the federal government experience a shutdown.

The Monticello Police Department releases the photo of a person of interest it is seeking in connection with a series of burglaries in the city.

Despite Clerk of Court Kirk Reams being exonerated of a petit theft crime by a jury, the state drags its feet on reinstating him.

An afternoon structure fire on Bassett Dairy Road results in the destruction of a building used for food storage and cattle food preparations.

The Supervisor of Elections office reports that six candidates have thus far stepped forward to seek the office of Sheriff, which was left vacant when Sheriff David Hobbs died in late November.

County officials sign off on a \$5.7 million bond issue, with the money earmarked for about 40 miles of road-improving projects.

An earthquake in the Gulf of Alaska near Kodiak Island affects water levels in wells in Madison and Ft. Lauderdale, part of a phenomenon known as hydro-geologic response.

The latest report from the Florida Department of Education shows that although graduation rates generally rose across the state in the 2016-17 school year, they dropped in Jefferson County.

Courtney Sherre Moody, a 23-year-old Monticello woman, is charged with grand theft for allegedly stealing between \$1,000 and \$2,000 from Winn Dixie, where she worked as a cashier.

The City of Monticello rehires Summit Professional Services to pursue another \$700,000 housing rehabilitation grant from the federal government.



Photo Submitted

Snow in Monticello

Established 1868

Monticello News

151 years

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180 West Washington St.
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Emerald G. Parsons
Publisher/Owner

Established 1926

Quality Meats and Sides
Since 1926

Johnston's
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93 years

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Established 1948

Farm Bureau Insurance

71 years

Serving Jefferson County

105 W. Anderson St.
Monticello, FL
850-997-2213
Lance Braswell & Abby Godwin

February 2018



Photo Submitted February 2, 2018 By Ansley Rogers

Senior Night at Aucilla Christian Academy for senior basketball players and their parents.

The Monticello Police Department reports the arrest of Herman Lamar Gifford of Valdosta, GA. Gifford is charged with multiple burglaries in the city during a spree in January.

The Florida Department of Health reports that the flu activity continues to increase sharply across the state and especially in the Panhandle.

Clerk of Court Tim Sanders, filling in for suspended Clerk Kirk Reams, addresses the issue of the state budget funding clerks' offices across the state, saying the model is broken and needs repairing.

The Senior Center's Board of Directors holds a meeting and announces that the facility is on the verge of closing because of a lack of funding.

Fires in the Piney Woods and Egret Marsh area claim an outdoor storage shed and many acres of land before the fire is brought under control.

Judson Russell Grosvenor, 18, of Ft. Lauderdale, is arrested for doing 122 mph on the interstate and the drugs officers found in his car.

Crews from Advanced Environmental Technologies drill well around the courthouse, part of a remediation effort to monitor and extract oil contamination in the groundwater around the area.

County officials expand the dirt roads on which all-terrain vehicles can operate, provided it's during daylight hours and the posted speed is 35 mph or below.

Former U.S. Representative Corrine Brown, 71, reports to prison for her five-year sentence after being found guilty of a fraud scheme involving a fraudulent scholarship charity.

A resolution in support of the Jefferson County School Board and home rule fails to get approved in no small part because School Board member Shirley Washington objects to the measure.

The Jefferson County Commission approves a resolution honoring local son and USMC Lance Corporal Clemon "Clyde" Alexander, killed in the 1983 barracks attack in Beirut, Lebanon.



Photo Submitted

At the Gadsden Cheer Competition, the Jefferson Somerset Cheerleading Team poses with their banners for first place in cheering and dance performance, as well as the banner for "Most Entertaining Dance Routine."

Two local men are arrested for armed robbery after assailing a victim outside the Jefferson Arms Apartments. The two are Tatani Chandell Dover, 18, and Lyndon Frederic "Fats" Dawson, 20.

Former ACA and FSU football player Jared Jackson prepares to participate in Seminoles' Pro Day, which scouts from most NFL teams will be attending with an eye toward recruiting players.

Anthony Paul Droskoski Ferrera, 21, of Jupiter, FL, is arrested here when he is stopped for speeding and the trooper finds drugs in the car. Droskoski was already on probation.

City officials decide to revisit the plan for the ecological park before proceeding with the new upgrades from a \$225,000 grant that the city received from the state.

About 100 motorcyclists, members of the statewide group ABATE, gather in Jefferson County during the weekend, preparatory to their ride to the capitol to promote motorcycle safety to lawmakers.

The City of Monticello approves a small fee reduction on customers' April water bill to compensate them for leaving faucets to drip during January's freezing temperatures.

City officials ready to approve two rezoning requests that will have the effect of expanding the business district, if minimally.

The Aucilla Christian Academy Lady Warriors beat Tallavana Christian 50-32 to become the district champions for the second year in a row.

Judge Bobby Plaines pre-qualifies to run for judge, bringing total number of candidates to pre-qualify early to ten.

Steven Webster, a city resident, decries the alleged crime wave in the city and policing practices. He offers recommendations for improving the situation.

Timothy Allen Grubb, a 35-year-old county man,

sentenced to three years in prison after pleading no contest to various charges, including violation of probation, felony battery, and assault.

The 160-acre old-growth cypress swamp near the Aucilla River is saved, thanks to the Aucilla/Wacissa River Group, Tall Timbers, Suwannee River Water Management District and Jefferson County resident Thomas Weller.

Alphonso Reed Jr., 40, of Monticello, is sentenced to four years in prison after pleading no contest to burglary of a dwelling with firearm, grand theft firearm, and several other charges.

County Commissioners begin determining which dirt roads they will select for paving with the \$5.7 million bond issue that the county recently secured.

Circuit Court Judge Dawn Caloca-Johnson declines to lower the bond of 21-year-old Tyrell Lewis Kelly, charged with trafficking and other drug-related charges.

With the price of gasoline inching upwards, some analysts wonder if the price of regular will again reach the near \$5-a-gallon high prices of the mid 2000s.

The Economic Development Council prepares to disband after the city and county decide to go their independent ways on economic development activities.

The first temporary bridge is completed on Old Lloyd Road in preparation for the replacement of two bridges, but motorists still are looking at near another year of having to take a 10-mile detour.

City officials take steps to ensure that they are better informed and have a say in setting recovery effort priorities following storm-caused outages.

The outdoor seating ordinance continues to prove

problematic for city officials, given that businesses do not comply with its requirements for a permit and liability insurance.

The Aucilla Christian Academy Lady Warriors proceed to the final four for a shot at the state championship after beating the Lady Lions from Tallavana Christian.

Len Dodson, a former board member of the Senior Center, returns to the organization and comes up with a plan to try and save the facility from its dire financial straits.

Estella Denise Roberts, a 47-year-old Tallahassee woman, is arrested for intoxication and assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill. Her bond is set at \$10,000.

Ashley Hunter joins the *Monticello News* as a staff writer. She formerly worked in Madison County as a news reporter for *Greene Publishing*.

The county puts up for sale as surplus property the building that formerly housed the Jefferson County Extension Office. The building has sat vacant for about five years.

Paul Henry, a retired Florida Highway Patrol Trooper, pre-qualifies for the District 2 County Commission seat, running as a Libertarian.

Citizens and city officials discuss ways to improve policing tactics at a workshop that arises out of a recent rash of burglaries, break-ins and armed robberies in town.

The Jefferson County R. J. Bailar Public Library and University of Florida renew a contract that ensures the continuation of a literacy program known as the Jefferson County Literacy Alliance.

City officials discuss eliminating the parallel parking on the south side of East Dogwood Street and other planned changes to the street.

The Monticello Kiwanis Club steps up to the plate and rescues the US 19 landscaping project when they volunteer to take up the maintenance of the trees and plants at the I-10/US 19 interchange.

Courtney Nicolou, youth services librarian at the R.J. Bailar Public Library, gets certified to handle lunar rocks, in preparation for the library getting some of the rocks for display in the summer.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Debbie Snapp, January 26, 2018
School Board member Shirley Washington reads to Nikki Carr's Kindergarten students during Children's Literacy Week.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Debbie Snapp, January 26, 2018;
Dwanda Skipworth reads to Mary Carr's Kindergarten students during Children's Literacy Week.



ECB Publishing Inc. Photo By Laz Aleman, Feb. 5, 2018
Courtney Nicolou, youth services librarian at the R.J. Bailar Public Library, holds up her NASA issued certificate qualifying her to handle lunar rocks.

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T. Buckingham Bird & Jill Gunnels Denton

56 years

Serving Jefferson County

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T. Buckingham Bird & Jill Gunnels Denton

March 2018

Citizens and city officials have a go at trying to come up with ideas for how to improve local law enforcement efforts and establish better communications between the police and citizenry.

The Jefferson County Commission and Florida Institute of Education at the University of Florida renew their agreement allowing the latter to continue providing specified literacy services to the library.

The Monticello Kiwanis Club volunteers to undertake the maintenance of the landscaping at the I-10 and U.S. 19 interchange, effectively rescuing the beautification project.

Courtney Nicolou, youth services librarian at the R. J. Bailor Public Library and NASA certified lunar rocks handler, reports that lunar rocks will be coming to the library in the summer.

The Florida Senate narrowly passes a bill that if the House approves, would arm school staff within Florida school districts, but only at the discretion of the local sheriffs' offices.

County Commissioners continue trying to decide what dirt roads will be paved in their respective districts with the \$5.7 million bond loan that the county recently secured.

Barely out of the catastrophically bad flu season, residents of the Southeastern United States must now cope with the pollen storm flurrying over the region.

The Jefferson Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation announces the date and place of its Hunting Heritage Banquet, to which local hunters and wildlife enthusiasts are invited.

In response to the Parkland school shooting that left 17 people dead, the Florida Senate passes a bill that mandates public school to display prominently the state motto, "In God We Trust."

An eastern grey squirrel causes a commotion when it bites a county resident who had been feeding it peanuts and the latter calls 911 and reports a squirrel attack, causing authorities to respond.

A drug sweep of Jefferson Somerset by multiple law enforcement units and coordinated by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in cooperation with



Photo Courtesy of Betsy Barfield
Over 400 cyclers turned out for the Dirty Pecan on Saturday, March 3.

faculty finds zero illegal substances.

A two-vehicle collision on U.S. 90 and Salt Road in Jefferson County on a Wednesday evening results in seven individuals being injured, two of them severely.

Tax Collector Lois Howell-Hunter presents a check for \$527,410 to the Jefferson County Commission from fees generated by her office.

Daylight savings time kicks in on March 11, causing the typical confusions as people change clocks and adapt to the new hours.

Deputies arrest three individuals allegedly responsible for a rash of burglaries in the northern part of the county. The three are identified as David Whyte, Brandon Whyte and Andre Riggins.

Taylor Schaub, a 19-year-old Alabama resident, is arrested here on multiple drug-related charges after being stopped for a routine traffic violation.

Before the ink dries on a comprehensive bill that Gov. Rick Scott signed on gun control measures, the National Rifle Association files a suit to halt the law's implementation.

County officials approve a list of five roads to be submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation for possible state funding to improve the roads.

Duke Energy representatives meet with Monticello City Council members to address the city officials' concerns and criticisms of outages and the electric company's response during Hurricane Irma.

The Florida House and Senate pass a bill that will keep the state on Daylight

Savings Time permanently, rather than "falling back" into winter time on the second change on Nov. 4.

Multiple law-enforcement agencies stage a training at Aucilla Christian Academy and Jefferson Somerset in preparation for an active shooter incident.

Brenda Estime, 21, of Miami, and her two-month-old infant are injured when her car runs off I-10 and crashes into trees. Officers attribute sleep or fatigue to Estime running off the road.

Three Jefferson County individuals are arrested for attempted murder and home invasion. The three are Angelica Colson, 19; De'Aundre Parker, 19; and a juvenile who is not identified. A fourth suspect, Keldrick Green, 21, is being sought.

County officials ask School Board members for help with the restoration of the historic A-Building. The School Board's response is, at best, lukewarm.

Students at Jefferson Somerset prepare anti-tobacco activities to celebrate Kick Butts Days on March 21.

Sheriff Mac McNeill, appointed by the Governor to fill the late Sheriff David Hobbs' office on an interim basis, announces he will seek the office in the coming election.

Former Clerk of Court Kirk Reams, removed from office by the Governor for alleged malfeasance and misfeasance, sues the Governor and Senate President to get back his job.

Monticello native and Godby High School Senior Treon Patrick signs with

Alcorn University in Mississippi to pursue a career in football.

The Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church congregation sponsors a free clothing giveaway right before the Easter holiday.

County officials indicate they will resume the sale of tax certificates on properties that haven't paid their property taxes during the last two years.

Alabama native Mary Aline Hudson celebrates her 100th birthday here with six generations of family and close friends, some of whom travel from as far away as Michigan and Tennessee.

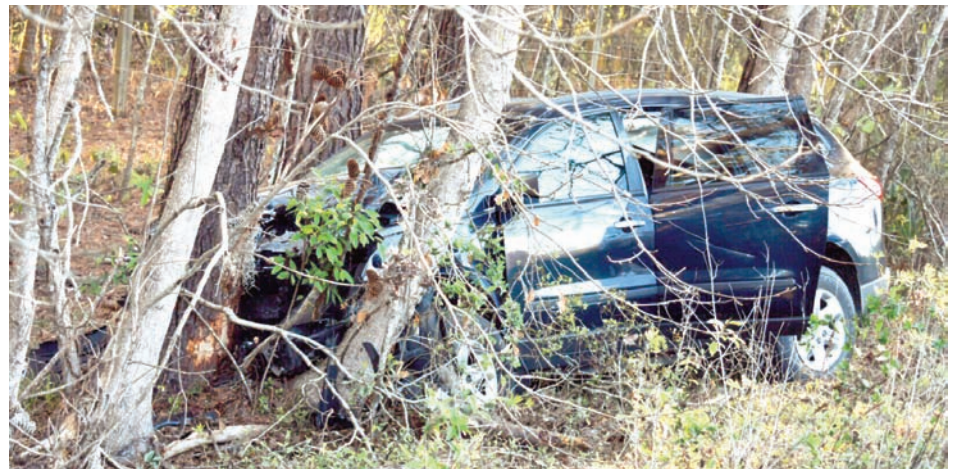
In the interest of keeping the community informed of criminal activity, Monticello Police reports the burglary of two vehicles in the east side of town during the weekend.

Gov. Rick Scott signs a Daylight Savings Bill intended to keep Florida permanently on daylight savings time. Congress, however, has the final say on the action.

The Jefferson County Historic Society proposes to move a small historic building onto its home property at the Wirick-Simpson House on N. Jefferson Street.

Dry and windy weather conditions contribute to a grass brush fire along the Drifton-Aucilla Highway in Northern Jefferson County.

County native Susie Mae Morris, who was born in March 1918, celebrates her 100th birthday with her six sons, four daughters and their many offsprings at a large family reunion.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, March 9, 2018
After experiencing fatigue behind the wheel, Brenda Estime, of Miami, nearly collided with another vehicle on Interstate 10 before overcorrecting and steering into the tree line.

April 2018

In honor of the late Sheriff David Hobbs, a big supporter of the Senior Center, three fundraising events are announced for the center, which is reported to be in financial straits.

John Stroup, a 64-year-old Tallahassee man, is seriously injured when his vehicle collides with the rear of a stopped truck on Gamble Road in Jefferson County.

The latest unemployment report from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity puts the state's jobless rate at 3.9 percent, unchanged from the previous month.

The Monticello City Council contemplates an ordinance that would hold property owners accountable for the maintenance and preservation of their historic structures.

A report from the Governors Highway Safety Association shows an alarming increase in the number of pedestrian deaths nationally, with Florida among the top five states for such deaths.

Sgt. Jack Pitts, a Monticello police officer, complains to officials about city employees not getting overtime pay



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo by Laz Aleman, April 3, 2018

A work crew begins the reparation of the exterior of the historic building on the corner of Dogwood and North Jefferson streets.

during a recent payroll because of a clerk's absence in the City Clerk's office.

A Monticello resident reports a scam wherein the caller promises a credit card in exchange for information and identifies the *Monticello News* as the source of the call.

Two Somerset Tigers sign scholarships to play at colleges. The two are Jayshawn Francis and Alondre Smith, signing with Edward Waters College and Webber International University,

respectively.

Jacob Robert Levine, a 33-year-old Tallahassee man, is seriously injured when his car collides with a semi on I-10. Levine was driving westbound on the eastbound lanes. Alcohol was involved.

Althai Lee Streeter, 30, of Tallahassee, is arrested on several charges, including unarmed burglary of a vehicle, false imprisonment of a 13-year-old and possession of firearm by a convict.

The Monticello City Council approves an

ordinance allowing restaurant with the proper licenses to serve alcoholic beverage to their outside customers, so long as food is also served.

William Kendrick Huggins, 25, of Monticello, is arrested for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and improper exhibition of a firearm.

Emmanuel Lee Edwards, 57, of Wacissa, is arrested on out-of-county warrants for possession of cocaine, possession of narcotic equipment, and

various other charges.

Charles Barrington, 45, of Monticello, is sentenced to 12 years in prison after pleading no contest to several charges including three counts of burglary and violation of probation.

Joseph Wagner Livingston, 28, of Monticello, is arrested on a felony charge of battery/domestic violence. Livingston was on probation at the time of his arrest.

Jimmy Riffle, of "Gator Boys" fame, an Animal Planet television show, tells the Jefferson County Commission he wants to start a wildlife rescue facility here.

City officials resurrect for reconsideration a proposed ordinance that would grant tax exemptions to historic buildings as an incentive to promote preservation of such properties.

Exterior repairs begin on a historic landmark building on the corner of Dogwood and North Jefferson streets. The building once housed a popular local eatery.

Sharica Haward, a fourth-grade teacher at Jefferson Somerset, is recognized by the Florida Department of Education as a High Impact Teacher whose efforts impact positively on her students.

The Jefferson County School Board says 'no' to arming school staff in the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland that left 17 students dead.

The Beau Turner Youth Conservation Center holds its 2018 Outdoor Experience, a free family event that features archery, fishing and shooting activities.

The Monticello-Jefferson County Chamber

of Commerce announces the Watermelon Festival Pageants will be held on June 2 in the old high school auditorium.

Ricky Murray Jr., a running back for the Tigers football team at Jefferson Somerset, signs with FAMU to play collegiate football for the Rattlers as a preferred walk-on.

Eric Scott Mathews, a 34-year-old Oklahoma man, is arrested for various drug and weapons-related charges after being stopped for a traffic violation on I-10.

The Monticello City Council hires Riley Palmer Construction Company to do the window restoration project on the historic City Hall building.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office presents a check for \$15,000 to the Senior Center. The funds were raised by the first Boots and Barrels and Sheriff David Hobbs Memorial Barrel Race.

The ACA Lady Warriors defeat the FAMU Lady Rattlers, making them district champs and earning them their 5th consecutive try at the state championship, which they've won twice previously.

Edward Carraway, past president of the Monticello Rotary Club, visits Guatemala to check on the 1982 fire engine that the club donated to the town of Patulul, where the engine is providing service.

The Monticello City Council gives the engineers the green light to proceed with the installation of a pavilion and restroom at the ecological park on Water Street.

Jorge Martinez and Tasfeyl Alan Nassar, both of Miami, are arrested here on drug-related charges after a routine traffic stop.

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May 2018

A two-vehicle accident on US 27 in Jefferson County results in the death of 82-year-old Gunn Phillips, of Dade City, FL; 32-year-old Christina Graddy, of Crawfordville, FL and an eight-year-old child.

Members of the Jefferson County Commission take a tour of the A-Building with architect Bill Douglas to determine what needs to be done to complete the 20-year restoration project.

The Monticello-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce announce the date for the Miss and Teen Miss



Jared Jackson, a former Aucilla Christian Academy (ACA) standout football player and a walk-on for the Florida State University (FSU) Seminoles.

Watermelon pageants as June 2.

Former Aucilla Christian Academy standout football player Jared Jackson gets a shot at playing with the Los Angeles Rams, a National Football League team.

Members of the Monticello Kiwanis Club do voluntary maintenance work on the trees and shrubs at the I-10 and US 19 interchange, saving the county thousands in maintenance costs.

Residents in the Freeman, Boland Cemetery and Cook roads area receive a scare when a false rumor of an escaped convict circulates in the community via Facebook.

City officials warn that if Amendment 1 passes it will cause significant revenue losses to local governments, resulting in service cutbacks. The amendment provides for an extra \$25,000 exemption.

The newspaper features six JROTC graduates. They are Quashawn Hernandez, joining the U.S. Army; Mark Vinson, joining the U.S. Army; Elliot Robinson, joining the U.S. Army; Jadica Arnold, joining the U.S. Army; Christian Steen, joining the U.S. Marines; and Kaniya Alexander, joining the U.S. Air Force.

Jennifer Simmons, 44, of Monticello, is involved in an auto/pedestrian fatality. Killed on U.S. 27 is 47-year-old Charles Leonard, of Tallahassee.

The Jefferson County Commission hires the Jacksonville-based Langston Consulting firm to help the county get \$14 million in Restore Act monies from the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf.

The American Legion Post 49 begins collecting funds for the annual Fourth of July fireworks display at Tiger Stadium.

Larry Beger, a citizen in the Lloyd area, presses county officials to use some of the money that the county is getting from the BP oil spill to help the Senior Citizens Center and other organizations.

Grace Marie Melvin, 19, of Miami-Dade, is arrested here when a traffic stop leads to a search of her vehicle and officers discover illegal drugs, controlled substances and paraphernalia in the car.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office gets nearly \$70,000 in upgrades to its communications system.

Laxavier Rayshell McLemore, 21, of Ocala, is sentenced to three years of probation, 90 days in the county jail and 200 hours of community service for bringing contraband into the state prison.

The county sells the former Extension Service Office building to Delta Land Surveyors, Inc., for its bid of \$70,500.

Grace Marie Melvin, 19, of Miami-Dade is arrested on felony drug charges when she's stopped for a routine traffic stop on the interstate.

The Aucilla Christian Academy Lady Warriors softball team heads for state after beating the Jacksonville Eagles View, making the fifth consecutive year they will participate in state playoffs.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office gets an upgraded communications systems at a cost of nearly \$70,000, money that will come from a special account funded by traffic citations.

Laxavier Rayshell McLemore, 21, of Ocala, FL, is sentenced to 90 days in the county jail and 200 hours of community service for sneaking contraband into a state detention facility.

The Jefferson County Commission sells the long-vacant government building on Mulberry Street that long served as the home of the Jefferson County Extension Office.

Two more candidates pre-qualify for local elective offices. The latest two additions are incumbent City Councilman George Evans and School Board incumbent Charles Boland.

Frederick Bernard Mitchell, a 30-year-old Monticello man in jail for nearly two years on a charge of attempted first-degree murder, is denied bond again after a court hearing.

Amendment 2, one of 13 amendments that will appear on the Nov. 6 general elections ballot, seeks to make permanent the 10-percent cap on non-homestead parcels.

Tom "Bull" Hill, a man on a walking mission to help the families of firefighters killed by cancer, passes through Monticello on his walk from Key West to the capitol to lobby for his cause.

City officials say that if Amendment 1 passes, giving property owners another tax exemption, the city will lose \$18,000 annually, on top of the \$150,000 it is already losing from other exemptions.

A two-vehicle accident on N. Jefferson Street in Monticello results in serious injuries to Lillie Mae Horton, a Georgia woman. Allison Parker, a local woman, is cited for careless driving.

C.P. Miller, of CUP, presents a petition to the Monticello City Council, asking for the renaming of four streets on

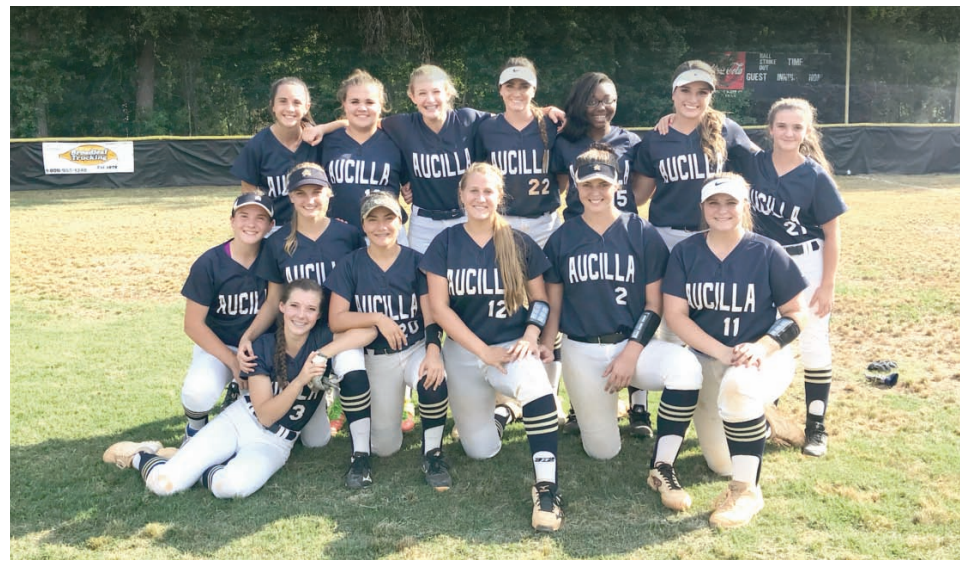


Photo Submitted

The Aucilla Christian Academy Lady Warriors softball team is headed to State. They beat out Eagles View, from Jacksonville, 15-0 to make it to the Final Four. They will play in the Class 2A State Semi-final game against Master's Academy, on Wednesday, May 16. This will make the fifth year in a row that the ACA girls are returning to the state playoffs.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo by Lazaro Aleman. April 13, 2018.

Members of the Monticello Kiwanis Club gather for a group photo near the I-10 and U.S. 19 interchange, where the group did volunteer maintenance work on the trees and shrubs that were planted at the site as part of a beautification landscaping project. The effort saved the county thousands in costs.

the southeast part of town.

The School Board takes up five hot topics during a meeting, including the role of the school vis-a-vis the charter school, discrepancies in charging fees and the transportation of students via buses.

Alejandro Sera, 50, of Monticello, is killed in an auto accident in Leon County when his vehicle collides head-on with a school bus carrying three children, who receive minor injuries.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office expands its fleet in a trade with the Marion County Sheriff's Office that overwhelmingly benefits the local department.

James Caleb Peteck, 22, of Land O Lakes, FL, is busted for drugs when he is stopped for speeding on I-10 and the officer detects the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle's interior.

The Lloyd-area community rallies to rescue a derelict former store by convincing the Jefferson County Commission to bid for the property at auction and turn it over to them for upgrade.

City officials take up an ordinance that aims to preserve historical buildings within the historic district by encouraging maintenance of such structures.

The National Hurricane Center warns that a tropical storm may hit Florida during the Memorial Day weekend, a week before the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season.

The Aucilla Christian Academy Lady Warriors are named Florida Class 2A Runners-up on their fifth consecutive year to participate in the state playoffs.

Donations are sought for the family of Robert Paulk, who died in a tragic fall while repairing a barn, leaving behind two young

children ages three and five and his wife, Jessica.

Contestants ready to compete in the Miss and Teen Miss Watermelon Pageants. The Miss contestants are Dalayna Nolan and Jenny Jackson. The Teen Miss Contestants are Kenzie Key and Lindsey Davis.

Two individuals are transported to the hospital for treatment after their vehicle hits a tree and splits in half. Injured are Courtney Singer, of Louisiana, and Alexandra Lee, of New Jersey.

Holly Christian Foley, 35, of Tallahassee, is arrested for DUI on I-10 after numerous other drivers complain that her vehicle was weaving all over the road.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection holds a hearing in Jefferson County on a plan to manage and improve the water quality of the Wacissa Springs Group Basin.

Florida declares a week-long sales tax holiday on certain items required for disaster preparedness that residents need to purchase for the hurricane season.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, May 10, 2018

Lillie Mae Horton, of Ochlocknee, GA., was the driver of the Toyota truck that was involved in the May 10 crash on N. Jefferson St. Horton's truck was flipped over to its side after offending driver Allison Parker turned into the truck's route of travel and the two vehicles collided. Horton was transported to a medical facility with incapacitating injuries.



ECB Publishing Inc Photo By Debbie Snapp, May 26, 2018

Betty Davis and Melanie Davis, with the Daughters of Confederate Veterans Camp 1614, place flowers on the graves of the two soldiers recognized this day.

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Monticello, FL 32344

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Tommy Surles

June 2018



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo by Cheltzie Holbrook, June 2, 2018
The 2018 Miss Watermelon Queen Dalayna Nolan (left) and the 2018 Teen Miss Watermelon Queen Kenzie Key (right) were crowned last Saturday afternoon during the annual Watermelon Pageant.

In the wake of the Parkland, FL., shooting that left 17 students dead and follow-up legislation mandating resources officers in schools, the district here determined it will require three officers.

Dayan Gomez Brito, 43, of Colorado, is arrested here on various violations including drugs after he is stopped for rapid multiple land changes. Brito also didn't have a valid driver's license.

Local residents and organizations celebrate Memorial Day with several programs and graveside visits in honor of Americans who served in the military services.

The Atlantic hurricane season officially begins, and NOAA's Climate Prediction Center updates its forecast, foretelling a likely above average season in terms of the number of storms.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office investigates a shooting that left one man dead and another injured. Killed was 23-year-old Brandon Young. The shooting occurred at a party at the MLK Center.

Elections Supervisor Marty Bishop confirms that cybersecurity was a major point of discussion at the recent Supervisors of Election conference in Ft. Lauderdale and will be in the coming elections.

The City of Monticello continues negotiating with an adjacent property owner to get a utility easement for sewer and water lines to service the restroom in the ecological park on Water Street.

Residents are warned of a scam involving an individuals who offers to do yard and other work, demands payment halfway through the job with a promise to return the next day, and never does.

The Florida Department of Transportation reduces the speed limit from 55 to 45 mph on two sections of US

19 between Texas Hill Road and Demott Road on the north side of town.

Dalayna Nolan and Kenzie Key are crowned Miss Watermelon Queen and Teen Miss Watermelon Queen, respectively, at the Watermelon Festival queen pageants.

Amendment 4, another of the 13 amendments voters will decide in the November general election, proposes to restore the voting rights of convicted felons after they serve their time.

The latest Uniform Crime Report from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement shows that crime in Jefferson County increased 20.4 percent in 2017,

compared with 2016.

Gregory Jerome Hawkins, 58, is arrested for violating a condition of his probation, which is that he cannot have contact with a minor, based on his original conviction of sexual battery and molestation.

The City of Monticello begins the process of applying for another \$700,000 CDBG grant in order to repair or replace 10 more substandard houses of low and moderate income residents.

Elections Supervisor Marty Bishop warns that the 2018 ballot will be challenging, given its 13 amendments, several of which offer multiple all-or-nothing choices not necessarily compatible.

Amendment 3, another of the 13 amendments voters will decide in November, would put the fate of casino gambling in the hands of citizens, not lawmakers.

C.P. Miller continues to press the Monticello City Council to rename four city streets after African-American community leaders, arguing names signify more than mere numbers.

Georgia's hands-free law, set to go into effect on July 1, prohibits drivers from using more than one button to answer or use a mobile phone.

The City of Monticello proposes logging a portion of the pines on an 80-acre property it owns in order to replenish the sewer reserve fund with the profits made from the timber sale.

Monticello city officials adopt an ordinance that mildly takes owners of historic structures to task if they fail to adequately maintain their buildings.

John Hunter Penrod, a 22-year-old Wacissa man, is sentenced to 10 years of probation plus other conditions for multiple charges including burglary, grand theft

firearm and drug possession.

Raymond T. Smith, of Wacissa, is arrested on various charges when deputies search his house on a warrant and discover different drugs and two firearms.

Three more candidates announce for local offices. They are School Board incumbents Sandra Saunders and Shirley Washington, and newcomer Sara Lynn LaDelfa-Kirsch for City Council.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office gets various weapons, ammunition and other equipment donated from a state law-enforcement agency that had listed the firearms and equipment as surplus.

Cleveland Collins, a former ACA student, and his brother, Woods Collins, 17, place in the Georgia Olympics skeet-shooting competition and move on to the Nationals.

The Jefferson County Watermelon Pageant Committee complains to the School Board about the filthy condition of the auditorium, for which the district charged the committee \$600 for its use.

Four vehicles wreck on the Waukeelah Highway, resulting in injuries to Javius Miller, 25, of Tallahassee, and his passenger, 30-year-old Niklos Ray, also of Tallahassee.

The Florida Agency for Health Care administration extends the deadline for when nursing homes must have emergency generators in place, with the two facilities here still noncompliant.

Cheryl Killiam, 57, of Monticello, is arrested and charged with felony domestic battery after spraying insect spray in a man's face.

Several members of the Aucilla Christian Academy Lady Warriors softball team are named to the Tallahassee Democrat All-Big Bend Softball Team, an annual publication.

Jake Pridgeon, 18, of Monticello, wins the State Championship for trap

shooting and places fourth in the light rifle division at the Florida High School Rodeo Association competition in Okeechobee.

Mary Harris, a Jefferson County resident and educator at Somerset School, is killed in an auto accident in Mississippi when the motorcycle that she was a passenger on crashes into a bridge.

David Andrews, 60, of Monticello, suffers no injury, despite his truck running off the road and striking a tree after being rear ended by a semi-truck.

Dustin Lee Amerson, of Monticello, is arrested on possession of marijuana and aggravated assault after allegedly threatening to blow up his girlfriend's car during a heated argument.

The qualification period ends for the November election, with five of the nine local races uncontested, meaning that the incumbents are automatically elected.

Amendment 5, which will appear on the November ballot for voters to decide, would require a two-thirds majority from lawmakers for new taxes and fees to be imposed.

Jefferson High School, now operating as Somerset Academy, Inc., is rated a B school, and the middle and elementary are rated C schools by the Florida Department of Education.

The American Legion announces that the traditional Fourth of July festivities and fireworks will be held again this year at Tigers Stadium in the old high school.

City officials prepare to consider a small-scale comprehensive plan amendment and rezoning request to change a property on Water Street from agricultural and educational to industrial.

Gerald Anderson, a Monticello resident, is arrested and charged with burglary and petit theft for a break-in at the Mays House, a local business on East Washington Street.



Photo Submitted
18-year-old Jake Pridgeon has been competing in rodeo events for three years, and this year he walked away as the State Champion in trap shooting and the State Reserve Champion in bareback riding.

July 2018



ECB Publishing Photo By Laz Aleman, June 21, 2018
The Jefferson County Commission recently honored Emily Knowles for her action of heroism in a dangerous condition. Knowles witnessed an auto accident in front of her on Waukeelah Highway and had the presence of mind to exit her vehicle and help the victims to safety. Pictured, from left to right, are: Commissioners Stephen Fulford, Eugene Hall, Betsy Barfield, Emily Knowles, J.T. Surlis and Stephen Walker.

(Inset) Derrick Burrus, left, with the Jefferson County Fire Rescue, recognizes Emily Knowles for her action in helping to rescue two people who were involved in an auto accident.

Authorities reveal that effective July 1, 105 new laws will go on the books, including ones that affect the state budget, education, the opioid epidemic and child marriage.

Somerset Academy and the Jefferson County School Board meet to work out some of their problems relative to academics, transportation and on-campus visits by School Board members.

Jefferson County commissioners honor two citizens. The first, Emily Knowles, helped rescue victims from an auto accident. The second, Jennifer Allen, is a longtime Red Cross volunteer.

A six-member jury finds Norman Mosher, 64, of Jacksonville, guilty of

sexual battery of a child and sexual molestation after a two-day trial.

Representatives of the Holistic Plan of Care, a local substance abuse treatment program, approach the Monticello City Council to ask for a \$10,000 contribution.

Phase 2 of the community effort to save the Jefferson Senior Citizens Center begins. Phase 2 entails taking steps to ensure for the longterm sustainability of the organization.

Twice in a week, vehicles crash into commercial buildings, one accident happening at the Joyner Travel Center in Lloyd, the second at the Raj Food Store in Monticello.

Cameron Maurice Toombs, of Vero Beach, FL, is arrested when officers stop him for speeding on the interstate and discover marijuana in his vehicle.

Amendment 6, which will appear on the ballot in the November general election, contains three components: it strengthens victims rights, increases the mandatory retirement age for judges from 70 to 75, and prohibits state courts from deferring to an administrative agency's

interpretation of a state statute or rule in lawsuits.

The Monticello City Council takes up a proposal to give itself a pay increase in the coming budget year. A workshop is scheduled to decide the issue.

Cedric Thomas, a Monticello man, is injured in an auto accident on US 19 when his vehicle strikes the rear of a trailer in front of him. Thomas is charged with following too closely.

The Jefferson R.J. Bailar Library announces that it will be receiving lunar rocks for exhibition in the coming week. The rocks were picked by astronauts during explorations of the moon.

The Jefferson County School Board gets into a lengthy brouhaha with the superintendent over the whereabouts of a number of chrome books that were mistakenly surplussed.

After a lengthy and contentious meeting, the Jefferson County School Board votes 3-2 to refund the Watermelon Pageant Committee \$300 of the \$600 the latter paid to rent the school auditorium.

The landscaping of phase 2 of US 19 takes a major step forward when the City of Monticello, Jefferson County and the

See JULY on page 7B

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July 2018

From JULY on page 6B

Florida Department of Transportation sign off on the project.

The Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Monticello go before the Monticello City Council to ask for funding for the continuation of their respective activities.

Congressman Al Lawson announces that his staff will hold office hours in Monticello in the coming week to hear

from constituents about any concerns they may have relative to federal agencies.

Area veterans, including six from Jefferson County, travel to Washington D.C. to tour the monuments in the nation's capital.

An attempted traffic stop on Waukeelah Highway turns into a high-speed chase that ends when the pursued vehicle crashes. The driver, Jonathan Day, is charged with multiple offenses, including fleeing and eluding and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon on law enforcement.

The Jefferson County Commission begins holding meeting to formulate the budget for the coming fiscal year.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection holds a public meeting in Monticello to talk about planned improvements for the Letchworth-Love Mounds Archaeological State Park.

Sheriff Mac McNeill announces that the department will be implementing its own K-9 unit to help interdict drugs

and do random sweeps.

Amendment 7, one of the proposed constitutional amendments on the November ballot, would provide benefits to spouses of first responders killed in the line of duty and also would waive educational fees to their children, among other things.

The Jefferson County Commission approves the contract with Langston Associates, the consultant hired to help the county get its BP settlement funding from the 2010 BP oil spill.

The elections office announces that the deadline for registering to vote is fast approaching, with the last day to do so being July 30.

Farmers and Merchants Bank announces it is being acquired by First Bancshares, Inc., the holding company for The First, a national banking association with operations in several states.

The Monticello City Council denies a zoning request that would have made legal a non-conforming use on the west side of town.

Jill Marie Marotta, a 44-year-old Davie woman, is arrested at the Jefferson Correctional Institution for introducing contraband into the prison.

Keir Amanda "Mandy" Johnson, 44, of Lamont, is arrested on various charges, including driving with a suspended license and possession of controlled substance.



Photo Submitted
Honor flight recipient George Pittman visits the Iwo Jima Memorial in Washington, D.C.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, July 18, 2018
Youth Librarian Courtney Nicolou (left) and Library Director Natalie Binder (right) hold the clear disks filled with lunar and meteorite samples.

August



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, August 7, 2018
Over 70 years after his death, Monticello local, Sgt. Ernest I. "Boots" Thomas was commemorated in Tallahassee through the renaming of the Tallahassee VA Health Care Center.

Monticello City Council members tentatively approve a budget that includes a \$6,000 pay increase for the council, raising each member's salary from \$5,000 to \$6,200 annually.

The ceremony to rename the Veterans Affairs Health Care Center in Tallahassee after Sg. Ernest I. "Boots" Thomas is set for Aug. 7 at the facility on Orange Avenue.

Monticello City Manager Steve Wingate receives the City Council's permission to pursue up to \$2 million in state funding to convert the sewage treatment plant into a solar-operated facility.

Two groups, True Wisdom New Hope Ministries and First Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Association vie for the purchase of the historical Howard Middle School from the school district.

Monticello Councilwoman Julie Conley writes a letter to the council stating her opposition to the council proposing a pay raise for itself, saying it's "unwarranted and unnecessary."

The state declares a Back-To-School Sales Tax Holiday on various commodities from Aug. 3-5 to save taxpayers money.

The Jefferson County Commission votes to contribute \$25,000 to the Jefferson County Senior Center to help it weather its financial woes.

County officials contemplate approving a Land Development Code amendment that would allow residential care facilities of six clients or less in all land use districts where residents are allowed.

Leon Vandell Campbell, 39, of Leon County is arrested on multiple drugs and related charges when his vehicle is stopped for speeding.

Amendment 8 is another of the proposed constitutional amendments on the November ballot. If approved, it would limit school boards' authority over charter schools and set term limits for school board members, among other things.

The Jefferson County Elections Office installs a security device to thwart cyber attacks during the coming elections.

The Jefferson County Commission approves a tentative budget and sets the millage rate 7.9500 mills, which translate into a tax break for property owners.

Dr. Wesley Scoles and A Doctor's Heart Inc. announce the 14th Hors D'oeuvres for the Brain and Soul, an annual fundraising event that helps finance medical missions to Brazil's Amazon.

The ceremony to rename the VA Health Care Center in Tallahassee after Sgt. Ernest I. "Boots" Thomas is well attended and includes several dignitaries.

Republican Sheriff's candidates Mac McNeill and Tully Sparkman spar at the forum sponsored by the Monticello-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce.

Isaac White is charged with aggravated manslaughter of a child in the death of his two-year-old son, who drowned while unsupervised.

Levinston Eugene Grier, 43, of Monticello, is sentenced to nine years in prison for violation of probation, stemming from a felony battery and attempted robbery.

Eugene Butler, one of two Democratic candidates in the Sheriff's race, is a no show at the candidates forum

sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, ceding the field to Bill Massey.

The Florida Department of Transportation announces lane restrictions on certain roads in the county due to bridge inspections.

Early voting for the 2018 primary elections begins on Monday, Aug. 13, with the Sheriff's the only local race on the ballot.

Aucilla Christian Academy 12th grader Megan Schofill continues distinguishing herself in golf and garnering honors, progressing to round 32 at the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship.

County officials continue exploring a solution to the situation in Lloyd Acres and the train's periodic blockages of the community's only ingress/egress road.

The Monticello City Council declines to make a contribution to the Jefferson County Senior Center based on a tight budget, then affirms its decision to give itself a \$6,200 pay increase.

Damien Kelly, the Florida Department of Education director of safe schools, visits Somerset to address concerns and improvements at the school.

A Sunday afternoon fire destroys a doublewide mobile home on Rabon Road, leaving the family homeless. Fortunately, no one is injured in the fire.

Norman Mosher, 64, of Jacksonville, is sentenced to life imprisonment. A jury convicted Mosher of sexual battery on a child following a two-day trial the previous month.

Tyrone Terrell Wallace, 21, of Monticello, is arrested for uploading child pornography to Facebook and/or Youtube, stemming from an investigation by the FDLE.

Attorney General Pam Bondi files a complaint against a Jefferson County summer camp and its owners for misrepresentation and fraud under the Florida Deceptive



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Debbie Snapp, July 31, 2018
Georgia Florida Motel offers an underwater view by Artist Brook Ramsey.

and Unfair Practices Act.

Roger Walker, of Boston, GA., is arrested and charged with burglary of an unoccupied structure and larceny petit theft stemming from the burglary of a local business.

The Florida Department of Highway Patrol transfers 40 tasers to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, which equipment the latter shares with the Monticello Police Department.

Amendment 9, another of the proposed constitutional amendments on the November general election, would prohibit oil and gas drilling in Florida territorial waters and place a ban on vaping in enclosed indoor workplaces, among other things.

A complaint filed with the Florida Department of Education accuses the Jefferson County School Board of unprofessional and unethical behavior.

Mounting costs due to the restoration of the historic old high school, commonly called the A-Building, has officials thinking that the building may be better called the "ka-ching" building.

Jennifer Romero, 41, of Jacksonville, is arrested for attempting to introduce contraband into the Jefferson Correctional Institution.

Republican candidate Mac McNeill and Democrat candidate Bill Massey emerge as the nominees for their respective parties as a result of the August primary.

Jefferson County officials decline to allow residential care facilities in land-use districts that allow residential homes, in effect challenging state law.

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425 S. Jefferson St. Monticello, FL 850-322-2860 Margaret Franklin, Founder

Established 1999

Register's Mini Storage

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315 Waukeelah Hwy. Monticello, FL 850-997-2535 Jackie Register

September 2018

The Jefferson County School Board considers a proposal that entails leasing the former elementary school buildings for a dollar a year to a church group.

Governor Rick Scott visits a local couple as part of a political campaign rally here and meets with a group of about 80 Republican or Republican-minded supporters.

After talking with CSX management, Sheriff Mac McNeill gets assurance that the company will take steps to minimize or eliminate trains blocking the only exit to the Lloyd Acres subdivision.

Warren Allen, a Monticello man, is arrested and charged with possession of synthetic cannabinoids and burglary of an unoccupied dwelling unarmed.

A Circuit Court judge rules in favor of the Florida League of Women Voters and removes Amendment 8 from the ballot. The amendment proposed putting term limits on school boards members, among other more controversial things.

Sarah Crandall and Jada Mosely are declared 4-H state champs after winning first places at the local, district and state levels with their presentation, titled "Stay Alive: Don't Drink and Drive."

Riley Smith, a freshman at Aucilla Christian Academy, qualifies to compete in the National Barrel Horse Association World Championship in Perry, GA.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, Sept. 26, 2018

At the Donuts for Dads event at Jefferson Somerset, many of the groups moved to a quiet corner after breakfast to look through books and read a story before the dads escorted the kids through the school to their class.

The Sheriff's Office plans an upgrade of its communications system that it is hoped will remedy a longstanding problem of poor radio communications in remote areas of the county.

The Jefferson County Commission tentatively approves a budget and millage rate that promises reduced taxes for property owners.

The Monticello Rotary Club and Wacissa Volunteer Fire Department ready another fire truck to donate to a fire department in Guatemala.

Efforts get underway to name two state roads in Jefferson County in memory of two local law-enforcement officers: Sheriff David Hobbs and Sheriff's Deputy Christopher Smith.

Weather reports show two category 4 hurricanes threatening the east coast, along with a third farther out in the Atlantic and disturbance in the Gulf that could turn into other tropical storms.

A minor water dispute between the City of Monticello and the Jefferson County School District is resolved amicably with the city reaffirming a credit of \$11,499 to the district.

Monticello and Jefferson County prepare to become affiliates of Keep America Beautiful, a designation that carries responsibilities as well as rewards.

ECB Publishing goes live, streaming the officials meetings of the city, county and school board in order to better serve and inform the community.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office acquires two new Tahoes through a \$91,000 grant from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the efforts of Sheriff Mac McNeill.

Bryan Allen Eubanks, 29, of

Monticello, is arrested for violation of probation, making terroristic threats, and failure to appear in court for petit theft.

The Florida Supreme Court strikes Amendment 8 from the ballot. Amendment 8 grouped several disparate measures in one proposal. Three other amendments are still in question.

Marlin F. McCrory, of Alabama, is arrested here after a manhunt that ensued when he fled the scene of a single-vehicle accident on I-10. McCrory had a stolen vehicle and counterfeit license.

Sabriel Gentle, a 30-year-old Monticello resident, is seriously injured when the vehicle in which he is a passenger gets in an accident on the interstate.

K9 Magnum, a not quite two-year-old German Shepherd, becomes the newest addition to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Trevor Boland is his handler.

The Hobbs/Bishop Family sponsor a Cancer Survivor's Dinner at the Monticello Opera House to celebrate those who survived the disease.

In response to a new Florida law that requires all school districts to display the state motto, "In God We Trust", the Jefferson County School District installs artwork to that effect at the school district office.

The Jefferson County Commission and associated vendors donate a combined \$6,500 for the purchase of new helmets for the Somerset Tigers football team.

Citizens' questions and comments heat up yet another Jefferson County School Board meeting, with the discussion touching on conflict-of-interest allegations,

public negativity and other like issues.

Sondral Nashay Macon, of Monticello, is charged with fraud/swindling after she misrepresents herself as collecting donations for a fundraiser to send local children to the Jacksonville zoo.

State officials reveal that Jefferson County residents who live in certain areas of the Wacissa River Basin will be subject to new state rules affecting their septic tanks beginning in 2019.

The Suwannee River Water Management District issues a report projecting that agriculture, already a big water consumer in the region, will grow significantly in the coming 20 years.

A ceremony is held at the Hilltop County Store to dedicate a section of US 90 between Leon and Jefferson counties slain Leon County Deputy Christopher Smith, formerly a deputy here.

Herman Lamar Gifford, a Georgia man, pleads no contest in court and is sentenced to five years in prison for a series of burglaries in the city.

The Monticello City Council approves a budget and millage rate for the coming year, in the process giving itself a pay raise.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, September 13, 2018

Back from training and ready to work, Dep. Trevor Boland and K9 Magnum are the newest development at the JCSO in providing community safety to the people of Jefferson County.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, Sept. 15, 2018

Za'Kya Ford (front) and Nevaeh Pulzone (back) are all smiles during the Sept. 15 Kickoff Party at the Jefferson County Public Library.

October 2018



Photo Submitted

This house was one of two structures damaged or destroyed by fallen trees when Hurricane Michael blew through the area last Wednesday.

Marcia Elder, a property owner, files a lawsuit against the county and a local business, as a consequence of a planning official's decision that the lawsuit alleges was violated county policy.

Based on the input of a citizen, the Jefferson County Commission decides to donate \$69,174 to the local health department, money that came from the sale of a county-owned building.

The Elections Supervisor's office reminds citizens that voter registration ends Oct. 9.

Jacob Diehl, of Monticello, is arrested and charged

with various offenses, including unarmed burglary, criminal mischief and petit theft after he attempts to break into his mother's house.

The four candidates for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office take part in a chamber-sponsored forum. The four are Mike Fillyaw, Mac McNeill, William Massey and Jerry Sutphin.

Aucilla Christian Academy holds the annual FCA Fields of Faith event, where students pray for, share with, and challenge their peers to read the Bible and follow Jesus Christ.

A report from the National Academy for Health State Policy posits that a proposed federal rule change will impact not only immigrants, the targeted recipients, but also states and certain businesses.

Jefferson County officials declare a state of emergency, following a similar declaration from the Governor, in recognition of Hurricane Michael's threat to the Florida Panhandle.

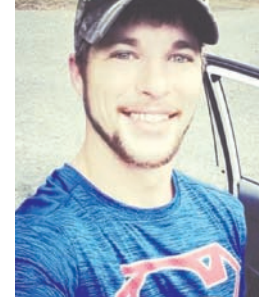
The four candidates for Jefferson County Sheriff's Office square off in a second forum. The four are Mac McNeill, William Massey, Mike Fillyaw and Jerry Sutphin.

The Monticello Police Department enters an agreement with the school district to provide part-time security at Somerset Academy's alternative school in town.

Once again, the Big Bend area and Jefferson County are spared a major disaster when Hurricane Michael takes aim instead at Mexico Beach, devastating that community.

Commissioner Betsy Barfield, who sits on the regional group that is distributing the BP oil spill monies, informs her colleagues that release of the county's portion of the funding is getting nearer.

True to her word, City Councilwoman Julie Conley declines to accept the \$1,200 annual salary increase that the council voted for itself.



Joshua Wayne Odom

Both the city and county go after state grants from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that will allow for the enhancement of local recreational activities.

Joshua Wayne Odom, 31, formerly of Monticello, drowns while attempting to swim at Anderson Springs in Suwannee County.

See OCTOBER on page 9B



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, October 2, 2018

The K9 unit at Jefferson Correctional Institute held an in-town training session with their bloodhounds on Tuesday, October 2. The JCI bloodhounds are human-scent trained to track and locate missing individuals or escaped felons.

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October 2018

From OCTOBER on page 8B

Although Jefferson County was largely left unscathed by Hurricane Michael, at least two houses suffer significant damage from fallen trees.

Nathan Jerome Williams, 34, of Monticello, is sentenced to 40 months in prison after pleading no contest to felony battery and resisting without violence, charges dating from nearly a year earlier.

Several organizations in the Big Bend and Panhandle set up sites where residents can donate funds and supplies for Hurricane Michael victims.

Candidates for elective offices in Districts 2 and 4 of the Jefferson County Commission participate in chamber-sponsored forums. The candidates are Gene Hall, Adam Fato and Derrick Jennings for District 2, and Betsy Barfield and Keith Cook for District 4.

The Monticello City Council deals with two land-use issues, one approving a storage facility on US 19, the second a land-use change for the old bus barn on Water Street.

Dr. James Sledge receives recognition from the Jefferson County Commission for his decades of faithful devotion to keeping alive the memory of his

boyhood friend and World War II hero, Sgt. Ernest I. "Boots" Thomas.

Main Street Monticello sponsors a fall festival, complete with a scarecrow competition to create fun and interest around the town.

Suspended Clerk of Court Kirk Reams scores a court victory when a federal judge rules that the Governor and Senate have a specified time to decide on Reams' reinstatement or the court will act.

The two candidates for the Monticello City Council race for Group 2 seat face off in the chamber-sponsored forum. The two are Gloria Cox and Sarah Lynn La Delfa-Kirsch.

After months of partisanship buildup, endless predications and relentless political advertisement, early voting for the general election finally gets underway.

The Monticello City Council approves a measure that allows City Clerk Emily Anderson to update the city's utility billing system, making the process quicker and more efficient and economical.

After months of relentless heat, the weather service forecasts cooler temperatures for Jefferson County and the surrounding area.

Christopher Jay Sykes, 32, of Jefferson County, gets eight years in prison after pleading no contest to sex-related charges involving a person 16 or 17 years of age.

After two years of tinkering with an ordinance that attempts to regulate the placement of seating and signage on downtown sidewalks to spur economic development, enforcement remains elusive.

The Monticello-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce sponsors the 4th annual BBQ Festival and competition, where groups vie to produce the best barbecued chicken, ribs, pork or briskets.

Local veterans prepare to observe the 7th annual Jefferson County veterans' celebration in honor of Armistice Day on Nov. 11, 1918, which saw the end of World War I.

The Jefferson County Water System sponsors Operation Medicine Cabinet, a one-day event when residents can dispose of unwanted medications and prescription drugs for free.

The Jefferson County Elections Office reports that early voting for the general election is outpacing the early voting in 2014.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Debbie Snapp, October 26, 2018
Winner of the 'Best Scarecrow' contest is awarded to Vintage Treasurers, during the Main Street Monticello Fall Festival.

November 2018

John Devane, 21, of Monticello, wins \$500,000 from a \$5 scratch-off lottery ticket, according to a Florida Lottery announcement.

A jury finds 27-year-old Marquice Serial Dobson guilty of the lesser offense of felony battery after a daylong trial. Dobson was originally charged with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention encourages US residents to get vaccinations to protect against the flu, which can prove fatal in some cases.

After much back and forth, finger pointing and a reproachful letter from the Florida Department of Transportation, local officials accept responsibility for maintenance of the interchange landscaping.

The surplus of 440-plus chrome books once again becomes a hot topic of debate on the Jefferson County School Board, with Superintendent Marianne Arbulu catching fire from the board.

Tallahassee Mayor and governor candidate Andrew Gillum campaigns in Monticello, holding a rally at the Monticello Opera House.

The Supervisor of Elections office reports that going into Tuesday's general election, 36.7 percent of the county's 9,771 registered voters have already cast early ballots.

Sheriff Mac McNeill floats a proposal to rename the Jefferson County Jail after the late Sheriff David Hobbs, who died a year earlier of cancer complications.

As a result of the 2018 general election, Mac McNeill is elected Sheriff; Gene Hall is reelected to the District 2 County Commission seat; Betsy Barfield is reelected to the District 4 County Commission seat; and Gloria Cox is elected to the Group 2 City Council seat.



Sheriff Mac McNeill

The American Legion Otto Walker Post 49 holds its annual Veterans' Day breakfast and parade.

Desiring a more comprehensive promotion and sale of its surplus properties, as well as a faster turnaround of payments upon sale, the county contracts with an online auction vendor.

Recognizing the potential liability of poor markings on certain of the county roads, commissioners vote to re-stripe Lake, West Lake, Waukeenah roads.

About a dozen observers crowd into the Supervisor of Elections office to monitor the state-mandated recount of three of the statewide midterm races.

A road-sign installation ceremony is held at the Jefferson County Agricultural Extension Service to honor the memory of Lance Corporal Clemon "Clyde" Alexander, killed in Beirut in 1983.

A federal judge issues a 13-page ruling granting suspended Clerk of Court Kirk Reams a summary judgement that represents a finding against Gov. Rick Scott and Senate President Joe Negron.

Jefferson Commissioners appeal to the Florida Department of Transportation to grant a permit that will allow a retail business to locate in the small community of Waukeenah.

A called-in bomb threat forces the closing of Somerset School for several hours while law-enforcement personnel search the school. The call turns out to be a hoax.

Elections Supervisor Marty Bishop reports the successful completion of the state-mandated recount and says no changes resulted locally in any of races.

Newly-elected Sheriff Mac McNeill is sworn in a ceremony in the upstairs courthouse that is attended by family, friends, supporters and personnel of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

The former school bus barn property on S. Water Street is rezoned from agricultural and educational to industrial after modifications put certain restrictions on the designation.

Jefferson Somerset students Keleicia Walker and Elexis Shular are arrested following an investigation into the bomb threats called to the school the previous week.

The Jefferson County Elections Office certifies the election results following the state-mandated recount, affirming the elections of Ron DeSantis to Governor and Rick Scott to Senator.

Fresh from her reelection victory, Commissioner Betsy Barfield is elected chair of the Jefferson County Commission.

Shannon Metty, the county's new planning official, takes a different approach from her predecessor when it comes to dealing with the Planning Commission.

County officials express optimism that a new business may be moving into the industrial park, one that currently employs 20 people, six of them Jefferson County residents.

The Jefferson County Commission seeks more than \$5 million in funding from the Legislature for the completion of the historic A-Building, which it identifies as its priority legislative request.

Three newly-reelected School Board members are sworn into office. The three are Sandra Saunders, Shirley Washington and Charles Boland.

District 3 School Board Member Shirley Washington is elected chairwoman during the board's reorganizational meeting.

Heather Pappas, a 37-year-old Jefferson County resident, is killed when a vehicle strikes her as she walks on Old Lloyd Road.

The Jefferson County Tax Collector's office reminds property owners that tax bills have gone out and they have only a few days left to take advantage of the maximum property tax discount.

For the first time here, a woman will coach the boys' basketball team at Jefferson Somerset and a man will coach the girls' basketball team. She is Q'Vaunda Curry; he is Rodell Thomas.

Planning Official Shannon Metty proposes that the Planning Commission begin reviewing and revising the Land Development Code, a process not officially required for another two years.

Marquice Serial Dobson, a 27-year-old Monticello man convicted of felony battery by a jury in the previous month, receives a five-year prison sentence.

A Florida Senate bill filed for the coming 2019 legislative session would make texting while driving a primary offense, instead of a secondary offense it currently is.

Firefighters are able to put out a cotton-picking machine that becomes overheated and catches on fire before it does greater harm. Even so, the

damage to the property is estimated at \$15,000.

County officials again contemplate the feasibility of establishing special tax districts to fund road improvement projects in private subdivisions.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, November 13, 2018

A little after 8 a.m., Jefferson Somerset received a called-in bomb threat from an unknown individual. Keleicia Walker and Elexis Shular were arrested on Nov. 13 in relation to the incident.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Ashley Hunter, November 12, 2018

Leading the Veterans Day Parade on Monday, November 12 was the Jefferson Somerset Color Guard, followed closely by veteran Troy Avera and other veterans holding the flags of different military branches.



ECB Publishing Inc. Photo By Laz Aleman, Monday, Nov. 12, 2018
A dozen or more observers crowded the elections office on Monday to monitor the process and ensure the accuracy and integrity of the recount.

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December 2018

Confusion ensues when the Tigers football team kneels during the national anthem, leading many to believe it's a protest. The coach, however, explains the players were caught unaware while praying.

New figures released by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for the first six months of 2018 show crime is down statewide, but up in Jefferson County, statistically speaking.

Clerk of Court Kirk Reams is reinstated after more than a year out of office. It happens when Gov. Rick Scott signs an executive order revoking and terminating the suspension.



Kirk Reams

Justin Brandon Stephens, 26, of Monticello, dies in a single-vehicle accident when his pickup truck runs off the road, strikes a tree and overturns, with the tree then falling on the truck.



Justin Brandon Stephens

The National Weather Service puts out an alert of possible flooding in Lamont and Nutall Rise after heavy rain falls throughout South Georgia and north Florida, causing the Aucilla River to rise.

Shaquandra Shontae Davis, 39, of Georgia, is airlifted to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital with serious injuries after her vehicle runs off the road, strikes several trees, and overturns several times.

City officials begin discussing the development of design guidelines for modular homes, which share similarities with mobile homes but are significantly different.

A national survey finds that Floridians on average are willing to walk 0.9 miles to get anywhere, which puts them on par with the majority of Americans.

A bill proposed in the Florida Senate for the coming 2019 legislative session would make driving with an unbuckled minor punishable as child abuse if the vehicle is involved in an accident.



Jefferson County Tropicana Speech Contest winner Laylonnie Johnson, first place - Fourth and Fifth Grade.



Jefferson County Tropicana Speech Contest winner Destiny Seaton, first place - Sixth Grade.



Photo Submitted

Up to 10 inches of rain fell throughout South Georgia and North Florida, raising water levels along the Alapaha, Aucilla and Withlacoochee rivers.



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo By Laz Aleman, Dec. 3, 2018

Senator Bill Montford, (left), and Representative Beshears enjoy satsumas before the start of the public hearing that they held here to gather constituents' input prior to the spring legislative session.

Sonral Nashay Macon, 24, is sentenced to 36 months of probation plus 100 hours of community service after she enters a plea of no contest to an organized scheme to defraud, a third degree offense.

County Tropicana Speech winners are named. They are Laylonnie Johnson, first place, fourth and fifth grade; Destiny Seton, first place, sixth grade; Maggie Walker, second place, fourth and fifth grade; Finley Boyd, second place, sixth grade; Leighton Faglie, third place, fourth and fifth grade; Reid Brookins, third place, sixth grade; Tessie Brookins, fourth place, fourth and fifth place; and Kyle Hamrick, fourth place, sixth grade.

State Senator Bill Montford and State Representative Halsey Beshears hold their annual delegation hearing to solicit input from citizens and elected officials for the coming legislative session.

Tensions flare a Jefferson County School Board meeting over the proposed transfer of the former elementary school

building to a church group.

The late Bill Kirkpatrick, past president of the Jefferson County Historical Association, leaves the organization a \$100,000 donation in his will.

Joshua Baxley, the engineer overseeing the project, informs county officials that the long-awaited landscaping of the section of US 19 within the southern part of the city is about to begin.

Zackery Raegan Clark, 18, of Monticello, is charged with grand theft after taking a dog valued at \$1,000. Clark claimed the theft was part of a joke.

At the request of the Monticello City Council, the Monticello Local Planning Agency begins formulating guidelines for buildings in R-zoning, which encompasses a large part of the city.

The Solid Waste Department proposes, and the Jefferson County Commission approves, a plan to limit the operating hours and types of trash that is

accepted at two garbage collection sites.

Guided by City Clerk Emily Anderson, the Monticello City Council approves two financial actions that aim to earn the city greater interest on several of its accounts.

Matthew Bowman, 40, of Monticello, is arrested and charged with grand theft after taking packages from the porch of a residential home, a growing trend nationally known as porch pirating.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity announces that Florida's minimum wage will rise 21 cents, to \$8.46 hourly, effective Jan. 1, 2019.

Because of the small number of employees in the Jefferson County School District currently, health insurance costs become unaffordable to certain of the district's employees and retirees.

Megan Schofill, a 17-year-old golfer at Aucilla Christian Academy, signs on to play golf at Auburn University following her high school graduation.

Monticello officials receive word from the Florida Department of Transportation that the resurfacing of US 90 through the city and to the Madison County line will be proceeding soon.

The Florida Athletic Coaches Association recognizes Leroy Smith, the Tigers head football coach, as Coach of the Year for 2018.

City Manager Steve Wingate informs the Monticello City Council that the city has been approved for the planning phase of a solar grant for the sewage treatment plant on Mamie Scott Drive.

The Monticello City Council is told that Duke Energy representatives will be coming before it in the coming months to propose the installation of crime-fighting lights around the town.

Healthcare professionals express concern over the increasing popularity of vaping among teenagers, given that vaping contains nicotine and other toxicants deemed harmful or potentially so.



ECB Publishing Photo By Laz Aleman, Dec. 12, 2018.

Collection sites, particularly the ones on New Monticello and Nash roads, were being overwhelmed with trash, prompting the Jefferson County Solid Waste Department (JCSWD) to change their hours of operation and the hiring of more staff to maintain these sites.



ECB Publishing Photo By Laz Aleman, Dec. 12, 2018.

Troy Avera, representing the late Bill Kirkpatrick's estate, presents an \$80,000 check to officers of the Jefferson County Historical Association. Pictured standing on the porch of the historic Wirick-Simmons House, from left to right, are: Claudette McRae, Jack Carswell, Beulah Bird and Troy Avera.

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