



# Six burned, one dead in tragic Christmas night fire

By Susan K. Lamb  
Riverbend News

A Christmas night gathering in the Old Sugar Mill Farm subdivision off State Road 51 in Live Oak ended in tragedy when six people were burned by a backyard campfire and one of those injured died.

Suwannee County Fire Rescue (SCFR) was called

on Friday, Dec. 25, around 8 p.m. and, upon arrival, found a campfire burning in the backyard with several persons around it who had sustained burn injuries requiring immediate medical attention.

"It was a family gathering with a campfire and a person did die," said Suwannee County Sheriff Sam St. John. "They had a family gathering behind the house," he said. St. John said a person at the home poured

some type of flammable liquid on the fire. "He didn't think there was anything in there to cause that type of flame. Six were injured, all six went to Gainesville," St. John said. "Three by life-flight, including the lady who died and three by ambulance," he stated. The sheriff's office's official report was not complete by press time.

SCFR Chief Eddie Hand said the state fire marshal's office is investigating *See "Fire" on page 3*

# Green ranks as a national kicker

By Lee Trawick  
Riverbend News

It started at Langford Stadium for Braxtyn Green long before he ever put on the green and white jersey for the Suwannee High School Bulldogs varsity football team.

His journey started as the ball boy for the Suwannee Bulldogs varsity football team, where he would goof around before and during halftime at the home games. It was there, he would kick field goals and punt with his friends, oblivious to the idea that

someone may be watching. But Mr. and Mrs. Green quickly took notice that he could really kick. Understanding the notion that all parents think their kids are great at everything, they kept their thoughts to themselves. After all, baseball seemed to be the sport he was excelling in.

Green spent the rest of his summer kicking with a serious agenda. "I realized when I was about 12-years-old, that I really liked kicking. I saw that I was pretty good at it too, so I started taking it more serious then," stated Green. With kicking not being a major priority in little league *See "Green" on page 3*



# Rep. Shoaf and Sen. Ausley to hold legislative meeting

By Rick Patrick  
Riverbend News

District Seven State Representative Jason Shoaf (R-Port St. Joe), announced that he will host a legislative meeting in Mayo on Thursday, Jan. 7. The meeting will take place in the County Commissioner meeting room, located on the second floor of the Lafayette County Courthouse, at 120 W Main St., in Mayo. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

This meeting is held each year prior to the legislative session, which is scheduled to convene in Tallahassee on Tuesday, March 2. The local meeting



Rep. Jason Shoaf



Sen. Lorraine Ausley

with the legislative delegation, which includes State Senator Lorraine Ausley (D-Tallahassee), gives local officials, citizens and others the opportunity to make their voices heard directly to their representatives. "Senator Ausley and I are honored to represent the residents of Lafayette County in the legislature," said Rep. Shoaf. "I look forward to convening locally, here in Lafayette County, and discussing state issues that are of interest to local officials and residents.

For more information regarding the meeting, please contact Rep. Shoaf's office at (850) 508-3207, or by email at [JessicaHolley@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:JessicaHolley@myfloridahouse.gov).

# HCSO conducts driver's license and vehicle inspection checkpoints

By Hamilton County Sheriff's Office  
Contributor

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office will be conducting driver's license and vehicle inspection checkpoints during the weeks of Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, until Wednesday, March 31, 2021, in Hamilton County.

Recognizing the danger presented to the public by defective vehicle equipment, deputies will concentrate their efforts on vehicles being operated with defects such as

bad brakes, worn tires and defective lighting equipment. In addition, attention will be directed to drivers who violate the driver's license laws of Florida.

The sheriff's office has found these checkpoints to be an effective means of enforcing the equipment and driver's license laws of Florida, while ensuring the protection of all motorists.

The checkpoints will be located at: US-41, CR-145, NW 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., CR-751, CR-25A, SR-6 W, SR-6 E, CR-141, CR-143, CR-51, CR-249 and SR-129.

# Harbor Freight Tools to open a store in Live Oak

By Susan K. Lamb  
Riverbend News

Harbor Freight Tools has announced it has signed a deal to open a new location in the City of Live Oak. That location will be in the Old Goody's retail store next to Save A Lot and Roses Express. The new store will be located at 1527 Ohio Avenue South behind Walgreens. It is expected to open early next year, according to a press release from Harbor Freight. A grand opening date will be announced closer to opening.

Construction is already underway using local workers and companies from the surrounding area, the release states.

Harbor Freight Tool's new store in Live Oak will be a boost to the economy and work force as the release states. Harbor Freight Tools offers a competitive starting rate along with best-in-class retail benefits and provides stability and the opportunity to advance in a company which continues to grow with more than 21,000 associates and more than 1,100 locations nationwide. "We've been looking to open a location in Live Oak for a number of years so we can provide the tools and equipment at tremendous values to the community," said Trey Feiler, Harbor Freight Tools Senior Vice President, Real Estate and Construction. "In addition to finding a great location, we were attracted by the availability of great associates in the Live Oak area, and we look forward to having them join the Harbor Freight



Riverbend News photo by Monja Slater, December 28, 2020

Harbor Freight Tools is coming to Live Oak. Their location will be in the old Goody's retail store, next to Save A Lot and Roses Express, located at 1527 Ohio Avenue South, behind the Walgreens in Live Oak.

team." Interested applicants may apply online at [www.harborfreightjobs.com/retail](http://www.harborfreightjobs.com/retail) and search "Live Oak, Fla." Hiring is expected to begin immediately as the store is expected to bring between 25 and 30 new jobs to the community, including sales and logistic supervisors, senior associates and seasonal opportunities as well.

This is the third big business this month to announce new locations in Suwannee County and the City of Live Oak. Those include Binderholz timber, Popeyes and now Harbor Freight Tools; all in a year when America has suffered greatly from the COVID-19 pandemic with shutdowns, job losses, massive illnesses

and deaths.

"Harbor Freight has been looking to locate in Live Oak for at least a year or more," Live Oak Development Manager/Zoning and Land Development Regulation Administrator George Curtis said. "Options were to build a new store or renovate and move into an existing tenant space. With the closing of Goody's store at the old K-Mart Plaza (now Live Oak

*See "Harbor Freight" on page 3*



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## Emerald's Gem Box: *Happy New Year!*



**Emerald Greene Parsons**  
Publisher

2021 is here! Hallelujah! I don't think there has ever been another year in history that everyone in the entire world has wanted to see gone more than the year 2020!

Usually, at the end of December, we are all saying, "Where has the time gone?" But this year has seemed to have lasted FOREVER! And sadly, we look back and have very few memories of anything, for we have not been able to conduct our lives as we normally do.

2020 was hard on all of us. Although my businesses didn't close down, I have a lot of friends whose businesses did have to shut down and they suffered a lot more than I have. I have friends that lost their jobs and I have friends that are still unemployed because of the shutdowns. I have had friends that endured the coronavirus; some wouldn't have even known they had it if it hadn't been for a positive test result; some only knew because they lost their taste and smell; some had very mild symptoms; while others became very sick. But my biggest heartbreak, of 2020, was losing my friend, Joe Diffie, to

complications brought on by the coronavirus.

Through all the trials and tribulations of this past year, God was still very present in my life. God blessed me with another year of good health, He has kept my businesses alive and still growing, blessed me with the opportunity to start a brand-new newspaper, the *Riverbend News*, and, of course, still continued to bless my family beyond measure in all other aspects.

But, **MY** biggest news of 2020 ... was the birth of my grandson, Logan Michael Riley. I dedicated my column to him, just a few weeks ago, when he was born. He is, by far, my best and happiest thing for the entire year of 2020.

He is now almost three weeks old and is already growing and changing so fast. It is a true miracle to watch the growth of a baby/child.

I raised two daughters and have a two-year-old granddaughter. So, with the birth of this new grandson I enter into an unexplored territory. I grew up as a tomboy with two brothers and my two daughters both grew up as tomboys who also loved sports, four-wheelers and hunting; but I foresee myself needing to throw a football more and participating in more rambunctious activities, with Logan, than my past and present children activity knowledge, that I have.

So, as we leave 2020 behind us and embrace the opportunity to begin 2021 with a fresh perspective and a sense of optimism, let's all leave behind the hurts and disappointments of the year; but let's bring forward our happiness and joy we found throughout the year. I, for one, have a lot to look forward to!

As I enter into 2021, I will pray for my family and their health ... for my family is my backbone. I will pray for strength, courage and wisdom to make 2021 all it should be. And I will pray for myself ... to become everything God wants me to be and for me to be the best that I can possibly be!

I pray these same things for all of you, our faithful readers. Thank you for spending another year with us.

Please remember to give us a call or email us if you have anything you would like covered or if you have something that you think we should know about. We would love to hear from you! My wish for 2021, as a business, is that we can grow and cover YOUR news even more fully than we do now!

Happy New Year to all of our faithful readers. May God bless each and every one of you!

## AROUND THE BANKS



**Johnny Bullard**  
Guest Columnist

Each year many people make one or more New Year's Resolutions. Some are kept and some are not.

I thought about the making of New Year's resolutions. This year, the only one I am going to make is to continue to try and be thankful.

Considering what the nation has gone through, one might say "Bullard, aren't you being a bit 'Polyannish?'" You remember the movie classic "Pollyanna," the little girl who always looked on the bright side and, in so doing, caused others around her to look on the bright side?

Finding fault is easy and, as a very wise lady I once knew said to me, "Honey, some people are just born naturally discontent." Some people are. Most happy people don't create a lot of drama for themselves or others, but keep an eye on those who are discontent because they can take a one car funeral and make an issue out of it for themselves and, at least the funeral director if there's no one else present!

During this coming year, I am going to eat my black-eyed peas and greens with gusto. I am going to wish myself and those I hold most dear a Happy New Year before I turn in. Primarily, I am going to thank God for blessing me to see one more year.

Black eyed peas and greens. I will, once again, express to you why southerners, no matter

the racial group, eat these on New Year's Day. Let me express, they are DELICIOUS if prepared correctly and that is a big factor. Black-eyed peas, rice (if you want it), collard greens and cornbread, all seasoned "just right," is good eating!

During the War Between the States, United States Federal General William Tecumseh Sherman promised US President Abraham Lincoln he would present Georgia to him as a conquered state of the Confederate States of America on Christmas 1864. He delivered. He also promised he would see to it that a "crow flying across Georgia" from Atlanta to Savannah would have to "carry his own rations in a carry bag," because the conquering troops would pillage and take all they could. They did.

In fact, there were only two places in the state not completely burned or pillaged in Sherman's famous march from Atlanta to the sea. Madison, Georgia because a relative of Sherman's former roommate at West Point lived there, and General Sherman swore that Madison, Georgia, was so beautiful he simply didn't have the heart to destroy it. It is a beautiful city. If you've never been there, I encourage you to visit.

When General Sherman and his troops reached Savannah, the citizens of Savannah, an old and very advanced city culturally, rather than meeting their conquerors with disdain, Savannah's citizens met them with graciousness, bringing gifts of flowers, food, offering invitations for entertainment and some of the finest homes for hosting the Federal conquerors. Now, to use a

good old southern expression, what they did, for most, was "sincerely insincere," but they did it just the same. It saved their city from destruction.

New Year's Day 1865 dawned bleak for most of the conquered state of Georgia not too much to eat. Food was not plentiful. However, Sherman and his troops felt that dried field peas were only good for livestock food and most were unsure of what collard greens were. The conquered citizens of Georgia soaked their dried black-eyed peas, picked their collards, and if they could find some seasoning meat, they prepared a nutritious and filling meal. This is the reason to this day that black-eyed peas and greens remain the favored New Year's Day meal for the citizens of the south.

In closing, I leave you with part of the lyrics of one of my very favorite Stephen Foster songs. It says it all.

"Let us pause in life's pleasures  
And count its many tears  
While we all sup sorrow with the poor  
There's a song that shall linger  
Forever in our ears,  
Oh! Hard times come again no more  
This the song, the sigh of the weary  
Hard times, hard times, come again no more  
Many days you have lingered  
Around my cabin door  
Oh! Hard times come again no more."

From the Eight Mile Still on the Woodpecker Route north of White Springs, wishing you a day filled with joy, peace and above all, lots of love and laughter. Happy New Year!!

## Letter to the Editor: *Being better Republicans*

After the post-election dust settles, both parties have to take a serious look at their strengths and weaknesses in the previous campaign cycle. After the 2020 cycle, Republicans have a lot of work to do when it comes to answering the question: "What happened?" Overall, the 2020 election was a successful cycle for the Republican Party. In an election where there were predictions of a blue wave, Republicans are on-track to keep their Senate majority and have shrunk Nancy Pelosi's Democratic majority to only a few seats. As a matter of fact, Republicans maintained control of their state legislatures and even flipped the state legislature in New Hampshire. Here in Florida, Democrats lost by nearly 3.4% and Republicans gained seats in both the chambers of the Florida Legislature. However, it's not all peaches and cream for the Republican Party. Regardless of whether or not you believe there was massive fraud in the election, nearly every indicator points to former Vice President Joe Biden entering the Oval Office on January 20th. I am not here to argue about that.

The Republican Party was founded in 1854 in opposition to the evil of slavery. Ever since then, Republicans have upheld their conservative

principles of free-markets, American exceptionalism, and family values. Conservatives start with the knowledge that America is the greatest nation on earth, and our ideology is shaped by that. At the 2020 Republican National Convention, Ambassador Nikki Haley said, "America isn't perfect. But the principles we hold dear are perfect. If there's one thing I've learned, it's that even on our worst day, we are blessed to live in America." We can contrast this with our opponents; many Democrats have a very negative perspective. The far-left would rather you believe that America simply does not work for the average person. When I see genocides in China, human trafficking in Pakistan, and famine in North Korea, I thank God that I live in the Land of the Free.

Upon reflection, I offer this fact: in the races that Republicans campaigned on their core principles, Republicans won. When Republicans resorted to name-calling, fear-mongering, and division, we lost. Republicans must remember that the Republican Party isn't about one person - it's about fighting for conservative principles. Instead of focusing on our values, many Republicans would rather focus on the Democrats. If we can focus on our core values, Republicans will win -

and we won't have to worry about the Democrats.

That's why I am calling on all of us to be better Republicans. It's time for us to put the divisions of the 2020 election behind us. It's time to unblock that liberal friend on Facebook. It's time to turn off the news for a few minutes and think about how great America really is. It's time to be thankful for the blessings of liberty, justice and equality.

Dawson Jackson,  
Lafayette County Republican Party Chairman

*Dawson Jackson is the chairman of the Lafayette County Republican Executive Committee and serves as a member of the Republican Party of Florida State Executive Committee.*

### **Suwannee County marriage licenses**

The following couples have applied for a marriage license in Suwannee County for the dates of Dec. 21-25:

- Willie Kyle Greene to Riley Madison Boss
- Kevin Aaron Ramirez to Juanita Aguilar Martinez
- Michael Daniel Cardona to Nola Marie Votava

**HOW TO REACH US:**



Serving Suwannee, Hamilton and Lafayette Counties

**Office Hours:**

Open Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Switchboard:**  
(386) 364-4141

**Email:**  
reporter1@riverbendnews.org

**Mail:**  
P.O. Box 6034  
Live Oak, Fla. 32064

**Office:**  
130 W. Howard St.

**Publisher:**  
Emerald Greene Parsons

**Contact us with your comments**

If you have any questions or concerns, call us at (386) 364-4141 or visit our website at www.riverbendnews.org

**Newsroom:**  
Susan K. Lamb,  
Starr Munro,  
Danny Federico

**Advertising:**  
Monja Slater,  
Samantha Smith

**Circulation:**  
Leah Hodges

**Graphic Design:**  
Shane Mathews

**Circulation:**  
The Riverbend News publishes every Wednesday.

**Periodicals postage** paid at Live Oak, Fla. 32064.

**Permit #23570.**

**Business located at** 130 W. Howard St. Live Oak, Fla. 32064

**Subscription rates:**

**Epub only \$25**

**Print only \$35 in or \$50 out of county**

**Print and Epub \$50 in or \$65 out of county**

**Postmaster:**

Send address changes to Riverbend News at P.O. Box 6034, Live Oak, Fla. 32064. Subscribe online at www.riverbendnews.org.

Riverbend News



# Riverbend News to be closed on New Year's Day



★ By Chelstie Holbrook  
*Riverbend News*

Riverbend News will be closed on Friday, Jan. 1, in celebration of New Year's Day.

Due to the holiday, all content and paid advertisements for the Wednesday, Jan. 6 edition will be due by Thursday, Dec. 31 at 10 a.m.

The office of Riverbend News wishes everyone a safe and healthy New Year.



## Fire

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this along with SCFR Fire Marshal Tim White and the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office.

SCFR Fire Marshal Tim White is in charge locally of investigating this fire situation for SCFR. "It was a family gathering on Christmas night where they had a recreational fire in the back of their yard," stated White. "The fire was going out

and someone poured a flammable liquid, unclear at this point what that was and it caused a vapor explosion with several injuries due to it." White said the cause is under investigation by him as the local fire marshal in partnership with the Florida Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations Law Enforcement Investigator Brock Dietz. Due to HIPAA laws, which must be observed by rescue personnel, White nor Hand were able to comment further.

## Green

Cont. from page 1

football and not much different at the junior varsity level; it would take great discipline to work on a craft that he would not showcase for three more

years. But going into his ninth grade season, Green didn't know that he was gearing up for his final year of junior varsity football. With his phenomenal abilities, it did not take long before Coach Hall saw he was ready to be a weapon on the varsity level for the Suwannee High School Bulldogs.

His transition would be met with a little resistance, not from his teammates, but an injury a week before the opening game of the season. Coach Hall commended Green on his strong work ethic and discipline to his craft, to focus on the small details it took to get him back onto the field to help his team. It was then that Coach Hall really noticed something special in Green. The more he watched Green and got to know him, the more he noticed that Green had the leg and character to help his team. So, Coach Hall, as all great coaches do that care about their kids, began looking deeper into Green. What kind of grades does he have? What kind of student is he? All questions Coach Hall knew must be answered in order for Green to set himself up for the next level. Come to find out, he was a great student with a 3.95 GPA. But there were still plenty of unanswered questions for this young man. The most basic being, how will he handle the pressure under the lights when a game is on the line? He showed glimpses of his mental makeup just by staying focused on rehabbing his injury and getting back on the field in the timely manner that he did. But with a stadium looking upon you to win the game, with his teammates holding their breaths after fighting hard for four quarters, it all comes down to a final moment. It was Green's first game back from his injury as well as his first game at the varsity level. Even while being the youngest player on the field, he was not fazed. Without hesitation, he grabbed his helmet and trotted onto the field as if he was a veteran who had been there hundreds of times.

Green earned this position from his coach by showing through his preparation, he was ready for this moment. With everyone on the edge of their seat, Green went through his routine of approach in his mind. He understood that this was a big moment, but to him it was just another kick.

Green lined up on the left hash mark from 19 yards out and gave the nod to go. Chaos ensued, but none of that mattered for the freshman phenom as he crushed Godby High School's hopes and propelled his Suwannee High School Bulldogs to a victory. Looking back on that moment, Coach Hall remembers that the moment was big, not only for Green, but for the Suwannee program as well. "What a pressure moment that was for him, and such a growing moment for him also," said Coach Hall.

Time and time again, Green came up big for the Bulldogs that season. Coach Hall was excited for Green's potential in the classroom as well as on the field. Coach Hall had mentioned to Green about a punt, pass and kick competition that he should check into. Upon his father checking, they came across Kicking World, a camp/showcase geared for college prospect kickers and punters, that garners all the top prospect kickers in the nation on one field.

But first, he had to travel through a gauntlet of obstacles in order to earn an invite. A gauntlet that began with 1200 competitors throughout the nation. Being only a sophomore, Green and his family understood the odds were stacked against him. However, his journey began in Orlando, Fla., in March 2020.

It was in Orlando that the awards began to mount up, with Green winning the Golden Boot Award; which is the award for overall best kicker. These young men were measured by their

distance and their hang time. They would have to meet both in order to qualify to move on to the next round. After conquering the Orlando Kicking World competition, he was awarded the opportunity to advance to Atlanta, Ga. There, he earned awards such as the kickoff competition winner, as well as again the Golden Boot winner.

This not only propelled him to the final competition in Austin, Texas, but also landed him on the Hot Prospect List. This list is compiled of young men who have gained attention by NCAA Division 1 or Division 2 to be a college prospect. To be called a Hot Prospect, you are considered to be in the top three to five percent of kickers on *kickingworld.com*. There are also 16 others factors to determine if you can garner the attention of Division 1 or 2 colleges.

Green would find himself with high praises and expectations going into the Austin, Texas invitational showcase. As CEO and President of Kicking World, Brent Grablachoff sang high praises of Green after catching his attention with his "wow factor performances at other camps throughout the nation that consist of 22 major cities and 30 states with over 1200 competitors." With all the hype surrounding the underclassman, Green faced all of the top kickers in the nation in this two-day showcase. With 90 contestants, Green approached this opportunity as, "I understand this is a big deal; but I approach every kick as just an extra point," said Green. "So, to me, kicking is just kicking. Line it up and go kick it."

Day one, Saturday, Dec. 5, was set for charting (kicking and setting their stats) along with a few classroom sessions that involved how to deal with the high profile college recruiting process, as well as a session with a sports psychiatrist to help with their mental approach on the field.

On day two, Sunday, Dec. 6, the final showcase was set to begin. This consisted of the upperclassmen on the main field, while the underclassmen had to earn their way onto the main field in order to compete in the overall showcase of each event. Green again excelled through the first four of seven total rounds in order to qualify for the overall showcase. Green found himself in the main showcase in all three events.

While Green did not walk away as the showcase champion, he proved his spot in the top three to five percent throughout the nation. According to *kickingworld.com*, Green is ranked number 15 in the nation on kickoffs, averaging 63 yards and 3.74 seconds of hangtime. He is also ranked number 32 in the nation on punts, averaging 31 yards and a hangtime of 3.6 seconds. He is ranked at number 17 in the nation as a place kicker (field goals), with his longest being 55 yards. Overall, Green is ranked as the fourth best kicker in the nation of underclassmen.

Green comes back home to Suwannee County as a kicking prodigy. Football is not his only interest; he is currently midway through his soccer season. Then, he will gear up for his sophomore baseball season. He attends Melody Church, in Live Oak, where he plays the drums for the choir. While Green is a well-rounded young man, he understands the gift God has bestowed upon him with his kicking abilities at such a young age, and continues to work on his craft, kicking, about four days a week. As his parents continue to watch Green grow, they are often surprised by the attention he has so quickly gathered along his young journey. While they are very proud of him and always support him, it is obvious their influence is geared towards Green being a well-rounded and respectful, humble young man. The rest is icing on the cake.

Congratulations to Braxtyn Green on his young success, and we all look forward to continue following Green as he plays for the Suwannee High School Bulldogs football, soccer and baseball teams.

## Harbor Freight

Cont. from page 1

Center, LLC), the timing was just what was needed, and a suitable space became available for them to occupy." Curtis said a comprehensive set of

commercial alteration and renovation plans were submitted in late October and building permits have been issued by the city. Regular inspections of the ongoing work have been taking place and work is proceeding at a very fast pace. Curtis added he doesn't have knowledge of the opening date, but he expects an early 2021 completion of the renovations work.

Curtis feels new occupancy in an existing space will continue the trend for businesses to positively contribute to the economic viability of the south-end shopping and school district of the city. "Once completed, this new business for the city is expected to be a shopping destination for local and regional residents in Suwannee and surrounding counties," Curtis said proudly.

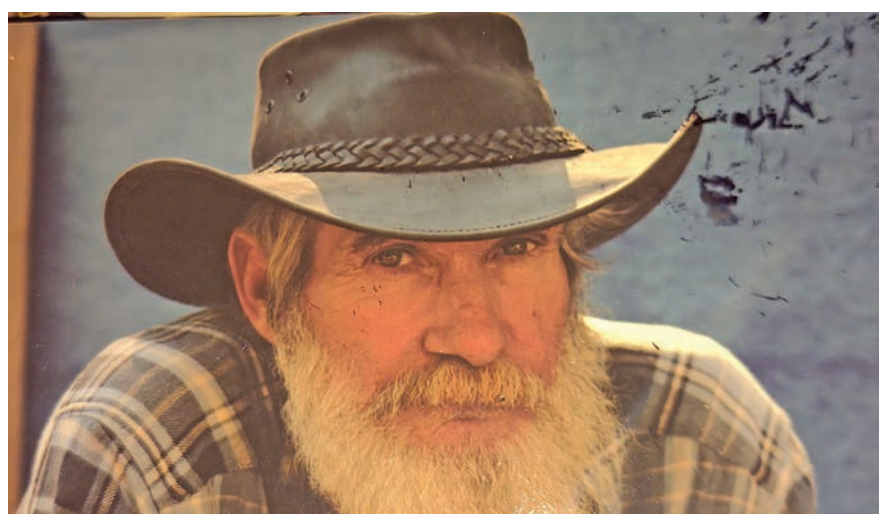
Suwannee County is also the recipient of pride as these new businesses come into the county and city. "We had reached out to Harbor Freight early and when the former Goody's became available, we were happy to hear Harbor Freight Tools was coming to that site in the southern part of the City of Live Oak," Suwannee

County Economic and Tourist Development Director Jimmy Norris said. Norris added that Live Oak's incoming city manager George Curtis was a vital part of this company coming to Live Oak. Norris commended Curtis for his efforts in getting Harbor Freight to open a store in the city. "George Curtis and I have been working together so well, we hope we can grow that relationship between the city and the county for the future and for economic development," Norris added. Norris said he is glad to have new businesses coming into parts of the county and city where real estate is ready for occupancy and available.

There is still one large store available for new businesses just across the street...the former Publix Supermarket. Curtis suggests that too many soon have tenants. "With Publix recently vacating their prior location across the street, we have a similar opportunity to work with the South Oaks Shopping Center property owners to attract one or more new businesses to locate in the space. As always, our experienced and dedicated community development team of employees will work hard to ensure the ongoing and future success for our City of Live Oak," Curtis said. Who that may be is the talk of the town but so far, no official confirmation on who will occupy that store has been confirmed.

# Obituaries

## IN LOVING MEMORY



### Otis Ceval Lyons, Jr.

Otis Ceval Lyons, Jr., 66, of Live Oak, Fla., passed away on Friday, Dec. 11, 2020.

Junior was born on July 15, 1954, in Clearwater, Fla., to Otis Ceval Lyons, Sr. and Janet Page Clinton.

Growing up in Suwannee County, Otis Ceval Lyons, Jr. enjoyed the country life to the fullest

while hunting, fishing and living on the family farm.

He moved to Tampa, met his wife Teresa and they started a new life there. As time passed, he fulfilled his heart's desire by returning home to Dowling Park, where he lived out his last years at home on the family

farm.

He may not have been a man of many words, but he loved his family and friends like he lived his life, to the fullest and without regret.

He was survived by his mother, Janet Page Clinton, of Live Oak, Fla.; wife, Terri Lyons; daughter, Lesa Watkins, son-in-law, Ralph

Watkins, granddaughters, AnnMarie Dwyer, Rachel Dwyer, and great-granddaughter, Willow Houck; son, William Lyons, daughter-in-law, Stephanie, and grandchildren Haylee and Damien; son, Matthew Lyons, daughter-in-law, Krista, and grandson Oliver; son, Daniel Gawelczyk, Daughter-in-law, Cindy, and granddaughter, Hannah; brother, Daniel Lyons, sister-in-law, Lolita, and nephew, Rodney; brother, Spence Lyons, sister-in-law, Jessica, and nieces Ashley Marschal and Victoria Wood; sister, Barbara Mercer, brother-in-law, Gary and nieces and nephews, Danny, April, Christin and Ty; sister, Sandra Walters, and niece, Destra.

The family would like to give a special thank you to family members and friends who have helped during this difficult time.

## James "Jim" Decator Beaty

James "Jim" Decator Beaty went home to be with Jesus on Dec. 5, 2020, at age 88. He was a hard-working man who loved his family, his Lord and his country. His death will leave a huge empty place in the lives of those who knew and loved him.

Jim was born to Simeon and Thelma Beaty on Feb. 7, 1932 in Lamont, Fla. Jim was an Army Veteran who served his country during the Korean Conflict (1952-1955). He was a Sergeant, spending 29 months in Japan. After returning from the service, Jim met his wife Barbara on a blind date in Fort Lauderdale in 1955. They married in 1956 and raised four sons. Through the years, Mr. Beaty worked for Meekins Concrete Company, before opening Beaty's Garage in Hollywood, Fla., with his father. He also worked as head mechanic for Carolina Freight Carriers. Over 30 years ago, he moved to Live Oak and established Beaty Truck Parts, where he continued to work and manage business affairs until recently.

Jim was a loving husband of 64 years, a devoted father and was loved by his grand and great-grandchildren. He would not hesitate to share his opinions with anyone, and was a man of strong faith and solid beliefs. Throughout his life, he held an unwavering faith in God, which he shared with those around him. He loved his Lord Jesus Christ and served Him faithfully. He loved his church, Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Madison, Fla., where he served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher and faithful member. He will be greatly missed by his family, his church family and all those who knew him.

Jim joins many friends and family members already in Heaven. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; sons, Kem (Cheryl) of Jennings, Fla., Kerry (Laquita) of Plant City, Fla., Simeon (Becky) of Jacksonville, NC, Scott (Mayla) of Live Oak, Fla., and niece/daughter, Elizabeth Shumate. He will be missed by his 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, from 6-8 p.m., at Daniels Funeral Home, 1126 Ohio Ave N, Live Oak, Fla. 32064. On Dec. 9, 2020, visitation was held at 11 a.m., with Celebration of Life Services following at 12 noon at the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, 3399 US-90, Madison, Fla. 32340. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that gifts be sent to the Landmark Baptist Church Building Fund, 3399 W. Hwy 90, Madison, Fla. 32340. Please sign the guestbook at [www.danielsfuneralhome.com](http://www.danielsfuneralhome.com). Daniels Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc., Live Oak & Branford, Fla., was in charge of arrangements.

## O'Brien's 10-year-old entrepreneur

By Danny Federico  
Riverbend News

Meet Serenity Castanon, the founder and owner of Serenity's Scents. At only 10-years-old, this native of O'Brien, Fla., makes her own car fresheners, which she calls "Freshies."

Unlike most kids these days, Castanon started her business this past summer, saying, "I was tired of spending my time on my phone and other electronics and I wanted to be more productive." She said she wanted to start her own business, so she threw some ideas around with her mom and dad. "Then my Freshie business was created!"

Although she didn't want to give away all of her secrets, Castanon revealed she learned to make car fresheners from the video platforms, TikTok and YouTube. "I'm not giving all of my secrets out, but they are made from a certain type of beads, coloring powder and fragrance oil," she said.

Castanon sells regular Freshies for \$8 each and Oopsies, which are combo packages with multiple scents, for \$3. Bulk orders of 20 or more also receive a discount.

"I want to thank everyone who has supported me so far on my business journey," Castanon said. "You helped me see that even at 10-years-old, I can achieve the goals I have set for myself." Although she has sold out of all of her Freshies for this season, she wants the community to know she's planning on offering more products next year. "One thing I'm looking into is learning how to make wax melts and possibly candles," she said. "So stay tuned!"



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, December 12, 2020

**Serenity Castanon, a fifth grade student at Mayo Elementary School, runs Serenity's Scents, her own business which sells car "Freshies."**

### Dec. 31

On Thursday, Dec. 31, there will be a fireworks display at Hatch Bend Baptist Church to help bring in the new year, open to the public. The show starts at 7 p.m. and they ask that attendants try to arrive half an hour earlier so the show can

begin on time. Hatch Bend Baptist Church is located at 3029 SE County Road 500 in Branford. Please call (386) 935-0943 with any questions about church events and services taking place this month.

### Jan. 9

On Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Suwannee County Coliseum, KrisAnne Hall will again cover Constitutional issues as she always does with riveting interest and humor. This venue will offer plenty of "distancing space" for a large group of folks. People of all races, political backgrounds and faiths can come and join others in the search for truth. The group supports local law enforcement, the American family and our Constitution. Please plan to join them in this exciting event. The Suwannee County Coliseum is located at 1302 11<sup>th</sup> Street SW A in Live Oak, Fla.

### ASK DR. MANTOOTH

**HIDDEN TOOTH INFECTIONS MAY PREDISPOSE PEOPLE TO HEART DISEASE**

According to a new study conducted in Finland, an infection of the root tip of a tooth increases the risk of coronary artery disease, even if the infection is asymptomatic. Hidden dental root tip infections are very common: as many as one in four Finns suffers from at least one. Such infections are usually detected by chance from X-rays.

Acute coronary syndrome is 2.7 times more common among patients with untreated teeth in need of root canal treatment than among patients without this issue.

Dental root tip infection, or apical periodontitis, is a bodily defense reaction against microbial infection in the dental pulp. Caries is the most common cause of dental root tip infection.

Today, information is increasingly available about the connection between oral infections and many common chronic diseases. For example, periodontitis, an inflammatory disease affecting the tissues that surround the teeth, causes low-grade inflammation and is regarded as an independent risk factor for coronary artery disease and diabetes. Dental root tip infections have been studied relatively little in this context, even though they appear to be connected with low-grade inflammation as well.

The researchers also discovered that dental root tip infections were connected with a high level of serum antibodies related to common bacteria causing such infections. This shows that oral infections affect other parts of the body as well.

Cardiovascular diseases cause more than 30 percent of deaths globally. Measures should be taken to prevent or treat oral infections, as they are very common and often asymptomatic. Root canal treatment of an infected tooth may reduce the risk of heart disease, but more research is needed.

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# Church Directory

To advertise in the church directory call the Riverbend News at (386) 364-4141.

### The Village Church at Advent Christian Village

**Rev. Sam Worley, Pastor**  
Worship with us on Facebook and YouTube  
Sunday Morning Worship.....9:40 a.m.

### White Springs United Methodist Church

16580 Spring St., White Springs, Fla. 32096  
**Pastor Brian Leonardson**  
Come join us this Sunday!  
Bible Study.....10:00 a.m.  
Worship.....11:00 a.m.

### Live Oak Christian Church

1015 Ohio Ave. N., Live Oak, Fla. (386) 362-1085  
**Mark Hassler, Pastor**  
COME WORSHIP WITH US  
SUNDAY  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

### Live Oak Church of Christ

1497 Irvin (SR 51), Live Oak, Fla. (386) 364-5922  
**Dennis Rosenbaum, Evangelist**  
SUNDAY  
Bible Class.....10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Bible Study.....6:45 p.m.  
*All are welcome*

### St. Therese Catholic Church

Three Miles North of Jasper US 41  
P.O. Box 890, Jasper, Fla., 32052  
Rectory US 90 E., Live Oak, Fla.  
(386) 364-1108  
Saturday Mass.....4:00 p.m.

### Rocky Sink Baptist Church

8422 Rocky Sink Rd., Live Oak, Fla., 32060  
(386) 362-3971  
Pastor Mike Chauncey  
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

### Live Oak First Assembly of God

13793 76th St., Live Oak Fla., 32060  
(386) 330-2210  
**Rev. Mike Townsend**  
SUNDAY  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Children's Church.....10:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Evening Service.....7:30 p.m.

### St. Francis Xavier Church

928 E. Howard St., US 90 E. Live Oak, Fla., 32064  
(386) 364-1108 **Father Anthony Basso**  
Saturday (Vigil) Mass.....6:00 p.m.  
Sunday Mass.....9:00 a.m.  
Sunday (Spanish) Mass.....11:30 a.m.

### Lighthouse Christian Center

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(386) 294-3089, Mayo, Fla., 32066  
www.lcamayo.org  
SUNDAY  
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Kids of the King.....10:30 a.m.  
MONDAY  
Prayer Meeting.....6:00 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Bible Study.....7:00 a.m.  
Kids of the King.....7:00 a.m.  
Army of Fire Youth.....7:00 p.m.

### St. Luke's Episcopal Church

1391 SW 11th Street, Live Oak, 32064  
For more information call (386) 362-1837  
WEDNESDAY  
Eucharist & Uction.....10:30 a.m.  
SUNDAY  
Adult Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.  
Eucharist.....9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



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# Proposed ban on limited access to northern Ichetucknee River

By Starr Munro  
*Riverbend News*

The citizens of Suwannee Valley know how beautiful their home is and take advantage of the natural resources available to them as often as they can. A proposal put forth by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Recreation and Parks division, would ban tubing from the northern entrance of Ichetucknee Springs State Park and limit that area of the river to paddlers. A virtual meeting that was open to the public was conducted on Tuesday, Dec. 15, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., to discuss the strategies in question that are being proposed in an effort to conserve the future of the iconic spring-fed river.

The park has been partially closed for most of the year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Visitors have had access to only part of the river due to social distancing practices, and the park has been limiting the amount of visitors they would typically have. In that time period, the submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) has grown a significant amount due to the lack of foot traffic it would typically have. This is the root to the proposal being made by the FDEP and it is getting scrutinized by many different groups of people, who all have different opinions about the issue. Over 400,000 people visited the Ichetucknee Springs State Park in 2016. From that total, over 130,000 of them came during the tubing season alone. During the tubing season, 750 visitors per day are allowed to launch from the North Launch, near the Ichetucknee Head Spring. The park enforces visitor usage of the river during these time frames to protect the integrity of the aquatic vegetation and aquatic organisms in the northern portion of the river.

The Florida State Park website says the following about the area in question: "Ichetucknee Springs State Park was purchased by the state of Florida in 1970 from the Loncala Corporation to preserve one of the state's outstanding natural wonders. In 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior declared the Ichetucknee Spring a National Natural Landmark."

With over 50 years of operation, the crystal clear, slow-moving river supports many independent businesses in Columbia County, many of which are not happy with the idea of a significantly smaller number of tubes to rent to visitors of the park, especially not in a time when people are already struggling to make a living. Other people, like the federally recognized educational and nonprofit organization, the Ichetucknee Alliance, supports the proposal to eliminate tubing for the sake of the river.

With the park being utilized for recreational use for the past 50 years, a lot of the common consensus by the people who enjoy floating down that long run of beautiful river, are taking issue with the proposed change happening so suddenly. But the FDEP is citing studies that show a decline in the rivers' SAV. Submerged aquatic vegetation is seen essentially as an "underwater forest," and for the past 31 years, there has been a dramatic decrease in springtape, American eelgrass and an increase in different species of nuisance algae. They hope the ban will eliminate most human contact with SAV as well as reduce the amount of foot traffic that is said to harm the home of many different animals.

The Florida Park Service (FPS) is citing ecological data which indicates that the lower part of the Ichetucknee River is deeper and contains fewer areas where vegetation is vulnerable to trampling and sediments that are easily disturbed. It's also being said that the amount of people permitted into the park also blocks sunlight which is necessary for plant growth, and some worry that the rest of the ecosystem of the river will change if the grass continues the way it is.

The online meeting that was open for the public gave the FDEP a chance to explain their reasoning and go over public comments. The DEP shared a statement with *Riverbend News*: "For more than 30 years, DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks has studied the effects of recreation, particularly tubing, on the Ichetucknee River and submerged aquatic vegetation. These studies show that limiting human disturbance by removing tubing from the shallower Upper Ichetucknee is needed to ensure the long-term health of the river's ecosystem. Moreover, studies show that the Lower Ichetucknee is better suited to handle tubers since the water is deeper in this area. As a result, DEP is proposing to redistribute tubing from the Upper to the Lower Ichetucknee as part of a broader update to the park's Unit Management Plan. Transparency and public participation are essential elements of this process. On Dec. 15, DEP hosted a virtual public meeting to advise stakeholders of these

proposed changes and took public comment. This meeting was recorded and is available on the department's webpage. All public comments received will be reviewed and considered before DEP submits Ichetucknee Springs State Park's 10-year unit management plan update to the Acquisition." Nothing has been decided yet, but will be put under review in 2021. If you're interested in reading the public comments made in the meeting please visit, <https://floridadep.gov/parks/public-participation>.

# Jail report

## Hamilton County

Dec. 21

**April Carden Padgett**, felony probation violation

**Jamie Merritt Green**, felony probation violation

Dec. 22

**Keith Maurice Harris**, aggravated assault with deadly weapon, firing weapon, weapon offense, possession of weapon or ammo by convicted felon, evidence-destroying

**Damon Emill Baldwin**, battery

**John David Aaron Peeler**, battery

## Suwannee County

Dec. 21

**Dinda Ninone Marin**, hold for other reason, failure to appear, aggravated assault with deadly weapon

**John William Duran**, probation violation

Dec. 22

**Craig Allen Adams**, operating while driver's license suspended/canceled/revoked, two counts drug possession, two counts possession of drug paraphernalia, evidence tamper, possession of cannabis under 20 grams

**Joshua Steven Boyette**, resisting officer/arrest, petit theft, simple assault-domestic violence, simple battery, probation violation

Dec. 23

**John Stuart Harrelson**, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of firearm by convicted felon, probation violation

**Steven Edward Staats**, hold for other reason

**Benjamin Thomas Lauro**, warrant service

**Roy Edward Stover**, D.U.I. - property damage/personal injury, refuse to submit to blood alcohol level test, hit and run, criminal traffic violation

Dec. 24

**Jamey Carlton Morgan**, two counts trespassing

**Sheremah De'Jesus**, resisting arrest without violence, trespassing

**Craig Jackson**, burglary, aggravated assault with deadly weapon

**Bobby F. Freeman**, simple battery-domestic violence, warrant service

Dec. 25

**Ernesto Miguel Gonzalez**, simple battery-domestic violence

**Deaker Johnson Sterling**, trespassing, resisting officer/arrest, damage property-criminal mischief

**William Thomas Beveridge**, simple battery-domestic violence

Dec. 26

**Efrain Morales Hilario**, D.U.I.

**Erika Charlene Hodge**, resisting officer/arrest, trespassing

**Michael Allen Quinones**, probation violation

Dec. 27

**Alfonso Javar Allen**, simple battery-domestic violence

**Eric Sherrod McQuay**, D.U.I., driving while license permanently revoked, possession of controlled substance

**Kelly Lee Canterbury**, burglary, grand theft-750 less than 5K dollars

**James Lloyd Foster**, operating while driver's license revoked for habitual traffic offender, two counts probation violation

**Brian Austin Christie**, probation violation, flee and elude law enforcement officer, criminal traffic violation-reckless driving, child abuse without great bodily harm, drugs-possession, possession of weapon, drug equipment-paraphernalia, resisting arrest without violence, criminal traffic violation-knowingly driving while license suspended/revoked

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Photo courtesy of Toni Sherrell Derby Quinn Sherrell, of Mayo, poses with her crowns and sashes.

## Miss Derby: A girl of many crowns

By Starr Munro  
 Riverbend News

The Town of Mayo has a young lady that represents her home with pride. Derby Quinn Sherrell just turned seven years old on Friday, Dec. 18 and already holds multiple pageant titles.

Sherrell has been doing pageants for the past three years and is now Florida royalty after winning her title at America's Miss Agribusiness in November. She will now reign for the next 17 months, attending festivals, parades and doing her best to bring more awareness and love to rural farming. Her official titles are National Cover Miss and National Royal Miss for 2021.

Sherrell is the daughter of Garth and Toni Sherrell, of Mayo. She is in first grade at Lafayette Elementary School and is involved with her local 4-H chapter. Growing gardens in the spring and raising show chickens in her spare time is what brings her joy.



Photo courtesy of Toni Sherrell America's Miss Agribusiness, Derby Quinn Sherrell.

Daniel Mehl Photography

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# White Springs McDonald's helps with last-minute Christmas wishes



Photo courtesy of Helen Miller  
Mr. and Mrs. Claus and elves greeted families on Saturday, Dec. 19 kids were invited to visit Santa and make their last-minute Christmas wishes in person. Pictured, from left to right, are: Marie Price, Rhonda Johnson, Sharon Wize, Bruce Witten, Bev Brazil, Helen Miller and Price's grandson, Christian.



Photo courtesy of Helen Miller

This little boy had the help of his brother to give Santa his last-minute Christmas wishes.



Photo courtesy of Helen Miller

These two little girls were all smiles after meeting Santa.



Photo courtesy of Helen Miller

Santa made a special call to make sure this little girl was being "nice".



Photo courtesy of Helen Miller

This little girl was excited to tell Santa her last-minute Christmas wishes.



Photo courtesy of Helen Miller

This mom and her two daughters stopped to check out their gift bags after meeting Santa.



Photo courtesy of Helen Miller

Miss Ruby's world-famous Peanut Brittle, made by Maddie Moore, was a big hit with lunch guests.

By Helen Miller  
Contributor

On Saturday, Dec. 19, lunchtime guests at McDonald's #11912 were greeted by elves, who invited them to visit with Santa and make their last-minute wishes in person. The second annual Lunch with Santa was hosted by store manager Sharon Wize and Project HOPE, Inc.

After children visited with Santa and made their gift requests, they all received a bag of Christmas toys, fresh fruit, candies and other treats, along with tickets for free Happy Meals.

Adult guests were offered gift size bags of Miss Ruby's "world famous" Peanut Brittle, as well as traditional candy canes. Miss Ruby, a long-time resident of White Springs, began making her peanut brittle over 60 years ago as a fund raiser for the annual Florida Folk Festival, the longest running folk festival in the country. The Florida Folk Festival takes place every year at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, located in White Springs.

Miss Ruby passed on her secret recipe to her friend and neighbor Maddie

Moore several years ago and now Maddie continues the tradition, making peanut brittle for the folk festival, regional farmer's markets throughout the year and selected special events.

The wintry Christmas scene where Santa entertained children, along with their parents, was created by event designer Rhonda Johnson of White Springs. Elves included Johnson, Marie Price, Wize, Helen Miller and Bev Brazil, who joined in as Mrs. Claus. The best Santa with a British accent was channeled by Bruce Witten, who now resides in White Springs.

McDonald's #11912 is located at the I-75/CR-136 intersection and serves guests from Hamilton, Suwannee and Columbia counties, along with thousands of visitors who travel to Florida from all over the country on I-75. Project HOPE is a non-profit organization whose

mission is charitable and involves educational outreach with an

emphasis on children and their families.

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# Suwannee County Property Appraiser retires after 48 years



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, December 21, 2020  
Cupcakes, candy and a cake with a John Deere tractor on top were set up on a table for attendees to enjoy while mingling.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, December 21, 2020  
Friends and family got together on Monday, Dec. 21, to celebrate Jenkins' retirement after 48 years of service to Suwannee County.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, December 23, 2020  
Over his 48 years as the Suwannee County Property Appraiser, Jenkins served 12 four-year terms.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, December 23, 2020  
Lamar Jenkins, the Suwannee County Property Appraiser, will be retiring from his position after 48 years.

Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, December 23, 2020  
Jenkins got a map specialist to help him by marking where each of the three soil types were.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, December 23, 2020  
Jenkins had a meeting with many people in order to come up with a way to compile 13 soil types into three. The number one type, colored red, represented agricultural land and was scattered all over Suwannee County, while number two, colored green and number three, colored yellow, are more abundant areas throughout the county.

By Danny Federico  
*Riverbend News*

Lamar Jenkins, the Suwannee County Property Appraiser, will be retiring from his position of 48 years, effective Thursday, Dec. 31.

Having been born in February of 1937, Jenkins is a native to the Live Oak area and even graduated from Suwannee High School in 1957. For a few years after graduation, he helped out on the family farm,

assisting his father in growing their crops of peanuts and corn. He saw how unfair the taxation on small farms was compared to corporations and it infuriated him. He desperately wanted to change it. Although he did not attend college, Jenkins ran for the position of Suwannee County Property Appraiser and was elected by people of the same mind as him—the working-class and underprivileged people of the county. On Jan. 2, 1973, he was sworn-in.

One of the many challenges he faced after being sworn-in had to do with the raising of the county's property assessments. After his swearing-in, Jenkins went to Tallahassee on Feb. 8, 1973. While there, the State jumped on him to raise the assessment on the land of Suwannee County. "They told me 'We're here to tell you that if you don't go back and raise the assessment, we'll come do it ourselves,'" Jenkins said. "I sat my chair back and I told them, 'you know where the office is, if you want it you come get it' and I got in my car and didn't look back." He says he made some promises that day. "I said 'I will never let an appointed person out of Tallahassee come in here and put an assessment on a piece of land as long as I have authority' and I knew, when I came back, that I was going to leave my politics on one end and I was going to do the job for the people over here."

In order to do that, Jenkins received a soil capability book the University of Florida had put together between the years of 1962 and 1964, listing 13 different soil types the county has. Jenkins then set up a meeting between a few people, some of which were involved with the UF/IFAS experiment station and water management, along with a few of the leading farmers in the county. "I told them what I was up against," Jenkins said. "I said, 'I need help from you gentlemen' and they said 'we'll help you any way we can.'" He then asked them to go through the different soil types listed in the book

and help him find a way to combine the 13 types in to three instead. "They did and they compiled those 13 soils down to three."

He then got a map specialist to mark on his maps where each of the three soil types were. The number one type, colored red, represented agricultural land and was scattered all over Suwannee County, while number two, colored green and number three, colored yellow, are more abundant areas throughout the county. The number three soil type, Jenkins explained, is sandy—the perfect soil type for growing wheat.

Jenkins then updated the assessment to \$70 for land in yellow areas, \$100 for land in green areas and \$130 for land in red areas.

"The State and corporations didn't care how those people suffered, I did," he said. "I care about equity."

On Monday, Dec. 21, a retirement party was held for Jenkins at the John H. Hale community center, located at 226 Parshley Street SW in Live Oak. The small event brought friends and family together to honor Jenkins for his 48 years of service to the Suwannee area. Cupcakes, candy and a cake with a John Deere tractor on top were set up on a table for attendees to enjoy while mingling.

"I can't say enough for the people of this county and the ones who've already gone on," Jenkins said. Over his 48 years as the Suwannee County Property Appraiser, Jenkins served 12 four-year terms.

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# All ages win big in Mayo Gingerbread House Competition

By Shawn Jackson  
Contributor

A Gingerbread House Competition sponsored by the Lafayette 4-H Culinary Club and the Mayo Woman's Club was held on Friday, Dec. 11 and Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Mayo Community Center, located at 150 NW Community Circle in Mayo, Fla. There were 97 gingerbread houses entered in the competition, which was divided into three categories: youth, ages 11 and under; junior, ages 12 -17; and the adult/family category.

A "how to build a gingerbread house" workshop was held for youth during the week leading up to the event with 30 youth participating. Their gingerbread houses, which were made of graham crackers, icing and candy, were only some of the houses entered in the competition. Lafayette Elementary School kindergarteners also entered gingerbread houses made with their teachers in the competition. Other houses entered in the competition were made of anything from gingerbread to cereal.

Winners of the competition were: Anistyn Bass of the youth category, Maggie Day of the junior category and Kemi Jackson of the adult/family category. Each winner received \$100 for their winning entry.

The Lafayette 4-H Culinary Club as well as the Mayo Woman's Club thanks those who participated in this event and hopes it encourages families to spend more time together this holiday season and throughout the new year in fun, family bonding activities.



Photo courtesy of Shawn Jackson  
These three gingerbread houses were the big winners of their categories. The entries, pictured from left to right, were submitted by: Maggie Day, Kemi Jackson and Anistyn Bass.



Photo courtesy of Shawn Jackson  
Jessica Johnson presents Anistyn Bass with her \$100 award for 1st place in the youth division.



Photo courtesy of Shawn Jackson  
Gingerbread houses of all shapes and sizes were submitted in the competition.



Photo courtesy of Shawn Jackson  
Miley McCray uses her learned decorating techniques to put final touches on her gingerbread house.



Photo courtesy of Shawn Jackson  
Maggie Day and Miley McCray show their finished work after an evening of gingerbread house decorating.

## Glenda Williams:

### Supervisor of Elections, retiring after 24 years



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 17, 2020  
Glenda Williams and Jennifer Kinsey pose with their mentor, Marjorie Carmichael. Pictured, from left to right, are: Glenda Williams, Marjorie Carmichael and Jennifer Kinsey.

Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 17, 2020  
Glenda Williams stands with her team at her retirement party on Thursday, Dec. 17. Pictured, from left to right, are: Tina Nobles, Kay Ratliff, Glenda Williams and Jennifer Kinsey.



By Starr Munro  
Riverbend News

The Suwannee County Supervisor of Elections will be retiring at the end of this year after serving six terms, for a total of 24 years. Glenda Williams, a generational Suwannee County citizen, has been involved with local government since her senior year of high school, when she worked with the clerk of the courts office as a student. She was offered a full-time position upon graduation and worked with Judge Kennons in his office for 12 years before going to work at the clerk's office for another 11 years.



Glenda Williams, Suwannee County Supervisor of Elections

Even in those early days, Williams always assisted the previous supervisor of elections, Marjorie Carmichael, on election night. There were no machines at the voting precincts and election nights were guaranteed to be long ones for the staff involved. Votes were placed in sealed containers and brought to the courthouse after the polls closed at approximately 7 p.m. Each and every vote was run through a central scanner to

get generated results. They would work well past midnight to ensure the job was done.

When it was first proposed to Williams that she should run for Suwannee County Supervisor of Elections after Carmichael retired, her first response was to ask the elected official who had mentioned it if they had lost their mind. "But the seed had been planted, and during the course of the next four years, God was preparing me to do just that," Williams said. She may have initially believed she couldn't do the job, but over the next four years she deliberated with both God and with the people in her life and decided to take "a leap of faith."

Williams was elected in September of 1996 and took office in January of 1997. She will be retiring in January after serving 24 years and six terms as Supervisor of Elections for Suwannee County. Williams said that this election year has been "the busiest, the most hectic and most challenging of any election year ever." There were a lot of doubts about the election this year. Between how much the country has changed over the past few years, the uncertainty that comes with living in the COVID era and the doubt in people's minds about elections in general, it was a unique last year in office. But

Williams is extremely confident in the "honesty, accuracy and integrity of elections in Florida."

A wonderful retirement celebration took place on Thursday, Dec. 17, at the Suwannee County Supervisor of Elections office. Friends and colleagues gathered to congratulate Williams' years as a trusted constitutional officer. By the end of the party, her desk was covered in presents and tokens of appreciation. Mayor Frank Davis, former Supervisor of Elections, Marjorie Carmichael, and Judge William F. Williams are just some of the people who came out to wish her a happy retirement.

Williams said she is looking forward to retiring in January. She and her husband, Wesley Williams, are going to enjoy having more time to travel, fish and be with their seven grandchildren, all of whom reside in Suwannee County and will also keep them busy. When asked what she has learned during her time of serving the community Williams replied, "Trust God and let Him be in control. God's best is much better than my good could ever be." Williams would like to thank her staff for all their hard work. Jennifer Kinsey, Tina Nobles and Kay Ratliff have been the best team she could have hoped for. She also wants to ensure the citizens and voters of Suwannee County that they're being left in good hands, with Kinsey assuming the title of Suwannee County Supervisor of Elections this January.

# SMS honors eighth graders; defeats TCMS

By Starr Munro  
*Riverbend News*

The Lady Bulldogs of Suwannee Middle School (SMS) and the Lady Bulldogs of Taylor County Middle School (TCMS) went face to face on Thursday evening, Dec. 3, at Paul Langford Stadium, in Live Oak. The match coincided with the SMS girls soccer team's eighth grade recognition ceremony. Before the game, the girls were escorted onto the field by family members and loved ones, carrying flowers and laughing at each others favorite memories of soccer as they were read at large by the sports commentator.

It didn't take long for the girls of SMS to put on their game faces, with their undefeated soccer season under threat from the girls soccer team of TCMS. A large portion of the first quarter was spent on the visitors side, with the goalie from TCMS defending their goal from SMS with everything she had. But two awesome goals were still made by eighth graders Kayla Woods and Rileigh Driver. Quite a few tumbles occurred on the field from both teams, as the players put everything they had into commandeering the ball. SMS's defense was alert and ready for anything and kept TCMS far away from their goalie.

The second quarter was even more heated than the first. Even with the excitement of their Head Coach Amanda Mabey, getting engaged during a timeout, the SMS Lady Bulldogs were as focused as ever. The players of TCMS were determined to catch up and both teams fought hard to keep the ball away from each others goals. Three good shots made by SMS were stopped by the TCMS Lady Bulldogs' goalkeeper, who had her work cut out for her with the constant action being dribbled her way by SMS. TCMS got its first goal past SMS's defense and the results were immediate. Any fire that had been laying dormant in the Lady Bulldogs of SMS, turned into an inferno and the remainder of the game was a whirlwind of both teams kicking, throwing and dribbling as hard as they could in order to make one more goal before the game was called. The last goal of the night was made by SMS with 10 minutes left in the game, securing yet another winning game for their undefeated season. The final score of the game was 3-1.



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Kimberly Romulo was escorted by Juliana Vazquez.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Zarley Valdez was escorted by Carolina Mendoza and Jessica Tran.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Whitton Musgrove was escorted by Tori and Bryan Humphries and Walt Musgrove.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**America Garcia was escorted by Jessica Torres.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Kayla Woods was escorted by Balinda Fedrick.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Lily Ingram was escorted by Amber and Cliff Chauncey and Walt Ingram.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Darlin Uribe was escorted by Carmela and Gerardo Uribe.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Rileigh Driver was escorted by Tiny and Chico Barnett.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Lydia Gunter was escorted by Shannon and Herman Gunter.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Alessandra Mondragon was escorted by Maritza Torres and Alyssa Mondragon.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Claire Palmer was escorted by Kerry and John Palmer.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Lisiana Tepetate was escorted by Jose Tepetate.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Layla Merola was escorted by Jennifer and Tim Merola.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Kayla Woods of SMS leaves a player from TCMS in her wake.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Rileigh Driver celebrates a point made for her SMS team.**



Riverbend News photo by Starr Munro, December 3, 2020  
**Kayla Woods, Lydia Gunter and Claire Palmer of SMS all rejoice in another goal made in the first quarter.**

# Lafayette eighth-graders recognized

By Rick Patrick  
*Riverbend News*

During their game against the Panthers of Madison Creative Arts Academy on Thursday, Dec. 10, the eighth grade members of the Lafayette High School middle school team were recognized. Although the game took place in Madison, the Panthers, in a show of sportsmanship, recognized the Hornet eighth grade players prior to recognizing their own eighth grade team members.

Once the competition began, the Hornets established an early lead and when the opening period ended, the Hornets held an 11-3 advantage. The Panthers were held to just two points during the second quarter and the Hornets carried a 16-5 lead into halftime. The Panthers were able to cut into the Hornets' lead during the third quarter. The Hornets took a 22-18 lead into the final period. During the fourth quarter, the Panthers threatened, but the Hornets managed to hold the Panthers at-bay and finished the contest with a 35-31 victory.



Jamarcus Smith (#31) lays up for a basket.



Jamarcus Smith, eighth grader



Trevor Mares, eighth grader



Anthony Powers, eighth grader



Durand Driver, eighth grader



Harris Johnson, eighth grader

Riverbend News photos by Rick Patrick, December 10, 2020

## Mayo soccer preparing for season kick-off

By Ramsey Sullivan  
*Riverbend News*

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused major changes throughout the country. Despite that, Mayo soccer will continue to play from January to March in 2021.

Kim Townsend, along with Jason Troutman, Andrea Troutman and Stephanie Wimberly are putting together the Mayo soccer league for kindergarten age children to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Sign-ups will be on Saturday, Jan. 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Country Strong Gym, located at 405 11<sup>th</sup> St. SW Suite 101, in Live Oak. It will cost \$50 to sign up, and each child will receive a shirt, shorts, socks and a

trophy.

Kids will be separated by age group, with groups for kindergarten and first grade, second and third grade, fourth and fifth grade and sixth through eighth grade. Each game will be played three versus three, except for sixth through eighth grade, which will play six versus six or eleven versus eleven.

There will be four teams per age division, with five to six kids per team. The season will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 19, and end on Tuesday, March 9. The games will be played on Saturdays, and practices will be held a few times each week.

For more information or questions, contact Kim Townsend at (352) 210-6880.



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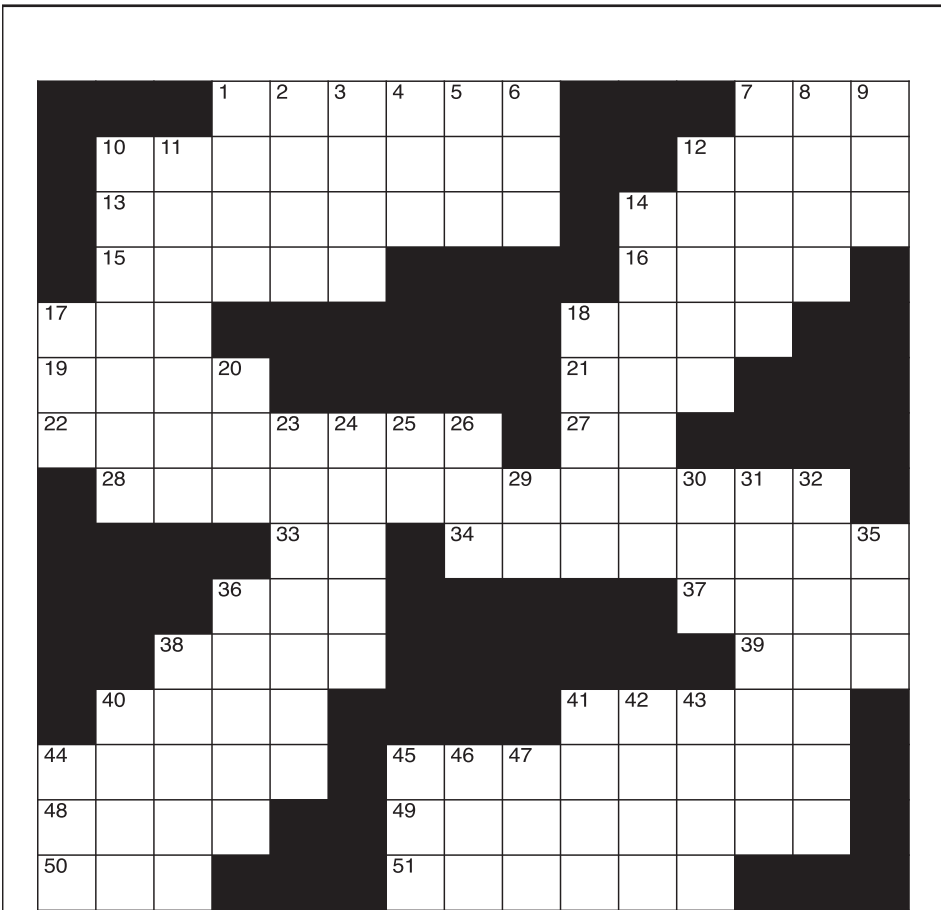
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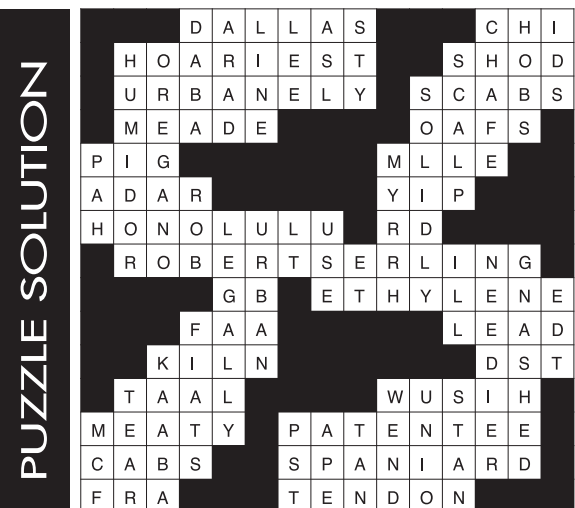
**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Home of the Cowboys
- 7. "Hawaii Five-O" actor McBride
- 10. Most aged
- 12. Fitted with a shoe
- 13. Courteously
- 14. They form over cuts
- 15. Western Alaskan river
- 16. Aggressive men
- 17. Farm animal
- 18. Young woman (French)
- 19. Sixth month of Hebrew calendar
- 21. Short cry
- 22. State capital
- 27. Rural delivery
- 28. "Twilight Zone" creator
- 33. Gigabyte
- 34. Flammable hydrocarbon
- 36. Supervises flying
- 37. An actor who plays a principal role
- 38. Furnace for pottery
- 39. Fall back
- 40. Afrikaans word for language
- 41. Chinese city
- 44. Fleshy
- 45. Inventor
- 48. Taxis
- 49. A citizen of Spain
- 50. Important age for aging workers (abbr.)
- 51. Body part

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Chinese mountain range
- 2. Romanian city
- 3. Fishermen cast it
- 4. Shelter from wind
- 5. Sign language
- 6. Pigpen
- 7. Make sore
- 8. Flat metal shelves
- 9. Forms that say who you are
- 10. Cigar lovers' necessity
- 11. Popular cooking ingredient
- 12. Skin covering the head
- 14. Unshakable
- 17. Exclamation meaning "Finally!"
- 18. One of the wise men's gifts
- 20. Take away from
- 23. In accordance with the law
- 24. Nicole Kidman's husband
- 25. NY Giants legend
- 26. Utilize
- 29. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 30. Unwell
- 31. More destitute
- 32. Grinded together
- 35. Sun up in New York
- 36. Italian-made cars
- 38. Most sacred site in Islam
- 40. Rip apart
- 41. Go in a specified direction
- 42. Freshwater mussel genus
- 43. "\_\_\_ the Man" Musical
- 44. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 45. West coast time zone
- 46. Mimic
- 47. You can get one in summer

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**



**SUDOKU**

		5	6	9			8	
		3		2	8	5		
7			3					1
	5	7						
		1		4		3	6	
						4		
	7				3	9		2
			1	8				
3					9			

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4	1	8	7	9	6	2	5	3
7	3	2	8	5	9	4	1	6
2	5	9	3	6	4	8	7	1
8	6	3	9	2	1	5	4	7
5	9	3	6	7	4	8	2	1
9	4	5	7	8	3	6	1	2
1	6	9	3	5	4	2	7	8
6	4	8	5	7	2	8	9	3
3	2	4	5	6	9	1	7	8

ANSWER:

**Guess Who?**

I am a singer born in England on December 30, 1986. I discovered electronic music while in college. Rihanna is one of my influences and I sang a cover of her song "Only Girl In the World." My debut album reached #1 on the UK charts.

Answer: *Ellie Goulding*

**WORD SCRAMBLE**

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to poinsettias.

**S B T R A C**

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: *Bracts*

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# A blast from the past in Lafayette County

By Starr Munro  
Riverbend News

Lafayette County is not one of the most populated counties in the state of Florida. The county has a population of approximately 8,000 and less than 2,000 call the small town of Mayo home. But the depth of its past is not told by how many citizens a place has, it's found in the history that is steeped in the land the people have lived on.



Photo courtesy of Florida Memory  
Holmes Melton poses in a confederate uniform that belonged to his family at the 1956 Centennial in Mayo.



Photo courtesy of Florida Memory  
A group portrait of the Hart family, standing in front of their home in Lafayette County sometime in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Photo courtesy of Florida Memory  
Two young men sit on top of their horses in Lafayette County during a particularly bad flood of the Suwannee River in 1928, the year of the infamous Okeechobee flooding when almost 2,000 people died. Circuit judge Hal W. Adams is shown on the left.



Photo courtesy of Florida Memory  
The "House of the Seven Gables," is an octagonal house that was inspired by the Nathaniel Hawthorne novel of the same name. It was designed by James Mitchell and built by Mack Koon in the 1880s and still stands today in Mayo.

## Remembering Suwannee: Sheriff Potsdamer was an ex-convict

**Aspires to be Sheriff of Suwannee County**

1912

Gus was the Suwannee County Sheriff from 1889 – 1893. He was a well known and well liked Undertaker in Live Oak for a number of years. He was again appointed Sheriff of Suwannee County in 1913 and suspended in 1914.

*To the People of Suwannee County:*  
From now until the primaries in May next I shall endeavor to see as many voters as possible and solicit their support. I have been living in Suwannee County for thirty-eight years, and am no stranger among you.  
If you elect me to fill the office of Sheriff, I promise to be faithful to the obligation of that office and live up to the oath that I will take when I enter upon the duties prescribed by law.  
I shall employ only competent deputies, and shall personally do those things the Sheriff should attend to.  
I shall personally look after the court house, yard and jail, and see that they are kept clean, and that the prisoners have plenty of good wholesome food, such as the law permits; and during my entire term will strictly attend to the Sheriff's office, if you elect me.  
Respectfully yours,  
G. POTSDAMER

Gus Potsdamer (Pottsdammer) was born in 1853 in Germany. He died on Friday, Jan. 4, 1918 and is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Jacksonville, Fla.



Susan Fennell

Jacksonville Florida Times Union obit, Saturday, Jan. 5, 1918: Gus Potsdamer, 63, a well-known resident of Live Oak, died in this city early yesterday morning, after an illness of over a year's duration. He was formerly Sheriff of Suwannee County and for many years was engaged in the undertaking business at Live Oak. The funeral took place yesterday afternoon, Rabbi I L Kaplan, of the Temple Ahavath Chesed officiating. The interment was in Temple cemetery.

The 1880 Census for Suwannee County shows Gus Potsdamer at 26 years of age as working in Turpentine. He is a prisoner from Germany.

Records show Gus Potsdamer to be the Suwannee County Sheriff from 1889 – 1893. Gus was a well-known and well-liked Undertaker in Live Oak for a number of years. REFERENCE: Several obituaries in the Live Oak Daily Democrat (1906 – 1907). He was again appointed Sheriff of Suwannee County in 1913 and suspended in 1914.

### THE HUGHES MURDERERS

The public hanging of Bob McCoy and Willie Hicks occurred on April 3, 1890 in Homerville, Clinch County, Ga. The two men were tried and convicted of the double axe murder of William Hughes and Ellen Sellers Rice Hughes, an elderly couple of Dupont, Ga. The story of the murders and the pursuit of the killers were reported in newspapers

from New York to California. Robert Saxton, a third party who aided in this inhuman act, was killed while resisting arrest, thus cheating the gallows of what he deserved.

Hicks and McCoy were both captured by accident, as it were—that is to say, they were arrested for other crimes, and from a sense of guilt confessed their complicity in the Hughes murder.

Hicks was in Jasper, Fla., one night and got into a cutting affray at a Negro candy pulling and was arrested by Constable William Hinton, to whom he confessed.

Robert McCoy was arrested in Live Oak for carrying concealed weapons, by Sheriff "Gus" Potsdamer. Sheriff Potsdamer was himself an ex-convict, having been sentenced and later pardoned for the murder of another sheriff. McCoy said to

Potsdamer, "You have arrested me for something else than carrying a gun, and can't fool me in this way."

"What else?" asked Potsdamer. "For the Hughes murder," replied McCoy. "And I was not by myself in that thing. Robert Saxton and Bill Hicks helped me."

A curious coincidence in the matter is that Sheriff Potsdamer, Constable Hinton and John P. Lanier had been trying for a couple of weeks to ferret out the criminals and by accident two of them almost fell bodily into the hands of their hunters.

Join us next week for more Suwannee County history and be sure to like our Facebook page!

*Susan Coleman Fennell is a part of the Suwannee County Historical Commission & Museum, located at 208 Ohio Avenue North in Live Oak. She may be reached at suwanneehistorical@gmail.com.*

## Hometown Salute

# Dale Baker

Dale Baker was no stranger to the military lifestyle, growing up following his father around from state to state, and even to Germany during his childhood.

Baker was born in Live Oak and eventually moved back after all of his adventures with his military father. After earning his AA degree at North Florida Community College, in Madison, Baker was drafted into the United States Army in 1969, at the young age of 20. After attending basic training in Ft. Benning, Ga., he was sent to Advanced Individual Training (AIT) in Ft. Polk, La.

After training, Baker was sent to Vietnam as part of the 173 Airborne Brigade as a paratrooper. While in Vietnam, he carried an M16 and M79 grenade launcher.

After 13 months in Vietnam, Baker's tour of duty ended and he returned home in December of 1970.

Overall, Baker enjoyed being a paratrooper, mainly because he earned an extra \$55 each month. "Some of the best

times of my life were in Vietnam and so were some of the worst times," said Baker.

When he returned home, Baker applied for a job at Occidental, now known as Nutrien, in White Springs and began work almost immediately. Baker worked in the research lab for one year, the analytical lab for seven years, then moved to the environmental lab, where he worked for 35 years.

Baker is thankful for his time in the service, but he is most thankful he was able to come back alive. "One time, on a six-man patrol, the point man tripped a landmine wire and everyone was injured except for me, because a boulder shielded me from the blast," said Baker. "On many different occasions, I could've been killed. My fellow soldiers were killed, but I made it back."

Baker regards his cousin, James Buddy Cruise, a Korean War and Vietnam War Veteran, who was wounded three times in combat, as his hero.

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## Helping youth change behaviors with New Year's resolutions

By Shawn Jackson,  
Lafayette County UF IFAS 4-H Agent  
Contributor

The start of a new year is a great opportunity to reflect upon not only the successes of the past year but also areas where behaviors need to be improved. This is nothing new for adults, but it can also be a time for adolescents or younger youth to reflect on their behaviors as well. For this to be a successful venture, here are a few guidelines to consider.

### The "I want this factor."

Is the resolution important to the child? We all know how difficult it is to make behavior changes. This is increasingly so if one can not decisively say "I want this to happen!" When helping your child

make a New Year's resolution, be sure it is something that is relevant to them. If not, make an attempt at helping them see the value of the resolution, but with out that strong desire to make the change, success is unlikely.

### Is it attainable?

What we "want to be" and "what we can be" are not the same. This especially needs to be considered when helping a child make resolutions. For example, there probably are limits to how much money your child can earn or save. Setting a goal to make straight "A's" in every subject is very commendable, but is it realistic? A goal to improve grades in each subject or meet with the teacher for extra help until a desired grade is made may be more appropriate. Simply put, make resolutions that are realistic and possible. It's too overwhelming to start the goal with "what I want to be." When making the resolution, consider "what can I do?"

### Accountability and support.

If possible, make a resolution that you and your child can work towards together. New Years resolutions to eat healthier and do more selfless acts for others are examples of behavior changes many are working towards, both young and old and can be done together. Not only can working together make the commitment to change more convenient, it may also be helpful in offering one another support and accountability.

### Make it specific.

As previously stated, it can be difficult for youth to set and meet goals, especially when it

comes to goals of saving or earning money. A specific goal of, "I will save 1 dollar a week from my allowance" or "I will do an extra job around the house each week and save half of my pay" is a resolution with a goal that is precise and simple to commit to.

### Recognize success.

Everyone wants to celebrate the victory of success. Think not only about how you will celebrate, but how will you know when you have succeeded. In the goal setting strategy "SMART goals" the "M" stands for measurable. There should be an easy way to measure a specific goal. It may even be helpful to chart success. Kids find charts that are attached to the refrigerator very motivating partly because they are proud of their success and want it to be shared with their family. Adults may just need to use a calendar to monitor their success and ensure themselves that there is progress toward their goals and change is happening.

The beginning of a New Year can be a great time for everyone, including youth to make positive behavior changes. Help your child identify those areas where improvements are needed and follow these simple guidelines to improve the odds of being successful.



Shawn Jackson

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Happy New Year  
Hamilton County Elected  
Officials  
Happy new year

Heartfelt Wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year!  
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J. Sherman Frier, R.L.S.  
Tim Alcorn, P.S.M.  
Registered Land Surveyors  
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386-362-4629 • FAX: 386-362-5270  
timalcorn@windstream.net

Suwannee River Federal Credit Union  
203 Pinewood Way, SW Live Oak, FL  
1150 NW Hwy 41 Ste 4, Jasper, FL  
386-362-2225/386-792-2301  
1-888-441-3894 Toll-Free  
suwanneeriverfcu.com

## Happy New Year from your local area businesses

By Danny Federico  
Riverbend News

All of your favorite local businesses would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Make sure to stay warm, safe and try not to crumble under holiday stress. If you feel your foundation cracking, like the walls of a gingerbread house, make sure to use lots of frosting!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
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and the  
Lafayette County  
Sheriff's Office  
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Sheriff Sam StJohn  
& Suwannee  
County Sheriff's  
Office  
Wishing you  
a very happy  
NEW YEAR  
2021

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

RECEPTIONIST(FT), Green Point Research. Seeking personable, responsible and motivated individual to join our team. Will be required to answer phones, greet visitors, manage mail, shipping/receiving, and other duties. Must have HS Diploma/GED, ability to use computer, working knowledge of MS Word & Excel and good communication skills. EOE. 2+ years of relevant experience. Wages DOE. Submit resume via email to [careers@greenpointresearch.com](mailto:careers@greenpointresearch.com)

12/23, 12/30, 01/06

Positions available at North Florida College, Madison Fla.: **Nurse Faculty; Director of Dual Enrollment.** See [www.nfc.edu](http://www.nfc.edu) for details.

12/16, 12/23, 12/30

Positions available at North Florida College, Madison, FL: **Nurse Faculty; Coordinator of Nursing and Allied Health Special Projects; Senior Staff Assistant (Academic Affairs); Staff Assistant-Nursing and Allied Health** See [www.nfc.edu](http://www.nfc.edu) for details.


12/23, 12/30

**NOTICE OF INTENDED EMPLOYMENT AND REQUEST FOR APPLICANTS**  
The Hamilton County Custodial Department gives notice of intent to fill available position: Custodian (40 hours per week)  
Salary - \$11 per hour  
Qualifications:  
- Knowledge of cleaning fluids and chemicals  
- Ability to prioritize tasks at hand  
- Ability to perform manual labor  
- Ability to work alone  
- Knowledge of floor maintenance and cleaning preferred  
- Must be able to pass drug screen and background check  
- Must have a valid Driver's license  
Submit applications to: Hamilton County Coordinator's Office 1153 NW US HW 41 Jasper, Fl. 32052 (ph. 386-792-6639) By 4:30pm on January 15, 2021

12/30, 01/06

**HIRING!!**  
Mayo Fertilizer in Lake City is hiring a fulltime truck dispatcher. Please apply in person at our office. Address: 413 NE McCloskey Ave., Lake City, Fla., 32055  
Phone: (386) 752-3155

12/30



The deadline for classified ads is **Monday at 3 p.m.** Send all classifieds to [classifieds@riverbendnews.org](mailto:classifieds@riverbendnews.org). Classifieds are \$20 for the first 20 words. After 20 words, the price is then \$15 per column inch. Classifieds and legals run in the newspaper and on our website.



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[www.facebook.com/Riverbend-News-103412694797300](http://www.facebook.com/Riverbend-News-103412694797300)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The City of Live Oak is seeking applications from qualified candidates for full time Community Development Director. A full description of the requirements for this position may be requested via the City's website: <https://www.cityofliveoak.org/jobs>, or by contacting Terry Reid, via e-mail at [treid@cityofliveoak.org](mailto:treid@cityofliveoak.org). The City of Live Oak is an equal opportunity employer.

12/30

**FOR SALE**  
For Sale  
Four Cemetery plots in Live Oak Cemetery.  
\$750.00 OBO  
Barbara Davis  
(386) 364-6616

12/23, 12/30, 01/06, 01/13

# PUBLIC NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE Third JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR Suwannee COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: 2020-DR-340  
Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Michele A. Headley  
Petitioner,  
and  
James L. Headley  
Respondent,

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (NO CHILD OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT)**

TO: (name of Respondent) James L. Headley  
(Respondent's last known address) 219 Ethel Street, Bayrus, FL 94820

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for dissolution of marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on (name of Petitioner) Michele A. Headley whose address is 12515 Fern Drive Live Oak, FL 32064 on or before (date) 01/15/2021 and file the original with the clerk of this Court at (clerk's address) 200 South Ohio Avenue Live Oak, FL 32064 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

The action is asking the court to decide how the following real or personal property should be divided: (insert "none" or, if applicable, the legal description of real property, a specific description of personal property, and the name of the county in Florida where the property is located)  
NONE

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the address(es) on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

Dated: 12-2-2020 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
By: Salie Part  
Deputy Clerk Salie Part

12/16, 12/23, 12/30, 01/06

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

2020 - CP - 37

IN RE: The Estate of **JAMES F. RUTHERFORD**, Deceased.

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**

The administration of the estate of **JAMES F. RUTHERFORD, Deceased**, File Number 2020 - CP - 37, Social Security Number xxx xx 9113 is pending in the Circuit Court for Lafayette County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 88, Mayo, Florida 32066. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All persons on whom this notice is served who have objections that challenge the validity of the will, the qualifications of the personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of this Court are required to file their objections with the Court **WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE UPON THEM.**

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claims with this Court **WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE UPON THEM.**

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

**ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRIED.**

The date of the first publication of this Notice is **December 23, 2020.**

Attorney for Personal Representative  
HAL A. AIRTH  
P.O. Box 448  
Live Oak, FL 32064  
(386) 362-4915  
FL Bar #306533

Personal Representatives  
HAL A. AIRTH  
112 W. Howard Street  
Live Oak, Florida 32066

12/23, 12/30

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

CIVIL ACTION

KENNETH REHM and BARBARA REHM  
Plaintiffs,  
vs.  
CASE NO. 2020-CA-53

MICHAEL ANDERSON, AS HEIR OF ROBERT L. ANDERSON, DECEASED, and ROBERT ANDERSON, JR., AS HEIR OF ROBERT L. ANDERSON, DECEASED.  
Defendants.

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

TO: ROBERT ANDERSON, JR. as Heir of Robert L. Anderson, Deceased and to all parties claiming interest by, through under or against Defendant, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property herein described.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that you have been designated as defendant in a legal proceeding filed against you for an action for foreclosure of residential mortgage on the following described property located in Hamilton County, Florida.

LOT 3, GRAHAM ACRES SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION AS PER THE PLAT THEREOF FILED AT PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 15, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA.

SITUATE IN THE COUNTY OF HAMILTON, STATE OF FLORIDA.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 6687 NW 27<sup>TH</sup> BLVD. JENNINGS, FL 32053

The action was instituted in the Circuit Court, Hamilton County, Florida, and is styled KENNETH REHM and BARBARA REHM vs. MICHAEL ANDERSON, AS HEIR OF ROBERT L. ANDERSON, DECEASED, and ROBERT ANDERSON, JR., AS HEIR OF ROBERT L. ANDERSON, DECEASED.

You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the action on Hal Adams, Plaintiffs' Attorney, whose address is 4600 Summerlin Road, Suite C-2/480, Fort Myers, Florida 33919, on or before 30 days after the date of the first publication and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Hal Adams or immediately after service;

otherwise, a default will be entered against you for he relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter a judgment or decree in the Plaintiffs' interest which will be binding upon you.

Dated: Dec. 4, 2020

Greg Godwin  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
Hamilton County, Florida

By: Isi Cynthia Johnson  
Deputy Clerk

12/16, 12/23, 12/30, 01/06

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF STARLETT D. BARBER  
File No. 2020-CP-000178

Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of STARLETT D. BARBER, deceased, whose date of death was September 1, 2020, is pending in the Circuit Court for Suwannee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 200 Ohio Ave S., Live Oak, Florida 32064. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRIED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRIED.

The date of first publication of this notice is: \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.  
Signed on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

Steve Puffmann  
Attorney for Petitioner  
Florida Bar No. 212993  
250 International Parkway, Suite 250  
Lake Mary, FL 32746  
Telephone: 407-732-6510  
Email: [steve@puffmannpuffmann.com](mailto:steve@puffmannpuffmann.com)

Lisa K. McDonald  
13 Wolf Road  
Queensbury, NY 12804

12/23, 12/30

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

CIVIL ACTION

KENNETH REHM and BARBARA REHM  
Plaintiffs,  
vs.  
CASE NO. 2020-CA-53

MICHAEL ANDERSON, AS HEIR OF ROBERT L. ANDERSON, DECEASED, and ROBERT ANDERSON, JR., AS HEIR OF ROBERT L. ANDERSON, DECEASED.  
Defendants.

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

TO: MICHAEL ANDERSON, as Heir of Robert L. Anderson, Deceased and to all parties claiming interest by, through under or against Defendant, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property herein described.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that you have been designated as defendant in a legal proceeding filed against you for an action for foreclosure of residential mortgage on the following described property located in Hamilton County, Florida.

LOT 3, GRAHAM ACRES SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION AS PER THE PLAT THEREOF FILED AT PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 15, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA.

SITUATE IN THE COUNTY OF HAMILTON, STATE OF FLORIDA.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 6687 NW 27<sup>TH</sup> BLVD. JENNINGS, FL 32053

The action was instituted in the Circuit Court, Hamilton County, Florida, and is styled KENNETH REHM and BARBARA REHM vs. MICHAEL ANDERSON, AS HEIR OF ROBERT L. ANDERSON, DECEASED, and ROBERT ANDERSON, JR., AS HEIR OF ROBERT L. ANDERSON, DECEASED.

You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the action on Hal Adams, Plaintiffs' Attorney, whose address is 4600 Summerlin Road, Suite C-2/480, Fort Myers, Florida 33919, on or before 30 days after the date of the first publication and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Hal Adams or immediately after service;

otherwise, a default will be entered against you for he relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter a judgment or decree in the Plaintiffs' interest which will be binding upon you.

Dated: Dec. 4, 2020

Greg Godwin  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
Hamilton County, Florida

By: Isi Cynthia Johnson  
Deputy Clerk

12/16, 12/23, 12/30, 01/06

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**DEADLINE, MARCH 1, 2021**

THE DEADLINE FOR FILING APPLICATIONS FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AND AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION IS MARCH 1, 2021. IF YOU HAVE NOT FILED YOUR NEW APPLICATION WITH THE SUWANNEE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER'S OFFICE, YOU MUST DO SO BETWEEN JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> AND MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> TO QUALIFY FOR YOUR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AND/OR AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION AND ALL OTHER EXEMPTIONS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: **RICKY GAMBLE, SUWANNEE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER - 386-362-1385.**

OTHER AVAILABLE EXEMPTIONS: WIDOW, WIDOWER, DISABILITY, BLIND, VETERAN'S DISABILITY AND SENIOR'S, ETC. PLEASE CONTACT THE PROPERTY APPRAISER'S OFFICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

**SENIOR EXEMPTION (BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION TAX ONLY) FOR LOW INCOME SENIORS.**

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE APPRAISER'S OFFICE WILL BE IN BRANFORD (502 SW SUWANNEE AVE) ON JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>, JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> AND FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M. TO TAKE APPLICATIONS.

**REMEMBER**

IF YOU RECEIVED HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AND/OR AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION IN 2020 AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO CHANGES, YOU DO NOT NEED TO SIGN AND RETURN YOUR CARD. KEEP THE CARD YOU WERE MAILED AS YOUR RECEIPT.

IF YOU PURCHASED THE PROPERTY IN THE YEAR 2020 AND RECEIVED THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AND/OR AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION FROM THE PREVIOUS OWNER, YOU MUST REAPPLY IN YOUR NAME FOR THE EXEMPTION OR CLASSIFICATION TO CONTINUE.

12/30

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<p><b>2018 CHRYSLER 300</b> Q200227A</p>	<p><b>2019 DODGE CHALLENGER</b> V200328A CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2015 DODGE CHALLENGER</b> V200193M</p>	<p><b>2019 DODGE CHALLENGER</b> Q4784 CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2019 FORD MUSTANG GT</b> V200305A CARFAX OWNER</p>
<p><b>2017 HONDA ACCORD</b> V200244A</p>	<p><b>2017 HONDA CIVIC</b> Q200147A CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2016 KIA FORTE</b> V200316A</p>	<p><b>2018 KIA OPTIMA</b> V200242M CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2015 LEXUS IS 350</b> Q200105A CARFAX OWNER</p>
<p><b>2018 NISSAN ALTIMA</b> V200119A</p>	<p><b>2019 NISSAN MAXIMA</b> V3228A</p>	<p><b>2019 TOYOTA CAMRY</b> V3229A</p>	<p><b>2017 TOYOTA CAMRY</b> V190215A CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2015 CHEVY TAHOE LTZ</b> Q200222A</p>
<p><b>2015 CHEVY TAHOE LTZ</b> Q200194B</p>	<p><b>2016 CHEVY TAHOE</b> V210032A</p>	<p><b>2019 CHRYSLER PACIFICA</b> V3225 CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2019 CHRYSLER PACIFICA</b> V3222 CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2015 CHRYSLER TOWN &amp; COUNTRY</b> V200117A CARFAX OWNER</p>
<p><b>2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA</b> V200298A CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2019 DODGE DURANGO</b> V3216 CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2019 DODGE DURANGO</b> V3227 CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2016 DODGE CARAVAN</b> V200239A CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2016 DODGE DURANGO</b> V200317A</p>
<p><b>2017 DODGE JOURNEY</b> V200303A</p>	<p><b>2017 DODGE JOURNEY</b> V3211A CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2017 DODGE JOURNEY</b> Q200046A</p>	<p><b>2017 FORD EDGE</b> V200307A CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2015 FORD ESCAPE</b> Q200082A</p>
<p><b>2018 FORD ESCAPE</b> Q190188B CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2018 FORD ESCAPE</b> Q180329A CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2018 HONDA PILOT</b> C190047A CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2004 HUMMER H2</b> Q200196A</p>	<p><b>2020 HYUNDAI KONA</b> Q200007A CARFAX OWNER</p>
<p><b>2016 HYUNDAI SANTA FE</b> Q200163A</p>	<p><b>2019 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE</b> V3203 CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2016 JEEP CHEROKEE 4x4</b> Q4799A</p>	<p><b>2017 JEEP PATRIOT</b> V200281A</p>	<p><b>2019 JEEP RENEGADE</b> Q4788 CARFAX OWNER</p>
<p><b>2016 INFINITI QX60</b> Q200064A</p>	<p><b>2013 LEXUS GX460</b> Q4772A</p>	<p><b>2017 MAZDA CX-3</b> V200321A</p>	<p><b>2019 YW ATLAS</b> V200242A CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2014 CHEVY 1500 4x4</b> V190486A</p>
<p><b>2016 CHEVY 1500 LTZ 4x4</b> Q4782A</p>	<p><b>2019 FORD RANGER</b> Q190255A CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2017 FORD F-350 LARIAT 4x4</b> Q4842</p>	<p><b>2015 GMC DENALI 4x4</b> V200103B</p>	<p><b>2018 GMC 1500 z-71</b> V190522A LARIAT 4x4</p>
<p><b>2016 NISSAN FRONTIER 4x4</b> Q4765</p>	<p><b>2004 RAM 2500 SLT</b> V190190A</p>	<p><b>2017 RAM 1500 SPORT 4x4</b> Q4848</p>	<p><b>2015 RAM 1500 SLT</b> Q200184A</p>	<p><b>2019 RAM 1500 LONGHORN</b> Q200150A CARFAX OWNER</p>
<p><b>2016 RAM 1500 LARAMIE 4x4</b> Q4807A CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2017 RAM 2500 LONGHORN</b> V200345A 6-7 CUMMINS DIESEL</p>	<p><b>2015 RAM PROMASTER</b> V200089A</p>	<p><b>2018 TOYOTA TACOMA</b> V200240A CARFAX OWNER</p>	<p><b>2019 TOYOTA TUNDR</b> V200276M CARFAX OWNER</p>

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