



MISSING



Photo courtesy of Live Oak Police Department
Jazmine Kelsay



Photo courtesy of Live Oak Police Department
Valerie Foster



Photo courtesy of Live Oak Police Department
Ralynn Floyd

Community concern grows as three teens reported missing

Bea Coker
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The of Live Oak community has been gripped by concern following the disappearance of three teenagers, who were last seen on Sunday, Feb. 11, at approximately 3:30 p.m. The Live Oak Police Department is calling for citizens to remain vigilant and report any sightings or

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Branford High School principal honored by Florida Tax Watch, presents scholarship to outstanding student



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, February 6, 2024
Terry Huddleston (second from right) was joined by his family as he was presented with the Florida TaxWatch PAL award.

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Florida TaxWatch has recently announced the recipients of the esteemed Principal Leadership Awards

(PLA) for the 2023-24 academic year, honoring 15 exceptional school principals across the state. Since its inception in 2013, the PLA program has been dedicated to recognizing educational leaders who exhibit unwavering commitment

See "Branford" on page 3

Lafayette school district recognized as Best of the Best



Photo courtesy of Robby Edwards
The Lafayette County School District's Risk Manager Gerald Powers (left) and Superintendent Robby Edwards (right) accepted the Best of the Best Award for superior risk management at FSBIT's annual winter meeting.

FSBIT
Contributor

At its annual winter meeting, the Florida School Boards Insurance Trust (FSBIT) acknowledged the

See "Lafayette" on page 3



Florida legislation working on laws for dangerous dogs

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House Bill 873 is currently making its way through a judiciary committee before being presented to the Florida House floor. This new bill, aiming to curb attacks from dangerous dogs on humans, is being referred to as the "Pam Rock Act" in reference to Pam Rock, a Putnam County mail carrier who was killed in 2022 by a pack of dogs while working.

"The legislature

See "Laws" on page 3

Fatal Car Accident on I75

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On Monday, Feb. 5, a male from Hawkinsville, Ga., was pronounced dead following a traffic accident that occurred at 8:55 p.m. in Suwannee County. According to Florida Highway Patrol, the crash occurred on northbound Interstate 75 at mile marker 439, when a Mack dump truck struck the overpass of County Road 136 with its lift box elevated and became lodged under the overpass. The driver of the Mack truck was not injured. However, the Hawkinsville resident's vehicle, a gray Ford Bronco, caught on fire after colliding with the lodged lift box. The Bronco's female passenger was transported to the hospital with serious, non life-threatening injuries, but the driver was pronounced deceased.

Hamilton County Animal Control offering microchipping

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Hamilton County Animal Control, now under new management, has an increased focus on offering the

See "Microchipping" on page 3



Around the Banks



Johnny Bullard
Guest Columnist

On Valentine's Day, this article will appear in the *Riverbend News*.
Valentine's Day brings back many memories and, for the most part, good memories. My beloved maternal grandmother, the late Annie Valentine Johnson Taylor, was born on Valentine's Day in Suwannee County. I think of her often, but especially on Valentine's Day. She was, for me, the perfect grandmother: patient, kind, a wonderful cook, and a loving and patient spirit. She loved gardening and grew some of the most beautiful camellias in the world. So many times, she allowed me to clip camellias for various Valentine's Day events. My memories of walking with her as we clipped her prized camellias and then sharing a visit with her afterward are precious. I hope she knew how much I loved her. I told her how much I did. I know there's a Heaven, and I know she's there. No doubt in my mind.
In elementary school, our teacher made elegant Valentine boxes, and we dropped our Valentines in the boxes to be distributed later in

the day.
For many years, I held "The Queen of Hearts" pageant in Jasper, benefitting the American Heart Association. It was a well-coordinated pageant and raised a lot of money for a good cause.
When I was a first-year principal in White Springs, Tracy and Woody Woodard, Janiece and Phillip Platt and several parents sponsored a Valentine's dance for our seventh and eighth graders in the cafeteria, and it was a beautiful event. The parents went all out. The decorations were lovely, and my Lord, the refreshments - we had tables groaning with a variety of goodies. It was truly an evening to remember.
When I was principal at Central Elementary in Jasper, the late Ulma Braswell made her famous homemade cream puffs for us each year on Valentine's Day. They were always wonderful.
One dear friend, the late Nora Lang, and I always shared a visit around Valentine's Day. I would choose beautiful strawberries; we splurged and purchased a couple of bottles of Moet White Star Champagne and a couple of bottles of Frexinet, which were less expensive but great. We would sit on her screened back

porch, talk and enjoy eating our strawberries and sipping champagne. I miss Nora so very much.
How many remember those elegantly styled heart-shaped Valentine's boxes of candy sold in the drugstores? The boxes were more beautiful than the candy inside of them was tasty, but we thought they were beautiful, and Daddy bought Mama a box of those chocolates and a bottle of Estee Lauder perfume each year.
Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate LOVE. Let's all allow ourselves to let those we love know that we love them. We don't have to purchase expensive gifts, although local florists would be happy for your business, as Valentine's Day is the busiest day of the year for them. My favorite chocolates are Turtles. I love them, always have, but I won't turn up my nose to a Reese's Cup or a Snickers bar.
Just to let you all know, my readers, I appreciate you so very much, as I do Danny Federico, Emerald Greene and all the staff at *Riverbend*.
Wishing everyone throughout our home here Around the Banks of the Suwannee a Happy Valentine's Day. From the Eight Mile Still on the Woodpecker Route north of White Springs, wishing you a good week.

Cagle grams: *Dreams*



James H. Cagle
Guest Columnist

"Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon the earth: therefore let thy words be few. For a dream cometh through the multitude of business" (Ecclesiastes 5:1-3 KJV).
In our text, Solomon is tracing the irrational mouth and illogical religious vow made in haste to the dream this individual had. They had a dream and acted on it and made the "sacrifice of fools," which is making a vow and not keeping it.
"For a dream cometh through a multitude of business" is the same as saying the business we have during the day is the greatest influence on our dreams and, therefore, is not from God and should not be considered of great importance and used as our guide and acted on. Often, what we do during the day will be the thing we find ourselves doing in our dreams.
Dreams are real but not reality. Ordinary dreams are an exercise of the imagination. The thoughts in dreams arise out of the past and present circumstances of the dreamer. Dreams are best perceived as something for keeping us entertained while we sleep.

There are dreamers who place great importance on dreams. Among other things, they claim that when they dream, they have an out-of-body experience, return to the past, and speak to human and animal spirits. They claim to travel into the future and see things that are ahead of them. They place great stock in their dreams and use the interpretation of their dreams as a guide for life. All of this is contrary to Scripture. God's word is objective truth, but dreams are created in the imagination and are subjective truths and should not be followed.
Dreams were very important at one time because they were given by God to His prophets as a way of revealing His will to His people. Vision is synonymous with dream in such cases. God's prophets had dreams or visions of the head, which featured symbolic representations of current and future events which have and will come true.
After the events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ, we read of no more revelatory dreams as in the Old Testament. This is because Jesus Christ, the ultimate and final revelation, was given by God, and we also now have a complete canon of Scripture. Solomon gives another warning about dreams after telling of the bad consequences that come from acting on one's dreams (v. 4-6).
"For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God" (v. 7). In other words, stop paying attention to your dreams and just walk in the fear of the Lord (Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14).

This is a paid service announcement

MORSELS FOR ZION'S POOR

Sometimes men are swept into the external Kingdom of the LORD during various outpourings of HIS SPIRIT according to the LORD's purpose. Just as surely as HE calls HIS sheep in this manner, there are generally many goats among them who are caught up in their midst for one reason or another. The LORD illustrated this fact in the parables of the tares and the wheat. It is often very difficult to discern the wheat from the tares, thus we are told to leave them alone until the time of the harvest, when HE comes to gather the good grain and to cast away that which is not HIS to be burned. Those who are given no understanding by the SPIRIT of GOD will ultimately reject the truth of GOD in favor of whatever religion is more suitable to them. Paul knew that this was the way of men and he forewarned Timothy that he should not be surprised when this occurred. It has happened in every age and the one in which we live is a stark testimony to the truth of Paul's observation. Every man who professes faith will turn his back to the truth and depart from the way of the LORD unless the LORD shall keep him from falling. The LORD uses the examples of those who turn aside from the Gospel in order to stir HIS own people up with even greater desire not to be found among them. Men do not embrace the tenets of Christianity with the thought in mind of departing from the truth which they profess to believe. Yet, the fact that many do so serves to remind the true sons of GOD that they do not stand in the power of their flesh. These departures are generally gradual as error creeps in little by little. Many who at one time, seemed solid in faith swerve ever so gently at first until they ultimately turn from that which they once claimed to believe. Paul was faithful to declare one message: "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." There is no appeal to the flesh in such a singular and unadorned message. Those who are bought with this precious blood only find complete satisfaction there. Are you satisfied with CHRIST?
-m.a.m.

forthepoor@windstream.net

This is a paid service announcement

MORSELS FOR ZION'S POOR

From the very beginning of the New Testament church there were various errors and falsehoods that were declared in its midst which were either contrary to or an addition to the one true message which Paul faithfully declared to the exclusion of all others. He sums this up when he says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." There can be no sound doctrine, set forth by men, which is a new revelation or a truth which is not already summed up and revealed in HIM, who has been given "a name which is above every name." A "strange doctrine" is any teaching, tradition or commandment which does not recognize the complete sufficiency and efficiency of that which CHRIST came into the world to perform. Strange doctrine is that which denies that CHRIST has completely obtained eternal redemption for that people for which HE undertook HIS work of redemption. One would have to consider that, based upon that definition, there is much strange doctrine which is proclaimed in the earth today, under the guise of "gospel preaching." I have often said that it can be more readily proven from the scriptures that CHRIST died for all men and that, subsequently, all men are saved, than it can be shown that HE died for all men and yet some of them shall yet perish. The latter is a "strange doctrine" for sure. "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." Since CHRIST has made a purchase with HIS blood, it is readily apparent that HE shall take possession of that which HE bought. Another "errant doctrine" is the notion that the sons of GOD can be indifferent to, or even enjoy the wickedness of their flesh. Paul addressed this error when he said, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" The greatest heartache for any of those who born again is the corruption of their flesh with which they are engaged in battle daily.
-m.a.m.

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Missing

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information that may aid in their safe return.

The three girls teenagers, identified as Valerie Foster, Ralynn Floyd and Jazmine Kelsay, all aged 17, are suspected to have run away from the area of Demorest Street and Pearl Avenue within the city limits. Their intended destination remains unknown, heightening worries among their families and the wider community.

Descriptions of the Missing Teens:

- Valerie Foster:**
Height: 4’9”
Weight: 119 lbs.
Appearance: Blonde hair, blue eyes
Last Seen Wearing: Black hooded sweatshirt with a white design on front and white Crocs.
- Ralynn Floyd:**
Height: 5’5”
Weight: 190 lbs.
Appearance: Red/Auburn hair, brown eyes
Last Seen Wearing: Black t-shirt with a pink star on front, and blue jeans.
- Jazmine Kelsay:**
Height: Not specified
Weight: 180 lbs.
Appearance: Brown hair, brown eyes
Last Seen Wearing: Black t-shirt, and blue jean shorts.

Live Oak Police Captain Jason Rountree reported there was no update on the status of the missing teens available as of 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 12, but the Live Oak Police Department emphasizes the importance of the community's

assistance in locating these missing teenagers. Anyone with information on their whereabouts is urged to contact Suwannee County Dispatch at (386) 362-2222. Callers can choose to remain anonymous. Any piece of information, no matter how small, could prove crucial in bringing the teens home safely.

As the community rallies together in support of the families affected, residents are reminded to remain vigilant and report any potential sightings or information that may assist in the search efforts. In times like these, unity and solidarity within the community play a vital role in ensuring the safe return of those who are missing.

Riverbend News will continue to provide updates on this developing story as more information becomes available.

Branford

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and innovative practices in fostering positive change in their students' lives.

Among the distinguished awardees is Terry Huddleston, Principal of Branford High School, whose exceptional leadership has significantly raised educational standards within the institution and left a positive imprint on the community. Representatives from TaxWatch visited Branford High School on Tuesday morning, Feb. 6, to present Huddleston with a plaque in honor of his achievement.

Unlike other leadership awards, TaxWatch's PLA uses a data-driven methodology to find the top principals in the state rather than leaving it up to a "popularity vote." In addition, Florida TaxWatch ranks every school in the state using student learning gains in reading and math over three years.

"Among all school-related factors that contribute to what students learn at

school, nothing is more important than having a quality teacher in every classroom. Second to that is having quality and effective leadership," said Meg Cannan, TaxWatch Senior Research Analyst. "The impact of leadership tends to be the greatest in schools where the learning needs of students are most acute. The greater the challenge, the greater the impact an effective principal can have on student learning."

An additional perk came with Huddleston's recognition, too. By teaming up with the Florida Prepaid Foundation, Florida TaxWatch has added a scholarship component to the award, allowing Huddleston to honor one of Branford's brightest seniors with a two-year scholarship valued at \$6,800, which can be used at any two-year college throughout the state. This distinguished scholarship was presented to Kaylynn Dees, who later expressed her desire to pursue a certification in cosmetology.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, February 6, 2024

Kaylynn Dees was selected as the recipient of a two-year scholarship, which was part of the Florida TaxWatch PAL award. Pictured, from left to right, are: Meg Cannan, Ronald White, Ted Roush, Kaylynn Dees, Cindy O'Connell and Terry Huddleston.

Lafayette

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outstanding risk management performance of the Lafayette County School District. Lafayette’s exceptional risk management program has focused on the safety of students and staff through training, prevention and loss control programming. After reviewing claims and accident reports, Lafayette shined compared to other districts and was awarded the coveted

Best of the Best Award.

FSBIT’s Executive Director Dave Stephens commented, “Lafayette’s team is to be commended on their performance for they recognize that every dollar saved on a claim is a dollar that can be spent on classroom instruction.” Led by Risk Manager Gerald Powers, supported by Superintendent Robby Edwards, financed by Tammy Maund, and promoted by School Board Member Jeff Walker, “Lafayette has a model to

which all districts should aspire.”

FSBIT is an insurance pool representing 13 school districts throughout the state. FSBIT leads a coordinated effort to protect member districts’ assets, both human and financial, from all types of risk. This effort begins with helping member school districts identify and analyze the risks to which the district may be exposed.

For more information on FSBIT, please visit www.fsb.it.net.

Laws

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finds that dangerous dogs are in increasingly serious and widespread threat to the safety and welfare of the people of this state,” the bill reads. “Because of unprovoked attacks which cause injury to persons and domestic animals; that such attacks are, in part, attributable to the failure of owners to confine and properly train and control their dogs; that existing laws inadequately address this growing problem; and that it is appropriate and necessary to impose uniform requirements for the owners of dogs and dangerous dogs.”

Dangerous dogs are defined as a dog with a record having bitten, attacked, endangered or caused serious injury to a person; a dog that has multiple instances of injuring or killing a domestic animal off the owner's property; and a dog that has, unprovoked, chased or approached a person in a menacing manner. The bill would also require that the dogs be registered with the Florida

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Under the bill, canine related incidents would have to be investigated by a local committee in order to deem a dog dangerous.

If this new bill were to become law, it would require a dog owner who knows of their animal's “dangerous propensities” to properly secure the dog on their property, whether indoors or in a locked, fenced yard or structure. If the dog is taken off the property, it must be properly muzzled and secured. Failure to follow these rules for a dangerous dog could result in a \$1,000 fine, and dangerous dog owners would need to purchase a \$100,000 dog liability insurance policy. Furthermore, under this new act, a dangerous dog who breaks the rules would be confiscated by animal control and placed in quarantine if necessary. The dog will be held for 10 business days after the owner has received written notification. After the aforementioned time, the dog would be put down, and the owner will be found guilty of a first degree misdemeanor.

Microchipping

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best to the citizens of Hamilton County. That is why, this week, the department is offering microchipping for residents. This will help owners retrieve their pets faster should they run

away. To set up an appointment is simple, just visit the Hamilton County Animal Control Facebook page and message them to set up a time. Then, head to 910 NW US Hwy 41, in Jasper, with a donation or a bag of dog food to get your animal chipped.

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2022 Award Winning Newspaper

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Jennings Town Council grapples with contractor payment post-hurricane cleanup

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The Jennings Town Council was subject to a heated debate during its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 6.

Andre Jackson, owner of Jackson Tractor Work LLC, addressed the council in regard to payment for his cleaning services following Hurricane Idalia. Jackson stated he had finished his cleanup in approximately three and a half months and expressed his appreciation for the council giving him the opportunity to work for the council. He also voiced his gratitude for the Jennings Police Department's assistance with traffic control while performing his cleaning duties. Councilwomen Antonette Crumedy and Cynthia Daniels attested to his dedication, with Daniels stating Jackson did an "excellent job" around town.

However, the discussion began to get sticky when the subject of payment came around. Town Manager Jennifer Hightower informed the council that the town would not be reimbursed for his compensation, as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) deadline for submitting such invoices had passed.

Although the council continued to maintain its stance that Jackson did an excellent job picking up the debris around town, the discussion amongst the members continually returned to the conclusion that the town didn't have a contract or a mutual aid agreement with him. Both Crumedy and Daniels stated they remember discussions being made with Jackson at a previous meeting, but they couldn't recall if an agreement was drawn up.

Town Attorney Sheena Rickerson then brought up how the issue could be more concerning for the town, as, by law, such

contracts are supposed to be put out to bid before being approved. She asked Jackson if there was a discussion regarding what specific areas would be cleaned and if there was a vote for approval. However, neither Jackson nor the other council members could definitively state there were such discussions.

Mayor Charles Barrett also spoke up, stating he had never heard about an agreement, nor had he received a contract to sign.

Following more discussion on the issue, it was decided that the item would be tabled until the next meeting. In the meantime, Hightower would find the meeting during which the subject was discussed, and she would have the minutes typed out verbatim for the council and Jackson to look over.

The next Jennings Town Council meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, in Town Hall, located at 1291 Florida St.

Suwannee Commissioners elect to look at different property for fire station

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On Tuesday, Feb. 6, the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners met for its regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting quickly turned to an update from Tim Parsens with Liberty Partners, who told the board that the county would be receiving \$4 million for three different grants.

After this, the board moved to hear its first time-specific item, which was to consider purchasing a parcel to be used for a fire station. County Attorney Adam Morrison explained that the asking price for the property was \$500,000. However, the county had an appraisal done and the property was appraised at \$340,000. Morrison further explained that, in his interaction with the seller, it seemed trying to negotiate the price down

would be pointless. Moses Klepper stood up to speak on the item, saying that he thought the property was the ideal candidate but the price was too much. Wayne Hannaka stood up next, saying that while the price is a lot, the county should go through with it, as the process of finding the right property is taking too long.

Commissioner Maurice Perkins agreed with Hannaka, saying that the county would be paying more upfront, but would actually be saving money in the long run. Commissioner Don Hale said he had been fighting hard for this fire station, but felt that the price was too much. After a little more back and forth, the commissioners elected to reject the proposal and look at other properties. After more general business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 5:30 p.m. in the Judicial Annex, located at 218 Parshley St. SW, in Live Oak.

Riverbend News

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JAIL REPORT

Hamilton County
Feb. 5
Marcus Kevron Burch, failure to register as felon
Feb. 6
Jacky Cavazos, larceny, fraud swindle, perjury
Feb. 7
Eric Maurice Bacon, trespassing, disorderly conduct
Christopher Kyle Williams, failure to appear, burglary, larceny
Cornelius Maurice Daniels, vehicle theft, burglary
Darryl Matthew Hannum, methamphetamine possession, drug equipment possession
Bryan Alan Pettiford, drugs possession
Feb. 8
Youvens Pierre, out-of-county warrant, failure to stop at agriculture station
Feb. 9
Stephen Marcel Pittman, burglary, vehicle theft
Feb. 10
Miguel Angel Oseguera Sosa, moving traffic violation
Feb. 11
William Arvel Drury, larceny, possession with intent to sell
John Allen Spack, marijuana possession, drug equipment possession, failure to stop at agriculture station

Lafayette County
Feb. 7
Amanda Cochran, out-of-county warrant
Sonja Fentress, drugs possession, out-of-county warrant

James Keen, violation of probation
Feb. 8
Mikell Singletary, domestic violence battery, arson
Christopher Davis, violation of probation

Suwannee County
Feb. 5
Anthony Nagonkook Battista, drugs deliver distribute, drug equipment possession, sythetic narcotic manufacturing, hallucinogen distribution, marijuana distribution
Shane Nicholas Jeffcoat, sexual assault
De'Antre Marquelle Washington, out-of-county warrant
Santiago Cerro Mendoza, moving traffic violation, driving under the influence, out-of-county warrant
Feb. 6
Verdell Terri Jones, probation violation
Jeremy Layne Dees, out-of-county warrant
Christopher Wayne Weingarth, two counts probation violation
Nicole Renee Jenkins, probation violation
Luis Alberto Gonzalez, probation violation
Roldolfo Medino Tbon, failure to appear
Gary Michael Zayas, larceny, damage property criminal mischief, burglary
Feb. 7
Ismael Lopez-Jose, battery

Ollie Donald James, disorderly intoxication, battery, damage property criminal mischief, resist officer with violence
Lovella Owens, moving traffic violation
Amber N. Pelletier, moving traffic violation
Tashina Marie Green, trespassing, petit theft
Feb. 8
Shawn Alan Kohler, withhold support
Kenneth Victor Hillengas, out-of-county warrant
Jonathan Baker Hernandez, out-of-county warrant
Feb. 9
James David Saunders, probation violation
Joi Quinetta Robinson, driving under the influence
Gage Calvin Conklin, missile into dwelling vehicle building or aircraft
Feb. 10
Leslie Darrell Gresham, carrying concealed weapon, drugs possession, drug equipment possession
Kon M. Yi, moving traffic violation
Lakeva Latasha Griffin, failure to appear
Toknowya Michelle Stover, simple battery domestic violence
Feb. 11
Dallas Lenae Skinner, probation violation
Randall William Young, probation violation
Kristina Lee Weatherspoon, trespassing



Community Calendar

Tuesdays - Sundays
“You want to drink? That’s your business. You want to stop? That’s our business.” Join Live Oak’s Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group to discover a new way of life. Regular Live Oak AA meetings are held each week at 7 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays. Men only meetings are held each Sunday at 8 a.m., and are followed by women only meetings at 4 p.m. The group also holds Al-Anon and AlaTeen meetings every Sunday at 2 p.m., which are open to friends and family of all ages. Each session will be held in the building next to the Suwannee County Health Department at 911 Nobles Ferry Rd., in Live Oak.

Wednesday, Feb. 14 and Thursday, Feb. 15
Let TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) help you with your weight management goals. TOPS is a weight-loss support group that meets weekly on Wednesdays and Thursdays. TOPS will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 9:15 a.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, located at 9989 CR 136, in Live Oak. The group then meets on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 9 a.m. at First Advent Christian Church, located at 699 Pinewood Dr. SW, in Live Oak. For more information, call (386) 362-5933 or (386) 362-5995.

Thursday, Feb. 15
RIVEROAK Technical College will present its annual Career Day and Program Showcase from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., allowing attendees to get a glimpse at all the programs offered at the institution. A variety of businesses and community organizations will also be available to connect with. The event will take place at RIVEROAK, located at 415 Pinewood Dr. SW, in Live Oak.

Friday, Feb. 16
Join the Lafayette County Public Library from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. to make your own Shrinky-Dink art for keychains and other fun accessories! This free fun craft is open to youth ages 5 and older. Call (386) 294-1021 to reserve your spot. The Lafayette County Public Library is located at 120 NE Crawford St., in Mayo.

Saturday, Feb. 17
The Suwannee County Animal Shelter will be hosting a Puppy Love event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come out and show your love by petting or smooching a pup! A crafting table will be available for kids to enjoy, and the Grazin’ Grace food truck will be set up to provide delicious meals. The Suwannee County Animal Shelter is located at 11150 144th St., in McAlpin.

Monday, Feb. 19
Join the Live Oak Public Library from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for an entertaining night of Bingo. Participants will have the opportunity to win heart-healthy prizes, while also enjoying popcorn and tea. For more information, call (386) 362-2317. The Live Oak Public Library is located at 1848 Ohio Ave. S.

Saturday, Feb. 24
The Florida Baptist Convention will be offering free dental care registration and screening at Westwood Baptist Church. Beginning at 8:30 a.m., individuals who have no dental insurance and fall under the 200 percent poverty level will be offered the opportunity for free dental care. Only extractions and fillings will be covered. For more information, call (386) 438-3250. Westwood Baptist Church is located at 920 11th St. SW, in Live Oak.

Saturday, Feb. 24
Interested in keeping bees? Come out for this meet and greet with James Shepherd of the Flippin Bees company as he goes over what you can expect from his Beekeeping Classes. Bees are a great hobby or a way to start a new business, as well as for pollinating your garden and trees! Call Shepherd at (678) 509-4164 for more information. The meet and greet will take place at Suwannee Hardware and Feed, located at 10572 Bridge St., in White Springs, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 29
Celebrate Leap Day with froggy fun at the Branford Public Library! This program is toad-ally perfect for youth in preschool through fourth grade. Call (386) 935-1556 to register. The program will begin at 3:30 p.m. The Branford Public Library is located at 703 NW Suwannee Ave.

FLORIDA

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How's your heart health?

Bea Coker
reporter2.riverbendnews@gmail.com

The Hamilton County UF/IFAS Extension will host a Lunch and Learn workshop on Friday, Feb. 16, from noon to 1 p.m. at Hamilton County High School, located at 1143 US 41 NW, in Jasper. Participants can enjoy a complimentary lunch provided by Hamilton County High School Culinary Arts students while learning valuable information pertaining to maintaining a healthy heart.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call Beth Kerr at (386) 792-1276 or email makerr@ufl.edu. UF/IFAS is committed to providing information on ways to help keep family members healthy and safe. For more information about their programs, visit www.facebook.com/HamCo4H/ or www.floridadisaster.org/knowyourzone.



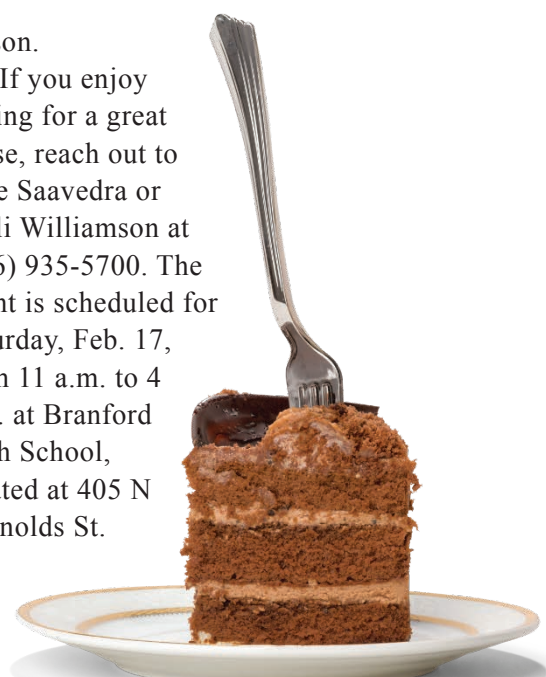
Donations needed for Buccaneer cake auction

Bea Coker
reporter2.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Calling all bakers, novice or expert! Branford's baseball and softball teams need your goodies for the cake auction happening at Fan Day on Saturday, Feb. 17. Your sweet treat donations will help ensure that the Buccaneers have a successful spring

season.

If you enjoy baking for a great cause, reach out to Julie Saavedra or Kelli Williamson at (386) 935-5700. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 17, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Branford High School, located at 405 N Reynolds St.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, February 3, 2024
The Experimental Aircraft Association brought out its kiddie train, ensuring even the youngest attendees had a blast.

INAUGURAL ALL ABOARD FESTIVAL A BIG HIT



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, February 3, 2024
The SongFarmers were one of the many groups to perform at the historic train depot.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, February 3, 2024
Individuals of all ages enjoyed the car show.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, February 3, 2024
The Live Oak Fire Department flew the American flag from the ladder of one of its engines.

Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

On Saturday, Feb. 3, the Suwannee Festivals Committee held its first ever All Aboard Festival. The festivities were situated right at the old Atlantic Coast Line Freight Station, now the Suwannee County Historical Commission and Museum. Musical performers included Rachel Grubb, Live Oak 386, Dick Grillo, Gray Murder, Debbie Hallet, the SongFarmers, Dr. Jules's Cool Blues and River Rats. Inside the train depot, individuals provided free historical presentations. These presenters included Eric Musgrove, Dr. Joe Knetsch and Lynne Hutchins.

In the end, the event, which was a collective effort between the Live Oak Public Library, the UF/IFAS Suwannee Extension, the Live Oak Artists Guild and the Friends of Heritage Park and Gardens, proved to be a wonderful day of entertainment. The next event the Suwannee Festivals Committee has planned is the Wildflower Festival, which will be held at Heritage Park and Gardens, located at 1004 Helvenston St. SE, in Live Oak, on Saturday, April 27.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, February 3, 2024
The Live Oak Fire Department had one of its oldest fire engines on display.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, February 3, 2024
Attendees had a blast looking at the variety of booths available.

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Florida Baptist Convention

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Unlock your potential with the Live Oak Library's writer's conference

Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Calling all writers, avid readers and literature enthusiasts! The much-anticipated "For the Love of Books Writer's Conference" is set to take place on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Live Oak Public Library. This literary extravaganza promises to be an enriching experience for anyone passionate about the world of words.

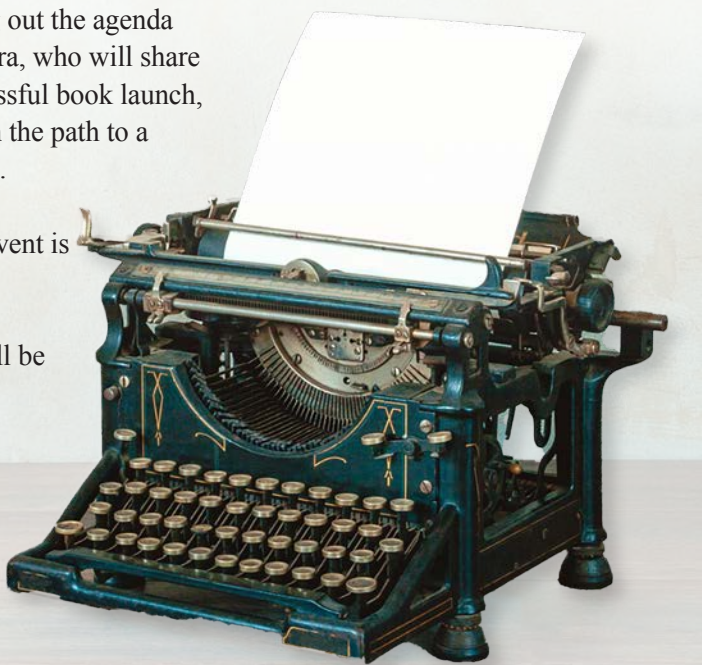
The conference will feature a lineup of sessions tailored to elevate any author's writing journey. K.D. Starling will teach attendees how they can take their manuscripts from Microsoft Word to Kindle, offering invaluable insights into the intricacies of digital publishing. Cynthia Shiver will unravel the mysteries of creativity with her session on collecting ideas from strangers, encouraging writers to draw inspiration from unexpected sources. Rounding out the agenda will be Lana McAra, who will share 10 tips for a successful book launch, guiding authors on the path to a triumphant release.

One of the highlights of the event is the opportunity to engage with local authors. Tables will be set up to provide

attendees with the chance to connect with and support writers from the community. Whether you're seeking advice, looking for your next favorite read, or hoping to discover hidden literary gems, these signing opportunities are not to be missed.

The writer's conference will be a celebration of literature, creativity and the boundless possibilities that come with the written word. It's not just an event; it's a gathering of like-minded individuals who share a common love for books and the craft of writing.

So, be sure to visit the Live Oak Public Library, located at 1848 Ohio Ave. S, for an afternoon filled with inspiration, knowledge and the magic of storytelling. Whether you're a seasoned wordsmith or just starting your literary journey, this conference is designed to ignite your passion for writing and leave you with the tools to bring your stories to life.



Support Hamilton County 4-H through the Community Rewards Program

Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

In a bid to enhance outdoor education initiatives, Hamilton County 4-H is rallying community support to raise funds for an outdoor education station. First Federal Bank has stepped up as a key contributor, pledging \$1,500 through their Community Rewards Program.

Individuals interested in supporting this cause are encouraged to take a simple yet impactful step. First Federal Bank checking account holders can call their bank and express their desire to contribute to Hamilton County 4-H Association through the Community Rewards program.

Participation is easy – for every transaction made with a debit card and signed off on (PIN and ATM-based transactions are excluded), First Federal Bank will donate 50 cents towards the fundraising goal of \$1,500 for the outdoor educational station. This donation does not affect the individual's account, but is a generous contribution from First Federal Bank as part of

their Community Rewards program.

With only two months remaining to reach the \$1,500 target, Hamilton County 4-H urges the community to join the cause as soon as possible. To get started, contact First Federal Bank referencing Community Rewards Program #395 and expressing your desire to support the Hamilton County 4-H Association.

The program will only remain open until April 30, so be sure to act soon! Every contribution brings the outdoor education station closer to reality, enriching the learning environment for the community's youth.



Lafayette County Public Library receives FINRA Investor Education Foundation grant

Dale Collum
Contributor

On Wednesday, Jan. 31, the Lafayette County Public Library announced plans to expand its personal finance collections following receipt of a grant from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation (FINRA Foundation).

The additional tools and resources will help ensure that residents have the information they need when making critical money decisions as they repair, rebuild and recover following Hurricane Idalia.

"When disaster strikes, the community comes together," said Library Director Deborah Johnson. "We want everyone to know that the library is both a welcoming convening place and a location where our families can obtain unbiased information to guide financial choices that will have lasting impact. We thank the FINRA Foundation for providing funds to make these financial information resources available."

Filing claims, accessing government resources, managing lump-sum payments from insurance companies, and meeting immediate expenses when income might be disrupted — these are just a few of the money challenges that residents in disaster areas must navigate.

"Many of us lack experience with these decisions. Nonetheless, we have to get it right the first time around or face long-term financial consequences. Fortunately, the Library has information that can help," FINRA Foundation President Gerri Walsh noted.

The expanded personal finance collections at the library are made possible by a \$5,000 grant from the FINRA Foundation. For more than 15 years, the FINRA Foundation has provided funding, staff training and programs to build the capacity

of public libraries to address the financial education needs of people nationwide. Much of this has been accomplished in partnership with the American Library Association through a program known as "Smart Investing @ Your Library."

The FINRA Foundation is also providing the library with multimedia materials that explain the red flags of financial fraud and what people can do to be vigilant and counter the persuasion tactics that fraudsters use.

It is estimated that consumer financial fraud costs Americans more than \$50 billion a year, according to FINRA Foundation research. Financial fraud is especially prevalent following major natural disasters. Since it was established in 2005, the National Center for Disaster Fraud, which is part of the U.S. Department of Justice, has logged more than 220,000 disaster-related complaints from all 50 states. Financial fraud makes tough times all the more difficult for people recovering from the trauma inflicted by disasters.

The FINRA Foundation has issued an alert with practical guidance to help residents protect themselves from fraudulent schemes. To view the alert, visit www.finrafoundation.org/disaster-fraud-fl.

"Recovery follows disaster, but the path to recovery can be smooth or very bumpy, and financial fraud can be one of the biggest potholes along that road," Walsh observed. "The Lafayette County Library has information to help people avoid the financial potholes and bring the route to recovery into sharper focus."

The Lafayette County Public Library is located at 120 NE Crawford St., in Mayo. The front desk can be reached at (386) 294-1021, and more information on its materials and events can be found at www.3riverslibrary.com.

The FINRA Foundation supports innovative research and educational projects that give Americans the knowledge, skills and tools to make sound financial decisions throughout life. For more information about FINRA Foundation initiatives, visit www.finrafoundation.org.

Conservative author Loren Stivack to speak at AMERICAN PATRIOTS meeting

AMERICAN PATRIOTS
Contributor

Join the AMERICAN PATRIOTS on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to hear nationally renowned conservative author, Loren Stivack. Relying on his keen wit and sense of humor, Stivack will interact with the group and bring attendees up to date about his efforts to make a positive difference in American politics and economics.

The group is especially excited to welcome Stivack because his beliefs and efforts are closely aligned with values that AMERICAN PATRIOTS stands for. Truth is one of the group's top values, and Stivack is known as “Dr. Truth.” His mission and the AMERICAN PATRIOTS' are the same: to connect all citizens who love the country and give them the opportunity to come together to work for the good of the nation. Youth and family are just as important to him as to the AMERICAN PATRIOTS. He has authored numerous children's books aimed and instilling healthy American values.

Join the group on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at RIVEROAK Technical College, located at 415 Pinewood Dr. in Live Oak. For more information on the AMERICAN PATRIOTS, visit americanpatriotsofliveoak.godaddysites.com.

Buccaneer baseball and softball teams invites all to Family and Fan Day

Bea Coker
reporter2.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Are you ready for some fun for families and fans? Come on over to Branford High School, located at 405 N Reynolds St., to celebrate the start of the Buccaneers' 2024 baseball and softball season on Saturday, Feb. 17. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., attendees can enjoy an alumni game, cake auctions, a home run derby, a corn-hole toss, concessions, snow cones and fellowship with neighbors. For \$10, participants can brush up with five swings in the derby. Registration for the competition with fellow alumni is only \$50 per person.

Individuals will be granted free admission to the event with the donation of one case of water or gatorade per person. All proceeds will help support the Buccaneers', baseball and softball spring season. Help make this event successful by spreading the word!

For more information, contact Head Coach Brian Williamson at (386) 935-5600.



Suwannee County Republicans host showing of “The Real Story of January 6”



Many individuals gathered at the Live Oak Church of God for a showing of the Epoch Times film, “The Real Story of January 6.”

Photo courtesy of Barbara Gill

Barbara Gill
Contributor

The Suwannee County Republicans hosted the showing of “The Real Story of January 6” at the Live Oak Church of God on Friday, Jan. 26. Over 60 people attended, including the parents of a man who was arrested and is currently awaiting trial to be held this fall. Another attendee spoke about his very positive experience that day.

According to their website, “The Real Story of January 6,” a documentary by The Epoch Times, reveals the truth that has been hidden from the American people. While a narrative has been set that what took place that day was an insurrection, key events and witnesses have been ignored until now. The documentary takes an unvarnished look at police use of force and the deaths that resulted in some measure from it. The film asks tough questions about who was responsible for the chaos that day. With compelling interviews and exclusive video footage, the documentary tells the real story of Jan. 6, 2021. The film is narrated by Joshua Philipp, host of “Crossroads” on EpochTV and a senior investigative reporter at The Epoch Times. Part 2 has just been released and there will be a local showing soon.

The Suwannee County Republicans encourage all individuals to become involved in this very important election year by friending the Republican Party of Suwannee County on Facebook and attending its regular monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month at Live Oak City Hall, located at 101 White Ave. SE, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meetings feature guest speakers and information on current issues present before the American people.

Lafayette County Farm Bureau honors farmers and ranchers with Food Check-out Week

Rod Land, County President/Lafayette county Farm Bureau
Contributor

The foundation of our well-being as a society depends upon the domestic production of food. Our farmers and ranchers provide us with an abundant, nutritious food supply throughout the year.

In recognition of this achievement, members of the Lafayette County Farm Bureau will celebrate Food Check-out Week from Monday, Feb. 12 through Friday, Feb. 16. We will be visiting the Ronald McDonald House in Tallahassee on Thursday, Feb. 15, where we will be providing a meal for the volunteers as well as the residents. We will also provide gift cards for meat and dairy products to be used to provide meals to the residents.

We have participated in this event for many years, and are pleased that we can share this with our fellow residents.

Thanks to the productivity and efficiency of Florida's agricultural producers, they continue to maintain a stable bounty of food in our communities. Their dedication and skill levels have overcome a difficult marketplace, weather extremes and plant and animal pests and diseases.

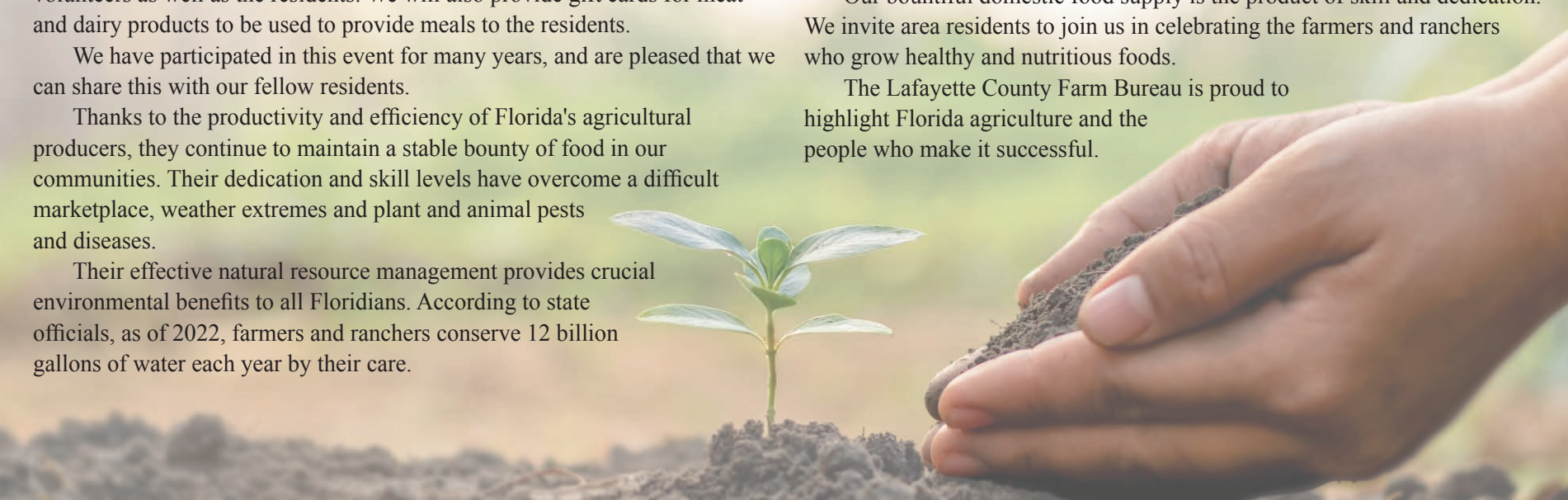
Their effective natural resource management provides crucial environmental benefits to all Floridians. According to state officials, as of 2022, farmers and ranchers conserve 12 billion gallons of water each year by their care.

Farm families achieve these successes despite receiving a steadily smaller portion of the retail grocery dollar. According to new U.S. Department of Agriculture data, in 1973, farmers and ranchers received approximately 30 cents out of every dollar spent on food. By 2022, the share farmers and ranchers received had declined to approximately 14.9 cents. The pattern remains the same for this year. Off-farm costs (processing, packaging, transportation, wholesaling and retailing) account for the majority of the food prices consumers pay.

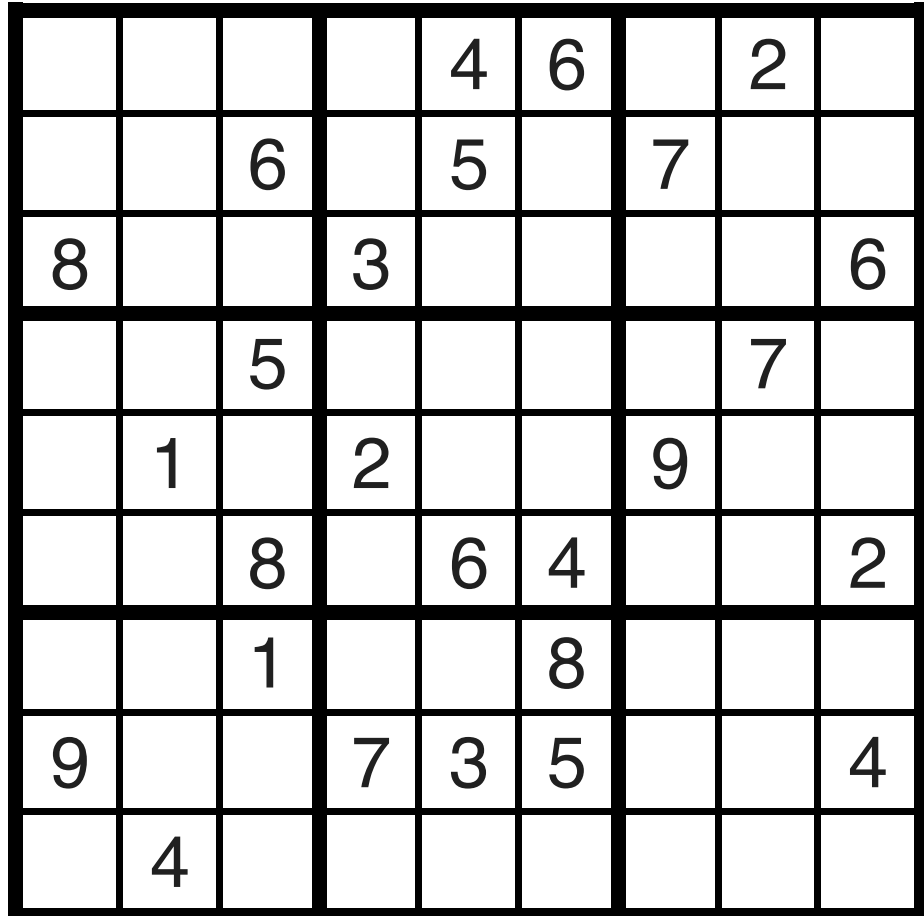
Most of the recent increases in retail food prices have been the result of higher prices of energy needed to process, haul and refrigerate food.

Our bountiful domestic food supply is the product of skill and dedication. We invite area residents to join us in celebrating the farmers and ranchers who grow healthy and nutritious foods.

The Lafayette County Farm Bureau is proud to highlight Florida agriculture and the people who make it successful.



Sudoku



Level: Advanced

CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Gene type | 35. Dog breed: __ Apso |
| 5. Persian male given name | 37. Stood up |
| 10. Type of protection | 38. Direct and uninhibited |
| 12. Cloud | 40. Authorless |
| 14. One who returns to life | 41. Blocking type of drug (abbr.) |
| 16. Gym class | 42. Retrospective analysis (abbr.) |
| 18. General's assistant (abbr.) | 44. Root mean square (abbr.) |
| 19. Baby's dining accessory | 45. Macaws |
| 20. Enchantress | 48. Actress Remini |
| 22. Prefix denoting "in a" | 50. Polynesian wrapped skirt |
| 23. Spiritual leader | 52. City of Angels hoops team (abbr.) |
| 25. Cavities | 53. Fitzgerald and Baker are two |
| 26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.) | 55. Bowling alley must-have |
| 27. Foot (Latin) | 56. A way to cool down |
| 28. Sweet potato | 57. Ethnic group in Asia |
| 30. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt | 58. A way to alter |
| 31. Land | 63. Set of five |
| 33. More inquisitive | 65. Removes from the record |
| | 66. Dummies |
| | 67. Set period in office |

CLUES DOWN

1. DC Comics superhero
2. Brew
3. Play
4. Single-celled animals
5. Rough to the touch
6. Small island (British)
7. Often noted alongside cons
8. Preparation of rootstock
9. Atomic #44
10. Egyptian unit of capacity
11. About secretary
13. Particular groups
15. Poke fun at
17. Make certain that
something occurs
18. Financial term
21. Justify
23. Arbiter
24. 007's creato
27. Czech name for Prague
29. Groans
32. American time
34. No seats available
35. __ Stahl, journalist
36. Cleft lip
39. Talk incessantly
40. Expresses atomic and
molecular weights (abbr.)
43. A part of a river where
the current is very fast
44. Curdled milk
46. Running competitions
47. A team's best pitcher
49. Carthaginian explorer
51. World-renowned city
54. Most common Japanese surname
59. The bill in a restaurant
60. They __
61. City of Angels football
team (abbr.)
62. Distinctive practice
64. One quintillion bytes

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you can name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



Solve the code to discover words related to Valentine's Day.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 11 = C)

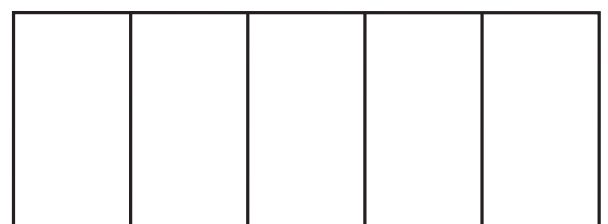
- A.** **1 16 13 13 20 1**
Clue: Candy
- B.** **14 5 6 3 7 11 13**
Clue: Excitement about love
- C.** **11 3 14 9**
Clue: Offers a greeting
- D.** **11 15 5 11 5 18 3 20 13**
Clue: Rich and creamy treat

Answers: A. sweets B. romance C. card D. chocolate

WORD SCRAMBLE

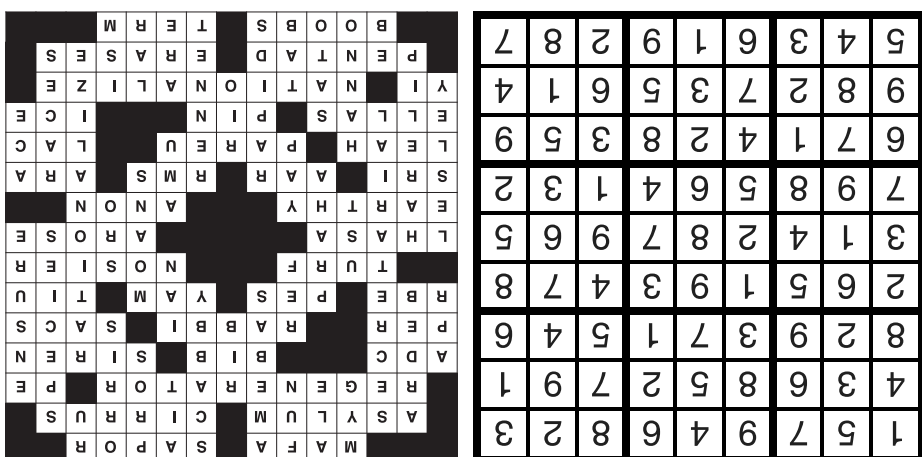
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Valentine's Day.

SLOEV



Answer: Loves

Solutions ✓



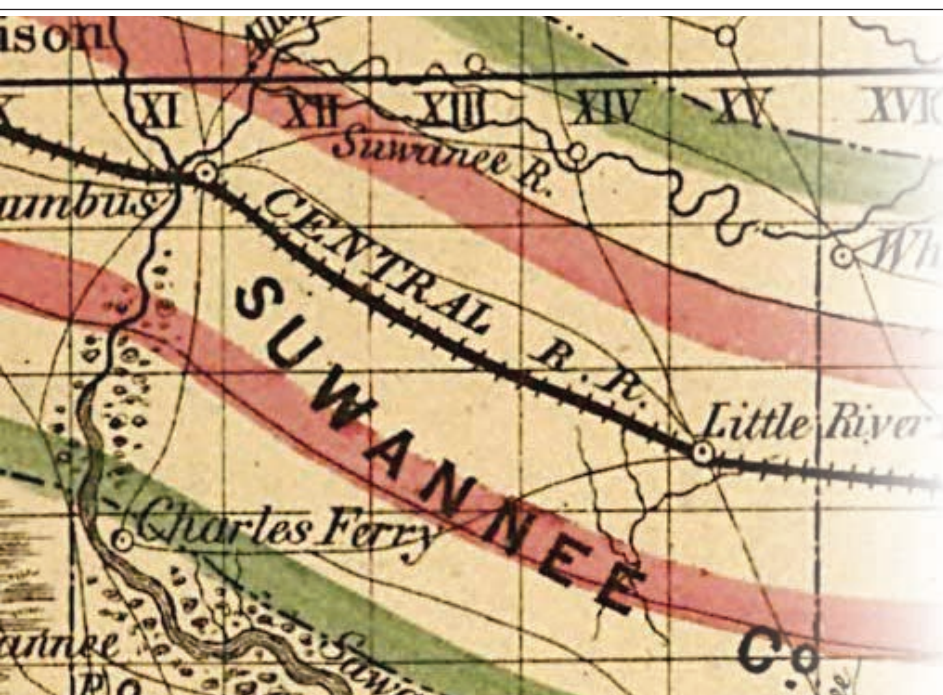


Photo courtesy of Suwannee County Clerk of Court

This map of Suwannee County was drawn up in 1859, the same year the Governor of Florida signed into law an act to organize the Fifth Judicial Circuit, otherwise called the Suwannee Circuit.

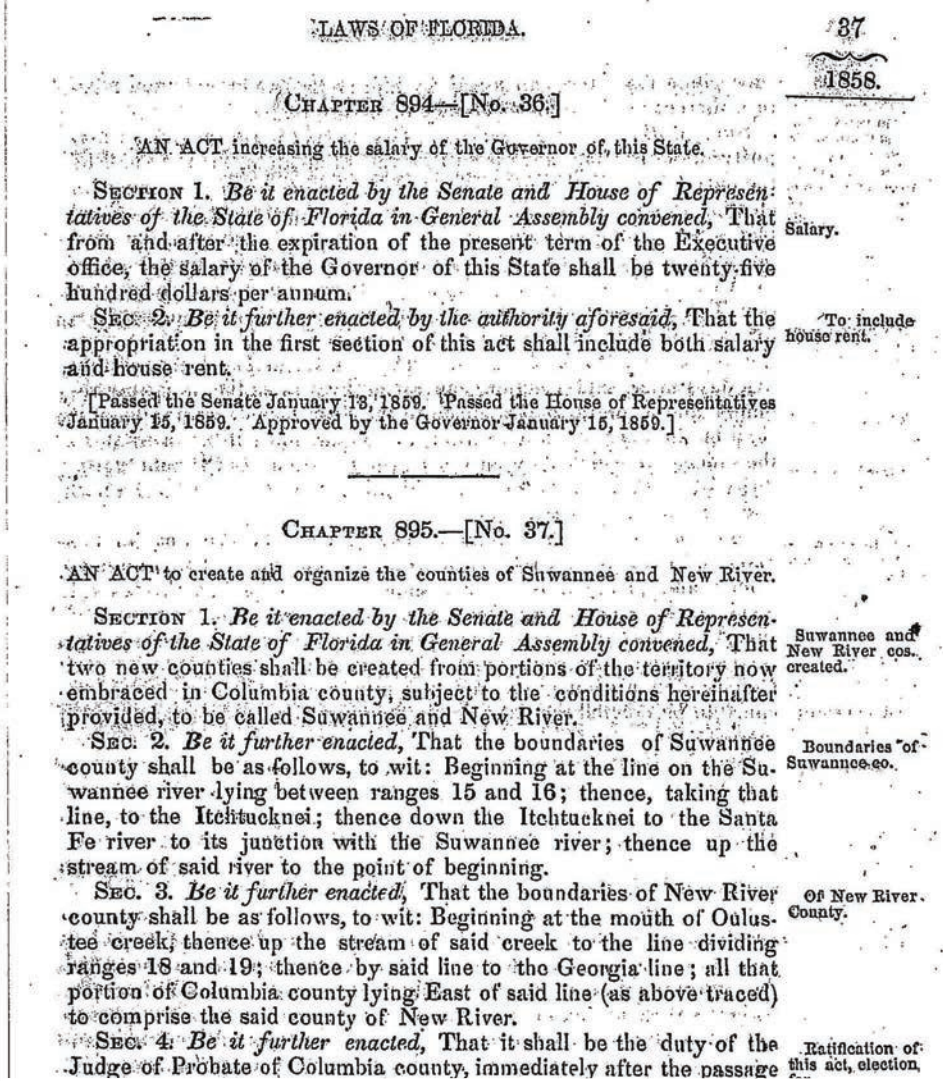


Photo courtesy of Suwannee County Clerk of Court

On Dec. 21, 1858, Governor Madison Starke Perry signed the bill into law that formally established Suwannee County. The bill became Chapter 895 of the Laws of Florida.

Suwannee History: The establishment of Suwannee County – Part 2

Eric Musgrove
Contributor

Last week, we began looking at how Suwannee County was created by Legislative action. In today's article, we will complete our discussion.

Once the Florida Senate had approved a bill to create Suwannee County, it was passed to the House of Representatives for discussion and approval. A committee in the House reviewed the bill and, on Dec. 7, 1858, recommended that it be passed, reading it for the first and second times on the same day. The House again took up the proposal to create Suwannee (now spelled with a double "n") and New River Counties on Dec. 8, but upon a motion of Representative Whitfield, further consideration of the bill was postponed until Dec. 9. After the third reading of the bill on the 9th, Representative Gettis moved that the rules be waived for allowing amendments; the motion carried.

Representative Maloney proposed an amendment that inserted wording to locate where the temporary county seats would be located (the House of William Hines for Suwannee County). The amendment was adopted, and the House then voted upon whether or not to create Suwannee and New River Counties. The motion carried unanimously, with 41 in favor and 0 opposed. The House returned the bill to the Senate, as there had been changes made from the Senate's original version and both versions needed to agree.

The Senate received the House's changes to the proposed bill on the next day, Friday, Dec. 10. Upon reading the amendments, Senator Dell made a motion to accept the changes. The assembled senators approved the House amendment. The bill was now submitted to the Governor for final approval. On Dec. 21, 1858, Governor Madison Starke Perry (for whom the city of Perry, and probably Starke, is named) signed the bill into law that formally established Suwannee County. The bill became Chapter 895 of the Laws of Florida. New River County (later renamed Bradford County) was also created by the same act. At the time, Suwannee County contained a mere two hundred families.

According to the law that created Suwannee County, elections were to be held in April of 1859 to select a Judge of Probate (who was also County Judge), Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sheriff, Coroner, County Surveyor, an Assessor and Collector of Taxes and four County Commissioners. On Jan. 15, 1859, just a few days after the creation of Suwannee County, the Governor of Florida signed into law an act to organize the Fifth Judicial Circuit, otherwise called the Suwannee Circuit. This circuit comprised the counties of Alachua, Levy, Lafayette, Suwannee, Columbia, New River (now Bradford) and Nassau Counties. According to the act, the circuit court would be held in Suwannee County on the first Monday after the fourth Monday in April and October. Suwannee County had come into its own.

Join me next week as we look at more of Suwannee County's history.

Eric Musgrove can be reached at ericm@suwgov.org or (386) 362-0564.

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ASK DR. MANTOOTH ORTHODONTIC DO'S AND DON'TS

Q: What are some good practices for a person wearing an orthodontic appliance, aka braces?

A: The first good practice is to explicitly follow the instructions given to you by your dentist or orthodontist. But some general do's and don'ts would include these:

- Handle and store your appliances with care. For some reason, dogs find orthodontic appliances and dentures irresistible.
- If you wear a removable appliance, take it out before swimming.
- Whether they're permanent or removable, braces readily trap food particles. Try to brush your teeth after every meal and snack. When brushing, pay particular attention to the danger zone between the appliance and the gum line. If you wear a removable appliance, take it out and clean it.
- If your braces are permanent, protect them and your mouth with a mouth guard when playing a sport.
- Avoid hard or sticky foods that can damage appliances. Hard-crusted bread, nuts, bagels and gnawing on bones are not advisable. Nor are sweets, like caramel and chewing gum, sugarless or not.

As mentioned above, follow instructions to the letter, particularly regarding the number of hours you should wear your appliance and/or headgear. The more closely you follow those instructions, the sooner you'll reach your goal.

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Black History Month

To celebrate Black History Month, *Riverbend News* will highlight a person or location in our area each week that has had a positive impact on our communities over the years.

Reggie McGrew an NFL legend from Mayo

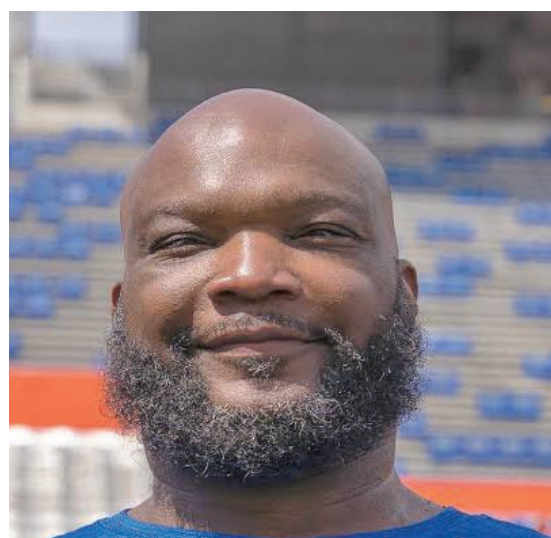


Photo courtesy of Gator Sports
Reggie McGrew

Christian Peterson
reporter.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Reginald Gerard McGrew was born in 1976, in Mayo. He spent his entire childhood in Mayo, growing up with a love of sports like most kids from the area. While baseball was the biggest sport to many in the community, McGrew found his love in football. He attended Lafayette High School (LHS), where he began to hone his craft and love for the sport.

Eventually, McGrew graduated from LHS and continued his education at the University of Florida. Here, he continued learning from the best about football. In 1995, the Gator's staff decided to "redshirt" him. He played under coach Steve

Spurrier on the Florida Gators football team from 1996 until 1998. McGrew quickly became a starter on the team's defensive line. He also played in the 1996 Sugar Bowl, helping to defeat the Gator's rivals, the Florida State University Seminoles in a 52-20 victory, bringing home the Bowl Alliance National Championship for his school. In his junior season (1998), McGrew was awarded first-team All-Southeastern Conference honors. Knowing he had the skills and guidance that he needed, McGrew chose to forgo his final season in college ball and enter the National Football League (NFL) draft.

Many may have seen this as a foolish decision, but McGrew saw that he had what it took and would not let such an opportunity pass him by. When the 1999 draft came, McGrew was ready. The San Francisco 49ers saw their shot at a good player and took him. He was a first round pick, 24th overall. McGrew would go on to play for the 49ers for three seasons between 1999 and 2001. McGrew was not afforded an appearance as a rookie, but would end up playing in 24 NFL games over those three seasons. In 2002, McGrew moved closer to home by playing for the Atlanta Falcons.

While his season with the Falcons was McGrew's last season in the NFL, that didn't mean he stopped loving the game. In fact, in 2003, he was offseason and practice squad member for the Jacksonville Jaguars, and he did the same for the Washington Redskins in 2004. However, McGrew eventually returned to UF, completing his bachelor's degree in sociology in 2010. He then

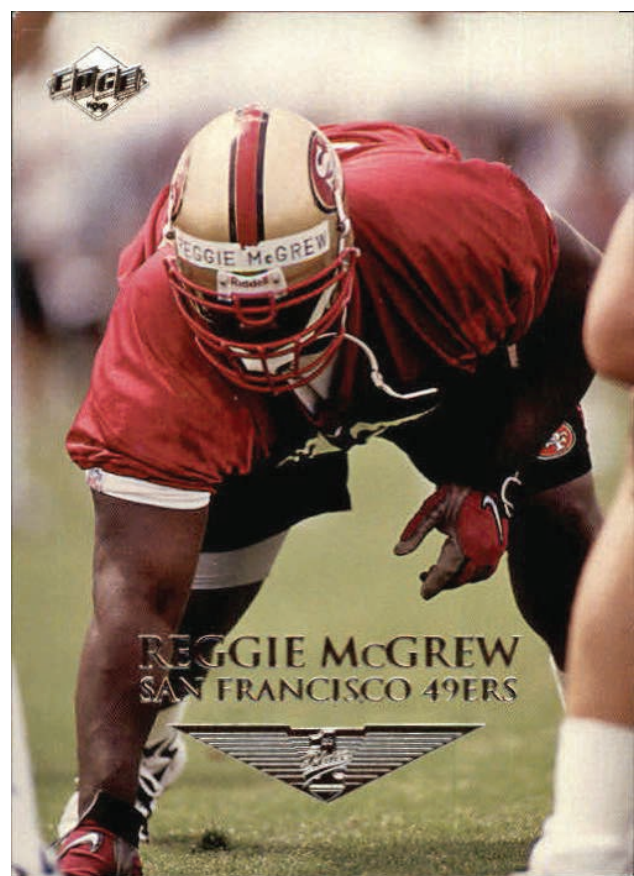


Photo courtesy of beckett.com

The Reggie McGrew millenium collector's edition player card.

returned to his alma mater for a short time to help build up the Gator's football team.

McGrew has since left UF and is enjoying living life with his family. However, he represents that no matter how small of a town you come from, you can be triumphant. He remains a living NFL legend right out of small town Mayo.

Those who invented and inspired

Hailey Heseltine
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

The modern conveniences we use each day are the products of thousands of years of ingenuity; even the most basic of everyday items are the handiwork of brilliant minds of the past.

Many of the items we use, or at least the inventions that set the basis for the development of our modern variants, were the work of Black Americans. Every time you sit at a stop light, turn on a lightbulb or buy vegetables from the grocery store, you are benefitting from technology a Black American invented. Compiled below are the stories of four remarkable Black inventors who revolutionized technology and ultimately changed the world with their inventions, helping shape it to eventually become the one we know today.

Alexander Miles was born on May 18, 1838, in Pickaway County, Ohio, to parents Michael and Mary Miles. During adulthood, he relocated to Wisconsin, where he worked as a barber, and later moved to Winona, Minn. During the 1870s, he married Candace J. Dunlap; they had one child, Grace. Years later, they moved to Duluth, Minn., where he made history.

Miles was apparently quite the skilled barber; he opened his own barbershop in the large, four-story St. Louis Hotel, became the first Black member of Duluth's Chamber of Commerce, and in 1884, had enough funds to build his own three-story building, which came to be known as the Miles Block.

By working in so many tall buildings over the years, Miles experienced firsthand the dangers of manually-controlled elevator doors, which could be left open by mistake and could cause injury or death. He took it upon himself to invent a way for elevator doors to automatically close, using rollers, levers, a flexible belt and drums, thereby significantly reducing the danger associated with using elevators. The patent was

granted in October 1887, and Miles's invention led to him becoming known as the wealthiest Black person in the region.

Lewis Latimer was born on Sept. 4, 1848, in Chelsea, Mass., to a self-emancipated family.



Lewis Latimer

changed everything.

As a draftsman, he got to witness the development of many remarkable inventions, and he had the opportunity to work alongside other inventors. He worked with Alexander Bell as he created the telephone and was even able to draft the drawings for it that helped it get a patent.

Possibly some of his greatest work was done alongside Thomas Edison with the incandescent light bulb. Latimer designed the carbon filament, which extended the lives of lightbulbs and ultimately made them more practical, functional and affordable for the public.

Latimer also earned seven patents for other inventions throughout his lifetime; some of his most well-known ones were an early air conditioning system and an improvement on railcar bathrooms.



Sarah E. Goode

Throughout his childhood, he had no access to any formal education, but when he enlisted in the Union army at the age of 16, he taught himself mechanical drawing, which he developed an affinity for. That skill earned him a spot as a draftsman at a patent law firm in Boston, which

needed for furniture that maximizes space in Chicago apartments, came up with a solution which would be modernly known as a murphy bed. It was a cabinet, desk and bed, the bed part of which could be folded up when not in use to make way for the other storage components and a writing desk. It was a solution that was both practical and effective, and though not much is known about her personally, her clever invention will certainly not be forgotten.

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Garrett Morgan

Garrett Morgan

was born on March 4, 1877, in Paris, Ky., to parents Sydney Morgan and Eliza Reed. Growing up, he went to a segregated school, and when he was 14, he decided to leave home for Cincinnati and work as a handyman. Despite

being busy with providing for himself, Morgan hired a private tutor so that he could continue his education.

Morgan was good with machines, especially sewing machines, and so he began repairing sewing machines for a clothing manufacturer as a job in 1895. As he worked with the technology, he began thinking about ways it could be improved upon, which led to him inventing a belt fastener for use in sewing machines.

Throughout his years, Morgan invented a variety of products, including hair-care and safety devices. One of his most famous inventions was the gas mask, which has saved countless lives through decades of use.

Recognizing the peril firefighters faced with smoke and ammonia inhalation, Morgan set out to invent something that could protect them. By 1912, his gas mask, then known as a breathing decide, had earned a patent. He even wore it himself to rescue people stuck in a gas-filled tunnel under Lake Erie after Cleveland Waterworks had an explosion in summer 1916.

Over the course of his life, Morgan invented many other famous safety devices, such as improved traffic lights, and even earned the nickname of "Black Edison" because of his success.

Goode, recognizing a

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Branford Elementary School presents its Second Annual “Small – Tall Ball”

Bea Coker
reporter2.riverbendnews@gmail.com

The Branford Elementary School (BES) Association of Parents and Teachers is proud to announce that DJ Cliff will be in the house for some Small – Tall Ball partying fun. Any “small” BES student can pair with a “tall” parent, guardian or special adult, in



their favorite party attire for an evening of fun and refreshments. Tickets can be purchased at the school’s front office for \$5 until Wednesday, Feb. 14, and will be \$10 at the door. The event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 16, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the BES cafeteria. All adults should have valid photo identification. For more information, contact (386) 935-5700. BES is located at 26801 SR 247.

Local educators shine in FAAE Ideas Unlimited Competition



Photo courtesy of Branford High School
Kaitlyn VanHusen (left) and Stacy Young (right) participated in the FAAE Ideas Unlimited event in January. Their project, “How to Catch a Reindeer,” will be advancing to Regionals in June.

Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

In a showcase of innovative teaching methods, Stacy Young from Branford High School and Kaitlyn VanHusen from Bradford High School participated in the Florida Association of Agricultural Educators (FAAE) Ideas Unlimited event in January. The duo presented a thoughtfully crafted lesson with a hands-on activity designed to captivate students' interest while imparting essential animal science concepts. Their engaging session, titled "How to Catch a Reindeer," earned them the

opportunity to advance to Regionals in June.

The Ideas Unlimited event encourages educators to develop and share creative teaching approaches that enhance the learning experience. VanHusen and Young's lesson stood out for its imaginative and interactive nature.

In addition to the advancement to Regionals, Young was reelected to serve as the Area II Board Representative for FAAE. This notable achievement speaks volumes about her leadership and the respect she commands among her peers in the educational community.

HAMILTON STUDENTS COMPETE IN DISTRICT-WIDE SPELLING BEE



Photo courtesy of Hamilton County School District
Miguel Rosales-Baquiax (center-right) took first place in Hamilton's district-wide Spelling Bee. He will now advance to the regional First coast Spelling Bee on Monday, March 25.

Amy Hendry
Contributor

On Wednesday, Jan. 24, Hamilton County Elementary School (HCES) hosted the Hamilton County School District Spelling Bee in its media center. Six contestants competed for the honor of representing Hamilton County schools in the regional First Coast Spelling Bee, which will be held at the LaVilla School of the Arts in Jacksonville on Monday, March 25.

Contestants included three students from HCES and three students from Hamilton County High School (HCHS). The students representing HCES were fifth graders Mya Paytee, first place; Nancy Martinez-Gonzalez, second place; and Kendra Harris, third place. Representing HCHS were eighth grader Editch Gonzalez, first place; seventh grader Miguel Rosales-Baquiax, second place; and seventh grader Sadia Strawder, third place.

All spellers did a great job, and the competition went several rounds before the district had its winner. The Hamilton County School District is excited to report that Miguel Rosales-Baquiax won first place and will move on to the regional contest. Sadia Strawder placed second and Kendra Harris placed third.

The district is very proud of all these students who chose to compete. It takes courage to strive for excellence, and these Trojans and Titans were up for the challenge. Congratulations, Miguel Rosales-Baquiax!

Miss HCHS Pageant glows in neon splendor



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 3, 2024
The coveted crown of Miss HCHS went to Hannah Klenck, who sported a sleek red evening gown.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 3, 2024
Hannah Klenck was in shock to hear she had received the title of Miss HCHS.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 3, 2024
Brooklyn Carnley, who wore a shimmering light blue gown, walked away with the titles of People's Choice and Junior Miss HCHS.

Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Lovely young ladies donned their most electrifying gowns on Saturday, Feb. 3, for Hamilton County High School's (HCHS) 2024 Miss HCHS Pageant. The theme, “A Neon Night to Remember,” promised a vibrant evening of pageantry. The night began with a welcome from 2023 Junior Miss HCHS Jordan Skaggs and 2023 Miss HCHS Phoebe Kumpel. They were followed by the masters of ceremonies, Gracie Tabor and Sarah Welch, taking

their positions at the podium to announce the contestants.

Each participant modeled their luxurious evening wear for the judges, then answered on-stage questions, which were written on pieces of paper and placed in a giant glass bowl. Throughout the pageant, the audience was entertained by performances from Tabor, Skaggs, senior Austin Mercer and alumni Fischer Jones.

At the end of the day, Brooklyn Carnley was crowned Junior Miss HCHS and Hannah Klenck received the coveted crown of Miss HCHS. Carnley also took home the title of People's Choice.

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camp conneXion

16th annual Camp Connexion accepting registrations for summer session

Bea Coker
reporter2.riverbendnews@gmail.com

On your mark, get ready and set for the popular faith based summer camp: Camp Connexion! for children in Lafayette County. This collaborative summer camp is scheduled for Monday, June 3 to Thursday, June 6. This year's theme is "God's Love is Out of This World". The camp will provide children a safe and fun environment to reconnect with friends and make new ones, enjoy a schedule of daily activities, including academic enrichment, fun, outdoor activities, arts and crafts and field trips. Registration is open to children who will be in grades 3 to 7 during the 2024–25 school year. Registering a camper can be done by using the link provided on Camp Connexion's Facebook page.

The cost of the camp is \$150 with a \$50 deposit, due by Friday, March 1. After completing the online registration, payments can be made via CashApp at scampconnexion or via snail mail to Grace Baptist Church, C/O Camp Connexion, 5196 US Hwy 27, Mayo, Fla. 32066. Be sure to include your camper's name in the memo for either payment choice.

Use the incentive to keep your camper on their best behavior year round for a summer sure to be packed full of fun and adventure. For more information, reach out to (386) 935-0764. As of Friday, Feb. 9, all of the girls' spots have been filled.

Friends of Music concerts continue with performance by The Lawson Ensemble



Linda Poplin
Contributor

and Dewing, husband and wife, are both full-time members of the Jacksonville Symphony. Curry is the Professor of Cello at UNF. His wife, Cara Tasher, is UNF's Director of Choral Activities.

The third concert of the 2023-24 Friends of Music concert season will be at Covenant First Presbyterian Church, located at 421 White Ave. in Live Oak, on Friday, March 1, at 7:30 p.m., with The Lawson Ensemble performing with guest pianist Yukino Miyake.

The Lawson Ensemble was formed in 2015 as a result of group members' desire to consistently perform chamber music with a level of excellence and a commitment to share the results with the Jacksonville and regional community.

Founding members are violinist Aurica Duca, violinist/violist Clinton Dewing and cellist Nick Curry. The group is in residence at the University of North Florida (UNF) and regularly performs on the UNF campus and around the region.

The group has recorded for Albany Records. Duca and Dewing, husband and wife, are both full-time members of the Jacksonville Symphony. Curry is the Professor of Cello at UNF. His wife, Cara Tasher, is UNF's Director of Choral Activities.

The trio has been playing together for several years, but a generous donation to the UNF music department allowed them to form an official ensemble and invite other gifted musicians to play with them for select programs. The three believe in the enduring power of chamber music, the necessity for all music students to have a chamber experience, and for audiences to feel the immediacy, intimacy and beauty of the best chamber works.

Miyake was born in Japan and began studying piano at the age of five. She has won numerous awards and has a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees in Piano Performance and Pedagogy. In 2016, UNF awarded her the Outstanding Collaborative Artist of the Year for her contribution as the pianist for their four choral ensembles and as staff pianist for the voice area.

Miyake will join the ensemble in playing music composed by Mozart and Mendelssohn in Live Oak. The concert is free, and a reception follows.

The final concert of the season will be the UNF Chamber Singers, directed by Dr. Cara Tasher, on Friday, April 5.



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Georgia Perry represents Trojans at weightlifting regionals

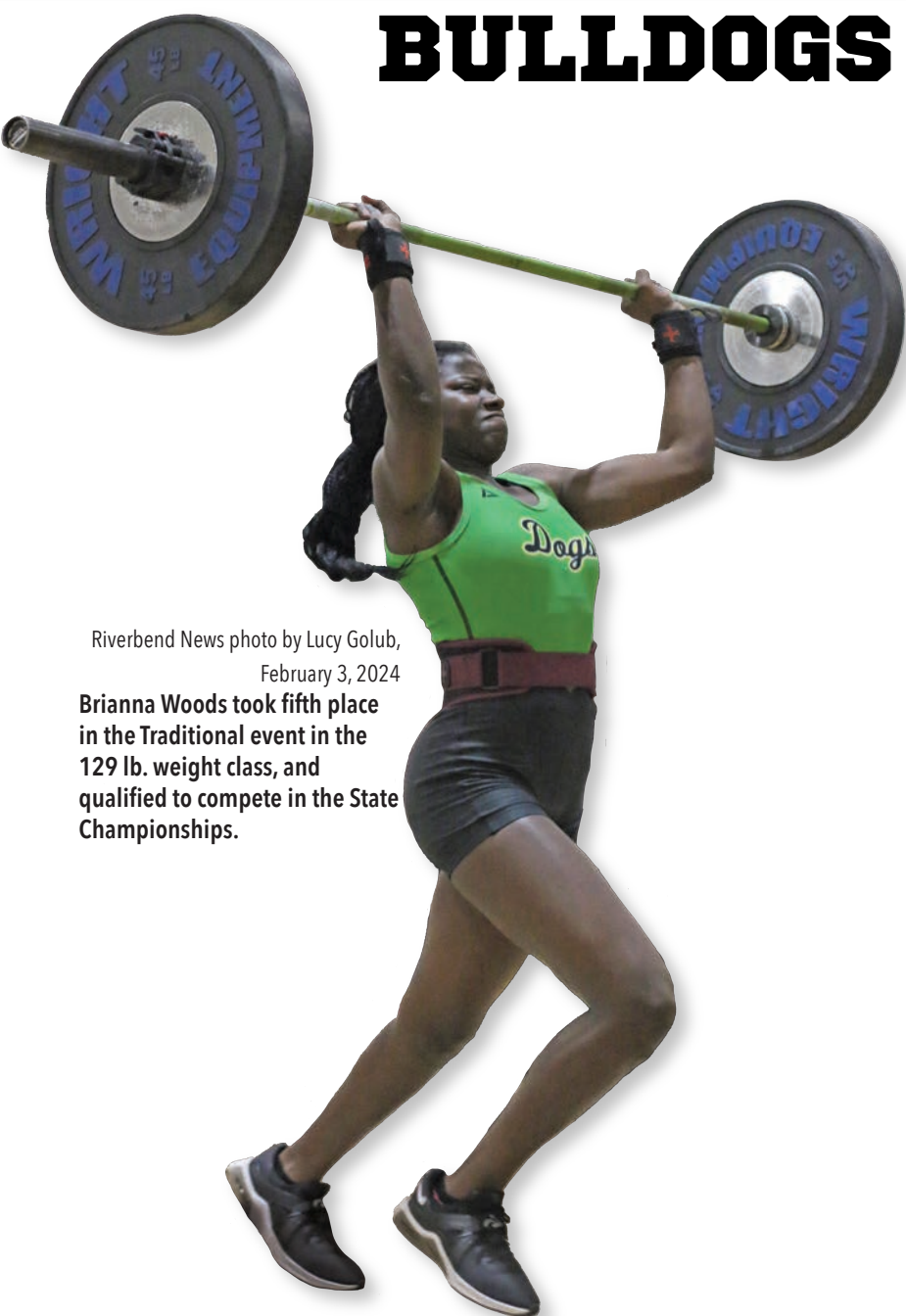
Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

The Hamilton County High School girls' weightlifting team sent one lifter to the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) Region 1A Championship on Saturday, Feb. 3, which

was held at Suwannee High School. Although she didn't qualify for the State Championships, Georgia Perry still represented the Trojans with outstanding excellence. Perry competed in the Traditional event, completing a 105 lb. clean and jerk and a 140 lb. bench press for a combined total of 245 lbs.



Riverbend News photo by Alexa Duarte
Georgia Perry competed in the Traditional event for the Trojans.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 3, 2024

Brianna Woods took fifth place in the Traditional event in the 129 lb. weight class, and qualified to compete in the State Championships.

BULLDOGS DOMINATE WITH WEIGHTLIFTING REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

Danny Federico
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The time for battle is drawing near; in a realm where the clink of iron reverberates like a battle cry and the scent of determination hangs in the air, there exists a stage unlike any other. Here, competitors step onto the weightlifting platform, not just as athletes, but as warriors in a battle of strength and resilience. On Saturday, Feb. 3, the Suwannee Bulldogs' girls weightlifting team hosted the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) Class 1A Region 1 Championships, the final stepping stone to cross over to the State Championships. On this electrifying stage, the Bulldogs emerged victorious, claiming the title of Olympic and Traditional Champions.

Bulldogs who landed in the top 10 of the Olympic event include:

- Caroline Allen (101 lb. weight class) – first place with 230 points.
- Hylan Hurst (110 lb. weight class) – third place with 215 points.
- Samantha Turner (110 lb. weight class) – sixth place with 190 points.
- Jordyn Rodriguez (119 lb. weight class) – first place with 285 points.
- Maddie McMillan (119 lb. weight class) – fourth place with 235 points.
- Betsy Peterson (129 lb. weight class) – 10th place with 235 points.
- Johana Alicea (139 lb. weight class) – fourth place with 290 points.
- Katherine Lansford (139 lb. weight class) – fifth place with 275 points.
- Andlyn Lundy (154 lb. weight class) – fifth place with 285 points.
- Brianna McCullers (169 lb. weight class) – third place with 335 points.
- Emaysa Blue (169 lb. weight class) – sixth place with 255 points.
- CaLinn Daniel (183 lb. weight class) – eighth place with 245 points.
- Maylee Jo Gabey (183 lb. weight class) – 10th place with 240 points.
- Kaly Cuffy (199 lb. weight class) – first place with 345 points.
- Jasmine Logan (199 lb. weight class) – second place with 275 points.
- Savannah White (Unlimited weight class) – second place with 370 points.
- Jordan Williams (Unlimited weight class) – fourth place with 285 points.

Bulldogs who landed in the top 10 of the Traditional event include:

- Caroline Allen (101 lb. weight class) – first place with 255 points.
- Samantha Turner (110 lb. weight class) – sixth place with 225 points.
- Hylan Hurst (110 lb. weight class) – seventh place with 220 points.
- Jordyn Rodriguez (119 lb. weight class) – first place with 305 points.
- Maddie McMillan (119 lb. weight class) – sixth place with 255 points.
- Brianna Woods (129 lb. weight class) – fifth place with 275 points.
- Johana Alicea (139 lb. weight class) – third place with 320 points.
- Katherine Lansford (139 lb. weight class) – sixth place with 295 points.
- Andlyn Lundy (154 lb. weight class) – third place with 325 points.
- Lilly Garafola (154 lb. weight class) – eighth place with 290 points.
- Brianna McCullers (169 lb. weight class) – first place with 375 points.
- Emaysa Blue (169 lb. weight class) – seventh place with 290 points.
- CaLinn Daniel (183 lb. weight class) – fourth place with 300 points.
- Maylee Jo Gabey (184 lb. weight class) – seventh place with 275 points.
- Kaly Cuffy (199 lb. weight class) – second place with 355 points.
- Jasmine Logan (199 lb. weight class) – third place with 305 points.
- Savannah White (Unlimited weight class) – second place with 400 points.
- Malanee Jones (Unlimited weight class) – sixth place with 360 points.

The following individuals will move on to the FHSA State Championships, which will be held on Friday, Feb. 16 and Saturday, Feb. 17, in the RP Funding Center in Lakeland, Fla.:

- 101 lb. weight class – Caroline Allen, Olympic and Traditional
- 110 lb. weight class – Hylan Hurst and Samantha Turner, Olympic and Traditional
- 119 lb. weight class – Jordyn Rodriguez and Maddie McMillan, Olympic and Traditional
- 129 lb. weight class – Brianna Woods, Traditional only
- 139 lb. weight class – Johana Alicea and Katherine Lansford, Olympic and Traditional
- 154 lb. weight class – Andlyn Lundy, Olympic and Traditional; Lilly Garafola, Traditional only
- 169 lb. weight class – Brianna McCullers and Emaysa Blue, Olympic and Traditional
- 183 lb. weight class – CaLinn Daniel, Olympic and Traditional; Maylee Jo Gabey, Traditional only
- 199 lb. weight class – Kaly Cuffy and Jasmine Logan, Olympic and Traditional
- Unlimited weight class – Savannah White, Olympic and Traditional; Jordan Williams, Olympic only; Melanee Jones, Traditional only



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 3, 2024

Betsy Peterson took 10th place in the 129 lb. weight class in the Traditional event.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 3, 2024

CaLinn Daniel qualified for the State Championships by placing eighth in the Olympic event and fourth in the Traditional event.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 3, 2024

Jordan Williams qualified for the State Championships by placing fourth in the Olympic event.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 3, 2024

CaLinn Daniel qualified for the State Championships by placing eighth in the Olympic event and fourth in the Traditional event.

Hamilton feels highs and lows during district tournament

Christian Peterson
reporter.riverbendnews@gmail.com

On Monday, Feb. 5, Hamilton County's girls' basketball team hosted the Branford Buccaneers in the district playoff game. The first quarter seemed indicative of how the game would progress, as the Trojans quickly took the lead 7-4. The second quarter solidified the lead, as the Trojans scored 16 points compared to the Buccaneers' seven points. Sophomores Lauren Brown and Tramial Jackson were the most valuable players of the nights; Brown scored a total of 14 points, and Jackson 15 points throughout the game. In the third quarter, there seemed to

be a light at the end of the tunnel for the Buccaneers, as they brought in the same amount of points as the Trojans. However, as the teams entered the final quarter, it seemed an insurmountable lead faced the Buccaneers, as the Trojans continued to lead with a score of 33-21. The Buccaneers fought their hardest throughout the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough, as the Trojans took the playoff win with a score of 43-25.

However, just because the Trojans took the win in the playoffs didn't mean their journey was over. In fact, they had just entered the gauntlet. On Wednesday, Feb. 7, the Trojans faced their next

challenge: the Madison County Cowgirls. The game started similarly to their face off against the Buccaneers, except this time, the roles were reversed, as the Cowgirls quickly took the lead. The first quarter ended with a score of 25-4 in favor of the Cowgirls. The Trojans began to fight back as best they could, scoring 10 points to the Cowgirls' 19 in the second quarter. It was clear after halftime that a quick rest was what the Trojans needed, as they scored 11 points in the third quarter. By the fourth quarter, the Trojans had found their stride. However, it was not enough, as the Cowgirls took the win 59-29, ending the season for the Trojans.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 7, 2024

The Trojans fight hard to take another basket away from the Cowgirls.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 7, 2024

Aalyiah McFadden attempts a three-pointer against the Cowgirls.



Riverbend News photo by Alexa Duarte, February 5, 2024

The Trojans and Buccaneers battle for the tip-off.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 7, 2024

Tramial Jackson takes the ball up the court.

A classic American showdown: *Buccaneers versus Cowboys*



Riverbend News photo by Christian Peterson, February 8, 2024

Austin Humphries (#5) throws the ball well above the Cowboys, shooting for the basket.



Riverbend News photo by Christian Peterson, February 8, 2024

Tucker Floyd (#3) looks for an opening to pass the ball up the court.



Riverbend News photo by Christian Peterson, February 8, 2024

Eiston Mikell (#15) pushes the Cowboys out of his way as he dribbles up the court.

Christian Peterson
reporter.riverbendnews@gmail.com

On Thursday, Feb. 8, the Branford High School boys' basketball team traveled to Hamilton County to face off against the Madison County Cowboys in the district championship semifinals. What ensued was the most evenly matched game of the tournament. Throughout the first two quarters, it was clear both teams were pursuing the championship trophy, as they stayed neck and neck until half time. Once both teams had received a much needed breather, the fight resumed once more.

The third quarter went exactly as the rest of the game had; for every point

that the Buccaneers scored, there was a response from the Cowboys. The third quarter ended with a score of 34-32 in favor of the Buccaneers. As the fourth quarter started, it was clear both teams still had plenty of gas left in the tank. After a few fouls were made by the Buccaneers, the Cowboys took the lead. With four seconds left on the clock and the score standing at 49-43 in favor of the Cowboys, it seemed there was no way for the Buccaneers to catch up. As the few seconds remaining ticked away, Eiston Mikell (#15) threw the ball in a last-ditch effort to keep the game going. The buzzer rang through the gym as the ball flew through the air, landing securely in the basket for three points. However, it simply wasn't enough, and the Buccaneers ended their season with a loss to the Cowboys, 49-46.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 7, 2024
Kiley Beach turns to shoot while facing the Red Flashes.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 7, 2024
Ella Hancock approaches the basket, ready to shoot.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 7, 2024
Jada Copeland makes a last-ditch effort pushing past the Red Flashes.

Lafayette girls' basketball season ends at districts

Christian Peterson
reporter.riverbendnews@gmail.com

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, the Lafayette High School girls' basketball team faced off against the Hilliard Red Flashes in the district semifinals, which were held in Jasper. The Hornets entered a seed above the Red Flashes, and were prepared for their hardest fight of the season. In the first quarter, the Red Flashes jumped out to an early lead, scoring 16 points compared to the Hornets' four. In the second quarter, the Hornets brought their game back, scoring 11 more points.

Freshman Jada Copeland was the standout player for the game, scoring 10 points and singlehandedly contributing a third of the team's final score. Juniors Tristan Campbell and Kiley Beach both contributed five points each, equaling another third of the points the Hornets scored.

In the second half of the game, the Hornets simply couldn't find their stride. In the third quarter, they scored nine points to the Red Flashes' 16, and in the final quarter of the game, they scored six points to the Red Flashes' 11. The game finished with a final score of 56-30 in favor of the Red Flashes, ending the Hornets' season.

Lafayette reaches new highs and lows in district tournament



Riverbend News photo by Christian Peterson, February 8, 2024
Jordan Murphy (#11) executes the perfect layup against the Red Flashes.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 6, 2024
The Trojans stand powerless as Amarie Fleming (#3) makes a basket.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 6, 2024
Amarie Fleming (#3) bounces backwards as he arcs the basketball through the air.

Christian Peterson
reporter.riverbendnews@gmail.com

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, the Hamilton County High School boys' basketball team hosted the Lafayette Hornets in the playoffs of the district tournament. Within the first quarter, it was clear that the Hornets came to win; they scored 20 points compared to the Trojans' eight. However, in the second quarter, the Trojans picked up the pace, scoring 12 points, while the Hornets scored 14.

Amarie Fleming (#3) was the standout performer for the Hornets, scoring 25 points throughout the entire game. Jordan Murphy and Tywan Williamson were the next two top scorers for the Lafayette boys, each scoring eight points. By the time the second half of the game started, it was much more of a competition between the two teams. The Trojans scored 11 points in the third quarter, while the Hornets scored 19. Then, in a mirror of the second quarter, the Trojans scored 12 while the Hornets scored 14 points. This solidified the Hornets' win in the playoffs with a score of 67-43.

However, the playoffs were just the beginning for the Hornets, as they

then faced off against the Hilliard Red Flashes on Thursday, Feb. 8. Here, the Hornets faced their biggest challenge yet. The teamwork of the Red Flashes was evident; they had been preparing for this moment and had come to take the crown.

The first quarter left the Hornets scrambling, as they only scored eight points, while the Flashes scored 15. This put a fire underneath the Hornets, as they fought harder and scored 19 points in the second quarter, while the Flashes scored 25. Then, in the third quarter, tragedy struck as Fleming took a tumble, resulting in a leg injury and requiring him to be pulled off the court.

Throughout the remainder of the quarter, the Hornets only scored 12 points compared to the Flashes' 30. However, they weren't done yet and began fighting their hardest in the final quarter, showing their prowess over their opponent by scoring 17 points compared to the Flashes' six points. Seniors Fleming and Jalen Hill were the top scorers of the evening. Hill collected a total of 15 points, and Fleming, despite his injury, scored 15 points. However, it wasn't enough, and the Hornets fell to the Flashes 76-56, ending their season.

Riverbend News
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Suwannee tastes victory and defeat at district tournament

Christian Peterson
reporter.riverbendnews@gmail.com

On Monday, Feb. 5, the Suwannee High School girl's basketball team faced off against the North Marion Colts in the first playoff game of the basketball districts, which were held in Jasper. Immediately, the Bulldogs showed their prowess by dominating the first quarter, scoring 15 points compared to the Colts' three. This trend continued into the second quarter, with the Bulldogs scoring 14 points and the Colts only scoring one. Senior

Shadavia Jones proved her value to the team by having the highest total score of the night with 13 points. Close behind her were Kiera Jelks and Zjamyah Wilson, who scored nine and eight points respectively. The third quarter of the game continued following the trend of the first half of the game; the Bulldogs scored 10 points, while the Colts only scored two. The Colts' defense began putting up more of a fight as the end drew near. Yet, the Bulldogs mustered their final strength in the final quarter, scoring nine points while the Colts only scored two, solidifying their advancement to

the semi-finals with a score of 48-8.

The Bulldogs entered their next game on Wednesday, Feb. 7, with their adrenaline running high. After a dominating victory against North Marion, they were ready for anything, or so they thought. The Bulldogs were there to face off against the Palatka Panthers and what followed was a close game. These teams seemed as evenly matched as one could get. However, the Panthers slowly pulled ahead of Suwannee. Eventually, the Bulldogs had no more gas left in their tanks and lost the game 49-31.

LAFAYETTE GIRLS SOCCER END THEIR ROCKSTAR SEASON AT REGIONALS

Christian Peterson
reporter.riverbendnews@gmail.com

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, the Lafayette High School girls' soccer team went head to head with the University Christian Christians in the quarterfinals regional tournament. Here, the Hornets found themselves against their true equal. For the majority of the game, the Hornets held the lead by one point. Back and forth the two teams went until the Christians managed to pull ahead at the last second. As the clock ran out and the scoreboard glowed 4-3 in favor of the Christians, the Hornets walked off the field with their heads held high.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 6, 2024
Mia Negrete (#19) pushes the ball up the Christians' defensive line.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 6, 2024
Mia Negrete (#19) keeps the ball out of the hands of the Christians.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 6, 2024
Ella McAdams (#9) takes a perfect shot at the goal.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, February 6, 2024
Kellan Clark (#2) and Hallyn Hurst (#13) maintain control of the ball together.

CONGRATULATIONS!

LADY HORNETS

 *for being*

Class 2A District 2

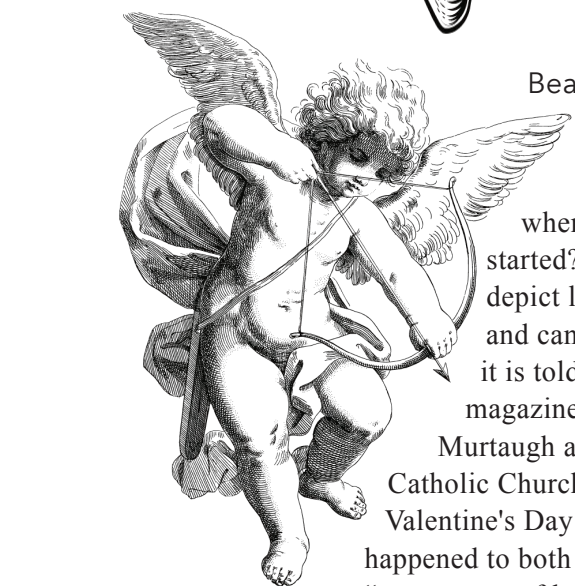
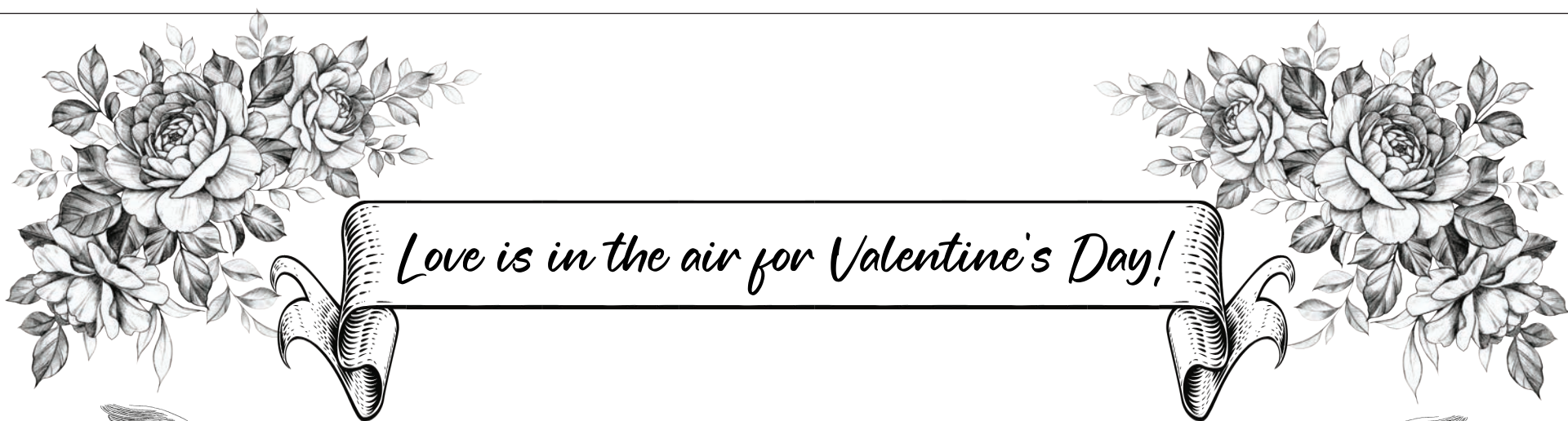
CHAMPIONS!

 *from Steve Land*

Lafayette County Clerk of Court

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE RIVERBEND-AREA TEAMS ON A SUCCESSFUL BASKETBALL SEASON!





Bea Coker
reporter2.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Do you know where and when the trend of Valentine's Days started? Why do we use Cupid to depict love and what's with the cards and candy? Well, legend has it, or so it is told in a recent "Country Living" magazine article authored by Taysha Murtaugh and Terri Robertson, that the Catholic Church may have established St. Valentine's Day to honor two Valentines, who happened to both have been coined "proponents of love" after they were each executed on Feb. 14, in different years by Roman Emperor Claudius II in the third century.



Photo courtesy of John Rice
John Rice's hand drawing the little cherub Cupid, coined the Roman God of Love.

The early association was, in fact, to their deaths and the memories of their reputation. Beginning around the 1500s, formal messages of love, or valentines, appeared and by the late 1700s, commercially printed cards were being used coupled with joining the Greek mythological character of Cupid. Greek

mythology hurled Cupid quickly into the reputation of being a cute little cherub, tagging alongside his mother and obliging her wishes of encouraging love. It was the perfect introduction for the Roman depiction of Cupid into the commercialized persona of the "Roman God of Love." Dash that with a little bit of hearts and the expressions of love, and the tradition of Valentine's Day was propelled everywhere during the 18th century.

By the 19th century, the commercialization of Valentine's Day was perfect for the new ripe country of America to see the opportunity to blend heart shaped wooden boxes filled with chocolates, love letters and Richard Cadbury's ideas together. This led to the rise of the New England Confectionery Company and of "Mother of the American Valentine" Esther Howland. Esther would propel English-styled valentines in America using an innovative assembly line process until, finally, in January 1910, Joyce C. Hall of Kansas City, Mo., became the founder of the company many grow to rely on for the perfect words to express emotions for every occasion: Hallmark Cards, Inc. Hallmark would become so significant the award of National Medal of Arts in 1985 would be added to its legacy.

Today, those expressions have joined with creativity and technology to include electronic greeting cards, personalized telegrams and flower deliveries to anywhere in the world. Not to mention how orders for small local businesses such as the Frame Shop in Live Oak, SunSation in Jasper or the Flower Shop in Mayo can be fulfilled in just a few hours. There are even special dinners from local favorites, such as The 406 Duval, in Live Oak and Concert by Candlelight featuring Ronnie Collins in Jennings. Couples daring to travel a bit can experience a retreat at Madison's Manor House, featuring a weekend filled with joy, laughter and romance in Madison county.

Don't fret if your budget is tight, but you still want to be thoughtful. There are many other things to do, such as preparing a homemade dinner, picnic, movie night, handmade gifts, or even a night of star gazing. Whatever you decide, remember your expression of unique love is yours and conveys what you want to say to someone special – be creative and design your message for that special someone!

How to make your Valentine's Day roses last longer

Metro
Contributor

Valentine's Day spending shows little sign of waning. Floral arrangements are among the most popular purchases on this special day. According to Rio Roses, customers spent \$2.3 billion on flowers for Valentine's Day in 2022. Valentine's Day tends to be the busiest day for florists as plenty of people want to surprise sweethearts with bouquets and other floral arrangements. Red roses account for 70 percent of all Valentine's Day flower purchases.

Early in 2023, Finance Buzz researched the average cost of a dozen roses in each state so shoppers could expect what they would pay to gift their loved

ones, and the average price for a dozen roses in the United States was \$80.16 at that time.

Pennsylvania had the most affordable roses and Hawaii the most expensive. Roses can be costly, and recipients may want to do their bests to ensure the flowers last as long as possible.

- Unwrap the bouquet from any plastic as soon as possible to let the flowers breathe. Also, recut the stems with sharp scissors at a 45-degree angle.

- Remove any leaves from the stems that would end up sitting in the water when the roses are placed in a vase.

- Wash the vessel to rid it of dirt, dust and any grime to give the roses the best start possible.

- Use lukewarm water to fill the vase. Water that is too hot or

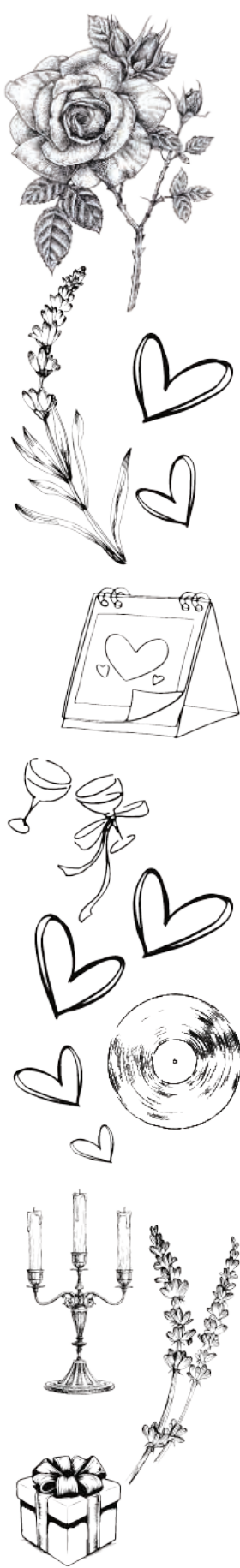
too cold may shock the blooms and shorten their life span. Fill the vase to three-quarters full.

- Use the flower food that comes with the roses. It is a good mix of nutrients to help prolong the life of the roses. A teaspoon of sugar dissolved in water also can be used in a pinch if the roses didn't come with flower food.

- Change the water every few days, especially if it is cloudy. This is a good time to re-snip the stems and add more flower food to the lukewarm water.

- Keep any cut flowers away from direct sunlight, drafts and radiators or heating vents.

With proper care, cut roses may be able to last seven to 10 days, says Southern Living magazine.



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Medical

YOU MAY QUALIFY for disability benefits if you have are between 52-63 years old and under a doctor's care for a health condition that prevents you from working for a year or more. Call now! 1-888-222-1803

PUBLIC NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SUWANNEE COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Florida,
Plaintiff,
vs.
SUWANNEE RIVER HOMESITES, INC.
Defendant.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: SUWANNEE RIVER HOMESITES, INC., a dissolved Florida Corporation
Last Known Address: 2005 N. Halifax Avenue
Dayton Beach, Florida 32118
Current Address: Unknown

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to appoint a trustee, reform deed and quiet title to real property on the following property in Suwannee County, Florida:

Lot 49, Block 18 of SUWANNEE RIVER PARK ESTATES, Unit No. 1, as per plat in Plat Book 1, Page 99, Public Records of Suwannee County, Florida.

Suwannee County Parcel ID No: 04-01S-12E-09421-180490

Has been filed against you and you are required to file written defenses with the clerk of court and serve a copy within 30 days after the first publication of the Notice of Action on ADAM MORRISON, Plaintiff's Attorney, whose address is Sellers, Taylor & Morrison, P.A., 108 West Howard Street, Live Oak, Florida 32064; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

This notice shall be published once a week for four consecutive weeks in the RIVERBEND NEWS

Witness my hand and this seal of the court on this 23 day of January, 2024.

HON. BARRY J. BARRS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Deputy Clerk

01/24, 01/31, 02/07, 02/14

RFQ SOLICITATION NO. 2024-03

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SUWANNEE COUNTY, FL
WILL RECEIVE RFQS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

Date/Time/Location for Receiving RFQs:
Friday, March 22, 2024, 4:00 pm
Late submittals will not be considered
Suwannee County Clerk of Courts
Cashier Window
200 S Ohio Avenue, Live Oak, FL 32064
(386) 362-0500

Date/Time/Location for RFQ Opening:
Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 10:00 am
or soon thereafter
Suwannee County Airport
Conference Room
13302 80th Ter, Live Oak, FL 32060

Question Deadline:
Friday, March 15, 2024, 5:00pm

RFQ Documents Available from:
www.demandstar.com
www.suwanneecountyfl.gov or
Suwannee County Administration
13150 80th Terrace, Live Oak, FL 32060
(386)364-3400

Description: Provide engineering and support services for Suwannee County. The Project associated with this request is identified as wastewater treatment facility, collection & transmission lines, and spray field.

SUWANNEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TRAVIS LAND, CHAIRMAN

02/14

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE PERMIT

The Department of Environmental Protection gives notice of its intent to issue a revised permit to the Town of Mayo, Ann Murphy, PO Box 56, Mayo, Florida 32066 for a permit revision to Town of Mayo WWTF. This permit revision authorizes replacement of degraded and outdated process equipment to achieve the targeted reduction of total nitrogen (TN) in effluent as required to comply with Administrative Order 252 NE issued September 20, 2023 and to extend the effective operational life of the facility. The upgraded facility will use a sequencing batch reactor (SBR) process to replace the existing extended aeration biological treatment process. The facility is located at latitude 30° 3' 42.22"N, longitude 83° 10' 51.38" W on North Lafayette Street, Northwest Of Mayo, Mayo, Florida 32066 in Lafayette County. The Department has assigned permit file number FLA011643-009-DW2P to the proposed project.

The intent to issue and application file are available for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the Department's Northeast District Office, 8800 Baymeadows Way West, Suite 100, Jacksonville, Florida 32256- 7577, at phone number (904)256-1700.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

The Department will issue the permit unless a petition for an administrative hearing is timely filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., before the deadline for filing a petition. On the filing of a timely and sufficient petition, this action will not be final and effective until further order of the Department. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the hearing process may result in a modification of the agency action or even denial of the application.

Petition for Administrative Hearing.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. Pursuant to Rules 28-106.201 and 28-106.301, F.A.C., a petition for an administrative hearing must contain the following information:

(a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known;

(b) The name, address, any e-mail address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner, if the petitioner is not represented by an attorney or a qualified representative; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination;

(c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the Department's agency decision;

(d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;

(e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action;

(f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and

(g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action. The petition must be filed (received by the Clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399- 3000, or via electronic correspondence at Agency_Clerk@FloridaDEP.gov. Also, a copy of the petition shall be mailed to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing.

Time Period for Filing a Petition.

Petitions filed by any persons other than the applicant, and other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 14 days of publication of the notice or within 14 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. The failure to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

Extension of Time.

Under Rule 62-110.106(4), F.A.C., a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399- 3000, or via electronic correspondence at Agency Clerk@FloridaDEP.gov, before the deadline for filing a petition for an administrative hearing. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

Mediation.

Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

02/14

Pursuant to Florida Statutes §§ 83.801 to 83.809, Hometown Mini Storage located at 1223 US HWY 129, Jasper, FL 32052 will hold an Online Public Sale of all personal property stored by: Jessica Lanier (furniture, household items). The auction will be held on website www.StorageAuctions.com on February 23, 2024 at 10:00 AM. Owner reserves the right to reject any/all bids, cancel or adjourn sale. To resolve this claim call Manager at (386) 319-2800.

02/07, 02/14

Notice is hereby given that PENA, ALEX A A owner/co-owners, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of "MG HANDYMAN SERVICES" located in Suwannee County, Florida, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State, pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.

02/14

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09, FLORIDA STATUTES NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Laura Pastore is desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of: J&L Burgundian Business Services, LLC w/dba Homestead Soaps by Laura, located at 20504 50th St. , Suwannee County, Live Oak, Florida 32060, intends to register the said name with the Florida Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, FL. Dated this 26th day of January, 2024.

02/14

Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Dark River Plumbing located at 28621 39th Dr. , in the County of Suwannee , in the City of Branford, Florida 32008, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Dated at Branford, Florida, this 6th day of February, 2024 .

DARK RIVER CONSTRUCTION LLC

02/14

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09, FLORIDA STATUTES NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that James Landers is desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of: As Is Thrift , located at 1550 Walker Avenue SW , Suwannee County, Live Oak, Florida 32064, and has register said name with the Florida Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, FL. Dated this 5th day of February, 2024. Come see us near Robbie's Cafe. We have a quarter room. Open everyday possible 8am-6pm

02/14

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 23-104CA
JAVED MIAH,
Plaintiff,
vs.
LOIS M. COLLINS,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: LOIS M. COLLINS
918 13TH AVENUE NORTHWEST LARGO, FL 33770

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to quiet title on the following property in Lafayette County, Florida:

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LAND, SITUATE, LYING, AND BEING IN LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO WIT:

INVERNESS HGLDS UNIT 3 LOTS 13, 14, 15 & 16 BLK 114 DESC IN OR BK 165 PG 169.

has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on The Law Office of C.W. Wickersham, Jr., P.A., Plaintiff's attorney, at 2720 Park Street, Suite 205, Jacksonville, Florida, 32205, Phone Number: (904) 389-6202, not less than 28 days of the first date of publication of this Notice, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court, at 120 W Main Street, Mayo, Florida 32066 before service on Plaintiff or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a Default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated this 2nd day of January 2024
Steve Land
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By /s/ Juylla Johnson
Deputy Clerk

02/14, 02/21, 02/28, 03/06

NOTICE OF VIOLATION
ANNOUNCEMENT

THIS IS TO CERTIFY AND ANNOUNCE THAT AMERICAN FREEDOM ENTERPRISES/FLORIDA FIREWORKS CO. LLC/ERIC A. ABDALLA ARE IN VIOLATION OF HAMILTON COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATION(S) 9.22.3; 9.21; 9.24.4; 4.2.17 FOR THE PROPERTY/PARCEL 7340-005.

HAMILTON COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT
PAUL QUINTANA
CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
204 NE FIRST ST., JASPER, FL 32052
PH. (386) 792-0504

02/14, 02/21

Suwannee Cty Bd of Commissioners is accepting applications for

Airport Manager • CDL Driver • Day Camp Counselor
EMT/Fighter • Paramedic/Firefighter • Flagman
Library Aide & Aide II • Lifeguard • Park Attendant
Park Maintenance Worker I • Recreation Aide • Site Attendant
Staff Assistant • Veteran Service Officer

Application & full details are available online at suwanneecountyfl.gov, Suwannee Cty Bldg Dept, 224 Pine Ave, Live Oak, FL 32064, (386)364-3407 or Suwannee Cty Admin, 13150 80th Terr, Live Oak, FL 32060, (386)364-3400. Positions will remain open until filled. Suwannee Cty Bd of Commissioners is an equal employment opportunity employer that does not discriminate against any qualified employee or applicant because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, genetics, handicap status, income status, or family status. Spanish speaking individuals are encouraged to apply. Successful completion of a drug test is a condition of employment, failure to successfully test free of illegal or controlled drugs will result in non-employment of the applicant for a minimum of 1 year. EEO/AA/V/D

02/14, 02/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the following events regarding adoption of Social Studies Instruction Materials:

Thursday, February 15, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Preview of textbook materials will be presented by Social Studies adoption vendors. Presentations are virtual and open to the public. Times and links with corresponding grade levels will be posted on the Suwannee County School District website.

Monday, March 4, 2024, School Board Meeting Room, 1740 Ohio Avenue, South, Live Oak, Florida

3:30 p.m. Elementary Social Studies Instructional Materials Adoption District Review Committee will meet for the purpose of selecting instructional materials for recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools.

5:00 p.m. Secondary Social Studies Instructional Materials Adoption District Review Committee will meet for the purpose of selecting instructional materials for recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools.

For further information, please contact Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Jennifer Barrs at email: jennifer.barrs@suwannee.k12.fl.us; phone 386-647-4635.

02/14

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02/14

PUBLIC NOTICES CONTINUED

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
JEMEL REALESTATE HOLDINGS, LLC, a Florida limited liability company
Plaintiff,
v.
The unknown Heirs, Beneficiaries, Assignees, Trustees, Creditors, and All Others claiming by, through, Under or against DUMOND BATICHON, Deceased, believed to include MARY JANE GERMAIN,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: The Unknown Heirs, Beneficiaries, Assignees, Trustees, Creditors, and All Others claiming by, through, under or against DUMOND BATICHON, Deceased, other than MARY JANE GERMAIN:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you in the Circuit Court of the Third Judicial Circuit, in and for Columbia County, Florida, to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Columbia County, Florida:

Lot 5, Suwanneeland Subdivision as per the map or plat thereof recorded at Plat Book 1, page 469, public records of Suwannee County, Florida.

has been filed against you, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses to it, if any, on RALPH R. DEAS, ESQUIRE, Attorney for Plaintiff, 227 SE Hernando Avenue, Lake City, Florida 32025, e-mail: ralphdeas@deaslawoffice.com, and file the original with the Clerk of the above-styled Court at the Columbia County Courthouse, Lake City, Florida, either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter, no later than 30 days after the date of first publication of this Notice of Action; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition.

WITNESS MY HAND and the Seal of this Court this 10 day of January, 2024.

BARRY BAKER
Clerk of the Court

By: Felicia
Deputy Clerk

(Court Seal)

01/24, 01/31, 02/07, 02/14

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

IN RE: The Estate of **ROBERTA A. HETZEL,**
Deceased.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the estate of **ROBERTA A. HETZEL,** Deceased, File Number 2024 - CP-21, Social Security Number ***-**-9126 is pending in the Circuit Court for Suwannee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 200 S. Ohio Avenue, Live Oak, Florida 32064. The name and address 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 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 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 ON 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 BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is **February 14, 2024.**

Attorney for Personal Representative
HAL A. AIRTH

P.O. Box 448, Live Oak FL 32064
(386) 362-4915
FL Bar # 306533

Personal Representative
DORA HETZEL
302 Blossom Terrace Lane
Rosenberg, TX 77469

02/07, 02/14

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
IN RE: ESTATE OF TERRY MAC GUY
Deceased.

File No. 242023CP000062
Division Probate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of Terry Mac Guy, deceased, File Number 242023CP000062, is pending in the Circuit Court for Hamilton County, Florida, the address of which is 207 - 1st Street N.E., Jasper, Florida 32052. 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 claim with this court **WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.**

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

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

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

The date of first publication of this notice is: February 7, 2024.

Attorney for Personal Representative

A/ Morgan M. McQueen
Morgan M. McQueen, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 1026045
Legacy Protection Lawyers, LLP
100 - 2nd Avenue South, Suite 900
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
Telephone: (727) 471-5868
Email: Morgan@legacyprotectionlawyers.com

Personal Representative

Jasper Daniel Guy
3800 Prado Drive
Laporte, Colorado 80535

02/07, 02/14

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF
DWAIN WORTHEY
Deceased.

File No. 2024-CP-000001
Division Probate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Dwain Worthey, deceased, whose date of death was July 29, 2022, is pending in the Circuit Court for Hamilton County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 207 N.E. 1st Street, Room 106, Jasper, FL 32052. 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 BARRED.

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

The date of first publication of this notice is February 7, 2024.

Attorney: R. Nadine David, Esq., FBN: 89004, Florida Probate Law Group, PO Box 141135, Gainesville, FL 32614 Phone: (352) 354-2654, ndavid@floridaprobatelawgroup.com
www.floridaprobatelawgroup.com

Personal Representative: Pamela Worthey, 7696 SE 114th Rd., Jasper, FL 32052

02/07, 02/14

Public notification that a Contraband Interdiction System will be deployed at Suwannee Correctional Institution. Those in the surrounding community should be aware there is potential for service interruptions during deployment.

02/14

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 3RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR LB-DWELLING SERIES V TRUST,
Plaintiff,
v.
ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, LEGATEES, DEVISEES, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, CREDITORS AND ANY OTHER PERSON CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST CAROLE AMANDA UPRICHARD AKA C.A. UPRICHARD, DECEASED, ET AL,
Defendants.

THIRD NOTICE OF ACTION

To the following Defendant(s):

ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, LEGATEES, DEVISEES, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, CREDITORS AND ANY OTHER PERSON CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST WILLIAM A. BIPSHAM A/K/A BILL BIPSHAM A/K/A WILLIAM BIPSHAM, DECEASED,
(Last Known Address: 4455 Sam Mitchell Dr, Chipley, FL 32428)

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose based on boundaries established by acquiescence, on the following described property:

LOT 23, BLOCK 2, HICKORY ESTATES SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 217, PUBLIC RECORDS OF SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TOGETHER WITH A 1991 HOMES OF MERIT, (PINE MANOR), VIN# HMLCP28222006928 A&B

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 15617 97TH DRIVE, LIVE OAK, FL 32060

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Ghidotti| Berger LLP, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1031 North Miami Beach Boulevard, North Miami Beach, FL 33162 on or before _____, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the Riverbend News and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2010-08.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS AN ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING, YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. PLEASE CONTACT COURT ADMINISTRATION, 173 NE HERNANDO AVENUE, ROOM 408, LAKE CITY, FLORIDA 32055; (386)758-2163 OR COMPLETE THE ADA REQUEST FORM LOCATED AT [HTTPS://THIRDCIRCUITFL.ORG/ADA-ACCOMMODATION-REQUEST/](https://thirdcircuitfl.org/ada-accommodation-request/) AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED COURT APPEARANCE, OR IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING THIS NOTIFICATION IF THE TIME BEFORE THE SCHEDULED APPEARANCE IS LESS THAN 7 DAYS, IF YOU ARE HEARING OR VOICE IMPAIRED CALL 711.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 30 day of January, 2024.

BARRY BAKER
As Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Felicia
As Deputy Clerk

Publish: (Please publish in the Suwannee County, Florida)

02/07, 02/14, 02/21, 02/28

Public notification that a Contraband Interdiction System will be deployed at Hamilton Correctional Institution. Those in the surrounding community should be aware there is potential for service interruptions during deployment.

02/14

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