

Suwannee County Sheriff's Office receives letter claiming to be from missing juvenile



Grace McAlister
Reporter1@riverbendnews.org

Julie "JuJu" Moran Lovell, of O'Brien, was last seen on Tuesday, Feb. 14. Lovell is 4'11, 105 lbs and has brown hair and green eyes.

The last place Julie was reportedly seen was her uncle's house in O'Brien. When she disappeared, she took clothes

and various personal items with her. She is listed as a Missing and Endangered Person in the National Crime Information Center, and the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) is actively investigating her disappearance.

Julie's mother, Samantha Lovell, adds the only thing that seemed off the night of Julie's disappearance was that she had stated that she and her boyfriend had broken up. However, Julie did not seem upset about this, which was strange behavior for Julie. "My daughter is dramatic but acted as if nothing was wrong. We believe she was lying about that," she said. Julie was last seen at 11 p.m. that night; when her family woke up at 6 a.m. the next morning, Julie was missing.

Samantha shared the following statement with *Riverbend News*: "My beautiful daughter is a loving young woman. She's smart and full of life. She isn't perfect by no means, but none of us are. Her family loves her, and this is breaking our hearts." See "JuJu" on page 3

CHIEFLAND BASEBALL COACH ASSAULTS HAMILTON COUNTY PLAYER

Lee Trawick
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*"Actions reflect leadership."
-Remember the Titans*

Thursday, March 16, was set to be a highly anticipated matchup between the Hamilton County High School (HCHS) Trojans (7-3) baseball team and the Chiefland Indians (6-3). However, the night ended in the sixth inning in a much different fashion.

To better understand the outcome of the game, one must understand the events of the week leading up to the game. The Indians began the season in January by creating a text group that included several top players they would face during the season. Amongst those were several players from the Lafayette High School Hornets and the Hamilton County Trojans. Due to a previous incident involving the Lafayette Hornets, Indians Head Coach Chad Brock had been notified about his players' actions. Unfortunately, Brock failed to resolve the situation when it was first brought to his attention, leading the cycle to continue.

A week prior to the Thursday, March 16 matchup, the Indians' players began texting and cyberbullying several Trojans. Trojans Head Coach Tim Williamson had been made aware of the situation, and took precautions to keep the two teams apart prior to the game by holding his Trojans in

the football team's clubhouse while the Indians got to their dugout. However, tensions immediately mounted as the Indians unloaded off their bus, as they tried to gain access into the clubhouse. While the Indians' coaches watched their players' actions, the HCHS administration took the initiative to divert and corral the Indians in an attempt to get them onto the baseball field.

During this time, the Hamilton County softball team had arrived for their game. This meant they had to pass by the baseball field, all the while the HCHS administration continued to try to get the Indians' players under control. As the Trojans' softball team attempted to make their way to the field, the Indians turned their backs. See "Assault" on page 3



Brent Slaughter,
Indians assistant coach



Chad Brock,
Indians Head Coach

Austin O'Connor joins the University of Florida coaching staff

Lee Trawick
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Austin O'Connor is a 2010 Suwannee High School graduate, where he left his mark on the soccer field for the Bulldogs. O'Connor was a team leader, and played well enough to receive a

scholarship to continue his soccer career at the collegiate level at Gardner-Webb University in the fall of 2010. Following his freshman season, O'Connor returned to the State of Florida, where he would play at Flagler College for the remainder of his collegiate career. In his sophomore season, he was vital to the Saints' 2011 Peach Belt Conference title and Regional Championship. In 2012 and 2013, he helped the Saints continue a standard of excellence, as they reached the playoffs for three straight seasons. Then, in 2014, O'Connor received a more personal accolade as the 2014 Comeback Player of the Year.

O'Connor graduated from Flagler College in 2014 with a degree in Coastal Environmental Science. Following graduation, he remained near Flagler College, where he began working at the Ponte Vedra Soccer Club in 2015. However, in February 2020, he made his way into coaching the college ranks at Marshall University. As a member of the Thundering Herd, O'Connor was the goalkeeper coach, recruiting coordinator and camp director. While at Marshall See "O'Connor" on page 3



Austin O'Connor

One dead, two injured in I-10 accident

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A 60-year-old New Orleans woman was pronounced deceased following a single-vehicle accident that occurred on Saturday, March 18, in Suwannee County. According to the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) report, a sports utility vehicle (SUV), driven by a 40-year-old New Orleans woman, was traveling east on Interstate 10 at 1 a.m. For reasons unknown, the SUV left the highway and travelled onto the grass median, hitting a traffic sign. The report continues, stating the vehicle began to overturn, ejecting the driver and front passenger from the vehicle. The SUV eventually came to a rest in the grass median. The rear passenger, a 60-year-old New Orleans woman, was pronounced deceased on scene. The driver was transported to UF Shands with serious injuries. The front passenger, a 44-year-old New Orleans man, was also transported to UF Shands with minor injuries.

Driver License and Vehicle Inspection Checkpoints

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
Contributor

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office will be conducting driver's license and vehicle inspection checkpoints during the weeks of Saturday, April 1, until Friday, June 30, in Hamilton County.

Recognizing the danger presented to the public by defective vehicle equipment, Deputies will concentrate their efforts on vehicles being operated with defects such as bad brakes, worn tires, and defective lighting equipment. In addition, attention will be directed to drivers who would violate the driver's license laws of Florida.

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

The checkpoints will be: US-41, CR-145, NW 16th Avenue, CR-751, CR-25A, SR-6 W, SR-6 E, CR-141, CR-143, CR-51, CR-249 and SR-129.

Renaissance Reading Academy meets with Hamilton County School Board

Lee Trawick
Reporter2@riverbendnews.org

Hamilton County School Board (HCSB) members met for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 14. Those in attendance were Superintendent Dorthy Lee Wetherington-Zamora, Chairman Johnny Bullard, Vice Chairman Saul Speights, Cheryl McCall, Gary

Godwin and Sammy McCoy.

The meeting was highlighted by the presentation of a potential charter school, Renaissance Reading Academy (RRA), which proposes an accelerated reading program that would allow for a more focused, individual type approach. The academy hopes to create a culture that would keep their students engaged and excited about See "School Board" on page 3

Living God's Way: Praising God for His righteousness



Carlton McPeak
Guest Columnist

In his eighteenth stanza of Psalm 119 (verses 137-144), the psalmist is expressing his praise for God's righteousness. This praise is not limited to God's being, but also for God's laws, commandments, testimonies and judgments.

More often than not, when we think of someone being "righteous" we are thinking about mankind. However, in these verses the writer is stating God is righteous and His judgments are righteous.

Mankind describing God as being "righteous" is hard to comprehend. Is not God always "righteous"? Is He not always morally good? The answer to the last two questions is, Yes!

Because God is righteous, we can trust His standards for how to conduct our lives. We can trust He will always do the right thing. We can trust that His decisions about right and wrong will always be just and fair. His "righteousness

is an everlasting righteousness." We can know He will never be deceitful. He will never do anything wrong.

God's "word is very pure." His "law is truth." His "testimonies are righteous forever." Because of God's righteous character, we can be zealous for God's word and have the confidence that what we are telling God's adversaries is correct.

Even though the psalmist considers himself "small and despised" and that "trouble and anguish have come upon" him, he will not forget God's precepts; he will take "delight" in them. He loves God's word. He wants to have a better understanding of God's word.

As we contemplate these verses about God's righteousness, it gives us a goal to attain. The most extensive manifestation of God's righteousness was seen in the life of Jesus. At the Last Supper, Jesus told the apostles that if they had seen Jesus, they had seen the Father (cf. John 14:9). In our world today by studying and imitating the life of Jesus, we can be working towards attaining

God's righteousness.

Some might think this is an unattainable goal. To the degree God is righteous, they are correct (cf. Romans 3:23). However, this statement of fact should not keep the Christian from striving to be "righteous" as God is righteous. By thinking we cannot achieve this goal, most of the time we do not try. When we entertain these thoughts, God's major adversary, Satan, is happy.

Christians today should join this psalmist in giving praise to God for His character and His deeds being righteous. These basic characteristics of God should motivate everyone to not only become a Christian, but to remain a Christian all the days of their life.

Imitating God's righteousness is a very noble life ambition. Implementing God's righteousness as revealed in the Bible will assure Christians, they are living God's way.

Carlton G. McPeak

(carlton_mc@msn.com) is an evangelist working in the Florida Gateway region. Scriptural quotations from the NASB.

Want something different in your relationship with God?



Sheryl Boldt
Guest Columnist

"Are you ready?" I called to my roommate from the second floor.

"Yeah ... just give me another minute," Marlene answered.

I looked over the railing and saw her sitting on the couch with her Bible open. She stood, then leaned over to read a little bit more. She simply couldn't tear herself away.

What I saw that day was a beautiful picture of a child of God lingering in her Father's presence. This memory continues to inspire me today.

Do you regularly enjoy talking with and listening to your heavenly Father? Of course, if we're honest, not every quiet time (moments spent praying and reading our Bibles) is magical. There are times when we're not really "feeling it," and it seems as if we're talking to ourselves.

If we persevere in our quest to know God and "the wonders of His Person" (Philippians 3:10 AMPC), however, we'll experience days when it will be hard to tear ourselves away from His presence. We'll long for another look into His Word. Just one more glimpse into His personality, His heart, His ways.

But perhaps you don't really care that much about God—and

frankly, you're not so sure He cares about you. Or maybe, until now, you've had an I-pray-when-I-need-something relationship with God.

But now you want something different, especially during this Lenten season.

If you don't have a desire for God, but would like to, let this be your first (or next) prayer: "God, help me want to know You. Amen."

Then, pray it again the next day.

You may discover that each day you sincerely and thoughtfully pray this simple prayer, you'll sense a growing desire to know God as your heavenly Father. As you continue

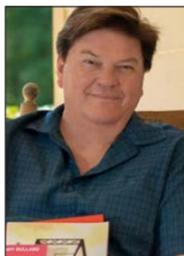
to do this, you may sense God's nearness (His presence). The more you feel His nearness, the more you'll experience a peace you've never felt before.

Allow yourself to get to know God a bit more each day. Try reading the Bible (the book of John is a good place to start). Take a few minutes to think about what you read and talk to God about what's on your heart. Discover how much your heavenly Father loves you.

Then linger in His presence just a little while longer.

Sheryl H. Boldt is the author of the blog, www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. Connect with her at SherylHBoldt@gmail.com.

Around the banks



Johnny Bullard
Guest Columnist

For the past week, my life has been blessed by visits with loved ones I have not seen in a while. These great events of life have taken on a more significant meaning for me the past several years. When we are younger, we often think we have time to burn. We are mistaken, but that is part of the folly of youth. We must

live for a while and see this journey called life unfold to appreciate and value its hills, mountains and valleys and, while our journeys are different, we have similar travel experiences. The glory of precious stops, such as the ones I enjoyed this past week, is that we can recall shared experiences with those we love and cherish.

In this past week's edition of the *Riverbend News*, an article appeared about the late Cousin Thelma Boltin, longtime Mistress of Ceremonies for the Florida Folk Festival. Cousin Thelma was, above all, a wonderful friend and a great lady but, and this is a high accolade, she was an accomplished and amazing storyteller.

I think she, like the late Cousin Minnie Pearl of Grand Ole Opry Fame who, with her famous "Howdy! I am just 'suh' proud to be here," made us all feel we knew about Grinders Switch and Cousin NayBob, we won't tell a certain Suwannee County radio advertiser we know he lifted NayBob's name from Cousin Minnie...we love you Tan, oh, there I revealed it. Anyhow, Tan Fletcher, Cousin Minnie Pearl, Cousin Thelma Boltin, Cousin Ron Miller and

many others made us feel we were rocking in those rocking chairs once again with Grandma and Grandpa, and aunts, uncles and cousins, as the sweet iced tea was poured, pound cake was served and stories poured forth that made us, laugh, cry and be prouder of who we are as people.

I have one piece of advice to younger parents and educators: bring in those individuals who can add value to the lives of children to share stories that enrich their lives and create lasting memories. I am so glad I spent my childhood and much of my life in the august and unhurried time of a North Central Florida that valued and venerated those long visits on screened porches with stories that began with "Johnny, do you remember? Tell us again about 'so and so'" and the stories poured forth. Enjoy this beautiful season of spring with all its pageantry of color and fragrance...and spend some time with those you love telling a story. Treasured stories told by a good story teller, like memories of loved ones, never grow old.

From the Eight Mile Still on the Woodpecker Route north of White Springs, wishing you a good day.

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Paul summed up the very basis of the gospel, when he said, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." Over the years many have come along and sought to add to that simple message, all types of forms, traditions, and various duties for the sons of GOD. Yet anything which is "added" to that plain message does not serve to empower the gospel or to strengthen the sons of GOD, but rather to dilute the message and to avert the eyes and ears of the hearers from the one SOURCE of their HOPE and CONFIDENCE, to a system of fleshly works. Throughout his writings he sets forth many exhortations unto the children of GOD. Yet in every instance, his purpose in doing so is to bring the mind of those he has exhorted back to the very basis of his message rather than to lay a burden upon their backs. He instructs the Philipians about the humility and single-mindedness of CHRIST when he says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." HE instructs the Romans about the finished work of CHRIST in satisfying the Law when HE exhorts them to, "Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Likewise, he instructs the Colossians of the all sufficiency of CHRIST when he exhorts them to "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:---: but Christ is all, and in all." The sons of GOD are thus called to triumph in that victory which HE has won for them. HE has thus set forth for us an EXAMPLE that we should follow in HIS steps. This spiritual battle is waged completely by the SPIRIT of GOD and the outcome is not in doubt. Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith." May we be given such a heart and mind, as Paul had, to know that the victory is the LORD'S.

-m.a.m.

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St. Patrick's Day

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JuJu
Cont. from page 1

hearts. All we want is our Julie home! Our lives have been turned upside down, and someone knows something, and yet they are not speaking up.”

claiming to be from Julie. The SCSO believes the letter is authentic; however, at this time, they have not been able to make contact with her regarding her whereabouts. In the letter, the author claims she (Julie) is safe and that she had willfully run away. The SCSO is deeply concerned about her well-being and wants to resolve the issue for everyone

involved. In the letter received, the author wishes for several personal issues to be looked into. Suwannee County Sheriff St. Sam John stated he “guarantees her claims will be looked into.” The SCSO would like to investigate the issues addressed in the letter and is taking the accusations very seriously. However, until the author of the

letter can be validated, and Julie makes contact with the SCSO to discuss all matters involved, the proper resources needed to resolve the author's concerns can not be executed. If you have any information that will assist with locating Julie, please contact SCSO Investigator Chuck Thompkins at (386) 362-2222 or (386) 590-4052.

Assault
Cont. from page 1

attention toward them. The baseball team began hurling vulgar comments toward the softball players, and blocked their path so the Trojans couldn't safely make it to the softball field. Once again, HCHS's administration was left to restrain the Indians, as their own coaches continued to look on.

Indians' coaching staff began complaining about the Trojans impeding their players' ability to advance on the base paths. However, video evidence shows the Trojans were not impeding the Indians' runners, as it is apparent the Indians were punching and elbowing the Trojans' shortstop before running to the next base. These actions were, once again, overlooked by the Indians' coaches.

pushing and shoving each other, causing Coach Williamson and the Trojans players to step in between them. At the same time, Chiefland's players and coaches were rushing to Coach Brock's aide. Unfortunately, one Indians assistant coach, Brent Slaughter, had no intentions of deescalating the situation. Rather, he further ignited the incident by bolting across the field and punching the Trojans pitcher, Rogers, in the mouth before backing up and challenging the remainder of the team.

Eventually, the Indians made it to their dugout and the Trojans were able to join them. The game began with senior Trayson Rogers on the mound, charged with the task of keeping the Indians at bay. Through three innings, Rogers had done just that, allowing two hits and no runs. In the bottom of the third inning, the Trojans exploded for three runs; Julian Garcia drove in one, then Rogers delivered two runs off a single, advancing to second base on the Indians' throw to home in an attempt to prevent the Trojans' third run.

In the top of the sixth inning, tempers got the best of Indians Head Coach Brock, as he began arguing with the home plate umpire. Hearing vulgar language being used against his players, Trojans Head Coach Williamson, along with his assistant coaches, came to their players' defense. Now standing in front of the Trojans' dugout as the players were coming off the field, the HCHS coaches implored Coach Brock to return to his dugout, as tensions had been mounting throughout the game.

However, the calmer heads prevailed. The Trojans' players restrained themselves and returned to the dugout. Meanwhile, Trojans Coach Williamson assisted umpires in restraining the Indians' coaches.

The score remained 3-0 through five innings, but the tension was beginning to surface; the

This was followed by Coach Brock and Trojans Assistant Coach Brandon McCoy exchanging words. Eventually, the two began

The game ended following the altercation in the sixth inning, with the Trojans earning the win, 3-1. At this time, charges are pending against Indians Head Coach Brock and Assistant Coach Slaughter. *Riverbend News* reached out to Brock, who stated he is unable to comment on the situation.

O'Connor
Cont. from page 1

returned to Florida, this time a little closer to Suwannee County, at the University of Florida, where he joined the coaching staff for the Florida Gators women's soccer team. There, he will serve as the Gators' goalkeeping coach. "We are excited to have Austin join our staff and jump

right in with our spring season. He offers invaluable experience in both recruiting and goalkeeper training. His long-standing history in Florida will undoubtedly prove helpful as we continue to invest concerted effort in our state," Gators Coach Samantha Bohon said.

"I would like to thank Samantha, Josie, Adam and the rest of the staff associated with the women's soccer program for welcoming me to their family," O'Connor said. "I look forward to helping the program and players achieve great success both on and off the field. Go Gators!"

University, he helped coach his team to the Conference playoffs and won their first playoff game since 2015.

Then, in 2023, O'Connor

School Board
Cont. from page 1

school. They feel, with an individual assessment, each student will be better prepared for the upcoming challenges they will face throughout their education career. RRA would like to work with the HCSB and the district's curriculum, so both entities would be on the same page for everyone's benefit. Each

student would be given their own pace of learning, and lesson plans that best fit their needs and learning ability.

The HCSB briefly discussed the opportunity of working with RRA, and will review the presentation. They will further the discussion of how RRA will fit in Hamilton County at their school board workshop on Tuesday, March 28.

Each student will be better prepared for the upcoming challenges they will face throughout their education career. RRA would like to work with the HCSB and the district's curriculum, so both entities would be on the same page for everyone's benefit. Each

RRA goal is to build confidence in its students, allowing them to gain momentum moving forward with their education. In return, the academy hopes to challenge its students to achieve their dreams through a foundation of a great education.

The next regular school board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18, at 6 p.m., in the Hamilton County School Board Office located at 5686 Highway 129.

Governor DeSantis announces first month of Toll Relief Program savings

Florida Department of Transportation
Contributor

On Thursday, March 2, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that the Toll Relief Program, signed into law by the Governor in December 2022, concluded its first month of toll relief for Florida's commuters in January, totaling nearly \$37 million in savings for over 1.1 million SunPass customers, with some Floridians saving more than \$100 during the first month of the program. The year-long program automatically gives customers with at least 35 monthly toll transactions a 50 percent credit to their account.

The legislation, originally proposed by Governor DeSantis in September 2022, was successfully

passed during the Legislative Special Session in December. Governor DeSantis signed Senate Bill 6A on Dec. 15, 2022, establishing the Toll Relief Program through the Florida Department of Transportation. The Toll Relief Program builds on the successful SunPass Savings Program that concluded in December 2022 and resulted in 384,000 drivers saving over \$18 million.

"During a time of persistently high inflation, this toll program represents important relief for Florida commuters," said Governor DeSantis. "I am proud to have signed this program into law, saving Floridians nearly \$37 million in its first month that they can now use to support their families."

"Today's announcement of

nearly \$37 million in savings for commuters reaffirms our state's commitment to providing direct, immediate assistance to Florida's families through the much-needed Toll Relief Program," said Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Jared W. Perdue, P.E. "The Department is excited to support Governor DeSantis's initiative and help make a difference for Florida's families at times when they need it most."

"For many Florida families, every ounce of savings on the road can make a big impact towards other important expenses," said Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Executive Director and CEO, Nicola Liquori. "Florida's Turnpike Enterprise is proud to support the Toll Relief Program and offer this additional cost saving benefit to our valued

SunPass customers."

The Toll Relief Program runs through Dec. 31, 2023 and is expected to provide an average of 1.2 million drivers savings of nearly \$480 over the course of the year. The Toll Relief Program is administered by Florida's Turnpike Enterprise and includes SunPass as well as other Florida-based tolling agency partners throughout the state. Customers are encouraged to ensure their transponder is properly mounted in the vehicle and their account is in good standing.

SunPass is the prepaid electronic toll collection program operated by Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, the toll agency for the state. To learn more about SunPass, please visit www.SunPass.com or call 1 (888) TOLL-FLA (865-5352).



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White Springs Town Council dismisses complaints against councilmember

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The Tuesday, March 14, White Springs Town Council meeting began with two changes to the agenda. Town Manager Vanessa George, asked that a complaint from Derek Snead be moved to the bottom of the agenda, then councilwoman Nicole Williams asked to add an item on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of the town. The meeting then moved into public comment. At this time, Beth Daniel asked if it was appropriate for the council to take questions from non-residents about things outside of town council affairs. Town Attorney Joel Foreman responded stating it would be inappropriate but, because of the way the town charter is written, in this situation, it was how the council was supposed to handle it.

The meeting moved on to discuss the first of two complaints from Snead regarding Williams. Attorney Foreman explained that, normally, the proper way to handle these issues is to take it to the commission on ethics. However, after reviewing the town charter, he said he was incorrect in that direction. Foreman then cited section 2.03 of the charter which explains that a councilmember can have their seat vacated for a plethora of reasons upon a majority vote. Upon the vote, the council must then provide the councilmember with written notice that they consider their seat forfeited. The affected member then has seven days to request a hearing. At the hearing, the councilmember will provide evidence to refute the accusations being made against them. As Mayor Anita Rivers read the complaint, there was confusion amongst the council as to what the complaint was actually about. After some

discussion, it was determined the complaint was about the alleged car chase involving Williams and Snead. Williams then claimed, once again, that there are charges being filed against Snead. She also claimed he had filed charges against her, but his charges had been thrown out and hers had not. Rivers then asked Foreman for his advice about the situation. Foreman told the council that they would have to present evidence to prove Williams had forfeited her seat and, if there was any doubt about what they could prove, he would recommend not proceeding with removing her from her seat. Vice Mayor Jacqueline Williams motioned for the complaint to be dismissed and the motion was approved.

The meeting then moved to Williams's added item, where she wanted to discuss the SOP. Williams claimed that she had acquired a copy of the SOP, however her grandchildren had spilled apple juice on it. She kept the tainted copy, but got a new one. In reviewing the two copies, she claimed changes had been made. Williams then acquired copies from previous town employees, and claimed they matched her original copy, but not the new one she had received from the town hall. The council motioned to investigate the changes, and the motion passed unanimously.

The final item discussed was Snead's second complaint. Once again, there was confusion as to what the complaint was about. However, after further discussion, it was determined the second complaint from Snead was also about the car chase and was subsequently dismissed by the council.

The next White Springs Town Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the White Springs Town Hall, located at 10363 Bridge St., in White Springs.

Lafayette Commission chooses to approve Legacy Brown Acres campground

Christian Peterson
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During its Board of Adjustments on Tuesday, March 14, the Lafayette County Board of County Commissioners continued discussing the Legacy Brown Acres resolution allowing them to put campground spots on the property. Garret Land, head of the planning and zoning department, was first to speak, addressing the concerns he heard at the previous meeting about the affect increased traffic would have on the area, as well as impacts on trash and flooding. He told the board he had an assesment of the property done by the North Central Florida Planning Council which showed no significant impact to the traffic, flood or wetland.

Katrina Fillyaw, a Lafayette County resident, was next to speak. She said that, if the board was to pass the resolution, there should be some conditions to go along with it. The two conditions she proposed were that the campground only be used during harvesting time, and that it would not be rented to the public.

Lisa Brown Fox was next to speak, providing information about her family history in Lafayette County. She continued, saying this campground was the most economical for her company, and had even been approved by the planning and zoning board.

The resolution then came back to the board. Anthony Adams stated he had considerable conflict about the issue, as he is an advocate for property rights and for agriculture. However, after much thought, he considered it a contradiction of the county's comprehensive plan. Lance Lamb then motioned to approve the resolution with the stipulation it not be rented to the public. Lisa Walker seconded the motion, and both voted in favor of it. Mason Byrd and Adams voted against the motion, leaving it up to Chairman Earnest Jones to break the tie. Jones explained he also had put some considerable thought into it and, after much consideration, voted in favor of the resolution, causing it to pass by a vote of 3-2.

The next Lafayette County Board of County Commissioners meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28, at 5:30 p.m. It will be held on the second floor of the Lafayette County Courthouse, located at 120 W Main St., in Mayo.

Jasper City Council hears pigging presentation

Christian Peterson
Reporter@riverbendnews.org

During the Jasper City Council's regular meeting on Thursday, March 16, City Manager Marcus Collins introduced Roger Cimbora with Professional Piping Services. Cimbora explained what his company does, focusing on their "pigging" (pipeline inspection gauges) program. He told the board that, over time, pipelines develop buildup inside of them, causing a pipe that was six inches in diameter to only be three inches. The buildup, however, isn't just soft buildup; rather, its a tough iron-like substance that requires a significant amount of force to remove. Cimbora continued, saying his company first sends in a soft PIG that is easily torn apart to measure exactly how much buildup is inside the pipes. They then run different size pigs through several times to break down the buildup. This causes an increase in the water quality and the volume of water traveling through the pipes at any given time. During the department head reports, Public Works Director Gregor St. John told the council he thinks pigging would be great for the city and very useful.

The next Jasper City Council meeting will be Thursday, April 20, at 6 p.m. in Jasper City Hall, located at 208 Hatley St. W, in Jasper.

Mayo Town Council approves new signs on County Road 300

Christian Peterson
Reporter@riverbendnews.org

On Monday, March 13, the Mayo Town Council met for its regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting began at 7 p.m. and was held in the Mayo Town Hall, located at 276 W Main St., in Mayo.

The meeting began with the announcement that the town had acquired \$10,485,000 in grant money for sewer upgrades; however, it was clarified Mayo is still \$2 million short of what is needed. The council added it would be meeting with United States Representative Kat Cammack on Thursday, March 16, to try and get the last bit of funding they need. However, the meeting was canceled due to illness.

Later in the meeting, Virginia McCray informed the council she had received some calls about County Road 300. McCray explained the speed limit on the road changes from 55 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour with no signs warning of the decrease. She continued, saying she had spoken with Scott Sadler, the county public works director, and he had told her all he needs is the council's permission to set up the necessary signs announcing the drop in speed. The council agreed, and approved letting Sadler put up the reduced speed signs.

The next Mayo Town Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 10, at 7 p.m. It will be held in the Mayo Town Hall, located at 276 W Main St., in Mayo.



WE RECOGNIZE JAMES HOLMES



James Holmes moved to Suwannee County in 2010, and began working for the county in December 2022. Holmes is currently employed with the public works department as a dump truck driver. His prior career was spent as a truck driver, and he enjoys the freedom and solitude the profession provides. He and his wife, Linda Holmes have been married for 12 years and he is the proud father of three children. When he thinks of the county's youth, he would like to advise them to start young, and build a good retirement foundation for themselves and their family. In his off time, Holmes enjoys the nature Suwannee County has to offer and takes full advantage of the weather and all the fishing opportunities available. Whether it is in the Suwannee River, a lake or in a pond, Holmes is happiest when a line is in the water.

As we continue to grow and strive to improve the lives of all our citizens, the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners would like to recognize those employees who serve their community on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, each week we will highlight one of our "Team Suwannee" members. We want to recognize their commitment to helping make Suwannee County a great place for both individuals and businesses to prosper, as well as helping to improve the quality of life for our residents.

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Suwannee County Board of Commissioners



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THANK YOU FOR SERVICING OUR COMMUNITY!

LIVE OAK IS ON THE HUNT FOR A NEW CITY MANAGER

Grace McAlister
Reporter1@riverbendnews.org

The City of Live Oak selected George Curtis as its city manager in early 2021. Curtis previously worked in the city's planning and zoning department. He served the city as its planning and zoning director and development manager specialist dating back to 2008. Since being elected, Curtis's role as city manager has been filled with controversy. On Aug. 2, 2022, a former employee who was with the City of Live Oak wrote in an open letter to the city. The letter stated the morale and work environment "has NEVER been as bad as it is now." The reason for this was Curtis' leadership, which she expressed has included emails and letters in their paystubs that are "borderline bullying, or are downright bullying and at some even threatening to our jobs." "I am resigning my position because I can NOT work in the environment that the city is being run in," she wrote in the letter. "Being targeted by the City Manager and his assistant (or feeling like you are being targeted) and to work in a hostile work environment is not a pleasant way to work."

Dec. 13, 2022- Campbell comments on building permit process

At the Tuesday, Dec. 13, Live Oak City Council meeting, Councilmember Matt Campbell stated his dissatisfaction regarding the building permit process and potentially streamlining the process. He said it had taken him two weeks to get a permit to put a metal building next to his home. Curtis stated at the Dec. 13 meeting he has the report for the building permits for the year 2021-2022 to demonstrate how, in the months of January to May, the value of permits that were issued compared to the months of June-November, there is a great increase in value of permits as well as consistency in the number of permits that are being issued. In November, Curtis issued 25 permits, he stated. The "personnel problems" caused delays in getting permits out, Curtis added. Mayor Frank Davis suggested that Curtis should meet with all the employees to explain the process of getting permits.

Jan. 9, 2023- Planning and Zoning workshop

At the Monday, Jan. 9 Workshop, the agenda stated one thing, "discussion regarding the permitting process for planning, zoning, and building departments." Daryll Bridget was one of many speakers who wished to comment on Curtis's employment with the City of Live Oak. Bridget stated he "followed the proper procedures but still got nowhere." Bridget reportedly paid for his permit and was given a list of what he needed to do to move forward with his project, but he was unable to advance because he was denied by the City of Live Oak's Planning and Zoning division. Councilmember Owens told Bridget the board would schedule a time for him to meet with Curtis as well as other members of the Planning and Zoning department to help him do what he needs for his project.

Wayne Hannaka spoke next, starting by stating he had a history of working in construction. He stated that businesses begin to lose money when the permitting process is slow. Hannaka said that part of the problem might be that the City of Live Oak does not have a full-time building inspector. He further stated that it was "ludicrous" that Planning and Zoning only meet every three months, and if an applicant is rejected, they must wait another three months. He asks the board, "is it the process or the person managing the process?"

Don Wainwright, a local developer, said he hopes the meeting "isn't lipstick on a pig." He stated that his team started to build an apartment complex because of the city's need for housing. However, because the building permit process takes so long, interest has skyrocketed, and now the project may not be possible. "Time is money," Wainwright stated. He adds that while he thinks George Curtis is a good man, he does not think he is qualified for the job. Another developer, Deb Salvatos, stated that she had never seen the permitting issues Live Oak has shown in the other cities she has worked with.

Councilmember Owens stated that she approached the Planning and Zoning department prior to the workshop to look into the issue. Owens commented that they spent hours going over their processes. She asked the department why it takes them so long to give out permits in a meeting. The staff stated they felt underqualified and understaffed. She added, "George wanted to micromanage; he wanted his hand in everything, which caused issues with [staff]."

When Owens asked the staff what the City of Live Oak could do to help the Planning and Zoning department be more efficient, "they said they needed more training, they needed more employees and better technology."

This discussion was continued during the Tuesday, Jan. 10 city council meeting.

Jan. 10, 2023- Curtis's contract is on the agenda

The Live Oak City Council held a lengthy discussion at the Tuesday, Jan. 10 city council meeting about Curtis and whether or not his contract should be limited. Curtis did not attend the

meeting or the workshop held the previous day due to illness. During the meeting, there were comments from 18 individuals, some of which were advocating for Curtis, while others criticized him. These concerns were aired early during the workshop on the city's permitting process and Land Development Regulations, which took over three hours.

Eddie Ojeda, another former City of Live Oak employee, spoke criticizing Curtis, "George Curtis claims he is short-handed when it comes to employees. However, you are not aware of the constant firing and hiring of employees by Mr. George Curtis." Ojeda provided the board with a list of employees who allegedly resigned from the City of Live Oak because of Curtis' treatment. Ojeda then shared that in 2021 he was falsely accused of misconduct.

A petition for an administrative hearing from this incident states, "George Curtis, the City Manager, along with Luther, Remmers, and Salvati, orchestrated the false sexual harassment claims against Petitioner in order to remove him before his probationary period ended. Curtis, Luther, Remmers, and Salvati knew sexual harassment allegations against a male supervisor would be easier to make than the allegations of poor job performance they would have needed to terminate Petitioner's employment for just cause after the probationary period. The false allegations against Petitioner were a pretext to terminate his employment before the end of his probationary period."

The document further states, "the witness for Remmers's allegations of sexual harassment, Gina Salvati, admitted to only writing a complaint because she was asked to and in fear of losing her job. Remmers and Salvati received new positions as a result of their actions to remove Petitioner from his position." During the meeting, Ojeda stated that he won the lawsuit against the City of Live Oak and procured a settlement against the city. Ojeda also encouraged the board to speak to former City of Live Oak employees about their experiences with Curtis

Among the issues that need fixing, according to a number of business developers and engineers, is the city's permitting process. Many claimed projects have drug on due to a lack of communication and delays in getting them moved through the city to obtain permits.

After public comment and general business, Councilmember Tommie Jefferson made a motion to cancel City Manager George Curtis' contract, "you have to cut the head off the snake in order to kill it," Jefferson said. The motion immediately failed for lack of a second. Jefferson stated he would "put it back on the agenda for next month."

After Jefferson's motion died, Councilmember Matt Campbell said although he agrees with many of Jefferson's and the citizens' concerns, he did not want to fire Curtis with no plan for what to do next. "Without a plan in place, then we're going to do more harm than good at this point," Campbell said.

Small business owner Rudy Robles stated while he desired for the council to help address the concerns that were being aired, he did not want anybody fired. Instead, he believed the city needed to draw in more development. "There's no reason why a business should go to City Hall and feel like they're being bothered," Robles said. "They should be celebrated, welcomed in, rolled out the red carpet. We need to have Operation Greenlight, get businesses in here and let's get rolling."

Council President Burch said, "Bottom line, we want to fix these problems. We've got to come up with a fix."

Curtis's response to the controversy

"I am well-pleased of my established track record as a trailblazer and the clean, safe, attractive, prosperous and orderly condition of our City reflects the countless hours I, and others alongside me, have spent over the course of the last 178 months with only the betterment of our City in mind."

Riverbend News reached out to Curtis for comment; on Friday, Jan. 13, he responded:

"My unwavering commitment to Suwannee County as a public servant has spanned close to 24 years, with nearly 15 of them with the City of Live Oak. I am extremely proud of all my contributions to our community and I know a verifiably positive difference has been made as a result. I have worked very diligently to earn and maintain the respect and support of the Department Heads, staff, Council and the community. I have always represented the City with dignity and always made decisions in the best interests of the organization, even when those decisions were not popular.

Like all elected and appointed officials, I am sworn to adhere to and uphold the law and to act ethically in all I do, and to ensure staff under me are doing the same, which is what has been and remains the standard of excellence I aspire to maintain. During my time to-date as Manager, every crisis has been dealt with effectively, budgets have been balanced and audits clean. Under my leadership, many challenges have been met with solutions, many new endeavors and accomplishments have taken place for the first time for the Citizen's benefit, and many more challenges are currently being dealt with to the best of our

ability and within our means. I am well-pleased of my established track record as a trailblazer and the clean, safe, attractive, prosperous and orderly condition of our City reflects the countless hours I, and others alongside me, have spent over the course of the last 178 months with only the betterment of our City in mind."

Monday, Feb. 13 Curtis's job at risk again

Though the board ultimately decided not to terminate Curtis at the Monday, Feb. 13, Live Oak City Council meeting, his job was again put in jeopardy.

Council member Jefferson took a different approach to his attempt to get Curtis fired. With the assistance and guidance of City Attorney Todd Kennon, Jefferson wanted the council to ask Curtis to resign.

In a memo to Curtis, Kennon stated Live Oak's charter details the procedure to terminate the city manager, and if the charter is not followed, there could be legal ramifications. Kennon told Jefferson the first step the board should take is to ask Curtis to resign. If Curtis declines the council's request, the council may suspend the city manager. The motion to suspend the city manager must include the reason for termination.

When asked if he would resign if the board asked him to, Curtis responded by stating he "does not have a comment on that," however, he further added, "whatever [the council] plan to say, I'll hear them out."

Councilmember Matt Campbell stated in January that he does not want to fire Curtis because the City of Live Oak does not have anyone to fill his vacancy. The council has also discussed the lack of a Human Resources director in recent meetings, making Curtis's workload too heavy.

Jefferson discussed Curtis's annual evaluations, which were to be conducted in January. Curtis stated he had not received his evaluation back from Councilmember Lynda Owens. However, he received them from all other council members. He said, during the evaluations, very few of the issues raised during the previous council meetings came up during those discussions.

In response to the comments concerning his performance, Curtis stated that the city has an "established process that's been followed for 15 years." He continued, stating, "Just because we have some new officials doesn't mean the process changes, because it's according to the regulations and the laws... They can have an opinion, but the charter says that's as far as it goes."

Tuesday, March 14- The search begins

At the Tuesday, March 14, Live Oak Council meeting, the council unanimously approved a resolution appointing current City Manager George Curtis back to his previous position of Development Manager. Curtis will continue to serve as city manager until the council hires a new interim or full-time manager.

City Clerk John Gill is advertising the interim position locally and will continue to do so for three weeks so the council may be able to fill the position during the Tuesday, April 11 meeting.

Though Mayor Frank Davis urged the council to consider speeding up the timeline, Councilman Matt Campbell said he wasn't sure the city could move any faster, considering that they want to advertise to find interested parties.

Jefferson mentioned that former Suwannee County Commissioner Larry Sessions, who currently serves as the administrator of the Suwannee Valley Transit Authority, was interested in the position.

Jefferson stated he was ready to make an appointment for the position; However, Council President David Burch responded, stating it would be best to follow City Attorney Todd Kennon's recommendation, which was for the council to give him names of possible candidates for him to contact.

Jefferson stressed the fact that Kennon's recommendation was just a recommendation, stating, "We're not going to get sued for appointing an interim."

Curtis stated he contacted Kennon prior to the meeting about moving back to the development manager position; because of this, Kennon was able to outline Curtis' proposal of going back to his previous position to the council during the March 14 meeting.

Curtis expressed his willingness to serve as the city manager until a replacement could be found while continuing to be compensated at his current rate. Once he returns to his position in development, Curtis proposed a salary of \$82,537.50 with 25 percent of his salary to be paid by the Live Oak Community Redevelopment Agency. His final salary as development manager was \$71,411, he said when asked by Jefferson.

Curtis would also be willing to serve as interim city manager at any point in the future and wants preference for assistant city manager should that position ever be created.

Curtis stated he is aiming to make the City of Live Oak's development process more "business friendly" and to "cut as much delay and unnecessary steps out of the process as possible."

Curtis added, "Without me over there overseeing that and heading it up, it'll never be done."

Branford man arrested for sexual battery

Grace McAlister
Reporter1@riverbendnews.org

On Friday, March 17, Suwannee County Sheriff's Office Deputies located and apprehended 58-year-old Michael Duwane Koon of Branford after investigating allegations that he potentially drugged and took advantage of an intoxicated female victim who was present at a local bar in southern Suwannee County.

Through investigative means and search warrants, investigators located an extremely incriminating video of Koon and the victim. The video depicted Koon having sexual intercourse

with the victim against her will and consent. The victim was incapacitated and unaware of her surroundings and what was occurring. The SCSO report states that during the video, the victim repeatedly tells the suspect, "No."

Koon uploaded the video recording to a social media forum which was sent to multiple contacts exposing the acts he committed. A witness who received the production then became concerned about the victim and sent law enforcement to conduct a welfare check as she could tell the victim was in danger. This same witness proceeded to go to the location she recognized in the video and removed the victim

from Koon's company, and took her to seek medical attention, according to a SCSO report.

Koon was booked into the Suwannee County Jail at 9:30 p.m. on March 17. He was charged with sexual battery and video voyeurism dissemination. He has since been released.



Michael Duwane Koon

Suwannee County Sheriff's Office apprehends man for sexual battery

Grace McAlister
Reporter1@riverbendnews.org

On Wednesday, March 15, members of the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) Patrol Division and Criminal Investigations Division arrested Justin Rashawn Sampson of Valdosta, Ga., for an active New Jersey warrant for sexual battery on a child under 13. SCSO Patrol Deputies and Investigators were acting on information obtained from Lowndes County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division that he was working at a Suwannee County business. SCSO Deputies and Investigators located Sampson at the business and were able to identify and apprehend him.



Photo courtesy of SCSO
Sampson was arrested by SCSO on a New Jersey warrant.



Justin Rashawn Sampson

Jail Report

Lafayette County

March 14

Larry Smith, probation violation

March 15

Austin Beam, battery

Cheyenne Parrish, battery

March 18

David White, battery, operating motorcycle without liscence

Walter Rivera-Castillo, operating vehicle without liscence

Hamilton County

March 14

Danny Ray Smith, failure to appear, probation violation

LaMarcus Antonio Kelly, out-of-county warrant

Damian Lopez, public order crimes, failure to appear

Brooke Lyndsay Watson, out-of-county warrant

March 15

Shelby Lynn Grantham, probation violation, withhold support

March 16

Marshall William Hodge, traffic violation

Troy Derek Mendheim, failure to appear, resist officer, out-of-county warrant, moving traffic violation

March 17

Kristi Lee Cribbs, failure to appear

March 18

William David Burke, out-of-county warrant

Lori Jackson Burke, out-of-county warrant

Brad Edward Day, trespassing

Lawrence Lormard Yancie, failure to appear

March 19

Jordan Nicholas Stephens, moving traffic violation, food health/safety violation

Suwannee County

March 14

Audie Renee Fields, possession of controlled substance

Marcos Diego Marcos, lewd or lascivious battery

Charity Lynn Jordan, possession of a controlled substance, drug possession

Joseph Daniel Miley, possession of controlled substance

March 15

Tarrance Jamahl Allen, failure to appear

Brittney Tran, drug possession

Torlane Jewett Ross, aggravated battery, resisting officer/arrest, cocaine trafficking, possession of cocaine with intent to sell

Charles Benjamin Harman, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol level

Justin Rashawn Sampson, out-of-state fugitive

Brooke Lyndsey Watson, smuggle contraband

Timothy Delancie Bass, out-of-county warrant

Karalie Michelle Freeman, battery

Michael Anthony Sellers, battery, probation violation

Ava LeAloha Walker, simple battery - domestic violence

March 16

Joshua Timothy Suggs, drug possession, drug equipment possession

Alphoncie Deontae Hopson, disorderly intoxication

Gerardo Borell, probation violation

March 17

Johnny Robinson, grand theft motor vehicle, burglary, burglary tool possession, drug possession, drug equipment possession, trespassing

Gregory Scott Love, possession of controlled substance, drug equipment possession

Earle Ray Tokarske, possession of controlled substance, drug equipment possession

Frank Thomas Golisano, driving with suspended or revoked license unknowingly

Dianne Aleila Delegal, warrant service

Jennifer Lynn Wilson, probation violation

Michael Duwane Koon, sexual battery, sex offense

March 18

Sarah Lee Justin, simple battery, resisting an officer

Lisa Simone Morrison, petit theft

Larisa Stokes McGevna, traffic offense-DUI

March 19

Rosanna Michelle Henderson, aggravated battery

Kenneth Jerome Cooks, battery

Darell Lamar Bridgett, burglary, hold for other reason

Torris Shartrice Jones, assault-domestic violence

March 20

Elizabeth Idella Sullivan, battery

Hometown Salute Robert Howard III



Heather and Robert Marshall Howard II welcomed their baby boy into the world on April 15, 1997. Little did they know their son, Robert Marshall Howard III, would turn out to be an American hero. Howard grew up in Suwannee County, where he always carried a sense of purpose for something greater throughout his childhood. Therefore, following his graduation from Suwannee High School, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

At the age of 18, he found himself on Paris Island. Upon graduating from basic training, he was sent to Fort Lenard Wood, Mo., where he was trained as a 1345 Heavy Equipment Operator. Next, he was sent to Savannah, Ga. Unfortunately, his military career was cut short due to an injury. Nevertheless, Howard served for three years and achieved the rank of E3 Lance Corporal.

Howard returned home following his service, where he and his wife, Halie Howard, settled in Suwannee County with their three children, Mckencie, Makayla and Robert Marshall Howard V. Today, he is the owner of Superior Concrete Concepts.

If you would like to nominate a Veteran, contact Danny Federico at reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com.

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Words for the wise

SRWMD Hydrologic Conditions Report for February is now available

Suwannee River Water Management District Contributor

To help enhance public awareness of water levels and the impact rainfall has on current conditions in North Florida, the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) has released its Hydrologic Conditions Report for the month of February.

This monthly report highlights rainfall, surface water and groundwater levels, a climate and drought outlook, as well as other scientific data that can be utilized to help educate the public about the impact rainfall has on North Florida.

Notable highlights from the month of February:

- The SRWMD received an average of 3.61 inches of rain during the month, which is approximately 5 percent lower than the 1932-2022 average of 3.80 inches.
- The 12-month period ending February 28, reflected a rainfall deficit of 3.48 inches. This means the SRWMD has received less rainfall during the previous 12 months than the historical average.
- Many of the river gages finished the month in the normal (25th to 75th percentile flow range). However, gages in the Santa Fe River Basin along with the Steinhatchee River near Cross City showed below normal flows at the end of February.
- Upper Floridan Aquifer (UFA) levels across the SRWMD reflected mostly normal levels, while large portions of Taylor, Jefferson, Alachua, and Bradford counties showed high (75th to 90th percentile) levels. Areas of Hamilton County showed both high and extremely high (higher than 90th percentile) levels.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) three-month seasonal outlook favors above normal temperatures with below normal rainfall changes throughout the District from March through May.
- The U.S. Drought Monitor report released on Thursday, March 9, shows most of

the SRWMD in Moderate Drought, with portions of Taylor, Madison, and Hamilton counties listed as abnormally dry. Jefferson County, however, is not currently experiencing any drought conditions.

The full report can be found on the SRWMD website under the Science & Data tab. It is typically updated the second week of each month, and reports from the previous five years are available for viewing.

The mission of the SRWMD is to protect and manage water resources using science-based solutions to support natural systems and the needs of the public. The SRWMD holds true to the belief of water for nature, water for people. Headquartered in Live Oak, Fla., the SRWMD serves 15 surrounding north-central Florida counties.

For more information about the District, visit www.MySuwanneeRiver.com or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter, search @SRWMD.

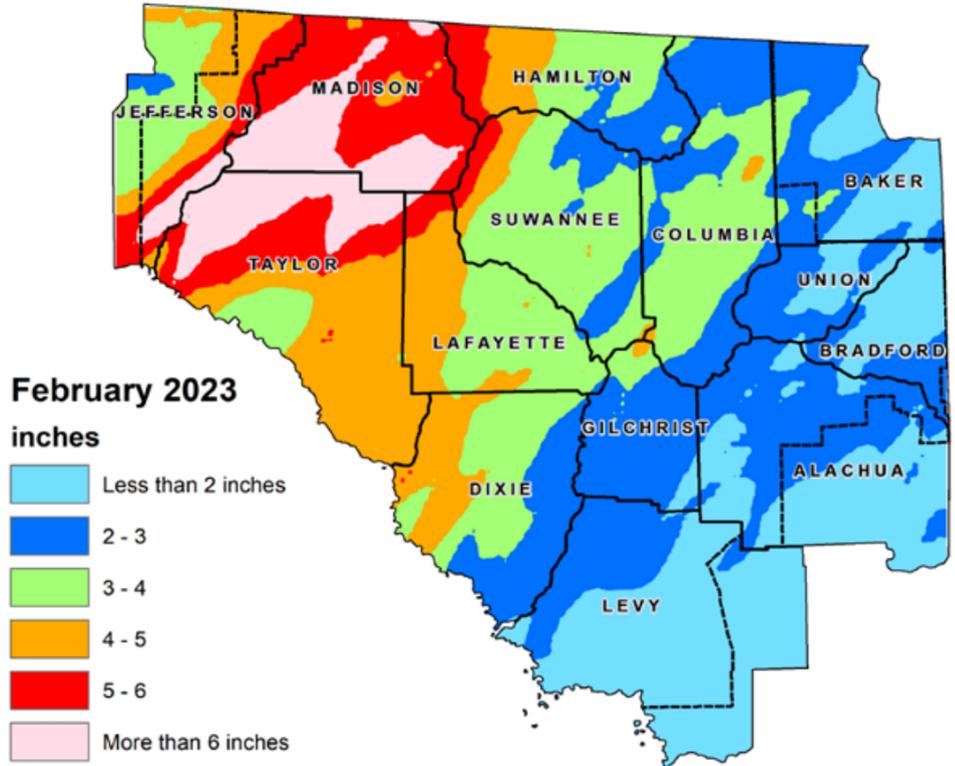


Photo courtesy of Suwannee River Water Management District
Pictured is the Hydrologic Conditions Report for the month of February.

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Flea Across Florida event coming up

Eva Stroud
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

If you are looking to sell antiques, your chance is coming. On Friday, April 14, and Saturday, April 15, Flea Across Florida will be hosting their first event of the year. This annual event has been around for 20 years now and has expanded over time. From Pensacola to Macclenny where bargains galore can be found. With how much they have expanded over time it would seem that they have had great success. This event is a yard sale that will take place along U.S. Hwy 90. It will be free to anyone who wishes to participate unless you set up on someone's private property or yard, you could be charged a fee. Sign up forms will be available a month to two months in advance. If you can't participate in the event in April, their second yearly event will take place the second weekend of Sept.

The event leader is Terri Thomason. For more information, you can visit their Facebook page: Flee Across Florida, email them at: fleaacrossfloridacoordinators@gmail.com or call (904) 200-2273

SUWANNEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NOTICE OF FINAL BUDGET AMENDMENTS 2021-2022 Fiscal Year

The Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing to make a decision on the following budget amendments:
The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 5:35 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the Judicial Annex Building, 218 Parshley Street South West, Live Oak, Fl. 32064.
In Compliance with Section 129.06 (2) (b-f), Florida Statutes, the undersigned Budget Officer for the Board of County Commissioners of Suwannee County, Florida made and prepared the following Budget Amendments to reflect Authorization and Usage of Fund Balance - Reserves, Contingency and Unanticipated Revenues for program purposes, and to appropriate for those purposes said funds for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and said usages are in excess of the original or previously amended budget:

	Original or Previously Amended Budget	Amended Amount ADD	TOTAL Amended Budget
FUND STATE ATTORNEY, REVENUES			
Perry Lease Reimbursement:	0.00	10,328.00	10,328.00
All other Revenue Sources:	274,345.00	0.00	274,345.00
Total Revenues Sources:	274,345.00	10,328.00	284,673.00
STATE ATTORNEY, APPROPRIATIONS			
Rentals / Leases-Perry:	0.00	10,328.00	10,328.00
All other Appropriations:	274,345.00	0.00	274,345.00
Total Appropriations:	274,345.00	10,328.00	284,673.00
FUND WATER / SEWER PLANT FUND, REVENUES			
DEO Water Plant Grant:	0.00	883,741.00	883,741.00
DEP Sewer Plant Grant:	0.00	724,737.00	724,737.00
Balance Forward:	0.00	0.00	0.00
All Other Revenue Sources:	195,606.00	0.00	195,606.00
Total Revenues Sources:	195,606.00	1,608,478.00	1,804,084.00
WATER / SEWER PLANT FUND, APPROPRIATIONS			
DEO / DEP Construction Grants:	0.00	1,608,478.00	1,608,478.00
All other Appropriations:	195,606.00	0.00	195,606.00
Total Appropriations:	195,606.00	1,608,478.00	1,804,084.00

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In Loving Memory

Gladys Harbour-Ezell



In the early morning of March 13th Gladys Cates Harbour Ezell heard the words "Well Done" from the Lord himself as she was welcomed into her Heavenly

Home.

Aunt Gladys, as she was affectionately known by her family, was born in Lafayette County on August 9, 1921 to Sam Cates and Eva Perry Cates.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother R O Hatcher, Both husbands, Jim Bob Harbour and Lloyd Ezell.

She is survived by her step-daughter Barbara Coulthurst-Rotunda and step daughter in love Pat Ezell, 5 step-grandchildren, Lisa Hendrick, Kirk Johnson, Donna Moore, Richard Ezell and Tara Crisp, 2 sisters in love, Nelda Hutcheson and Rennie Starling, 2 brothers in love, Donald Harbour and Hal Harbour, special nieces, Debbie (Jeff) Wilson and Teri Harbour. Surviving Nephews include Tommy (Nelda) Hatcher, Jerry Paul Harbour, Gary Harbour, David Gerald Harbour, Billy Harbour, John Fogelman, Bill Fogelman, Danny Harbour, and Steve Harbour. Other surviving Nieces are Marilyn Reed, Dorothy Jean Simmons, Cindy Guastella, Marion Collins, Karen Jernigan,

Lynn Swope, Rhonda McDonald, Darlene Pellicio, and Glenda Taylor, several cousins, great nieces and nephews along with a host of friends also survive.

While she was married to Jim Bob Harbour and lived in Lake Charles and Shreveport, Louisiana she was employed by Chesson Oil Company as the assistant to the Company CEO. Gladys loved to sew and often would have more than one project "in the making" for someone. After the death of Jim Bob, she returned to Jacksonville, Fl. and worked for Kelly Services. While visiting her brother in Mayo she re-connected with her childhood sweetheart Lloyd Ezell whom she later married and moved "home" to Lafayette County. After Lloyd died

she moved to Dowling Park where she worked at the Lodge at Advent Christian Village until she retired at the age of 85. Even after retiring she continued to volunteer at the Village Gift Shop, The Twice Nice Shop and Warehouse where she was the "fix it" lady who hemmed, sewed missing buttons, and repaired a tear to many items for resale. Failing health caused her to move to Dacier Manor and then later to Good Samaritan Center. Gladys lived for 101 years and was an inspiration to many. She never met a stranger and was loved by all who knew her.

A Celebration of Life is being planned for a later date.

Friends may sign the online guest book at: joepburnsfuneralhomes.com

Betty Ann Ellison

Mrs. Betty Ann Ellison, age 85, passed away March 12, 2023, in Valdosta, Georgia. Mrs. Ellison was born on April 25, 1937 in Live Oak, Florida to Clyde and Lena Jenkins Thomas and raised in Suwannee, Florida.

After graduating high school, she received her

cosmetology certificate. She married Jesse Willard Ellison Sr. and had a happy life together with their four children. In 1964 they bought a farm in Lee, Florida. The farm is still in the family. As a member of the Suwannee Jamboree, she was not only a singer but also a skit actress. She was an avid book reader and even enjoyed spending some of her time at the Lee Library Book club. She was known for helping anybody who needed a ride to the doctor. She was a member at Midway Baptist Church in Lee, Florida, where she taught Sunday school, enjoyed doing anything involving the church, especially doing arts and crafts at vacation bible school. She loved many different hobbies including crocheting, fishing, and cooking. However, the one thing that made her day was spending time with her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family, and friends.

Betty Ann Ellison was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Jesse Willard Ellison Sr., and grandson David Allen Ellison.

She is survived by her brother Clyde "Bud" Thomas (Rene) of Petaluma, California, sons Steve Allen Ellison (Wanda) of Perry, Florida, Lee Oliver Ellison (Linda) of Perry, Florida, and Jesse Willard Ellison Jr. (Regina) of Lee, Florida, her daughter Salena Ellison Box (Steve) of Live Oak, Florida, 12 Grandchildren Elizabeth, Dustin, Anna, Amanda, Valissa, Josh, Robin, Shannon, Jessie, Taylor, Jesse "Will", and Mikey Parker, as well as a host of great-grandchildren, Nieces, and nephews.

The Family will greet friends and family at Beggs Chapel in Madison, Florida, Tuesday March 14, 2023 from 6:00PM – 8:00PM. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Beggs Chapel in Madison, Florida, Wednesday March 15, 2023 at 1:00PM. Burial will follow at Lee Memorial Cemetery, located in Lee, Florida.



Lafayette and Suwannee County COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY

Take the survey!



YOUR VOICE MATTERS! Survey results will help identify and prioritize the most pressing health issues in the county and guide future planning.

Survey link: <https://tinyurl.com/p7k89yja>



BE UN-FROGETTABLE MAKE A SPLASH 2023 5K RUN / WALK

Saturday, April 1, 2023 at Heritage Park & Gardens, Live Oak, Fla.

Benefiting **DONATE LIFE Florida**

Presented by:

Suwannee County Tax Collector's Office

Registration Time: 6:45 a.m.

Race Time: 7:30 a.m.

Adults 13 and over \$20.00

Children 12 and under

\$5.00 (no shirt provided)

Online Registration: raceentry.com or visit suwtax.com for links and more information

The Donate Life Florida Foundation is a non-profit, 501 ©3 organization and all contributions are tax deductible.

Community Calendar

Wednesday, March 22 and Monday, March 27

First Baptist Church of Live Oak's Clothes Closet will provide free clothes to those in need on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Clothes Closet is located in the old red barn at 515 SW 5th St., in Live Oak. If you have questions or concerns, contact Sandra Hodgdon at Mrsdew5834@outlook.com.

Monday, March 22 – Friday, March 24

Is your driver's license suspended? Join the Suwannee County Clerk of Court for "Operation Green Light" for your chance to save money and get back on the road. In Suwannee County, customers can pay overdue traffic obligations, while saving up to 25 percent in additional fees for cases sent to collection agencies to get back their license. Contact the Suwannee County Clerk of Court's office at (386) 362-0500 or visit www.suwgov.org to learn more about Operation Green Light. The event will be held from Monday, March 20, through Friday, March 24, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Suwannee County Clerk of Court's office, located at 200 Ohio Ave. S, in Live Oak.

Saturday, April 1

On Saturday, April 1, the Suwannee County Tax Collector's Office will be holding its yearly 5K Fun Run/Walk. This year, the theme is be un-"frog"gettable, make a splash. Registration time for the race is at 6:45 a.m., and the race will start 7:30 a.m. To register, visit raceentry.com or suwtax.com. The race will begin and end at Heritage Park and Gardens playground which is located at 1004 Helvenston St. SE, in Live Oak. Proceeds from the race benefit Donate Life Florida.

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4-H explores career pathways in hospitality through local competitions

Katie Jones
Contributor

Since the establishment of social media sites like Pinterest, the art of entertaining has exploded with ideas for festive décor and novel recipes. Today, event planning and catering offers a creative and profitable career paths for individuals interested in creating memorable experiences in the hospitality industry. In addition to being creative and organized, event planners need to be able to plan menus and work within a budget to meet their clients' expectations. Caterers and chefs must have a solid background in food safety and be able to create delicious meals within a budget.

On Friday, Feb. 24, 15 4-H members in Suwannee County participated in two contests hosted by the Branford 4-H Club: table setting and grilling. These two contests were designed to help participants showcase their hospitality skills.

In the table setting contest, participants designed a theme and menu, and set two complete place settings to complement their menu. The setting had to include all the utensils and dishes that one would need for the menu they created. This year, Rae Finch won first place in the table setting contest with her beach themed table. Second place went to Avery Finch and third place went to Ann Marie Goss.

In the grilling contest, participants prepared a

grilled recipe of their choice for the judges. They learned to start a charcoal grill safely, determine when the fire was ready to cook, and follow food safety practices to keep food safe for consumption. Ricky Jones won the grilling contest with his boneless pork ribs. Second place went to Gunnar Soride and Easton Young won third place.

These contests help youth develop decision-making skills and explore potential career pathways. They serve as an introduction to other 4-H competitions like the 4-H Food Challenge and the 4-H Tailgating contests. They also help youth develop life skills in managing resources wisely and problem solving.

Plans for next year's table setting and grilling contests are already in the works. As part of UF/IFAS Suwannee County, Suwannee 4-H is an Equal Opportunity Institution, working to provide activities like this for youth ages five to 18 in Suwannee County. For more information about this and other opportunities provided by 4-H, contact kmjones@ufl.edu or call (386) 362-2771.



Grilling contest participants show off their ribbons and prizes. Pictured, from left to right, are: Ricky Jones, Easton Young, Gunnar Soride, Kiki Norton and Cooper Norton.



Photo courtesy of Katie Jones
Rae Finch beams with pride next to her first-place beach themed table.

Farm Share to visit Live Oak

Grace McAlister
Reporter1@riverbendnews.org

Farm Share, Florida's largest food bank, will distribute food in Live Oak on Wednesday, Feb. 12. The nonprofit's food distribution event will occur at three Live Oak churches: Suwannee Station Baptist

Church, located at 3289 101st Ln.; First United Methodist Church, located at 311 Ohio Ave S; and Friendship Baptist Church, located at 14364 140th St. #6507. Food will be handed out from 12 p.m. while supplies last. For more information, please visit farmshare.org or call (305) 246-3276.



Free dental care at Westwood Baptist Church

Grace McAlister
Reporter1@riverbendnews.org

The Florida Baptist Convention Mobile Dental Unit will be at Westwood Baptist Church from Monday, April 24, through Friday, April 29, to provide free extractions and fillings.

The Mobile Dental Unit serves those with no dental insurance and who are at the 200 percent poverty level. A pre-screening is required. Call the Mobile Dental Unit at (386) 247-1753 to see if you qualify; they ask you to ensure you speak clearly and slowly while leaving your message.

The Mobile Dental Unit's mission is to provide a source of ministry to local churches. Specifically, they seek to supply those churches with outreach connections to their communities through the provision of free dental care. They help meet the needs of the underserved, while continuing to share their religion and provide spiritual care through personal evangelism.

The Wellborn Baptist Church did have the Mobile Dental Unit on campus a few years ago, and the turnout was very successful. "It's a very good program- it's so great," said Linda Whittle, secretary at Wellborn Baptist Church. "I can't imagine walking around with a toothache and not being able to get it removed because it's so expensive." Westwood Baptist Church is located at 920 11th St. SW, in Live Oak.



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RiverFest returns with a salute to Santa Fe

Our Santa Fe River Contributor

“The song of the river ends not at her banks, but in the hearts of those who have loved her.” – Buffalo Joe

The songs of the Santa Fe River are set to overflow its banks in March, weaving melody and music through the fabric of the legendary RiverFest Celebration, now in its 11th year recognizing the beauty and brilliance of the Santa Fe River.

The annual Santa Fe RiverFest, sponsored by Our Santa Fe River, Inc. culminates in a full day of live music, vendors, food trucks, games, family fun and the highly anticipated performances of this year’s contestants in the Singer/Songwriter Contest.

Nineteen talented musicians will share their folk medleys, pop ditties and ballads celebrating the significance of the Santa Fe River during the contest, which awards cash prizes to the top three finishers. This year’s festivities are set for Sunday, March 26, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Rum 138, located at 2070 SW CR 138, in Fort White.

In the fortnight leading up to the song contest and celebration, RiverFest offers hands-on opportunities for Floridians of all ages to experience the majesty of the Santa Fe River, including springs and forest hikes with Botanist Dr. Colette Jacono, and a river paddle with Master Naturalist Lars Andersen. More information and the opportunity to purchase tickets for all events can be found at www.oursantaferiver.org/riverfest/buy-riverfest-tickets.

About the Santa Fe River

The Santa Fe RiverFest is an annual tribute event and fundraiser for the promotion and protection of the 75-mile-long Santa Fe River. Beginning in Keystone Heights, the Santa Fe winds through O’Leno State Park, sinks “underground” for three miles and resurfaces at River Rise State Park, and is fed by popular springs such as Gilchrist Blue, Ginnie, Poe and Rum Island, and ultimately joins the Suwannee River in Branford. Hundreds of thousands of residents, visitors, plants and animals enjoy the wealth of this springs-fed river and rely on its healthy flow for recreation, clean water and food.

About Our Santa Fe River Inc.

All proceeds of RiverFest benefit the mission of Our Santa Fe River, a volunteer driven not-for-profit 501c3 organization, which applies all funds to programs that protect the river and its surrounding environment. Proceeds from program advertising revenues, ticket sales and contributions are used to promote sustainable water usage and defend the river against illegal or excessive water extractions, and the impacts of water bottling plants and phosphate mines on its health. By sponsoring, attending and contributing, you can help protect Our Santa Fe River.

For more information about the Santa Fe RiverFest and Our Santa Fe River, Inc., please visit www.oursantaferiver.org, or contact Terry Phelan, president, at (352) 214-8287 or email terry.phelan@oursantaferiver.org.

UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County celebrates National Agriculture Day

Greg Hicks, UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County Director Contributor

Agriculture is a constantly changing, complex industry, striving to meet the needs and concerns of its consumers and customers. Food and fiber are essential to everyday living, and the UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County would like to salute the men and women who provide it, not only to America, but to the world.

In celebration of National Agriculture Day, fourth-grade students from Hamilton County Elementary School and Corinth Christian Academy participated in “Youth Ag Day” on Thursday, March 9, at the Hamilton County Arena. This event was coordinated by Greg Hicks, UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County Director.

Approximately one hundred youth were bused from their respective school to the arena, where they were divided into groups and rotated through 11 stations by group leaders to learn about Hamilton County agriculture. At each station was a knowledgeable volunteer who talked about the commodity located at their station.

The stations included Forestry, led by Hamilton County Forester Greg Staten; Small Animal Production, led by Hamilton County High School (HCHS) agriculture students; Dairy and Beef Production, led by Rick Young; Beneficial Insects, led by Laura Thrasher, 4-H Volunteer and Beth Kerr, UF/IFAS Extension 4-H/FCS Agent; Peanut Production, led by Keith Wynn, UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County Agriculture Agent; Swine Production, led by Cleve Selph and Keri Hobby from Selph Farms; Corn Production, led by corn producer Seth Adams; Nutrien, led by Senior Environmental Technician Justin Hicks; Honey Production, led by Kortney Stewart with Thomas Honey; Florida Peanut Federation, led by Executive Director Laura Fowler Goss; and Hydroponics, led by HCHS Agriculture Teacher Doug Clayton. The group leaders were Future Farmers of America (FFA) members from the local FFA Chapter at HCHS.

The students were given a packet of goodies/educational materials donated by the Florida “Ag In The Classroom” Program, the Florida Beef Council, the Florida Cattlemen’s Association, the Florida Dairymen’s Association and the UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County office.

Lastly, the youth, teachers and volunteers were served a delicious meal of grilled hotdogs, hamburgers, chips and a drink, sponsored by Nutrien White Springs. The meal was prepared by the Hamilton County Farm Bureau Members: Property Appraiser David Goolsby, Jr., Karen Goolsby, Westley Deas, Tracy Deas and Amy McBryer.

This program was designed to be a fun and educational day for the children. However, the main purpose was to have each child leave with the understanding of how important agriculture is to Hamilton County.

The UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County office would sincerely like to thank Nutrien, Hamilton County Farm Bureau, Hamilton County FFA members, principals, teachers, volunteers and all others that helped make this day a success.



Photo courtesy of Greg Hicks
Justin Hicks (right), Senior Environmental Technician at Nutrien, addresses students.



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Riverbend News

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Ruby Jordan Strickland Giles Gould:

The south's first female mayor

Grace McAlister
Reporter1@riverbendnews.org

The 1920's saw lots of growth in Suwannee County, and many firsts. Suwannee High School began its first sports program in 1922, beginning with a soccer team, which won the State Championship the next year and was popularly dubbed "The Fighting Hebrews" for the number of Jewish members on the team. The nine-hole Suwannee Country Club was founded in Houston in 1926 on land previously owned by the county, with well known locals such as F. D. Helvenston, Cary Hardee, R. H. Helvenston, B. W. Helvenston, Jr. and Dr. W. C. White present at its dedication.

However, the most notable change in the county occurred in 1924, when Ruby Jordan Strickland Giles Gould, a woman who was well-known and respected in her community, was persuaded to run for mayor of Live Oak. Although she was running against two men, she was elected and became the first female mayor south of the Mason-Dixon Line, which separated the free states from the slave states. Gould served two non-consecutive terms and represented Live Oak at the Democratic National Convention of 1936.

Gould called Dowling Park home for most of her life. She was born on Jan. 11, 1886. Upon completing high school at Glynn Academy in Brunswick, Ga., she moved to Suwannee County and helped her father manage the Dowling Lumber and Naval Stores in Live Oak.

When Thomas Dowling's sawmill moved to the county's western edge, which would eventually be called Dowling Park, the Jordans managed the Dowling Park Commissary. Gould's father was the first postmaster of

**“KEEP
THE
D*MNED
WOMAN
OUT!”**

Dowling Park, with Gould as his assistant. In 1908, at the age of 22, she became the postmistress of Dowling Park.

Though she was loved by many, some did not agree with a woman serving as Live Oak's mayor. One anonymous individual wrote in an open letter: "Her delicacy renders her unfit for practice and experience. Keep the d*mned woman out!" Despite the controversy, she thrived in her position as mayor.

In the 1930's, Suwannee County was open range; farmers branded their animals and turned them loose until round-up time. The animals roamed free, even within Live Oak's city limits. One of Gould's more notable policy changes as mayor was to fulfill a campaign promise by sponsoring legislation to protect Live Oak's residents from roaming animals that destroyed their lawns and gardens. The Live Oak Police Department enforced the law by catching and impounding animals crossing the city limits. Animal owners were then required to pay a fee to retrieve their animals.

Gould's personal philosophy can be summarized in two notes that she sent to her daughter, Frances Hair: "You can live only today. So live it. Put the best into it, take the best out of it, and by doing this, you will more surely prepare for tomorrow," and "A laugh, a smile, a kind word: these three bring happiness into the lives of others. And we all know that happiness is a perfume that you cannot sprinkle upon others without spilling a little on yourself." When asked about her formula for longevity, Jordan said, "The secret is just to keep breathing."

Gould died at the Advent Christian Village nursing home on June 17, 1985, at 99 years of age. She is buried in the City of Live Oak Cemetery.



Photo courtesy of Advent Christian Village
Ruby Jordan Strickland Giles Gould



Photo courtesy of Philadelphia Record Photograph Collection
The Democratic National Convention of 1936, where Strickland represented the City of Live Oak on June 23, 1936.

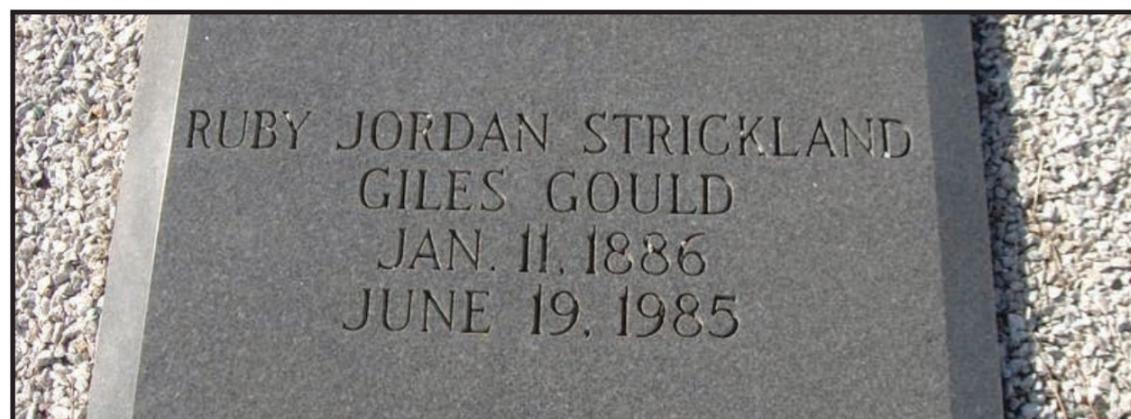


Photo courtesy of Find a Grave
Gould is buried at the City of Live Oak Cemetery on Winderweedle Street.



Photo courtesy of Find a Grave
A photo of Jordan originally published by the "Florida Times-Union."



Dowling Lumber is pictured in the early 1900s.

Photo courtesy of the Suwannee County Historical Commission

Suwannee High Schools theatre troupe wows the crowd



Riverbend News photo by Christian Peterson, March 9, 2023

The cast of "The Lightning Thief" poses at the end of their musical number, "Campfire Song."

Christian Peterson
Reporter@riverbendnews.org

Suwannee High School's theatre troupe works hard year round preparing for their spring musical. The students put in time inside and outside school hours preparing their show. Whether it be designing, painting and building sets or learning lines, choreography and stage direction, each student has an integral role in the success of the show. This all comes to fruition when the students are able to perform and show off the work they have been doing behind the scenes.

This year, the high school put on the show, "The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical." The show follows Percy Jackson who discovers he is the son of the Greek sea god Poseidon. He is then sent on a quest with his friends, Grover Underwood and Annabeth Chase, to retrieve a lightning bolt for Zeus, Greek god of

the sky. The show is a fun look at Greek mythology through a modern day lense. The trio attend a summer camp with other demigods and live out aspects of Greek mythology, but in a modern day way. For example, Poseidon, god of the sea, wears board shorts and a Hawaiian shirt, and talks like a stereotypical surfer. Ares, god of war, dresses like a biker and rides a motorcycle. Medusa now goes by Auntie Em and runs a sculpture store, albeit still evil. Either way, the fun explodes out of this musical with a menagerie of references throughout it. On top of that, it is a funny show; while the stakes are high, there is always time for a little comedy. The musical is reminiscent of the book, written by Rick Riordan, where even the chapter titles are silly.

The cast consisted of 36 kids. The lead role of Percy Jackson was given to Riley Carr and the two supporting roles, Annabeth Chase and Grover Underwood, went to

Laura Watson and Joey Monastra. The rest of the cast consisted of: Devon Ellis, Avery Peacock, Emma Dean, Tracey Shanes, Casen Ratliff, Michael Williams, Katie Skeen, Miranda Beard, Carson Chancey, Kurt Linn, Kyzer Worth, Betsy Peterson, Anna Schwab, Izzy Thompson, Sara Sullivan, Madison Bannister, Cheyenne Lewis, Max Fernald, Adalyn Poucher, Jaxxon King, Amie Golden, Dyer Parker, Danilo Acosta, Tye Clay, Lucas Cromwell, Haze Gilpin, Julie Hall, Kynzie Hall, Lillian Harden, Jamylai Leon, Sunny Rogers, Lilly Sasser and Chloe Waters.

However, the performers are not the only students involved in the show. While some may enjoy the spotlight, others like to work behind the scenes. These individuals make up the crew who help create the ambience of the show through the use of lights, microphones and helping the actors between scenes.

The crew was made up of: Daisy Kinard, Lucy Jolicouer, Tobie Peterson, Montana Lewis, Daisy Lopez-Ramirez, Hazel Porter, Melanie Acen, Hialeah Rosquete, Hannah Sharp, Kim Romulo-Vazquez, Lucas Freihofer, Abby Martin, Lilly Carbaugh and Evania Najera. Some of the actors and crew moved between groups though in three specific areas, costume, makeup and house. Costume and makeup help came from Sara Shockley, Melanie Acen and Hialeah Rosquete. Work in the house came from Jennifer Hancock, Tye Clay, Kynzie Hall, Julie Hall, Leo Musgrove and Rhaine Hart-Vasey.

The show was a success with four different performances, three open to the general public and one school performance. Each night friends, family and theatre enthusiasts stopped by to watch the show. It was a rousing success for Director Angel Dean and her theatre troupe.

Howell turns HCES sunny-side-up

Grace McAlister
Reporter1@riverbendnews.org

Last week was National Breakfast Week for schools across America. Hamilton Food Service Director Patrick Howell and administrative assistant Mavis Troy made the week "eggstra" special for Hamilton County students. Howell and Troy "syrupitiously"

dressed as an egg, waffle and syrup, bacon and pancakes to surprise students on the day these meals were served in the school's cafeteria. This was a big hit at the elementary school, and the kids were "bacon" for more! Howell took this opportunity to encourage healthy meals and show his support of the school's meal program for students and adults.



Photo courtesy of Hamilton County Elementary School Hamilton Food Service Director Patrick Howell and assistant Mavis Troy dressed as bacon and pancakes.

Photo courtesy of Hamilton County Elementary School Hamilton Food Service Director Patrick Howell dressed as a waffle.

RIVEROAK provides a chance for Buccaneers to plan for their future

Christian Peterson
Reporter@riverbendnews.org

RIVEROAK Technical College (RTC) is partnering with Branford High School (BHS) to help students plan for the future. On Friday, April 14, BHS will be hosting "Coffee and Careers with the Buccaneers." The event will take place from 8:30 a.m. until 11 a.m., and will be held in the BHS library located at 405 N Reynolds St., in Branford. Students are invited to enjoy coffee and pastries, and learn about the 17 postsecondary career certificate programs that RTC offers.

Students will be able to speak to RTC's student services team and plan ahead. On top of that, they will be able to discuss dual enrollment options. Any questions regarding RTC including enrollment, programs and financial aid will be able to be answered. To top it all off, RTC's registration fee, which is \$50, will be waived during the months of May and June to any senior who plans to enroll in fall 2023. For more information, call RTC at (386) 647-4210.

ASK DR. MANTOOTH A LITTLE DENTAL HISTORY

Q: How new is the practice of dentistry?
A: There's no question that the practice of dentistry these days is as modern as can be. But you might be surprised to know that humans have been studying teeth for about 7,000 years now. A Sumerian text dating to around 5,000 B.C. makes note of tooth decay and surmises it is caused by tiny creatures called tooth worms. Let's just say we've come a long way.
Here are some other interesting dental facts: The world's first dental school opened in Baltimore in 1840. Around the time of the American Revolution, a Boston silversmith named Paul Revere - better known, of course, for his midnight ride - advertised in a Boston newspaper his dentistry skills. Revere is the first person known to have used dental forensics to identify a body, in this case a Colonial colonel killed at the battle of Bunker Hill.
An American dentist named Josiah Flagg developed the first dental chair. He attached an adjustable head rest and a tray to hold equipment to a wooden Windsor chair. And in 1859, twenty-six dentists met at Niagara Falls and started the American Dental Association (ADA) for the exchange of information.

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BRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL

BUCCANEERS PULL OUT 3-1 WIN OVER BULLDOGS

Lee Trawick
 Reporter2@riverbendnews.org

The Branford High School and Suwannee High School varsity softball teams have been on a collision course all season long, and on Tuesday, March 14, the Bulldogs (7-1) played host to the Buccaneers (6-1) at the Richard A. Norris Softball Complex at 7 p.m.

The Buccaneers entered the game with a 6-1 record behind sophomore ace pitcher Laila Arnold, who carries a record of 4-0 with 59 strikeouts and an earned run average (ERA) of 1.78 in 35 innings. They boast a team batting average of .350 with 54 runs scored and 19 extra-base hits. Sophomore Jesse Frierson leads all Buccaneers with a .522 batting average. At the same time, Madyson Sikes provides the teams power, batting in the second position in the lineup. Sikes has belted three homeruns and eight doubles. However, Frierson and Sikes are not the only dangerous hitters in the Buccaneers' lineup, as they have six players batting over .400.

The Bulldogs boast a similar resume

behind freshman pitcher Gracie Watley, who boasts a 7-1 record with 68 strikeouts and an ERA of 2.33 in 44 innings. They have posted a team batting average of .357, with 80 runs scored on 15 extra-base hits. They are led by senior Haley Law, who also bats in the number two position in the Bulldogs lineup. Law has a batting average of .556 with four doubles and 10 runs batted in. Their impressive season is also thanks in large part to speedy leadoff batter Brianna Woods, who posts a batting average of .500 on the season. Woods not only provides speed at the top of the Bulldogs' lineup, but she is also equally dangerous and electrifying in centerfield. She also shows off a great arm that can make any throw needed from the outfield.

Each team has shown they are capable of swiping bases. Both the Buccaneers and Bulldogs have collected 22 stolen bases thus far. However, the Buccaneers rely heavily on Cloey Criggall to provide the speed, as she's responsible for 14 of the team's 22 stolen bases. Meanwhile, the Bulldogs have eight players who have collected stolen bases, with

Woods leading the way with a total of eight.

The game lived up to the hype after an exciting first inning from both teams. The Buccaneers scored two runs in the top of the first inning, while the Bulldogs managed to score one in the bottom of the inning. However, the game quickly turned into a pitching duel in the circle, as both Watley and Arnold controlled the narrative until late in the game when the Buccaneers added a third run in the seventh inning. The Bulldogs were unable to answer in their half of the seventh inning, as Arnold struck out two of their three final batters.

The Buccaneers carried the day with a 3-1 victory, due in large part to Arnold's effort in the circle, where she struck out 13 batters while allowing four hits and one earned run. Watley's efforts were equally valiant, collecting nine strikeouts, seven hits and zero earned runs through seven innings. However, at the plate, the Bulldogs were not able to break through Arnold's armor. The Buccaneers' record improves to 7-1, while the Bulldogs' record falls to 7-2.

Branford (7-1) @ Suwannee (7-2) Final (3-1)

Teams	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Branford	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	7	1
Suwannee	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	1

Branford Offense

Name	BA	AB	H	R	RBI's	2B	3B	HR	BBSO
Cloey Criggall	.500	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Madyson Sikes	.000	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Morgan Brennan	.250	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Jesse Frierson	.250	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Alex Whitfield	.667	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Makayla Williams	.000	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Erica Rioux	.000	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Ashlee Combee	.500	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Maya Brown	.000	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team	.241	29	7	3	2	1	0	0	2

Branford Pitching

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W	L	S	ERA
Laila Arnold	7	3	1	0	2	13	1	0	0	0.00
Team	7	3	1	0	2	13	1	0	0	0.00

Suwannee Offense

Name	BA	AB	H	R	RBI's	2B	3B	HR	BBSO
Brianna Woods	.333	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Haley Law	.000	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rachel Smith	.667	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
Braylyn Federico	.000	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Zoe Hatch	.000	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gracie Watley	.000	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Kirsten Yaun	.000	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Secora Pickles	.333	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abby Ranck	.000	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
- Kaitlyn Freeman	.000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team	.160	25	4	1	1	1	0	0	2

Suwannee Pitching

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W	L	S	ERA
Gracie Watley	7	7	3	0	2	9	0	1	0	0.00
Team	7	7	3	0	2	9	0	1	0	0.00



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, March 14, 2023
 Morgan Brennan drives in a run for the Buccaneers.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, March 14, 2023
 Bulldogs Haley Law flies out to Cloey Criggall at shortstop for the Buccaneers.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, March 14, 2023

Laila Arnold battles in the circle for the Buccaneers, going seven innings, allowing zero earned runs on three hits while striking out 13.



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, March 14, 2023

Morgan Brennan throws out a Bulldogs base runner, Cloey Criggall applies the tag in the fourth inning.

Bulldogs outrun the competition

Lee Trawick
Reporter2@riverbendnews.org

On Saturday, March 11, the Suwannee High School boys and girls track teams



Photo courtesy of Suwannee High School Athletics
Will Wainwright and Sam Wainwright stand first and second on the podium for the Bulldogs.

traveled to Santa Fe High School for the Raiders Invitational, dominated the field. For the girls team, Kay'lyona Cuffy placed first in shot put and third in the discus. Doshia White, placed third overall in the shot put, while Janeah Mitchell placed second in the triple jump and Maddie McMillan placed second in the pole vault. Also



Photo courtesy of Suwannee High School Athletics

Bulldogs Ryleigh Hermanson shows off her two first place medals after dominating the field at the Santa Fe Invitational.



Photo courtesy of Suwannee High School Athletics

Morgan Mobley stands atop of the podium for the Bulldogs.

dominating the field was Ryleigh Hermanson, she won first place in the one and two mile events.

The boys team equally impressive, racking up points in the javelin, discus, shot put, triple jump, pole vault, 110 and 400 hurdles, and the one mile and 800 meter events.

In the javelin and discus, both Will and Sam Wainwright placed, with Will winning first place in the javelin and second in the shot put. Sam placed second in javelin and third in discus. Taydren Derico placed third in the long jump, while Clay Starling placed second in the pole vault and placed third in the 110 hurdles and 400 hurdles. Morgan Mobley also took home two first place finishes in the one mile and 800 meter events.

Scores

Monday, March 13

Softball:
Union Co. (2-7) 6
Suwannee (7-1) 8

Baseball:
Fort White (2-4) 1
Hamilton Co. (7-2) 12

Tuesday, March 14

Softball:
Branford (7-1) 3
Suwannee (7-2) 1

Lafayette (2-8) 19
Hamilton Co. (3-3) 13

Baseball:
Trenton (9-1) 3
Lafayette (6-1) 5

Branford (3-3) 15
Bronson (7-4) 1

Hamilton Co. (7-3) 4
Bradford (2-6) 14

Union County (7-1) 7
Suwannee (1-5) 1

Flag Football:
Wakulla (2-3) 6
Suwannee (4-2) 13

Thursday, March 16

Softball:
Gadsden Co. (0-5) 0
Hamilton Co. (4-4) 23

Lafayette (2-9) 2
Suwannee (8-2) 8

Branford (8-1) 6
Trenton (5-4-1) 0

Baseball:
Lafayette (7-1) 15
Fort White (2-5) 4

Chiefland (6-4) 1
Hamilton Co. (8-3) 3

Bellevue (4-7) 0
Suwannee (2-5) 10

Trenton (10-1) 7
Branford (3-4) 1

Flag Football:
Suwannee (5-2) 13
Crystal River (4-2) 12F

Friday, March 17

Softball:
Bell (3-7) 3
Branford (9-1) 6



Hornets outlast the Trojans

Lee Trawick
Reporter2@riverbendnews.org

The Lafayette High School varsity softball team traveled to Hamilton County to take on the Trojans (3-3) on Tuesday, March 14. The Hornets (1-8) were looking to break a seven game losing streak. They were led by junior Emma Revels, who has a team high .393 batting average with one double, one triple and three homeruns. Late in the game, the Hornets were looking for a spark, as they were down 7-12, Revels led the top of the sixth inning off with her fourth homerun of the season. It turned out to be the spark the Hornets were looking for, as they went on to score 12 runs in the last two innings to overtake the Trojans, 19-13. Clara Knight and Gloria Gilliam teamed up to keep the Trojans off balance throughout the night. Knight started the game for the Hornets in the circle, lasting 4.1 innings, allowing zero earned runs on eight hits, while striking out two. However, defensive problems continued to plague the Hornets, allowing the Trojans to score 13 runs due to eight errors.

Lafayette (2-8) @ Hamilton (3-4) Final (19-13)

Teams	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Lafayette	0	2	4	1	0	5	7	19	16	8
Hamilton County	2	3	0	5	2	0	1	13	11	5

Lafayette Offense

Name	BA	AB	H	R	RBI	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO
Ella McAdams	.000	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Gloria Gilliam	.333	6	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	2
Emma Revels	.400	5	2	3	1	0	0	1	1	1
Ella Hancock	.750	4	3	4	0	1	0	0	1	1
Kambry Moseley	.333	3	1	3	2	0	0	0	2	1
Taryn Maund	.800	5	4	3	5	1	0	0	0	0
Clara Knight	.333	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
- Emma Swann	.500	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jaley Moseley	.500	4	2	1	3	0	0	0	1	0
Sidney Wimberley	.000	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0
Team	.400	40	16	19	14	2	0	1	8	8

Lafayette Pitching

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Clara Knight	4.1	8	12	0	3	2	0.00
Gloria Gilliam	2.2	3	1	0	1	3	0.00
Team	7	11	13	0	4	5	0.00

Hamilton Offense

Name	BA	AB	H	R	RBI	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO
De'Nyla Cherry	.500	4	2	3	0	1	0	0	1	0
Emily Peacock	.250	5	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mallory Blue	.250	4	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	1
Sarah Welch	.800	5	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0
Bailey Driggers	.000	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Annakayte Smith	.200	5	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	2
Anna Morgan	.333	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Deanna Bell	.000	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Aaliyah McFadden	.333	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Team	.297	37	11	13	11	2	0	0	4	5

Hamilton Pitching

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Mallory Blue	3.2	6	7	5	5	4	10.90
Sarah Welch	3.1	10	12	8	3	4	18.06
Team	7	16	19	13	8	8	13.00



Bulldogs bounce back

Lee Trawick
Reporter2@riverbendnews.org

On Thursday, March 16, the Suwannee High School varsity softball team played host to the Lafayette High School Hornets (2-7). The Bulldogs (7-2) were looking to rebound after a tough lose to the Buccaneers, while the Hornets were coming off a big win over the Hamilton County High School Trojans. However, the Bulldogs would carry the night behind freshman pitcher Gracie Watley, who went seven innings, allowing two earned runs on eight hits, while striking out seven. At the plate, junior Braylyn Federico led all Bulldogs with three hits on four at-bats, and driving in three runs in the team's 8-2 win over the Hornets.

Lafayette (2-8) @ Suwannee (8-2) Final (8-2)

Teams	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Lafayette	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	9	2
Suwannee	1	3	0	0	0	4	X	8	6	1

Suwannee Offense

Name	BA	AB	H	R	RBI	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO
Haley Law	.250	4	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0
Rachel Smith	.500	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Braylyn Federico	.667	3	2	1	3	1	0	0	1	0
Zoie Hatch	.250	4	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Gracie Watley	.000	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Kaitlyn Freeman	.000	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Kristen Yaun	.000	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Secora Pickles	.000	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Abby Ranck	.000	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Team	.231	26	6	8	7	2	1	0	3	6

Suwannee Pitching

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Gracie Watley	7	9	2	2	2	7	2.00
Team	7	9	2	2	2	7	2.00

Lafayette Offense

Name	BA	AB	H	R	RBI	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO
Ella McAdams	.500	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ella Hancock	.333	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Emma Revels	.000	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Emma Swann	.000	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
- Brooke Lamb	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taryn Maund	.667	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kambry Moseley	.333	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gloria Gilliam	.667	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Jaley Moseley	.333	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clara Knight	.000	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Team	.346	26	9	2	2	1	0	0	0	9

Lafayette Pitching

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Emma Swann	6	6	8	3	3	6	3.50
Team	6	6	8	3	3	6	3.50

Obituaries and Funeral Notices:
\$75 up to 400 words (includes 1 photo)
If you have any questions, please call (386) 364-4141 or email obits@riverbendnews.org.

Letters to the Editor
We would love to hear from you! Please send in your submissions by email to: reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com or by mail to: P.O. Box 6034, Live Oak, Fla. 32064

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Church Directory

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

Apostolic Lighthouse Church

10344 CR 10A, Live Oak, Fla.
(386) 365-8506
Pastor Dustin Bell

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
THURSDAY
Evening Worship.....7:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

311 South Ohio Ave., Live Oak, Fla.
(386) 362-2047
COME JOIN US IN WORSHIP!
Rev. Susie Horner
SUNDAY

Contemporary Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Lighthouse Christian Center

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(386) 294-3089 Mayo, Fla.
www.lcamayo.org
SUNDAY

Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Kids of the King.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.
Kids of the King.....7:00 p.m.
Army of Fire Youth.....7:00 p.m.

Live Oak Christian Church

1015 Ohio Ave. N., Live Oak, Fla. (386) 362-1085
Mark Hassler, Pastor
COME WORSHIP WITH US
SUNDAY

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

Live Oak Church of Christ

1497 Irvin (SR 51), Live Oak, Fla. (386) 364-5922
Dennis Rosenbaum, Evangelist
SUNDAY

Bible Class.....10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Worship.....6:45 p.m.

Live Oak Church of the Nazarene

915 Church Ave. SW, Live Oak, Fla.
(386) 362-6380
Pastor Louis Medaris
SUNDAY

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Children's Church.....10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Morning Service.....11:00 a.m.
Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.
Teen Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.

Live Oak First Assembly of God

13793 76th St., Live Oak Fla.
(386) 330-2210
Rev. Mike Townsend
SUNDAY

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Children's Church.....10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Evening Service.....7:30 p.m.

St. Francis Xavier Church

928 E. Howard St., US 90 E. Live Oak, Fla.
(386) 364-1108
Father Anthony Basso

Saturday (Vigil) Mass.....6:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday (Spanish) Mass.....11:30 a.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

1391 SW 11th St., Live Oak, Fla.
For more information call (386) 362-1837
WEDNESDAY

Eucharist & Unction.....10:30 a.m.
SUNDAY
Adult Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Eucharist.....9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

St. Therese Catholic Church

Three Miles North of Jasper US 41
P.O. Box 890, Jasper, Fla.
Rectory US 90 E., Live Oak, Fla.
(386) 364-1108

Saturday Mass.....4:00 p.m.

The Village Church at Advent Christian Village

Rev. Sam Worley, Pastor

Worship with us on Facebook and YouTube
Sunday Morning Worship.....9:40 a.m.

Friendship Baptist Church

14364 140th St., Live Oak, Fla.
(386) 776-1010
Interim Pastor
SUNDAY

Sunday School9:45 a.m.
Morning Service.....11:00 a.m.
Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Church Dinner5:45 p.m.
AWANA6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m.

Its time to Move for God



Photo courtesy of Ronda Johnson

The Move for God crew smile for a photo before one of their workouts.

Christian Peterson
Reporter@riverbendnews.org

It was seven years ago when Ronda Johnson was participating in a Pregnancy Care Center 5k. While she has always been focused on her physical health, it was at this 5k where she saw another group that inspired her to take it even further. It was a group participating in the event called "Run for God." The group posited that people should keep themselves healthy physically, mentally and spiritually in tandem. Inspired by the hard work of the group, and what she considered the obvious hand of God, she took the idea home and, eventually, decided to create her own group.

Johnson originally called the group "Run for God," however, as the group grew, including people of all ages, she changed the name to "Move for God," as running wasn't always an option. The mission statement of the group is to prepare people "to be better witnesses for Christ physically, mentally and spiritually." That is exactly what Johnson has tried to do, with quite a degree of success. Johnson spoke of an 80-year-old man who she just recently helped finish his first 5k by participating in the group. She also talked about a woman that joined who was

pulling her oxygen tank behind her when she started out, but after working hard and exercising, her doctor took her off of the oxygen. "The point is to take their focus off them and put it on Him," Johnson said.

Move for God is a 12 week program involving three days of work each week with a day of rest between each work day. Once a week the group will get together and run, walk, shuffle, jog or perform any form of movement together. It usually involves a 45 minute class beforehand with words from a speaker Johnson has invited, followed by 45 minutes of training. However, the group still meets outside of the 12 weeks preparing for the 5k. They meet at Heritage Park on Tuesdays at 5:15 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 a.m., with the goal of keeping each other accountable outside of preparation for races.

Johnson clarified that anyone is welcome to join, whether it be for the 12 week program or just to keep themselves fit in the off-season. While they are nearing the end of the first program, another 5k is happening this October, and Move for God will be participating. To keep up to date and learn more about the group, call Johnson at (386) 590-2232 or visit their Facebook page by searching "Move for God."

Area church building new sanctuary

Eva Stroud
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Apostolic Lighthouse Church, located at 10344 CR 10A, in Live Oak, is packed out and is building a new sanctuary on their new church property, making room for everyone to join them for service. This church is currently trying to reach the community in many different ways and hopes to start up a few new ministries. The pastor of Apostolic Lighthouse Church, Dustin Bell visited with Live Oak City Mayor and asked how the church can better serve the community. Apostolic Lighthouse Church has recently started up a community action team (CAT) to help clean up the streets of Live Oak in any way possible, such as: picking up trash, fixing anything broken and more.

Apostolic Lighthouse Church is looking to expand it's community involvement. To accomplish this, the church plans to offer counseling to the community; help the lost, hurt and broken; start a back to school program; provide clothing sources and a bus ministry to bring people to the house of God and more.

Once the church starts building their new sanctuary, it will be calling on the community to donate their time and any supplies. When this takes place, there will be free food and drinks for everyone. Currently, the church hosts annual events, such as: a Fall Festival, Vacation Bible School, special services and more. Apostolic Lighthouse Church is letting everyone know they are the missing piece and to show the love of God everywhere they go.

What's going on in your church?

Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Do you know of any upcoming Easter

events happening in the tri-county area? Please, share them with us! We would love to include them in our special Easter Community Calendar for our Wednesday, April 5, paper. Will your church be having special Easter day services? How about any community Easter egg hunts for the kiddos? Do you know of any special Easter plays? We want to know all about them! If you know of any Easter events happening in your community or at your church, please email Danny Federico at reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com, call the Riverbend News office at (386) 364-4141 or visit us at 113 NE Duval St., in Live Oak, to give us all the details.



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 03/15, 03/22, 03/29 pd

EMPLOYMENT

Finance Clerk
 The Suwannee County Clerk of Circuit Court Finance Office is seeking a self-motivated individual to join our team. The successful candidate must have previous experience in a finance and/or clerical related position and have excellent communication skills. Primary job duties will include data input of financial transactions, maintaining and filing financial records, greeting and directing Finance Office visitors and assisting in answering phone calls. This person should have a clean driving record with a reliable means of transportation and should be able to lift up to 20 pounds. A background check will be required before the candidate is hired. This is a full-time position with full County employee benefits. Starting pay for this position is \$13-\$16 per hour depending on qualifications. Normal working hours will be Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM. To apply, send application and resume to keithg@suwgov.org. Applications and resumes may also be dropped off or mailed to the Clerk Finance Office at 906 North Ohio Ave, Live Oak, FL 32064. Applications are located on the Clerk website at suwgov.org/employment/ and must be received by April 3rd, 2023, to be considered.
 03/22 & 03/29 c

YARD SALE

Foxboro's Annual Yard Sale (98 families)
Saturday, April 1, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 At: 141 Drive, 131 Lane and 92nd Trail
 03/22 pd



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 Fresh Alternatives, LLC Case No.: 2022-CA-003976
 Signature Cabinetry & Design, LLC Case No.: 50-2023-CA-001144-XXXX-MB
 Mi Pulpe, LLC Case No.: 23-002105-CA-43 Assets located in: Pompano Beach, FL 33069 Auction ends: Tues, March 28, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.
 Auction will consist of: 2004 GMC Savana G3500 cargo 16' box truck, computers, electronics, kitchen equipment and more.
 Registration, catalog, photos and terms available at www.moeckerauctions.com
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21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 JASON TROUTMAN; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JASON TROUTMAN; ANDREA B. TROUTMAN; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANDREA B. TROUTMAN; and UNKNOWN TENANT Defendant.

IN THE 3rd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Case No. 22-108CA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated March 06, 2023, entered in Case No.: 22-108CA of the Circuit Court in and for Lafayette County, Florida, wherein JASON TROUTMAN and ANDREA B. TROUTMAN are the Defendants, that Steve Land, the Clerk of Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, conducted electronically online at the North Door of the Lafayette County Courthouse, 120 W. Main Street, Mayo, FL 32066, on **May 11, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.**, the following described real property as set forth in the Final Judgment:

SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"
 TOGETHER WITH A 2019 LIVE OAK MODEL 52X26 MANUFACTURED HOME BEARING SERIAL NO.'S: LOHGA31870794A AND LOHGA31870794B.

NOTICE IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.

Dated this 7th day of March, 2023.
 Steve Land, Clerk of the Circuit Court
 Hannah Owens, As Deputy Clerk

NOTICE
 "If you are a person with a disability who needs any 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; cooper.carrina@jud3.flcourts.org; (386)758-2163 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."

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
 I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing has been served on this 7th day of March, 2023
 Attorney for Plaintiff LESLIE S. WHITE:
 via email to: lwwhite@deanmead.com
 via U.S. Mail to: LESLIE S. WHITE, Post Office Box 2346, Orlando, FL 32802-2346
 Defendant
 via U.S. Mail to: Jason Troutman, 2310 Thalia Road, Mayo, FL 32066; Andrea B. Troutman, 2310 Thalia Road, Mayo, FL 32066.

Exhibit A
 The North 310 feet of the West 1/3 of the North 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 5, Township 5 South, Range 12 East, Lafayette County, Florida, together with a 2019 Live Oak L-2523H-DD 26x52, Mobile Home, Serial Number LOHGA31870794A and LOHGA31870794B.
 03/15, 03/22

REQUEST FOR BIDS HAMILTON COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT OFFICE

The Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Florida, will receive bids from licensed contractors to design and build an office building at the Hamilton County Road Department located at 1623 MARTIN LUTHER KING DR, JASPER 32052.

General specifications outlining the desired construction may be obtained from the Hamilton County Building Department at 204 NE First Street, Jasper, Florida, Phone (386) 792-1060 or the Hamilton County Coordinator's Office at 1153 US Hwy 41, NW, Jasper, Florida, Phone (386) 792-6639.

A mandatory walk-thru for all interested parties will be held at 1623 MARTIN LUTHER KING DR, JASPER, FL., 32052 on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

You may file your bid in the office of the Clerk of Circuit Court, Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 NE First Street, Room 106, Jasper, Florida 32052, any time before 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023. Bids may be mailed or hand-delivered to the Clerk's Office. All bids received after this date and time will not be considered.

NOTE: BIDS SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN TRIPLICATE, SEALED AND MARKED: "HAMILTON COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT OFFICE"

Bids will be opened and reviewed on Monday April 17, 2023 at 3:05 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room, Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 NE First Street, Jasper, Florida. Bids may be awarded during the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, April 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible.

The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to refuse any or all bids in whole or in part, with or without cause, and/or to accept the bid that in their best judgment will be for the best interest of Hamilton County.

HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 207 NE 1st STREET, ROOM 106, JASPER, FLORIDA 32052
 03/22, 03/29

SUWANNEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT "MILK" INVITATION TO BID RFP # 24-202

The Suwannee County School Board is requesting proposals from qualified providers of Milk to their schools.

Sealed bids will be received at the Suwannee County School District, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, 1740 Ohio Avenue South, Live Oak, FL 32064, until 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, April 5, 2023. Sealed bids must be clearly marked on all sides of the submission package with the information below.

RFP # 24-202 - MILK (August 1, 2023 - July 31, 2024)

Specifications may be obtained from the district website at the following link:
<http://www.suwannee.k12.fl.us/bids/open>

Suwannee County District Schools reserve the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or irregularities in bids and to accept any bid which is deemed most advantageous to the public interest.

Questions should be directed to Marsha Brown, Chief Financial Officer at the contact information below.
 Marsha Brown, Chief Financial Officer
marsha.brown@suwannee.k12.fl.us
 1740 Ohio Avenue, South, Live Oak, FL 32064
 386-647-4651
 03/22, 03/29

SUWANNEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT "SUWANNEE HIGH SCHOOL FENCE PROJECT" INVITATION TO BID RFP # 23-211

The Suwannee County School Board is requesting proposals from qualified providers for Suwannee High School Fence Project.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the Suwannee County School Board, Facilities Department Office located at 1729 SW Walker Avenue, Live Oak, FL 32064, on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. A sign in sheet must be completed at the Pre-Bid meeting and any company not represented thereon will not be qualified to bid.

Sealed bids will be received at the Suwannee County School District, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, 1740 Ohio Avenue South, Live Oak, FL 32064, until Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. Sealed bids must be clearly marked on all sides with the RFP information listed below.

RFP 23-211 - SUWANNEE HIGH SCHOOL FENCE PROJECT

Specifications may be obtained from the following web address:
<http://www.suwannee.k12.fl.us/bids/open>

Suwannee County District Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or irregularities in bids and to accept any bid which is deemed most advantageous to the public interest.

Questions should be directed to Ronnie Gray, Safety and Security Director, at the contact information below.
 Ronnie Gray, Safety and Security Director
ronald.gray@suwannee.k12.fl.us
 1740 Ohio Avenue, South, Live Oak, FL 32064
 386-647-4644
 03/22, 03/29

Obituaries and Funeral Notices:
 \$75 up to 400 words
 (includes 1 photo)
 If you have any questions, please call (386) 364-4141 or email obits@riverbendnews.org.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FLORIDA
 PROBATE DIVISION
 IN RE: ESTATE OF
 JULES JOHN DEMARAIS
 Deceased.
 File No. 2022-0043-CP
 Division Probate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Jules John Demaris, deceased, whose date of death was October 27, 2022, is pending in the Circuit Court for Lafayette County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 120 W. Main St., Mayo, FL 32066. 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 March 15, 2023.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Stephen M. Witt
 Attorney
 Florida Bar Number: 231916
 PO Box 2064
 LAKE CITY, FL 32056-2064
 Telephone: (386) 755-2863
 Fax: (386) 752-1732
 E-Mail: stephen@attorneywitt.com
 Secondary E-Mail: carey@attorneywitt.com
 Personal Representative: Sean Demaris
 17193 Longview Dr.
 Smithfield, Virginia 23430
 03/15, 03/22

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

SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK, as successor in interest to DRUMMOND COMMUNITY BANK, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 KAREN SUE SMITH AND VALERIE HIGGINS, Defendants.
 Case No.: 2022-CA-122

CLERK'S NOTICE OF SALE
 NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 8, 2023, in the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, on courthouse steps of the Suwannee County Courthouse at 200 South Ohio Avenue, Live Oak, Florida 32064 at 11:00 am on April 25, 2023 the following described property:

The South 466.70 feet of the West 466.70 feet of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 30, Township 3 South, Range 12 East, Suwannee County, Florida.
 Together with a 1978 Doublewide Home Mobile Home Id# 20620123AL and 20620123BL.
 Together with an Easement of Ingress and Egress over, through, and across the East 30 feet of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 30, Township 3 South, Range 12 East; and the North 30.00 feet of the East 902.80 feet of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 30, Township 3 South, Range 12 East, Suwannee County, Florida.
 Parcel ID: 30-03S-12E-10420-001000
 Property Address: 19595 140th Place, Live Oak, Florida 32060

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
 Dated: March 8, 2023

(Court Seal)
 Berry Baker
 Clerk of the Courts & Comptroller
 By: Felicia Flowers
 Deputy Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
 I CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Clerk's Notice of Sale has been furnished on March 8, 2023 to each of the following: **Karen Sue Smith**, 3895 Baker Avenue, Titusville, Florida 32796 and to **Valerie Higgins**, 14212 Cogswell Street, Romulus, Michigan 48174 and to **Norm D. Fugate, P.A.**, Attorney for Plaintiff, by E-Mail Service to: norm@normdfugatepa.com and to celia@normdfugatepa.com.
 Felicia Flowers
 Deputy Clerk
 03/22, 03/29

The Suwannee County Development Authority's 2nd quarter meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Suwannee County Chamber of Commerce.
 03/22

"NOTICE" LIVE OAK COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The Live Oak Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), in accordance with Chapter 163, Part III, Florida Statutes, will file on March 31, 2023, with the City of Live Oak and Suwannee County, an Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The report includes a preliminary financial fund balance statement, as well as details of the district area, value, revenue, and expenditures pertaining to the activities and projects for the preceding fiscal year. When the results from an independent audit of the Agency's Redevelopment Trust Fund are finalized and adopted, they will become a part of this report.

This CRA report for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 will be available for review and inspection on or after March 31, 2023, by the general public during regular business hours in the Office of the City Clerk, City of Live Oak, 101 White Ave, SE, Live Oak, FL 32064, and the Office of the Suwannee County Board of Commissioners Official Records Custodian, 200 Ohio Ave. S., Live Oak, FL 32064, as well in the Office of the Community Redevelopment Agency, City Hall Annex, 416 Howard St. E., Live Oak, FL 32064, and also on the CRA website page under www.cityofliveoak.org/cra.
 CITY OF LIVE OAK COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY,
 Lynda Brown Owens, CRA Board Chair
 03/22

Letters to the Editor

We would love to hear from you!
 Please send in your submissions by email to: reporter2@riverbendnews.org
 or by mail to: P.O. Box 6034, Live Oak, Fla. 32064

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PUBLIC NOTICES CONTINUED

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lafayette County Commission will be holding a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, on the second floor of the Lafayette County Courthouse in Mayo, Florida. Listed below is an agenda for the meeting.
By Order Of:
Earnest Jones, Chairman
Lafayette County Commission

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING:

1. Open the meeting.
2. Invocation and pledge to the flag.
3. Approve the minutes.
4. Requests and comments from the community.
5. Department Heads:
 - A) Marcus Calhoun – Maintenance.
 - B) Scott Sadler – Public Works.
 - C) Garret Land – Building/Zoning.
 - D) Marty Tompkins – EMS.
 - E) Shawn Jackson – Extension Office.
6. Open sealed bids for Cemetery mowing and maintenance.
7. Approve an agreement for Engineering Services on CR 250 with Locklear & Associates, Inc.
8. Leenette McMillan-Fredriksson – various items.
9. Approve the bills.
10. Other Business.
11. Future agenda items.
12. Adjourn.

All members of the public are welcome to attend. Notice is further hereby given, pursuant Florida Statute 286.0105, that any person or persons deciding to appeal any matter considered at this public hearing will need a record of the hearing and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (386) 294-1600 or via Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771.

See www.lafayetteclerk.com for updates and amendments to the agenda.

03/22

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an ordinance, whose title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the Board of County Commissioners, Lafayette County, Florida, at a public hearing to be held on April 25, 2023, at 5:30pm, or as soon thereafter as the matters can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, Lafayette County Courthouse, located at 120 W. Main Street, Mayo, Florida. Copies of said ordinance may be inspected at the office of the County Clerk located at the Lafayette County Courthouse, 120 W. Main Street, Mayo, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinance.

**ORDINANCE NO: 2023-02
AN ORDINANCE OF LAYFATTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 86-3, AND SPECIFICALLY AMENDING SECTION 8(B) OF SAID ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AUTHORITY TO LEVY AND COLLECT IMPACT FEES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Public hearings may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearings shall be announced during the public hearings and that no further notice concerning the matters will be published.

All persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision made at the public hearings, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

03/22, 03/29

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

CIVIL DIVISION
FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION CASE NO.: 22000020CAAXMX
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
AMI RENEE HERNANDEZ, MARCO HERNANDEZ ET AL.,
DEFENDANTS.

AMENDED RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
(Amending to Correct Newspaper)
(Please publish in Riverbend News)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Order on Motion to Cancel and Reschedule the March 15, 2023 Foreclosure Sale dated the 21st day of February, 2023, and entered in Case No. 22000020CAAXMX, of the Circuit Court of the Third Judicial Circuit in and for Hamilton County, Florida, wherein Freedom Mortgage Corporation is the Plaintiff and MARCO HERNANDEZ; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MARCO HERNANDEZ NKA MISSY HERNANDEZ; and AMI RENEE HERNANDEZ are defendants. Greg Godwin as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Hamilton County Courthouse at 207 NE First Street, Jasper, Florida 32052 at 11:00 a.m. on the 31st day of May 2023, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 12 EAST, HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, RUN IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 34 TO A CONCRETE MARKER AT THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF SAID WEST SECTION LINE AND THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD #146 (FORMERLY S.R. 146); THENCE RUN S 80 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 05 SECONDS E, ALONG THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF C.R. 146, 1936.09 FEET TO THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF C.R. 146 WITH A GRADED ROAD FOR POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN 330.38 FEET IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF TIMBERLAKE OAKS DRIVE, A GRADED ROAD; THENCE RUN N 89 DEGREES 49 MINUTES 20 SECONDS E, 347.86 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN S 00 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 40 SECONDS E, 345.01 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF C.R. 146; THENCE RUN ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY N 80 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 05 SECONDS W, 252.30 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID PARCEL SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS LOT 40, OAKS OF TIMBERLAKE AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION.

SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT FOR PURPOSES OF UTILITIES IN WIDTH OF 20 FEET ALONG ANY ROADAND 10 FEET ALONG ANY SIDE OR SIDES THEREOF.

TOGETHER WITH 2014 JACB MOBILHOME ID# JACFL31784A & B

IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation to participate should call the ADA Coordinator, Jacquetta Bradley, P.O. Box 1569, Lake City, FL 32056, 386-719-7428, within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired call (800) 955-8770.

Dated this 3 day of March, 2023.

W. Greg Godwin
Clerk of The Circuit Court

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Submitted by:
Miller, George & Suggs, PLLC
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
2200 W. Commercial Blvd, Suite 103
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
DESIGNATED PRIMARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE
PURSUANT TO FLA. R. JUD. ADMIN 2.516
ESERVICE@MGS-LEGAL.COM

03/15, 03/22

I:Michael-John;Stetson: and :Sarah-Marcia;Stetson: bringing forth a Land Patent Chain of Title Benefit. If interested see: [Michael-John;Stetson: | North Florida Natura \(sugarstonefarms.wixsite.com\)](http://www.sugarstonefarms.wixsite.com).

03/01, 03/08, 03/15, 03/22, 03/29, 04/05, 04/12, 04/19, 04/26, 05/03

**SUWANNEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
"DOCUMENT IMAGING SERVICES"
INVITATION TO BID RFP # 23-210**

The Suwannee County School Board is requesting proposals from qualified providers for Document Imaging Services.

Sealed bids will be received at the Suwannee County School District, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, 1740 Ohio Avenue South, Live Oak, FL 32064, until 2:00 P.M. on March 30, 2023. Sealed bids must be clearly marked on all sides with the RFP information listed below.

RFP 23-210 – DOCUMENT IMAGING SERVICES

Specifications may be obtained from the following web address:

<http://www.suwannee.k12.fl.us/bids/open>

Suwannee County District Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or irregularities in bids and to accept any bid which is deemed most advantageous to the public interest.

Questions should be directed to Marsha Brown, Chief Financial Officer at the contact information below.

Marsha Brown, Chief Financial Officer
marsha.brown@suwannee.k12.fl.us
1740 Ohio Avenue, South, Live Oak, FL 32064
386-647-4651

03/15, 03/22

Suwannee Cty Bd of Commissioners is accepting applications for

- Commercial Truck Driver I • Conservation Technician
- Day Camp Counselor • EMT/Fighter & Paramedic/Firefighter
- Lifeguard • Library Aide & Aide II
- Maintenance Tech II • Park Attendant
- Park Maintenance Worker I • Recreation Aide
- Senior Lifeguard • Site Attendant • Staff Assistant

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

03/15, 03/22

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