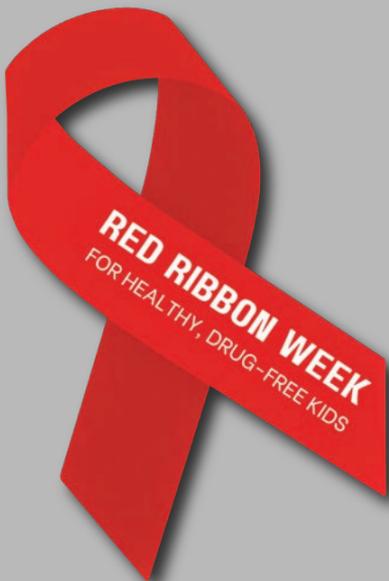


See what's inside!



Community Halloween Events

See Page 7



Red Ribbon Week

See Page 8



LHS Homecoming

See Page 17

Suwannee County announces 2023 Farm Family of the Year



Photo courtesy of UF/IFAS Suwannee County

A.W. and Carolyn Gaylard were named the 2023 Suwannee County Farm Bureau Farm Family of the Year. These third generation farmers truly set a standard for what makes farmers amazing. Be sure to pick up the Wednesday, Nov. 1, edition of the Riverbend News for full coverage of the Gaylard family's achievement.

House fire results in total loss



Photo courtesy of Suwannee Fire Rescue

An electrical fire in the kitchen lead to a blaze across the top of the house.



Photo courtesy of Suwannee Fire Rescue

Smoke poured from the burning house as Suwannee Fire Rescue did all they could to stop it.

Christian Peterson
reporter.riverbendnews@gmail.com

On Friday, Oct. 13, an electrical failure in the kitchen of a home on State Road 51 in Live Oak started a fire. Suwannee Fire Rescue responded as quickly as they could; however, once they arrived, they saw that the fire had spread significantly. It vented through the roof as more and more fire trucks were called out to the scene. In the end, 11 firetrucks were on the scene and were able to quell the flames. However, the home was counted as a total loss. No injuries were reported by the fire department and the fire was unintentionally started by an electrical failure.

Farm Share coming to Suwannee County

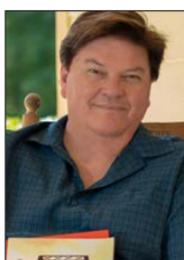
Christian Peterson
reporter.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Farm Share is the number one food bank in the United States according to 24/7 WallStreet. Farm Share's goal is "to make sure no Floridian goes hungry." Therefore, as counties are still recovering from Hurricane Idalia, Farm Share will be making its way to Suwannee County to help residents. On Wednesday, Oct. 25, there will be six locations open for citizens to visit. The locations will be open from noon until supplies run out. Unfortunately, what food will be available is unknown until the trucks arrive.



The available locations and their contact information are: First Methodist Church, located at 310 Ohio Ave. S., in Live Oak, (386) 362-2047; Suwannee Station Baptist Church, located at 3289 101st Lane, in Live Oak, (386) 466-4320; Friendship Baptist Church, located at 14364 140th St., in Live Oak, (386) 209-2016; First Baptist Church of Dowling Park, located at 11274 235th Lane, in Live Oak, (386) 658-2360; Wellborn Community Association, located at 1314 8th Ave., in Wellborn, (386) 288-3721 and the McAlpin Community Center, located at 9981 170th Terr., in McAlpin, (870) 373-3492.

Around the Banks



Johnny Bullard
Guest Columnist

I know I have "waxed rhapsody" in regard to autumn. I am about to do it some more. How many out there remember when sugar cane was stripped this time of year (not an easy job) and, later, sugar cane was fed through the mill wherefore sweet juice was extracted, poured into a syrup kettle, heated with fat lighter wood and

cooked to perfection making beautiful sugar cane syrup.

Today, this practice is done as a demonstration at many rural farm life days, but during the days of my childhood, it was a way of life.

I have fond memories of my paternal grandmother, Mary Joyner Bullard and her sister, Margaret Joyner Bullard, boiling cane syrup on

the stove until it thickened to a certain consistency. They would then pour it out on a greased surface and pull it with their hands until it turned almost white, shaping it and sometimes rolling it in parched peanuts. I absolutely adored eating syrup candy.

In the fall, we would have several events, including picking up pecans, cracking them and picking them out to use in holiday cakes and pies. We would often ride over to Suwannee County to visit my maternal grandparents, Annie and Boman Taylor and visit with cousins Walter and Mae Turman. I always wondered which of their many turkeys would end up on our Thanksgiving table. Each year, we enjoyed a delicious quail dinner with Gene and Genevieve Turnan, beloved cousins from Suwannee County, which Daddy and Gene shot that day. We would also take long walks through endless fields with cousins Gail Turman Musgrove, Jan Townsend Smith and

Carole Townsend King.

I remember the students at South Hamilton Elementary School getting ready for the pumpkin contest in White Springs with the help of Penny Mickler, who always did an outstanding job. The schools in the area, including South, Central and, later, Suwannee Elementary East, would organize fantastic fall festivals and carnivals. Dana Fouraker would put together beautiful fall extravaganzas for the South Hamilton students, taking them to rural folklife days.

I guess these stories will live on only in my mind. Our communities have lost a lot through the years. We really lost something when we lost the school in White Springs. Well, enough of that. We can't unwind the clock.

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

The first step toward a better marriage



Sheryl Boldt
Guest Columnist

Ladies, when your husband looks at you, do his eyes say he knows, without a doubt, that you believe in him? Men, when your wife passes you in the hallway, do her eyes say, "I'm so glad I married you?"

Take a moment to recall the last time you saw that twinkle in your spouse's eyes. Remember the deep satisfaction you felt watching your husband's eyes light up with soaring confidence because he sensed your admiration for him, or the way your wife's eyes misted when she knew she had your support.

How long has it been since you've experienced moments like this? Too long?

Would you like to return to that good place in your marriage? Are you afraid too many years have passed, too many hurtful words have been said, too many "too-manys" have taken place?

In most cases, both partners contribute to a marriage's demise. Yet, God can use just one of you to begin restoring your relationship. Read 1 Corinthians 13:7b (AMPC): "Love is ever ready to believe the best of every person."

You have a choice.

You can continue to experience that sinking feeling each time you see hurt

and discouragement in your husband or wife's eyes because you berated them – again – for not doing something "right." (Just writing this makes me never want to see this look in my husband, Bert's, eyes again-).

You can have deeply satisfying moments every time you stand with your spouse, believing in your partner and choosing to focus on what's good about them.

Ladies, what would happen if you began believing in your husband right now, trusting that he really wants to be the man God created him to be? Men, what if you complimented your wife and focused on her beautiful qualities so that, one day, she couldn't imagine life without you?

If your marriage is in a bad place because your needs aren't being met, let me assure you that God knows and cares about every one of these needs. He knows how deeply you want to be loved and respected.

What might happen if we, husbands and wives, trusted God's Word by faithfully practicing 1 Corinthians 13:7 for one month?

After 30 days, what do you think our spouses' eyes will be saying when he or she looks at you? What will your eyes be saying to them?

Let's try it and see.

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

Focusing our eye



Carlton G. McPeak
Guest Columnist

Using a metaphor, Jesus uses our physical eye to make a point about where our focus is in life (Matthew 6:22, 23). He says, "The eye is the lamp of the body" and He wants us to consider what our "light" source is, in other words, what is the focus of our life.

As Jesus continues talking about the priorities His followers are to have, He uses this illustration to point to the fact that the things upon which we focus determine the type of "body" we will have. By using this metaphor, Jesus is saying there are two options; a "clear" eye or a "bad" eye.

Jesus may be saying that His followers must have a clear vision of what they want their life to be. Are they wanting to focus on making their body a source of light, or are they wanting to focus on making their body a source of darkness?

Our eyes allow an enormous amount of information to enter our minds. The things which we see have a huge impact on the formation of our thinking and our actions. Using the word "focus" in a figurative way, one can see how their life will be based upon whether or not their focus is "clear," or "bad" or blurry.

When Jesus talked about our "treasures on earth," He was focusing on

our possessions. When He talks about serving two masters, He is focusing on the priority of our allegiance concerning our service. In using this metaphor, Jesus wants His followers to visualize where their priorities are in life, where their focus is.

As we consider this point, which may be difficult to comprehend, we must focus on what our eyes are seeing. Are we seeing (in a literal sense) things which will make us better? What are we reading? What are we viewing on TV? What about the videos we are streaming? Who is the individual we are watching because they are our role model?

In a figurative sense, what visions do we have in our mind relating to our character? What goals in life do we see ourselves achieving? What kind of person do we see ourselves becoming?

The focus of our eyes will have a tremendous influence on the type of people we are and will become. As the little kids' vacation Bible school song says, "Be careful little eyes what you see."

The words in this song, and the words of Jesus, apply not only to young kids, but also to adults. We grownups need to be careful where our "eyes" are focusing. They need to be focusing on what will help us to be better at 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.

Scripture of the day

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

See an error?

Riverbend News corrects errors of fact in news items. If you have a concern, question or suggestion, please call the editor. Corrections and clarifications will run in this space. Thanks for reading.

The Florida SHINE & SMP Program

Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders & Senior Medicare Patrol

Medicare
Open Enrollment Period
October 15 - December 7

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Branford Public Library

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Jo Kennon Library

10/16, 10/23, 11/27 - Call 386-658-2670

Live Oak Library

10/23, 10/30, 11/27 - Call 386-362-2317

Visit: www.floridashine.org
#BecomeaSHINEVolunteer
800-262-2243



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Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders & Senior Medicare Patrol

Medicare
Open Enrollment Period
October 15 - December 7

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Jasper Public Library

Call 386-792-2285

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Oct 30 Nov 13 Dec 4

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CONGRATULATIONS
to the Suwannee County Farm Bureau 2023 Farm Family of the Year!
We are so excited for the Gaylord Family!

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Live Oak, Fla. 32064
Office: (386) 362-1274

Kevin Greene, Agent kevin.greene@ffbic.com
Wanda O'Neal, Agent wanda.oneal@ffbic.com

FEMA extends application deadline

FEMA
Contributor

Florida homeowners and renters in 18 counties who had uninsured losses caused by Hurricane Idalia have until Wednesday Nov. 29, 2023, to apply for Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) disaster assistance.

At the request of the State of Florida, FEMA extended the Individual Assistance application deadline 30 days. FEMA may be able to help with temporary lodging, basic home repair costs or other disaster-caused needs. Homeowners and renters in Charlotte, Citrus,

Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota, Suwannee and Taylor Counties may apply.

Call toll-free (800) 621-3362, go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov), download the FEMA App for mobile devices or visit a Disaster Recovery Center for assistance. The telephone line is open every day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET. Help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service such as VRS, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service. To view an accessible video on how to apply, visit Three Ways to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance on YouTube.

Three new members inducted into UF/IFAS research center's Hall of Fame



Photo courtesy of UF/IFAS NFREC-Suwannee Valley

Due to its contributions to the center's improvements, Nutrien has become the first business inducted into the NFREC-Suwannee Valley's Hall of Fame.



Photo courtesy of UF/IFAS NFREC-Suwannee Valley

Ernie Sellers is known to the community as an attorney, but at UF/IFAS NFREC-SV they see him as a catalyst for the recent enhancements at the center.



Photo courtesy of UF/IFAS NFREC-Suwannee Valley

As they became more involved in the community, Billie and Scott Rooney became active advisors to UF/IFAS NFREC-SV.

Kelly Aue, Suwannee River Partnership Outreach Coordinator

Contributor

UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center - Suwannee Valley (UF/IFAS NFREC-SV) has named three new members into its Hall of Fame.

Ernie Sellers, Billie and Scott Rooney (Rooney's Front Porch Farm) and Nutrien were recognized at the UF/IFAS NFREC-SV Advisory Council Meeting earlier this year.

"We initiated the Hall of Fame to recognize those that go above and beyond the normal for our center," says Bob Hochmuth, UF/IFAS Extension regional specialized agent for vegetable crops and assistant center director. "Above and beyond looks different for each individual that is inducted, but the common denominator is their passion to make UF/IFAS NFREC-SV the best it can be."

Sellers is known to the community as an attorney, but at UF/IFAS NFREC-SV they see him as a catalyst for the recent enhancements at the center.

"Ernie is a big picture guy and sees the long-term impact of agriculture in our region. He's also a long-term supporter of the University of Florida," Hochmuth said.

The combination of those two gives Sellers a unique and positive perspective on how to move UF/IFAS NFREC-SV forward.

"One thing that Ernie taught me is that we need to think of the center as a business, it's contribution to the community, and it's economic impact above what we are doing for farmers," said Hochmuth. "That has led us to make more strategic decisions and investments in the center that will further support our community."

Billie and Scott Rooney opened their u-pick blueberry and blackberry farm in 2013. As they became more involved in the community, the Rooneys became active advisors to UF/IFAS NFREC-SV.

"They bring a fresh perspective to agriculture enterprises in the region and represent the smaller family farm operations that contribute so much to our region," said Hochmuth.

The Rooneys advocate for programs that help beginner farmers and ranchers and have a passion for programs like the Small Farms Academy.

"Even though they would say they are a beneficiary of our programs, we have been the beneficiary of their advice throughout the years," Hochmuth said.

Nutrien, a local phosphate operation located in White Springs, is the first business inducted into the center's Hall of Fame.

Nutrien has a commitment to sustainability, community and enhancement of educational opportunities.

"We have built a strong partnership with the leadership at Nutrien including Rachel Garland, Stan Posey, and Mike Williams," said Hochmuth. "We are both heavily dedicated to the agriculture community and it has created a synergy to further enhance educational opportunities at the center."

In the past seven years, the local phosphate operation has contributed the center's improvements including the educational pavilion, commons area, a new trolley for farm tours, and audio-visual enhancements for the educational pavilion.

UF/IFAS NFREC-SV is located on 400 acres of land east of the town of Live Oak. When they are not hosting educational events, the center conducts over \$30 million in research projects and at least 75 distinct research projects. Their research projects focus on water and nutrient management, integrated pest management, specialty and alternative crop evaluation, greenhouse and hydroponic production and agribusiness.

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Lafayette Commission continues state of emergency

Christian Peterson
reporter.riverbendnews@gmail.com

On Tuesday, Oct. 10, the Lafayette County Board of County Commissioners met for its regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting began with an update from department heads. Scott Sadler, head of public works, told the board that roughly 606,000 cubic yards of debris had been picked up in the county. He also said that Friday, Oct. 27, was the last day to put debris near the right of way. Furthermore, the collection site and landfills were returning to normal hours and fees now that the county was close to recovering from Hurricane Idalia. Garret Land, head of planning and zoning, and the board also extended half prices on permits for 30 days.

The board then chose to extend the state of emergency. They also announced there would be a Florida Department of Environmental Protection meeting on Thursday, Oct. 26, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Finally, the board ended the meeting by approving the notice to proceed for Anderson Columbia to work on County Road 53. The meeting was then adjourned.

The next Lafayette County Board of County Commissioners meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 5 p.m. on the second floor of the Lafayette County Courthouse, located at 120 W Main St., in Mayo.

Suwannee Commissioners approve new telecommunications pole

Christian Peterson
reporter.riverbendnews@gmail.com

On Tuesday, Oct. 17, the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners met for its regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting began with the consent agenda being approved, however, one item was tabled and another item was pulled for discussion. The item that was pulled for discussion was a funding agreement with Meridian Healthcare Incorporated, which had two agreements in need of approval; one was the payment of \$64,111 for mental health and addiction services provided to the county, and the second agreement allowed the company to use county property for its operation. Moses Clepper, a resident, stood up to speak on the matter, asking why the county is giving the company free rent since it is a for-profit company. Sheriff Sam St. John said the services provided were incredibly useful. Clepper said he hoped the board would look into the agreements further in the future. Both agreements were then approved.

Next before the board was a request from Tower Engineering Professionals for a special permit allowing them to build a 199-foot monopole communications tower. The point of the tower is to

increase coverage area for Verizon customers in the area. Commissioner Travis Land asked if the pole would have a generator attached to it. He asked because, during Hurricane Idalia, many communications towers did not and much of Suwannee County lost cell service. Harold Tillman, the representative from Tower Engineering Professionals, explained that it would have a generator and that most towers do. He went even further, saying that there are consistent projects through many companies to put generators on towers without them. Land then asked if Tillman thought it would adversely affect the county if they changed their Land Development Regulations (LDR) to require all new towers and tenants of the tower to have generators attached to them. Tillman responded, saying that no company would bat an eye at such a request. The board then approved the special permit request. After the approval, the board asked Ronald Meeks, the Development Director, to begin working on changing the LDR to require generators at the communications towers.

This was followed by Visit Suwannee, led by Jimmy Norris and Charissa Setzer, showing off their new video created in an attempt to increase tourism in

Suwannee County. The board was then made aware that, in an effort to sell off excess property, an unsellable property had been found. Attorney Adam Morrison told the board that when the property was purchased, a company originally owned it; however, the county did not receive a title from the purchase. This means that, at the moment there is no insurable title and, thus, the county is unable to sell. However, the board for the company has all sadly passed away, so there is no one who previously worked at the company, who can help get the title to the county. Due to this, Attorney Morrison would have to file a lawsuit against the LLC, forcing an attorney to become involved and, thus, giving someone the power of attorney to help the county out. He explained that Columbia County Attorney Joel Foreman had agreed to represent the LLC and help the county out. The board approved the move.

After approval of a few requests for proposals, the meeting came to an end. The next Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the Judicial Annex located at 218 Parshley St. SW, in Live Oak.

Branford Town Council votes against raising mayor's salary amid heated discussion

Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Tensions rose once again when Councilwoman Stacey Griffith presented the Branford Town Council with a proposal to increase Mayor Donny Glover's pay during the meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 10. Councilman Jay Hatch took the time to clarify the increase, stating the previous mayor was originally making \$1,100, but his pay was reduced to \$700 due to a lack of production in the position. It was later stated Glover was aware he would be making \$700 when he took on the role of mayor. However, Hatch immediately made a motion for the increase, stating he wants the position to be one that's "worth it to work."

"I know Donny does a lot. I call him day and night, and he jumps-to every time I need something," Hatch said. "I just haven't gotten the impression that he's underperforming."

When Councilman Charlie Daniel stated he didn't know "what's changed" since Glover agreed to the \$700 rate, Griffith responded the mayor was "doing his job and going above and beyond."

"Donny's been there every step of the way," Hatch continued. "I watched him work his backside off during hurricane recovery. I've seen him out there sweating every day, patrolling the town. As far as I'm concerned, he meets all of the standards for our mayor, and I believe that's a position that should be paid properly."

At this time,

Councilwoman Alice Childress spoke up, reiterating a point made during the section outlined for updates from Code Enforcement Officer Charlotte Arnoldi, where it was explained Arnoldi couldn't work more than 30 hours a week because the council couldn't pay her for more.

"That doesn't make sense," Childress stated.

Council President Ken Saunders added how the town also pays for two tanks of gas for Glover's vehicle each month, which he uses to conduct his mayoral duties. When an individual attending the meeting asked if Glover is "meeting all the requirements of mayor," Saunders asked if he had read the requirements outlined by the charter.

"Is it your position that he's not?" Hatch asked Saunders.

"I think he lacks in communication," Saunders responded. "He's around town, but he lacks in communication amongst all the council members."

"Well, on that note, there is a lot of lack of communication [amongst the council]," Griffith replied, prompting members in the audience to speak out in agreement. "You (Saunders) are the lack of communication with this whole council. Everyone wants us to work together and become a council that works together and supports this town, and it has not been that way."

Saunders responded to her statement by saying he communicates with Town Clerk Aleshia Terry, who sends out emails to the council members. Griffith then asked why she did not receive notice that the council was going to have an emergency meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 19, during which the state of emergency was re-approved.

"Because, I know for a fact you reached out to other council members about the meeting," Griffith stated. "I saw you here (at Town Hall) that morning when I came and paid my water bill and you did

not say one word to me about having a meeting. Prior to the meeting, you saw me and you did not say anything."

When Saunders responded that the meeting was a brief one, and that they only needed three members, Griffith proceeded to state Florida Law outlines every council member should be notified when there is a meeting. At this time, Hatch requested it be made clear, when they have to have an emergency meeting, all council members have to be notified.

"No matter if there's three or not," Griffith said. "It is state law. Everyone should be notified."

"Like the EOC?" Childress asked, referring to how Griffith and Glover attended the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) meetings without notifying the council after Hurricane Idalia hit.

"The EOC meetings are county meetings. That has nothing to do with the town," Griffith said. Childress replied, stating Griffith still should have let Terry know so she could notify the remainder of the council. "I didn't know until the county called me about it wanting to know why no one from Branford was there," Griffith said.

As tempers were rising, Hatch spoke up, bringing the council back to the topic of Glover's pay increase. "I have not seen a lack of communication from Donny," he said. "I think if there is one between certain council members, that needs to be addressed. But, if I have an issue with Donny, I can go speak with him about it, you know, whereas if I had an issue with a different council member, I couldn't, unless it was in this room (the council chambers)." He added how he also didn't want to give future mayoral candidates the impression that the position is only worth \$700. "He does a lot of work," Hatch said. "I would expect the future mayor to do the same thing, and I wouldn't do the job for \$700 a month, so I'm not going to ask him to do it for \$700 a month."

After his comments, Griffith seconded Hatch's motion to approve the increase to \$1,100 a month. The council then voted against the increase, with Saunders, Childress and Daniel not in favor.

The next regular Branford Town Council meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 14, in the Town Hall, located at 502 SW Suwannee Ave., in Branford.

ASK DR. MANTOOTH

ANGULAR CHEILITIS

Q: What is angular cheilitis?

A: Angular cheilitis (pron. ky-LEE-tis) is a condition that develops with age. As we get older, the cells in our skin contain less water and the tissue holds less fat. One of the results is the creation of so-called "purse string" wrinkles around the lips.

In some cases, especially if the loose skin condition is exacerbated by tooth wear or tooth loss, the wrinkles can become especially deep at the corners of the mouth. If they are subjected to continued wetting and drying because of constant licking, the corners can become chapped and inflamed. This is the condition known as angular cheilitis.

The condition can be aggravated by vitamin deficiencies, particularly by a deficiency of vitamin B2. It is not uncommon for angular cheilitis to be accompanied by an infection like candidiasis, which is the general term for conditions involving a variety of fungi referred to as yeasts.

The most common of these fungi is called candida albicans, which is naturally found in the mouth. When something throws off the natural balance involving fungi in the mouth, it's a problem. Candidiasis in the mouth is commonly referred to as thrush. Talk with your dentist to learn more about angular cheilitis and other dental conditions that come with aging.

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Hamilton County School Board applies for Stronger Connections Grant

Lee Trawick
reporter2.riverbendnews@gmail.com

On Tuesday, Oct. 10, the Hamilton County School Board convened for its regularly scheduled meeting. At this time, Peggy Hasty presented the board with a proposal to apply for a Stronger Connections Grant (SCG). The Florida Department of Education has been awarded \$53,737,824 under Title IV for funds that must be provided to high-need local educational agencies (LEAs) through a competitive process to fund activities authorized under Section 4108 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Title IV was set into motion on June 25, 2022, by President Joe Biden when he signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA). The need for such a law in today's school systems is the overwhelming spike in school shootings, suicides and bullying. Title IV was designed to enhance initiatives that will promote safer, more inclusive and positive school environments for all students, educators and school staff.

The Stronger Connection Grant was designed to provide students with a safer and healthier learning environment. Seventy-two schools, including the Hamilton County School District, qualify to apply for the grant.

However, it is anticipated that approximately 55 to 60 grants will be awarded.

A high-need LEA is defined in Florida as one with a high percentage (40 percent or higher) of students identified as economically disadvantaged and high risk of chronic absenteeism (20 percent or higher) within two subgroups, students with disabilities (SWDs) and English Language Learners (ELLs).

Therefore, the board must assemble the right team to put together a grant proposal moving forward. One must present a lengthy portfolio displaying why Hamilton County should be awarded the grant and how it will be fully utilized.

In addition, the board will have to show the participation potential, as well as the need for such a grant. They will also have to show how the funds will help benefit the students, along with history of similar types of grants the district has qualified for, how well the district used those grants in the past and how successful they were in assisting students.

Following the presentation, the board expressed its support of the application, and is now waiting to see if they will be awarded the grant.

The next regular Hamilton County School Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 6 p.m. at the Hamilton County School Board

Lafayette County School Board celebrates outstanding students

Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

The Lafayette County School Board recognized four outstanding students during its regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 17.

Each month, students are nominated by their teachers for their growth in the classroom, their exemplary character traits, and for embodying what it means to be a Hornet. Each Student of the Month received a notebook, a certificate of achievement and a card allowing them free entry into any of the district's sporting events. Although not all students were able to attend, Superintendent Robby Edwards and the school board ensured each student received the recognition they deserved.

Emma Harper was nominated by her teacher, Lisa Walker, as Lafayette Elementary School's (LES) Student of the Month for grades kindergarten through second. "This little girl is going to be a teacher one day," Walker wrote in her nomination. "She practices daily with me. She is always helping those who struggle and makes sure that I'm being taken care of. She has made huge improvements this year and should have no problem being on or above grade level by the end of the year."

Because of his hard work and improvement in both his behavior and attitude, Angie Perry nominated Mark Haas as LES' Student of the Month for grades three through five. "He strives to do his best and asks for help when he struggles instead of quitting," Perry wrote. "I am so proud of Mark and what he has been able to accomplish this year."

Kateesh Hamlin nominated Adam Plummer as Lafayette High School's (LHS) Student of the Month for the middle school grades. "Adam is super sweet and a hard worker," Hamlin wrote. "He always gives his best."

The final Student of the Month honor went to LHS' 10th grade student Miguel Rosalio, whom Charles Woods nominated. "Miguel is a hardworking student on and off the drama stage," Woods wrote. "He is always leading by example in our drama program, always encouraging his fellow classmates, and is willing to stay after school and help students with their part in the show or help them learn their lines. He is one of the most selfless kids I know."

Following the recognitions, the board proceeded to move through the remainder of its agenda items quickly. The next Lafayette County School Board meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 21. The meeting will be held in the School Board Administration Building, located at 363 NE Crawford St., in Mayo.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, October 17, 2023

Emma Harper was recognized as LES' Student of the Month for grades kindergarten through second. Pictured, from left to right, are: Robby Edwards, Amanda Hickman, Taylor McGrew, Emma Harper, Marion McCray and Darren Driver.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, October 17, 2023

Miguel Rosalio was recognized as LHS' Student of the Month. Pictured, from left to right, are: Robby Edwards, Amanda Hickman, Taylor McGrew, Miguel Rosalio, Marion McCray and Darren Driver.



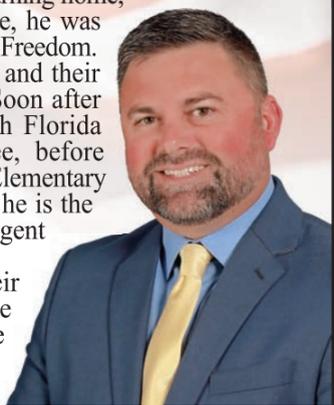
Hometown Salute Matt Campbell

Matt Campbell was called to spend a life of service for his community and country. He was born in Vero Beach, Fla., on July 16, 1975. He would then make his way to Suwannee County with his parents when he was 10-years-old. As a young man in high school, he showed glimpses of what was to come down the line. Campbell has spent his entire life considering others' needs and wishes. As a young man, he participated in many church outreach programs throughout the community, all while being a high school student-athlete and a member of many school clubs. Following graduation from Suwannee High School in 1993, Campbell enlisted in the United States Army National Guard with the intention of earning the GI Bill.

At 18-years-old, Campbell found himself at Fort Jackson, S.C., for his basic training and Fort Leonardwood, Mo., for his Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Following his training, he returned home to Suwannee County, where he was attached to the 269th Engineer Company in Live Oak. Upon returning home, Campbell worked full-time with the 269th for seven years. During this time, he was deployed to Balad, Iraq, in April 2003, where he served during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After his years of service, Campbell returned home to his wife, Cara, and their son, Coby. Their daughter, Maci, would be born upon his return home. Soon after returning home, Campbell began his educational journey through North Florida Community College, where he received his Associate in Arts degree, before transferring to St. Leo University, where he received his bachelors degree in Elementary Education in 2006. Today, Campbell continues to live a life of service, as he is the Dean of Students at Branford Elementary School. He is also a real estate agent with Poole Realty, as well as a City Councilman for the City of Live Oak.

He and his wife enjoy following their children as they embark on their journeys today; Coby was a standout baseball player for the Suwannee Bulldogs and is currently a sophomore at Florida State University. At the same time, Maci was also a standout in flag football, soccer and volleyball for the Bulldogs. She is currently a freshman at the University of Florida.



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

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In Loving Memory

Kate McKay Farnum

I am sorry to say my beautiful wife and best friend Kate McKay Farnum, 65-years-old has left us on a journey to Heaven to join her parents Ray and Lou McKay.

She leaves behind her husband of 43 years, Ron; sons Jim in Hawaii, David in Gulf Breeze, Fla. and Jeff in Milton, Fla.; sisters Sarah in Hawaii and Cindy



in Foxboro, Mass.

Having lived and worked in the Branford area for 35 years, she leaves behind many friends, including BJ, Charlie, Faye, Mark, Shannon, Monya, the girls in the library, and Tractor Supply, where she took her true love, her dog ARLO, to get treats and see baby ducks.

She fought a strong battle, but sadly cancer won.

JAIL REPORT

Lafayette County

Oct. 16

Randy Palmer, drug possession

Oct. 18

John Taylor, bodily writ

Hamilton County

Oct. 16

Frederick Lamar Peacock, probation violation

Oct. 17

Julio Cesar Benemeliz Milian, nonmoving traffic violation, moving traffic violation, resist officer, probation violation

Michael Christopher Hawkins, battery

Jacon Larone Jackson, probation violation

Oct. 18

Craig Allen Adams, failure to appear

Oct. 19

Jackie Ramon Graves, out-of-county warrant

Oct. 20

Jessica Englehart, probation violation, out-of-state fugitive
Thaddeous Marquis McClellan, in for court

Oct. 22

Kacey Clark Ritch, battery
Neil Lewis Whitt, moving traffic violation

Suwannee County

Oct. 16

Jesus Alonso Rios, no driver's license

Catherine Perez, Columbia County warrant service

Rodney Berry Taylor, trespassing, larceny

James Bennett, burglary, missile into dwelling vehicle building or aircraft

Oct. 17

Douglas Wayne Waters, hold for other reason

Edward Calvin Sullivan,

failure to appear

Jeffrey Aaron Plummer, Columbia County warrant service

Lisa Marie Clendenin, warrant service

Justin Eugene Sides, Columbia County warrant service

Avery Renard Freeman-Kimble, uttering forged bills, fraud-swindle, fraud-impersonation

Joshua Shane Pafford, warrant service, out-of-county warrant

Michael Jose Guevera, probation violation

Oct. 18

Arthur James Johnson, criminal traffic violation

Kathryn Dunn Williams, resist officer, shelter unmarried minor

DeCalvion Zaone Bennett, probation violation

Kyle Patrick Eylward, out-of-county warrant, possession of controlled substance, drug equipment possession

Juan Manuel Gutierrez-Medina, out-of-county warrant

Oct. 19

Timothy Andrew Hand, probation violation

Carlton Rayshawn Pender, nonmoving traffic violation

Katie Nichole Black, probation violation

Oct. 20

Donnie Marshall Hatcher, drug equipment possession, amphetamine traffic

Dennis Edward McNeely, fraud-impersonation, moving traffic violation, amphetamine traffic, drug equipment possession

Rebecca Cenith Ratliff, amphetamine traffic, drug equipment possession

Max Jason Law, probation violation

Rodney Berry Taylor, hold for other reason

Martin Francisco Mazal, felony battery or domestic violence strangulation

Darius Benjamin Price-Jones, probation violation

Kelly R. Dudley, resist officer, drug equipment possession, possession of controlled substance, escape

Nichole C. Stallings, battery
Clint Wilson Kinard, probation violation

Oct. 21

Margarett Ann Castillo, failure to appear

Sarah Ruth De Fer, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, battery on elderly

Marquez Tishawn Mercer, criminal traffic violation, food health or safety, drugs possession, drug equipment possession, marijuana possession

Oct. 22

Tina Lahoma Jordan, failure to appear

Francis Anthony Massimo, drugs possession, possession of controlled substance, drug equipment paraphernalia

Mariah Leigh Welch, two counts possession of controlled substance

Justin Adam Portbury, cocaine possession, drugs possession

Oct. 23

Michael Anthony Sellers, three counts probation violation, fraud-impersonation

Nu'quisya Quontasia Anderson, cocaine possession, drug equipment possession, resist officer, petit theft

Alonzo Jacory Philmore, cocaine possession

Jeremy Williams Lanier, out-of-county warrant

Community Calendar



Now – Tuesday, Oct. 31

The Third Annual Great Pumpkin Hunt is on! From now until the end of October, there will be several two to three-inch rocks, painted to look like pumpkins, hidden throughout Dowling Park. If found, return the rock to the Jo Kennon Public Library for the chance to spin the prize wheel. To ensure everyone has fun with the event, only one prize per person each week will be allowed. Rocks will be hidden at the Village Square and at other businesses throughout Dowling Park. The Jo Kennon Public Library is located at 10655 Dowling Park Dr., in Dowling Park.

Wednesday, Oct. 25 and Thursday, Oct. 26

Let TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) help you with your weight management goals. TOPS is a weight-loss support group that meets weekly on Wednesdays and Thursdays. TOPS will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 9:15 a.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, located at 9989 CR 136, in Live Oak. The group then meets on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 9 a.m. at First Advent Christian Church, located at 699 Pinewood Dr. SW, in Live Oak. For more information, call (386) 362-5933 or (386) 362-5995.

Wednesday, Oct. 25 – Wednesday, Nov. 1

“You want to drink? That’s your business. You want to stop? That’s our business.” Join Live Oak’s Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group to discover a new way of life. The next Live Oak AA group meetings will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 7 p.m., with discussion; Thursday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m., with book study; Friday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m., with discussion; Sunday, Oct. 29, at 8:30 a.m., with a men’s meeting; Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 11 p.m., with discussion; and Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 7 p.m., with discussion. Each session will be held in the voting precinct building next to the Suwannee County Health Department at 911 Nobles Ferry Rd., in Live Oak.

Friday, Oct. 27

Join the Lafayette County Public Library for a free family movie screening of the hit animated movie, “The Bad Guys,” from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Lafayette County Public Library is located at 120 NE Crawford St., in Mayo.

Saturday, Oct. 28

Tractor Supply in Live Oak invites its customers to celebrate the Halloween season with a pet photo event. From 9 a.m. to noon, customers can bring their four-legged family members – in or out of costume – to have their photos taken by a local photographer. The first 25 participants will also receive a free magnetic picture frame. Tractor Supply is located at 207 72nd Trace NE, in Live Oak.

Saturday, Oct. 28, Monday, Oct. 30 and Tuesday, Oct. 31

Get ready for a thrilling Halloween adventure at the Branford Public Library with “Outbreak: A Halloween Escape Room!” Join the library during regular hours for an exciting test of your problem-solving skills and nerve. For more information, call (386) 935-1556. The Branford Public Library is located at 703 Suwannee Ave. NW, in Branford.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

The Live Oak Public Library will host the Paranormal Investigators of North Florida. The program, presented by Denise Burroughs, will take place between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Halloween night. These real-life paranormal investigators will explore some of their most curious and spooky cases. Call (386) 362-2317 for more information. The Live Oak Public Library is located at 1848 Ohio Ave. S, in Live Oak.

Tuesday, Nov. 7

The Suwannee Riverside AllStars are proud to present their annual Patriotic Concert in honor of Veteran's Day. Special guests featured will include the Suwannee High School NJROTC color guard, retired US Marine Corps Master Sergeant Doug Aukerman and Live Oak Mayor Frank Davis. The performance will begin at 6 p.m. at Millennium Park, located at 101-199 Pine Ave. SW, in Live Oak.

Riverbend News

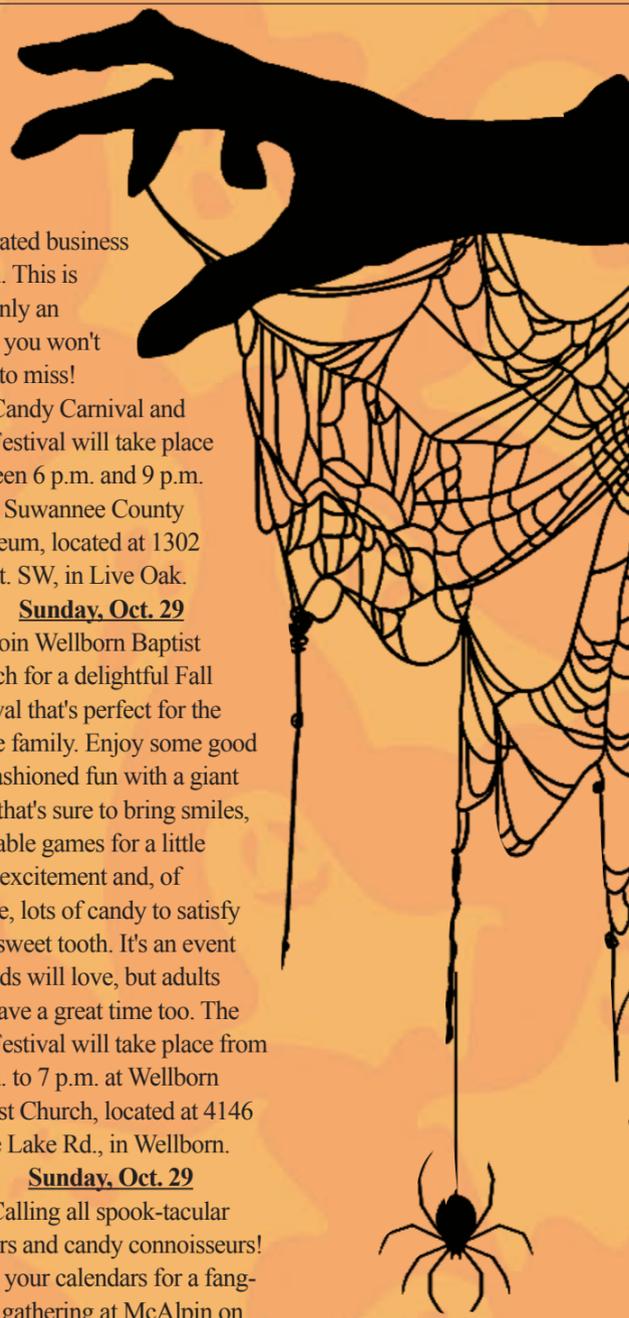
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BEWITCH YOUR HALLOWEEN WITH FAMILY FUN IN THE SUWANNEE VALLEY



Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

As Halloween draws near, more and more festivities can be found around the tri-county area. Whether you're looking for a family-friendly night of fun for the kiddos or a more ghoulish experience for teens and adults, there are plenty of things to do in the Suwannee Valley that scream "Halloween."

Lafayette County Sunday, Oct. 29

Get ready for candy, costumes and fun with Lafayette County's first community-wide Trunk-or-Treat! The event will take place between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Edward Perry Sports Complex, located at 840 NE CR 400, in Mayo. Those interested in registering their vehicle to pass out candy should do so by visiting forms.gle/8dAVZ7FjXH43NSND8.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Kiddos, make sure to shine your tiaras and iron your hero capes for a night of shrieks and sweets! Trick-or-Treating in the Town of Mayo will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Lighthouse Christian Center and Academy will host their annual Fall Festival from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. This free event promises fun for the entire family by featuring fun fall games, bounce houses, face painting, prizes and more. Food and treats will also be available for purchase. Lighthouse Christian Center is located at 772 N Hwy 51, in Mayo.

Hamilton County Wednesday, Oct. 25

Join First Baptist Church of Jasper's Fall Festival for an evening of fun, starting at 6 p.m. Get ready for a whole new level of fun with exciting new games that offer fantastic prizes, tantalizing treats and, of course, enough candy to keep your sugar rush going all night long! First Baptist Church of Jasper is located at 207 2nd St. NE, in Jasper.

Wednesday, Oct. 25

Get ready to have a blast at Burnham Christian Church's Fall Festival. Beginning at 6 p.m., families can enjoy entertaining games, sizzling hot dogs, a chili cook-off that's sure to spice things up, hayrides and a trunk-or-treat extravaganza that'll delight kids of all ages. Burnham Christian

Church is located at 4520 NW CR 146, in Jennings.

Saturday, Oct. 28

As the clock strikes 6 p.m., brace yourself for a spine-tingling experience at Jasper's annual Trunk-or-Treat, brought to you by Rickerson Legal. This electrifying event promises an evening of Halloween thrills with candy, games and a trunk decoration competition. The top three Best Decorated Trunks will be rewarded, so make sure to join in on the fun, dressed in your most bewitching attire and indulge in a night of spooky delights to kickstart your Halloween celebrations! The event will take place on Central Avenue in downtown Jasper.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Join Greater Poplar Springs Missionary Baptist Church for "Sweets and Treats on the Concrete" in Jasper from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. There'll be tasty burgers, hotdogs and more for sale, a free bounce house for the kids, and plenty of candy. Feel free to bring your own treats to share – it's a sweet time you won't want to miss! Greater Poplar Springs Missionary Baptist Church is located at 702 1st St. NW, in Jasper.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Get ready to rev up your Halloween spirit, because it's time for Trunk-or-Treat at Suwannee Hardware and Feed on Tuesday, Oct. 31, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.! Whether you're a do-it-yourself decorating genius or just looking to spread some Halloween cheer, this event is perfect for you. Deck out your trunk with wild and wacky decorations; transform it into a pirate's treasure chest, or a candy corn spaceship – the possibilities are endless! Or, if you're not feeling particularly crafty, simply show up and spread the Halloween joy by handing out treats to the little goblins and ghosts who will surely flock to your ride. So, get your creative juices flowing, grab your candy and enjoy a night of spook-tacular fun at Suwannee Hardware and Feed, located at 10572 Bridge St., in White Springs.

Saturday, Nov. 4

Get ready for a whirlwind of fall fun at Corinth Baptist Church's annual Fall Festival. Beginning at 4 p.m., attendees will be able to enjoy fun games, delicious food and a candy hayride at night. Don't forget to bring a side dish or a dessert, along with some warm clothing for the hayride. Corinth Baptist Church is located at 7042 SW 41st Ave., in Jasper.

Suwannee County Sunday, Oct. 29

The Branford Farm Stand's Fall Harvest Festival, pumpkin patch and crop maze are officially open! There's no admission to the pumpkin patch, however, it is requested you buy a pumpkin on your way out. Admission for activities including the maze, face painting, jump pad, hayrides and corn pit is \$10 per person. Kids ages 2 and under will be admitted free of charge. The Fall Harvest Festival will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday. The Branford Farm Stand is located at 27687 US 129, in Branford.

Saturday, Oct. 28

It's that time of year again – get ready for exciting games, good food and plenty of fun with Branford High School's annual Fall Festival! The festival will be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., with a costume contest taking place at 4 p.m. In addition, the Interact Club will be accepting donations for candy and non-edible treats (such as pencils, small toys and so on) to share with booths in the event that they run out of supplies. Excess candy and items will be donated to houses throughout town to pass out for trick-or-treating. Any individuals or organizations interested in hosting a game booth should contact Misty Ward at (386) 935-5600. Branford High School is located at 405 N Reynolds St., in Branford.

Saturday, Oct. 28

"Door-to-door trick-or-treating is a thing of the past." Well, not in Branford! Don't let the fun end with Branford High School's Fall Festival – at 6 p.m., it's time for a bewitching Trick-or-Treating journey throughout the town. Gather your goblins and ghouls for a fun night of candy collecting!

Saturday, Oct. 28

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, get ready to be dazzled by the sweetest (literally) event of the year – Live Oak's Candy Carnival and Fall Festival! This annual event aims to transform the Suwannee County Coliseum into a spook-tacular venue with trick-or-treating, fun games and activities for all ages. There will even be a costume contest available, with trophies and gift cards awarded to the winners. Age groups for the costume contest include: 2 and under; 3 to 4 years old; 5 to 6 years old; 7 to 8 years old; 9 to 10 years old and 11 to 12 years old. In addition, an award will be presented to the best

decorated business booth. This is certainly an event you won't want to miss!

The Candy Carnival and Fall Festival will take place between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the Suwannee County Coliseum, located at 1302 11th St. SW, in Live Oak.

Sunday, Oct. 29

Join Wellborn Baptist Church for a delightful Fall Festival that's perfect for the whole family. Enjoy some good old-fashioned fun with a giant slide that's sure to bring smiles, inflatable games for a little extra excitement and, of course, lots of candy to satisfy your sweet tooth. It's an event the kids will love, but adults can have a great time too. The Fall Festival will take place from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Wellborn Baptist Church, located at 4146 Lowe Lake Rd., in Wellborn.

Sunday, Oct. 29

Calling all spook-tacular seekers and candy connoisseurs! Mark your calendars for a fang-tastic gathering at McAlpin on Sunday, Oct. 29. Taking place at The Shops of Maple Grove, the second annual Trunk-or-Treat will provide a treasure trove of trunk-or-treating fun. Beginning at 6 p.m. with a costume contest, youth will enjoy an assortment of fun games and treats. A prize for the Best Decorated Car will also be presented. The Shops of Maple Grove are located at 9929 170th Ter., in McAlpin. Those interested in volunteering or registering their vehicle should call or text Cherry at (828) 817-1873.

Sunday, Oct. 29

Join Hatch Bend Baptist Church from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for its annual Trunk-or-Treat. Enjoy, games, hayrides, a free hot dog dinner and more. Don't forget to bring your pre-carved pumpkin for the pumpkin judging contest! The winner of the contest will receive a \$25 gift card. Hatch Bend Baptist Church is located at 3029 SE CR 500, in Branford.

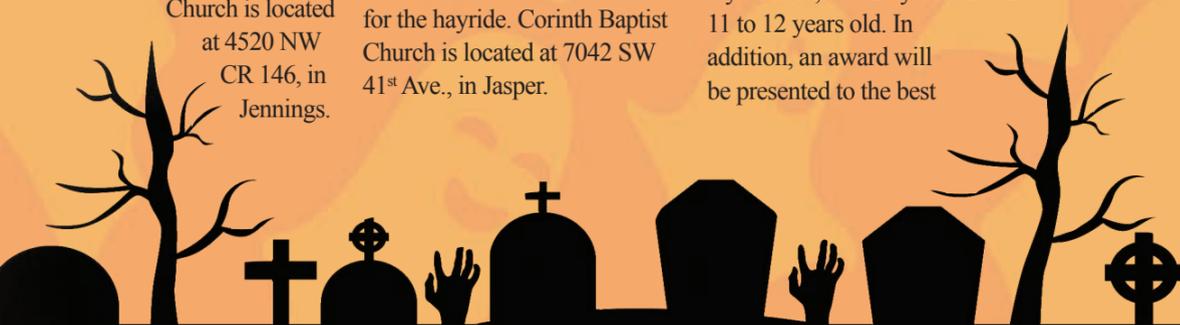


Children and adults are reminded to put electronic devices down, keep their heads up and walk, don't run across the street.

Lee Wetherington-Zamora,
Superintendent
Hamilton County School District

HAPPY HAUNTING
Stay in well-lit areas and avoid houses with no lights on.

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SVEC
Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative

Wear reflective tape or carry a flashlight to be seen at night.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter icons
[svec-coop.com](https://www.svec-coop.com)

Happy Halloween
Stay in well-lit areas and avoid houses with no lights on.

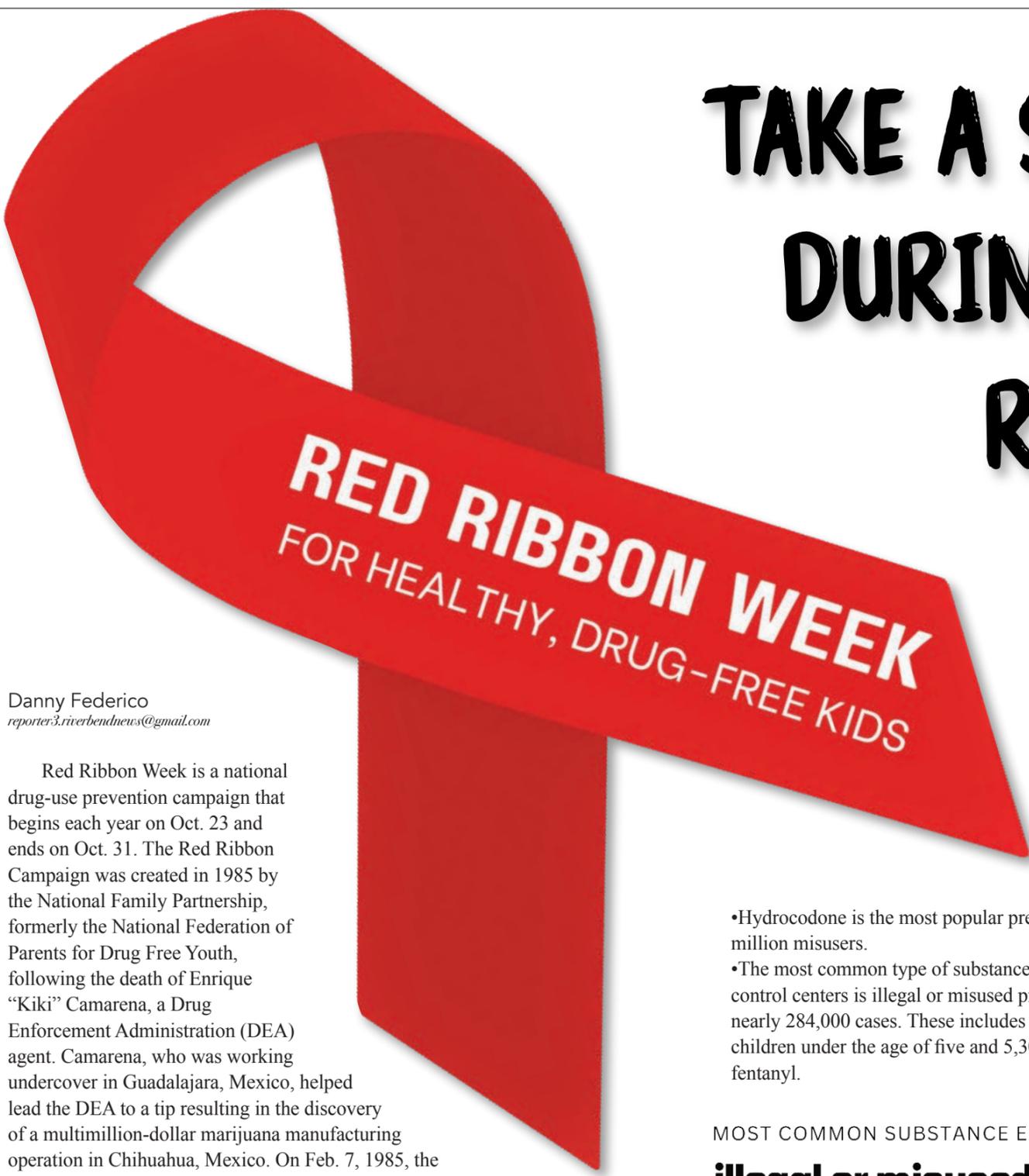
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TAKE A STAND DURING RED RIBBON WEEK



Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Red Ribbon Week is a national drug-use prevention campaign that begins each year on Oct. 23 and ends on Oct. 31. The Red Ribbon Campaign was created in 1985 by the National Family Partnership, formerly the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth, following the death of Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent. Camarena, who was working undercover in Guadalajara, Mexico, helped lead the DEA to a tip resulting in the discovery of a multimillion-dollar marijuana manufacturing operation in Chihuahua, Mexico. On Feb. 7, 1985, the 37-year-old man was kidnapped and tortured to death.

“In honor of Camarena’s memory and his battle against illegal drugs, friends and neighbors began to wear red badges of satin. Parents, sick of the destruction of alcohol and other drugs, had begun forming coalitions,” the Red Ribbon Campaign’s website states.

- Hydrocodone is the most popular prescription opioid with 5.1 million misusers.
- The most common type of substance exposure reported to poison control centers is illegal or misused prescription opioids, with nearly 284,000 cases. These includes 44 percent of cases for children under the age of five and 5,300 exposures to heroin and fentanyl.

MOST COMMON SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE:

illegal or misused prescription opioids

APPROX. 284,000 CASES YEARLY



“**57.8% of youth ages 12 and older were reported as using tobacco, alcohol or an illicit drug.**”



Approx. 125,000 of these cases are substance exposure in children under the age of five.

This year, Red Ribbon Week will be observed between Monday, Oct. 23 and Tuesday, Oct. 31. During this time, students, parents, teachers and community members are encouraged to spread the word about drug-prevention. There are a few ways to do this. Consider making a drug-free pact with friends; promise to hold each other accountable. Plan a school-wide Red Ribbon Rally or start a Red Ribbon Week Club that meets regularly to promote drug prevention throughout the year. You could even contact your local government officials about declaring the week of Oct. 23 through Oct. 31 as Red Ribbon Week in the community. The ways to provide awareness and advocacy for the impact of drugs on youth are limitless.



According to the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 57.8 percent (or 161.8 million) youth ages 12 and older were reported as using tobacco, alcohol or an illicit drug. This included 47.5 percent (or 133.1 million) youth who drank alcohol, 19.5 percent (or 54.7 million) who reported using a tobacco product and 14.3 percent (or 40 million) who have used an illicit drug at some point in their lifetime. In addition, the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics (NCDAS) reports 50 percent (or 138.543 million) youth ages 12 and over have illicitly used drugs in their lifetime.

The NCDAS also points out a few statistics common throughout the years:

- Forty-seven percent of young people use an illegal drug by the time they graduate from high school. The NCDAS reports five percent of eighth graders, 20 percent of 10th graders and 2 percent of 12th graders have used illegal drugs.

Families are also encouraged to take part in the Lock Your Meds national campaign. This campaign is “designed to reduce prescription drug abuse by making adults aware that they are ‘unwitting suppliers’ of prescription medications being used in unintended ways, especially by young people.” To learn more about the Lock Your Meds campaign or how to get involved, visit www.lockyourmeds.org. For more information about Red Ribbon Week or the Red Ribbon Campaign, visit www.redribbon.org/about.



Scan the QR code above to navigate to the Red Ribbon Week Campaign’s “About Us” webpage.

**A proud supporter
in the FIGHT
against drugs!**

**Sheriff St. John
and the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office**

**PROUD
SUPPORTER IN
THE FIGHT
AGAINST
DRUGS!**

Red Ribbon Week October 23-31

**RIVEROAK
TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

415 SW Pinewood Dr.
Live Oak, Fla. 32064



Photo courtesy of Wood's Family Fitness
Natalie Dunn always works out with a smile at Wood's Family Fitness.



Photo courtesy of Wood's Family Fitness
Krissey Johns earned the title of Member of the Month for May.



Photo courtesy of Wood's Family Fitness
Former Bulldog Josh Braun (left) and Taylon Johns (right) enjoy working out at Wood's Family Fitness.

Lee Trawick
reporter2.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Rhonda Wood's husband, David, once asked her an intriguing question: "How would you like to buy a gym?" Five years later, Wood's Family Fitness is now a staple in Suwannee County.

At the start of their journey, Rhonda was grateful to have Hannah Skinner's help. Skinner had previously owned the gym and stayed around to ensure a seamless transition for Rhonda's family, customers and those who had become accustomed to the gym being there for them. When the Wood family took over, they did not realize the assets they would also receive in Morgan Loadholtz Adams. Adams had worked for the previous owners and stayed on to work at Wood's Family Fitness while completing her college education.

"Morgan was our most valuable asset during the transition," Wood said.

"She was so kind and patient with me as she taught me the ropes, I depended on her heavily during the transition."

When Adams left to pursue her career, Amanda Jordan stepped in to utilize her knowledge of nutrition and fitness, and Wood is grateful to have her.

David and Rhonda have been active in Suwannee County since they were kids. David was a standout athlete in high school, excelling in wrestling and football. However, he made a name for himself in baseball and went on to play at the college level. David and Rhonda raised their daughter, Leigh, who followed in her family's footsteps and became a household name in Bulldog Nation in golf, tennis, soccer and flag football.

Leigh, a certified fitness instructor with a background in gymnastics, teaches several classes at Wood's Family Fitness alongside other passionate instructors, including Rhonda, Amanda Jordan, Donna Long, Heather Bates and Kristy McWaters. Alan Bonds, Rhonda's brother-in-law and David's best friend, is often seen at the front desk. Drew Land, who is equally passionate about Suwannee youth sports, is another vital member of the team. The Wood family takes great pride in promoting mental and physical health and sports in the community, particularly among the youth. They are dedicated to helping the younger generation achieve their goals in life.

Wood's Family Fitness is committed to supporting Suwannee County youth sports and high school athletes. They go above and beyond to promote the value of mental and physical health in one's life. Wood's Family Fitness takes pride in the success of many former Bulldogs,

including Sam McMillan, Jackson Greene, EJ Alvarez Josh Wharton, Josh Braun and Bo Bonds, who are often seen working out and training in their gym. They are a true testaments to the benefits of maintaining a solid foundation of mental and physical health through consistent gym training.

Therefore, the Wood family is dedicated to supporting the youth in their community by providing them with opportunities to find their paths in life. Whether it's in sports, fitness or any other field, they go above and beyond to offer their assistance. They generously sponsor many teams and organizations and provide additional funding when needed to ensure every athlete has a chance to succeed. Their ultimate goal is to promote and encourage sports programs in Suwannee schools and inspire athletes to take pride in being a Bulldog.

In addition, the gym also provides a variety of group fitness classes, which vary from 45-minute to hour-long sessions. The accountability of group fitness is essential, and members enjoy working out with fellow classmates and instructors who motivate and encourage them. The classes consist of Low Impact, Tabata, Yoga, Circuit Training and Senior Fit. Recently added classes include "Manic Monday," which begins at 6:15 a.m.; "Lunchtime Grind" classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:15 p.m.; and Pilates on Fridays at 8:45 a.m. They are also thrilled to announce a new Zumba class starting on Thursday, Nov. 30, at 6:30 p.m.

Wood's Family Fitness offers a discount package for members who are retired or active military, law enforcement and first responders, as well as City of Live Oak employees, Suwannee County employees, school

board employees or individuals 60 years of age and over. They also accept Healthways Prime/Silver Sneakers and United Healthcare/Renew Active insurance.

"We are grateful to be part of the wonderful community of Live Oak, a place where we grew up, went to school and are raising our families," Rhonda said. "God has blessed us with a successful business, and we want to honor Him with it. It's genuinely a FAMILY place. We strive to extend friendliness, kindness and compassion to all who enter our doors. When you're done with your workout, we want you to leave feeling better than you did when you walked in. Maybe a little sweatier, but better!"

Wood's Family Fitness is excited to invite the community to join its Fifth Anniversary Celebration at the gym on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to see what group fitness is all about, with demo classes taking place throughout the day. There will also be friendly competitions, including bench press for guys, deadlift for gals and pull-ups and tire flips for everyone. Don't miss your chance to win hourly prizes that include 12-month memberships, gym accessories like shaker bottles and water bottles with samples of protein powders and pre-workout mixes, energy drinks, t-shirts and gym bags. Plus, enjoy sweet treats from Heidi's Cupcakery, drinks from Inside Out Nutrition and samples of Amanda Jordan's healthy food prep service, "Recipe Not Req'd." WQHL will also be broadcasting live with Cowboy Stevie D at the mic. Be sure to come out, meet Rhonda and David and see what Wood's Family Fitness is all about.

Wood's Family Fitness is located at 1397 Ohio Ave. N, in Live Oak.



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CELEBRATING 5 YEARS!

October 28th, 2023

10:00am - 3:00pm

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★ DEMO CLASSES

★ STRONG CONTESTS

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ROLLING MILITARY VEHICLE MUSEUM ON PARADE

at the Florida Forest Festival
 Saturday, Oct. 28 in historic Perry, Florida
 Starts at 9:30 a.m. on Jefferson St. downtown

- Weapon Carriers • Artillery**
- Armored Vehicles • Tracked Vehicles**
- Jeeps • Amphibious Vehicles**
- Horse Cavalry and More**

SEE FIGHTING VEHICLES USED BY AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN WWII. KOREA. VIETNAM. IRAQ. AFGHANISTAN.

Public display of military vehicles after parade at Forest Capital Park.

Vehicles to appear courtesy of Military Vehicle Preservation Association members, Military Machines of American Freedom, Camp Gordon Johnston Museum, Georgia-Florida Aviation Search Team, and private collectors.



Come see the Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show during the 2023 Florida Forest Festival

Florida Forest Festival Contributor

Can you imagine the thrill of watching an axe cutting through logs faster than a chainsaw or the fast footwork of a daring lumberjack trying to stay dry atop a spinning floating log? You are not paging through a history book, it's all live at the Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show on Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Florida Forest Festival.

This action-packed show features log rolling, chopping, sawing, axe throwing, dragster chainsaw and tree climbing. All with World Champion Lumberjacks and much, much more! The Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show is a

historical, educational, humorous show, filled with audience participation.

In addition to the Lumberjack show, at the 68th Annual Florida Forest Festival, you can enjoy Live Stage Entertainment, hundreds of craft and food vendors, the "World's Largest FREE Fish Fry" which feeds over 4000 people, the Military Vehicle Show, Equipment Show, Classic Car Show and more! The entire event is FREE to the public.

Entertainment Chairman, Dawn Perez is pleased to announce that the Paul Bunyan International Lumberjack Show will feature Lumberjacks from all over including World Championship competitors! "We are proud to have the lumberjack show back this year and are excited about working with the Paul Bunyan group, so come on out

to the Festival and watch the sawdust fly!" Perez said.

Category Four Hurricane Idalia didn't keep us from having the most renowned event in North Florida, so nothing should keep you from joining us on Saturday, Oct. 28, at the 68th Annual Florida Forest Festival in Perry, Florida at Forest Capital State Park! Visit www.FloridaForestFestival.org for more information. The Festival Board of Directors would like to thank the Tourism Development Council for their assistance in sponsoring the Lumberjack Show.

For an amazing weekend, be sure to attend the Florida Forest Festival in Perry on Saturday, Oct. 28. The event begins at 10 a.m. Music starts at noon. The Lumberjack Show will be held at 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

FESTIVAL EVENTS

DOWNTOWN

- 5k Run 8:00 a.m.
- King Tree Parade 9:30 p.m.

FOREST CAPITAL STATE PARK

All-Day Events

- Arts & Crafts
- Heavy Equipment Exhibit
- Chainsaw, Cross Cut & Loader Competitions
- Military Vehicle Show
- Carnival

WORLD'S LARGEST FREE FISH FRY

Noon

LUMBERJACK COMPETITIONS

12:30 p.m. • 2 p.m. • 4 p.m.

68th Annual Florida Forest Festival October 28, 2023



October Schedule of Events

Saturday September 30th: Little King & Queen Pageant 6pm

Saturday October 14th: Miss FFF Queen Pageant 6pm

Wednesday October 25th - Saturday October 28th: Carnival (Any ONE day pass \$15.00)

Thursday, October 26th: Fireworks at 8:00 p.m. sharp at the Perry-Foley Airport

Friday, October 27th: Downtown Events

Kids' Fun Run 5:30pm, Kids' Parade 6:15pm and the Strut Your Mutt Contest at 6:45 pm Bed Race 7:00pm

Saturday, October 28th FESTIVAL DAY!!

Downtown Events: 8am-5k Run, King Tree Parade 9:30am

Forest Capital State Park: (ALL DAY) Arts & Crafts, Heavy Equipment Exhibit, Military Vehicle Show

12:00 Noon: World's Largest Free Fish Fry Chainsaw, Cross Cut & Loader Competitions, Carnival, Car Show

Lumberjack Shows 12:30pm, 2pm & 4pm. Entertainment 12p.m. - 5pm

FREE
 ADMISSION!



floridaforestfestival.org 850-584-TREE (8733)



Take a stroll down Scarecrow Row

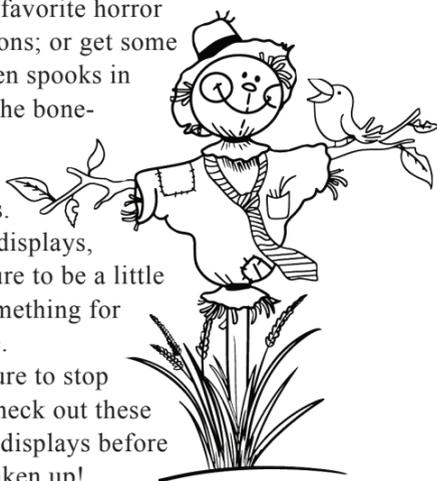
Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Welcome to Scarecrow Row! Located in Branford off of Highway 247, right in front of the Willie Veal Land Lab, is this small but creative display. Organized annually by Branford High School's Future Farmers of America, Scarecrow Row features displays put together by businesses, school clubs and community organizations. Each scarecrow was set-up with extreme attention to detail, and some even encourage passers-by to take part in their displays.

Families and visitors are encouraged to stop by and check out the hard-work and creativity of the community. Admire the cute, spray-painted hay bales; stop to see what the Pillsbury Dough Boy is cooking up; take a family photo at the Barnes Hay Farms' scarecrow photo stand-in; see your favorite horror movie icons; or get some Halloween spooks in with all the bone-tlingling

skeletons. With 42 displays, there's sure to be a little bit of something for everyone.

Be sure to stop by and check out these amazing displays before they're taken up!



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, October 18, 2023
The Branford Rotary Club aims to take viewers back to the Fourth of July with their creative Duck Race display.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, October 18, 2023
Visit Scarecrow Row to see what the Pillsbury Dough Boy is cooking up.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, October 18, 2023
Branford's 4-H is "growing young leaders" with their farmer scarecrow, complete with corn stalks, pumpkins and watermelons.



Riverbend News photo by Danny Federico, October 18, 2023
No display is complete without a little bit of Buccaneer pride.

Join the fight against hunger

Christian Peterson
reporter.riverbendnews@gmail.com

The Live Oak Fire Department (LOFD) and Ameris Bank have teamed up to help the less fortunate. As the end of the year quickly approaches, bringing with it the holiday season, many people begin to reflect on all they have to be grateful for, and the giving mood strikes. The new team up between the LOFD and Ameris Bank provides the opportunity for anyone to give to those who truly need it. In an effort to support the end world hunger initiative, the pair have begun a canned food drive. Any nonperishable canned food items can be dropped off at the fire house, located at 200 Duval St. NE, or at any Ameris Bank location in Live Oak. Donations will be accepted until Tuesday, Oct. 31.

The importance of leaving your Social Security card at home

Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

In today's digital age, safeguarding personal information has become more critical than ever. One key piece of sensitive information individuals possess is their Social Security card. While this card serves as a crucial identifier for various purposes, there are compelling reasons why leaving your Social Security card at home is a wise decision.

You prevent identity theft and fraud. One of the foremost reasons to leave your Social Security card at home is the risk of identity theft and fraud. Identity thieves often target personal identification documents, including Social Security cards, to gain unauthorized access to financial accounts, medical records and other sensitive information. Carrying your Social Security card in your wallet or purse increases the chances of it being lost or stolen, leaving you vulnerable to these malicious activities.

You minimize unauthorized access. Leaving your Social Security card at home helps reduce the risk of unauthorized access to personal data. If you misplace your card or it gets stolen, an unscrupulous individual could use your information to open new credit accounts, make purchases or even apply for government benefits under your name. Keeping your card in a secure location at home reduces the possibility of falling victim to such unauthorized activities.

You simplify routine transactions. While your Social Security number is used for various official transactions, carrying the physical card is not usually necessary. Most institutions only require you to provide the number itself, not the card. Leaving your card at

home doesn't hinder your ability to conduct everyday business, such as opening bank accounts, applying for jobs or accessing medical care. Memorizing your Social Security number can further streamline these processes.

You avoid unforeseen complications. Misplacing or losing your Social Security card can lead to unforeseen complications, such as delays in essential processes. For instance, if you're applying for a loan or a new credit card, the absence of your Social Security card could result in delays or denials. Leaving your card in a safe and secure location at home is prudent to avoid such hiccups.

You embrace digital alternatives. Many institutions are moving toward digital verification methods in today's technologically advanced world. This means you can often provide your Social Security number electronically without needing a physical card. Online portals, secure email communications and encrypted messaging platforms offer convenient and safe ways to share sensitive information, reducing the need to carry your card.

The importance of leaving your Social Security card at home cannot be overstated. Doing so protects you from the risks of identity theft, fraud and unauthorized access. Furthermore, you simplify routine transactions, avoid unforeseen complications and embrace modern technology's digital alternatives. While your Social Security card is a valuable identifier, its physical presence is not essential for most daily activities. Prioritizing the security of your personal information contributes to your peace of mind and helps safeguard your financial and personal well-being.

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43 years and still blazing trails



Photo courtesy of Mayo Womans Club

Andrew Williams stands with his art piece after winning Youth Best in Show.



Photo courtesy of Mayo Womans Club

The Best in Show Winner was painted by Christie Stanton.



Photo courtesy of the Lafayette County Chamber of Commerce
Pioneer Day Granny Betty (right) and Pappy Elvoy (left) smile after being sworn in.



Photo courtesy of Mayo Womans Club

The Youth Award for People's Choice went to Dominic Hicks who is pictured holding his artwork.

Christian Peterson
reporter.riverbendnews@gmail.com

On Saturday, Oct. 14, Lafayette County gathered together to kick off the fall season with the Chamber of Commerce's 43rd Annual Pioneer Day. The day started off at 8 a.m. with the first major event being the parade at 9 a.m. The parade featured floats from the Lafayette County Sheriff's Office, Lafayette County 4-H, Studio B and the fire department. There were also appearances from all the Miss Pioneer Day winners, Smokey the Bear, the Miss Lafayette High School winners, the Miss Lighthouse Christian Academy winners and even Congresswoman Kat Cammack. Of course, no Pioneer Day would be complete without the Granny and Pappy. This title went to Elvoy and Betty Land, who wore the customary scarf and bonnet during the parade.

After the parade, the event really kicked off. Vendors from all around the area arrived, including Lawson's Peach Shed, Pearl Candle Company, Traditions BBQ and the Taco Shack. There was also live music

throughout the day. The Lafayette High School marching band opened the day, being followed by local legends like Band of Brothers, Sadie Miller, CR 400, Southern Exposure and Jessica Heurtematte.

One of the highlights of the entire event was the art show, sponsored by the Mayo Woman's Club. The show was held in the lobby of the Lafayette State Bank and had 14 categories, including acrylic, stained glass, jewelry, crafts, sculpture and many more. The awards were decided by three judges; Adult Best in Show went to Christie Stanton, Youth Best in Show went to Andrew Williams, Pioneer Day Theme went to Holly Walker, Adult People's Choice went to Renee Shiska and Youth People's Choice went to Dominic Hicks.



Photo courtesy of Mayo Womans Club
Holly Walker, winner of the Pioneer Day Theme award, stands with her acrylic painting.



Photo courtesy of the Lafayette County Chamber of Commerce

The Miss Pioneer Day winners smile for a photo after winning. Pictured, from left to right, are: Scarlett Hamlin, Kayleigh Taylor, Antonella Lopez and Juno Guthrie.



Photo courtesy of Mayo Womans Club

Pictured is the winning art piece in People's Choice Adult, by Renee Shiska.



This is a paid service announcement

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There is no other book written by the pen of men which can exceed the poetic beauty of the Bible. Its pages are full of wondrous verses which capture the imaginations of men and testify of its true AUTHORSHIP. All of the religious books, of the world, combined, cannot match it for magnificence of expression, and are even laughable by comparison. While there is a grandeur and beauty in its pages which can be recognized by the natural man, yet none can behold the true glory of it apart from being born again by the SPIRIT of GOD. It is a book which is given for one purpose, which is to testify of the glory of HIM who has created all things according to the good pleasure of HIS will directing all events, times and actions to occur in keeping with HIS purpose to magnify the glory of HIS grace in the redemption of sinners by the blood and righteousness of JESUS CHRIST. It is very apparent that those who are the objects of HIS redemptive work are also the subjects of HIS SPIRIT's work, as HE calls them from darkness to light. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." One of the evidences of this work is a love and regard for the WORD of GOD. When it pleased the LORD, HE laid down HIS life as a SACRIFICE for sin and according to HIS own time rose again from the tomb where HE was laid three days earlier. HE ascended back to the RIGHT HAND of the FATHER from whence HE shall return at the last trump when HE shall gather HIS purchased possession which have been scattered in the earth. As the waters cover the sea, so too, does the Gospel of the Glory of the Blessed GOD, cover the earth and cannot be hindered or overturned by any power or principality. The man who is given an ear to hear will not only rejoice in sins forgiven but shall find great delight in the LORD and HIS word. Do you hear HIM?
-m.a.m.

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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 Methodist Church of Live Oak

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

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
Scott McNeely, 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 Catholic Church

928 E Howard St., US 90 E Live Oak, Fla.
(386) 364-1108
Father Pablo Fuentes
and Father Eriberto Vergara

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

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The Village Church at Advent Christian Village

Rev. Sam Worley, Pastor

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Sunday Morning Worship.....9:40 a.m.

Friendship Baptist Church

14364 140th St., Live Oak, Fla.
(386) 776-1010
Brother Marshall Faulkenberry, 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 Meeting7:00 p.m.

Pine Grove Methodist Church marks 201st anniversary with Homecoming celebration

Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

A significant milestone is approaching for Pine Grove Methodist Church as they prepare to celebrate their 201st Homecoming on Sunday, Nov. 5. This momentous occasion promises a day filled with faith, community and joy.

The Homecoming celebration will kick off with a special church service starting at 10:45 a.m. Congregants, old and new, will have the opportunity to come together to worship and reflect on the church's two centuries of history. Following the service, a luncheon will be served in the Fellowship Hall.

This event is not just a celebration of the church's longevity, but also a testament to the enduring spirit of faith and community in Live Oak. Whether you're a longtime member, a visitor or simply someone interested in being a part of this historic event, you are invited to join in on this day of celebration and praise.

Pine Grove Methodist Church is located at 5325 CR 136A, in Live Oak.

Capital City Brass Quintet to dazzle with unforgettable night of music

Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

The Capital City Brass Quintet is set to perform as part of the Friends of Music concert series on Friday, Oct. 27, at 7:30 p.m. The venue for the concert is the Covenant First Presbyterian Church, located at 421 White Ave., in Live Oak. The quintet is comprised of Madison Barton and Benjamin Dubbert on the trumpet, Cory Kirby on the French horn, Jonah Zimmerman on the trombone and Chris Bloom on the tuba.

The group will be performing a range of music written for a traditional brass quintet, as well as some popular pieces such as the "Toreador Song" from

"Carmen," an arrangement of "Simple Gifts" and "How to Train Your Dragon" from the DreamWorks movie. With a repertoire of beautiful compositions, this concert is not to be missed!

There are two more Friends of Music concerts coming up in the spring. On Friday, March 1, the Lawson String Trio will be performing with an exceptional concert pianist from Japan. Then, on Friday, April 5, the University of North Florida Chamber Singers, led by Dr. Cara Tasher, will be returning by popular demand.

All Friends of Music concerts, which begin at 7:30 p.m., are free and open to the public. A reception also follows each show.



Christian Peterson
reporter.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Suwannee Missionary Baptist Association hosts Celebration of Praise



Riverbend News photo by Lucy Golub, October 15, 2023
The crowd raises their hands as they praise God.

On the evening of Sunday, Oct. 15, the Suwannee County Coliseum was filled with songs of praise to God. The Suwannee Missionary Baptist Association sponsored the Celebration of Praise, which began at 6:30 p.m. Crowds filled the auditorium as the Celebration Choir sang "1,000 Tongues." Andy Jordan, the Missions Catalyst at Suwannee Baptist Association, then took the time to thank everyone for attending and opened the night with prayer. The Celebration Choir then took back over and sang "Christ be Magnified." Afterward, Shon Brackin, Pastor of Worship and Senior Adults at Westwood Baptist Church, then performed a few worship songs before Reverend Damon Poole read some scriptures.

Once again, the Celebration Choir took the stage for "I Stand Upon the Rock." Following their performance, a video testimony was presented by Frank and Andrea Lowry before the program was handed back to the choir, who then performed "Washed Away." Once more, a time of prayer was led by Reverend Wilbur Wood. Alan Lott, Associate Pastor of Music Worship at First Baptist Church, led more songs of worship before Jason Rountree led the attendees in more scripture reading. The choir took back over to sing "Behold Our God," before Jordan shared the Gospel with the crowd. The night was rounded out with a performance of "Way Maker."

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See you there

SUWANNEE/LAFAYETTE REA RECEIVES \$1 MILLION CHECK FOR VOLUNTEER HOURS

Danny Federico
reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Members of the Suwannee/Lafayette Retired Educators Association (REA) had their first meeting for the 2023-24 year on Monday, Sept. 18. During the meeting, they were presented with a check from the Florida Retired Educators Office and the National Retired Teachers Association in the amount of \$1,062,178.88. The check represented the value of volunteer hours that District 3, which includes Suwannee/Lafayette, Taylor, Madison and Dixie County units, had spent in their community during the previous year.



Photo courtesy of Marilyn Loges

Members of the Suwannee/Lafayette REA accepted a check of over \$1 million, which represented the value of volunteer hours District 3 spent in its community during 2022-23. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are: Laura Hodges, Marilyn Loges, Janice Mills and Carson Ealy, District 3 Director. Pictured in the middle row, from left to right, are: Sharon Chamberlain, Ann Johnson and Deb Gornoski. Pictured in the back row is Charles Blalock.



Photo courtesy of Michelana Byrd

The Hamilton County School District's CNA class took a special field trip to North Florida Regional Hospital in Gainesville on Tuesday, Oct. 3.

Hamilton youth discover career opportunities with CNA program field trip

Michelana Byrd
Contributor

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, Dawn Sims took her CNA class to an educational field trip to North Florida Regional Hospital in Gainesville, Fla. The students went on a tour of the facility and also participated in a few hands-on activities which focused on the geriatric age group. The excitement each of them had was so wonderful to see.

Numerous questions were asked because

they were very inquisitive about everything. They walked through the third floor wing, which allowed them to see empty rooms that are used for mothers and babies before and after birth. They even learned about the tuition reimbursement program that the hospital offers and many other opportunities for a bright future in health care.

The students definitely made the most out of the field trip and were very engaged in every aspect. Their tour guide/educator, Melanie Rehberg, RN, was wonderful and

made the trip even more memorable. All of the students enjoyed themselves so much and learned many different things while touring the hospital.

The CNA class is also very thankful to all of those who donated scrubs. The students love wearing them. Sims is very hopeful that the CNA program will continue to grow each year, as it is such a fantastic opportunity for youth in Hamilton County. The school district would like to thank everyone for their support of this important program.

Lafayette and Branford bands perform at the Swamp



Photo courtesy of Lafayette High School

The Lafayette High School marching band was invited to participate in Gator Band Day on Saturday, Sept. 23. The event consisted of practicing with the Gators Marching band and many other schools in the area prior to taking the field during halftime festivities inside Ben Hill Griffin Stadium at the Swamp.



Photo courtesy of Branford High School

On Saturday, Sept. 23, the Branford High School marching band traveled to Gainesville for the opportunity to play at Gator Band Day inside Ben Hill Griffin Stadium at the Swamp. The Buccaneers band got to participate with the University of Florida Marching band during the halftime festivities as the Gators hosted the University of Charlotte 49ers.

Lee Trawick
reporter2.riverbendnews@gmail.com

Each year, the University of Florida Marching Band invites several local schools to come and collaborate and perform at the Swamp in front of a home crowd of a Gators football game. The Gators marching band and high school bands from all over stretch from goal line to goal line. The overall experience is to get high

school students engaged and excited about participating in the arts.

Bringing students on campus to enjoy a day in the life of Gator Nation serves many purposes. It invites them to consider the University of Florida as a possible option for their college education, While also showing the different scholarships available to get into college.

This annual performance is a great way to

get students outside of their comfort zone and playing in front of such a large crowd, which is what college is for. College is designed to educate and push students out of their comfort zones so they can grow in knowledge and life. The University of Florida believes a day inside Ben Hill Griffin Stadium could emulate all of these experiences for students in hopes of encouraging their curiosity of pursuing music as their major if they so choose.



Photo courtesy of Behold Photography

Lafayette High School celebrated its Homecoming on Friday, Oct. 6, with the announcement of its homecoming court and Queen. Pictured, left to right, are: Tiny Miss LHS Emma Gresham and Alex Gresham; 2022 Homecoming Queen Delaney Deadwyler and LHS Prince Dallas Deadwyler; Brandon Hewett and Miss LHS Homecoming Princess Kamdyn Hewett; 2023 Homecoming Queen Sydney Wimberly and Tyler Wimberly; Miss LHS Ella Hancock and Gabe Hancock; Libby Beach and Homecoming King Hyatt Richardson; and Little Miss LHS Lexi Riley and Craig Riley.

Lafayette High School celebrates its Homecoming court



Photo courtesy of Behold Photography

Homecoming King Hyatt Richardson was escorted by Libby Beach.



Photo courtesy of Behold Photography

Little Miss LHS Lexi Riley was escorted by her father, Craig Riley.



Photo courtesy of Behold Photography

Homecoming Queen Sydney Wimberly was escorted by her father, Tyler Wimberly.



Photo courtesy of Behold Photography

Homecoming Princess Kamdyn Hewett was escorted by her Father, Brandon Hewett.



Photo courtesy of Behold Photography

Reigning 2022-23 Lafayette High School Homecoming Queen Delaney Deadwyler was escorted by 2023-24 Prince Dallas Deadwyler.



Photo courtesy of Behold Photography

Miss LHS Ella Hancock was escorted by her brother, Gabe Hancock.



Photo courtesy of Behold Photography

Tiny Miss LHS Emma Gresham was escorted by her father Alex Gresham.



Photo courtesy of Heather Croft Jackson

The LHS Class of 2026's float made sure everyone knew the Indians were "rocking to the Hornets' beat."



Photo courtesy of Heather Croft Jackson

Lafayette students rocked their way down Main Street during the Hornets' Homecoming Parade.



HORNET HOMECOMING 2023

Lafayette Hornets show grit in district volleyball tournament

Lee Trawick
reporter2.riverbendnews@gmail.com

As the Lafayette High School varsity volleyball team began the week leading up to the Class 1A District Championships, they knew they were facing an uphill battle to stay in the game. Despite their 11-6 record in the regular season, the Hornets were ranked lower than the Branford Buccaneers, Bell Bulldogs and Union County Tigers in the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) state rankings. They were well aware of the challenging obstacles that lay ahead of them.

The Hornets traveled to Branford High School on Monday, Oct. 16, to play against the Fort White Indians (5-11) in the first round of the tournament. Brooke Lamb, Havyn Richardson and Addison Folsom played a significant role in Lafayette's victory over the Indians. The Hornets dominated the game with Emma Revels's power at the net and the excellent performance of Lamb, Folsom and Richardson. The Indians lost in three straight sets - 25-13, 25-14 and 25-18. With this victory, the Hornets had set themselves up to face the Branford Buccaneers, the number one seed and host school.

The following day, the Hornets' path to the district championship became a bit clearer after the Bell Bulldogs lost to the Union County Tigers. The Bulldogs were one of two teams that stood in the Hornets' way, but now they would only have to face the Buccaneers, who had already defeated the Hornets twice in the regular season,



Havyn Richardson (right) makes a key block against the Buccaneers.

winning each match in three straight sets. As the Hornets took the court for warmups on Tuesday, Oct. 17, it was clear that Lamb was ready to lead the team. She got the Lafayette girls prepared to play, knowing they would need to put forth their best effort in order to have any chance of defeating the Buccaneers.

The Buccaneers dominated the first set of the game, establishing a 6-1 lead and intimidating the Hornets right from the start. However, Lamb and Richardson fought back and kept their team in the game with their excellent play at the net. Folsom's critical blocks helped the Hornets slow down the Buccaneers' attack, giving them some much-needed momentum. Halfway through the first set, Kiley Beach came on and made a crucial kill for Lafayette, which seemed to inspire the team's offense for the rest of the night. Unfortunately, despite their best efforts, the Hornets couldn't catch up to the Buccaneers, who held on to their

lead and won the game in an undramatic fashion.

In the second set, Lamb led her team to an early lead. Although the Buccaneers tied the score several times throughout the set, Lamb ensured they never got ahead. The Hornets' strategy in the second set was to get the ball to Richardson so that she could set up Lamb for the kill. Folsom was doing her part on defense at the net, providing multiple blocks against the powerful Buccaneers. However, as the set progressed, the Hornets' defense began to show some weaknesses. With the Buccaneers constantly putting pressure on them, Folsom did all she could, with Beach helping her at the net. Despite their best efforts, the Buccaneers were able to tie the score at 19, which forced the Hornets to play from behind. The Lafayette girls fought hard and managed to tie the game at 24, but the Buccaneers' experience ultimately won the set, 26-24.

In the third and final set,

Revels utilized her power at the net to give the Hornets an early lead of 7-2.

Richardson and Lamb continued to battle fiercely above the net. Despite the constant barrage of kills from all angles by the Branford girls, the Hornets fought hard to maintain their lead and gave it their all. Rylee Skillman and McKenzie West worked tirelessly from the back row. However, the Buccaneers kept up their onslaught and slowly closed the gap on the Hornets. Lafayette managed to hold the lead for most of the set until the Buccaneers tied the game at 15. Even though the Hornets stayed within striking distance and

managed to tie the game at 24, the Buccaneers finally closed them out and ended their season with a 26-24 victory.

Entering tournament, the Bell Bulldogs were ranked 11th in the state, compared to the Hornets' ranking of 13th. Following the tournament, FHSA unveiled its final rankings. To Lafayette's surprise, the two teams swapped places in the rankings, ultimately landing the Hornets the third seed of the playoffs on Saturday, Oct. 21. Although the Bulldogs ranked above the Aucilla Christian Warriors, the Warriors are awarded an automatic bid by being District 5 champions, ending Bell's season.

The Branford Buccaneers will remain at home throughout the regional playoffs, as they will host the Warriors on Friday, Oct. 27. Meanwhile, the Hornets will travel to Union County to take on the number two-seeded Tigers; the winner will move on to the regional finals game against the winner of the Buccaneers and Warriors game.

TROJANS' VOLLEYBALL SEASON ENDS WITH HEARTFELT BATTLE AT DISTRICTS

Lee Trawick
reporter2.riverbendnews@gmail.com

The Suwannee High School varsity volleyball team began last week by preparing for the Class 4A District 2 Championships, which were scheduled to start on Tuesday, Oct. 17. The Bulldogs (11-13) ended their regular season with two consecutive losses. They hoped the district tournament would bring them better luck. However, the Bulldogs learned the day before leaving to face the Wakulla War Eagles that they could be missing several key players due to illness. The loss of these players made the challenge of defeating the War Eagles, which had previously beaten the Bulldogs on their home court, even more daunting.

During the regular season, the Suwannee girls displayed their talent, but only in glimpses. Despite their record, Bulldog nation still had faith in their team. However, learning they would be without several key players, including dynamic freshman Jordan Chandler,

posed quite a challenge. In addition to Chandler, Emma Alcorn and seniors Cambree Poole and Ragen Chauncy's absences put all eyes on Rachel Smith, who has grown accustomed to being heavily relied on over her career.

Initially, Smith relied on her offensive game to get into the Bulldogs' lineup, but as she matured, her expectations grew. Smith realized that, for her team to have success, she had to become a true two-way volleyball player; she became comfortable playing any position on the court for her team. In this season, Smith had become that versatile player for the Bulldogs, as she was equally dangerous from the back row as she was at the net. With her arsenal of weapons, she and her team were well equipped for the formidable obstacle awaiting them on the road.

The Bulldogs, missing some of their starting players, struggled at the beginning of the match against the War Eagles. Although they initially kept their opponents away, the Wakulla girls were able to find gaps in their defense and eventually dominated the first set. The Bulldogs were unable to attack effectively due to the constant pressure from the War Eagles' offense. Consequently, Suwannee played defensively for most of the set. Wakulla won the set with a score of 25-12 in a relatively uneventful manner.

In the second set, the War Eagles picked up right where they left off despite Smith putting up a fight at the net. Although it was apparent early on that the Bulldogs were outmatched, they refused to give up. Smith tried to rally her team to keep fighting until the end, but the Suwannee girls began to show signs of exhaustion as the War Eagles took advantage of

their weaknesses. The constant pressure eventually wore down the Bulldogs, resulting in their defeat in the second set, 25-11.

The Bulldogs were fighting to save their season in the third set. Smith felt a mix of emotions as she walked onto the court for her final high school volleyball game alongside her senior teammates. Despite being exhausted and down two sets, they still felt a strong sense of pride in representing their school and refused to give up. They were determined to live up to their theme of being the "dream wreckers," even if it meant fighting until the very end. Meanwhile, the War Eagles were already looking ahead to the district championship and were surprised to find a challenging fight arise from the Bulldogs. The Suwannee girls played with pure desperation and gave it their all, making it a hard-fought battle for both teams.

During the early stages of the third set, the Bulldogs put up a good fight against the War Eagles, trying their best to keep the score in check. Seniors Erin Kirby and Kiera Hurst put in a lot of effort on the court, working hard to regain control and establish Suwannee's offense. Unfortunately, the Bulldogs were unable to keep up with the War Eagles' relentless pressure, causing them to play defensively. Sadly, Wakulla took advantage of this situation and slowly gained control of the third set, eventually winning 25-17 and closing out the match.

The Bulldogs walked off the court for the final time with an 11-14 record, knowing their seniors wanted more. Bulldog nation will bid farewell to five seniors as they played their last volleyball game. However, the remainder of Suwannee's team will regroup and return several key players for next year.





SUWANNEE HIGH SCHOOL HONORS ITS SENIORS



Photo courtesy of Tammy Johns

Kiera Hurst was honored with her family on Senior Night as a member of the Suwannee High School volleyball team.



Photo courtesy of Tammy Johns

Ragan Chauncey was escorted by her family, as she was honored on Senior Night.



Photo courtesy of Tammy Johns

Cambree Poole, escorted by her family, was honored on Senior Night.



Photo courtesy of Tammy Johns

Suwannee High School volleyball senior Rachel Smith was honored with her family on Senior Night.



Photo courtesy of Tammy Johns

Erin Kirby was escorted by her family as she was honored on Senior Night.

Bulldogs' volleyball season ends in hard-fought district match

Lee Trawick
reporter2.riverbendnews@gmail.com

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Photo courtesy of Tammy Johns

Maci Hingson battles at the net for the Bulldogs.

game alongside her senior teammates. Despite being exhausted and down two sets, they still felt a strong sense of pride in representing their school and refused to give up. They were determined to live up to their theme of being the "dream wreckers," even if it meant fighting until the very end. Meanwhile, the War Eagles were already looking ahead to the District Championship and were surprised to find a challenging fight arise from the Bulldogs. The Suwannee girls played with pure desperation and gave it their all, making it a hard-fought battle for both teams.

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SUWANNEE HIGH SCHOOL

Photos courtesy of Tammy Johns

Trojans Face Tough Defeat To Bears, 41-7

Lee Trawick
reporter2.riverbendnews@gmail.com

On Friday, Oct. 20, the Hamilton County High School football team played against the Dixie County Bears (6-2) at home. The Trojans (2-4) were hoping to snap a two-game losing streak after a tough defeat on the road, which they felt they let slip through their fingers.

During the first quarter, the Trojans struggled to get their offense going. Despite their lack of success, they were satisfied with their defense, which managed to keep the Bears at bay early on. At the end of the quarter, the score was tied at zero. However, in the second quarter, the Bears began to exploit weaknesses in the Trojans'

defense. In doing so, they managed to score two touchdowns to take a 14-0 lead at halftime.

The Trojans were hoping to make a comeback in the second half. However, the Bears appeared more dominant in the front and controlled the game, and Hamilton's senior standout, I'davious Speights. The Bears focused on Speights throughout the game, knowing he was a dangerous downhill runner; they planned to make him change his direction in the backfield.

The Bears dominated the game, adding 14 more points in the third quarter to take a comfortable lead, 28-0, into the fourth quarter. They scored 13 more points in the final quarter, resulting in a

victory of 41-7 over the Trojans. Although the Trojans managed to score a touchdown late in the fourth quarter, it was too little, too late to stage a comeback.

The Trojans have two more games left in the season, and both of them will be played on their home field. On Friday, Oct. 27, they will face the Trenton Tigers, a Class 1A school, as part of their Homecoming festivities. Then, on Friday, Nov. 3, they will host the Branford Buccaneers.

The Trojans haven't had more than two wins in a single season since 2016, when they finished with a record of 4-6. However, they still have a chance to match that record with these two upcoming home games.

Buccaneers eye playoffs after impressive win

Lee Trawick
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The Branford High School football team started the week getting ready to travel to Jacksonville to face the Hollis Christian Academy Eagles (1-5) and defend their 4-2 record. However, due to an incident at Hollis Christian Academy, the Eagles were unable to host the game and had to travel to Branford instead.

The Buccaneers were led by Austin Malaguti and Trevor Maddox, who each scored two touchdowns. In addition to their impressive offensive performance, the two seniors also made significant contributions on defense. Malaguti secured an interception, and Maddox added a safety to help the Buccaneers establish control early on. The team's victory was further solidified with a rushing touchdown made by Damien Herrera.

The Buccaneers' defense achieved their third shutout this season with a 35-0 win, bringing their record to 5-2. With only two regular-season games left, the Buccaneers are poised to host the first round of the playoffs - something they've been striving for over the last several seasons. Their goal is to progress into the second round of playoffs, which they haven't been able to do in the previous few years. However, with talents like Malaguti, Maddox and other Buccaneer stars, this team may be able to accomplish what their predecessors haven't been able to do in the last few seasons.

Hill and Williamson shine in victory over Trenton Tigers

Lee Trawick
reporter2.riverbendnews@gmail.com

The rivalry between Lafayette High School and Trenton High School is deeply ingrained, spanning across various extracurriculars, including Future Farmers of America, football and softball. The two schools are separated by only 40 miles, which means both schools' youth begin competing against each other at a young age.

On Friday, Oct. 20, the Hornets (4-3) traveled to Trenton to take on the Tigers, who had a similar record. The Lafayette boys were struggling, having lost their previous two games, while the Tigers were riding high after a 40-0 win over Bronson. For the first time since 2013, the Hornets were at risk of losing three games in a row.

The Hornets took an early 7-0 lead in the first quarter after quarterback Tywan Williamson connected with Amarie Fleming for a two-yard touchdown pass. In the second quarter, they found themselves in the Tigers' territory once again. This time, Ja'marien Ervin ran for a five-yard touchdown, extending the lead to 14-0 after the extra point.

In the second quarter, the Tigers responded with a 78-yard touchdown pass, cutting into the Hornets' lead, 14-6. The Tigers then pushed forward, racing against the clock, and managed to score from 10 yards out with only eight seconds left to halftime, bringing the score to 14-13. On a last-second desperation play, Williamson found Jordan Murphy streaking down the field for a 75-yard touchdown throw, giving the Hornets a 21-13 lead at halftime.

In the second half, Williamson threw an interception, allowing the Tigers to start their possession inside the Hornets' 20-yard-line. While it would take all four plays for them to cross the goal line, the Tigers eventually tied the game at 21 points following a one-yard touchdown run and a two-point conversion. The Tigers took the lead for the first time in the game after the Hornets' bad snap sailed over Williamson's head, which they recovered to score on the next series.

The Hornets were down 28-21 when their team captain, Jalen Hill, stepped up to take

charge. Hill had made a name for himself in his sophomore year, playing as a linebacker the last time the Hornets faced the Tigers. During that game, he had taken over the role of the team's leading interior defender, Manny Watkins, who was out due to illness. Back then, despite the anticipation of a challenging, physical game, Hill proved to be the most physical player on the field; he relentlessly attacked the Tigers' backfield all night, delivering bone-crushing hits that seemed to demoralize the team. This remarkable performance was even more impressive, considering he was only a sophomore at the time.

On Friday, Hill once again carried his team by making a significant impact and turning the game around in their favor. Despite that, the Tigers were still dominating the game. After stopping the Hornets' offense and reclaiming the ball, the Tigers were looking to extend their lead with two touchdowns. However, Hill's sharp observation skills allowed him to intercept the Tigers' offense, leading to a touchdown that Flemming scored to level the game at 28 points. Later, on the Tigers' next series, Hill demonstrated his abilities again by intercepting the ball and running 73 yards for a Hornets touchdown, giving them the lead with a score of 35-28 midway through the fourth quarter.

Although the Tigers were trailing, they were still putting up a fight. With little time left, they had managed to gain some ground with their running game and short passes, which brought them into Hornets' territory. The Tigers' quarterback noticed a one-on-one matchup between his go-to receiver and Williamson, which he believed his receiver could win. As the quarterback dropped back, he saw that his receiver had created separation from Williamson and threw the ball toward the end zone. However, Williamson managed to close the gap and jump up for another interception.

Williamson's interception sealed the win for the Hornets, snapping their two-game losing streak with a 35-28 victory. He went 8-17 passing with 203 yards and three touchdowns. Hill contributed 12 tackles, two interceptions and one touchdown to finish the night.

Next, the Hornets will play at Dale Walker Field in Mayo on Friday, Oct. 27, against the Jefferson County Tigers (0-8) at 7:30 p.m.

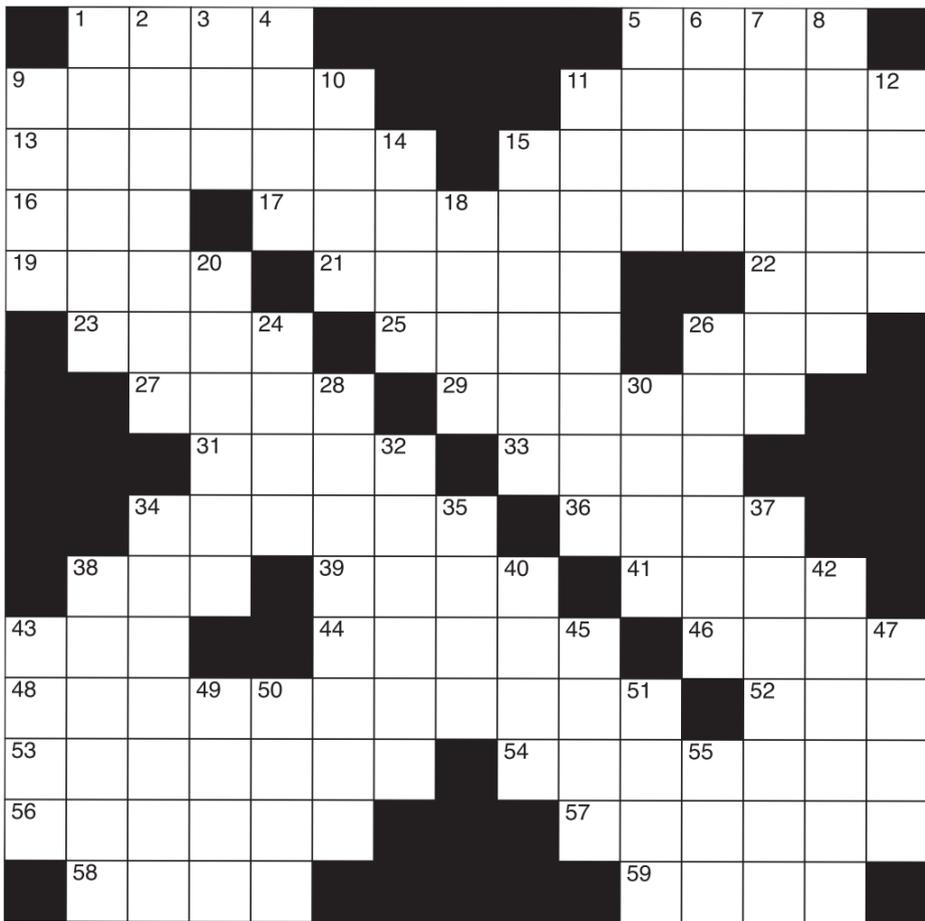


Riverbend News photo by Lee Trawick, August 3, 2023
Jalen Hill, the Hornets' captain, led his team against the Trenton Tigers with 12 tackles, two interceptions and one touchdown.

Puzzle

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS



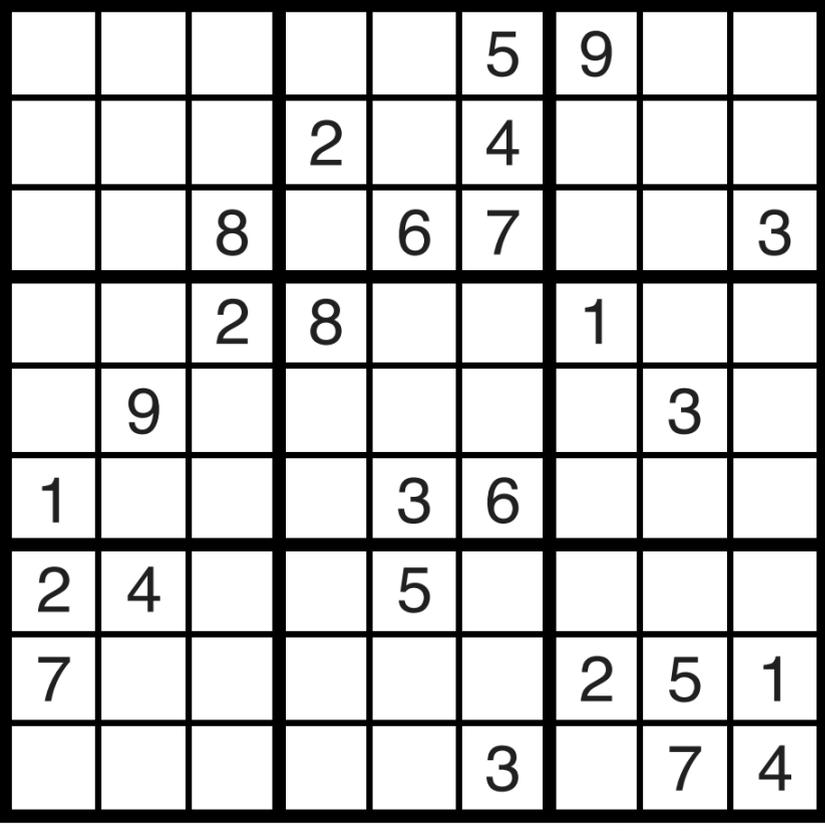
- 1. Male children
- 5. Robert Wagner series "Hart to ___"
- 9. Unfolded
- 11. Digestive disease
- 13. Wednesday
- 15. Malignant tumor
- 16. Conscientious investment strategy (abbr.)
- 17. Slowed
- 19. Letter of the Semitic abjads
- 21. Weights of cars without fuel
- 22. Former CIA
- 23. Asian country
- 25. Instead
- 26. Ancient Egyptian King
- 27. Privies
- 29. Shopping trips
- 31. Paradoxical anecdote
- 33. It's on the table
- 34. Ancient Persia ruler
- 36. Small American rail
- 38. File extension
- 39. Days (Spanish)
- 41. Everyone has one
- 43. South American plant
- 44. About ilium
- 46. Vanished American hoopster
- 48. A type of breakfast
- 52. Uncooked
- 53. Examined
- 54. Christian recluse
- 56. Strong posts
- 57. Some are for pasta
- 58. Skinny
- 59. School-based organizations

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Ringlet
- 2. Type of complex
- 3. Midway between north and northwest
- 4. It becomes something bigger
- 5. German courtesy title
- 6. Genus of birds
- 7. Marked by public disorder
- 8. Least aggressive
- 9. Russian city
- 10. Insect repellent
- 11. Interruptions
- 12. Scoundrels
- 14. 1,000 calories
- 15. What one does overnight
- 18. Dwarf planet
- 20. Pipe
- 24. Black powdery substance
- 26. Set of four
- 28. Canned fishes
- 30. North Carolina college
- 32. Secured
- 34. A disgraceful event
- 35. Physical suffering
- 37. The home of the free
- 38. Some are boys
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Makes very happy
- 43. South American plants
- 45. Modes of transportation
- 47. Female sheep
- 49. Type of torch
- 50. Piece of merchandise
- 51. Jump over
- 55. Wife of Amun



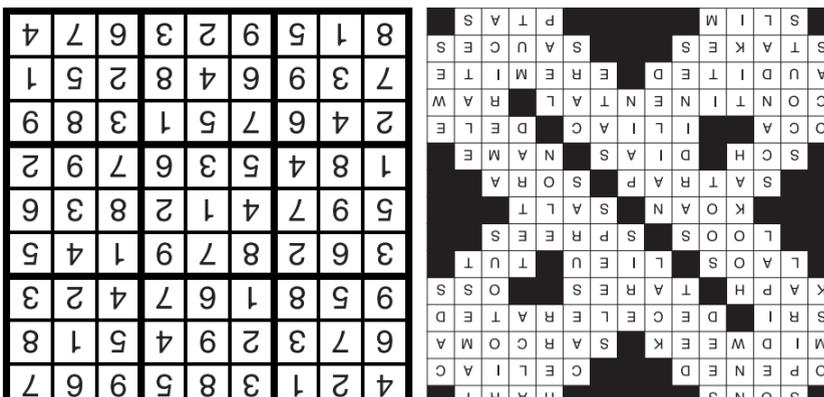
Sudoku



Level: Advanced

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

Solutions ✓



KID'S CORNER



Draw your Halloween costume in the frame above!



CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

EMPLOYMENT

NOTICE OF INTENDED EMPLOYMENT

Hamilton County gives notice of intent to fill three (3) available positions with Hamilton County Road Department: **Maintenance Position(s)** (40 hours per week) **Salary Range: \$15.00 per hour**
QUALIFICATIONS: Be willing and able to perform maintenance jobs as directed by the Hamilton County Road Superintendent. Applicant must be able to pass a drug screening. **Submit applications to:** Hamilton County Road Department 1623 Martin Luther King Drive Jasper, FL 32052 **Closing Date: UNTIL POSITION(S) ARE FILLED**
 Hamilton County is a Drug Free Workplace and an Equal Opportunity Employer. Veteran's preference will apply, in accordance with Section 295.07 Florida Statutes.

10/18, 10/25

EMPLOYMENT

OUTSIDE ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Our newspaper office is seeking an outstanding individual to join or sales team. Do you possess a sunny, friendly attitude? Can you talk with customers easily and help them feel at home? Do you have a good personality and LOVE to meet new people? If you are a team player, able to handle multiple tasks, have a friendly can-do attitude, a great work ethic, are organized, and self-motivated then this job might be just for you. Must have valid driver's license and dependable vehicle. Apply in person only at Riverbend News, located at 113 Duval St. NW, Live Oak or email your resume to: bookkeeper@riverbendnews.org or call to set up an interview (386)364-4141

10/25

FLORIDA PRESS SERVICES, INC. STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED PROGRAM STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR 10/23/2023 THROUGH 10/31/2023

Medical

Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drug store prices! 50 Pill Special-Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 866-259-6816

Home Improvement/Service

UPDATE YOUR HOME with Beautiful New Blinds & Shades. FREE in-home estimates make it convenient to shop from home. Professional installation. Top quality - Made in the USA. Call for free consultation: 866-636-1910. Ask about our specials!

Home Improvement/Service

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS! If you have water damage to your home and need cleanup services, call us! We'll get in and work with your insurance agency to get your home repaired and your life back to normal ASAP! Call 877-712-2609

Home Improvement/Service

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call Empire Today® to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 855-919-2509

Other

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to fund the SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. FAST FREE PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 866-471-2576

Home Improvement/Service

Leading smart home provider Vivint Smart Home has an offer just for you. Call 833-303-0851 to get a professionally installed home security system with \$0 activation.

Medical

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 844-958-2473.

Home Improvement/Service

PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Pest, rodent, termite and mosquito control. Call for a quote or inspection today 888-498-0446

Travel/Miscellaneous

DISCOUNT AIR TRAVEL. Call Flight Services for best pricing on domestic & international flights inside and from the US. Serving United, Delta, American & Southwest and many more airlines. Call for free quote now! Have travel dates ready! 866-245-7709

Home Improvement/Service

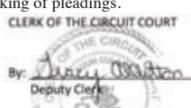
BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 888-460-2264

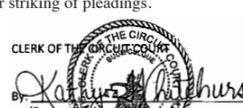
Obituaries and Funeral Notices:

\$75 up to 400 words (includes 1 photo)

If you have any questions,

please call (386) 364-4141 or email reporter3.riverbendnews@gmail.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Case No.: 61-2023-DR-192
 Division: Civil
 VERNA LYNETTE WHITE, Petitioner,
 and
 GREGORY MICHAEL WHITE, Respondent,
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (NO CHILD OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT)
 TO: GREGORY WHITE, 7829 S.E. 77TH LANE, TRENTON, FL, 32693
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for dissolution of marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on VERNA LYNETTE WHITE, whose address is 7733 216TH ST., O'BRIEN, FL, 32071 on or before {date} 10/18/23, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 200 SOUTH OAK AVE., LIVE OAK, FL 32064 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. **If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.**
 The action is asking the court to decide how the following real or personal property should be divided: NONE
 Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.
 You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the address(es) on record at the clerk's office.
 WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
 Dated: 10/13/2023

 10/18, 10/25, 11/01, 11/08

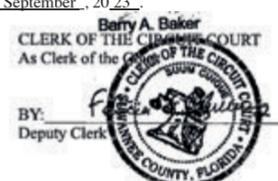
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
 IN RE: MARRIAGE OF: CASE NO.2022-DR-332
 GLORIA EUGENIA MORENO Petitioner/WIFE
 and
 ARTURO MARTINEZ SANCHEZ Respondent/HUSBAND.
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH MINOR CHILDREN
 TO: ARTURO MARTINEZ SANCHEZ, 22864 41st DR, LAKE CITY, FL 32024
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Dissolution of Marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Gloria Moreno, C/O Elizabeth R. Brinson, Esq. whose address is 100 Court St. SE, Suite 204, Live Oak, FL 32064 on or before June 23, 2023 and file the original with the clerk of this Court at Suwannee County Clerk or Court, 200 S. Ohio Ave. Live Oak, FL 32064 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.
 Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.
 You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.
 WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
 Dated: 6-22-2023

 10/04, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
 IN RE: ESTATE OF
 ANTHONY MICHAEL BRZEZINSKI Deceased. File No. 23000174CPMXAX
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of ANTHONY MICHAEL BRZEZINSKI, deceased, whose date of death was April 22, 2022; File Number 23000174CPMXAX, is pending in the Circuit Court for Suwannee County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Suwannee County Courthouse, Live Oak, FL 32060. 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 WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
 All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
 ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
 NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD 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: October 25, 2023.
 Derek B. Alvarez, Esquire - FBN: 114278 DBA@GendersAlvarez.com
 Anthony F. Diecidue, Esquire - FBN: 146528 AFD@GendersAlvarez.com
 Whitney C. Miranda, Esquire - FBN 65928 WCM@GendersAlvarez.com
 GENDERS ♦ ALVAREZ ♦ DIECIDUE, P.A.
 2307 West Cleveland Street
 Tampa, Florida 33609
 Phone: (813) 254-4744 Fax: (813) 254-5222
Eservice for all attorneys listed above:
GADeservice@GendersAlvarez.com
 CARALEE T. BRZEZINSKI
 Personal Representative
 2716 Mock Orange Court
 Valrico, FL 33594
 10/25, 11/01

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR INVITATION TO BID:
ITB-04-2023 MANOR-LONG SIDEWALK, LIVE OAK FL
 Sealed bids will be accepted by the City of Live Oak, 101 SE White Ave, Live Oak, FL 32064 until Thursday, January 4, 2023 at 3:00 PM local time for MANOR-LONG SIDEWALK. Bid Documents may be requested by contacting Doris McCurry via e-mail at dmccurry@cityofliveoak.org.
 10/25

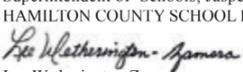
REQUEST FOR BIDS
 The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting bids for fence repair or fence replacement at the Recreation Department. The site is located at 4525 SW 107th Avenue, Jasper, FL 32052. The site is easily accessible.
SCOPE OF WORK:
 The fence repair or fence replacement will include the barrier fence, slide gates, walk-thru gates, baseball backstops, ballfield fencing, playground fencing and pond fencing.
 Hamilton County vendors realize a 5% preference over non county vendors.
 Questions concerning this bid or scope of work should be addressed to Hamilton County Recreation Director Chuck Burnett at Ph. (386) 792-3833 or (386) 303-1145 or email: recreation@windstream.net. A mandatory pre-bid conference will be conducted at the site at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2023.
 You may file your bid in the office of the Clerk of Circuit Court, Room 106, Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida, any time before 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 9, 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 TRIPPLICATE, SEALED AND MARKED: "RECREATION FENCING"
 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 its best judgment will be for the best interest of Hamilton County.
 "A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building, or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017, Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY TWO for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list."
 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
 207 NORTHEAST FIRST STREET, JASPER, FLORIDA 32052
 10/25, 11/01

Suwannee Cty Bd of Commissioners is accepting applications for
Commercial Truck Driver I • Custodian
EMT/Fighter & Paramedic/Firefighter • Grader Op
Library Aide & Aide II • Library Extended Service Manager
Maintenance Tech I • Operations Manager • Park Attendant • Tractor Operator
Park Maintenance Worker I • Recreation Aide • 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
 10/18, 10/25

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION
 DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR ACE SECURITIES CORP. CASE NO.: 23-CA-185
 MANUFACTURED HOUSING TRUST, SERIES 2003-MH1, ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES BY DITECH FINANCIAL LLC Plaintiff(s),
 vs.
 SHARON HOPE M YANELLI; ORREN J WINJUM; RHONDA LIPHART; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF BILLIE J LIPHART AKA BILLY JEAN LIPHART, DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS;
 THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF RONALD L LIPHART AKA RONALD LAVERNE LIPHART, DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS;
 THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ORREN J. WINJUM; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SHARON HOPE M. YANELLI; WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. F/K/A WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL BANK Defendant(s).
NOTICE OF ACTION
 TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF BILLIE J LIPHART AKA BILLY JEAN LIPHART, DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: UNKNOWN
CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN
 TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF RONALD L LIPHART AKA RONALD LAVERNE LIPHART, DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: UNKNOWN
CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a civil action has been filed against you in the Circuit Court of Suwannee County, Florida, to foreclose certain real property described as follows:
For a Point of Reference commence at the NW corner of Section 36, Township 2 South, Range 11 East, Suwannee County, Florida; thence run N 89°17'27" E, along the Section line a distance of 525.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence run S 00°49'44" E, a distance of 840.00 feet; thence run N 89°17'27" E, a distance of 402.53 feet; thence run N 00°49'26" W, a distance of 840.00 feet to the Section line; thence run S 89°17'27" W along the Section line a distance of 402.60 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.
SUBJECT TO: County road along the North end, RVR109-D, Mobile Home Serial Number(s):11435677.
Property address: 20750 96th Street, Live Oak, FL 32060
 You are required to file a written response with the Court and serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Padgett Law Group, whose address is 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee, FL 32312, at least thirty (30) days from the date of first publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
DATED this the 19 day of September, 2023.

 10/11, 10/18, 10/25, 11/01

NOTICE OF HEARING
 The Hamilton County School Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. The hearing will begin at 5:55 p.m. and will be conducted in the Boardroom of the Hamilton County Elementary School located at, 5686 US Highway 129 South, Suite 1: Jasper, Florida.
 The purpose of the hearing is to consider addition(s) and changes to the following school board policies:

| Policy Number | Name | Change |
|---------------|--|---------|
| 3.06 | Safe and Secure Schools | Revised |
| 4.12 | Instructional Materials Selection | Revised |
| 4.13 | Educational Media Materials Selection | Revised |
| 5.13 | Zero Tolerance for School Related Crimes | Revised |
| 5.15 | Administration of Medication | Revised |
| 5.19 | Student Records | Revised |
| 8.04 | Emergency Drills | Revised |

 Reason for change: various
 Authority: 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.
 Estimated economic impact: minimum.
 A complete copy of these rules are available for review at the office of the Superintendent of Schools; Jasper, Florida.
 HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

 Lee Wetherington-Zamora
 Superintendent
 If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board, with respect to any matter considered at this hearing, that person will need a record of the proceedings; and for such purpose that person 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.
 10/25, 11/01

PUBLIC NOTICES CONTINUED



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NOTICE OF FINAL AGENCY ACTION TAKEN BY THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the Suwannee River Water Management District has issued Water Use Permit Number 216465-8 authorizing the withdrawal of 1.1800 million gallons per day of groundwater for agricultural use to Southern Cross Dairy, LLC, 20078 137th Road, O'Brien, FL 32071. The project is located in Section 33, Township 4S, Range 13E and Section 4, Township 5S, Range 13E in Suwannee County. Files pertaining to the project referred above is available for inspection at: <https://permitting.srwmwd.com/srepermitting/isp/start.jsp>

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

A person whose substantial interests are or may be affected has the right to request an administrative hearing by filing a written petition with the Suwannee River Water Management District (District). Pursuant to Chapter 28-106 and Rule 40B-1.1010, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the petition must be filed (received) either by delivery at the office of the Resource Management Business Resource Specialist at District Headquarters, 9225 CR 49, Live Oak FL 32060 or by e-mail to tjm@srwmwd.org, within twenty-one (21) days of newspaper publication of the notice of final agency action (for those persons to whom the District does not mail or email actual notice). A petition must comply with Sections 120.54(5)(b)4. and 120.569(2)(c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 28106, F.A.C. The District will not accept a petition sent by facsimile (fax). Mediation pursuant to Section 120.573, F.S., is not available.

A petition for an administrative hearing is deemed filed upon receipt of the complete petition by the District Clerk at the District Headquarters in Live Oak, FL during the District's regular business hours. The District's regular business hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., excluding weekends and District holidays. Petitions received by the District Clerk after the District's regular business hours shall be deemed filed as of 8 a.m. on the next regular District business day.

The right to an administrative hearing and the relevant procedures to be followed are governed by Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code, and Rule 40B-1.1010, Florida Administrative Code. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means the District's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice. Failure to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the requisite time frame shall constitute a waiver of the right to an administrative hearing. (Rule 28-106.111, F.A.C.)

If you wish to do so, you may request the Notice of Rights for this permit by contacting the Business Resource Specialist in the Division of Resource Management (RM), 9225 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060, or by phone at 386.362.1001. 10/25

STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT INVITATION TO BID

Issuing Agency: Department of Military Affairs
Project Number and Name: 221015 Live Oak ESP
Project Location: 1416 11th Street SW, Live Oak, FL

Statement of Work: All work will be in accordance with plans and specifications developed by the designer of record, MLD Architects, LLC, Tallahassee, FL. The work includes demolition of existing latrine interior wall and floor tile, building ceiling tiles, and mechanical and lighting systems. Renovation work includes new interior walls finishes, reconfiguration of mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems. The work also includes removal of the existing roofing and flashing systems and insulations, where indicated, and installing the indicated new roofing and flashing systems to provide a manufacturer's minimum 25-year warranty. The project will be bid with a base plus three alternate bid items (ABI). Estimated Construction Cost range: \$2,400,000 - \$2,500,000

Type of Contractor: General/Building
Date of Vendor Information Portal (VIP) Posting: October 25, 2023
Site Visit Date: As stated on the Vendor Information Portal
Bid Opening Date: As stated on the Vendor Information Portal (late bids will not be accepted)
Point Of Contact: Department of Military Affairs, CFMO Contract Management Office at (904)823-0285 or e-mail ng.fl.flarmg.list.cfmo-contracting@army.mil

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS PLEASE REFER TO THE MYFLORIDA.COM VENDOR INFORMATION PORTAL AT: <https://vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com> 10/25

NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

A RULE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP REGARDING THE BELOW RULES WILL BE HELD AT THE FOLLOWING DATE, TIME, AND PLACE:

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: School Board Meeting Room
1740 Ohio Avenue, South
Live Oak, FL 32064

| Policy # | Policy Title | Subject Area | Purpose & Effect | Rulemaking Authority | Law(s) Implemented |
|----------|---|--|---|--|--|
| 3.06 | Safe and Secure Schools | The policy revision changes threat assessment to threat management based on new state language. | Revisions to this policy updates threat assessment language to threat management. The revision also adds the District Threat Management Coordinator (DTMC). | 1001.41, 1001.42, 1006.07, 1003.32, F.S. | 381.0056, F.S. 6A-10.086 553.865, F.S. |
| 3.13 | School Volunteers | This policy revision adds the Level II screening requirement. | The purpose of this revision is to update school volunteers screening requirements. | 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S. | 110.504(4), (5), 440.02(15)(d) 6, 768.28, 943.04351, 1001.43, 1012.01, Rule 6A-1.070 |
| 3.22 | Internet Safety | This new policy further defines acceptable internet safety for employees and students. | The purpose for the new policy is to provide guidelines for appropriate internet use through the District's network and safety protocols that prevent the inadvertent release of confidential information. | 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S. | 1001.02, 1003.02 F.S., Rule 6A-1.0957, 6A-1.0955 |
| 4.12 | Instructional Materials Selection | This policy revision redefines the appeals committee and adds rules for challenged materials. | The purpose of the revision is for clarification for who may participate on the appeals committee and the rules for challenged materials for a required course. The revision also addresses parental requests for Special Magistrate and presentations before the School Board. | 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S. | 1001.43; 1006.28, 1006.29(5); 1006.31, 1006.32, 1006.40 F.S. |
| 4.13 | Educational Media Materials Selection | This policy revision addresses the process for limiting access to a school or classroom library. | This policy revision requires the School Board adoption of the process for a parent to limit access for their student in the school or classroom library. | 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S. | 1000.21, 1001.43; 1006.28; 1006.34(2) (b); 1006.40 F.S. |
| 4.26 | Artificial Intelligence (AI) Acceptable Use | This new policy describes acceptable use of AI. | This new policy describes the acceptable use of AI for District employees and students. | 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S. | 1001.02, 1003.02, F.S. 6A-1.0957, 6A-1.0955 |
| 4.27 | Operation of UAV(Drones) | This new policy covers the use of UAV (Drones). | This new policy outlines drone qualification and operation guidelines and acceptable use for District employees and students. | 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S. | 330.41, 934.50 F.S. Title 49 U.S.C §840101, 40102 and 40103 14 C.F.R § 1.1, FAAAC 91-57A, FHSA guideline handbook |
| 5.13 | Zero Tolerance | This policy revision addresses disciplinary presumptions for students. | This policy revision addresses rebuttal presumptions for students who intervene for the defense of others. | 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S. | 120.57(1); 775.08, 784.081, 790.162, 790.163, 985.04, 1003.31, 1003.42, 1006.07, 1006.08, 1006.09, 1006.13, 1006.135, 1006.14, 1012.28, F.S. SBR 6A-6.03311 |
| 5.15 | Administration of Medication | This policy revision allows for students to possess over-the-counter medication for headaches. | This policy revision allows for students to possess over-the-counter medication for headaches without a physician note or prescription. | 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S. | 1001.21, 1001.43, 1002.20, 1002.22, 1006.062, F.S. SBR 64F-6.004 |
| 5.19 | Student Records | This policy revision updates language and records transfer requirements. | This policy revision updates threat assessment language and records transfer requirements. | 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S. | 119.07(1); 119.071; 1001.43; 1001.52; 1002.22; 1002.22.1; 1002.22.2; 1002.72; 1003.25; 1008.386; 1014, et. Seq., F.S.; F.A.C. 6A-1.0955; 20 USC § 1232g (34 CFR PART 99) P.L. 103-382 (34 CFR PART 99), P.L. 103-382 (34 CFR PAR 99); 20 USC 1400 et. seq., IDEA P.L. 90-247 |
| 5.40 | Children of Military Families | This policy revision adds updated language for academic programs. | This policy revision requires children of active duty military personnel meeting eligibility criteria for special academic programs must be enrolled in such program or transferred to the state during the school year. | 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S. | 1000.36, 1001.43, 1003.05, F.S. |
| 6.216 | Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROF) | This policy revision changes DROF from 60 to 96 months. | This policy revision changes DROF from 60 to 96 months, and provides DROF extension for additional 24 months for statutorily defined instructional personnel. | 1001.41, 1012.01, 1012.22, 1012.23 F.S. | 121.091, 1001.43, F.S. |
| 6.39 | Report of Misconduct | This policy revision adds Law Enforcement (LE) notification requirements. | This policy revision adds requirement for LE to notify the District school superintendent when its employee is arrested for a felony or a misdemeanor involving the abuse of a minor child or the sale or possession of a controlled substance. | 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S. | 39.203, 112.313, 119.071, 768.095, 1001.42, 1006.061 1012.01, 1012.22, 1012.27, 1012.795, 1012.796, 1012.797 F.S. |
| 8.04 | Emergency Drills | This policy revision adds updated language for emergency drills. | This policy revision establishes the required number of emergency drills that must be conducted every school year and addresses the availability of rules relating to emergency drills at each school site. | 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S. | 404.056, 1001.43, 1013.12, F.S. |

For information regarding these proposed rule developments and to obtain a copy (at no charge) of any available preliminary draft, please contact: Malcolm Hines, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, at email malcolm.hines@suwannee.k12.fl.us; phone 386-647-4610. 10/25

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