

Jackson County News Bits

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Jackson County offers many forms of vacation fun:
- Historical Sites
- Biking
- Swimming
- Camping
- Cavern's Park
- Citizen's Lodge & Trails
- Horseback Riding
- Oldest Church in Florida
- Spring Creek
- World Class Rodeo

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Discarded Animals New Water Lines	2
Identity Theft	2
Recreation Around Town Recycle for Money	3
A World of Adventure	3
Breaking Ground Is Zaxby's Coming?	4/5
New Hire Meeting Storm Preparedness	4/5
Your Commissioners Catastrophic Illness	6

BUTTERFLY PROGRAM ON TAP

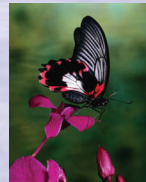
Dr. Richard Sprenkel, Interim Director of the North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy, will present a program "All About Butterflies". It was through the efforts of the Jackson County Extension Service and Master Gardeners that this event was made possible..

The program will explain the biology of butterflies, as well as teach some characteristics to identify the different species and provide information on designing a butterfly garden.



Professor Sprenkel is the Interim Director of the University of Florida's Research and Education Center in Quincy. He received his

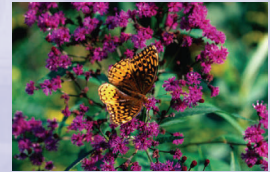
Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Illinois and has been implementing pest management practices and programs in north Florida. This includes cooperating with county extension personnel to provide training in integrated control practices for weeds, plant diseases, insects, nematodes, mites and other pests.



As you can see, Dr. Sprenkel comes to us well educated and highly qualified in the field of insects. If you ever wanted to know "All About Butterflies", this is definitely the class to attend.

Mark your calendar for 6:30 pm the evening of March 13, 2007

and come to the Jackson County Extension Conference Room, 2741 Pennsylvania Avenue, Marianna.



Cost will be \$5.00 per person. Refreshments and educational materials will be provided.

Space is limited, so please call the extension office, 482-9620, by Friday March 9th, to register or for further information.



ROAD DEPARTMENT COMPLETES CDBG ROADS

Ten roads around Jackson County have gotten a new facelift thanks to Community Development Block Grants.

Over the past six months or so, Avery, Bolivia, Caddy, Carpenter Cemetery, Clearmont, Coastal, Deer Lane, Kenya, and Pope

Chapel Roads have been paved.

The work remained steady, despite rain and unexpected equipment failures. However, the men and women of the Jackson County Road Department worked tirelessly to get the job done regardless.

Re-surfacing is currently taking

place on Gulf Power Road under a FDOT SCRAP grant, and Smokey Road in the Northwest corner of Jackson County will be resurfaced beginning in March under the FDOT SCOP program..



FINDING HOMES FOR DISCARDED ANIMALS

It is no wonder Jackson County's two animal control officers were chosen Employee's of the month for January and February 2007.

Darlene Farren and Kim Weston share a love for animals that goes far beyond the call of duty.

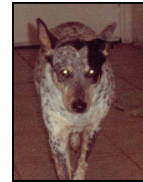
They know the situations they face can be "tense" at times to say the least, but

their main objective is to locate homes for these animals who have been abused, neglected, or just plain dumped off. These two ladies go above and beyond to accomplish this task.

In some cases, but not very many, animals are received due to an owner's unfortunate health situation, or death of the animals owner.

It is nearly impossible to place a dog that has been one person companion for many years, as they are protective of their home and feel anyone trying to move them is a threat to that domain.

Spaying or neutering your pet is the most loving act an owner can do. This will keep the animal from roaming, and they tend to be more affectionate pets.



For more information about animal adoption call:

718-0021

Don't forget to ask about the spay/neuter grants available from Jackson County when you adopt from the Animal Control Shelter!

*Use Extreme
Caution
When
Driving In
or Around a
Construction
Site!*

WATER LINE AFFORDS FIRE PROTECTION

A new water line is being placed on Panhandle Road heading North from Marianna Provisions to the intersection of Pelt Street., then West on Pelt Street to Highway 71.

The new water line will enable better fire protection for the residents in these areas, as well as contribute to the water needs of the new Emergency Management Building and

Operations Center which is expected to be completed by early 2008. The new Emergency Management Building is being funded by a grant from FEMA.

Whenever you are in the vicinity of construction, drive with extra caution. Not only are the fines increased for speeding in these zones, your personal safety is on the line.



IDENTITY THEFT ON THE RISE

Victims of identity theft are finding out that no matter how careful you are, there is still someone out there one step ahead, trying to take what is not theirs. When a person has their identity stolen, they feel as violated as if someone has entered their home and took every possession they own.

There are many ways a thief gains possession of your information, from noting your credit card numbers when you pay at a restaurant, or "Accidentally" forgetting to give you back your ID when you write a check.

Unfortunately, anytime you check into a hospital or apply for a car loan, et cetera, you are vulnerable to identity theft. After all, one has to give their social security number to run a credit history.

Recently a woman from Bay County, whom worked at a local hospital in medical records, used patients identification from their records to apply for, and obtain credit cards fraudulently. By charging to the max on these cards and not paying what was owed the woman has caused the victims credit report to plummet!

Although a victim can get their report straightened out, it takes time, and lots of it. You have to file a police report, contact the credit agencies and put a freeze on your name at all three major credit reporting agencies.

It requires a lot of patience and diligence, but it is well worth it in the end.

Whatever you do, NEVER, EVER give out any information no the telephone about yourself. If a

called ask you to confirm information, ask them to tell you what they have and you can verify if that is correct. If not, simply say you have the wrong person, and hang up. When using an internet site to pay for a purchase, make sure it is secure by checking the address bar at the top, there should resemble this <https://www.paypal.com>. Note the s after http, this means the site is secure. There might also be a little padlock on the bottom toolbar of your screen for those that have that option on their computer.

The key is be alert! Pay attention to what is going on around you when shopping, et cetera. Don't become the next victim!

Set clocks up one hour—
Sunday March 11th.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Things aren't always what they seem.....



Parks and Recreation Director, Chuck Hatcher, has been extremely busy these days preparing the many recreational facilities for opening in the Spring to Jackson County Residents and visitors alike.

A few new items that will be enjoyed are a paved nature trail at the Citizens Lodge. In addition, there have been new handicapped accessible bathrooms added on, and lots of landscape that will be pleasing to the eye. Blue Springs Park will open on Memorial Day as usual and stay open until Labor Day. Admission will be \$2.00 per person, with

paddle boat, tubes, volley balls, et cetera for rent at a nominal fee. Cave diving is available year-round, but you must check in with the Sheriff's Office prior to diving.

Spring Creek is another hot spot for visitors and homefolks alike, located on the Millpond just off Highway 90. There are canoe and kayak launching areas and picnic areas. However, the only containers allowed are those similar to Tupperware® or Rubbermade®. No disposable containers are allowed, at all!

RECYCLING MEANS MONEY!



All those cans of soda you drink and toss in the garbage, are costing you money in a ways you don't realize.

Jackson County Recycling pays .50 cents a pound for aluminum, and it is as easy as taking aluminum to the Recycling Center at: 3530 Wiley Drive (at Municipal Airport Complex), Monday—Friday: 8:00 AM—1:30 PM.

- ⇒ Did you know that in a lifetime, the average adult will through at least their weight away in garbage?
- ⇒ Americans throw away enough aluminum in three months time, that we could rebuild our airline fleet!
- ⇒ We use over 80,000,000 aluminum pop cans each month

Think about this:

Americans use two and one-half million plastic bottles *every hour!*

Five 2 liter soda bottles can be recycled to make one square foot of carpet!

It takes 17 average size trees to make one ton of paper. Americans use 85,000,000 tons of paper each year. That is roughly 680 pounds per person in America.

Making one ton of recycled paper uses only 60% of the energy needed to make one ton of virgin paper.



Electronic Mail Saves Postage and Paper!

Did you know that the World's

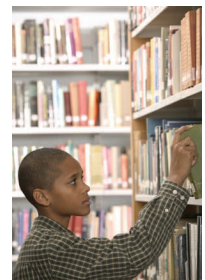
Record Shell cracker was caught out of Merritt's Mill Pond here in Jackson County?

A World of Adventure Awaits

There is a way one can sky-dive, visit Mt. Everest, travel down the mighty Mississippi, see the Grand Canyon and Painted Desert, and even ride across Denali National Forest; without ever leaving their most comfortable chair. That's right, it is possible. All you have to do is open and book and let your imagination go wild! The Jackson County Public Library offers reading material for every age, and for

any genre one is looking for. In addition to print materials, patrons of the library can check out audiovisual materials, tapes, film strips, videos, and the equipment needed to use these items. The Jackson County Public Library also has Internet Access for those patrons signed up to take part in the program. The Library offers a vast amount of children's programs, and reading programs

to help accelerate school age children's progress. When a child says they are bored, there is no better place to take them than your public library. Stop by today and check out what is available. Hours of operation are: **Marianna:** Mon—Thurs 9-8; Friday 9-6; Saturday 9-3. **Graceville:** 9:30—6:30, closing for lunch 1-2 each day. Friday and Saturday 8:30—5:30, closing for lunch from 1-2.



The Learning Center
2925 B Optimist Drive
Monday—Friday 9-6
Saturday—9-Noon

(Article from the Jackson County Floridan)

Breaking ground on a ground-breaking project

By KATE McCARDELL

Jackson County Floridan February 28, 2007

COTTONDALE - Filling three buses Tuesday, a group of about 200 people were convoyed to a 223-acre parcel of land. They came to see the ground-breaking ceremony for the world's largest biomass pellet plant, belonging to Green Circle Bio Energy Inc.

Green Circle representatives, Jackson County Commissioner Chuck Lockey, Gov. Charlie Crist's chief analyst of economic development programs, Mary Helen Blakesley, and Jackson County Development Council's Bill Stanton shoveled dirt where the plant will eventually sit. Then the crowd was escorted to the Jackson County Agriculture Center for a banquet.

"Governor Crist is very pleased with the project and very enthusiastic about it, as is his whole staff," said Blakesley, "This is wonderful not only for Jackson County, but for the entire region."

The plant is expected to have a positive economic impact throughout the Panhandle, invigorating the region's foresting industry, and having a ripple effect on trucking, shipping and other industries.

"This will be a shot in the arm for several industries," said Lockey.

Lockey noted that many counties will feel a positive impact from the plant and that Panama City will also benefit, with Port Panama City serving as the plant's shipping point to Scandinavian countries.

The pellet plant will be the biggest taxpayer in Jackson County. The Jackson County School District is expected to gain \$1.945 million over the next 10 years in revenue from the plant.

Considered the world's largest biomass pellet plant based on its production capacity, the plant holds a production capacity of 500,000 tons per year - equivalent to an energy volume of about 1.6 million barrels of crude oil.

It will make one third of the wood pellets that are produced in the 60 pellet plants in North America, according to Sven Lessman of Buhler Inc.

Buhler Inc. is responsible for supplying the "heart" of the plant, the wood pelleting equipment. The company employs about 6,500 people who design the machines and has been in the biomass pellet business since 1996.

"There'll be 13 pellet machines and 13 for grinding. It only takes one man to run 13 machines. They're fully automated, making it easy for the plant to control quality," said Lessman.

While the U.S. will produce about 1.3 million metric tons of biomass pellets, none will be used state-side. The pellets are shipped overseas to be used in a 80/20 percent coal/pellet mixture at power plants. The practice of using the coal/pellet combination is said to reduce green house emissions by about 20 percent.

Lessman speculated that, from his perspective, the practice of using biomass as a renewable energy source might take on in the U.S. in about five to 10 years.

"It's hard to guess, sort of like a weather forecast, because there is so much involved in making that happen," said Lessman.

He said that he thinks the U.S. is about 10 years behind the rest of the world, but once the U.S. does make the decision to do it, it would likely be a very rapid process.

Zaxby's Could Be On The Restaurant Roster Soon!

Zaxby's Restaurants, located in Valdosta, Georgia is in hopes of building a 3,185 square foot restaurant in an undeveloped site located at 4235 Lafayette Street in Marianna.

Zaxby's has over 350 locations in the Southeastern United States, with one being in Dothan, Alabama. They are considered a fast food chain that specializes in chicken, and a unique sauce. Along with the chicken entrees, Zaxby's serves buffalo wings, freedom fries, Texas toast, and all types of Coca Cola products.

In a report prepared by Marianna staff, it was confirmed that the developer's proposals are compliant with Marianna's Comprehensive Plan. The board also approved a variance requested by the developer that calls for a larger driveway than the city's land development code normally allows.

Driveways are not supposed to exceed a width of 25 feet, according to the plan. The variance was requested "based on safety issues with patrons entering and exiting the site from Lafayette Street, primarily during peak hours."

A memo from planning and zoning director Kay Dennis, stated the ordinance is relative to "ensuring necessary public facility availability, concurrent with the impacts of development."

It means that, if transportation facilities are needed to serve a development that is creating new traffic, facilities will be "in place within three years after the local government approves a building permit or its functional equivalent."

According to the memo the proposed transportation concurrency management system would only apply to non-residential development or residential developments of 10 or more units.

The memo referred to the Proportionate Fair-Share Program, which would "create public/private partnerships to mitigate impacts associated with development on transportation facilities."

Zaxby's approval from the board will allow the development proposal to be heard by the Marianna City Commission. The proposed transportation concurrency ordinance will be heard at the same time.

The Marianna City Commission will meet on March 6, 2006.

MONTHLY MEETING FOR NEW HIRES

(or anyone with questions and/or in need of assistance)

Chip Weathers, Colonial Insurance, and Cafeteria Plan Administrator, Michael John Milton, representing:
 Blue Cross/Blue Shield
 The Guardian (Group Dental and Term Life Insurance)
 CompBenefits (Group Vision Plan)

Place: **Board of Commissioners Meeting Room**
2864 Madison Street
Marianna, Florida

Wednesday, March 21, 2007 @ 1:00 pm

SPRING STORMS AND HURRICANE DANGERS

Tropical storm-force winds are strong enough to be dangerous to those caught in them. For this reason, emergency managers plan on having their evacuations complete and their personnel sheltered **before the onset of tropical storm-force winds**, not hurricane-force winds.

Hurricane-force winds can easily destroy poorly constructed buildings and mobile homes. Debris such as signs, roofing material, and small items left outside become flying missiles in hurricanes. Extensive damage to trees, towers, water and underground utility lines (from uprooted trees), and fallen poles cause considerable disruption.

High-rise buildings are also vulnerable to hurricane-force winds, particularly at the higher levels since wind speed tends to increase with height. Recent research suggests you should stay below the tenth floor, but still above any floors at risk for flooding. It is not uncommon for high-rise buildings to suffer a great deal of damage due to windows being blown out. Consequently, the areas around these buildings can be very dangerous.

The strongest winds usually occur in the right side of the eyewall of the hurricane. Wind speed usually decreases significantly within 12 hours after landfall. Nonetheless, **winds can stay above hurricane strength well inland**. Hurricane Hugo (1989), for example, battered Charlotte, North Carolina (which is 175 miles inland) with gusts to nearly 100 mph.

2007 Atlantic Hurricane Season Names

Andrea	Barry	Chantal
Dean	Erin	Felix
Gabrielle	Humberto	Ingrid
Jerry	Karen	Lorenzo
Melissa	Noel	Olga
Pablo	Rebekah	Sebastien
Tanya	Van	Wendy

Tornado Facts

- When associated with hurricanes, tornadoes are not usually accompanied by hail or a lot of lightning, clues that citizens in other parts of the country watch for.
- Tornado production can occur for days after landfall when the tropical cyclone remnants maintain an identifiable low pressure circulation.
- They can also develop at any time of the day or night during landfall. However, by 12 hours after landfall, tornadoes tend to occur mainly during daytime hours.



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2864 Madison Street— Marianna, Florida 32448



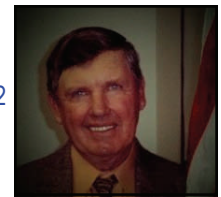
Ted Lakey,
County Administrator



Dr. Willie Spires, District 1



Ed Crutchfield, District 2



Chuck Lockey, District 3 Chairman



**Milton Pittman, District 5
Vice-Chairman**



Jeremy Branch, District 4

Admin Phone: 850-482-9633
Admin Fax: 850-482-9043
Connie Brown—Editor
Email: cbrown@jacksoncountyfl.com

C a t a s t r o p h i c I l l n e s s ? N o t m e !

Heart disease, accidents and general stays in the Hospital can be physically and financially debilitating events that affect everyone involved. If not prepared financially for such an occurrence, one could literally lose any possessions they might have in order to just survive. No one goes through life thinking that they will become incapacitated or chronically ill. In fact, most people think that it will never happen to them.

A supplemental insurance plan geared to specific needs is a necessity for all families in today's rapidly changing marketplace, and a tool that is useful in getting through difficult financial situations related to a catastrophic illness.

The rising cost of health insurance is making it increasingly difficult for businesses of all sizes to offer comprehensive benefits packages. However, by offering supplemental benefits on a voluntary basis, enables business of all sizes to provide competitive benefits packages with no additional cost.

Supplemental insurance plans have become an integral part of all benefits plans offered by small and large businesses alike. Cancer alone will occur in 1 of 3 Americans and 3 of 4 families, not to mention other disabling illnesses that could cause a family breadwinner to be unable to work. Cancer is referred to in this article for the purpose of relating statistics only. This is not to belittle other catastrophic illness such as neurological diseases, endocrine diseases, renal diseases, et cetera.

The cancer survival rate continues to climb because of the research and awareness that is put out to the public. However, as in many diseases, the treatments take a large amount of time. This means time away from your primary source of income.

When choosing a supplemental program, look for one that has no restrictions on time, as well as a policy that does not go up in price with an occurrence (illness). The only time a policy premium should go up is when the policy goes up in price across the board for all policy holders. Also, look for a policy that pays you back the money you invested if you don't ever have to use it. Look at it like a nice nest egg for when you retire. A good supplemental policy is one that pays you, the beneficiary directly. That way the money can be used where it is needed most, whether it be for daily living needs, extra nursing care, or co-payments et cetera.

The bottom line is – BE PREPARED! Check with the Human Resources Department for more information on supplemental insurance policies. And by all means, don't miss the Health Fair offered by the county each year!

A few statistics:

- 1 of every 4 deaths is from cancer.
- Cancer is the leading killing disease among ages 1-14.
- 1 in 8 women are diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. Women with a family history (mother, sister, and daughter) of breast cancer have a 2-fold increased risk of developing breast cancer themselves.
- While some cancers are hereditary, approximately 90% are from non-hereditary factors.
- In men, prostate and lung cancer are the most common cancers. 1 in 6 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer.
- Since 1990, about 16 million new cases of internal cancer have been diagnosed.
- Over 8.8 million Americans are alive with a history of cancer. The 5 year survival rate for all cancers combined is 62%.
- A cancer-related check-up is recommended every 3 years for people aged 20 to 39 and every year thereafter.

