

County Commissioners recognize longevity employees A2

Upcoming events in Jackson

Aaron Day making a difference one student at a time A4

Kids Corner A13

Graceville AAA headed to

Cottondale AA All-Stars

advance to State B1

COMMUNITY

SPORTS

State **B1**

County A3











VOLUME 18 ISSUE 10

DAILY UPDATES ONLINE

www.jacksoncountytimes.net Focused on Jackson County

Thursday, June 15, 2023

NEWS Mill Pond issues being addressed



PHOTO BY MARK SKINNER

By Shelia Mader

The concern over the hydrilla at Merritt's Mill Pond is an issue that is discussed at every Jackson County Commission meet-

ing. If it's not on the agenda as a regular item, it is brought up during round table by District 5 Commissioner Jim Peacock. Deputy Administrator Rett Daniels is all too familiar with the request for an update on the status of the hydrilla in the Mill Pond.

Mill Pond resident Debra

Matthews addressed the Commission Tuesday during their

See **MERRITT'S MILL**

Enviva investing in Jackson County

By Shelia Mader

Recently, Enviva had the opportunity to host a group of stakeholders on a plant tour of their Cottondale facility. The tour included Jackson County Commissioners and members of the Jackson County Economic Development Committee (JCEDC). Plant Manager Joe Gable, Community Relations Manager Rick Frederick, and JCEDC President & CEO Tiffany Garling shared information with the group regarding Enviva's job creation and economic impact in the county, as well as community engagement and support in Cottondale, Florida and throughout the county.

Enviva has been at the same location since its acquisition of the Cottondale plant in 2015, although the plant itself began production in 2008. Frederick said, "It has an annual permitted production capacity of 780,000 metric tons."

Enviva directly employs approximately 90 to 95 associates at the Cottondale

As far as the economic impact on Jackson County, Frederick says, "Enviva

See **ENVIVA** · A7

NextStep at Endeavor Academy receives award

BY: SHELIA MADER

administrator County Wilanne Daniels had good news for the Board at Tuesday's meeting. She told the commissioners that Brigitte Rehberg saw an opportunity to nominate NextStep at Endeavor for an award through the National Association of Counties (NACo). Daniels said they were recently notified they were selected.

Daniels said, "NextStep at Endeavor has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties. The award honors innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents. Each year, NACo's achievement awards are given in 18 categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services that counties provide. The categories include children and youth,



Ms. Dasher is presented with an award from Chairman Paul Donofro.

criminal justice and public safety, county administration, information technology,

health, civic engagement and more. Launched in 1970, the program is designed to recognize innovation in county government. Each nominated program is judged on its own merits and not against other

applications." Daniels said, "We just wanted to take this opportunity to recognize NextStep. We have their award here." Commission Chairman Paul Donofro, Jr. asked Ms. Dasher to come forward for the presentation. Donofro said, "On behalf of the board of county commissioners, we want to say congratulations. We are getting close to wrapping up the renovation work that's been going on for the last year or so. We appreciate all work you've done in moving this project forward." Dasher thanked everyone for their support.

Donofro presented her with her award.

Congratulations to Ms. Dasher on her achievement from the publisher and staff of the Jackson County Times.





MILL POND · Continued

regular meeting with her concerns as one living on the banks of the pond. Matthews told the Board she and her husband had been in contact with the regional biologist on a regular basis. She said he had advised them a few weeks ago the application was scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, the 14th and 15th. The Commission thanked her for her concern and being proactive with the issues at the Mill Pond.

The TIMES contacted Derek Fussell, Regional Biologist for Invasive Plant Management Wednesday morning. Fussell said they were present at Blue Springs to begin a drip application into the water. He said, "We are injecting the herbicide into the water to flow all the way down the Mill Pond to the hydrilla. There's no restrictions because of the herbicide, no irrigation restrictions, no swimming and no livestock restrictions, animals can actually drink it."

He continued, "We are putting it in at three parts per million. So, it's like if you had a million drops of water, we are putting three drops." Fussell said residents should see progress within two weeks, "It starts to turn brown." The herbicide that is used is aquathol K.



PHOTO BY MARK SKINNER

Derek Russell talks with Chris Matthews and Bruce Conrad at Blue Springs Wednesday morning prior to putting the herbicide into the water.

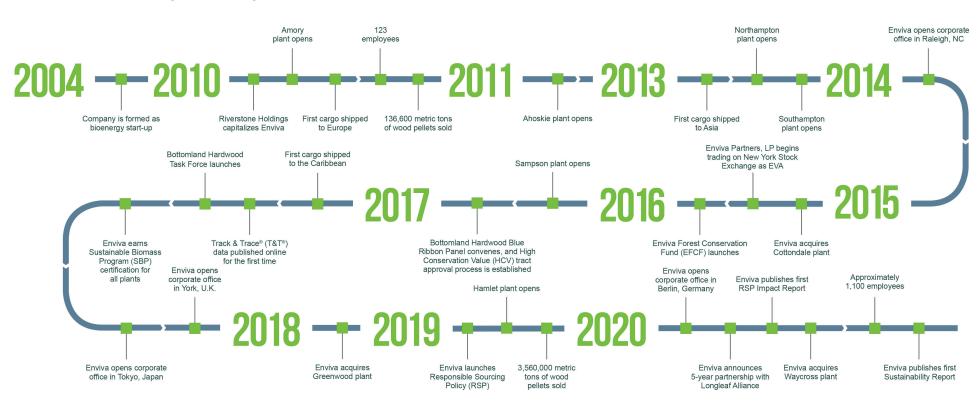
Fussell said they had been working with the University of Florida and the Army Corps of Engineers. He said, "The permit that they required for their part of because they are using federal funds to buy the herbicide, so they had to have a NEPA permit (National Environmental Protection Agency) and that was issued yesterday. We had put these two dates on the calendar anticipating the permit. When they got it yesterday, they sent it to me and said they were ready to go."

Fussell said this drip was tentatively scheduled for June 14 and 15 once they realized they would not be able to apply it prior to Blue Springs opening on Memorial Day weekend. He said, "As we got closer to the opening of the Park on Memorial Day, we had to reschedule and work with the concessionaires on dates they didn't have reservations and everything." He said this date had been set for a couple of weeks, pending the approval coming through. They received the email Tuesday and proceeded as scheduled beginning at 7:00 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Blue Springs Recreational area was closed Wednesday and will remain closed Thursday while the herbicide is applied. It is scheduled to reopen Friday for normal operations.

ENVIVA - Continued

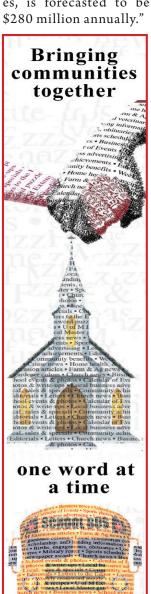
Our Sustainability Journey





operates out of two facilities located in the state of Florida - a wood pellet production facility in Cottondale and a deep-water marine terminal in the Port of Panama City. Enviva's total economic impact in Florida, which

includes the ripple effect of Enviva's investments and operational expenses, is forecasted to be



About its growth since Enviva opened in Cottondale, Frederick says, "Sustainably sourced biomass continues to play an immediate, reliable, and pivotal role in bolstering energy security, reducing energy costs, and

Summer 2023

Come grow and fellowship with our friendly, welcoming, and mission-minded family of faith!

Free Classes with Children

Golf 101 – 6-10 years old, June 27 at Indian Springs from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Art 101 – rising grades 3-5 years old, August 1, 3, & 7th from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Volleyball 101-TBA

Rising 6th – 12th Grade

Bible Studies/Mystery Lunches Hanger 38/ Dothan Shipwreck Island Panama City Beach Theology 101 –

Adults/Youth 10:00 A.M.

Wed 7/12 Why Do We Still Have Evil? **Wed 7/19** How Christianity differs from other faith

Wed 7/26 Why is there sometimes hypocrisy in the church? (The Reason for God - Dr. Tim Keller - ALL CLASSES)

For Information and Sign Up Call or Email

First Presbyterian **Church**Sunday Worship at 11:00

Jefferson at Clinton Streets 850-526-2430 fpcmarianna@gmail.com www.firstpresmarianna.org

Live Simply, Love Generously, Serve Faithfully, Speak Truthfully, Pray Daily, and Leave Everything Else to God

mitigating the negative effects of climate change this century. The market opportunities are more exciting than ever, as future applications of our product continue to increase amongst

hard-to-abate industries that need to defossilize their production facilities and supply chains, such as lime, steel, cement, sustainable aviation fuel, and asphalt."



Jackson County Board of County Commissioners 2023 Affordable Housing Advisory Committee

The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) consists of voluntary local business professionals and residents of Jackson County, who actively seek ways to improve, encourage and facilitate affordable housing throughout the County. The committee is also responsible for recommending revisions or amendments to the Local Housing Plan, a plan that is updated triennially and approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

On May 23, 2023 the Board of County Commissioners appointed 10 members who are local citizens representing the residential home building industry, banking/mortgage lending industry, engaged in the labor home building, advocate for low-income persons, for profit and not-for-profit providers of affordable housing, real estate professional in connection with affordable housing, local planning committee member actively serving, citizen representing the essential services personnel industry, citizen who is an elected official, and a citizen who represents employers.

Scheduled meetings for the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee are set for the 4th Thursday of each month beginning June 22, 2023, through October 16, 2023. Meetings will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the Jackson County Board of County Commission (BOCC) meeting room in the County Administration Building located at 2864 Madison Street, Marianna. Committee meetings will continue until the Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP), for 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027, review is complete, and recommendations are submitted to the Board of County Commissioners by December 31st, 2023. There will also be an option to attend the meetings remotely via phone or online.

The tentative upcoming 2023 schedule is as follows:

- 1. June 22, 2023
- 2. July 20, 2023
- 3. August 17, 2023 4. September 21, 2023
- 5. October 16, 2023

The Committee works with the County Housing Grants Coordinator, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, and the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program. For more information about the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee or about how to attend the meetings remotely, contact the Jackson County SHIP Program Office at 850-482-9083 or log on to our website jacksoncountyfl.gov.

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