

ENVIRONMENT

# Alachua vs. Alachua

County files formal injunction against city's Wal-Mart rezoning on same day  
National Speleological Society petitions for Writ of Certiorari to quash Ordinance 15 03

By SUZETTE COOK  
Today Editor

ALACHUA – Both Alachua County and The National Speleological Society filed documents in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Alachua County on May 27 contesting the City of Alachua's approval of Ordinance 15 03. May 27 was the 30-day deadline since the City adopted the rezoning ordinance on April 27.

The 154.5-acre parcel in question is owned by Wal-Mart Stores East, LP.,

and four other investors. The property is located in Alachua adjacent to Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 441.

In hearings leading up to the approval of the ordinance, citizens, concerned environmental experts and Alachua County representatives tried to sway the commission to reject Ordinance 15 03 which converted the parcel that was zoned Planned Unit Development (PUD) into Commercial Intensive (CI), Community Commercial (CC) and Governmental Facilities (GF) zones.

Lawyers representing both the NSS

and Alachua County aren't discussing the case, nor are the parties involved.

The NSS filed a "Verified petition for writ of certiorari" claiming that its property, which includes the Mill Creek Sink, is located is within 400 feet of the rezoned parcel. The NSS acting as the Petitioners, claims that proper procedure was not carried out by the City of Alachua, named Respondents in the writ, and that the NSS is an affected party because its property is located 392 feet from the

**REZONING**

Continued on page A5



Photos by SUZETTE COOK/Alachua County Today

Florida State Representative Clovis Watson Jr., center, promised to uphold Amendment 1 and dedicate funds to protect and conserve Florida waterways and karst sensitive lands during a May 30 rally in Alachua. Cave diver Jill Heinerth, left, spoke about the Mill Creek Sink, and TJ Muller of the National Speleological Society Cave Diving Section, second from left, got permission for the rally to take place at Mill Creek Sink. Former microbiologist Irma Riley of Gainesville, below, says she has supported Amendment 1 from the beginning. More than 200 people came out to support protection of Florida's water resources.

## Legislators urged to honor Amendment 1

By SUZETTE COOK  
Today Editor

ALACHUA – Merrilee Jipson is trying to get the letters in order. "Your number two, you go right there. Who wants to be number three?" she says and so on. Jipson, president of Save our Suwannee and president of Our Santa Fe River and owner of adventure outpost and gallery Rum138 is helping more than 200 demonstrators get their message across.

The group gathered next to Mill Creek Sink along a sidewalk on U.S. Highway 441 in Alachua on May 30 to send a message to Florida legislators.

"Okay everybody, let me see your letters," Jipson says. And the words appear along the roadway. Giant blue letters are in all caps on white paper.

"What do we need to do?" Jipson asks



through a bullhorn?

The answer is literally spelled out and yelled out by participants, "Buy the land. Protect the water. Buy the land. Protect the water."

Cars are beeping as they pass in

support of what they read on the signs.

"Thank you all for being here today," Jipson encourages the crowd.

"This is an amazing day in North Florida. Woo hoo. When I say 'What do we want?' You say 'clean water.' When I say, 'how do we get it?' You say, 'Buy the land.'"

And the crowd continues chanting phrases that support the mantra.

"Amendment 1 is not a slush fund. Protect our springs."

According to the ballot summary, Amendment 1, which passed by 75 percent "Funds the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to acquire, restore, improve, and manage conservation lands including wetlands and forests; fish and wildlife habitat; lands protecting water resources

**RALLY**

Continued on page A6

## Archer leaders resign

City manager, assistant city manager give notice

By SUZETTE COOK  
Today Editor

ARCHER – According to City of Archer Mayor Doug Jones, both City Manager Al Grieshaber Jr. and Assistant City Manager John Mayberry have tendered their resignations and will be vacating their positions in June.

Mayberry, who also serves as the City's public works director and codes enforcement officer wrote his letter addressed to Grieshaber on June 1, 2015.

"Sir, Please accept this letter of resignation from my position as Assistant City Manager for the City of Archer. I have enjoyed working with you, staff, and the Commission and will remember with pride the accomplishments we made on behalf of the citizens here. My resignation will be effective at close of business Thursday, June 11, 2015. Thank you. Regards, John

**RESIGN**

Continued on page A2

## Dollar General donates \$135k

By TANNER NESTLE  
Today Reporter

ALACHUA – Three City of Alachua public schools will share a donation of \$135,000 from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. The donation, presented at A.L. Mebane Middle School on May 27, will go towards the development of a program called Fast ForWord at W. W. Irby Elementary School, Alachua Elementary School and A.L. Mebane Middle School.

The Education Foundation of Alachua County is a separate, non-profit foundation that supports public schools. Judy Boles, the executive director of the foundation, was responsible for writing the grant to Dollar General.

**DONATION**

Continued on page A2

## Newberry man dies in car crash

By C.M. WALKER  
Today Reporter

NEWBERRY – According to the Florida Highway Patrol a single vehicle crash claimed the life of a migrant farm laborer from Newberry early Monday morning, June 1. The 22-year-old male was traveling north on U.S. 27/41 (State Road 45), approximately 3 miles south of Newberry, at approximately 1:50 a.m. when his vehicle veered to the left onto the grassy shoulder.

Although the driver of the gold, 2008 Nissan Sentra was observing the posted speed limit of 55 miles per hour, he did not brake when he hit the shoulder and continued down the grassy shoulder veering even more towards the left until the car hit a large oak tree. Having hit the tree with the left front portion of the car, the vehicle rotated abruptly in a counter clockwise motion off of the tree and partially

**CRASH**

Continued on page A2

## LaCrosse goes back to drawing board over fire/rescue funds

By C.M. WALKER  
Today Reporter

ALACHUA COUNTY – Representatives from the Town of LaCrosse met with Alachua County Manager Lee Niblock and Alachua County Fire Services Chief Bill Northcutt on June 1 to review a breakdown of costs associated with continuing to have the town provide fire/rescue services to District 22.

The Town of LaCrosse had earlier served notice to Alachua County that they intended to terminate their agreement to

provide fire and emergency services to their district on Sept. 30, 2015. The LaCrosse Fire Department has served an 84-sq.-mile area of Alachua County for the past several years. All but the 1.3 sq. miles within the town's city limits serves the unincorporated areas outside of LaCrosse. In the past, the County has provided \$142,000 to the town to serve their county residents. The town leaders contend that is not enough money to run a fire/rescue department for the county.

"The Town of LaCrosse accounts for only nine percent of our calls," says LaCrosse

Fire Chief Paul McDavid. "That leaves 91 percent of our calls serving the residents of unincorporated Alachua County."

By the county fire chief's account, it usually costs \$750,000 to maintain a three-person, 24/7 station and about \$550,000 - \$600,000 to run a two-person, 24/7 station.

During the June 1 meeting, McDavid, Mayor Dianne Dubberly, Vice-Mayor Tom Ewing and City Attorney John Maines presented an itemized budget for this year at

**LACROSSE**

Continued on page A5

Index  
inside  
on A2

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