

Nix receives national leadership award

Southwest Georgia builder Jerry Nix of Jakin has received a 2006 National Leadership award from the National Republican Congressional Committee and has been appointed to the committee's Business Advisory Council. The award is in recognition for assistance and leadership in promoting a pro-business agenda. The Business Advisory Council is an organization dedicated to making sure that small business has a voice in Washington. Mr. Nix's role on the council will be to speak on Georgia's behalf about

issues that face small businesses. Tax reform, the economy, homeland security, consumer attitudes and interest rates are some areas that the council has sought Nix's opinion on in order to advise President Bush when he makes policy decisions. The President has invited Nix and the other advisory council representatives to the White House for a luncheon in April to seek more input. Nix is a member of the Blakely Chamber of Commerce and is an active participant in the state's Forest Stewardship Management Program.



Jerry Nix

George W. Andrews Lock on Chattahoochee River near Columbia reduces hours of operation

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, announces a reduction in the hours of operation at George W. Andrews Lock on the Chattahoochee River near Columbia. Effective March 19, the lock will no longer offer 24-hour service, but will operate a winter schedule from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. EST.

The three Corps of Engineers locks on the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint or ACF inland waterway — Woodruff Lock at Lake Seminole, George Lock at Lake Walter F. George and Andrews Lock — will not operate the same hours. The waterway provides access from the Gulf of Mexico to ports along the ACF to Columbus and Bainbridge.

Commercial tows will be served at any time, but will need to make arrangements

with the lock during regular business hours at 850-663-4692.

Lock operators will continue to monitor marine VHF radio channel 16. Recreational traffic that wants to use the lock should be present for lockage no later than 30 minutes before the locks operations end for the day. The summer schedule will

increase the Saturday and Sunday hours of operation from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. EDT, from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

All lock operators monitor marine channel 16. Call the ACF Project Office at 768-2516 if you have additional questions or visit their website at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/op/rec/acf/Default.htm>

ECSS Report Cards

ECES and ECHS students will receive report cards Thursday, March 16 to take home. Parents of students attending ECMS can pick those report cards up at the school.

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Free dogwood trees available during March

Ten free white flowering dogwood trees will be given to each person who joins the National Arbor Day Foundation during March 2006.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit foundation's Tree's for America campaign.

"White flowering dogwoods will add year-round

beauty to your home and neighborhood," John Rosenow, the foundation's president, said. "Dogwoods have showy spring flowers, scarlet autumn foliage, and red berries which attract songbirds all winter."

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between March 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions.

The six to 12 inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Members also

receive a subscription to **Arbor Day**, the foundation's monthly publication, and **The Tree Book** with information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$12 contribution to Ten Free Dogwood Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by March 31, 2006.

Or join online at www.arborday.org.

Unsung heroes honored at banquet

On Feb. 25 the second annual unsung hero banquet sponsored by the Freedom Council was celebrated. The Unsung Hero Banquet was started to give recognition to African-Americans in Early County that have made a positive impact on the community, but have not received recognition.

During the banquet attendees enjoyed an elegant meal and a play, "The Bottom: Stories of Black

Blakely." This play has become popular over the last two years in Blakely, Norman Park, Atlanta and before the United Nations in New York.

This year's awardees were: Willie Tinson, Henry Mills, Forestine Rogers, Lucy Major (accepted by Meshawn George), and Robert Hall, Sr. (accepted by Ted and Ken Hall). A special award was given to Pastor Cynthia Edwards for her tireless work in the commu-

nity.

The Unsung Hero Committee would like to thank everyone for their support attending the banquet and those that worked to make the event possible. Special thanks are in order to the City of Blakely for their continued support, and to the Early County News for publicity, as well as to Shirley Freeman and Annette Bankston for the decorations.



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