

It's Spring; buy some bait and go fishing

Like most who own boats, you've received forms to fill out so the county can tax your boat, outboard, trolling motor, etc. Taxes - a subject most don't like, and everybody complains about. Having discussed our boat tax with folks in several other Georgia counties, I've found that some counties don't tax boats, some tax but it's reasonable, very low and some have gone to the extreme when taxing their citizens.

I received the forms about March 30th, 2021. Due date was April 1, 2021. Don't think I will make the deadline. After reading the forms, I'm seriously wondering if those who impose these taxes have missed anything else they can possibly tax?

Discussing taxes with other counties in Georgia and other states was educational for sure. A few years ago, a small group in Seminole County tried to get the commissioners to



Son of Seminole Son Anderson

listen to them about exempting school taxes for those age 65 and older. We were told the county needs the money. Well, I do too, but there's nobody I can tax.

A fellow in Cobb Co., Georgia stated that in his county, they are exempt from school taxes after the age of 62, on their primary residence.

Well, my concern is we are over taxed, and it didn't use to be this way. I have one old 88 Bass Tracker with an

88 40 hp Mariner and it sets in a shed collecting spider webs. If I bought a couple of batteries it could be used, but I doubt it's worth enough to tax. At my age, getting in and out of such a boat is a chore and isn't friendly to a bad back. In 2018, I bought a Sun Tracker bass buggy 18 with a 60 hp Mercury. I bought it in Tallahassee, just about two weeks before Hurricane Michael hit Seminole Co. Some folks lost boats, docks, dock houses and so forth. My pontoon made it through the hurricane because I took it out of the lake and had it in the yard. The top frame got bent in a few places, the boat took a few hits resulting in dents and bent rails. The outboard got some scratches. I feel lucky that's all that happened to it. I love the pontoon boat, it's just the thing for us older folks. We can walk around like in a room and it has comfortable seats, one is like a couch and there's a little shade with

the top up. When a boat is bought, huge sales taxes are paid. The last sticker from the state cost 70 bucks, just recently paid it. I'm thinking the state and counties are connected with such information. If so, they should know everything about what boats I own without me filling out any more forms.

My question is, do we ever own anything, or are we renting it from the government? Apparently by buying, we pay a huge price so the government rent is reduced and we can claim to own whatever. Bottom line, many discussions with others around Georgia and other states tell me this: Nobody is happy about being taxed on everything. When I moved here, it was to get away from being over regulated and over taxed.

If you have any money left after taxes, buy some bait and go fishing. See you outdoors. from Woodrow Jernigan Rd., near SR 91 / SR 285 **Answers to BOBO.**

LOST DOG

He is wearing a harness. BOBO has a black head and colorful body similar to a Blue Heeler.

\$500. Reward for recovery or confidential information leading to recovery. No questions. *Please contact Edward Willis*

229-442-1515.



We are now accepting applications for the following positions:

HOSPITAL:

Respiratory Therapist – Full-Time RN – Emergency Room - Full-Time LPN – Full-Time Ultrasound Tech – Part-Time Paramedic – Full-Time Advanced EMT – Part-Time Clinic Coordinator - Full-Time Floor Tech - Full-Time Dietary Aide - Part-Time Dietary Aide - Part-Time Maintenance Tech – Full-Time Transport Driver/Floor Tech - Full-Time NURSING HOME:

RN – Full-Time LPN – Full-Time C.N.A. – Full-Time

Increased Pay Rates for Nursing Home LPN and C.NA. Positions Competitive Salary/Excellent Benefits All RN/LPN/Paramedic Positions require current licensure from the State of Georgia

Farm Bureau applauds ruling in Florida-Georgia water suit

On April 1, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled in Georgia's favor in a lawsuit filed by Florida over access to water in the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers. Florida filed the suit in 2013, claiming that Georgia overuses water from the two rivers, which feed into the Apalachicola River in Florida, ultimately winding up in Apalachicola Bay, where a large portion of Florida's oyster production occurs.

Florida first directed blame on Metro Atlanta, which draws water from Lake Lanier, which is fed by the Chattahoochee. Florida later took aim at farm use of water from the Flint River in Southwest Georgia. Florida asked the court to place severe water use restrictions on Georgia that would have caused enormous economic harm to Southwest Georgia farms and their communities. and Flint Rivers. Farmers in Southwest Georgia could have been devastated by the severe restrictions Florida proposed," Georgia Farm Bureau President Tom McCall said. "The state of Georgia and Georgia farmers have implemented numerous water conservation measures in the past 25 years that preserve water and minimize the amount of water Georgia farmers use to grow their crops. We think the Supreme Court recognized this with its ruling. Georgia Farm Bureau has worked tirelessly for years to ensure that Georgia farmers maintain access to the level of water required to clothe and feed America and the world. This ruling is an example of the advocacy work Farm Bureau does for farmers and why it's important that Georgia's agriculture community support our organization by being members. Georgia Farm Bureau



tially tried by Special Master Ralph Lancaster who recommended that the court deny Florida's petition, in part because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which controls the water flow in all three

Florida said Georgia's water use resulted in lower water flows, causing increased salinity and resulting in economic damage to the oyster industry.

"Georgia Farm Bureau is pleased with the Supreme Court's ruling in Georgia's favor in the lawsuit over access to water from the Chattahoochee continues to support Georgia's farmers as they practice responsible water use and constantly pursue improvements in water-use efficiency."

The state of Georgia maintained that the problems with the oysters were the result of overfishing rather than from Georgia's water use. The case was ini-

rivers, was not a party to the case.

The Supreme Court sent the case back to the special master. A second special master, Paul Kelly, was appointed to oversee the trial, and he, too, recommended that Florida's request be denied. Kelly said Florida had failed to prove its case.

Seeing young wildlife alone? If you care, leave them there

In the Spring, it is not unusual to see young wildlife that appear to be alone. Before you attempt to help – remember that it is best to leave wildlife where you find them, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

"When you take wildlife out of their environment and bring them into your home, it often takes away that animal's ability to then survive in the wild, where they belong," explains Kaitlin Goode, program manager of the Georgia WRD

Urban Wildlife Program. "In most instances, there is an adult animal a short distance away – even though you may not be able to see it. Adult animals, such as deer, spend most of the day away from their young to reduce the risk of a predator finding the young animal."

The best thing people can do when they see a young animal is to leave it exactly as they found it for at least 24 hours, or reach out to the local WRD office for guidance (https://georgiawildlife.com/about/contact). Young wildlife demand a great deal of care and have specific nutritional requirements. If they are not cared for properly, they will not be releasable or retain the ability to survive on their own. Persons not licensed and trained in wildlife rehabilitation should not attempt to care for wildlife. In fact, Georgia law prohibits the possession of most wildlife without a permit.

For more information, visit www. georgiawildlife.com and click on "Living With Wildlife". Applications can be obtained at www.lifebriteearly.com.

Please send completed applications to: <u>kbusby@lifebriteearly.com</u> Or fax to: 229-724-7335

> Applicants may apply in person at LifeBrite Community Hospital of Early 11740 Columbia Street Blakely, GA 39823

LifeBrite Community Hospital of Early is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is a Drug-Free Workplace

Preserve your past!

Add your Historical Seminole County Photos to the collection! Email to history@donalsonvillenews.com or stop by the *Donalsonville News* office downtown on Cherry Street for prompt scanning and return.

With COVID-19 social distancing safety precautions suggested, the Beall Center in downtown Donalsonville is available for rental for your next event - holiday functions, meetings, birthday parties showers, and more.

Catering Kitchen, WiFi, tables and chairs, and use of Promethean boards included in rental!

Conveniently located in the center of town next door to the *Donalsonville News*.

Meetings, business mixers, birthday parties, anniversary celebrations, showers, and more!

Call 229-524-2343 and book your next event at the Beall Center