

# Park improved thanks to Eagle Scout project

STAFF REPORT  
Alachua County Today

ALACHUA – The wooden bleachers at the Skinner Park baseball field look as good as new thanks to Andrew S. Jenkins' Eagle Scout project.

Jenkins, along with fellow Troop 88 Boy Scouts, spent the better part of Saturday refurbishing the bleachers from which numerous ballgames are watched every year. Jenkins also constructed two additional smaller benches near the field.

"I think it turned out pretty well. I like the finished project and I think it will benefit my community for years to come," he said.

While the crew put in dozens of man-hours collectively on Saturday, Jenkins, just 16 years old, says he spent about 56 hours in pre-planning for the project. The project is just one requirement that Jenkins must meet to earn the rank of Eagle, Boy Scouting's highest honor.

"There is a lot more paper work yet to go and additional presentations to make to the Eagle Review Board," said Jenkins.

The 11th grade Santa Fe High School student is well on his way to reaching the Eagle Rank with 31 merit badges already completed, 12 of which are required. Additional merit badges earned beyond his Eagle rank will be credited toward Eagle Palms, an award distinguishing Eagle Scouts for their ongoing commitment and involvement in scouting.

Jenkins is also a member of the Order of the Arrow, an auxiliary scouting organi-



Photo special to Alachua County Today  
**Andrew Jenkins, 16, is proud of his Eagle Scout project at Skinner Park, where he refurbished bleachers and built two new benches.**

zation that focuses on service to scouting, including maintaining area camps.

"I want to send out a special thanks to Alachua Farm and Lumber, Alachua County Today, Alachua Properties Inc., Hitchcock's Market, and Mrs. Lillian Jenkins for their generous donations.

"And also thanks to Mr. Hal Brady and all of Troop 88 for their help and support of my project," Jenkins said.

# # #

## CORRECTION:

In the Voter Guide published with the Aug. 12 edition of Alachua County Today the information for some candidates was inadvertently overwritten. The statements the candidates submitted appear below. We apologize for the errors.

# ALACHUA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 1

## Felecia F. Moss

The School Board is responsible for the organization and control of the public schools of Alachua County. Over the past several decades, we have had a national, state and local outcry for improved schooling for all children. I have extensive experience working in schools, working with parents, working with communities, and working with issues related to the pressing issues that face our schools today.

My teaching experience, my leadership training and experience as a principal, as well as my extensive work at the university level in education has prepared me to serve the public well as a member of the school board. I have first hand experience dealing with issues that face parents, students, teachers, staff, administrators and communities as it relates to educating students.



## David Palpant

I am David Palpant, a resident of Alachua County for 36 years, and local business owner. My son attended Alachua schools, and I have been an active volunteer for the last 14 years with the children of Alachua as a baseball and soccer coach, and as a "band dad", winning the honor of Volunteer of the Year in 2008 for Santa Fe High School, and "Work of the Heart" Volunteer of the Year for Alachua County, in Arts and Recreation. I have personally seen the benefits of keeping the arts in our schools. I am not a politician; we have enough of those and look where we are now! I want to give the voters of Alachua County the choice of a candidate who is not part of the problem, does not solicit donations from special interest groups, has no relationship with the current administration, and believes things need to change to promote fiscal responsibility and accountability. I am only in this race to help our kids get the well rounded, well funded education they deserve. Period!

Thank you for your vote on Aug. 24th. Please contact me at [www.DPalpantforkids.com](http://www.DPalpantforkids.com).



# DISTRICT 3

## Gunnar Paulson

I am a candidate for the School Board District 3. It has been my privilege to have served our school district in various capacities since 1970.

These are perilous times for public schools. Taxpayers deserve someone who knows what is at stake and who is experienced in the strategies that will preserve our precious birthright – a public education. I stand for fiscal discipline, local control of our schools, career-technical education and robust funding for the arts. I am a person who has the experience, strength and vision to the meet the challenges ahead.



# ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 2

## Lee Pinkoson, Democrat

Everyone in Alachua County deserves opportunities to be successful. We must prepare our children for school and make sure parents understand their role in their child's development. It is extremely difficult to be an effective parent when working multiple jobs so we must continue to seek a range of well paying jobs for all educational backgrounds. Maintaining our infrastructure, public safety, and protecting our natural resources are also priorities. Tax money comes from you and time and time again I have voted not to increase the tax burden on the citizens. To ask for more now just doesn't make sense!



## BASEBALL:

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# Negro baseball league players help teach diversity

color of their skin.

These men were part of the Negro Baseball League. They played on all-black teams against other all-black teams. They played in the pre-civil rights era of segregation.

They stopped for lunch in Alachua that afternoon on their way from the Babe Ruth World Series down to Ocala for their next appearance as part of a two-day series of events for the 2010 Negro Baseball League Project.

According to an August press release, Cox Communications launched the project in Gainesville in 2008, with the intent of promoting diversity within its own company as well as the surrounding community.

Now in the program's third year, Cox, with the support of ESPN, put on an invitation-only community luncheon, a public autograph signing at the Paddock Mall and an appearance and autograph signing at the Cal Ripkin 10-year-old World Series, in Ocala.

But in between their schedule of events, the players came to Alachua to check out the Babe Ruth World Series, and they stayed to eat before heading back to Ocala for the night.

Mike Giampietro, vice president of public and government affairs for Cox Communications Florida, explained that these men are "a piece of living history," and by sharing their experiences they can help to



Photo by YOLANDA WHITE/Special to Alachua County Today

"explore issues of exclusion that are not that far in our past."

And the stories they have to tell could indeed write the pages of history books. For instance, Harold "Buster" O. Hair remembers when he met Tony Stone in 1953. She was a black woman who played for the otherwise all-male Indianapolis Clowns. He said she could hold her own on the baseball field, but "she was still feminine," he added, chuckling. She was a huge draw, he said. People would come just to see her play.

Billy Reed, who was never officially a member of the Negro league but coached a team in Tampa, told the story of how baseball kept him from having to go to war.

He was going to play for a team in North Dakota, he said, when he got a phone call from his "mamma," and she told him he got a letter in the mail from the federal government.

"Congratulations," it said, "you've been selected..." he quoted, as he started laughing.

He was drafted, but after someone watched him play in a casual game on base, he was reassigned to go play for an official military team instead of being shipped overseas to fight, and eventually he was let out early to go back to school.

These were just a couple of the many reminiscences of history the men shared over their Friday afternoon meal.

Giampietro said they decided to eat at Conestogas because they wanted to go to a place that was as local as it could get. Its menu had food they would like, he said, and the guys really like being in places that represent the community; places where they will be able to interact with local people.

"Conestogas fit the bill."

# # #

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# Tom Jaworski

Actual Judicial Experience  
Over 25 Years of Legal Experience

## ENDORSED BY:

- Police Benevolent Association (PBA), North Central Florida Chapter
- Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), Gator Lodge 67
- Gainesville Professional Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 2157



**VOTE**  
**Tom Jaworski**  
Alachua County Court Judge  
**AUGUST 24**

Ethical  
Dedicated  
Experienced  
Fair & Impartial

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Alachua County Court Judge 2005 – 2010
- Former Assistant State Attorney for almost ten years
- Former Assistant Public Defender
- Former Legal Services Attorney
- Owned and Operated a Private Law Practice
- Former Instructor: Santa Fe Police Academy
- Former Instructor: Lake City Community College Corrections Academy

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Former Guardian ad Litem Volunteer
- Board Member, Keep Alachua County Beautiful
- Member, Altrusa International of Gainesville
- Blood Donor (four galloner)
- 2009 Alachua County Literacy Network Award for Outstanding Contributions
- 2007 Outstanding School Volunteer, Adult Category, Alachua County School Volunteer Program

For more detailed information go to: [www.TomJaworskiForJudge.com](http://www.TomJaworskiForJudge.com)

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