



**MERIWETHER MESSAGES  
WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 7, 2014**

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Welcome New Member: Meriwether County

Animal Shelter.

Your Chamber is happy to welcome the Meriwether County Animal Shelter to its membership network. In addition to their primary mission of rescuing and sheltering abandoned, neglected or stray cats and dogs, the shelter can also provide microchip insert services to your animal at a nominal cost of \$15.00. Chelsea Brown is the Animal Shelter Assistant and she is happy to arrange this service by appointment, with a call to 706-672-2966. The Shelter extends opportunities to the community for your involvement and support. Always needed are homes for sheltered animals, donations to support the costs associated with their spay/neuter program and foster care for animals for two week rotations. This foster service provides much needed socialization for the animals before they are adopted or shipped to shelters in the northern part of the country. Unlike the south, there are very few stray animals in northern states, so our animals are in high demand. The shelter has an excellent working relationship with the North Shore Animal League and in fact 23 puppies were shipped in January. If you want more information about the Shelter or how you can help, contact Chelsea Brown at 706-672-2966 or email [c.brown@meriwethercountyga.gov](mailto:c.brown@meriwethercountyga.gov). You can also like them on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/mcaspaws>



And Welcome New Member: Meriwether

County 4-H/Extension Service.

Many of you have met Trey Gafnea our County Extension Agent as he has been very visible throughout our community with the work his organization does on behalf of our citizens. Their office provides educational based information related to agriculture; the environment; communities and youth & families. They also provide soil and water testing. The 4-H clubs which are the largest youth development and empowerment organizations provide hands-on learning activities to youth in the areas of science, healthy living and food security. Trey's 4-H involvement includes public schools, private schools and students who are home-schooled. Trey and his staff are always happy to assist you with your agricultural related questions and issues. Their office is located at 126 N. Court Square in Greenville. You can also give him a call at 706-672-4235, or email him at [rgafnea@uga.edu](mailto:rgafnea@uga.edu). You can also find out more information about county extension services through the web site at <http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/meriwether>



## Valentine's Sweetheart Special!!

Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> -through Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

Two entrées plus one appetizer or two desserts for \$25

\$4 extra for Salmon or Ribeye

Bring your own wine to enjoy with your meal. No corkage fee.

### COURT SQUARE CAFÉ

In Greenville, GA across from the courthouse

706-672-2250



Trinity United Methodist Church in Durand will host The Men of Cornerstone Gospel Quartet on Feb. 23, 11am. Please join us for an exciting time of worship led by this Southern Gospel Quartet. Trinity is located at 25 Palm Lane (Hwy 18). For more information call 706-663-9005 or email [revangie@bellsouth.net](mailto:revangie@bellsouth.net)





The Meriwether County Animal Shelter will hold an adoption event at *Manchester Farm Garden &*

*Hardware* on *Saturday, February 8, 10AM-3PM*. Dogs ready for adoption will be neutered, micro-chipped and up to date on vaccines. Kittens will be micro-chipped and up to date on vaccines. They will also offer micro-chips to the public for \$15.00 and the owners information will be registered.



Thought I would share this great testimonial about the value of using this newsletter for your advertising :

"Carolyn,

*Thank you for including the Bridal Magazine for The Thomaston Times in the last edition of Meriwether Messages. This resulted in a sale and contacts for businesses that were new to my business. They specifically told me they saw the information in the chamber newsletter.*

*Thanks again,  
Laurie"*

*Laurie J. Lewis* General Manager/Advertising Director  
<http://www.thomastontimes.com/> 706.647.5414 706.573.7796



**News From:**



**Keystone pipeline clears major hurdle**



The controversial Keystone XL pipeline cleared a major hurdle on Friday as the State Department ruled the project wouldn't significantly increase greenhouse gas emissions.

The finding puts the pipeline one step closer to approval, and sets up a new battle between environmental groups and oil companies over whether the project is in the national interest.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the project reiterates key parts of a draft analysis released early last year, finding that oil sands extraction would continue regardless of whether the pipeline is built. However, in a White House Response:

U.S. President Barack Obama still wants to hear from other federal agencies before deciding whether to accept the State Department's finding his top aide said on Sunday, yet lawmakers of both parties on Tuesday voiced their support for the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline and said they would consider legislation to force the White House to approve the project.

**The Wall Street Journal says: Health Law To Cut Into Labor Forc**

The new health law is projected to reduce the total number of hours Americans work by the equivalent of 2.3 million full-time jobs in 2021, a bigger impact on the workforce than previously expected, according to a nonpartisan congressional report. Of course, this announcement sparked a partisan debate which you can read more about at:

<http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/budget/197511-gop-dems-spar-at-hearing-on-cbo-obamacare-report>

*The economy added 113,000 jobs* in January while the unemployment rate dropped slightly to 6.6%, the Labor Department reported today. Analysts had expected job growth of about 181,000 according to a Bloomberg survey of economists.

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In response to legislation filed by Senator William Ligon of Brunswick to remove Georgia from the Common Core standards now being used in Georgia and 45 other states, Chris Clark of the Georgia Chamber is publicly backing and asking everyone else to back the Common Core standards. Mr. Clark was quoted as saying "It sends messages to companies all around the world that we're going backwards. We're not moving the ball forward; we're not having more rigorous standards. We want to lessen those standards and that doesn't give us a 21st century workforce." Ms. Carol Lane, Meriwether County School Superintendent is a strong supporter of the Common Core Standards and wants to remind everyone that curriculum remains flexible within schools, the standards simply establish common benchmarks for all children to achieve and allows them to be evaluated with other school children around the country.



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**Shopping locally saves you money** ...if you add travel, and the cost of your time, the overall cost is often much higher. Shopping locally also ensures the survival of our local businesses which are a key economic driver in our community. We don't want to lose any business, but they need your involvement to thrive, through your purchases of their goods and services.....**when you shop locally, you are investing in your community** and helping to ensure our collective economic prosperity