

# MONTICELLO NEWS

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50¢ 46¢ + 4¢

## Monticello Subject To Fire Tax, Same As Unincorporated Areas

*(Agreement Long Time In Coming)*

**LAZARO ALEMAN**  
ECB Publishing  
Senior Staff Writer

The Jefferson County Commission last week approved a resolution and an interlocal agreement with the City of Monticello that both will generate additional revenues for Fire Rescue and assess the annual fire tax on city residents for the first time.

The commission's action on Tuesday evening, Dec. 17, followed upon the Monticello City Council's adoption of a similar resolution and inter-

local agreement the previous week, which two documents in effect gave county officials the authority to impose the fire tax on city residents.

The resolution that commissioners adopted by a 4-1 vote on Tuesday evening essentially authorizes the county to levy the special fire assessment on city residents, the same as residents of the unincorporated areas, effective 2014. Meaning that city resident will begin paying the tax in 2015.

Meanwhile, the interlocal agreement that the commission unani-

mously approved immediately after the resolution's adoption binds the county to give the city a designated percentage of the annual fire tax monies collected within the city. Which money the city must use to fund the operational costs of its volunteer fire department.

The agreement sets that percentage at 20 percent for the first year and allows for the percentage to be renegotiated in subsequent years. It further commits the Monticello Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD)

"to provide automatic aid to the county's fire rescue services for all fires within the corporate limits of the city."

The agreement takes effect Dec. 31, 2013, and automatically renews on Dec. 31 of every subsequent year, unless terminated by a written notice either from the city or the county.

Commissioner Hines Boyd alone voted against the resolution, arguing that it was wrongheaded and put the cart before the horse.

**Please See FIRE TAX Page 3**

## New Family Dollar Store Is Finally Under Construction



The new Family Dollar retail store is going up off US 19 South at Cherokee Street.

**LAZARO ALEMAN**  
ECB Publishing  
Senior Staff Writer

More than a year after city officials gave the green light for a new Family Dollar on US 19 South, construction is finally underway, with the opening of the

new retail store expected take place as early as January.

That was the word last week from one of the construction workers at the site on 180 East Cherokee Street, just off South Jefferson Street

**Please See FAMILY DOLLAR Page 3**



## Road Improvement Programs Pump Millions Into Jefferson

**LAZARO ALEMAN**  
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Clerk of Court Kirk Reams hasn't forgotten that when he first campaigned for public office some seven years ago, the condition of the county's dirt roads was one of the primary concerns that residents voiced to him.

That experience, combined with his prior career as a postal carrier, has given Reams an appreciation of the importance of roads both to the average person and to those who regularly travel them as part of their jobs, such as school bus drivers and mail carriers. Roads, he notes, impact daily on people's lives, in terms of accessibility, travel time, wear-and-tear on their vehicles and general quality of life.

Which explains Reams' attention to road improvement projects in recent years, starting with his collaboration with engineer Alan Wise on the identification of roads for paving, resurfacing and widening work; his participation in an extensive effort that led to the inventorying of all the county's roads; and his leadership role in helping secure the bond money that is currently

allowing for the paving of many of the county's dirt roads.

Particularly dear to Reams are three state-funded, small-county road-improvement programs that over the years have pumped millions of dollars into the county. That figure, if one includes projects already identified for state funding through 2017, amount to \$39,268,851, or nearly \$40 million.

The three programs are the Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP), the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP), and the County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP).

Reams notes that the three programs were threatened during the recent Great Recession, when dwindling state revenues prompted legislators to cut back spending. The economic situation has since improved, however, and the three programs are back in full force, he says.

"They were funded more than what was asked for this year," Reams says.

The three programs, he explains, were established in the early 2000s as a way for the 16 counties in District 3 of the Florida

## Read Your Local Papers Online!

Just a reminder to everyone that you can read the actual *Monticello News* and *Jefferson County Journal* newspapers online.

The online edition of the newspaper (called an e-edition) is available not only on computers, but also on iPads, Kindles, other tablets, iPhones and Android phones.

A one year subscription to the e-edition is only \$25 per year. The online e-editions become available for viewing every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

If you would like to subscribe to the e-edition and the print edition, you simply need to add five dollars to the cost of the print subscription. Current print subscriptions are \$45 in-county and \$52 out-of-county.

To view a sample of the e-edition, go to [online.ecbpublishing.com](http://online.ecbpublishing.com). start your subscription today, or for more information, call (850) 997-3568 or email [loisr@embarqmail.com](mailto:loisr@embarqmail.com) so we can get the information on how to get the online edition to you.

## County To Get \$562,961 In State Reimbursements

**LAZARO ALEMAN**  
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It's probably not entirely a coincidence that the Florida Department of Revenue (FDOR) annually times its announcements of coming reimbursements to counties near the Christmas holidays.

Be that as it may, it's always good news when word of the reimbursement comes, and it was no different this year.

Property Appraiser Angela Gray joyously reported the "bit of good news" to the *News* last week, noting that the county was scheduled to receive more than a \$500,000 in reimbursements from the state for the lost tax revenues caused by Amendments 1 and 4.

"It's official," Gray emailed on Thursday, Dec. 19. "The county has been put on notice (by the FDOR) to look for a check from the state for...\$562,961 in fiscally constrained dollars for Amendments 1 and 4."

Gray said the \$562,961 reimbursement meant that Jefferson County taxpayers had saved \$531,832 as a result of Amendment 1 and \$69,679 as a result of Amendment 4.

"The state is reimbursing the county with approximately 94 percent of the total tax loss," Gray said. "The state law mandates that 'up to 95 percent' of the revenue lost due to these tax breaks will be reimbursed by the state."

Amendment 1 allows homeowners to claim a second home-

stead and other exemptions as part of the several property tax reform measures that lawmakers adopted a few years back to give property owners tax relief.

Amendment 4, commonly known as the conservation amendment, exempts undeveloped lands that are put into permanent conservation easements from property taxes; in exchange, the property owners give up all development rights to these properties.

Amendment 4 also allows undeveloped lands that aren't in permanent conservation easements, but that are being used for conservation purposes, to be taxed according to the latter use.

**Please See REIMBURSEMENTS Page 3**



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**Wed 12/25** 55/35  
Sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 30s.

**Thu 12/26** 61/45  
Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 40s.

**Fri 12/27** 61/44  
Occasional showers possible. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 40s.

# FROM PAGE ONE



ROSE KLEIN  
ECB Publishing, Inc.

## Man Advertises For Christmas Companion

In London, an 85-year-old retired butler placed an ad in the Irish Post, searching for someone to spend Christmas with. James Gray said he had spent the last nine Christmas' alone. "This time of year is so hard if you are old and alone because it feels like everybody else around you is enjoying themselves," he told the Post. Since the ad, Gray has been bombarded with letters; many offering to have Christmas dinner with him and thousands others offering messages of support. Gray said, "It is so touching to me, after all these years alone, to see this response from people. I'm so appreciative of the offers. I should have done this years ago."

## Bell Ringer Allegedly Hit For Greeting

In Phoenix, Ariz., Kristina Vindiola, a Salvation Army bell ringer, claimed she was assaulted for saying "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas." Vindiola said she was ringing a bell outside of a Wal-Mart when a lady she wished "Happy Holidays" to approached her and said, "Do you believe in God? You're supposed to say Merry Christmas." Vindiola said that's when the woman hit her in the arm before going inside the store. Vindiola told the store manager who then called the police. After reviewing surveillance footage, police said they were unable to come up with enough evidence to arrest the alleged attacker.

## Drunken Santa Event Creates Opposition

In New York, thousands of people are celebrating Christmas with the infamous "Santa Con pub crawl," where New Yorkers dress as Santas and elves and visit bar after bar in the Manhattan and Brooklyn area. In the past, area residents have complained of revelers urinating, vomiting and brawling in the streets, so much so that this year police are monitoring the event. Ashley Urciuoli, a 23-year-old medical assistant said, "You can't have a good time when the cops are hovering over you." Anthony Perugini, a 28-year-old teacher agrees, "They are ruining Santa Con. They are ruining our fun." A local resident from Oceanside, Long Island disagrees. Greg Stone said, "I think it's the dumbest thing I've ever seen. It's just an excuse for white kids to come to the city from the suburbs and drink."

## Fire Tax

continued from page 1

"Morally, I have a problem with this," Boyd said. "I think it's a shady way of dumping on city residents for the mismanagement of our fire department."

Boyd has had a longstanding disagreement with Fire Rescue Chief Mark Matthews over the fire department's budget. It's Boyd's contention that the department could be operated more efficiently and cost effectively if Matthews utilized the volunteer fire departments more extensively.

The argument is one that Matthews rejects and that has found no support among Boyd's fellow board members.

Boyd further argued that the resolution was premature. It was his assertion that before the board adopted such a resolution, it should prepare a plan and decide how it wanted to spend the additional monies that would be generated by the taxing of city residents and vacant lands.

Clerk of Court Kirk Reams, who along with Matthews and County Coordinator Parrish Barwick was instrumental in fashioning the resolution/agreement, readily acknowl-

edged his differences with Boyd on the issue.

As far as he was concerned, the issue was one of fairness and equity, Reams said. And it was high time that it was resolved, he said.

"It's patently unfair," Reams said of the longstanding arrangement. "You have had county residents subsidizing city residents. It's unfair and it's been a long time coming."

As for the additional revenues that the tax would generate, the commission would have more than a year to determine how to use the extra money, he said.

It was a point that Barwick underscored. Not only would the commission have a year to decide how to use the additional revenues, but Fire Rescue couldn't use the funds absent the commission's authority, Barwick said. In other words, the decision over how these extra monies would be spent would rest with the board, he said.

Moreover, if Matthews had cut funding to the volunteer departments in the past, it was because he had had nowhere else to cut, Barwick said.

Commission Chair-

woman Betsy Barfield summarized the majority sentiment. No elected official liked to levy taxes, but sometimes it was necessary to do so, she said.

"It's been a long time coming," Barfield said. "I believe we're moving in the right direction."

The issue of city residents not paying the annual fire assessment dates from the late 1980s, when the city disbanded its paid fire department and the county in turn started its own paid fire services.

At the time, the county selected the special assessment as the method for funding its fire services, but it chose to exempt city residents from the tax, even though the latter benefited from the service the same as county residents.

Periodically, a county official would raise the fire tax's unfairness and inequity and propose that it be applied to city residents. The board as a whole, however, never mustered the political will to press the issue. And immediately they received pushback from the city, they would drop the idea.

## Programs

continued from page 1

Department of Transportation to compete for state funding to improve their roads, particularly those roads that the state had earlier turned over to the counties. The 16 counties run from Escambia on the west to Jefferson on the east.

Not only have the three programs allowed for the resurfacing of all the roads that the county inherited from the state, but they have also allowed for the resurfacing of many of the roads that the county first paved with the 1992 bond money, Reams says. He counts among the latter Lloyd Creek, Bassett Dairy, Tecumseh and Barrington roads.

"We've done quite well for a small county," Reams says, referring to the number of roads that have been resurfaced, paved and widened throughout the years as a result of the three programs.

Among the roads that are identified for improvement in the coming years are the following:

Under SCRAP — East St. Augustine Road, from SR-59 to Armstrong Road; West Lake Road, from Ward

Creek Bridge to the beginning of the new pavement; South Salt Road, from US 90 to US 19 and 27; and Thompson Valley/Turkey Scratch Road, from US 19 to Aucilla Road.

Under SCOP — the Waukeelah Highway, from US 19 to US 27; Casa Bianca Road, from Waukeelah Highway to Old Lloyd Road; Tyson Road, from US 19 to Waukeelah Highway; and Fanlew/Natural Bridge Road, from SR-59 to the Leon County line.

Under CIGP — Pinhook Road, from the Waukeelah Highway to SR-59; Hatchett/Ebenezer Church Road, from US 19 to US 19; South Main Avenue, From US 90 to Old Lloyd Road; Armstrong, from US 27 to the Waukeelah Highway; and Cook Road, from Nash Road to Freeman Road,

"I want the county to have the best roads that a rural county can have in the state," Reams says. "I feel we're headed in a good direction."

Below are the roads that have been improved by the three programs since 1997 and the amounts spend on each.

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	PROG.	YEAR
CR 257B (South Salt)	US 90 to US 19 (inc. 2 bridges)	\$10,100,000	Safety	1997-1998
CR 259 (Waukeelah Hwy)	US 19 to US 27	\$733,955	CIGP	2004-2005
CR 142 (Lake Rd)	SR 59 to Leon Co. Rd.	\$1,510,075	SCRAP	2004-2005
CR 259 (Tram Rd)	SR 59 to Leon Co. Line	\$861,796	SCOP	2005-2006
Drifton-Aucilla Rd	US 19 to CR 257B	\$904,475	SCRAP	2005-2006
CR 158A (Old Lloyd Rd)	US 90 to SR 59	\$2,273,835	SCOP	2006-2007
CR 149 (Boston Hwy)	US 19 to State Line	\$1,206,823	SCRAP	2006-2007
CR 158 (Rabon Rd)	CR 158A to CR 259	\$925,704	SCOP	2007-2008
CR 146 (Ashville Hwy)	City Limit to SR 221	\$2,785,860	SCRAP	2007-2008
CR 3 (W. Lake Rd.)	CR 142 to Ward Creek Bridge	\$434,808	SCRAP	2007-2008
CR 257A (South Salt)	US 27 to Taylor Co. Line	\$2,774,414	SCOP	2008-2009
CR 142 (Lake Rd.)	Cocroft Rd. to Leon Co. Line	\$991,426	SCRAP	2008-2009
CR 58 (Fulford Rd.)	US 19 to CR 149	\$641,203	SCRAP	2008-2009
CR 257C (North Salt)	CR 146 to Bassett Dairy Rd.	\$895,000	ARRA	2009-2010
CR 158B (Nash Rd.)	US 19 to CR 259	\$417,958	SCRAP	2009-2010
CR 149A (Dills Rd.)	CR 149 to Brock Rd	\$1,324,442	SCRAP	2009-2010
Whitehouse Rd.	SR 59 to Leon Co. Line	\$922,077	SCRAP	2010-2011
CR 259 (Waukeelah Hwy.)	US 27 to SR 59	\$1,474,000	SCOP	2011-2012
Watermill Rd.	Paved Portions	\$500,000	CIGP	2011-2012
CR 158A (Old Lloyd Rd.)	SR 59 to Leon Co. Line	\$268,000	CIGP	2012-2013
Lloyd Creek Rd.	US 27 to CR 158A	\$1,413,000	SCRAP	2013-2014
Bassett Dairy/N. Salt Rd.	CR 146 to US 90	\$1,371,000	CIGP	2013-2014
Tecumseh Rd.	CR 142 to US 19	\$249,000	SCOP	2014-2015
Watermill Rd.	Unpaved Portion	\$815,000	SCOP	2014-2015
W. St. Augustine Rd.	US 27 to SR 59	\$876,000	SCOP	2014-2015
Barrington Rd.	SR 59 to Lloyd Creek/Cherry Tree	\$541,000	SCOP	2015-2016
N. Barber Hill Rd.	US 19/27 to CR 257B	\$196,000	SCRAP	2015-2016
Piney Woods Rd.	Rabon Rd. to CR 158A	\$665,000	SCRAP	2015-2016
Beth Page Rd	SR 59 to CR 259	\$281,000	CIGP	2016-2017
Freeman Rd.	CR 259 to US 19	\$916,000	SCRAP	2016-2017
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$39,268,851</b>		
<b>TOTAL SCRAP/SCOP/CIGP</b>		<b>\$38,373,851</b>		

## Family Dollar

continued from page 1

and opposite the newly remodeled Burger King. A large sign on the property proclaims, "Coming Soon!"

HJB Construction, a South Carolina-based company, is doing the construction. The South Carolina-based Blue Current Development LLC is the developer and the Florida-based civil engineering firm of Causseaux, Hewett and Walpole out of Gainesville designed the building.

The Monticello City Council approved the development's site plan in November of last year, based on the recommendation of the Monticello Local Planning Agency (LPA).

The site plan called for construction of an 8,320 sq. foot building with nonmetal exterior walls on three sides, a vegetative buffering on two sides and a stormwater retention pond.

Additionally, the council stipulated that

the developer install exterior lighting that conformed with "dark sky" principles to reduce light pollution; that the heating and air conditioning central units be screened for aesthetic purposes; that the refuse area likewise be enclosed and furnished with an operable gate for appearance's sake; and that a sidewalk be constructed along the property's west boundary to allow for pedestrian traffic.

## Reimbursements

continued from page 1

"The 2013 Legislature appropriated \$23,750,000 for distribution to the fiscally constrained counties to offset the reductions in property tax resulting from the Amendment 1 revisions to Article VII of the State Constitution," Gray wrote. "These provisions include the \$25,000 additional homestead exemption, the \$25,000 tangible personal property exemption, homestead portability, and the 10-percent assessment increase limitation on non-homestead property."

"Additionally," she continued, "\$250,000 was appropriated for the impact of conservation lands."

Gray noted that the entire 95 percent of the tax loss for Amendment 1 was reimbursed, but only 83 percent of the conservation land loss was reimbursed this year.

The Property Appraiser office is responsible for collecting and reporting the data on the county's value loss to the FDOR annually. Each year, once the

millage rates are set, Gray works closely with Clerk of Court Kirk Reams to complete and submit the appropriate paperwork and application form by Nov. 15. The FDOR then typically distributes the monies in late December or early January.

The records show that Jefferson County received \$181,807 in 2008; \$472,489 in 2009; \$542,999 in 2010; and \$564,000 in 2011.

### "Celtic Crosses"

**Across**

- Hazzard County police officer
- Shocked sound
- Size between small and large; abbr.
- Animal prized for its wool
- Possessing power
- Blvd. cousin
- Toast-and-cheese dish
- "\_\_\_ the season..."
- Prepares a fishing line
- Money with interest attached
- Marquis de \_\_\_
- Semicircles
- Put on TV
- Minnesotan
- "Marble" bread
- Little bear
- Old-fashioned contraction
- Verify, IRS-style
- New Hampshire-born president
- Certain Monopoly token
- Participates in a summer camp activity
- Banks of baseball
- Signs of the future
- Newspaper people, for short
- Dollop
- Makes good on one's debts
- They hook up IVs
- Location
- Dirt
- Dante's "Divine Comedy," for instance
- Some artists' studios

**Down**

- One place for seafood
- Mrs. \_\_\_ (owner of an infamous cow)
- Do some genetic engineering
- Fills roles for a movie
- Newspaper publisher Adolph
- Listening device?
- Zsa Zsa or Eva
- "Waterloo" singers
- Injured arm's support
- Garfield or Marmaduke
- Infamous Dutch spy
- Proof
- Person who's way off-base?
- Courtroom defenses
- Ball
- Autobahn vehicles
- Brother and husband of Isis
- Affectedly adorable
- Hard to listen to, maybe
- Most common English word
- Awaits judgement
- "Raging Bull" director Martin
- Visited
- Like some bathing suits
- Long, narrow hole
- Be unlike
- Show up for
- Harasses
- Antitoxin
- Puts on the line
- Bulgaria's capital
- Tree with needles
- Possibly apocryphal history
- Journalist Tarbell
- Kernel's home

**Answer on Page 12**

## CROSSWORDS

# AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY

## Santa Not Always Ho, Ho, Ho

FRAN HUNT  
ECB Publishing  
Staff Writer

One would think it's a life full of Ho, Ho, Ho's when stepping in for Santa Claus and portraying the jolly old soul. It very often proves to be not only full of ho, ho, ho's, but also ha, ha, ha's, and Oh No's!

Several County residents have volunteered over the years to offer their services and become Santa's helpers as they stand in for Jolly Old St. Nick at many local events. As Santa, these men have dealt with crying babies, infants grabbing their glasses, tugging at their beards, asking a multitude of questions, and even those who didn't want to sit on his lap. Regardless of what happens, they highly enjoy their duties and plan to continue doing them.

Ron Slik has been portraying Santa Claus for over 20 years, both locally and at Governor's Square Mall in Tallahassee. He said that though many Santa's attend Santa School, he hasn't been one of them. "It's a tough job and you have to know exactly what to say," said Slik. He added that it is very hard work when you have a lot of children and you're continually lifting them to your lap. Slik began experiencing leg pains and was informed by his doctor that lifting affects the legs. "You'd think it would be your back bothering you," he said.

Through the years, he has had many experiences including mishaps, cute, funny, and very heart touching. Slik recalls that the year before last, a little girl visiting from China came to see him. "She spoke English very well, so I asked her what she wanted for Christmas? She asked me, what's is

Christmas? Then I asked her what would you like to have more than anything else in the world? She thought about it really hard. You could almost see the smoke coming out of her ears, and then she blurted out, 'Macaroni and cheese!' Her mother said she could handle that."

He said that one year, one little girl who came to see him, touched him. She told Santa she had a lot and didn't really need anything, but her friend at school in Tallahassee had lost her house and her family was sleeping in a car. The girl asked Santa to get her friend a warm blanket because it was going to be really cold.

There was one little boy about four years old, who wore a frilly shirt, knickers and tweed jacket and spoke perfect King's English, said to him; "Santa, I have a problem. I liked all the presents I got last year, but I didn't ask for them. This year, could you bring me a sack of money and me and my mom will go shopping and buy what I want?" Slik responded, "Santa Claus doesn't deal with money and he can't print it. I deal with toys." The boy said he thought he would give it a shot any way.

Several years ago, on a very busy night with a very long line of parents and children, a little girl about three to five years old bypassed the line and crawled into his lap. "She kept saying 'St. Nicolas', and playing with my beard. Then I was informed that she was from Russia and had only been in the country for three days." Slik said that he had learned to speak Russian before he learned to speak English, so he spoke to her in Russian. "She was thrilled to know that



Ron Slik has been portraying Santa Claus for over 20 years

Santa Claus could speak Russian," said Slik.

He recalls that there was one occasion when a little boy brought him a gift bag. "I was polite and didn't open it until he left. Inside, wrapped in tissue paper, there was a big sugar cookie with one bite taken out of it. I guess he wanted to ensure that Santa got a good cookie," quipped Slik. "I still have that cookie."

Slik said he has the same family come and see him every year. "I have a large number of college students come by to see me and this one boy wanted to send a picture of his girlfriend to his mother, so he figured the best picture would be one with her and Santa Claus. They came back every year after that. One year, they informed him that they were married now. And when they had their first baby, they came to see me. The man told me it had become a family tradition to be photographed with Santa, telling me, 'it works!'"

He remembered yet another cute story. Slik said he was working in a flower shop and two little girls outside were talking when one asked the other, "Where does Santa Claus live?" The other girl answered, "Monticello, Florida," just at the moment Slik departed the flower shop. The second girl pointed toward Slik and said, "See, I told you that Santa lives in Monticello!"

Over the years, Slik has had many mishaps as Santa. He said babies are fascinated with his beard and reach for it; he had one instance when a teenage boy sat

on his lap reached over and grabbed his beard and pulled to watch it come off. "He almost yanked my face off," said Slik. He has had many babies spit up on him and diapers leaking in his lap. "That's why I have several costumes, just in case one has to be dry-cleaned," said Slik. He added that the biggest problem playing Santa is the children ages six months to about two years. "They have always come to know Santa in pictures or on TV, and he's real small. But when their parents drag them to the mall to get their first photo with Santa, they begin screaming bloody murder."

As Santa, Slik has also had senior citizens have their photos with him. "I remember last year, there was this 93 year-old woman in a wheelchair. She told me that her children were all grown now, but when they were small, every year there was a photo taken with Santa. She said she thought it the best thing to do to take a photo of herself with Santa and send it to her children."

Recalling another senior, he remembers an 83 year-old woman who had fallen and broken her vertebra and had to wear a brace that came up like a box on both sides of her head. "She said she thought a photo with Santa would help her to remember being alive during this ordeal," said Slik.

As a citizen visiting retailers, he has had many children stare at him over the years. Parents have often told him that he needs to come around more often, because the children have a tendency to behave when he's around.

Slik also portrays Santa Paws for pet lovers who like photos of their little furry family members with Santa. "I don't have a problem with the dogs, but for some reason, I have trouble with the cats, they don't seem to like me. There have also been families who wanted photos taken of their children and pets together with me, and those are really fun. The pet will sit still and the kids are jumping up and down, many excited about 'Santa is going to hold my dog.'"

Bert Banks has portrayed Santa since 2001 and recalls some of his cutest or funny moments. His authentic "Santa Claus" beard has come in handy on many of those occasions.

"There was one year during the Downtown Christmas when I played Santa for one day and one night. One little boy came in and told me that he wanted a fire truck for Christmas," said Banks. "He came back about three more times while I was there, and he kept telling me that he wanted a fire truck for Christmas. I guess he was trying the make sure I wouldn't forget."

"I remember one time, when I was Santa at Little Angels in Training," said Banks. "There was this one little girl who was so excited when she got home, she ran through the house and told her mother, 'I saw the real Santa Claus today, and it wasn't Mr. Larry.'"

He recalled one instance when he was called to do a job in Virginia. "I would eat dinner every night in a restaurant near my hotel room," he said. "I walked in one night and sat near the salad bar where I could see the door." Banks reminds that he was not in his "uniform" at the time. "One man approached me at the salad bar and he told me that his son had told him he thought the gentleman near the salad bar was Santa. So I asked him his son's name and he said Sean, so I got a little more information."

"Shortly after, I walked up behind him and tapped him on the shoulder and said hello Sean, have you been a good boy," said Banks. "Sean had a miraculous look on his face when he looked up and saw me. He kind of hesitated and stuttered 'yes'. Then I asked him what happened in school last week and he was suddenly dumbfounded."

Banks said Sean's dad then told him, "I told you he (Santa) could see you."

"I really had a lot of fun with it," he added.

He has had many instances of children tugging on his beard, just to make sure it was real. "It has convinced many that I was the real deal," said Banks.

There are instances as the jolly old soul, when children become frightened. "I went to Freedom Church in Tallahassee and went to visit with the children in the nursery. Some of the children started crying and some refused to sit on my lap," said Banks. "It happens from time to time."

As Santa, one also has to be very quick on his feet coming up with clever answers to the children's questions. "You have to be able to figure out what the children are asking and give them the answer they are looking for. If you don't, they figure out that it's not really Santa."

Some ask him where his sled is and he replies, "There is no snow here, so when we're here, we ride in a red Jeep." Many have asked how many reindeer he has and he tells them, "Eight, but on those foggy nights when I use Rudolph, I have nine." Children have asked him how many elves he has and he tells them a variety of answers, including, "I'm hiring and firing all

year round, so I really don't know how many are working for me now." On occasions, he has been asked, "Do you pay the elves? How do you get the money?" At times, he tells them the money is donated, at other times he tells them that he feeds them and gives them a place to live, so they work for free.

Banks recalls that last year he went to a Chinese restaurant in Madison for some dinner. "There are some Spanish people who worked there and one couple had a little girl. The parents told me that she thought I looked like Santa and I told them I was Santa. I told them that I would be back in uniform the following night at 7 p.m. As all the children came in they thought it was great to see that Santa had stopped by for dinner."

Banks greeted each with "Feliz Navdad" and gave them candy canes.

He has snuck into his grandchildren's room on Christmas Eve to deliver bicycles and shortly before leaving, he let out a loud, "Ho, Ho, Ho", awakening the children. "My grandson grabbed the camera and took a picture of me with infrared film. The funny thing was, the red suit didn't show up."

Banks has had many children, adults and those who are heavy, sitting on his lap, but it doesn't bother him. "I can take it," he relates. He concluded, "I've been very, very lucky, I want to keep playing Santa. I love to see the look on the kids' faces. There's nothing like it."

Larry Bates, Sr. has been playing Santa Claus since the 1990's. He relates that there are many memorable occasions, some mishaps and just enjoying the expression on children's bright little faces when they see him.

"I have had little babies hands getting entangled in my beard, and I have had babies grab my glasses and pull them off," said Bates.

"I try to be quiet around the little kids, holding back on the Ho, Ho, Ho's, to keep from scaring them," said Bates. "The worst part about playing Santa is when I get ready to leave, the older kids follow me and I have a hard time getting out of their sight."

He has portrayed Santa on many occasions and said that some of those who come to get photos with him, or just tell what they wanted for Christmas. He has even had a few bring in their family pets for photos with him.

Bates said the cutest kids are those who are amazed with the sight of Santa and they can't take their eyes off him. "They are so amazed, they don't want to leave."

He recalls his funniest story. "When my grandson was little, he told his grandmother, 'I wish Grandpa would stop pretending to be Santa Claus.'"

Both Banks and Bates say they have been fortunate and not had any mishaps with babies spitting up on them or leaky diapers. They haven't had that particular problem, "yet."

### Celebrating 41 Years Together



Jerome and Nellie Kay Akins celebrated 41 years of marriage on Tuesday, December 24, 2013. They enjoyed their Wedding Anniversary over dinner with their son Jerrod and Tieshia Akins and their grandchildren Ma'khyah Mo'niqah and Jamiyah Janae.

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# AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY

## Boy Scout Troup 803 Chose The Winners



ECB Publishing Photo By Debbie Snapp, December 6, 2013.

Boy Scout Troop 803 held its annual Chili Cookoff during the Christmas Downtown event on December 6. Winning first place were Julie and Ray O'Quinn; second place went to Brian Tola. A Gun Raffle winner was also pulled, and the winning ticket went to Dallas Campbell. Pictured from left to right are: Levi Singleton, Ray O'Quinn, Campbell, Julie O'Quinn, Devon Singleton, and Gavin Mills. For more information about scouting in Jefferson County contact Scout Master Paul Wittig at 850-997-1727.

## Altrusa And Rotary Celebrate The Holidays Together



Cottage Catering on Mulberry Street prepared and served dinner for the Altrusa and Rotary Christmas Party on December 12, 2013. Pictured from left to right are: Mary Frances Gramling, Georgianna Barker, and Sara Campbell.



Altrusa and Rotary members and guests brought toys for the JOY program to their Christmas party this year instead of their usual ornament exchange. December 12, 2013.

DEBBIE SNAPP  
ECB Publishing  
Staff Writer

Mary Frances Thursday evening  
Gramling, with Cottage seafood meal. Dessert  
Catering on Mulberry was a chocolate crea-  
tion.

Altrusa of Monticello held its Christmas party this year with the Monticello Rotary, celebrating the holidays together on December 12.

Instead of the usual 'Ornament Exchange' the guests were asked to bring an unwrapped gift for the local J.O.Y. program (Jefferson Outreach for Youth.)

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**PAKMAIL**

## Santa Visits Monticello



Santa recently stopped into the Wag The Dog Thrift Store to visit with Connie Heath (left) and Jeannie Beetsma (right).

# Dining Out Guide

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850-997-5561

**Take out & Catering Service**

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Dinner Combo \$6.95

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*Sweet & Sour Chicken*

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**The Plaza Restaurant & Lounge**  
Specializing in Hand-Cut Steaks, Fresh Seafood, Greek & Italian Dishes

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Lounge Open Daily at 4PM  
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**229-226-5153**  
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www.thomasvilleplaza.com

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\* Kids eat FREE with purchase of any Adult Meal

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Friday-Saturday 5pm-10pm  
Closed Sunday & Monday

134 South Madison Street • Thomasville GA  
Phone: 229.225.9866  
www.Pauliespizza.net

# CHURCH

## CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

285 Magnolia St • Monticello • 997-2165  
www.cbeflorida.org  
**Dr. David E. Walker, Pastor**

Sunday School.....9:45 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening.....6:30 PM  
Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM  
Wed. TRAC Club for teens.....7:00 PM

## CAPITAL HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

7150 Apalachee Pkwy • Tallahassee  
www.chbaptistchurch.org  
**Pastor Derrick Burrus**  
850-345-0425

Sunday School.....10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM  
Children's Chapel.....11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening.....7:00 PM  
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study  
Classes for Students

## CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

625 Tindell Road • Aucilla • 997-2081  
P.O. Box 163 • Monticello  
**Pastor Daryl Adams**  
850-251-0129

Sunday School.....9:45 AM  
Sunday Worship Service.....11:00 AM  
Choir Practice.....5:00 PM  
Worship Service.....6:00 PM  
Wednesday  
Fellowship Meal.....6:30 PM  
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study.....7:00 PM

## INDIAN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

5593 Veterans Memorial Drive (Hwy 59)  
Tallahassee • 850-893-5296  
www.indianspringsbaptistchurch.com  
**Rev. Greg Roberts**

Sunday School.....9:45 AM  
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM  
Children's Worship.....11:00 AM  
Wednesday  
Fellowship Meal.....7:00 PM  
Prayer Meeting.....7:45 PM

## CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

425 North Cherry Street • Monticello • 997-4116  
www.ChristChurchMonticello.com

**Rev. James Bowen May, Priest**

Communicating the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1840  
Sunday 9:00 AM.....Adult and Children Sunday School  
10:00 AM .....Holy Eucharist  
Nursery provided for children under 5

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

325 West Washington Street  
Monticello • 997-2349  
**Dr. Rick Kelley, Pastor**

Sunday School.....9:45 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 PM  
Children's Church - Ages 4-6.....11:30 AM  
-Nursery for all services-

## MEMORIAL M.B. CHURCH

780 Second Street • Monticello • 997-4947  
**Moderator J.B. Duval, Pastor**

Worship Services 2nd and 4th Sundays  
Sunday Church School (every Sunday).....9:30 AM  
Sunday Worship (2nd & 4th Sundays).....11:00 AM  
Youth Worship (2nd Sunday).....11:00 AM  
Wednesday  
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study.....7:00 PM

## NEW HOPE CHURCH OF GOD

415 E Palmer Mill Rd • Monticello • 997-1119  
newhope415@yahoo

**Pastor Dr. E. Bob Kuschel**

Sunday School.....10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM  
Wed. Family Training Hour.....7:00 PM  
Ignite student Ministries.....7:00 PM

## OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

7369 Boston Hwy. Monticello  
850-997-1596

**Bro. David Daring**

Sunday Bible Study.....10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM  
Wednesday  
Bible & Prayer Meeting.....6:30 PM

## GREATER FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

690 Cypress Street Monticello 850-997-4375  
"Standing Firm On The Word Of God"  
**Dr. Melvin Roberts, Pastor**

Sunday Church School.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Praise & Worship.....11:15 A.M.  
2nd Sunday Youth Praise & Worship  
4th Sunday Individual Outreach Ministry & Fellowship  
3rd Sunday Holy Communion  
Wednesday Evenings  
Prayer Meeting.....6:30 P.M.  
Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.

## ELIZABETH BAPTIST CHURCH

4124 Bassett Dairy Rd • Monticello • 997-8444  
Email: ebcmonticello@centurylink.net

**Student Pastor, Don Self**

Sunday Worship Service.....8:30 AM  
Sunday Bible Study.....9:45 AM  
Morning Worship Service.....11:00 AM  
Choir Practice.....5:00 PM  
Evening Worship Service.....6:00 PM

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study/Prayer Meeting.....6:00 PM  
RA's/ GA's/Mission Friends/Youth



## "Keeping the Faith"

Ronnie McBrayer

## Choose The Future

Last year the Old South Congregational Church in Boston began to unravel itself from a quandary. They had been the longtime owners of an exceptional church hymnal, one of the first books produced in North America, printed in 1640. After years of deliberation, study groups, and business meetings, the church finally voted to sell the hymnal.

Because of the age and historical importance attached to this hymnal, selling it was much more than jettisoning a tiny sliver of American nostalgia. The hymnal has incredible value for collectors, and those collectors were salivating to sink their teeth into this ancient book. Thus, when Sotheby's auctioned the hymnal last month, it brought a hammer price of \$14.2 million, a record for a single printed book.

The sale price, with that long string of zeros, did not free the church from controversy. On one side were the church historians and those members of the congregation who felt they had been called to preserve the church's

history and legacy. On the other side were Pastor Nancy Taylor, the majority of the leadership, and those who felt that faithful stewardship demanded that the resources of the church not be preserved but repurposed to continue mission and ministry.

One side said it was about symbolism, while the other side said it was about service. One side said it was about the past, while the other side pointed to the future. One side said it was about greed on the behalf of the church's leadership, and the church leadership said the dissenters were moored to traditionalism.

I watched this story unfold for over a year, and was sympathetic to both sides until I heard the church historian say that the church had two of these exceptional books and if this one was sold, "You would never be able to hold one in each hand ever again." Of course, he had to admit that holding them was not really practical – they are much too fragile for that.

Then he further revealed that the hymnals weren't even in the

church's possession! They were stored in the rare books department of the Boston Public Library. Most church members – and certainly 99% of the community – have never even laid eyes on these items. Are they ancient? Yes. Significant? Absolutely. Do they remain instruments of worship and service? No, they haven't served that purpose for a long time, and they will never do so again.

That these hymnals are a part of the past, not the future, appeared to be the final motivation in the sale. One thoughtful woman in the church said, "I have two young sons, and looking forward I want my sons to learn that it's not about objects. We can take those objects from the past and turn them into fuel for tomorrow."

What a fantastic perspective, and what an applicable lesson for us all. As one year ends and another begins, a profound choice is put before every person: Will we hold on to the past – preserving, protecting, and perpetuating it – even when doing so becomes much more work than it is worth?

Or will we use the past, its gore and its glory, as fuel for the future? Will we take all we have learned, all we have been blessed with, and yes, even all that has hurt us, as the means to continue moving forward?

I am certain that a church older than the Constitution, old enough to have baptized the infant Benjamin Franklin, and solid enough to withstand everything three centuries has thrown at it, will indeed weather this current situation. I just hope that the resources from the past will get put to today's use, and not be locked away in a vault or collect interest in some ob-scene-sized endowment.

I hope the same for all of us. Let's not make life a museum built to what used to be, but a mission to bring about what can be, for life is not so much about preserving the past as it is living with power and purpose today.

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, pastor, and author. His newest book is "The Gospel According to Waffle House." You can read more at [www.ronniemcbrayer.me](http://www.ronniemcbrayer.me).

## The Gold Wrapping Paper

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give

someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.



## WAUKEENAH UNITED METHODIST

81 Methodist Church Rd • Waukeenaah • 997-2171  
www.waukeenaah-umc.org

**Pastor Donald Thompson, Jr.**

Sunday School.....9:45 AM  
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM  
Youth Group.....7:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Choir Practice.....7:00 PM  
Youth Group.....7:00 PM

Family Fellowship  
2nd Thursday of each month

Thrift Store open every Saturday,

8:00 AM-12:00 PM

[www.waukeenaahcemetery.com](http://www.waukeenaahcemetery.com)

# CHURCH

## Bethlehem In Monticello Wonderful

**DEBBIE SNAPP**  
ECB Publishing  
Staff Writer

The First United Methodist Church family held its 14<sup>th</sup> Live Nativity at Bethlehem in Monticello on Friday and Saturday evenings, a Christmas gift to the Jefferson County communities.

Friends and family from near and far spent their weekends enjoying the downtown event as they took a step back in time and walked through the city of Christ's birth and through the ancient Bethlehem marketplace. Together they experienced different biblical scenes recreated with live characters and live animals, including camels Jeremiah and Amazing Grace. Church members were dressed in period garb, leading animals that worked in that era. There were beggars, soldiers, children, and others.

The evening continued at the Family Ministry Center as guests enjoyed refreshments of warm drinks and homemade cookies.



ECB Publishing Photo By Debbie Snapp, December 6, 2013.  
**An angel watches over the manger scene of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.**



ECB Publishing Photo By Debbie Snapp, December 6, 2013.  
**First United Methodist Church member Elaine Kaschmitter is just one of many volunteers at the 14<sup>th</sup> Live Nativity at Bethlehem in Monticello, and the last person guests met as they concluded their walk through the streets of Bethlehem.**



ECB Publishing Photo By Debbie Snapp, December 6, 2013.  
**14<sup>th</sup> Live Nativity at Bethlehem in Monticello with Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in the manger.**

## The Man Who Hated Christmas

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it – overspending and the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma – the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was on the wrestling team at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only

thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford.



Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids – all kids. He so enjoyed coaching little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when

the idea for his present came.

That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes, and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed a small, white envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done, and that this was his gift from me.

Mike's smile was

on.

The white envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children – ignoring their new toys – would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the small, white envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree. And the next morning, I found it was magically joined by three more. Unbeknownst to the others, each of our three children had for the first time placed a white envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down that special envelope.

Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit will always be with us.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LLOYD

124 St. Louis Street • Lloyd • 997-5309  
fbclloyd.pastor@embarqmail.com  
**Pastor George L. Smith**  
**Sunday**  
Sunday School-Small Groups..... 9:15 AM  
Praise & Worship.....10:30 AM  
TeamKID –ages 3 years–5th grade.....5:00 PM  
CSI: Youth–Grades 6-12.....6:00 PM  
Praise & Worship.....6:00 PM  
Adult Choir.....7:05 PM  
**Wednesday**  
Church Family Supper 5:45 PM  
Joyful Sounds Children's Choir.....6:30 PM  
The Potter's Wheel (6th-12th Grades).....6:30 PM  
Worship on Wednesday.....7:00 PM  
**Thursdays**  
Glory Girls Fitness.....10:00 AM  
**1st & 3rd Monday**  
Mighty Monday–Ladies Bible Study.....6:00 PM  
**2nd Thursday**  
Lloyd Silver Saints– Senior Adult.....11:00 AM  
**3rd Thursday**  
W W Diners.....5:30 PM  
Widows/Widowers outing  
**3rd Saturday**  
Brotherhood.....8:00 AM

### ST. RILLA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

13 Barrington Road • Monticello • 850-997-8747  
**Rev. James Mack, Pastor**  
Sunday School.....(Every Sunday)...9:45 AM  
Morning Worship.....(1st & 3rd Sundays)11:00 AM  
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting- .....  
(Thursday before 1st & 3rd sunday)..... 7:30 PM.

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

290 East Dogwood Street • Monticello • 850-997-2252  
**Interim Pastors**  
Sunday School.....9:45 AM  
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM  
Adult Bible Study-Wednesday.....6:30-7:30 PM  
Men's Breakfast.....2nd Saturday 8:00 AM

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

325 W. Walnut Street • Monticello  
**Pastor Wayne Cook 997-5545**  
Praise & Worship.....8:30 AM  
Sunday School.....9:30 AM  
Traditional Worship.....11:00 AM  
**WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES**  
Bible Study.....4:15  
Prayer Group.....5:15  
Fellowship Meal.....6:00  
Chancel Choir Practice.....6:30

### TRANSFORMING LIFE CHURCH ASSEMBLY OF GOD

1206 Springfield Road • Lloyd • 997-TLC7 (8527)  
**Pastors Tim and Beverly Buchholtz**  
www.TransformingLifeChurch.com  
Sunday..... 10:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Praise and Worship  
Children's Church  
Infants & Toddler Nursery  
Wednesday.....7:00 PM  
Praise & Worship  
Adult & Teen Bible Study  
Young Explorers (K-5th Grade)

### CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

US 19 N 1590 N. Jefferson Street (US 19)  
850-997-3906  
monticellonaz@gmail.com  
**Pastor Clay Stephens**  
Sunday School.....9:45 AM  
Morning Worship.....10:45 AM  
Wednesday Evening  
Supper.....5:30 PM  
Small Group Breakout.....6:30 PM  
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting.....6:30 PM  
Saturday  
Spanish Church Services.....7:30 PM

### WACISSA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

14492 Waukeenah Hwy/ P.O. Box 411  
Wacissa • 997-2179 or 997-1769  
**Pastor James Gamble**  
Sunday School.....9:45 AM  
Sunday Morning.....10:55 AM  
Sunday Bible Study.....6:30 PM  
Wednesday  
Prayer Meeting.....6:30 PM  
Youth Group.....6:00 PM  
Choir Practice.....7:30 PM

### First Corinthian Church

955 Lemon St., Monticello, Florida  
850-445-0076  
sonnyjohnjr@aol.com  
**Reverend John Jones, Pastor**  
Saturday Morning Worship.....11:00 AM  
Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 PM

### RESTORED GLORY CHRISTIAN CENTER

1287 South Jefferson Street • 997-RGCC (7422)  
www.restoredglory.org  
**Pastor Eddie and Elder Veronica Yon**  
Get Moving Womens Fitness & Fellowship, Monday.....6:00 PM  
Sunday Church Service.....10:00 AM  
Tuesday Night Taebo.....6:00 PM  
Thursday Church Service.....7:00 PM  
Pastor's Office by Appointment

### ST. PHILLIP A.M.E. CHURCH

Hwy. 27 South • (1 mile south of Hwy 59)  
Monticello • 997-4226  
**Rev. J. W. Tisdale**  
Sunday Morning.....9:30 AM  
Sunday Worship.....11:00 AM  
Tuesday nights basic English classes  
w/Gloria Norton at 7:00  
Wednesday  
Prayer & Bible Study.....7:00 PM

# SCHOOL

## Altrusa Hands Up Scholarship Awarded



Altrusa Monticello awarded a 'Hands Up Scholarship' in the amount of \$250 to Christina Newell. She expressed her heartfelt thanks through tears. Pictured from left to right are: Linda Benedict, Newell, and President Joyce Sealey.

**DEBBIE SNAPP**  
ECB Publishing  
Staff Writer

Christina Newell was awarded the 'Hands Up Scholarship' from Altrusa Monticello. She is a fulltime student, attending North Florida Community College in Madison. After she completes her pre-required courses she will apply to the RN program at NFCC.

Newell has chosen to follow in her mother's footsteps, in the nursing career. Her mother retired after 30 years of service with the state. She passed away in 2009. She says that she wants to provide a better life for her children Chris and Hunter. She adds that with the love and support from her dad and great friends, she will make it

through her schooling, and in finding a good and long lasting job.

Her Altrusa sisters have been a blessing to her. "Their moral and financial support keeps me going. They are there always with their love and prayers. I love helping others, especially the elderly. I have a good rapport with people and their families, and they are quick to show that love and support to me."

On Friday, December 13 Newell received her final grades for her first semester in college. She was quick to share the great news with her Altrusa sisters... she received an 'A' in her three classes, giving her a 4.0 GPA.

Her sons are also proud of her grades. "They used words like 'congrats' and 'cool,'" she added.

## NFCC Honors 2013 Registered Nursing Graduates

### Pinning And Lamp Lighting Ceremony Marks Beginning Of New Journey For Graduates



NFCC 2013 Registered Nursing graduates

North Florida Community College honored its Registered Nursing Class of 2013 with a traditional Pinning and Lamp Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 12 at Van H. Priest Auditorium. NFCC Allied Health Director Julie Townsend welcomed family and friends to the special occasion.

"Thank you for joining us as we welcome these Associate Degree nurses into the profession," said Townsend. "We know that they will be an asset to our health care community." She then addressed the graduates with a word of congratulations: "We are very proud of each one of you for your accomplishments."

Nineteen RN graduates were recognized and took part in the ceremony's Lighting of the Lamps and Reciting of the Nightingale Pledge. Four graduates received special recognition: Shannon Sullivan (Madison County) received the 2013 Award for Outstanding Clinical Excellence; Jodi Breer (Taylor County) received the 2013 Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement; Heather LeBlanc (Suwannee County) received the 2013 Nightingale Award; and Jennifer McNeill (Jefferson County) was named the 2013 Keeper of the Light. McNeill

will return next year to pass along the Lamp Lighting tradition to the next class of RN graduates.

RN Class President Patricia Walker spoke on behalf of the class, thanking NFCC instructors and her fellow classmates. "Thank you for being our teachers," said Walker. "You instilled in us not only the knowledge we need to be successful in the medical field, but with wisdom that we can apply to our everyday lives. Thank you for always encouraging us to push through and building our confidence so that we can venture out into the real world. My fellow classmates, it has truly been an honor."

The pinning ceremony is a special moment for RN graduates and marks the beginning of each student's career as a professional nurse. In her remarks as guest speaker, NFCC Instructor Julie Walden congratulated the new graduates and spoke of the impact they will have in their communities.

"Not only will you impact your patient and their family, but also the facility where you choose to work," said Walden. "Over the last two years you've been molded into a professional ready to take on the challenges that await you. Always make an impact and



Jennifer McNeill (Jefferson County) is named the 2013 Keeper of the Light. NFCC instructor Brandi Browning presented McNeill with the award at Pinning and Lamp Lighting Ceremony Dec. 12 at Van H. Priest Auditorium.

treat your patients with love and compassion. I leave now the role of your instructor and I become your colleague, your support, your friend. Congratulations."

NFCC's 2013 Registered Nursing graduates are:

#### RN Class of 2013

##### JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jennifer McNeill; Kristian Sever-Johnson.

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# SPORTS

## Warriors Lose To FAMU

FRAN HUNT  
ECB Publishing  
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy varsity Warriors hit the hardwood against FAMU on December 10, and the Warriors were bounced for a 57-39 loss.

As a team, the Warriors netted 12 of 29 attempts from the field, four of 16 attempts from the three-point zone, and three of six attempts from the free-throw line for 39 points. They had 12 assists, two offensive and 21 defensive rebounds for a total of 23 rebounds, with 15 fouls, five steals, and 22 turnovers.

Individually, Braden Mattingly hit one of three attempts from the field, two of five attempts from the three-point zone, and two of two attempts from the free-throw line for 10 points. He had one offensive and three defensive rebounds for a total of four rebounds, with two fouls, one steal, and two turnovers.

Brandon Holm missed one attempt from the field. He had two assists, three defensive rebounds, one foul,

and two turnovers. Zack Arceneaux targeted two out of three attempts from the field, and one of two attempts from the free-throw line for five points. He had four defensive rebounds, and two fouls.

Ricky Finlayson netted three of eight attempts from the field, two of eight attempts from the three-point zone, and missed two attempts from the free-throw line for 12 points to lead the Warrior scoreboard. He had two assists, one defensive rebound, one steal, and four turnovers.

Timmy Burrus bucketed two of four attempts from the field, and missed one attempt from the three-point zone for four points. He had one offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of two rebounds, with three fouls, one steal, and one turnover.

Shawn Blue netted one of four attempts from the field, and missed two attempts from the three-point zone for two points. He had five assists, three defensive rebounds, two fouls, one steal, and

eight turnovers. Steven Trest hit two of four attempts from the field for four points. He had four defensive rebounds, and two fouls.

Carson Nennstiel hit one of two attempts from the field for two points. He had one assist, two defensive rebounds, three fouls, one steal, and four turnovers.

They have since played against Escambia Charter on December 13 and Lafayette on December 16. Those statistics will be forthcoming.

Action continues against Highland Christian, January 7 at 7:30 p.m., John Paul II, January 10 at 7:30 p.m., away; Georgia Christian, January 13 at 7:30 p.m., Branford, January 16 at 7:30 p.m., home; Robert F. Munroe, January 17 at 7:30 p.m., away; Branford, January 21 at 7:30 p.m., Franklin County, January 23 at 7:30 p.m., home; John Paul II, January 24 at 7:30 p.m., home; Maclay, January 28 at 7:30 p.m., home; and wrapping up the regular season, Tallavana Christian, January 30 at 7:30 p.m., away.

## Escambia Downs Warriors

FRAN HUNT  
ECB Publishing  
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy varsity Warriors hit the basketball court against Escambia on December 13 and the Warriors were tossed for a 66-31 loss to now stand 3-7 on the season.

As a team, the Warriors netted seven of 29 attempts from the field, hit five of 18 attempts from the three-point zone, and bucketed two of three attempts from the free-throw line for 31 points. They collected eight assists, five offensive and 17 defensive rebounds for a total of 22 rebounds, with 13 fouls, four steals, and 18 turnovers.

Individually, Braden Mattingly hit one of six attempts from the field and one of two attempts from the free-throw line for three points. He had two assists, one defensive rebound, two fouls, one steal, and two turnovers.

Brandon Holm netted one of four attempts from the field, missed

one from the three-point zone, and hit one of one attempt from the free-throw line for three points. He had two assists, two offensive and three defensive rebounds for a total of five rebounds, with three fouls, and two turnovers.

Zack Arceneaux bucketed three of five attempts from the field for six points. He had one defensive rebound, two fouls, and two turnovers.

Ricky Finlayson dropped in one of three attempts from the field, bucketed four of 10 attempts from the three-point zone for 14 points to lead the Warriors scoreboard. He had one assist, two defensive rebounds, one steal, and three turnovers.

Timmy Burrus netted one of six attempts from the field, and missed one attempt from the three-point zone for two points. He had two offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of three rebounds, with two fouls, and three turnovers.

Steven Trest missed three attempts from the

field. He also had six defensive rebounds, and one steal.

Carson Nennstiel missed two attempts from the field, and sunk one of one attempt from the three-point zone for three points. He had three assists, four defensive rebounds, one steal, and six turnovers.

The Warriors have since played against Lafayette on December 16. Those statistics will be forthcoming.

The new year sees the Warriors manning the hardwood against Highland Christian, January 7 at 7:30 p.m., John Paul II, January 10 at 7:30 p.m., away; Georgia Christian, January 13 at 7:30 p.m., Branford, January 16 at 7:30 p.m., home; Robert F. Munroe, January 17 at 7:30 p.m., away; Branford, January 21 at 7:30 p.m., Franklin County, January 23 at 7:30 p.m., home; John Paul II, January 24 at 7:30 p.m., home; Maclay, January 28 at 7:30 p.m., home; and wrapping up the regular season, Tallavana Christian, January 30 at 7:30 p.m., away.

## Young Lady Warriors Add Four Wins

FRAN HUNT  
ECB Publishing  
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy middle school girl's basketball team added four wins recently, to now stand 9-1 on the season.

The young Lady Warriors hit the hardwood against Munroe on December 5, and Aucilla scalped their opponent for a 35-2 victory.

Megan Schofill had four points, three assists, and three rebounds.

Shayma Lott scored two points, with one assist, and two rebounds.

Ashlyn Rogers netted for six points, and had four rebounds.

Abigail Morgan had four points, and two rebounds.

Grace Beshears scored three points.

Camryn Grant targeted for 10 points, and had 13 rebounds for a double-double.

Katie James scored two points.

Elizabeth Hightower netted for four points, and had two rebounds.

Carly Joiner had four steals.

Aucilla squared off against Mayo on December 6 and the young Lady Warriors came out on top of a 25-16 scoreboard.

Abigail Morgan: netted for three points, and had nine rebounds.

Camryn Grant bucketed for eight points, snagged 16 rebounds, and five steals.

Katie James had three points.

Elizabeth Hightower netted for five points, grabbed 12 rebounds, and had three steals.

Carly Joiner scored six points, with four as-

sists, three rebounds, and five steals.

Aucilla faced off against Mayo on December 9 and the young Lady Warriors bounced Mayo for a 42-16 victory.

Skylar Dickey scored two points, and had three rebounds.

Megan Schofill netted for six points, with four rebounds, and three steals.

Ashlyn Rogers had four rebounds.

Grace Beshears scored one point.

Camryn Grant led the young Lady Warrior scoreboard with 14 points, snagged 15 rebounds, for a double-double, and had three steals.

Katie James had five points, and two steals.

Elizabeth Hightower bucketed for 12 points, with two assists, eight rebounds, and three steals.

Carly Joiner scored two points, four assists, two rebounds, and six steals.

Haley Jones had two assists, and two steals.

Aucilla hit the hardwood against

Munroe on December 10 and the young Lady Warriors walloped their opponent for a 23-4 win.

Skylar Dickey had two rebounds.

Megan Schofill scored six points, with four steals.

Shayma Lott had two points, and two rebounds.

Ashlyn Rogers scored two points, and had six rebounds.

Elizabeth Hightower bucketed for eight points, and had three steals.

Carly Joiner: had one point, two assists, and five steals.

Haley Jones scored four points, with five rebounds, and four steals.

Summer Dee had six rebounds, and two steals.

Action continues against Highland Christian, January 7 at 4 p.m., home; Brookwood, January 10 at 4 p.m., away; Georgia Christian, January 13 at 4 p.m., home; and wrapping up the season, Brookwood, January 14 at 4:30 p.m., home.

## Lady Warriors Down Lady Cowboys

FRAN HUNT  
ECB Publishing  
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy varsity Lady Warriors hit the hardwood against the Madison County Lady Cowboys on December 16, and the Lady Warriors downed Madison for a 48-37 victory, to now stand 5-10 on the season.

Marisa Duber bucketed for 10 points, snagged a whopping 17 rebounds for an impressive double-double, with one assist, four steals, and one blocked shot.

Morgan Cline scored one point. Ramsey Sullivan netted for 14 points, with six rebounds, and three steals.

Ashley Hebert had two points. Kinzi Mattingly scored two points, and had six rebounds.

Lauren Demott netted for nine points, with two rebounds, and two

assists. Kayla Knecht bucketed for 10 points, with two assists, and four steals.

Taylor Copeland had three rebounds, two assists, and one steal.

Kelly Horne had two rebounds.

The Lady Warriors have since played against Lafayette on December 20. Those statistics will be forthcoming.

2014 sees the Lady Warriors facing off against Highland Christian, January 7 at 6 p.m., home; Brookwood, January 9 at 6 p.m., home; John Paul II, January 10 at 6 p.m., away; Georgia Christian, January 13 at 6 p.m., home; Branford, January 16 at 6 p.m., home; Roberts F. Munroe, January 17 at 6 p.m., away; Branford, January 21 at 6 p.m., away; Franklin County, January 23 at 6 p.m., home; and wrapping up the regular season, John Paul Catholic, January 24 at 6 p.m., home.

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# SPORTS

## Lady Warriors Win One Of Five

FRAN HUNT  
ECB Publishing  
Staff Writer

The Aucilla Christian Academy varsity Lady Warriors won one of the past five games on the hardwood to now stand 3-10 on the season.

The Lady Warriors hit the court against Brookwood on December 3, and Aucilla suffered a 44-23 loss.

Morgan Cline had five points, and five rebounds.

Ramsey Sullivan had five points, and six rebounds.

Lauren Demott had one point, with two rebounds, four steals, and one blocked shot.

Kayla Knecht had five points, six rebounds, and three assists.

Kinzi Mattingly had seven points, and five rebounds.

Marissa Duber had two rebounds, and two steals.

On December 5, Aucilla squared off against Munroe, and the Lady Warriors were downed for a 44-37 loss.

JV player Kelly Horne had five points, and three rebounds.

Duber had three points, six rebounds, one assist, two steals, and two blocked shots.

Cline had two points, and four re-



bounds.

Sullivan bucketed for seven points, with seven rebounds, two assists, and two steals.

JV player Cali Burkett had five points, and two rebounds.

Ashley Hebert had four points, and two rebounds.

Mattingly had one point, snagged 10 rebounds, with four steals, and one blocked shot.

Demott had six points, and four rebounds.

Knecht had four points, two rebounds, and three steals.

Taylor Copeland had six rebounds, and three steals.

Aucilla faced off against Tallavana on December 6, and the Lady Warriors came out on top of a 47-42 scoreboard.

Horne had two points, and one blocked shot.

Duber targeted for 14 points, and snagging a whopping 19 rebounds for an impressive double-double.

Cline had four points, and five re-

bounds.

Sullivan netted for eight points, with seven rebounds, and one blocked shot.

Mattingly had five points, with nine rebounds, and two assists.

Demott had two points, with five rebounds, four assists, and three steals.

Copeland had four points, with seven rebounds, and two assists.

Knecht scored eight points, with seven rebounds.

Burkett had two assists.

Aucilla hit the hardwood against Mayo on December 9, and the Lady Warriors were thrashed for a 59-19 loss.

Duber had three points, four rebounds, two assists, two steals, and two blocked shots.

Cline had two points, with three steals, and two blocked shots.

Sullivan had five points, and four rebounds.

Mattingly had three points, and five rebounds.

Knecht had six points, and six rebounds.

Demott had three rebounds.

Hebert had two rebounds.

Burkett had two rebounds.

Aucilla squared off against FAMU on December 10, and the Lady Warriors were tossed for a 72-14 loss.

Duber had four points, with 11 rebounds, one steal, and five blocked shots.

Cline had four points, with six rebounds, and one assist.

Hebert had two points, and two rebounds.

Demott had two points, two rebounds, and one assist.

Knecht had two points.

Mattingly had three rebounds, and one steal.

The Lady Warriors have since played against Tallavana Christian on December 12 and Madison County on December 16. Those statistics will be forthcoming.

## JV Tigers Lose To East Gadsden

FRAN HUNT  
ECB Publishing  
Staff Writer

The Jefferson JV Tigers hit the hardwood against West Gadsden on December 6, and they were downed for a 60-52 loss, to now stand 1-1 on the season.

As a team, the JV Tigers netted four of 10 attempts from the three-point zone, 10 of 25 attempts from the free-throw line, and 15 of 50 attempts from the field for 52 points. They had 12 offensive and 14 defensive rebounds for a total of 26 rebounds, with six assists, 18 steals, two blocked shots, 26 turnovers, and 19 personal fouls.

Individually, Jayshawn Francis netted one of two attempts from the three-point zone, one of two attempts from the free-throw line, and one of three attempts from the field for 17 points. He had one offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of two rebounds, with one turnover.

Nick Matthews missed three attempts from the field. He also had one steal, and one turnover.

Alexic Troutman missed two attempts from the free-throw line and four attempts from the field. He had one offensive and one defensive rebound for a total of two rebounds, with one turnover.

Tyrone Ivey bucketed one of three attempts from the three-point zone, two of seven from the free-throw line, and six of 10 from the field for 17 points. He had two offensive and three defensive rebounds for a total of five rebounds, with three assists, seven steals, four turnovers, and five personal fouls. He was named the player of the game.

Reginald Herring netted one of three attempts

from the field for two points. He had one offensive rebound, one turnover, and one personal foul.

Azende Thompson targeted two of three attempts from the three-point zone, missed two attempts from the free-throw line, and hit three of seven attempts from the field for 12 points. He had two offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of four rebounds, with three turnovers, and four personal fouls.

Terrance White netted one of four attempts from the free-throw line and one of six attempts from the field for three points. He had one offensive and three defensive rebounds for a total of four rebounds with one assist, two steals, six turnovers, and five personal fouls.

Ben Densen missed three attempts from the field. He had two assists, two steals, three turnovers, and one personal foul.

Treon Patrick netted one of two attempts from the free-throw line and three of six attempts from the field for seven points. He had four offensive and three defensive rebounds for a total of seven rebounds with two steals, two blocked shots, three turnovers, and one personal foul.

Keondrae Allen missed two attempts from the field, and netted three of four attempts from the free-throw line for three points. He had one offensive and two defensive rebounds for a total of three rebounds, with two steals, and one personal foul.

Ricky Murray targeted two of two attempts from the free-throw line for two points. He had two assists and one personal foul.

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**Stephanie Carroll**  
Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
2862 West US 90  
Madison, FL 32340  
12/20-1/8, c

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R	O	S	C	O	E	G	A	S	P	M	E	D		
A	L	P	A	C	A	A	B	L	E	A	V	E		
W	E	L	S	H	R	A	B	B	I	T	T	I	S	
B	A	I	T	S	L	O	A	N	S	A	D	E		
A	R	C	S	A	I	R	G	O	P	H	E	R		
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S	E	C		D	U	N	K		O	R	I	E	N	T
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**RN On Call - Madison County**  
This PRN position will provide evening and weekend for Madison County primarily and occasionally may provide on call coverage for Taylor or Jefferson County. Must have current Florida RN license. BSN preferred. Minimum of 3 years of experience preferably in Hospice or home health. Interested candidates can fax their resume to (850)325-6290 or email to grace@bigbendhospice.org. If you have any questions, please call HR at (850)878-5310.

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# AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY

## JOY Receives Generous Gifts



ECB Publishing Photos By Debbie Snapp, December 13, 2013. **JOY Volunteer Roy Schleicher is the bagman on Friday morning as he separates the children's applications for Christmas toy wishes. Today, he has 130+ to number and place in that child's bag.**

**DEBBIE SNAPP**  
ECB Publishing  
Staff Writer

The Monticello Kiwanis Club has a mission to help children. On Wednesday, December 4 they presented a check to JOY (Jefferson Outreach for Youth) to purchase Christmas presents for disadvantaged children. In addition to the Kiwanis Club's donation, there was a separate collection in memory of Kiwanian Ferd Naughton who recently passed away.

On Friday, December 13, JOY board member Merry Ann Frisby relates that the JOY volunteers have accepted several generous donations of money and toys. The money will go to buy soccer balls, footballs, baseballs, basketballs, hula-hoops, and dolls for boys and girls between the ages of two and 12.

After the collection of donated toys and other Christmas items, the gifts will be sorted into categories, selected for the individual child (each child has already filled out an application of what they would like for Christmas,) and wrapped before presented to the parents... making for a happier Christmas day experience for everyone involved.

It is a blessing that Jefferson County shares its Christmas joy with JOY. Volunteers spend three days processing the donations, gift wrapping each one, and making sure that the gifts are delivered to the children. These volunteers include Girl Scouts and leaders, 4H members and staff, church members, and other area residents.



ECB Publishing Photos By Debbie Snapp, December 13, 2013. **JOY volunteers Merry Ann Frisby, Angie Frisby, and Beth Frisby sort through the Christmas toys donations preparing the toy-filled tables for the next group of volunteers to bag for the children.**



ECB Publishing Photo By Debbie Snapp, December 13, 2013. **JOY Volunteer Senta Goudy unloads one of several vehicles arriving Friday morning filled with Christmas toy donations for Jefferson County children.**

## Altrusa Ships Homebaked Goodies To Soldiers Overseas



Photo Submitted By Dianne Westbrook.

**Altrusa members work on their SOS project (support our soldiers,) packaging homebaked goodies for delivery to Afghanistan. Pictured from left to right are: Pat Cichon, Helen Love, Anita Ashworth, President Joyce Sealey, Linda Benedict, Christina Newell, Andie Jerger, Vivian Smith, and Jan Williams.**

**DEBBIE SNAPP**  
ECB Publishing  
Staff Writer

Earlier this month Altrusa members and friends gathered to package gift boxes filled with goodies for shipment to SSG Rodney Glover, in military service in Afghanistan.

SSG Rodney Glover is the son of member Pat Cichon, so she knows firsthand just what the soldiers want, and need and they really want... homemade goodies, like brownies, cookies, and such. So, the members baked up some yummy treats,

wrapped and packed a few boxes, and shipped them off to the soldiers for the holidays.

This Altrusa sponsored service has become an annual giving for the membership as it has been well received by the servicemen and women. Altrusa members held two packing parties just recently: one for the Thanksgiving holiday and one for Christmas.

Altrusa members have committed themselves to shipping such items like: Sudoku and word puzzle books, pretzel M&Ms, MIO water supplements,

chocolate covered pecans (from this area,) and playing cards.

Following is a letter of thanks to the Altrusa members from SSG Glover and all the 'AMMO' men and women serving at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan: *Thank you for your gifts and delicious treats. We truly appreciate all the time and effort that was put into every single package because it is clear that they were put together with the utmost care and love for those of us stationed over here. These packages have brought*

*many smiles to all of us, plus a few tears. It does every single one of us good to know that we have made the correct choice with our life to serve and defend our freedoms and beliefs due to people such as yourselves that care for the many service members serving away from their families during the holidays. Again, thank you for everything you have provided us and know that your simple gesture will always stay with us. Sincerely, Staff Sergeant Rodney F. Glover, United States Air Force.*

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# AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY

## Kiwanis Donates To Upward Sports Program

**DEBBIE SNAPP**  
ECB Publishing  
Staff Writer

The Wednesday, December 18 meeting of the Monticello Kiwanis was held and enjoyed with several guests and guest speakers in attendance. Mandy Self and Floyd Faglie spoke to the members about the Upward Sports program held at and hosted by the Elizabeth Baptist Church.

Self and Faglie are active in the program. They relate that the Upward Sports program is the only youth sports experience with the 360 Progression, a uniquely designed experience that is focused on the total development of young athletes.

Basketball and Cheerleading practices will begin for any and all Jefferson County students on January 4. No matter which sports league the student



Mandy Self and Floyd Faglie spoke to the Kiwanis on December 18, 2013 about the Jefferson County Upward Sports program for the area's student athletes.

chooses, the Upward Sports experience will be fun for the whole family. The students have fun while learning new skills. Scores are not kept... all players participate equally. And, there is no experience required. Whether it's basketball, soccer, flag football, or cheerleading the volunteers want to find a sports league that encourages the student and is right

for his/her family's busy schedule. With just a one-hour practice and a one-hour game each week, Upward Sports fits the family lifestyle while promoting the values that matter most. Coaches and fans won't yell at the players; they'll cheer for them instead.

The Kiwanis membership presented a generous donation of \$250 to Self and Faglie



Volunteers with MADD talked with the Kiwanis on December 18, 2013 about programs offered to educate the public about drinking and driving. Pictured from left to right are: Kelvin Madison, Heather Peeples, and Kiwanian Mark Raciappa.

for the Upward Sports program, as helping area children is one of their many goals Kiwanis serve.

Also speaking during the afternoon meeting were representatives from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driv-

ing.) Volunteer Kelvin Madison and Program Specialist Heather Peeples talked to the group about the MADD programs to educate children and teens about responsible decisions regarding drinking and driving.

This meeting was

very well received and beneficial to all in attendance. The Monticello Kiwanis meet at noon every Wednesday at the Jefferson Country Club for lunch, a program and a meeting. For more information, contact President Don Condon at 850-997-5299.

## History Behind The Candy Cane

**JACOB BEMBRY**  
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Originally used as a device to keep children quiet and focused on the real meaning of Christmas, the candy cane is now a staple of the holiday seasons.

In 1670, a German choirmaster noticed children getting fidgety and bored during church services. Due to their length, Christmas services were usually the hardest to get children to be still and stay focused during.

Years after employ-

ing such techniques as threats and spankings, the choirmaster hit upon an idea that many of the congregation saw as bordering on bribery. He had a candy maker bend white sticks of hard candy into the shape of a shepherd's staff.

He chose this because it would take the children a long time to eat it. He figured that the longer

they licked the candy, the quieter they would remain.

Realizing that many in the church did not know the meaning of the candy, the choirmaster created a holiday lesson to justify giving the candy to the children. Before the service, he would hand out the candy and explain to the children that the candy had been shaped into a shepherd's staff to remind them of the shepherds' role that first Christmas. He also reminded them that Jesus was known as the Good Shepherd.

Within 100 years, the candy cane became a tasty Christmas decoration and was placed on Christmas trees throughout Europe. The tradition was carried to England when Prince Albert married Queen Victoria. After the War Between the States, the candy canes

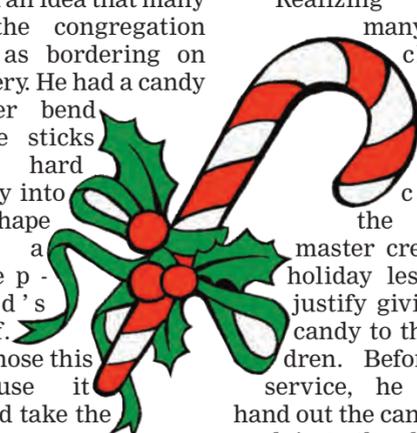
were added to American Christmas trees.

Bob McCormick, a candy maker from Albany, GA., began experimenting with the candy canes in the 1920's and found a way to hand twist colors into them. Once they hit the market, sales of his colorful canes quickly outpaced those of the traditional white canes.

Using McCormick's method, an Indiana candy maker added three red stripes to the previously solid white canes. He came up with a story to explain the legend of the candy cane.

The legend that the Indiana candy maker told was that the three red stripes represent the Trinity and that the red color stands for the blood Jesus shed on Calvary for the sins of the world. The white stands for purity and the crook symbolizes the staff of a shepherd. Turning the cane upside down, he pointed out that it was now the letter "J," standing for Jesus, the babe in the manger.

As the story spread, churches began to give out candy canes to children. Today, the tradition continues with some placing the canes on Christmas trees. Some tie the canes to Christmas packages along with the bows. Others give candy canes as gifts in the stocking. It makes for an awesome evangelism tool during the Christmas season.



## Commissioner Barfield Speaks To Rotary



Jefferson County Commission Chairwoman Betsy Barfield spoke to the Monticello Rotary on Friday, December 6, about the multiple transportation improvements forthcoming, including the Highway 19 beatification project. Other topics discussed during the weekly afternoon meeting included Malloy's Landing and the Wacissa River Park. The membership thanked her for her work and support to facilitate the transition of Jefferson County Extension Office moving to the former Green Industries Institute site; and she thanked the members for the privilege to serving as a commissioner. If you would like to learn more about Rotary contact President Angela Gray at angelagray@yahoo.com. Barfield is pictured here with Rotary Vice President Rick Anderson.

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Monticello City Hall will be closed on the following days:  
**December 24th**  
**December 25th**  
**January 1st**  
There will be no city garbage pickup or recycling on those days.