

MONTICELLO NEWS

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50¢ 46¢ + 4¢

Courson Case Set For May 29th Trial

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

The case of the county man charged in the death of his young daughter has been set for trial on May 29.

David Courson, 38, is charged with homicide negligent manslaughter in the death of his six-year-old daughter, Becca Courson. He is additionally charged with lewd and lascivious battery and solicitation of a minor by computer device.



David Courson

Courson appeared before Judge Bobby Plaines on Monday morning, March 3, and plead not guilty to the two last charges, which the state had just filed. Courson plead not guilty to the original charge several weeks ago.

He is being held in the county jail on a total bond of \$375,000.

Even if he were able to raise the necessary amount, however, the court has determined that he poses a threat to the community and has barred his release on the solicitation charge.

The case is set for management again on April 14 and for a pre-docket sounding on May 27. A pre-docket sounding is the last chance for the filing of motions prior to the trial.

Tallahassee Attorney R. Timothy Jansen represents Courson.



Attorney R. Timothy Jansen

The state holds Courson responsible for the Jan. 20 death of Becca Courson, who died after being struck by a pickup truck outside her home on the family property. According to the Florida Highway Patrol, which investigated the accident, a 13-year-old girl was driving the pickup truck and Courson was

a passenger.

The state charges that alcohol and marijuana were found in the truck and that text messages on the cell phones of the 13-year-old and Courson point to a sexual relationship between the two.

At the time of the accident, Courson was the only adult on the premises, which according to the state, made him responsible for the welfare of the 13-year-old daughter, eight-year-old son and six-year-old daughter.

City Quietly Enforcing Public Nuisance Law

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

While city officials continue mulling over the options for code enforcement, Monticello officials are quietly enforcing the city's public nuisance ordinance.

Typical of the enforcement are the recent hearings that the Monticello City Council held on Tuesday, Feb. 18, relative to a property at 490 Martin Luther King Boulevard and an empty lot at the corner of Wirick and Madison streets.

Both properties, per city officials' representations, exhibited general lack of care, including overgrown weeds and shrubs, trash or debris on the premises and general abandonment.

In keeping with the established procedures, city officials photographed and documented the violations and forwarded the information to the appropriate owners via certified mail, along with requests that each remedy the cited problems.

At the Feb. 18 council hearing, upon prompting from City Attorney Bruce Leinback, City Clerk Emily Anderson vouched that certified letters had been mailed to both owners and the appropriate notifications placed in the newspaper for several weeks.

Anderson said that neither of the individuals identified as owning the properties, both of whom live out of town, had responded to the Please See NUISANCE Page 3

Small Fire Gets Away, Burns Acreage



ECB Publishing photos by Fran Hunt, February 25, 2014

After responding to a brush fire last week, Jefferson County Fire Rescue Brush 1, traveled the burning pasture extinguishing hot spots and moving on to the next hot spot.

FRAN HUNT
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

What started out as a small yard fire last week, quickly got out of hand, spreading to nearby acreage and threatening several homes in the area.

Jefferson County Fire Rescue (JCFR) reported that on February 25 at 1:45 p.m., JCFR received a call concerning a brush fire, located two miles out of Monticello on the Ashville Highway.

Brush 1 responded, and once on the scene, called for additional trucks and personnel from JCFR.

The Division of Forestry was also contacted and asked to respond. Several

buildings, including homes in the area were threatened and a large pasture area was burning.

The fire had several heads and was still running. As quickly as Brush 1 could extinguish one hot spot and move on to the next, the fire behind him would rekindle, ignite, and again begin to spread.

Approximately 10-15 acres had burned, or was burning.

The Monticello Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) was toned out to respond to the scene.

JCFR Brush 1, MVFD Brush 2, Ashville Area Volunteer Fire Department Engine 10 and forestry brush truck attacked the fire, and were able to extinguish the fire

using approximately 1,500 gallons of water.

After the fire had been extinguished, firefighters determined that the fire originated when a 94-year old female resident was burning a small pile of leaves near a cow pen and the fire spread to the field due to being too close to other combustibles.

The fire was completely out and the last unit departed the scene at 3:03 p.m.

Those responding to the fire included Jim Iten, Larry Bates, Chris Lundstrum, Lance Blomeley, Stephen Valente, Brad Gratton, Micheal Ebert, Mike Long, Amber Houston, Sam Strickland, Zef Fessenden, and Roger Barfield.

Author Tells Like It Is, Lies, Blemishes And All



Author Timothy Allman stops to pose with Frances Gray after he signs one of his books for her.

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

Author, journalist and raconteur T.D. Allman was in town last week as part of a statewide tour to promote his latest book, *Finding Florida*, which purports to tell the true history of the Sunshine State.

Allman took slight umbrage to this re-

porter's question about his reputed controversial nature, saying one was always controversial when one told the truth. Which notation well sets the stage for, and the tenor of, his presentation to the 30 or so people who came to Jefferson County R.J. Bailar Public Library on Tuesday evening, Feb. 25.

Please See AUTHOR Page 3

Corporate Suits Against County Relatively Dormant At Present

LAZARO ALEMAN
ECB Publishing
Senior Staff Writer

The threatened litigation from two corporate entities unhappy with the assessed values of their respective holdings in Jefferson County remains largely dormant for the time being.

The two corporations are Florida Gas Transmission Company LLC, which has utility lines crossing the southern part of the county, and ATT Mobility LLC, which has 10 wireless communications towers across the county.

The two companies

are challenging the Property Appraiser's assessed values of their properties in



Property Appraiser Angela Gray

2013 and basically requesting a partial refund of the taxes paid.

The papers the two filed in the Jefferson County Courthouse late last year name as defendants Property Appraiser Angela Gray, Please See SUITS Page 3



As quickly as Brush 1 could move on to another spot in the pasture, one he had just extinguished, would reignite and again begin spreading.

Spring forward
Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday.

Index	1 Section - 10 Pages			
	Viewpoints	2	Church	6&7
	World News	3	School	8&10
	Community Calendar	4	Classifieds	9
	Around Jeff. Co.	4,5&10	Legals	10

Local Weather

Wed 3/5 56/45 Cloudy. Slight chance of a rain shower. High 56F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph.

Thu 3/6 60/50 Cloudy with rain. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 50s.

Fri 3/7 65/43 Rain with a few rumbles of thunder.

Letters To The Editor

Letters to the Editor are typed word for word, comma for comma, as sent to this newspaper.

All submitted Letters must be 600 words or less.

Black History Should Be Taught All Year Long

Wow! I was reading several documents the other day and came across some interesting little known black history facts that even some of our pupils who graduated summa cum laude may not know. Do you realize that most of us, including many in higher education could not properly answer many questions related to black history, even if you promise to give them a brand new shiny Kennedy fifty cent coin?

Let's see. Did you know that a major part of Amelia Island near Jacksonville was once owned by blacks? Yes, this business venture was led by a black man from Madison County, Florida named Abraham Lincoln Lewis. This fact is substantiated by Dr. Kevin McCarthy, who taught for 37 years at my alma mater, the University of Florida. He chronicles this accomplishment in his book entitled 'African American sites in Florida.'

Dr. McCarthy goes further to note that with only \$100, A. L. Lewis (1865-1947) was a principal founder of the Afro-American Industrial and Benefit Association, which later became the Afro-American Life Insurance Company, formerly one of the largest businesses in Florida. He was the man behind the 200 acre American Beach in Nassau

County. A beach developed specifically to accommodate blacks during a time when it was illegal for us to enjoy ourselves at any other public beach in America. Ironically, it was named American Beach.

Hey, young scholars, did anyone ever tell you that a black slave named York accompanied Lewis and Clark on their westward expeditions across America commencing in 1803? Well, according to Wikipedia, York was born in 1770 and is described as a large, strong man who was a guide and interpreter when dealing with the Native Americans.

In addition, can you tell us about A.G. Gaston? Based on a book by Carol Jenkins and Elizabeth Hines entitled 'Black Titan: A.G. Gaston and the Making of a Black American Millionaire', he was a maverick and a far sighted philanthropist. The authors, when speaking of him say "the grandson of slaves, born into poverty in 1892 in the Deep South, died at age 103, more than a century later with a fortune worth well over \$130 million and a business empire spanning communications, real estate, funeral homes, and insurance."

If given a major exam today, how many of our Associate Professors would be able to correctly tell us about the legacy of Henrietta Lacks? This black lady was a wife and mother of five whose cells became immortal upon her death at age 31 of cervical cancer. You see, they have helped to save the lives of millions of people worldwide. Her cells known as HeLa became the first to not die and reproduce a line that continues to this day. Hence, innumerable biomedical research experiments have been successful as a result of her unwittingly donating them to science. While this phenomenon has yielded billions of dollars in profit for many biomedical and pharmaceutical companies, her family is still yet to receive one dime.

I bet many of our recent exceptional high school, and magna cum laude college graduates

might just miss the answer to our next question. Who was Reginald Lewis? Based on a profile found at an 'Info please' website, he was a black man who graduated from Harvard Law School in 1968. He later opened TLC Group, a venture capital firm that in 1987 bought a considerable share of Beatrice International Foods for \$985 million. His subsidiary had sales of \$2.2 billion in 1996 and was ranked number 512 on Fortune magazine's list of 1,000 largest companies. Moreover, his 1992 gift to Harvard Law School was the largest single donation the school had received at that time.

Accordingly, for a bonus question worth 25 points, let's see whether our salutorians can answer this one. Who in the world is Junior Bridgeman? Relying upon 'Thebiglead' webpages, Mr. Bridgeman is a former National Basketball Association player (Milwaukee Bucks) who now owns 196 Wendy's franchises and over 100 chili's restaurants. According to the St. Louis Business Journal, anyone interested in purchasing a Wendy's franchise must have a minimum net worth of \$5 million, including at least \$2 million of liquid assets. It is noteworthy to add that Junior is a black male that was raised in the tough neighborhoods of East Chicago, Indiana.

So, congratulations to each of you who were able to answer all of the aforementioned questions accurately. We will label you as gifted scholars in African American History. For the rest who did not fare as well, then don't fret. Just simply write your local school boards and ask them to be sure that black history becomes a mandatory part of the curriculum calendar and is taught all year long. And remember, the gospel says in Luke 17:5: "And the Apostles said to the Lord, Increase our Faith." Young people, go ahead and ask the Lord to increase your faith, and you too can accomplish your goals just as did the astonishing individuals mentioned earlier within this article.

Rev. Gene Hall

Searching For Ambrosia

Rose Klein
Guest Columnist



Gardening Is In The Air



ECB Publishing, Inc. Photo by Rose Klein, May 31, 2013
A picture of last year's tomatoes brings out the gardening "bug" this year.

I'm always excited about the changes of the seasons. Usually by the time one season is ready to leave, I'm just as ready to see the next one arrive. Spring is on the way and one of the indicators I always look for is farmers and gardeners who start working their soil. I don't know if I've been feeling lazy or have other things in mind that I would like to focus on, or both, but I've been a little lax in committing to a garden this spring. I had some issues last summer due to the heavy rain and not only did the excess water

dampen my garden and rot my tomatoes, it dampened my enthusiasm for starting another garden this year.

When I think of my vegetable garden I'm reminded of my soil and what it might need, I think of bugs and ways I can outsmart them without using chemicals, I think about the small space I have to grow on and get a little frustrated and I think of those rotten tomatoes that hung on the vine last year that reminded me of the popular quote from a movie, "life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what

you're gonna get." Those poor soaked tomatoes looked beautiful on the outside, but cutting into them was just like that quote; the rain made them either tasteless or rotten on the inside, and continuing on with the chocolate analogy, it was like biting into one of those fruit crème chocolates that nobody likes. Needless to say, I've been feeling that "why bother" attitude sneaking up on me this year.

Then, it happened...I opened up a jar of tomato jam and the gardening bug started chewing on me. This past weekend I was looking at my pictures and saw all the beauty of the vegetables that I had grown last season. Well, I had to remind myself, the first harvest was out of this world good and isn't it amazing how I could grow such beautiful plants that actually brought fruits and vegetables to the table? There is something about gardening and growing your own food that gets in your blood. No matter how frustrating the weather, the pesky bugs or the failed crops that get to you; gardening can be addictive and the satisfaction you receive from growing your own food is extraordinary. Feels like its time to pull out the canning jars.

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EMERALD GREENE
Publisher/Owner

LAZARO ALEMAN
Senior Staff Writer

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Deadline for classifieds is Monday at 3:00 p.m. for Wednesday's paper, and Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. for Friday's paper. Deadline for Legal Advertisements is Monday at 3 p.m. for Wednesday's paper, and Wednesday at 3 p.m. for Friday's paper.

There will be a \$10⁰⁰ charge for Affidavits.

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FROM PAGE ONE



ROSE KLEIN
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Author

Allman focused on the Confederate monument on the Jefferson County Courthouse lawn as the theme for his wide-ranging and sometimes rambling talk, the basis of which was that much of history is founded on false assumptions, if not downright lies, and particularly so in the case of Florida.

To the effect that he said Florida was basically founded on racist principles that prevailed to the present, as evidenced by the relatively recent stand-your-grounds shootings in Sanford and Jacksonville.

Allman tried to cover much ground in short order, thus jumping rather helter-skelter from one topic to another: from the founding fathers and the Louisiana Purchase to Andrew Jackson's wresting of Florida from the Spaniards to the massacres of blacks at Fort Gadsden to the eviction of the Seminoles from north Florida to the killing of black troops at the Battle of Olustee — an alleged Confederate victory that he said the research proves to be a myth — plus much more.

Like Europeans who still largely live in the historical context of the Hundred Year War, Allman said Americans tend to live in a historical context that's a lie. And in the case of Florida and the South in general, the lies largely revolve around the happenings of the Civil War.

He said the lies started right from the beginning with the

peninsula' discovery. Ponce de Leon wasn't young nor was he the founder of Florida, Allman said. Had Ponce de Leon returned to Europe claiming to have found an elixir for youth he would have been executed as a heretic, he said.

The true founder of Florida, he said, was Avila Menendez, actually Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, the founder of St. Augustine. In Allman's telling, Menéndez de Avilés is reduced to the one act of massacring the French Huguenots in 1565 at what is now known as Matanzas Inlet (Matanzas being the Spanish word for "slaughter").

"It was this first massacre of white men by white men that started American history," Allman said.

And so it went. He talked of the founding fathers' machinations to get Florida, and in particular President Thomas Jefferson's obsession with acquiring the peninsula; he touched on the founding father's tampering with the US Constitution as far back as the Louisiana Purchase, notwithstanding whatever today's conservatives may say about the need for adherence to a strict interpretation of the document. He talked of James Monroe intimating to Jackson that it would be okay for the latter to wrest Florida away from Spain.

He condemned Jackson for ordering the attack on the fort held by black fugitives on the Apalachicola River that resulted in the destruction of the

continued from page 1

fort and the killing of all but 30 of the fort's several hundred occupants, another of the examples of racism and ethnic cleansing.

He debunked the myth of the Suwannee song as the state's song, noting it was penned by a Pennsylvanian man about a river in the north and only changed to Suwannee for the sake of meter and rhyme. He said the red saltire on Florida's flag — others would call it St. Andrew's Cross — a symbol of the Confederacy and the state's racist underpinnings. "Racism in Florida is like the Florida flag, it's everywhere and no one notices it," Allman said.

If the author didn't at times seem to play loose with the facts, he certainly interpreted them liberally — both in the literal and political sense of the word. One thing about his no holds-barred presentation, however, he didn't pull punches and fearlessly proclaimed his beliefs.

Florida and American history, it was essentially basic premise, were built on a multiplicity of lies, deceptions and myths, layered one upon the other. And unless and until people faced the truth, embraced the state's inherent diversity and learned to live in harmony with one another, the current divisions and polarizations would persist, to the detriment to all.

Allman's book, "Finding Florida, The True History of the Sunshine State," is available at the public library.

Nuisance

continued from page 1

letters or the newspaper advertisements.

Leinback advised that the city had met its requirement as to the procedures set out in the ordinance, and that in view of the fact that no property owner had responded to the notifications or was present in the hearing, the city could proceed to the next step.

That next step entailed city officials adopting a resolution declaring each of the properties a public nuisance and giving the respective owners 30 days to abate the problems or face city action.

The latter action involves city crews cleaning up and/or demolishing dilapidated structures and putting liens on the properties. The entire process at the council meeting on Tuesday evening took about 15 minutes, at most.

Since its adoption of the public nuisance

ordinance in December 2009, city officials have acted against a dozen or so structures and lots deemed to be eyesores or pose safety hazards.

The ordinance makes it property owners' responsibility to abate noted nuisances or suffer the consequences. Before the city can act, however, an inspector must formally identify the nuisance, the property owner must be notified of the problem, a public hearing must be held, and a resolution declaring the property a nuisance must be adopted. Which activities can take up a couple of months or more, in keeping with due process.

The only time city officials may act to abate a nuisance expeditiously is if they determine that the violation poses "an immediate threat to life, limb, health, welfare or property."

Suits

continued from page 1

and by extension Tax Collector Lois Howell Hunter and Marshall Stranburg, executive director of the Florida Department of Revenue (FDOR).

Gray said on Friday, Feb. 28, that both cases were moving forward, if extremely slowly. She said the two sides were in the information gathering and exchanging stages, and in the case of Florida Gas in particular, the company was possibly awaiting the outcome of a similar suit it filed in Okeechobee County.

Depending on what happened in the latter case, Gray said, the company would likely decide whether to proceed with the case here or drop it.

In the court-filed papers, the two companies variously charge that the assessed values of their respective tangible personal properties are "unjust, excessive, arbitrary and capricious". They questioned the methodology used in the appraisals and essentially call the assessments illegal.

Florida Gas paid \$904,153.85 in taxes, an amount the company argues greatly exceeds the taxes it should have rightfully paid. ATT likewise argues that the assessment was made on an aggregate tax value of \$3,402,631, when its total taxable value of property in Jefferson County subject to taxation did not exceed \$700,000 as of Jan. 1, 2013. ATT calls the property's Appraiser's assessment "grossly excessive." Gray, for her part, has vowed to fight the challenges, going so far as to ask the Jefferson County Commission for an additional \$25,000 in her budget for legal fees.

As Gray explained it to the commission in early January, Jefferson is one of seven counties that Florida Gas is suing and one of three counties that ATT is suing.

The Florida Gas suit, she said, stemmed from a 17-mile loop of pipeline that the company installed a few years ago in the southern part of the county. Gray said Florida Gas demanded her office value the pipeline at approximately 50 percent of its reported cost and she refused.

Instead, Gray said, her office assessed the property the same as other tangible properties in the county, which had resulted in a property value of \$57.9 million.

As for ATT, she said her office hired a consultant in 2012 who assisted with the inventory and historical cost of all cell tower sites in the county, which inventory data had been considered by her office when calculating ATT's 2012 and 2013 assessment.

Gray said the issue came down to fairness and whether businesses with deep pockets should get tax breaks because they threatened litigation. It was her position that her office had been fair and just in calculating the values of the properties of both Florida Gas and ATT and she was willing to fight to prove her point, she said.

County officials overwhelming supported Gray's stand. Commissioner Hines Boyd, for one, called the two companies' challenges "a classic case of corporate bullying."

"They're picking on Jefferson County because we're little and they think we'll fold and not fight them," Boyd said. "But they picked on the wrong Property Appraiser, and we should back her 100 percent."

Gray noted that in the case of Florida Gas, the tax revenues represented \$135,000 for the county and \$120,000 for the school district.

As for AT&T, the tax revenues were \$12,000 for the county and \$11,000 for the school district, she said.

Owner Takes Dying Dog On Bucket List Adventures

In Coquitlam, British Columbia, a woman is taking her 9-year-old dog on a bucket list adventure after he was diagnosed with inoperable bone cancer. Riina Cooke says she is making sure her boxer, Romeo, is happy in his final days to help her deal with her grief. Cooke said she was upset for a day or two and wanted to snap out of it. "I thought, 'Okay, let's make it a good experience,'" she said. So far, Romeo has met singer Bif Naked, a noted animal lover and cancer survivor, and has taken a ride in a police car where he howled along with the siren. On Romeo's 9th birthday, Cooke said he was treated to a spa day. "To me, he's my child," Cooke said. "I don't have children yet. He's my everything."

Man Declared Dead Fights To Escape Body Bag

In Lexington, Miss., a 78-year-old man was declared dead in his home around 9 p.m. when a coroner could not detect a heartbeat. The next morning, Walter Williams' nephew received a call telling him his uncle was still alive. The funeral home was about to prepare Williams' body for embalming and started to unzip the body bag when they noticed him kicking in an attempt to get out of the bag. Embalmer Byron Porter said, "We we're not definitely going to do anything to him once we saw that he was not deceased."

Parrot Helps Police Find His Owner's Murderer

In Agra, India, a talking parrot helped police solve the murder of its owner, 45-year-old Neelam Sharma. According to Sharma's husband, Hercules the parrot began acting funny whenever his nephew Ashutosh visited days after the killing. Vijay Sharma also said that the parrot would "start screeching" whenever Ashutosh's name was mentioned, which caused Vijay to become suspicious and reported it to police. After being interrogated, Ashutosh confessed to killing Neelam. Agra's superintendent of police, Shalabh Mathur, said Ashutosh accepted his crime and informed them he had an accomplice. The two had entered the house with intentions of taking cash and other valuables and even killed the Sharma's dog because it was barking, but never considered the parrot. "We got a lot of help from the parrot to zero in on the murderer," said Mathur.

CROSSWORDS

"J.J."

Across

- Nickel and _____
- Sends unwanted e-mails to
- Jelly cousin
- Scary bacteria
- Shire of "Rocky" and "The Godfather"
- "____ you kidding me?"
- "Me and Bobby McGee" singer
- Fisherman's item
- Picnic pest.
- Shoes with a swoosh on them
- Part of a movie
- Cut
- Slightly open, as a door
- Had fun with
- Antoinette or Osmond
- Tavern on "The Simpsons"
- Skilled
- Large coffee holder
- First Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court
- ____ Paulo, Brazil
- It's red and white and goes on your head
- Party thrower
- Experts in stretching
- Meet by chance
- Good luck
- First performance
- Poker announcement
- Halley's _____
- Have lunch, say
- Woman in a habit
- "Ghost Dog" and "Night on Earth" director
- Ending for Japan or Taiwan
- Kindle purchase
- Come after

Down

- ____ vu
- "____ see that!"
- Blanc (highest of the Alps)
- Quarterback Manning
- Walt before World or Land
- Put coal in the furnace
- Rock, _____, scissors
- "____ Well That Ends Well"
- 1002, in Roman numerals
- Without, to the French
- Wife of George, mother of Judy and Elroy
- Stadium
- It's a little longer than a yard
- "____ Talkin'" (Bee Gees hit)
- Abel's brother
- "Help!"
- Big birds of Australia
- Ephron or Dunn
- Former talk show host
- Rank above capt.
- Pie _____ mode
- King: Sp.
- Explosive letters
- Not west
- Inflit upon
- Military lawyer, for short
- "____ believe in yesterday"
- Owens
- Screwdriver or hammer
- Big song
- Second try at a movie script
- Better than all the rest, in hipster-speak
- Common spice
- Went for the gold?
- Handy
- Karate studios
- Spun records
- "It'll be fun!"
- Old name for Exxon
- "For the Price of _____ of Tea"
- Not we
- "May _____ excused?"
- Numero _____

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com or 850-997-3568

March 6
Future Farmers of America Alumni Meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, in classroom C-123. Raffle tickets for the Hog fundraiser will be distributed and other items of business will be discussed. For more information contact Sarah E. Burleson, AgriScience Instructor and FFA Advisor for Jefferson County Middle High School at sarah.burleson@jeffersonschooldistrict.org.

March 6
Understanding The Healthcare Marketplace Question/Answer Workshop, hosted by UF IFAS Jefferson County Extension I Agent Kristin Jackson, at the library; to help clear up confusion, explain options, help individuals/families make informed health insurance decisions, and apply for coverage. There will be a guest speaker and insurance company representatives. This free workshop will be held on

Thursday at 5:30 p.m. For more information contact kris88@ufl.edu or call 850-342-0187 to pre-register.

March 6, 10, 11
Adult Dance Fitness at MADCo Studio at 7:30 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays; 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 7 p.m. on Thursdays. These 45-minute classes utilize stretch and toning exercising. Contact Melanie Mays at 850-321-0036 for information.

March 6
'Dearly Departed' Preview Party fundraiser at the Monticello Opera House hosted by Altrusa on Thursday for a donation/cost of \$20. Purchase tickets now for guaranteed seating. Enjoy an evening reception of heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar beginning at 6 p.m. with the show starting at 7 p.m. Contact Altrusa President Joyce Sealey at 850-997-1612 or 850-510-7064 or call the Opera House at 850-997-4242.

March 8
'Owen Gray: The Florida Landscape' is showing at the Gadsden Art Center, along with 'New Visions of the Florida Landscape,' paintings by Liu Nan and Nancy Baur Dillen, and works by members of the GAC Artists Guild through March 8. The Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 850-627-5020 or www.gadsdenarts.org or 850-875-4866.

March 6
AA meeting at 8 p.m. on Thursday at the Christ Episcopal Church annex, 425 North Cherry Street. For more information call 850-997-2129 or 850-997-1955.

March 7
Monticello Jamboree Band will perform music for dancing every Friday at 7 p.m. at 625 South Water Street. Everyone is welcome to come dance, listen to some of the finest music, enjoy doorprizes, soft drinks, snacks, and just enjoy some fun and camaraderie with neighbors and friends. This is a nonprofit charitable event; donations are accepted. For questions or concerns, contact Curtis Morgan at 850-933-8136 or Bobby Connell at 850-445-0049.

March 7
Rotary will meet at 12 p.m. on Friday at the First Presbyterian Church, in the fellowship hall, for lunch, a meeting, program, and speaker. For questions or comments, contact Neill Wade at 850-545-4940.

March 7
Ashville Area Volunteer Fire Department meets at its facility on the first Friday of each month. For more information, contact Assistant Fire Chief Butch Staffieri at 850-210-2816.

March 8
Jefferson Arts will host an opening reception on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. for its third annual Quilt & Fiber Show. The exhibit will be in the gallery located at 575 West Washington Street. Hours of operation are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays. Purchase \$5 chance tickets for a Monticello Crazy Quilters handmade quilt. For more information, call 850-997-3311 or go to www.jeffersonarts-gallery.com.

AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY

Kiwanis Hear About Wildlife Conservancy



Kiwanis Program Chairperson Helen King introduced Guest Speaker Jim Cox to the membership during the February 12, 2014 meeting of the Monticello service organization. He is with the Tall Timbers Research Station and spoke about the agency's work with land and wildlife conservancy.

Altrusa Preview Party March 6



Actors for the comedy stage play 'Dearly Departed' pictured from left to right are: Amanda Street as Suzanne, Alice Everhart as Marguerite, Shirley Beaupied as Lucille, Pat Cichon as Juanita, and Megan Falls as Delightful. "Corn Dog anyone?" The ladies of the family are serving dinner at the viewing for Daddy-Bud's untimely demise.

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Altrusa will host a 'Preview Party' fundraiser at the Monticello Opera House for the stage play comedy

'Dearly Departed.' The event will be held on Thursday, March 6 for the donation/cost of \$20. Purchase tickets now for guaranteed seating.

An evening reception will begin at 6 p.m. with heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

The show will start at 7 p.m.

For more ticket information, contact Altrusa President Joyce Sealey at 850-997-1612 or 850-510-7064 or call the Opera House at 850-997-4242.

Quilt And Fiber Exhibit At The Arts

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Jefferson Arts will host its third annual Quilt & Fiber Show beginning Saturday, March 8 with an opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. The public is welcome to come and enjoy refreshments and fellowship.

The exhibit will be in the gallery located at 575 West Washington Street during hours of operation from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays,



or by reservation. All the art on display is handcrafted by local artists and members of the Jefferson Arts.

Chance tickets will continue to be sold during the month for a handmade quilt created by the Monticello Crazy Quilters. Ticket cost is \$3 per ticket or two tickets for \$5. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit children's art classes.

For more information, call 850-997-3311 or go to www.jeffersonarts-gallery.com.

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AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY

Remembering A Hero

REBEKAH SHEATS

Everybody loves a hero. And this March it's time to honor one: 90 years ago this month, on March 10, 1924, a hero was born, Ernest Ivy Thomas, nicknamed 'Boots' after his father. Blue-eyed and curly-headed, little Boots and his family moved to Monticello when he was a young boy.

From all appearances, Boots was just an ordinary boy living an ordinary life, but as that boy grew his life and world soon changed. He lost his father at 15, and, as the oldest son, he quickly assumed a man's role.

A brilliant boy, Thomas was diligently working his way through his aeronautical engineering degree when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, propelling the U.S. into WWII.

With the enemies of his country so close to home, Boots knew he couldn't continue with college. "I've got to fight," he said and, leaving school and a brilliant career, he stepped forward to take his father's place in defending his mother and two younger siblings from the enemies who threatened their freedoms.

Three weeks shy of his 21st birthday, Platoon Sergeant Boots Thomas, with the other Marines of the Fifth Amphibious Division, churned ashore on the



Boots at about age 6

desolate island of Iwo Jima, whose hostile sands housed over 20,000 Japanese soldiers.

Long and brutal was the fighting upon those bloody beaches. Thomas' lieutenant was soon wounded and taken out of the action, at which time Boots assumed command of his platoon and resolutely led his men forward against deeply-entrenched enemy emplacements.

His fearless actions and astonishing bravery earned him a Navy Cross, but the battle was far from over.

After three days of bitter fighting Boots and the men of his platoon scaled the heights of Mt. Suribachi, the highest point on the island, and planted the Stars and Stripes atop its volcanic crater. The stirring sight cheered the hearts of thousands of weary Marines across the island, and from man to

man passed the joyful refrain, "There goes the flag!" As Old Glory waved proudly across the blood-drenched land, many a hardened Marine wept unashamedly at the sight.

With the raising of the flag young Boots Thomas was instantly catapulted from relative obscurity into national fame. His photograph appeared on front pages across the nation, and the deeds of his platoon were spoken of in every state of the Union. But, though newsmen were quick to hail Thomas as a hero, the young sergeant denied their claims, stating simply, "The honor belongs to every man in my platoon."

Boots was quick to set the record straight, for in his view he was, after all, just an ordinary boy, fighting for his family, his home, and his country. And, as an ordinary boy, he died for the same. On March 3rd, 1945, a sniper instantly ended Boots Thomas' life as he was again leading his men forward against an enemy stronghold.

Boots' body was brought home March, 1948, and his remains interred in the Roseland Cemetery in Monticello as the city mourned their young hero. If Boots were alive, he would have objected. "Don't call me a hero," he'd be quick to assert. But, as



Boots and his men raising flag above Suribachi.

the Scriptures remind us, "a man is valued by what others say of him" (Prov. 27:21). So what do others say of Boots?

"You can say this," noted the corpsman who was with Thomas when he died, "we'll never have another platoon leader like him." Boots' company commander, Dave Severance, declared of him,

"I know of no more appropriate praise than that 'Tommy' was indeed a credit to his parents who raised him." General Lawrence Snowden, another Marine who shared in the battle of Iwo Jima, also remarked of him, "Boots Thomas is the epitome of a national hero." But perhaps most poignantly was the *Monticello News* of

May, 1945, which stated simply, "Greater love hath no man . . ."

In commemoration of the 90th birthday of Monticello's national hero, a full-length biography of Boots Thomas is underway, and scheduled to appear the summer of 2014. For more information please visit www.BootsThomas.com.



General Smith congratulates Sergeant Thomas

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MARCH 9TH SERVICE
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 Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.

Matt Blagg's music crosses not only the boundaries of musical genre, but also those of age, culture and perspectives. Matt's music brings friends and families together in a fun and upbeat way. Matt delivers a unique blend of styles he calls *Blue-Eyed Soul*. Not just a singer, this musician builds guitar playing, trumpet playing, and poignant lyrics into songs that light up any listener.

From coffeehouses to Nashville theaters, Matt brings down the house. He has played for Aretha Franklin, the Temptations, The Fours Tops, The Drifters, The Reverend Al Green, and many more. A frequent guest in Memphis, Matt has performed at B.B. King's Blues Club and recorded at the **House of Blues** recording studio as well.

Matt has been involved with Bill Glass prison ministry since 1997. "I want to spread God's Amazing Love around this world that needs more of it," Blagg says. As Matt puts it, "We'll go anywhere there's oxygen."

Mark your Calendars: Nancy Alcorn will visit Honey Lake to speak at the April 13th Worldwide Ministry service

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www.HoneyLakeChurch.com

CHURCH

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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

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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 During

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
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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.

Business Community Prayer Breakfast Thursday

The March Business Community Prayer Breakfast will be hosted by First Baptist Church of Lloyd, located at 124 St. Louis Street, in Lloyd, on Thursday. Guest speaker will be Emerald Greene, publisher for the *Monticello News and Jefferson County Journal*. The meal will begin at 7 a.m. and the meeting will conclude at 8 a.m. Plan to attend, and bring a guest. Also, canned food items will be collected for the area community food pantries.

For more information about this meeting, contact Coordinator L. Gary Wright at 850-997-5705 or 850-933-5567.

Mid-Week Praise And Worship To Be Held At Saint Phillip AME Church Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 7:00 PM

Come, and join us in our Mid-Week Praise and Worship Service, as we worship our God in spirit and in truth. We believe that God will be moving in this program to bless, and unify His people in heart, soul and mind.

The Speaker for this occasion will be: Preacher Gloria Cox, Saint Phillip AME Church, Monticello, FL. For further information, please call the Church at 850-997-4226, or 850-291-6938. Thank you very much for your

support. Saint Phillip AME Church is located at 08 Phillip Road (Hwy 27, South, 1 mile south of Hwy 59) in Monticello, Fl. Rev. J. W. Tisdale, Pastor.

support. Saint Phillip AME Church is located at 08 Phillip Road (Hwy 27, South, 1 mile south of Hwy 59) in Monticello, Fl. Rev. J. W. Tisdale, Pastor.



"Keeping the Faith"

Ronnie McBrayer

Learning To Trust

“God has given me little that I might learn to trust Him more.” Those are the words of Marta Torres. Marta is not a pious, Latina saint from yesteryear. She is an impoverished, middle-aged mother of two from El Salvador. Yet, if holiness is measured by maintaining faith within great difficulty, Marta is indeed a saint. I first met Marta while standing on a street in the city of San Salvador next to her house. To be fair, the street was more of a sidewalk and her home more like the corrugated tin clubhouse I built with my friends when we were children. I learned that she had built her house when she was a child as well – almost 40 years earlier – and she still lived in it.

It was the late 1970s. Marta was a child living on the streets, having been abandoned by her parents in the midst of El Salvador's brutal civil war. She found an empty corner in a poor neighborhood and began collecting cast off pieces of lumber and tin to build herself a hovel. Rusted metal, termite-infested timbers, cockroaches as big as your hand, no appliances, no sanitation, no floor, and in the Central American rainy season the dirt floor of her home would flow with knee-deep water, sewage, and mud. But given her desperate station in life, it was a roof over her head, and eventually a roof over her two daughters' heads as well. Marta was discovered by an American missionary who felt that something had to be done to help. Marta reluctantly agreed. The portrayal of the poor as parasitic opportunists looking for an easy handout is patently false. Marta didn't have much, but she had survived all these years by standing on her own two feet. It was the prospect of her daughters living in an improvised shack for decades, as she had, that opened her heart to receive help.

Thus, I found myself plunged into Marta's story with a dozen other US-Americans. We tore down her old shack, placed a foundation and

floor, raised walls, and put on a roof. We insulated and painted, installed a toilet, constructed a fence around the home for her safety, and poured a little concrete porch. The Torres ladies sank their hands into the fresh cement, marking the occasion with the date. Finally, we gathered in a circle as all the neighbors looked on (including the local gang leaders), dedicated the home to God, thanked him for bringing us all together in a glorious orchestra of grace, and handed Marta the keys. When it rained like a monsoon later in the week, Marta and her daughters slept warm and dry in new beds (the first they ever owned), without a drop of rain on their heads or a speck of mud on their feet.

In the end, what Marta gained was miniscule compared to what my friends and I received. As we worked, the joy dripped off our cheeks tasting of the words of Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." I also learned that faith like Marta's, nearly impossible to understand, is even more impossible to emulate.

As a middle-class American, I have infinitely more material means than Marta; I have more than most of the world. Faith, to someone like me, is more often a spiritual concept rather than a living reality. It is something invoked when life is simply not going my way, rather than a sustaining power within desperation. Simply put, I don't have faith like Marta because I've never had to employ such faith. My life, though not without its challenges, by comparison has been quite comfortable, and comfort does not grow faith. Faith, like any muscle, grows by means of use, application, and exercise.

"God has given me little that I might learn to trust Him more." We who have been given much might learn a great deal from those with such faith. Certainly, we can alleviate their sufferings. And to be sure, they just might save our souls.



Making It Through

By Vivian Miles



*The New Year is well in hand,
God's blessing is the best in
the land.
Walk with God on the pathway
of life,
With Him there is no strife.
Life is a battle,
When we ask for help, look who
is in the saddle.
Sometimes God allows for
tears and sorrow,
Open our hearts for the joys of
tomorrow.
How much for others that we do,
Shows God's love
working through you.
To live our life closer to Christ,
We must realize His ultimate
sacrifice.
When trouble weighs us down,
Put on a smile instead of a frown.
In our garden we plant seeds,
To help fill our daily needs.
The days get longer and
the money gets tighter,
With God's help our problems
become lighter.
May we always live the Godly way,
Right living takes the crown
each day.*

ELIZABETH BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Pastor, Robert Dennison
Student Pastor, Don Self

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

WAUKEENAH UNITED METHODIST

81 Methodist Church Rd • Waukeelah • 997-2171
www.waukeelah-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
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CHURCH

Howardite Day Celebrated At St. Phillip



Howard Academy High School classmates celebrated Howardite Day at St. Phillip AME Church dressed in a sea of 'orange and blue' school colors.

DEBBIE SNAPP
ECB Publishing
Staff Writer

Howardite Day at St. Phillip AME Church was a wonderful time of praise and worship to God and renewing Howardite relationships. This day was the brainchild of Gloria Norton, Howardite and English teacher at the Jefferson County Middle High School, who four years ago looked for a way to bring Howard Academy High School graduates and associates together for a yearly celebration of Howardite heritage.

Each year the Howardite Committee, steered by Chairman

Richard Roberts, has excelled in bringing together Howardites from across the land to St. Phillip AME Church.

Rev. J.W. Tisdale, pastor of St. Phillip AME Church, gave the Howardites, arrayed in a sea of 'orange and blue' school colors, a hardy welcome. Preacher for the occasion was Rev. Lee E. Plummer, Class of 1964 and pastor of St. James AME Church in Quincy. He was introduced by his queenly wife, First Lady Mary Plummer. He offered an awesome message for the Howardites: 'Remember the Lord'.

The St. James AME Church Men's Chorale rendered heavenly musical selections.

Special 'recognition' plaques were presented to the following 2014 Honorees by Richard Roberts: Lavern Mack, Gussie Malory, Elias Norton, Jr., George Pittman, Sr., Thomas Saunders, Dr. Lettie White, Raleigh R. Cox, Robert Hair, Elizabeth Hall, and Henry Hall.

Program participants included Laverne Mack, Betty Gilley, William Massey, Rev. Minnie Robinson, Rev. Mazie Rojas, Louiza Collins-Larry, Min. Queen Pride, Alfreddie

Graham, Rev. Vivian Royster, Jordan and Jershon Jackson, Jacky Gaffney, Willie Ann Dickey, Nancy Benjamin, Mary Madison, Al Hall, Steve Hall, Larry Hughes, Leon Hightower, and Rev. Martha Wilson.

Rev. Tisdale recognized each class and attendee of the Howard Academy High School.

The program closed with the singing of the Howard Academy Alma Mater 'Dear Old Howard Academy'.

Chairman Richard Roberts and the Howardite Committee wish to thank all who supported and attended the annual event.

CHURCH NEWS NOTES

debbiesnapp@embarqmail.com or 850-997-3568

March 2-5
Elizabeth Baptist Church continues to host special meetings through Wednesday at 6 p.m. with guest speaker Len Turner, from Woodstock, Georgia. His topic is on the family. The Wednesday service will be especially for children. For more information about these opportunities and other services contact Pastor Robert Dennison, church pastor, at 850-559-5177.

March 3-7
'REVIVAL... By Divine Appointment' will continue through Friday at 7 p.m. nightly in the auditorium at the old JCHS, located on South Water Street. Evangelist/Pastor Betty Hightower will be conducting the services and she is looking forward to seeing you there.

March 5
St. Phillip AME Church will host its Mid-Week Praise and Worship Service at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Preacher for this occasion will be Gloria Cox. Come join as the church family and friends worship God in spirit and in truth. Believing that God will be moving in this program to bless, and unify His people in heart, soul, and mind. For more information, call the Church at 850-997-4226, or 850-291-6938. Rev. JW Tisdale, pastor.

March 5
Memorial Missionary Baptist Church to host 'Heaven's Kitchen - Feed My Sheep', a weekly noonday service and meal ministry, every Wednesday at 12 p.m. Moderator Rev. JB Duval and Rev. Semmeal Thomas will conduct the Bible Study and Prayer Service each week. For more information, or to make a contribution, contact Coordinator sis. Mary Madison at 850-997-4504 or 850-210-7090.

March 5, 19
First Presbyterian Church will host Ea-

glesWings, an outreach ministry serving the community; on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteers are always needed to distribute food items and to donate non-perishable food items. Call and leave a message for JoAnne Arnold at 850-997-2252, or 850-997-1084, or go to eaglew-

ingsmonticello@yahoo.com or www.firstpresbyterianmonticello.org.

March 7
Tent of the Holy Guests offers prayer for the sick and a special scripture message every Friday at 7:30 p.m. The Tent is located at 295 West Palmer Mill in Monticello. Call 850-342-3541 for more information.

ASH WEDNESDAY Service

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
March 5, 2014
All Are Invited To Attend

Special Visitor from the Past...
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325 West Walnut Street • Monticello

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 AME CHURCH

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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

Aucilla Christian Academy Honor Roll 4th 6 Weeks 2013-2014

K4 (Bass)
All E
Annabelle Acutt, Cadie Agner, Beau Beshears, Henry Cooksey, Case Curry, Bubba Davis, Matthew Hughes, Kade McLeod, Kendall Perdue, Bo Rutledge, Lilly Sears, Brigham Sparkman, Jacob Vickers, Addison Walker, Maggie Walker, J.R. Watson.

K-5 (Stephens)
All E
Caine Demott, Benjamin Faglie, Leighton Faglie, MadiLynn Hughes, J.T. Kinard, Jaret Kinsey, Georgia Lindsey, Morgan McNeill, Skyler Pearson, Heaven-Leigh Purvis, Natalie Register, Emma Rogers, London Smith.

All E/S+
Tanner Baggett, Brandon Key.

First Grade (Roberts)
All A
Hayden Ashworth, Nash Beshears, Natalie

Clark, Dalton Demott, Kristina Everly, Joshua Forehand, Emma Green, Logan Riedle, Raegan Walker.

All A and B
Ethan Bass, Suzanne Beshears, Bryson Clore, Lauren Davis, Jacob Flynt, Kyle Hamrick, Feren Rosas, Caleb Walker, Jason Wheeler.

Second Grade (Love)
All A
Tyson Clark, Harper Davis, Bradynn Johnson, Walker Sparkman, Emma Vickers.

All A and B
Ivy Armstrong, Riley Beggs, Adam Day, Wyman Demott, Lauchlin Faglie, Madison Roland, Aisley Smith, Emilee Walker.

Third Grade (Aman)
All A
Brewster Bass, Daisy Kinard, Haylie McLeod, Caroline Taylor, Kaitlyn Tharpe, Ali

Townsend.

All A and B
Ryan Adams, Joleane Alexandrou, Joseph Boland, Destiny Clore, Aiden Day, Axel Day, Anna Drawdy, Sammi Drawdy, Jace Grant, Daniel Harrington, Samuel Kennedy, Kenzie Key, Macy Reagan, Riley Rutledge, Lillie Schwier, Emma Tharpe, Paxton Williams.

Fourth Grade (Whiddon)
All A
Turner Beshears, Kasey Chmura, Jenna Lindsey, Megan Vann, Ben Whiddon, Tag Williams.

All A and B
Jacob Green, Addison Shiver, Hunter Watson.

Fifth Grade (Falk)
All A
Keira Evans.

All A and B
Brady Browning, Selina Drawdy, James Hightower, Alissa Roland, Jarrett Roland, Taylor Roland, Riley Rowe, MaryRose

Schwier, Olivia Walton.

Fifth Grade (Hughes)
All A
Joey Davis.

All A and B
Lindsey Davis, Dean Forehand.

Sixth Grade
All A
Andy Jiang, Dennis Jiang, Bailey McLeod, Abby Reams.

All A and B
Dawson Bishop, Kinsey Clark, Ansley English, Brandon Hannon, Marley Restrepo.

Seventh Grade
All A
Emily Brock, Megan Schofill.

All A and B
Brandon Bates, Grace Beshears, Ryan Jackson, Ayush Patel, Chloe Reams, Dilyn Stowers, Taylor Walker.

Eighth Grade
All A
Timothy Finlayson, Camryn Grant, Ria Wheeler.

All A and B
Skylar Dickey, Jacob Dukes, Jessica Giddens,

Elizabeth Hightower, Evan Hocking, Katie James, Haley Jones, Kurt Lane, Ryals Lee, Abigail Morgan, Joe Walton.

Ninth Grade
All A
Nick Arceneaux, Traynor Barker, Joshua Greene, Chaz Hamilton, Joe Hannon, Kelly Horne, Brittany Hughes, Jenny Jackson, Kirsten Reagan, Ramsey Sullivan, Kate Whiddon.

All A and B
Dena Bishop, Daulton Browning, Cali Burkett, Daisy Dee, Faith Demott, Darren Ellis, Stephanie English, Sarah Hall, Heather James, Hannah Lewis, Gatlin Nennstiel, Sarah Riley, Natalie Vasquez, Austin Wilford.

Tenth Grade
All A
Dorian Alberti, Corey Brandies, Taylor Copeland, Abigail Hettlinger, Savannah Jenkins, Zackery Peterson, T. J. Swords, Sarah Tharpe, Emma Witmer.

All A and B
Christopher Fitch,

Dalton Gramling, Sam Hogg, Kyle Rogers, Courtney Watts, Gaige Winchester.

Eleventh Grade
All A
Morgan Cline, Ricky Finlayson, Sarah James, Monique Restrepo, Steven Trest.

All A and B
Austin Bishop, Shawn Blue, Timothy Burrus, Ty Chancy, Maddie Everett, Julie High, Zach Holley, Winston Lee, Carson Nennstiel, Cole Schwab, Hunter Searcy, Savannah Tyler, Tyler Zim-merly.

Twelfth Grade
All A
Victoria Brock, Cole Davis, Lauren Demott, Brandon Holm, Hunter Horne, Aimee Love, Sara Peeler, Whitney Stevens.

All A and B
Devan Courtney, Marissa Duber, Jacob Dunbar, Brooke Joiner, Braden Mattingly, Christiana Reams, Mallory Register.

Financial Focus...

How Will Social Security Fit Into Your Retirement Income Strategy?

Have you given much thought to collecting Social Security? The answer probably depends on how old you are — but whatever your age, you'll want to consider the best way of incorporating Social Security benefits into your retirement income strategy.

Of course, if you have several decades to go until you retire, you might be wondering if Social Security will even be there for you at all. The basic issue is that the Social Security system is experiencing a sharply declining worker-to-beneficiary ratio. In plain English, this means that fewer workers are contributing to Social Security while the huge baby boom generation is retiring and taking money out. Still, Social Security has enough money to pay full retirement benefits to every eligible American until 2038, according to the Congressional Budget Office. After that point, benefits would have to be reduced unless changes are made to the Social Security system.

And several changes have indeed been proposed. Given that we do have nearly 25 years until benefit cuts may need to be made, it seems reasonable that some type of solution could be reached to put Social Security back on solid ground.

In any case, when thinking about your retirement income, you need to focus on those things that you can control — such as when to start taking Social Security and how you can supplement your Social Security benefits.

Depending on when you were born, your "full" retirement age, as far as collecting Social Security benefits, is likely either 66 or 67. You can start getting your checks as early as 62, but if you do, your monthly payments could be reduced by as much as 30% — and this reduction is permanent. Consequently, if you can support your lifestyle from other sources of income — such as earnings from employment and withdrawals from your IRA and 401(k) — you may want to postpone taking Social Security until you reach your full retirement age. In fact, you can get even bigger monthly checks if you delay taking your benefits beyond your full retirement age, although your payments will "max out" once you reach 70. Keep in mind, though, that other factors, such as your anticipated longevity, should also enter into your calculations in considering when to take Social Security.

As mentioned above, your retirement income may also include withdrawals from retirement accounts, such as an IRA and a 401(k), along with other investments, such as a fixed annuity. And these other accounts are quite important, because Social Security provides, on average, only about 40% of retirement income for the average 65-year-old today. Consequently, in the years and decades before you retire, contribute as much as you can possibly afford to these other accounts. Given the advances in medical care and the greater awareness of healthy lifestyles, people are living longer than ever — which means you could spend two, or even three, decades in retirement. To enjoy those years fully, you'll need adequate income.

By planning ahead, you can determine how best to fit Social Security into your retirement income strategy. Every move you make to help "secure" your retirement can pay off for you in the long run.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Robert J. Davison
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones

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Cell 850-933-3329
robert.davison@edwardjones.com
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Making Sense of Investing
MEMBER SIPC



National School Breakfast Week March 3rd – March 7th 2014

Jefferson County School District
Kids Huddle Up For School Breakfast

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, especially for children. A new report released, The Wellness Impact: Enhancing Academic Success Through Healthy School Environments, reinforces the "learning connection" — the crucial link between quality nutrition, physical activity and academic performance. Finding a balance between academic rigor and health and wellness efforts in the school environment has become an increasing priority.

Students who were more active during school performed better on standardized



tests. Research shows that students who eat school breakfast increase their math and reading scores and improve their cognitive speed and memory. Research also links eating breakfast at school to improvements in stu-

dent behavior, fewer absences and limited class disruptions. This year, the Jefferson County School District is proud to announce their commitment to expanding and promoting the School Breakfast Program to

ensure that all students have the chance to eat breakfast every morning. To increase breakfast consumption, students across Florida are encouraged to "Huddle Up For Breakfast," a statewide initiative led by the Dairy Council of Florida and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Superintendent Al Cooksey is excited about the School Breakfast Program and the "Huddle Up For Breakfast" promotion. "Making sure our children start the day with a healthy breakfast is one of the simplest ways we can improve school performance," says Mr. Cooksey. "If kids don't begin with breakfast, it is proven that they may struggle in class. We want to do everything we can to support our kids, and breakfast makes such a difference."

The School Breakfast Program ensures that all students have access to a free breakfast. It is available daily at all Jefferson County Schools, and students are allowed to choose from a menu of healthy options to kick-start their day.



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- High quality, professional photographs will be made locally and at no charge or obligation.
- We, as sponsors, will use and display the photos as a tribute to TOMORROW'S LEADERS...TODAY
- As a bonus, you will see finished color photos (photos used in the feature will be in black and white) and have an opportunity to purchase any for your family needs - you are not obligated to buy anything. No age limit.

"TOMORROW'S LEADERS..." Feature is Sponsored by:

Monticello News
Date: Thursday, March 13
Location: Monticello Women's Club
Time: 3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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Phone: (850) 464-2315 or (850) 973-4141
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Lost

MALE CAT neutered, orange tabby w/white striped bushy tail. Lost near I-10 & Hwy 19 truck stop area. Call 813-716-4958 or 850-556-1645.

3/5,7 nc

MALE BLACK LAB, wearing red training collar and camo collar. Last seen in Waukeelah Hwy. area. **REWARD \$500.** CASH for safe return. Call 850-694-4222 2/26,28.nc

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3 BR/ 2 BA HOUSE on 353 Depot Rd. Lamont, FL \$750/mo. 850-210-2441 or 997-8180. 2/26,tfn,c

3 BR/ 2 BA ON 6 ACRES on 161 Sneads Dr. Greenville, FL \$800/mo. 850-210-2441 or 997-8180. 2/26,tfn,c

For Sale

WASHER AND DRYER FOR SALE! Kenmore series 70 washer, top load. Series 80 dryer, front load (door opens from top down). White in color and both are in perfect working order. \$400 firm. Call 229-460-5296 (Valdosta). 10/30,rtn,nc

FOR SALE: Set of four (4) "Weld" (Mountain Crusher) billet aluminum Wheels, 8 lug with bolt on center caps. Fits Dodge or Chevy. \$400 OBO. Call 229-460-5296 12/13,tfn

PAGEANT AND PROM DRESSES FOR SALE CHILDREN'S: White long dress w/sequins & beadwork Size 3 \$50. Off White dress w/lace, knee length size 4 & 7/8 & 8 \$25. ea. White long gown sequin work across bodice, size 16 \$100. TEEN'S: Gorgeous lime green w/spaghetti straps & sequins Size 14 \$300. Call 850-973-3497. 2/28,tfn

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Help Wanted

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE (SALESMAN) NEEDED. The Madison County Carrier newspaper office is seeking an outstanding individual to join their sales team. Do you possess a sunny, friendly attitude? Can you talk with customers easily and help them feel at home? Do you have a good personality and LOVE to talk on the telephone? If you are a team player, able to handle multiple tasks, have a friendly can-do attitude, a great work ethic, are organized, and self-motivated then this job might be just for you. Valid Driver's License a must! Apply in person only at Greene Publishing, Inc's newspaper office, located at 1695 South SR 53, in Madison. 2/5

THE MONTICELLO POLICE DEPT is now accepting training applications for persons interested in the opportunity to train and become a state of Florida certified 911 telecommunicator. You must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. You must be able to meet the criteria of the State of Florida Dept. of Health; you must be able to pass a complete background and criminal history investigation. The training is a total of 232 hours without pay. After completing the 232 hours of training you will receive a certificate of completion by the Monticello Police Dept.

Upon completion of training, you will then be eligible and are required to take and pass the Dept. of Health telecommunication state exam. If you have any questions or for more information please contact The Monticello Police Department at 850-342-0150. 2/26,28,3/5

Help Wanted

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR needed for historic Monticello Opera House. Full time, some weekends. Responsibilities include but are not limited to facility rentals, personnel, funding research, event planning, marketing, membership, website and finances. Skills: computer-Word, Excel, Publisher; excellent communication and attention to detail required. Salary & incentive package is offered. Please email a letter of interest and resume to Denise Vogelgesang at dpv@att.net before March 11, 2014. 2/28, 3/5,7,c

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Inspection: Tues, March 11, 11 AM - 6 PM For More Information Call 229-242-5412

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- Educational Services**
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THE MONTICELLO NEWS

The official Legal organ for Monticello and Jefferson County

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF MEETING

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF JEFFERSON COUNTY will meet in Expulsion Hearing on Monday, March 10, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will take place in the Board Room at 1490 W. Washington Street, Monticello, FL. Executive Meetings are NOT open to the public. The Board will transition into a regularly scheduled Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. following the executive session. Questions may be directed to the District Office at (850) 342-0100. 3/5/14

NOTICE

In accordance with Florida Statute a public auction will be held on March 17, 2014 at 10:00 A.M.

**For: 1994 Honda VIN # 1HGCD5642RA042140
2002 Chevy VIN # 2G1WH52K139234214**

To be sold AS IS for towing and storage charges, conditions and terms at auction. Stewart's Towing, 175 S. Jefferson St., Monticello, FL 32344. Phone: 850/ 342-1480 3/5/14

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The District Board of Trustees of North Florida Community College will hold its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the NFCC Board Room, NFCC, 325 NW Turner Davis Dr., Madison, FL. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by writing: NFCC, Office of the President, 325 NW Turner Davis Dr., Madison, FL 32340. For disability-related accommodations, contact the NFCC Office of College Advancement, 850-973-1653. NFCC is an equal access/equal opportunity employer. 3/5/14

ACCORDING TO FLORIDA SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT STATUTES (SECTION 83.806)

Waukeenah Storage hereby Notifies the Following Tenants that they are in default.

**#26 - Cremeens
#29 - Wuener**

Items will be put up for sale on March 31, 2014 at 6:00 pm. Waukeenah Storage 351 Chittling, Monticello, FL 997-1012 3/5, 12/2014.pd

Capital Area Community Action Agency March Madness

**We know who's going to win!
It's YOU & our Community!**

March Madness is right around the corner! And that means our community is the big winner! All you have to do is get to the Capital Area Community Action Agency! Why? Because they are expanding their coverage for more clients! The Agency knows how difficult the cold season can be and because of that, they are expanding their number of slots for staff to assist even more people living in need in Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon and Wakulla counties.

What can they help with?

"Just about everything! If you are having trouble paying your utility bill, your home needs to be weatherized, you need mortgage assistance, you're unexpected homeless or if you're looking for FREE and nationally accredited child care....we can help," says Executive Director Tim Center. "We may be one of the best kept secrets in the Big Bend and to celebrate March Madness, we want to not only get our name out there, but we want to help. Call us immediately."

Potential clients are asked to call ahead for a same day or next day appointment, depending on their schedule. Please call (850) 222-2043 to schedule and make sure all proper documents are in hand when they come for their appointment to receive assistance.

"We are also recruiting for next school year for our nationally accredited Head Start program in Franklin, Jefferson and Leon counties and those slots fill up fast!" says Head Start Director Laurie Gan Leiner. "The program is for children ages 3 and 4. We not only provide a top rated education that prepares for kindergarten and beyond, we also provide hot meals and snacks, along with dental and medical care. It's an amazing program I'm very proud of."

Agency Client Testimonials:

"I was in the process of being evicted out of my apartment with my kids if I would not have received assistance. We would

have been homeless....The Agency paid my past due rent up to date, assisted with court costs, assisted with lights, helped me get money saved to start back to being independent."

Natoya H.

"I was at a point in my life where I didn't know how I was going to be able to provide for my children. With the help of Head Start I was able to have my youngest child go to preschool which gave me the opportunity to find a job. I have since gotten a promotion and my child is doing great in kindergarten."

"My daughter was diagnosed with special needs. Head Start helped me get services for her and let her go to school with other children. She is so happy!"

Angela M.

"I didn't know the weatherization program was for renters too! When I found out, I applied right away because I knew I was paying way too much for my electric bill. My first bill after the house was redone was almost \$200 less than the month before! That's a lot of money!"

Margret J.

Funding for the various services is limited. Please contact the Agency immediately for more information and to get an appointment! March Madness started March 3 and they will start taking applicants and clients TODAY! The extended slots end March 31, 2014.

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SCHOOL

FLSS Scholars Program Update: Stefan Malik Roberts Named District's Sunshine State (Stem)Scholar 2013-2014

Stefan Malik Roberts was named the district's top 11th grader as this year's Sunshine State Scholar for 2013-2014 in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). He was recently honored at the 2014 Sunshine State Scholars Program in Orlando, Florida at the Hilton. He has been a member of the FloridaLearns STEM Scholars program for three years.

Stefan is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Willie and Stephanie Roberts of Monticello. He is an eleventh grader at Jefferson County Middle High School and an honor student. "He is an excellent student and a fine role model," stated Mr. Saffo, STEM Mentor Teacher. "We have some of the smartest and the brightest students in the world right here in Jefferson County," Mr. Saffo concluded.

Mr. and Mrs. Saffo traveled with Stefan and his parents to Orlando to attend the program. Mr. Saffo was chosen as the teacher who has served as a significant influence for the scholar. "This was an awesome experience for Stefan. This was an excellent opportunity for him to plan for his future for which I see to be very bright," said Mr. Saffo. "This is a big deal," he stated.

Florida's top performing STEM students were recently recognized as Sunshine State Scholars and given the opportunity to attend a two-day event in Orlando, February 13-14, 2014. It was an event that could possibly change the course of their future as they learned why Florida is the best place to learn and pursue an exciting career.

Each school district throughout Florida selected their top 11th grade student based on their academic achievement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). These students, along with their parents and a teacher chosen by each student, were invited to participate in the annual Sunshine State Scholars program. The Sunshine State Scholars program is sponsored by the Florida Education Foundation, in collaboration with the State University System of Florida, the Florida College System, and the Florida Department of Education.

Among those being honored this year were 19 students from the small and rural school districts participating in the FloridaLearns Stem Scholars Initiative for Gifted and Talented Students. The FloridaLearns STEM

Scholars Project is funded through the Florida Department of Education's Race to the Top award and involves a partnership among Florida's three educational consortia, which provide critical educational support services to Florida's small and rural school districts. The consortia are Panhandle Area Educational Consortium in northwest Florida, Heartland Educational Consortium in south central Florida, and North East Florida Educational Consortium in the northeast part of the state. The project is focused on affording increased access to rigorous STEM courses, providing collaborative problem-solving experiences, and ensuring students are well-informed about STEM career options.

In addition to recognizing their academic success, the Sunshine State Scholars program gave these STEM students the opportunity to meet directly with highly successful professionals from STEM-related industries in Florida, and with recruiters from Florida's finest colleges and universities. During the event, the students heard about special programs of study and industry internship opportunities, learned about some of the latest innovations and discoveries in STEM-related research, were inspired by personal success stories from leaders in Florida's STEM industry, and were actively recruited to become part of Florida's future talented workforce. The scholars also enjoyed meeting with students from around the state who have similar interests in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Sunshine State Scholars program was founded in 1997 by Dr. William Caldwell of the University of North Florida and brought together 12th grade students from throughout the state to compete in the disciplines of STEM. In 2010, the Florida Education Foundation changed the focus of the Sunshine State Scholars program to retain intellectual talent in the Sunshine State. Since this modification to the program, surveys were conducted in summer 2012 and 2013, and approximately 60 percent of our scholars remained in Florida and attended Florida colleges and universities. The foundation would like that number to increase every year.



Stefan Roberts, from Jefferson High School is pictured above with Pam Stewart, FLDOE Commissioner of Education.



Stefan Roberts holds the Sunshine State Scholar Award for 2013-2014 in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

The Jefferson County Utility Coordinating Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. March 12, 2014, at the Jefferson County Road Dept, 1484 South Jefferson Street

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